

# Snap The Dragon

by  
*Patricia Harris-Nadon*

of the  
Quebec City Reading Council



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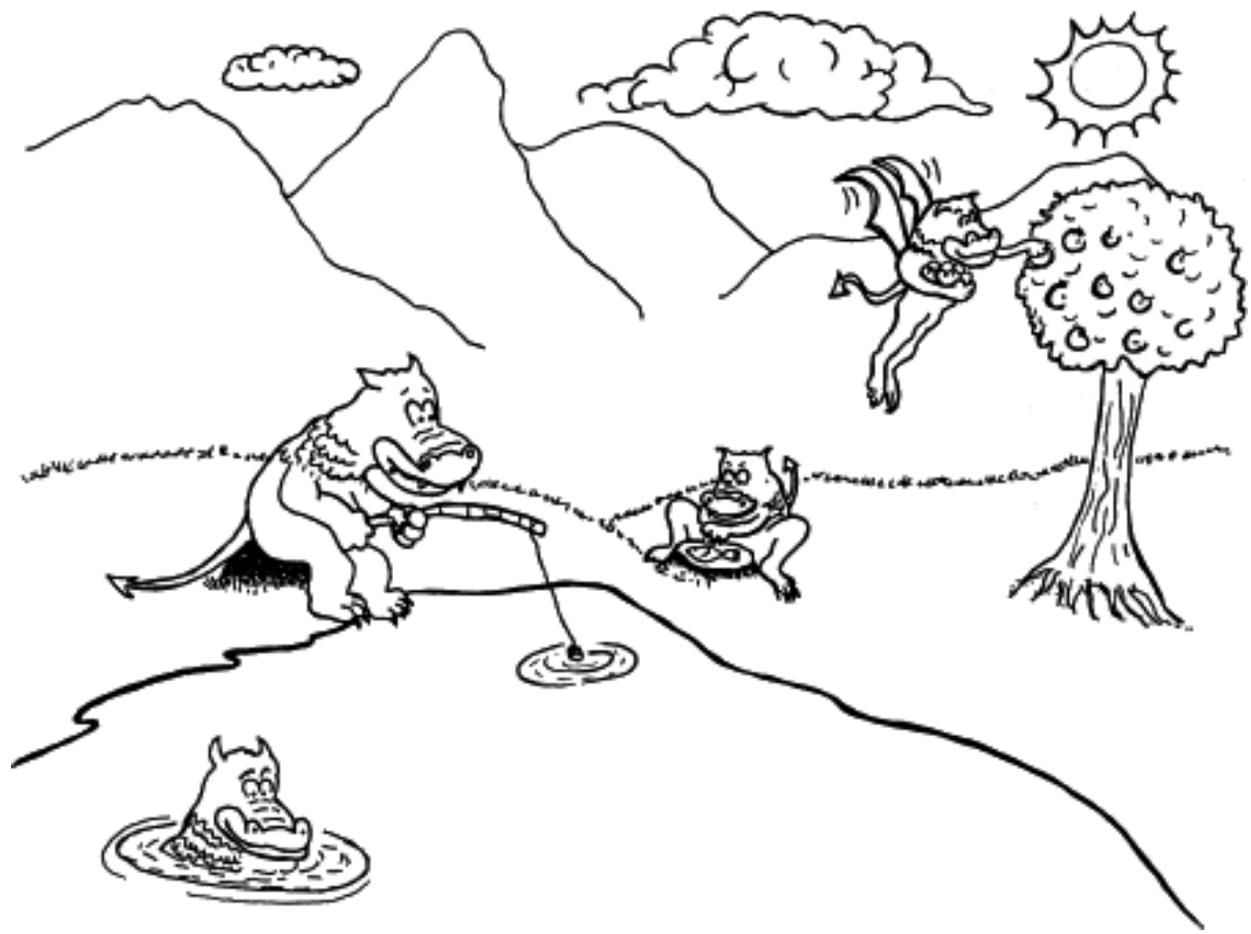
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# Snap the Dragon

**New Words:** once, dragon, cave, breathed, flames, roared, prince, princess, clever

Once there was a large dragon. His name was Snap. People said he was bad. Snap the Dragon lived in a cave. It was on a high hill. His cave looked over a valley. It was in the country of High-Hills. The country had once been Dragonland.

