

George And The Dragon

1.

A long time ago,
And a long way away,
In an unhappy place called Silene,
There was a great dragon
Who lived in a lake,
Who was ugly, quite smelly, and mean.

2.

‘Give me some food!’
The great dragon cried,
‘Or I’ll cover this land with disease!’
The people were scared
So they gave him two sheep,
And they hoped he would leave feeling
pleased!

3.

Scrunch! Munch!
Gurgle! Crunch!
The sheep disappeared in a flash!
The great dragon burped,
And a bone flew back out,
Then he slept on his bed made of ash.

4.

But just one week later
The dragon came back;
‘I’m hungry again! Where’s my meat?’
The people were scared;
What else could they do?
They gave him his wool-covered treat.

5.

Scrunch! Munch!
Gurgle! Crunch!
The snack disappeared in one gulp!
‘How long can this last?’
The villagers thought,
As their best sheep were turned to a pulp.

6.

Week after week,
And year after year,
It happened again and again,
The dragon would come
And would eat up two sheep,
Until finally nothing remained.

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7.

‘Where is my food?’

The great dragon roared,

‘You don’t want to see me get mad!’

The King of Silene

Had to think very fast,

And the thing he imagined was sad.

8.

‘There’s nothing else for it!’

The old king declared

(‘Cause that’s the thing kings back then
did),

‘To save many souls

We will give up a few;

We’ll just have to feed him our kids!’

9.

A cry and a shout

Went around and about

As the children’s names went in a hat,

Molly and Rick

Were randomly picked,

And that, my dear reader, was that.

10.

Scrunch! Munch!

Gurgle! Crunch!

The dragon left, licking his lips.

‘These children are nice!’

The great dragon cried,

‘Next time you must bring out some dips!’

11.

This went on and on,

Every week he was fed

With the children of nobles and farmers.

The Princess herself

Was picked to be lunch,

But St. George then rode up in his armour!

12.

‘Don’t worry, fair lady!’

The strong soldier called

As he rode on his warhorse to save her!

He was quite a sight,

With his armour so bright,

You have never seen anyone braver.

13.

‘Who is this ant?’

The great dragon spat

As he spotted the knight riding near,

‘Where’s my can opener?

I’ll cook him alive,

And clean off my teeth with his spear!’

14.

The great dragon roared,

And swung his huge claws;

He was sure he would cut George in half!

Imagine his shock

As he hit only air,

When the saint dodged away with a
laugh!

15.

‘Oh great silly dragon,

You’re too old and slow

To fight with a knight of my skill!’

The spear tip shone bright

As he lowered it down,

And then charged his horse in for the kill.

16.

Once! Twice!

Stab and slice!

The dragon’s blood started to flow!

Spear covered in red,

Brave George turned and he said

‘Well that’s all done darling. Let’s go.’

17.

He took off her belt

And tied it around

The neck of the dying old beast,

Led it back to the city,

Then forgot about pity,

And chopped off its head at a feast!

18.

May this be a lesson

To dragons all over;

Keep hidden and don’t make a sound!

Avoid ugly messes,

And eating princesses,

If brave knights like George are around!

George And The Dragon – Comprehension

Section A

1. Which lines in each verse rhyme with each other? (T5)
2. What are the names of the first two children fed to the dragon? (C6/2b)
3. What weapon does George have? (C6/2b)

Section B

4. After you have read verse 6, stop and answer the following question: do you think the dragon will leave now the sheep are gone? Why? (P2/2e)
5. If you were performing this poem as a group, what would you do to highlight the gruesome and repetitive eating described by the words 'Scrunch! Munch! / Gurgle! Crunch!'? (L4)
6. Would you perform this poem in a serious or funny tone? Why? (L4)

Section C

7. 'Scrunch! Munch! / Gurgle! Crunch!' Do you like or dislike the poet's use of 'sound' words? Why? (R3)
8. What is the 'wool-covered treat'? (C1/2a)
9. What does it mean when the king says 'to save many souls we will give up a few'? (C1/2a)
10. What is the dragon implying by calling Saint George an 'ant'? (C1/2a)
11. What are the three plans for dealing with a dragon which are explored in this poem? (S2/2c)