

Castles and Dragons

A Musical Play for Children

*Book and Lyrics by
Anna Murdock*

*Music by
Catherina Jensen and Beverly Thomas*

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STORY OF THE PLAY

It's been peaceful at Camelot for years. Merlin the magician put the fearsome dragon, Fog, in a sleeping spell and turned the evil Morgan Le Fay into a fragrant flower – although she can still talk! But when everyone in Camelot celebrates the impending nuptials of Lady Marian and Sir Lancelot with a Maypole dance, Morgan Le Fay is able to work some magic. She steals all the knights' swords and trips the Pages, creating enough noise and confusion to wake the dragon. She coaxes Fog to kiss her, and her spell is broken! From then on it's a wild and crazy chase as the knights, brandishing rolling pins as weapons, are frozen in their tracks; Lancelot is made invisible; and Merlin and Le Fay battle each other through magic, each changing into different animals. This funny and fantastic adventure is particularly designed for elementary or middle school children to perform. Six songs including an optional solo by Marian.

A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

We have performed with and for children for twenty years and "Castles and Dragons" is one of our favorites. The characters are fun and colorful, the plot is exciting and moves quickly, and the one set makes the show uncomplicated to stage. The music is easy enough for children to learn quickly yet exciting enough that they love to sing it. The special effects are not difficult to do and are fascinating to our young audiences. The witch zing and Merlin chimes help identify the characters and can be as simple as a slide whistle or as complex as a synthesized sound. The lighting, castle design, and costuming can be as simple or as elaborate as the director wishes. We have found that "Castles and Dragons" is a fun musical that is always received well by both its players and audiences. We hope you enjoy it.

--- *Anna Murdock*

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(There are approximately 27 speaking parts but these can be reduced by combining parts or expanded by splitting lines. Smaller children can play the pages and your tallest student, boy or girl, can play the dragon.)

KING ARTHUR: King of Camelot.

QUEEN GUINEVERE: Queen of Camelot.

MERLIN: Basic wizard at large.

MORGAN LE FAY: The witch, an ultimate antagonist. At the start of the show she is under Merlin's spell and is Snapdragon, a flower.

SIR LANCELOT: Knight in shining armor.

MARIAN: Lancelot's beautiful betrothed.

KNIGHTS:

**SIR GALAHAD, SIR GAWAIN, SIR GEOFFREY,
SIR BEDIVERE, SIR RICHARD**

LADIES:

**LADY CHARLOTTE, LADY ELIZABETH, LADY
KATHRYN, LADY ANNE, LADY REBECCA**

FLOWERS:

DAISY, LILY, PANSY

PAGES:

SALLY, JOHN, JUDY, THOMAS

SERVANTS:

COOK, BUTLER, GARDENER, 2 TRUMPETERS

FOG: The not-so-ferocious dragon.

ANIMALS:

**RABBIT, FOX, DOG, MOUSE, CAT, LION, SMALL BIRD,
LARGE BIRD, SKUNK, and FROG**

Additional production notes for costumes, optional effects, and choreography can be found at the end of the script.

MUSICAL NUMBERS

- #1 – Camelot, City of Might -- *Company*
- #2 -- Beware! – *Marian (Solo or with additional singers)*
- #3 – Maypole Dance Music -- *Orchestra*
- #4 – Hurry! -- *Cook, Butler, Gardener, Pages*
- #5 – Beware! (Underscore) -- *Orchestra*
- #6 – Lament – *Company*
- #7 – Dawn – (Incidental Music) -- *Orchestra*
- #8 – Knights of the Round Table -- *Knights*
- #9 – Wizards' Duel Chase Music – *Orchestra*
- #10 – Fog, the Dragon -- *Lancelot and Company*

SETTING

A day long ago when wizards, kings, knights and fair maidens still existed and adventures were full of dragons, witches and magic spells. The scene takes place in an enchanted Camelot with King Arthur and Queen Guinevere on the throne.