Snap's family had once lived there, so had his friends. Each dragon had a cave on a hill. They fished in lakes. They smoked fish with their noses. They ate apples and eggs.

Then people came. They made farms, roads and cities. The dragons did not like that. Dragonland was their country!

People killed the dragons. They did not want them. The dragons were not happy. They did not want people!

Snap was the last dragon left. He was very old. He wanted to live in peace. That was hard to do.

Men came after him every day. He roared and breathed flames. That helped to keep them away.

At night Snap breathed flames. He burned people's homes. He wanted them to go away. Not one person left the country.

Snap roared every night. That stopped people from sleeping. He stole people's gold. That made him feel better. The people had his country. He had their gold.

Snap breathed flames. He burned gardens. He burned boats on the lakes. He burned trees.

He liked to fly over people. He breathed flames at them. He roared at them. They ran away. High-Hills was not a happy place for people. It was not a happy place for Snap.

People still wanted to stay there. The land had pretty valleys. There were fine trees on the hills. There were many fish in the lakes. People loved High-Hills. Snap had to go! They did not sleep any more. They sat up thinking of ways to kill Snap. Snap did not sleep much. He was thinking too.

He roared, "What can I do? People must go away. I know! I'll eat a person for lunch every day. Yes! That's what I'll do. It's not nice. But I want my country back!"

Snap ate one person each day. He did not eat children. He liked them. People were very upset. They stayed just the same.

The King said, "We need a clever prince. The prince can kill the dragon. Then he can marry Princess Rose".

Princes came. They hunted for Snap. They never saw him. He never roared when they came. He stayed away from them.

Snap didn't understand people. It's hard to make them go away. People didn't understand Snap. Dragons don't like being killed. The King wanted peace. He didn't know what to do.

Princess Rose did! She was pretty and clever. She was not like other girls. She liked dragons. She wanted to be Snap's friend. She said, "I want to help the dragon."

The King said, "No, no, my dear! Wait for a clever prince. He will kill the dragon. Then you can marry the prince. Off you go! Why don't you bake a cake for tea?"

The Princess said, "No! That old dragon needs love. This was his land. He has no family. He has no friends. We want peace. He wants peace. Let me help him!"

"No, no, my dear!" cried the King. "No princess helps dragons! Whoever heard of that! What will people say? Forget your plan. Your job is just to look pretty!"

The Princess did not listen to him. You will soon see!

# Freezing and Sneezing

**New Words:** sneezing, freezing, diamonds, green, blue, fault, bottle, kept, medicine

Snap went to Lee-side one morning. It was a cold day. He was looking for his lunch. Everyone was inside. Then he saw Princess Rose. She was in her garden.

The Princess was freezing. She hoped to see Snap. She wanted to speak to him. Then she saw him in the sky.

The Princess had a lovely dress. It was made of gold. It had diamonds. Snap saw it from the sky. He liked gold and diamonds. Why not eat the Princess for lunch? He picked her up. He carried her to his cave.

It was freezing in the cave. The Princess started sneezing. Her gold and diamond dress was lovely. But it did not cover her arms. She went on sneezing. She was getting a cold!

Snap was angry. He did not want to catch her cold. It was hard to make flames with a stopped-up nose. The day was cold. He needed flames to keep from freezing.

He said, "Why did I bring the Princess here? She's not very big. She won't make much of a meal. I don't need her gold and diamonds. I have lots of my own."

"Stop sneezing!" he said. "I'll get your cold. A cold stops up my nose. Then I can't make flames. Flames stop me from freezing inside. Besides, I have to toast you for lunch."

The Princess said, "I can't help sneezing. It's freezing in here. Why do you live in this cold cave? Make some flames, please."

"Oh, I will!" said Snap. "I want to toast you soon."

"Thank you!" said the princess. "You're very kind."

Snap tried to make flames. Instead, he started sneezing. He had a funny feeling inside. He turned from green to blue. He went on sneezing. He had a cold!

"Where are your flames?" asked Princess Rose. "Why have you turned blue? You were green before! What's the matter with you? You're not very nice! I wanted to be your friend."

Snap was angry. "I cannot make flames," he said. "My nose is stopped up. When I have flames, I'm green. I have no more flames. That's why I'm blue. I'm freezing. I cannot toast you. I've got your cold. It's your fault!"

He kept on sneezing.

