



Comprehension

The Castle of the Maidens

Lancelot, who had once been fifteen himself, laughed and said, "I understand. Now tell me what happened next."

"Why, I had that real adventure," said Galahad. "I rode westward and in time I came to a great castle on the bank of a wide river. Here I was halted by an old man with a long white beard. He told me that the castle was known as the Castle of the Maidens and warned me to beware of the seven evil knights who dwelt there. But I was in search of an adventure, and so I rode on toward the castle. A band of damsels whom I met with called out to me and also warned me from going there, telling me that no strangers were ever welcomed at the Castle of the Maidens. When I asked them why this was, one of them said, 'When the old lord of the castle died, seven years ago, he left no son but only two daughters, and seven knights who were his

enemies took the castle by force from the damsels, and ever since they have held it, and ill have they treated all those who are in their power.' "

from 'Lancelot and Galahad' in **Stories of King Arthur and His Knights**
retold by Barbara L. Picard