

Dialogue Sample from YOUNG KING ARTHUR

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[LADY LIONORS has refused SIR RUMWALD's invitation to her family to visit London where a tournament will be held to decide the next king. Her sons, KAY and ARTHUR, enter, practicing their swordplay to the amusement of the servant girls, ANGLIDES and ELIZABETH.]

ANGLIDES

London, London, London. Saints be praised - Lady Lionors put her foot down.

ELIZABETH

(Annoyed)
Get to work and stop dreaming.

ANGLIDES

Never to gaze upon that handsome face.

ELIZABETH

Oh, no, not that again.

ANGLIDES

Oh, Kay. I sigh ... I swoon ...
(SHE embraces the sheets on the line.)

ELIZABETH

It's now "Sir Kay" to you. Stop it, you goose. Here he comes.

(GIRLS busily hang up sheets as ARTHUR and KAY enter, fighting with real swords.
ARTHUR, seeing GIRLS, abruptly stops fighting.)

KAY

What's this? Too many spectators?

ARTHUR

Well --

KAY

What interest have they in our sport?

ARTHUR

Yes, but --

KAY

Afraid I'll get the better of you?

ARTHUR

(With good humor)

You always do.

(Resigned, ARTHUR begins to fight again with KAY. The fight grows in intensity. GIRLS watch adoringly, peeking from behind sheets. KAY moves behind the sheets. After a vigorous thrust from ARTHUR, KAY staggers out from behind the sheets and falls downstage, not moving.)

ARTHUR (Continued)

Kay? Kay? Get up. That's enough now, Kay.

(GIRLS, clearly frightened, move closer.)

ARTHUR (Continued)

Kay?

ANGLIDES

Oh, mercy! Sir Kay? Sir Kay?

(ANGLIDES starts to sob and ELIZABETH comforts her.)

ARTHUR

Elizabeth, fetch my mother.

ELIZABETH

Yes, sir.

(ELIZABETH runs off.)

ARTHUR

Anglides, is he breathing?

(ANGLIDES kneels by KAY and listens.)

ANGLIDES

(Relieved)

Yes, sir.

(SHE puts her head on his chest.)
His heart beats.

ARTHUR

Thank heaven. Stay with him, Anglides. I'll go for my father!

(ARTHUR runs off. Sick with worry, ANGLIDES
smoothes KAY's hair. KAY suddenly throws
his arms around her and kisses her.)

ANGLIDES

Sir Kay!

KAY

I've been wanting to kiss you all my life.

ANGLIDES

I thought you were dead! I thought you were dying!

KAY

I shall die if I don't kiss you again!

(KAY jumps to his feet, takes her hand and
pulls her behind a hanging sheet. ARTHUR
enters with SIR ECTOR and LADY LIONORS
with ELIZABETH.)

ELIZABETH

He's over here, ma'am!

ARTHUR

(Rushing to LADY LIONORS)
Mother! We were fighting and then, I don't know, he fell --

LADY LIONORS

Where? Where is he? Kay?!

(SIR ECTOR pulls sheet aside, revealing KAY
kissing ANGLIDES. ANGLIDES is horrified and
KAY, pleased with himself.)

LADY LIONORS and ELIZABETH

Anglides!

SIR ECTOR

Kay?! I'm, I'm, I'm ...

(Smiling)
... speechless!

LADY LIONORS

Quiet, Ector! Leave this to me. Anglides, go to the hall.

(ANGLIDES is in danger of fainting.)

LADY LIONORS (Continued)

Take her arm.

(ARTHUR moves to help ANGLIDES.)

LADY LIONORS (Continued)

Not ye, Arthur! Elizabeth, take her in.

(ELIZABETH takes ANGLIDES' arm.)

LADY LIONORS (Continued)

Make some tea. Anglides, stay in yer room. Stay in yer room the rest of the day. In fact, I'll stay with ye!

(THEY start to go. LADY LIONORS turns.)

LADY LIONORS (Continued)

Ector, see to the boys. I'm depending on ye. Nip this in the bud!

(THEY start to go again. LADY LIONORS sees SIR ECTOR ruminating.)

LADY LIONORS (Continued)

(Intimately)

Distraction, Ector. That's what these boys need. Distraction. Too much free time.

(THEY start to exit. LADY LIONORS turns and announces.)

LADY LIONORS (Continued)

I've decided, Ector. We're going to London.

ARTHUR and KAY

London?!

SIR ECTOR

London?!

ANGLIDES

(Fainting in ELIZABETH's arms)
London?!

LADY LIONORS

London! And don't look so pleased. I'll have a word with ye later, "Sir Kay."

(Struggling to remove ANGLIDES.)
We leave for London tomorrow!

(LADY LIONORS and ELIZABETH exit with ANGLIDES. Jumping for joy, KAY embraces ARTHUR.)

ARTHUR

(Stunned)
Tomorrow? Tomorrow?!

KAY

We'll be there in time for the tournament!