Princess Rose became angry. "Don't speak to me like that!" she said. "I'm a Princess. I didn't ask you to bring me here. So, you have a cold. It's your own fault."

"It's not my fault!" roared the blue dragon.

"Why did you wear that dress today? Why didn't you wear a coat? It's cold! You're not very clever. I'm blue with cold thanks to you. What am I to do? There's no way to toast you. That's bad. I don't like a cold lunch."

He started sneezing again.

The Princess wanted to help Snap. She had to think fast. An angry dragon never listens to people. It eats them!

Her doctor had given her something for colds. It worked well. She had it with her. The dragon had a bad cold. It was up to her to help him.

She got a little bottle from her handbag.

"What's in that bottle?" asked Snap.

The Princess smiled. "It's medicine," she said. She opened the bottle. Snap watched her drink some medicine. She didn't take much.

You must remember that she was a princess.

She said, "My doctor gave me this. It opens up my nose. It stops my sneezing. I'm glad I kept it with me!"

She gave the bottle to Snap. "Why, thank you!" he said. "You're very kind." He turned away to drink. He kept on drinking. He finished the medicine.

You must remember that he was a big dragon.

Snap handed the bottle to the Princess. He breathed flames. He was not freezing any more. He turned from blue to green.

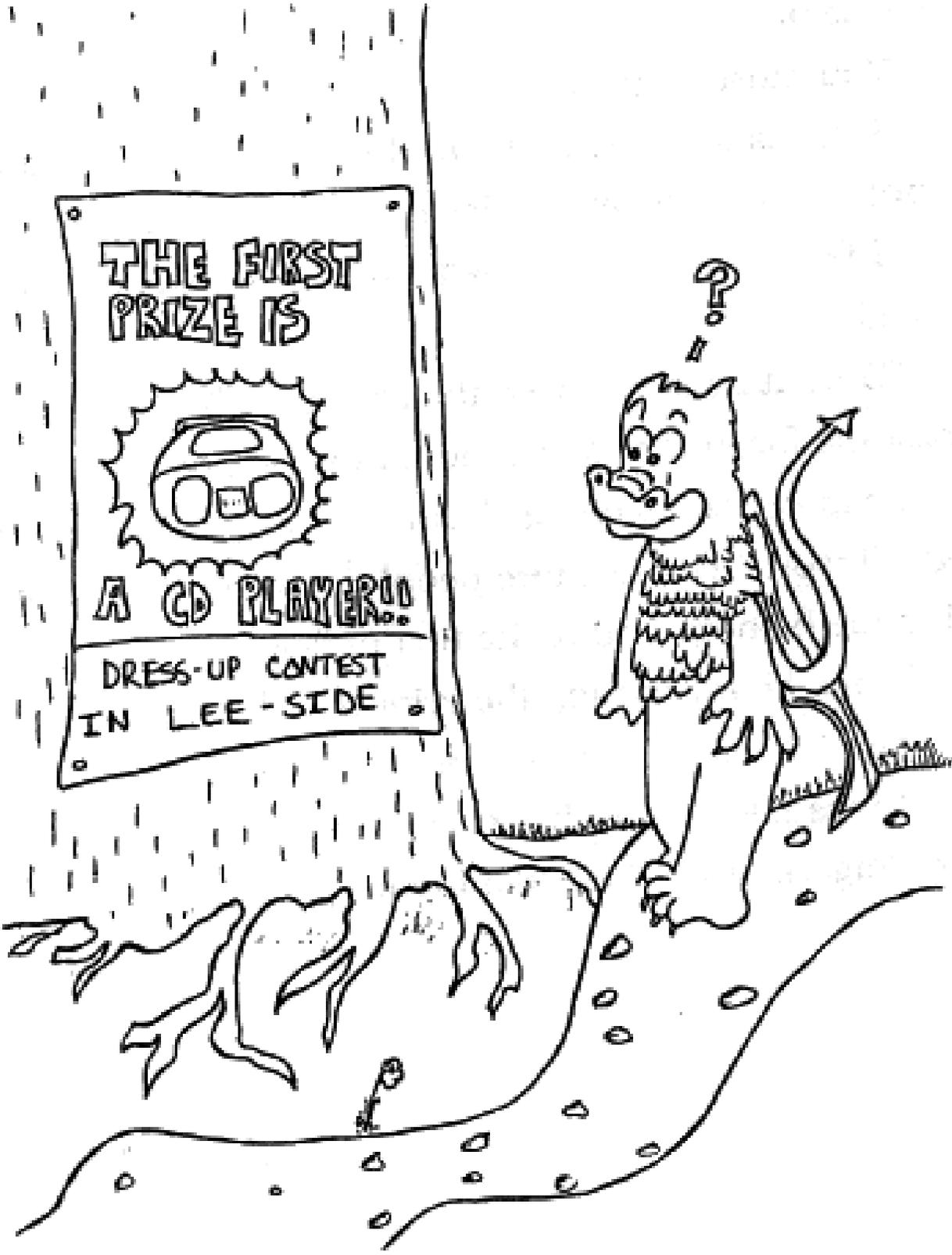
"I feel fine!" he said. "What was that medicine? It's the best I've ever had."

