

Madison Wexler
Miss Raub
English 11 Honors
Due 1/19/12

Central Idea: Through Arthur's experiences in *Once and a Future King*, T.H. White portrays the theme that personal strength often results in the desired or most moral outcome.

Thesis- Arthur proves this in his teachings from Merlyn, his transformation to a King, and the conflicts that force him to choose between love for his friends, or love for Camelot.

Source Cards

Source	
A	White, T. H. <i>The Once and Future King</i> . New York: Ace, 1939. Print.
B	"The Once and Future King." <i>Novels for Students</i> . Ed. Sara Constantakis. Vol. 30. Detroit: Gale, 2010. 257-279. <i>Gale Virtual Reference Library</i> . Web. 17 Jan. 2012.
C	Stephen P. Dunn, "Mr. White, Mr. Williams, and the Matter of Britain," in <i>Kenyon Review</i> , Vol. 24, No. 2, Spring 1962, pp. 363-71.
D	Kinzey, James Reynolds. "The Once and Future King." <i>Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults</i> . Ed. Kirk H. Beetz and Suzanne Niemeyer. Vol. 4. Washington, D.C.: Beacham Publishing, Inc., 1990. 1888-1896. Rpt. in <i>Children's Literature Review</i> . Ed. Tom Burns. Vol. 139. Detroit: Gale, 2009. <i>Literature Resources from Gale</i> . Web. 17 Jan. 2012.
E	Hanks, D. Thomas, Jr. "T. H. White's Merlyn: More Than Malory Made Him." <i>The Figure of Merlin in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries</i> . Ed. Jeanie Watson and Maureen Fries. Lewiston, N.Y.: Edwin Mellen Press, 1989. 99-120. Rpt. in <i>Children's Literature Review</i> . Ed. Tom Burns. Vol. 139. Detroit: Gale, 2009. <i>Literature Resources from Gale</i> . Web. 18 Jan. 2012.

Note Cards

Source	Topic	Notes	Page Number	Outline Number
A	Teaching	“‘There is nothing,’ said the monarch, ‘except the power which you pretend to seek: power to grind and power to digest, power to seek and power to find, power to await and power to claim, all power and pitilessness springing from the nape of the neck.’”	52	
A	Teaching	“‘There is only power. Power is of the individual mind, but the mind’s power is not enough. Power of the body decides everything in the end, and only Might is Right.’”	52	
A	Teaching	“‘There is only one thing for it then - to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the only thing for you. Look what a lot of things there are to learn.’”	183	
A	Transformation	“‘Unless you can make the world wag better than it does at present, King, your reign will be an endless series of petty battles, in which the aggressions will either be from spiteful reasons or from sporting ones, and in which the poor man will be the only one who dies.’”	236	
A	Transformation	“‘I have been thinking,’ said Arthur, ‘about Might and Right. I don’t think things ought to be done because you are <i>able</i> to do them. I think they should be done because you <i>ought</i> to do them.’”	246	

A	Transformation	“‘Why can’t you harness Might so that it works for Right? I know it sounds nonsense, but, I mean, you can’t just say there is no such thing. The Might is there, in the bad half of people, and you can’t neglect it. You can’t cut it out, but you might be able to direct it, if you see what I mean, so that it was useful instead of bad.’”	248	
A	Transformation	“‘And then I shall make an oath of the order that Might is only to be used for Right.’”	248	
A	As a King	“‘Right must be established by right: it can’t be established by Force Majeur. But that is what I have been trying to do.’”	428	
A	Against	“‘Unfortunately we have tried to establish Right by Might, and you can’t do that.’”	432	
A	Against	“‘I ought to have rooted Might out altogether, instead of trying to adapt it.’”	433	
A	Against	“‘Now the Might is left, with nothing to use it on, so it is working wicked channels for itself.’”	433	
A	Against	“‘Morals,’ said Lionel, ‘are a form of insanity. Give me a moral man who insists on doing the right thing all the time, and I will show you a tangle which an angel couldn’t get out of.’”	443	
A	Teachings	“‘He had been taught by Merlyn to believe that man was perfectible: that he was on the whole more decent than beastly: that good was worth trying: that there was no such thing as original sin. He had been forged as a weapon for the aid of man, on the assumption that men were good.’”	628	
A	Teachings	“‘But the whole structure depended on that first premise: that man was decent.’”	628	

B	Overall	"White explores the intertwining roles of justice, law, and power. Through Arthur, he traces a maturation of thought concerning what makes an action just, right, and lawful."	265	
B	Overall	"In this configuration, powerful people can use their strength of arms to fight for the good. For example, the Knights of the Round Table can use their prowess in battle to protect the weak. In so doing, he establishes a kind of justice."	266	
B	Transformation	"Violence is still violence, even when used to accomplish a good deed."	266	
C	Transformation	"The attempt to control force by force, in other words, is self-defeating."	277	
C	Transformation	"The Round Table, he says through Arthur's mouth, was founded to dig a channel for Might, so that it would flow usefully."	277	
D	Transformation	"As the story progresses, Arthur's view of the proper use of power undergoes a series of changes."	3	
D	Transformation	"He moves from the realization that might is not right, to the hope that might can be used for right, to the belief that might should not be used at all."	3	
D	Overall	"The other principal theme of the story is the quest for an antidote to war. As the story progresses, Arthur's view of the proper use of power undergoes a series of changes. He moves from the realization that might is not right, to the hope that might can be used for right, to the belief that might should not be used at all."	3	
E	Overall	"-warlike to the warlike, gentle to the weak, chivalrous to all. he and his Round Table bring to us the best of two worlds: glorious battle, and the rule of Right. We love him."	1	

E	As a King	“Arthur says if he can win the upcoming battle, he will harness Might so that it works for Right. He will do so by establishing an Order of chivalry, the members of which will be able to use Might, but only on the side of Right. Finished with stating this idea, Arthur turns to Merlin and asks him to respond.”	7	
E	Transformation	“Merlyn proceeds to stimulate Arthur's thinking, pointing out that King Uther, Arthur's father, promoted a kind of chivalry based on the principle "Might is Right"--a principle Arthur has not yet questioned.”	7	
E	Against	“Even in Book 1, Merlyn does not approve of the use of armed might, which he refers to slightly as games...”	7	
E	As a King	“White also introduces the Round Table into <i>King</i> , as Arthur's means of regulating Might and preventing its ruling Right.”	8	
E	As a King	“This is the dream which Lancelot later joins him in, and it embodies White's chief theme: Right, not Might, must rule.”	8	
E	As a King	“White takes this idea of Merlin's having originated the Round Table, combines it with Merlin's role as Arthur's tutor and chief counselor, and arrives at Merlyn's teaching Arthur to think for himself--specifically, to think of the Round Table, the Table which signifies right instead of might”	8	

E	As a King	“Arthur decides, if I could be the master of my kingdom by winning these two battles, I could stop them afterwards and then do something about the business of Might. As the event shows, the something Arthur chooses to do is to abolish the rule of Might and replace it with Right: first with his Round Table, then with law and justice.	8	
E	As a King	“Arthur begins by saying he has decided battles are not ‘fun’ because people die. He notes, however, that Merlyn, who opposes warfare in general, is helping him win battles; there must be some reason.”	8	