

SAINT GEORGE AND THE DRAGON



BY THE LITERACY COMPANY



There was once a valiant knight called George. George travelled across many lands and countries on his sturdy horse and had many adventures.

On one of his trips, George travelled to a country far away from home. It was called Libya.



When he arrived in Libya, George visited a village where the people were having a terrible time and they were thoroughly miserable. Their town was under attack from a dragon that lived in a nearby lake. The dragon not only breathed fire but carried illness and caused terror.



The people had tried to keep the creature happy and stop it from attacking them. Sadly, their plan was beginning to fail. They had tried to give the dragon food, animals from their farms, their money, gold and jewels but still the dragon attacked. The king tried to defeat the dragon with his army but the beast was too strong.



With nothing left to give, the villagers decided to feed the dragon their children. They chose a child each day by drawing straws.

Eventually, the king's own daughter was picked. The king realised the only thing he could do to protect his people was to send his only daughter, the princess, to wait by the lake for the dragon.



When George heard about what had happened, he galloped bravely to the lake. The beastly dragon heard George's approach and emerged from his cave roaring like thunder. George stepped between the dragon and the princess to shield her from the creature's mighty flames. Using his spear, George charged at the dragon but the scales on its back were too hard to break through. He would have to try something else.



Tugging his sword from his belt, George swiftly slayed the dragon under his wing where there were no scales. The dragon crashed to the floor in defeat.

George and the princess returned to the village and everyone was thrilled that they would have no more problems with the dragon. From then on George was known as Saint George.

MORE ABOUT THE STORY

Today, the story of George's bravery is remembered. George is known as the patron saint of England. Every year, we celebrate St George's Day on 23rd April. The legend of St George has been told many times and in many different ways, being passed on by word of mouth. Each version involves dragon slaying and this shows how good always defeats evil.

Dragons are often used in stories because they represent wickedness or the devil. In these stories, George is the good, brave and honourable knight – a real hero!

Saint George is the patron saint of many countries – England, Portugal, Ethiopia, Georgia and Lebanon.

Versions of this story are told across the world.