"Does it matter?" asked the Princess. "You feel fine. You're going to toast me for lunch. What more can you ask for?"

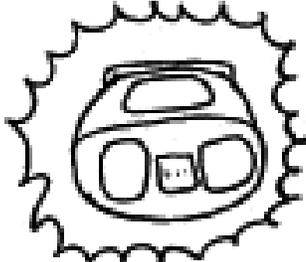
Snap kept on smiling. "Can you get me some medicine?" he asked. "I won't eat any more people. I won't burn things. No one was kind to me before. You're the first person."

"Then be my friend," the Princess told him. "I'll send you lots of medicine. I'll send up bread, cheese and cakes as well."

Princess Rose kept her word. Snap kept his word. He was a happy dragon. At last he had a friend!



THE FIRST PRIZE IS



A CD PLAYER!!

DRESS-UP CONTEST  
IN LEE-SIDE

?

# CD Dragon!

**New Words:** poster, contest, prize, glue, disks, scales, excited, wish, could

One day Snap saw a poster. The poster was on a tree. It said,  
"DRESS-UP CONTEST IN LEE-SIDE. FIRST PRIZE IS A CD  
PLAYER!"

Snap said, "I like contests. What's a CD player? Is it a nice prize? I must ask the Princess."

"What's a CD player?" he asked the Princess.

"It plays music," she said. "I have one. Listen!"

"I'd like one," said Snap. "There's a contest coming. The first prize is a CD player. Here's the poster. Will you help me in the contest, please?"

The day of the contest arrived. The Princess went to Snap's cave. Three men carried boxes. They laughed. Snap had the poster in his cave. He wanted that first prize!

"Here I am, Snap," said the Princess. "I'll send the men home. They must not see you dressed up."

The Princess opened the boxes. One had bottles of glue. The others had CD disks. "My!" said Snap. "What a lot of music."

"Stand still," said the Princess. "I'll glue CD disks on you. I'll cover your scales. The big scales need two disks each. This will take a while!" She opened a bottle of glue.

The dragon covered some scales himself. The Princess had to glue disks on his back. They worked hard. They laughed a lot. They finished at lunch time.

Princess Rose said, "You look nice in green. You look even better with disks. Let's see you in sunlight." They ran into the garden. The sky was blue. It was a lovely day.

The Princess was right! The disks were pretty in the sun. Snap was happy. "Thank you," he said. He gave the princess a diamond ring.

She kissed his nose.

The Princess got on Snap's back. They went up in the air. Snap looked like a second sun. At last they saw Lee-side.

"We're nearly there!" cried the Princess. "I don't want to land. I like being up here!"

"I want to get to Lee-side," yelled Snap. "There is a contest there, remember? I want first prize."

The Princess laughed. Snap wanted to please her. He did not land right away.

The people were out in the streets. It was a fine day for a contest. Everyone was excited. Then a boy looked at the sky. He saw something bright. It was not the sun.

He got excited. "It's Snap and the Princess!" he cried. "Snap is covered with disks. I wish I could go up there."

The children cried, "We want to fly. Could the dragon take us

up? "

Snap landed. The excited children ran over. They asked if they could fly. Snap could not say no. He liked children. Each child wanted to fly. Each child went up.

The last ride ended. The Princess was waiting. She could not stop crying. "What's the matter?" asked Snap.

"The contest is over," she said. "It was won by a girl. She dressed as a black snowman. I wish you had not been so kind. There were so many children. I wish I'd stopped you."

"I'm glad you didn't," said Snap. "The children had fun. So did I." He smiled. Inside, he was feeling sad.

