

# No Ordinary Boy

## Vocabulary List

Below is a list of more complex words that can be found in the story. Use the definitions to explain to children what these words mean. For an extra activity, you can use these words in a spelling test.

<b>cavern</b>	a large cave or chamber in a cave
<b>debris</b>	scattered pieces of rubbish or remains
<b>druids</b>	(in ancient times) a philosopher, teacher, counsellor and magician
<b>mortal</b>	a human who is capable of dying
<b>rune</b>	small stones with an ancient, magic alphabet carved onto them that are cast to predict the future and answer questions
<b>Saxons</b>	a group of people that inhabited parts of central and northern Germany from Roman times, many of whom conquered and settled in much of southern England in the 5th-6th centuries

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## Plot Sequencing Answer Sheet

1. King Vortigern's men come to the village in search of Merlin. A hooded man takes him away on his horse.
2. Merlin tries to run away from the king's men but gets caught.
3. Merlin travels with the knights to King Vortigern's castle.
4. Merlin has a nightmare and talks of dragons in his sleep. He later has another vision of fire burning through the land.
5. Merlin eats with some of the king's slaves, who keep attempting to build a tower for the King but rumblings from the ground keep causing it to collapse.
6. King Vortigern thinks Merlin's blood has the power and strength to make his tower stand, but Merlin tells him that there are dragons trapped under the ground.
7. When the king has the lake drained, two fire-breathing dragons emerge and battle each other in the sky. The red dragon is victorious and the white dragon is killed.
8. The hooded man declares that Merlin will go to Avalon, to learn from the druids.
9. Merlin explains to the King that the white dragon represents his enemies and that they will eventually win the war against them.
10. Merlin tells the King that a boy called Arthur Pendragon is destined to become the next King of Britons and will win the war against the Saxons.

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## Reading Comprehension Answer Sheet

<b>Q1: What powers does Merlin have?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	He can see into the future and he can also make potions that heal sick people or turn them into animals.
<b>Q2: What did the knight give Merlin to eat at the campfire?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	Dried meat
<b>Q3: What confused Merlin when he tried to run away from the camp?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	The hooded man suddenly appeared in front of him and held him in place, but none of the knights saw it and said he was still in camp.
<b>Q4: Why did Merlin wish he was a knight?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	Because people would love him, and not fear or hate him because of his powers.
<b>Q5: What does King Vortigern think will keep his tower standing?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	He thinks Merlin's blood has power and strength.
<b>Q6: How many days did it take to drain the lake?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	7 / seven
<b>Q7: Why did Merlin feel sad about the white dragon dying?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	The dragon's death means there is a little less magic in the world, and as a creature of magic himself this makes Merlin sad.
<b>Q8: Why does the hooded man, Magan, want Merlin to come to Avalon?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	To learn from the druids and grow his powers under their guidance.
<b>Q9: According to Merlin, what do the dragons represent?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	The white dragon represents the Saxons, the king's enemies, and the red dragon represents the king and his knights. They will eventually defeat the Saxons.
<b>Q10: According to Merlin, who will defeat the Saxons?</b>	
<b>Answer:</b>	A boy called Arthur Pendragon, the next King of the Britons

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## Diary Entry Activity

The story is told by a third person narrator. In this activity, pupils are encouraged to think about Merlin's thoughts and feelings in their writing.

Choose a scene in *No Ordinary Boy* from the list below and ask your class to write it from Merlin's point of view.

- Merlin being taken away by the knights and hooded men
- Merlin waking up from his nightmares
- Merlin arriving at the king's castle
- Merlin watching the dragons battle in the sky
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The following checklist can be used as guidance or assessment for this activity:

- Written in first person
- Recalls the events of the story/scene
- Includes personal feelings/emotions
- Adopts the tone of the character