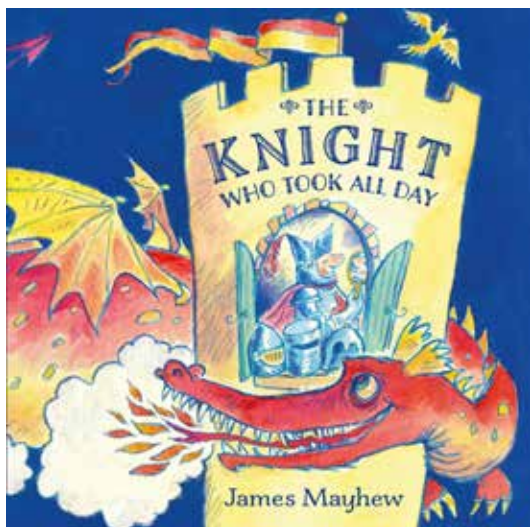


# The Knight Who Took All Day

by James Mayhew



- Author James Mayhew
- Illustrator James Mayhew
- Paperback, 36 pages
- Size 250 x 250mm
- For readers aged 5 +
- Recommended for teaching Year 2+
- Price £6.99
- ISBN 9781912050451

Author/illustrator's website:  
[www.jamesmayhew.co.uk](http://www.jamesmayhew.co.uk)



## Cover

### Discussion

- What is funny about the title?
- Look closely at the cover. What sort of character do you think the knight is? Give reasons for your opinion.
- What sort of character do you think the dragon is?
- What sort of story do you think this will be?
- Read the blurb. Do your ideas seem to fit with the blurb?
- Predict what you think will happen on the story.

### Vocabulary

Scan the blurb to find the following words:

- cautionary tale
- vanity
- procrastination
- Can you work out what they mean from the context?
- Look them up in the dictionary to confirm that you are correct.
- In pairs, construct a sentence for each of the words.

### Writing puzzle

- Look at the examples of homophones (words which sound the same, but are spelt differently and have a different meaning). Choose a pair, checking that you know what each one means by using a dictionary and write a sentence using both of them. Then create an illustration of this on a separate piece of paper. Display all of the pictures on the wall. People then have to read the jumbled sentences and match them to the illustrations.

- |          |        |          |        |        |       |
|----------|--------|----------|--------|--------|-------|
| - bear   | bare   | - flour  | flower | - reed | read  |
| - bald   | bawled | - hair   | hare   | - nose | knows |
| - boar   | bore   | - loot   | lute   | - not  | knot  |
| - brake  | break  | - maize  | maze   | - no   | know  |
| - cellar | seller | - muscle | mussel | - mind | mined |
| - die    | dye    | - root   | route  |        |       |
| - doe    | dough  | - red    | read   |        |       |

**Writing challenge**

- Create a sentence using both spellings of knight and night.



**End papers**

**Discussion**

- Look at the cartoons. What sort of art materials did the artist use to draw these?
- What do you notice about the pictures on these two pages?

**Writing challenge**

- Write a caption to go with each one.



**There once was a knight**

**Discussion**

- What words give the clue that the knight might not really be 'brave, fearless and handsome'?
- Think, pair, share: describe the picture in detail.
- What materials do you think James Mayhew has used to create the picture?
- Why do you think the castle is on a hill?



**He longed to show everyone**

**Discussion**

- How is the princess like a typical princess?
- How do you think she is going to behave in the story?
- What characters can you see in the picture?
- What do you notice about them?



**'What I need to do'**

**Discussion**

- Why does the knight feel that he needs to 'defeat a terrible dragon'?
- Why do you think the dragon hadn't been seen for a hundred and one years?
- What is ironic/amusing in the pictures?

**Writing challenge**

- Pick out all the adjectives and then use them to create a paragraph of your own.



**Then one day**

**Writing challenge**

Either:

- Write thought or speech bubbles for each of the characters in the picture.

Or:

- Write this part of the story from the point of view of the dragon. Why has he come? What is he planning to do? How is he feeling?

**Discussion**

- Predict what will happen next.



**The Squire ran to the armoury**

**Vocabulary**

- What do the following words mean? Can you work them out from the context?
  - squire
  - armoury

- rampaged
- Check their meaning in a dictionary or online.
- Say, then write, one or more sentences using these words.

### Discussion

- Are there any patterns you notice in the story?
- Who is the suit of armour for?
- What do the words 'And all the while ...' suggest?

### Writing challenge

Either:

- Create a wanted poster of the dragon, remembering to include as much identifying detail as possible.
- Decide what the reward will be for anyone who destroys or captures the dragon.

Or:

- Draw a picture of the dragon and write a description of his features.

### Research

- Find out about the life of a squire and a knight.  
<http://medievaleurope.mrdonn.org/knights.html>



## Everyone was very scared...

### Vocabulary

- What do the following words mean? Can you work them out from the context?
- flourishes
- visor
- Check their meaning in a dictionary or online.
- Say, then write, one or more sentences using these words.

### Drama

- Prepare questions and possible answers for the different characters in the story – townsfolk, the squire, the knight, the princess.
- Hot seat the different characters.

## The squire ran down

### Discussion

- Why do you think the princess is in the armoury?
- How do you think the squire is feeling?



## But when the knight saw the helmet

### Discussion

- What does the illustration show? (This type of drawing is called a section.)
- What is happening in each room?
- Do you notice anything unusual?
- How does it add to the story?
- What do you think of the knight?
- What sort of character is the squire?

### Art challenge

- Draw or design a section through a castle.
- Using paint, ink or felt tips, or collage, create a peacock feather. If you don't have a real one to observe, you might need to look at images on the internet.



## The knight was pleased.

### Discussion

- Do you think the knight really wants to fight the dragon?
- How could he have been more organised?
- How do you think the squire is feeling now?
- What do you notice in the illustration?
- Predict what will happen next.



## The squire ran down

### Discussion

- How many steps has the squire run up and down altogether? You might have to look back through the book and note the figures down as you scan the text.
- What are the most important things to do when preparing to fight a dragon?

### Writing challenge

- Write a list of instructions on how to catch a dragon.

### Discussion

- Why is the word MARVELLOUS in capitals?
- What will happen next?



## Outside, the princess stood before the dragon.

### Discussion

- What is surprising in the illustration?
- What do you think of the knight's reaction?
- Think, pair, share: How do you think the princess tamed the dragon?

### Writing challenge

- Write instructions for taming a dragon.

### Design Technology challenge

Either:

- Create either a 2D or 3D model of a moving, jointed dragon.

Or:

- Design your own tunic, shield and flag.

<http://medievaleurope.mrdonn.org/knights.html>

### Drama

- In threes, allocating the roles of narrator, princess and knight, act out this page.



## The princess married the squire

### Discussion

- What qualities do you think the princess possesses?
- What is the nurse throwing in the air?
- Were you surprised at the ending?
- What do you notice about the last four lines?
- Where would you choose to go, if you were going off 'to see the world'?

### Writing challenge

Either:

- Draw up a list of places you'd like to visit and explain why you would like to visit them.
- Find them in an atlas and plan your journey.
- How would you choose to travel?



Or:

- Write a story about one of the adventures the princess and squire have on their journey. Remember you need a problem or dilemma and a way of solving it, so plan it out first.

Or:

- Write instructions for how to look after your dragon.



**Back cover**

Read the reviews

**Vocabulary**

- What do the following words mean?  
Can you work them out from the context?
- frolicking
- self-infatuated
- impress
- scouring
- Check their meaning in a dictionary or online.
- Say, then write, one or more sentences using these words.



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