Then the children's parents came to Snap. They said, "Thank you. You made our children happy. Here is a CD player for you." Snap was very excited. He could not say anything.

People smiled. The Princess smiled. Snap laughed.

Snap went back to his cave. The Princess went with him. They lifted the disks off Snap's scales. They started the CD player. They listened to music for half the night!

# A Funny Dragon

**New Words:** combs, silver, pearl, dream, long, falling, out, volcano, soldiers

A man came to Snap's cave. "I have pretty things to sell," he said. "Take a look. You will like what I have."

"Do you have any combs?" asked Snap. "They are for a lady. She puts them in her hair. I wish to give her a gift."

"I have pearl and silver combs," said the man. "They are fit for a princess!" Snap looked at them. They were lovely.

"Give me two pearl and silver combs," said Snap. "She likes pearl and silver things. These will look pretty in her hair."

Then Snap saw some blue jars. "What's in the jars?" he asked. He picked one up. He opened it.

"I don't know," said the man. "It's made with beans and milk. Men like it. I don't know why. It doesn't cost much."

"It smells nice," said Snap. "Will it clean my scales?"

"Why not try it?" asked the man.

"I'll buy ten jars," said Snap. "I'm a big dragon."

Snap put the combs away. He ate one jar of beans and milk. He liked it. He kept the other jars. He wanted them for cleaning his scales.

That night Snap opened his jars. He put beans and milk on his scales. He put beans and milk on his head. He put beans and milk on his nose.

That night Snap had a dream. He had long green hair! Snap was glad when he woke up. It was breakfast time.

He got up. He was covered with green hair! The hair was very long. He didn't look like a dragon. He looked like a green hill! He tried not to fall over the hair.

"That was hair medicine," Snap said. "Why did I buy it? That man let me buy it! He had better not come back!"

Snap could not see. Hair covered his eyes. He looked for the combs. He put them on his head. They kept the hair away from his eyes.

He said, "This is like a bad dream. I wish the Princess were here. I need her help. She could tell me what to do. I'll fly to Lee-side at once."

He left the cave. He tried to fly. He could not. Long hair covered his wings. What was he to do?

"No night dream could be this bad!" Snap cried.

He followed the path to the valley. He wanted to get to Lee-side quickly. He could not. He was falling every second step. He was angry with himself. He kept on falling. He kept yelling, "Air-head! I wish it were yesterday again!"

Snap met no one on the road. He did not wish to see anyone. His scales hurt. They were black and blue. He did not need to see

them. He could feel them! He went on slowly. Angry smoke came from his nose.

It was a nice day. People had left Lee-side. They were eating lunch on the grass. A woman looked up the road. She cried, "Oh my! What's that big green thing? It's coming this way!"

A man cried out, "It's a volcano! It's covered with long grass. Look at the smoke! It's coming out at the top! Run quickly! We must get inside the city. We'll close the gates!" Snap wondered why people were excited.

Everyone yelled "Volcano, volcano! Get the soldiers at once! Send them out after the volcano." The soldiers stayed put. They didn't wish to go. The Princess came. She asked what was going on.

She told the soldiers to wait. She marched out of the city. She marched to the green volcano. She started to laugh. Two sad eyes looked at her. It was Snap! He told her his story.

She yelled, "Come out. It's not a volcano. It's Snap. Something has happened to his scales!"

The Princess patted Snap. "Try before you buy," she laughed.

"Why didn't you burn the hair off? You have flames. Try to burn the hair off. Then come to my place. We'll have tea."

"Why didn't I think of that?" Snap asked. "Why didn't I burn the hair? I upset everyone for nothing. I made them part of my bad dream." He breathed flames on the long hair. He smiled. He could see his scales again!

Snap went to tea with the Princess. She tried not to laugh. He was black, blue and green. He still had a little green hair. Snap looked funny, but he didn't care! The bad dream was over!

# Snap Gets His Own Back

**New Words:** robber, steal, club, wine, down, trouble, easy, bounced, armour

One dark night two men came to Snap's cave. They wanted his gold. They had big clubs. They had four large bags.

The first robber said, "You look after the bags. I'll go first. I'll hit the dragon with my club. He will sleep a long time. Then we'll steal his gold. Are you ready?"