The set can be as elaborate or as simple as desired. The outside of a castle wall is up center. In the castle wall there is a center door going into the castle and a large window on each side of the door. There are flags waving from the top of the castle. On stage left there is a flower garden. On stage right there is a dungeon. The castle can be built the width of the stage and down both sides, or it can be a simple set piece up center. It is effective to have turrets with a ladder behind them so Trumpeters and others can be placed on top of the castle. The children will be seen in the doorway and through the windows. Flags on the castle turrets and along the doorway, curtains in the window and shields in the castle all make nice stage dressing.

The flower garden can be part of the castle wall or behind a small fence. It works well to mix the live Flowers with other large artificial blooms and greenery. The Witch needs to sit apart from the other flowers, somewhat closer to center stage.

The dungeon can also be a piece of the castle wall with a large see-through PVC pipe unit in front to give the effect of steel bars. The Dragon can sit on an old chest or crate.

Scene 1

(AT RISE: COMPANY and FLOWERS are frozen on the stage, and FOG is asleep in the dungeon. MERLIN, carrying a large book, enters right and crosses to center stage.)

MERLIN: *(Opening a book.)* Of all the kings who ruled the land in the days of old, King Arthur was the mightiest. This book is full of exciting tales told long ago, but there is one particular adventure that is especially strange and quite surprising. You see, things had been quiet in King Arthur's court for many years. Then, one day, the trouble started. If only they hadn't awakened the dragon that morning. Ah...but now I'm getting ahead of my story. We'll go back to the beginning of that happy, peaceful day so long ago. *(HE moves off as song starts.)*

(LIGHTS up, COMPANY sings. FOG continues to sleep.)

MUSICAL #1 – CAMELOT, CITY OF MIGHT

COMPANY:

HERE WE LIVE IN PERFECT PEACE AND HARMONY.
HERE OUR STANDARDS REACH A GREATER HEIGHT.
(Group 1.) IN CAMELOT, IN CAMELOT,
(Group 2.) CAMELOT, CITY OF MIGHT
WE LIVE BY A NOBLE CODE OF CHIVALRY.
HERE WE ACT AS CHAMPIONS OF LIGHT
(Group 1.) IN CAMELOT, IN CAMELOT,
(Group 2.) CAMELOT, CITY OF MIGHT
DEFEND THE DEFENSELESS
WITH COURAGE WE WILL STAND.
LET THOSE WHO TORMENT
FEEL THE WEIGHT OF OUR HAND
THERE'S STRENGTH IN COMPASSION.
OUR THOUGHTS ARE EVER PURE.
SPEAK ONLY THE TRUTH, LET THE GALLANT ENDURE!
OUR TABLE IS A SYMBOL OF EQUALITY
SERVICE IS THE PRIVILEGE OF EACH KNIGHT.
(Group 1.) IN CAMELOT, IN CAMELOT, IN CAMELOT.
(Group 2.) CAMELOT, CAMELOT,
CITY OF MIGHT! CITY OF MIGHT! CITY OF MIGHT!

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(FLOWERS on stage left begin to speak; COMPANY MEMBERS pantomime working, visiting, and playing.)

DAISY: Arthur the King and Guinevere, his beautiful queen, are loved by the people....

LILY:and rule the land of Camelot with justice and mercy.

(KING crosses down center with QUEEN.)

KING: Ah, what a splendid day we have today, Guinevere.

QUEEN: Yes, Arthur, the people are happy and at peace.

PANSY: *(Pointing to the KNIGHTS.)* All disputes and disagreements are brought to Arthur and his noble knights of the round table for careful deliberation.

(PAGES roll in a small round table from stage right. KNIGHTS gather around it.)

SIR GAWAIN: I think we should have our tournament in April.

SIR GALAHAD: No! I think we should wait until May, to avoid the rains.

SIR GEOFFREY: It's too cold in the spring, let's have it in the fall, perhaps September.

SIR BEDIVERE: I think May is best.

SIR RICHARD: What do you think, Sir Lancelot?

SIR LANCELOT: It seems we have a difference of opinion gentlemen, so let's cast votes.

(KNIGHTS pantomime discussion; KING and QUEEN observe them.)

PANSY: Arthur's most trusted friend and adviser is Merlin, the Magician.

(MERLIN enters right.)

End of Freeview

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