



Young
Audiences
Arts for
Learning



By T.H. White

Adapted by Tim Conley

Directed by Tim Conley and Allen O'Reilly

Study Guide created by The Will Power Ensemble

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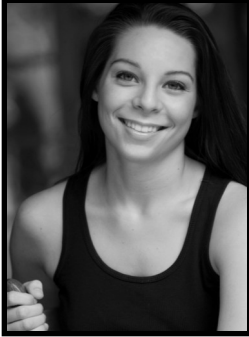
Character List

Ann Marie Gideon...	Sir Ector Morgana Roach fish Kestrel Ant Archimedes Lyok-Lyok Badger
Brian Harrison...	Merlin
Casey Hoekstra...	Kay Old Jack Cully Ant Pilot Hedgepig
Caitlin McWethy...	Arthur

*"Whoso pulleth
Out This Sword
of This Stone and
Anvil, is
Rightwise King
Born of All
England."
Book 1, Chapter
22, pg. 201*



Will Power Ensemble



Ann Marie Gideon is delighted to be joining Georgia Shakespeare this season! Most recently she participated in the 61st annual National Players tour (*Much Ado About Nothing*/Hero and *Lord of the Flies*/Sam). She graduated with a BFA in Acting from the University of Memphis and completed a semester of training at the Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo, Italy. . So much love to my amazing family!



Brian Harrison is originally from the Atlanta area. He has recently performed at New Stage Theatre in Jackson, MS, having played Reverend Sykes in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and Willie/Young Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*. Brian is a graduate of Ball State University.



Casey Hoekstra graduated this May with a BFA in Acting from the UMN Guthrie Theater Actor training program. Last summer he interned here at Georgia Shakespeare and particularly enjoyed playing Demetrius in *Titus Andronicus* and Mustardseed the Fair in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He's very excited to have been invited back and is looking forward to creating some theater with the Will Power Ensemble! Casey is also thrilled to have some time to pluck at the guitar and read anything that isn't a textbook.



Caitlin McWethy is a recent graduate of Drew University. Most recently she directed her senior thesis production of *As You Like It* on the stage of the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey. She has performed Off-Broadway with the 52nd Street Project (*King Lear*/Goneril), Manhattan Theatre Club, and The 9th Avenue Theatre Project. Educational credits include *Easter* (Leah), *Talking With...*(Twirler), and *101 Humiliating Stories* (Lisa). She spent last summer wielding broadswords with the amazing Colleen Kelly (former Society of American Fight Directors vice-president) at the American Shakespeare Center.

The Will Power Ensemble is made possible through the generous support of The Goizueta Foundation.

Novelist

Who is T.H. White?

Satirist,
Poet



T. H. White was born on **29 May 1906** in Bombay, India, where his father was a member of the Indian Civil Service. Later, he became an English professor at Stowe School from 1930 to 1936, and while there, completed his first real critical success, *England Have My Bones*, which was an autobiographical account of his country life. Afterward, he devoted himself exclusively to studying the Arthurian legends, which were to provide the material for his books.

White was reclusive by nature, often isolating himself for long periods from human society and spending his time hunting, fishing, and looking after his often strange collection of pets.

He was a novelist, a satirist, and a social historian who is best known for his adaptation of Sir Thomas Malory's 15th-century romance, *Morte d'Arthur*, into the quartet of novels called *The Once and Future King*. He wrote books about hunting and other sports, a detective novel, books of adventure and fantasy, and many short stories and poems. He published a book of poems while still at Cambridge (*Loved Helen and Other Poems*), and continued to write poetry throughout his life. He died on **17 January 1964**, aboard ship in Piraeus (Athens), Greece while returning home from his American lecture tour. His last book, *America At Last*, which was published after his death, records the tour.



What happens in the play...

The Legend of the Sword in the Stone tells the story of Wart, the future king of England and his tutor the mysterious magician Merlin. Merlin educates Wart in the ways of the world by magically transforming him into various creatures such as hawks, fish, ants and badgers and plunging him into their world to see life from different perspectives. At home, Wart must deal with his older brother Kay who is practicing to become a knight, a special title to both boys, and his clueless father Sir Ector. Wart faces many challenges on his way to becoming king including hungry fish, crazy hawks and pesky fairies, Finally, he must summon everything he has learned in order to pull the sword from the stone and become king of England.

"You think education is something to be done when all else fails?"

Some History of the Arthurian Legend...

The legends surrounding King Arthur probably grew out of the struggles of a Celtic chieftain and his warriors in southwestern England against invading Saxons during the 6th century. In 1138 Geoffrey of Monmouth wrote the "semi-historical" *History of the Kings of Britain*, devoting half of his work to the exploits of Arthur. Manuscripts were translated and widely distributed throughout Britain. In the 15th century, Sir Thomas Malory reworked the collection of tales into a long unified epic entitled *Le Morte d'Artur*. Written in English prose rather than Latin, Malory's work became the definitive version of the story of King Arthur.



Glossary

Uther Pendragon - proper noun; A legendary king of Great Britain and the father of King Arthur.

Excalibur - proper noun; is the legendary sword of Arthur, said to have magical powers. Whoever has the sword is the rightful king of Great Britain.



Knight - *n* a mounted soldier in the middle ages.

Chivalry - *pl.n* The ideal qualifications of a knight, including courtesy, generosity, and valor.

Sorcerer - *n* A person who seeks to control and use magic powers; a wizard or magician.

Joust - *n* A combat in which two knights on horseback attempted to unhorse each other with blunted spears.



Squire - *n* (in the Middle Ages) A young man of noble birth who serves a knight.

Mews - *n* A cage for hawks.

Camelopard - *n* A giraffe.

Tutor - *n* A person employed to instruct another in some branch or branches of learning, a private instructor.

Testimonials - *n (plural)* a letter or written statement of recommendation.

Tintinnabulations - *n* the ringing or sound of bells.

Compulsory - *adj* required; mandatory.

Recitations - *n* A reciting or repeating of something from memory

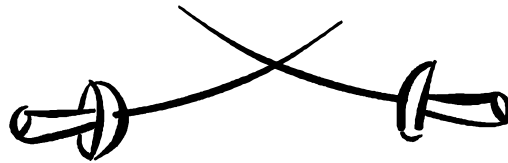




Preshow Activity

Imagining & Creating: How Actors Begin Creating a Character

Start by having students name their favorite animals and have teacher write them on the board. With each animal name some of their attributes i.e. lion has mane, it roars, large paws etc. Next, allow students to think of vocal qualities for each animal. Allow them to experiment with vocal range i.e. angry lion vs. sad lion. Next ask the students to discover the physical posture of each animal using the list of attributes written on the board. Have them “try on” the lion’s paws using their imagination. Repeat for each animal.



Post Show Activity

Critical Thinking: Developing Analytical Skills

Ask students what animals they saw in the play and if they had a favorite animal. Next ask the students what they saw the actors doing physically and vocally to create the animals. Finally, ask the students what Wart learned from each animal.

Spatial Consciousness: Navigating a Maze

Have students complete the maze on the following page. Students will play the part of Wart, navigating him through the maze and before reaching Excalibur, the Sword in the Stone.





Wart's Maze



Help Wart conquer the maze to reach Excalibur and pull the sword from the stone!