The second robber was not happy. "I wish we could go home," he said. "I don't like to steal. I don't want to steal from a dragon. Something bad may happen. What do we do then?"

"Oh come on!" said the first robber. "You know what to do. Run if Snap jumps at us. Drop your club and run. But nothing is going to happen. Come on!"

The first robber went in the cave. He went to the back. Once, he dropped his club. Had the dragon heard him? He waited a long time. The dragon stayed put. The robber went on again.

Snap's eyes were closed. The first robber raised his club. He wanted to hit Snap's head. He hit the dragon's nose instead! Snap sat up and touched his nose. The first robber stayed where he was. The second robber dropped his club and ran.

Snap smiled. "Well!" he said. "Can I help you?"

The first robber spoke with care. "Kind Dragon," he said. "It's late. We cannot get to Lee-side tonight. We're tired. We're cold. We need to eat. Is that possible?"

The second robber came in the cave. He stayed near the door. He was ready to run again.

Snap smiled. "That's no trouble," he said. "Will bread and cheese do? Do you want coffee or beer?"

"Do you have wine?" asked the first robber. "Wine is nice."

"White wine or red wine?" asked Snap.

"BOTH!" said both robbers at once.

"That's no trouble," said Snap.

He put wine bottles on the table. The robbers sat down. They started to drink. They had a lot of wine.

They ate a lot. The first robber looked at Snap's gold. He wanted it. He needed another plan. "Can we stay the night?" he asked. "We won't give you any trouble.

"I have no bed for you," said Snap. "I never sleep myself. You have bags. Put them down on the floor. You say you're tired. You will sleep well. I'll watch over you."

Then Snap looked at their clubs. "I see you like sports" he said.

Your bats are nice. Do you play on diamonds very often?"

"That's not why we have clubs!" said the second robber. The first robber kicked his friend. The second robber yelled.

The first robber wanted Snap's gold. He smiled at Snap. "Dear kind Dragon," he said, "Will you give us some gold? If it's not too much trouble. We want to remember our visit."

Snap smiled. "It's time I cleaned out my home," he said. "Take some gold and diamonds. Take some pearls. Take some wine. Take anything you like." The two robbers were excited.

"Take some silver armour," cried Snap. "I have trouble getting into it. You will find it easy. Here, try it on."

The robbers got into the armour. They left the cave.

Their bags were as heavy as rocks. The armour was heavy too. The robbers sat down. They were tired. Their troubles were just starting. Snap bounced out after them.

They could not get up. The armour was too heavy. Snap watched. Then he roared, "I'll teach you to hit my nose!"

He kicked the armour down the hill. The robbers yelled. They bounced over rocks. They bounced down to the valley. They were black and blue. Snap laughed. "That was easy!" he said.

He picked up their bags. It was easy for him. He bounced into his cave. He said, "My cave looks much better. I never liked that silver armour. I had to clean it too often."



# More Changes

**New Words:** walking, now, witch, dog, shouted, problems, small, insect, scared

Snap was walking in his garden. Someone was walking up the hill. He turned to look. An angry witch was coming.

"You fished in my lake," yelled the witch. "I told you not to. Now I'll fix you, my fine dragon!"

"We can go walking where we like. We can fish anywhere," said Snap. "The King said so. The Princess is coming to tea. I got the fish for her. And I'm not your dragon, so there!"

The witch said, "FIX HIM!" Snap became an old man.

He said, "I was an old dragon before. Now I am an old man. Now I can live near my friends. Thank you very much, Witch!"

He started walking away. The witch was angry. Snap seemed happy as a man. She did not like that. She yelled, "FIX HIM!"

Snap became a bird. He came flying back to the witch.

"This is fine!" he said. "Now I can live in a nest. I have better wings now. I'm pretty now. Thank you!"

The angry witch cried, "FIX HIM!" Snap became a large dog. He landed on her head. The witch yelled.



Snap shouted, "A happy dog jumps. It jumps at people it likes. I like you!" He bounced at the witch.

The witch backed away. Dogs did not come near her. They did not like her. This one did! That was a problem.

She tried to run away. She had problems with her long dress. She could not run fast. Snap bounced at her. He was having fun. "What's next?" he yelled.

The witch shouted, "FIX HIM!" Snap became a bat.

"Fine!" cried Snap. "I'm a bat. Now I can live with a witch. Can I live with you? A bat can fly at night. It likes the dark. I'll stay under your hat. I won't trouble you."

