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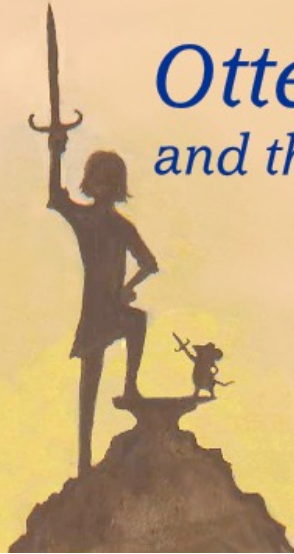
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Otter and Arthur and the Sword in the Stone

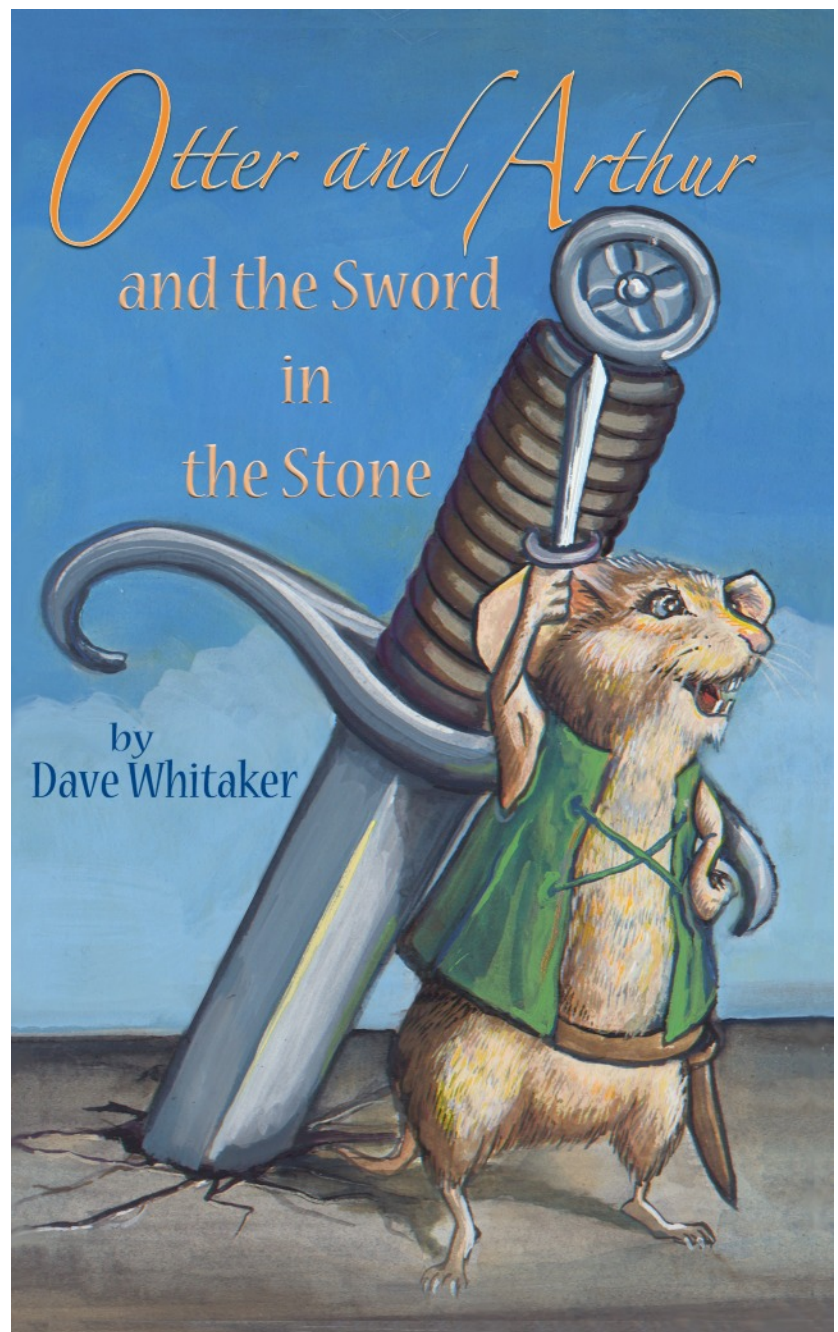
By Dave Whitaker



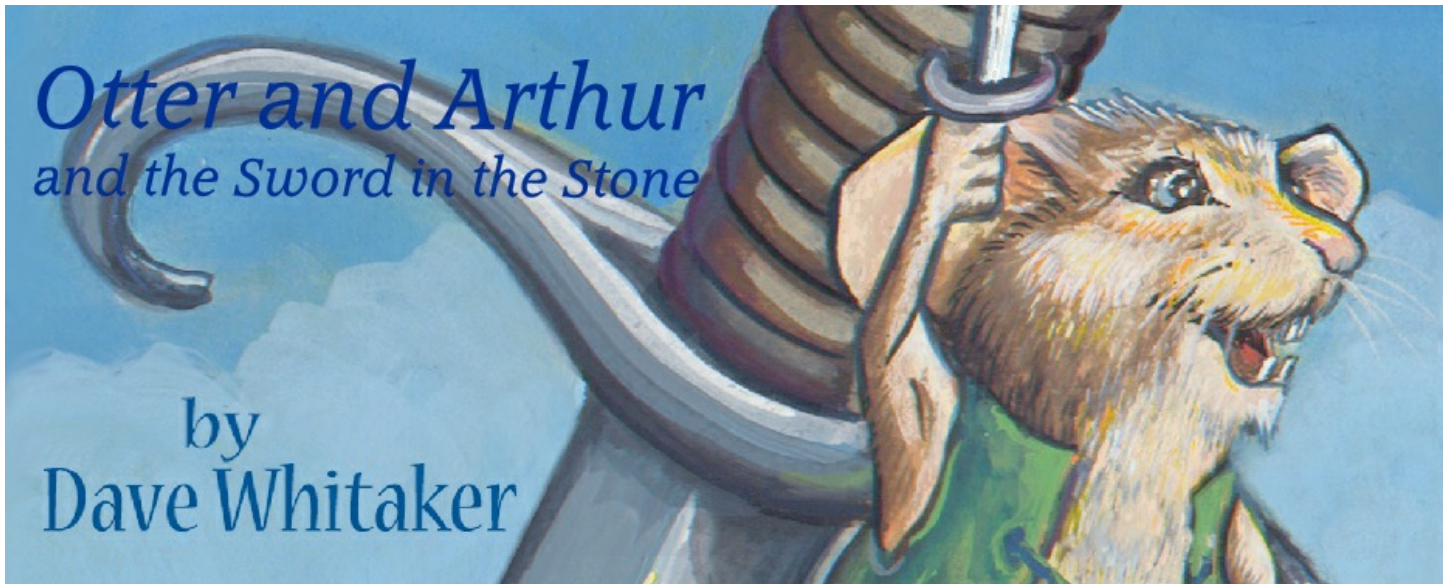
Description from back cover:

Picture a mouse on the back of a falcon soaring over a castle. Imagine that mouse practicing jousting using a squirrel as his horse or storming through the corridors of Camelot with a cat and dozens of knights chasing him. Glimpse into Merlin's cottage as the mouse rummages through the wizard's spell books to learn a magic potion. If it weren't for that mouse, Arthur would never have pulled the sword from the stone and become king.

Otter and Arthur and the Sword in the Stone follows the adventures of a mouse nicknamed Otter who befriends the young Arthur and helps him become literature's most celebrated king. Dave Whitaker's story is aimed at elementary school-age readers, combining classics like Beverly Cleary's *The Mouse and the Motorcycle* with the legend of King Arthur.



Cover at right. Actual size 5" x 8"



About the Author: Dave Whitaker has written more than a dozen books (see WritbyWhit.com for full details on all titles). Under the banner of Toolbox Training, he has turned out resources targeted toward adults working with children. He has compiled books on activity ideas including art, games, music, and science. He has also written about child development, staff training, transition, activities, and multiple intelligences.

