

Story time

with Jill Haywood

Vocabulary

Breath - alè
Bargain - fer un pacte
Silver - plata
Bride - núvia
Knight - cavaller
Sword - espasa
Bloom - florir



Saint George and the Dragon

St. George stands for courage and chivalry. Chivalry is the code of honour which knights in armour used to follow. They had to swear to be brave, fair, true to their word, and to protect the weak and the poor. Of course not all knights kept the code – but St. George did.

He is the patron saint of England, and the red cross of St. George is on the national flag. In England, his day is the 23rd of April. He is also the patron saint of several other countries; including Canada, China, Greece, Russia, Portugal, Palestine, Ethiopia, Serbia, and Montenegro. One country is even named after him – and that's the Georgia which is situated between Russia and Turkey.

Once upon a time there was a town where the people had a very serious problem. There was a terrible dragon who had come to live near the village. The dragon had a long tail and eyes like a snake. The dragon's breath caused pestilence whenever it approached. When the dragon breathed on someone, they died immediately. Everyone was very frightened of the

dragon. The dragon ate many of the cows which belonged to the people in the town.

The villagers made a pact with the dragon and agreed to give the monster two sheep every day to satisfy its hunger and keep it away from the town. However, eventually the villagers ran out of sheep and the villagers had a meeting to decide what to do next. They bargained with the dragon and agreed to give it a person every month if it stayed away from the town. They decided to draw lots to see who would be given to the dragon.

The dragon was well fed and stayed away from the village, but one terrible day, the king's own daughter, the princess, was chosen to be given to the dragon. The king offered all his gold and silver for a substitute, but the people had pledged themselves that no substitutes were allowed, and so the princess, dressed as a bride in white silk, was led out of the town and left to wait for the dragon. She was afraid.

St. George rode past on his white horse and asked the princess what she was doing, but she told him to leave as it was dangerous. The good knight stayed, however, and, when the dragon appeared, St. George, making the sign of the cross, bravely defended the princess. He used his lance and his sword. He threw his lance and wounded the beast under its wing. Then he took his sword and killed it. The dragon was very strong but St. George had won the fight.

When the dragon's blood fell to the ground, a rose bush bloomed. St. George picked the most perfect blood red rose from the bush and gave it to the beautiful princess as he set her free. The Princess was very happy and together they returned to the town to tell everyone that the dragon was dead and everyone could live happily ever after thanks to the bravery of St. George.