He went under her hat. She heard him say, "Thank you!"

The witch yelled. The bat was in her hair. Why was she having problems? She did what she liked with people. Maybe dragons were not the same.

She shouted, "I'll get you!" She lifted her hat. She tried to take Snap in her hand. He was too quick. He went into a tree. He shouted, "What next, Witch?"

The angry witch breathed hard. Her problems were not over. What could she do with Snap?

"FIX HIM! Be a small insect," she yelled. "Then watch out! A bird will eat you." What happened next scared her.

Snap was an insect. He was not small. He was as big as a bus! The witch raced out of the garden.

Snap raced after her. "Look," he shouted. "I have small insect eyes. Yet I can see better. I like being an insect. Don't be scared. Get on my back. I'll run you home."

The witch had her skirt in her hands. She kept on running. She yelled, "FIX HIM!" Snap became a small tree.

The witch came back. "Stand there forever," she shouted. "You are just a tree now. Stand there day and night. Stand in freezing rain. Get covered in snow. Let cold winds blow on you. May insects give you problems."

Snap said, "I'll be happy. I love rain, snow and wind. I like the sun. I think the night is nice. Insects are not so bad. Thank you. You're a very kind witch."

The witch jumped up and down. "You're happy no matter what I do," she shouted. "Well, I'll fix that! Be a dragon again. See if you like THAT! FIX HIM!"

Snap became himself again. "Thank you!" he said. "Let's do this again next week. I was scared at first. But it's fun!"

The witch cried, "It was fun for you. It was no fun for me! You said I was a kind witch. That's bad."

The witch went home. Snap had scared her. What if she became a kind person? Snap went into his cave. He had to get tea ready for the Princess.

# All's Well That Ends Well

**New Words:** history, would, horse, all, sure, sword, idea, dance

Snap was having breakfast. He was thinking of Dragonland. He was the last dragon left. No one had written a history of Dragonland.

Who would do it if he didn't?

Snap was not ready to write history.

He said, "I would like some more coffee first. No one is coming today. There's lots of time for history." He left the table. He had his cup. The cup was knocked out of his hand!

Snap turned quickly. A fine young man was in his cave! A white horse was in the garden.

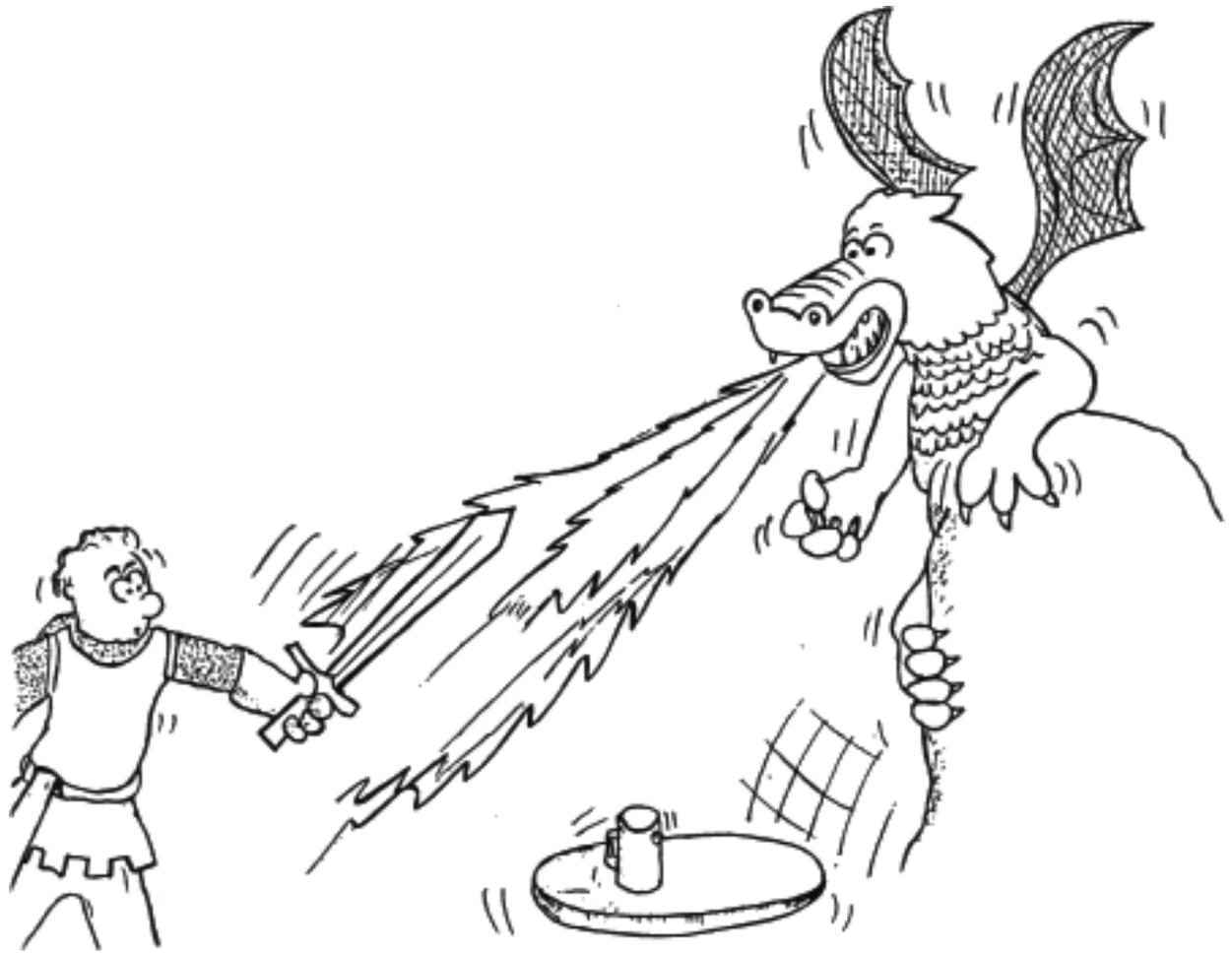
Snap smiled. He said, "Who are you? I've never seen you before. Do you live in the valley?"