He has also written books within the music field, including a collection of his essays from his music blog and a book on the top songs of the rock era. Under the Dave's Music Database banner, he has a blog which has received more than 130,000 hits and a Facebook page with fans in more than 40 countries.

Otter and Arthur and the Sword in the Stone is his first work of published fiction.

Publisher: Writ by Whit, printed by Create Space

Publication date: August 23, 2012

ISBN: 978-1479106219

Availability: OtterandArthur.com, Amazon, Barnes & Noble.

It is also supposed to be available to libraries and other academic institutions within 6-8 weeks of publication.

Price: \$9.95 through OtterandArthur.com, \$12.95 through Amazon or Barnes & Noble

Dimensions: 5" x 8" paperback

Pages: 190

Word count: just over 26,000

Target audience: elementary-school-age children

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Otter and Arthur and the Sword in the Stone

By Dave Whitaker

Below is an excerpt from *Otter and Arthur and the Sword in the Stone*. It is taken from Chapter 6, "Otter Goes to the Village," pages 70-73.

When we arrived at the village, Merlin, Kay, and Arthur tied up their horses to posts. I asked Arthur to let me out of his pocket.

"But how will you stay safe?" Arthur asked.

"I'll manage," I replied, patting my sword and thrusting out my chest.

"I guess," Arthur reluctantly agreed, "but you have to stay close. I won't be able to see *you*, but you have to be able to see *me* at all times. I don't want to go back without you!"

"Deal," I agreed.

I was mesmerized by the village. I had never seen so many people and so much activity. The food was phenomenal. Shops sold and traded clothing, jewelry, beads, pottery, baskets, tools, and musical instruments. The shops surrounded a town square, which was the local gathering place for important meetings and events.

The town square had a peculiar decoration at its center. On top of a large stone sat an anvil. A sword had been thrust into the anvil. It seemed an odd centerpiece for the town.

When Arthur and Kay passed a blacksmith shop, they begged Merlin to stop so they could look at the swords and armor. Merlin waved a hand toward the shop to indicate it was okay. I beamed with pride at my own sword.

The blacksmith showed Arthur and Kay how he put the iron in the hot fire and then pounded it into shape by placing the object on an anvil and hitting it with a hammer. He was eager to answer the boys' questions.

After watching the blacksmith a few minutes, Arthur asked, "Did you put that sword in the anvil in the village square?"

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"No," replied the blacksmith. "No one knows how it got there. That large stone has been there as long as I can remember. A dozen years ago, that sword and anvil just showed up."

"Why hasn't someone pulled it out?" Arthur asked.

"It's not from lack of trying. I've seen the strongest knights in the kingdom tug on that thing for hours. No one's even got it to budge."

The answer satisfied Arthur and he returned to checking out the swords in the shop. A woman, who I assumed was the blacksmith's wife, approached the boys.

"Be careful with those swords. I don't want any heads lopped off in our shop." Kay and Arthur nodded in agreement.

"You boys planning to be knights some day?" inquired the woman.

"Oh, yes, ma'am," said Kay with excitement.

"Not me," said Arthur in a disappointed voice.

"What's the matter, boy? You don't want to be a knight?"

"No, ma'am. I'd love it, but I'm not of noble birth."

The woman looked at Arthur suspiciously. "You sure dress like a noble."

"Oh," said Arthur, "I was born to peasants but adopted by Sir Ector."

"Hmph. If you ask me, it's the people like us who ought to be deciding if we fight or not. What do the nobles have to lose?" she grunted, jerking a thumb toward Kay. "They already have plenty."

Kay rolled his eyes, but Arthur nodded in agreement. "I think you're right," he said. "Everyone should have a say."

The woman seemed pleased to have found someone who agreed with her. "I don't have much use for that kind of ours. He just wants to fight. He doesn't care what it does to us average folk."

The blacksmith shouted at her from the back of the shop, "Woman, you best hold your tongue! If the king or his people heard you, they'd have your head chopped off!"

