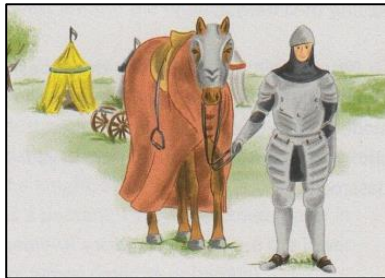
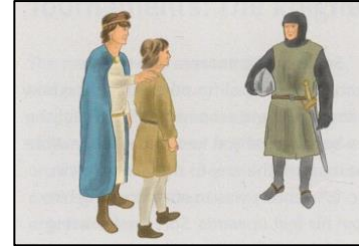
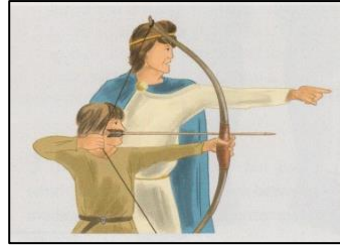
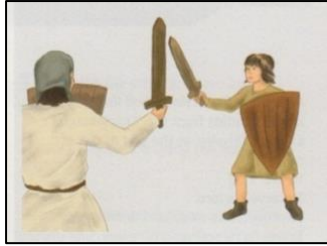


How did a boy become a knight?



page – Page
tobeknighted – zum Ritter geschlagen werden

squire – Knappe

tunic – Waffenrock
knightingceremony – Schwertleite

robe – Gewand

confession – Beichte
tobeassigned – jmd. zugeteilt werden

manners – Benimmregeln

to kneel – knien

court – Hof
to proclaim – ernennen

The night before the ceremony, the **squire** dressed in a white **tunic** and red **robes**. He then fasted and prayed all night. The chaplain blessed the future knight's sword and then laid it on the altar of the **chapel** or church. Before dawn, the knight took a bath to show that he was pure, and he dressed in his best clothes. When dawn came, the priest heard the young man's **confession**. Then the squire ate breakfast.

At the age of seven or eight, a nobleman's son began training for knight-hood at a neighbouring nobleman's castle as a page.

As a **page**, a boy spent most of his time strengthening his body, wrestling and riding horses. He learned how to fight with a spear and a sword. He was also taught to read and write by a school-master. The lady of the castle taught the page his **manners**, how to sing and dance, and how to behave in the nobleman's **court**.

A page could become a squire at the age of fifteen or sixteen. Each squire was then assigned to a knight. A knight could have several squires.

Once a squire had proven himself worthy in battle, and his knight felt he was ready, he could become a knight himself. Squires were **knighted** in a **knighting ceremony** at about twenty years of age.

A squire assisted the knight to whom he was assigned. His duties included dressing the knight in the morning, serving all of the knight's meals, caring for the knight's horse, and cleaning the knight's armour and weapons. He followed the knight to tournaments and assisted his lord on the battlefield. He prepared himself by learning how to handle a sword and lance while wearing forty pounds of armour and riding a horse.

Then the ceremony began. It took place in front of the family, friends and the nobility. The squire knelt in front of the lord, who tapped the squire lightly on each shoulder with his sword and proclaimed him a knight. This was symbolic of what had happened in earlier times. In the earlier Middle Ages, the person doing the knighting actually hit the squire forcefully, knocking him over. After the ceremony, a great feast followed with music and dancing.

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