The young man said, "I am Prince Tony. I come from far away. I've been on the road a long time."

"Please sit down," asked Snap. "Would you like toast and coffee? Would your horse like anything?"

"No!" said the Prince. "My horse would not! He does not like toast and coffee. Being nice won't help you. I'm here to kill you, Dragon. My horse and I will make history today."

Snap said, "Tell your horse to eat some grass. Have some coffee and toast. You will feel better. Why kill me? I'm not a bad dragon, you know."



"All dragons are bad. I'm sure of it," said the Prince. "I shall kill you. Then I can marry a princess."

"Must you kill a dragon first?" asked Snap.

"All princes must," said the Prince. "I'm sure of it. But dragons are hard to find. You are the first I've seen." He looked at his sword.

He looked at Snap's neck.

"Somewhere there's a princess who likes dragons," said Snap.

"I'm sure of it. Find her. Marry her. It's a fine idea."

"All princesses are scared of dragons. I'm sure of it," said the Prince. He ran at Snap with his sword.

Snap breathed a small flame. The sword became hot. The Prince dropped it. He backed away in a hurry.

"Don't be scared. I won't hurt you," said Snap. The Prince picked up his sword. He ran at Snap again.

Snap jumped to one side. "Listen!" he cried. "A princess lives at Lee-side. It's in the valley. Go to her. Ask her if she likes dragons. If she does not, come and kill me."

"Why, thank you! That's an idea," said the Prince. Then he asked, "can I trust you? Will you be here when I get back?"

"You can trust me," Snap said. "You can trust all dragons. I'm sure of it. Besides, I have work today. I'm writing history. Away you go."

Prince Tony got on his horse. He went down the hill.

Snap did a dance as he picked up his cup. He tried to dance white writing. His idea was working! He just had to wait.

The Prince came back. Princess Rose was with him. She was smiling. So was Prince Tony.

"Dear Snap!" said the Princess. "What a clever dragon you are! I spoke to my brave Prince. He won't have to kill you."

"Forgive me, Snap," said the Prince. "I was feeling bad this morning. Will you be Best Dragon at our wedding?"

The wedding was two weeks later. People had a fine time. They were happy for Princess Rose. They liked the brave young Prince. They were pleased with Snap. He had been clever.

Snap saw the black witch. He was brave. He asked her to dance. They laughed a lot. They became friends.

That night, Snap breathed flames to light fireworks. The biggest one made him smile. It went high in the sky. In big green letters it said: LONG LIVE SNAP THE DRAGON!

