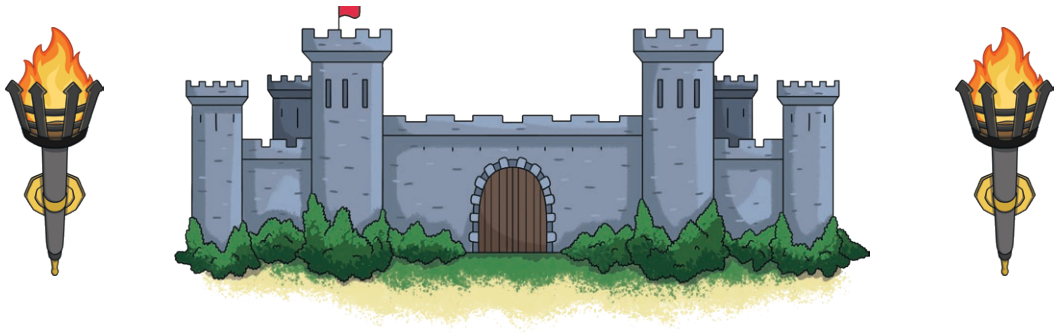
Knights and Dragons, Unite!



The noble knights of Stombart were
the bravest in the land;
They trained to fight the dragons with
their swords and shields in hand.

Sir Gorrell was uncomfortable with
swords and angry steeds.
He found it all too scary and preferred
to do good deeds.

The mighty Dracton dragons were
the fiercest in the world;
They trained to fight the knights with
giant flames that blazed and swirled.

Young Aristar disliked the flames
which scorched as they shot by.
She found it all too scary and
preferred the cooling sky.

One morning, while the knights were all in training for a fight,
Sir Gorrell slipped away towards the woods and out of sight.

And as the dragons roared and shot their flames into the air,
It got too much for Aristar, who crept out of the lair.

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Sir Gorrell skipped along till something stopped him in his tracks. "Hello? Is someone there?" he called, unable to relax.

Sir Gorrell saw a dragon with a blue and scaly snout...
"Don't hurt me!" said the two of them together, with a shout.

"Oh, I would never hurt you!" they responded, both confused.
The presence of a friendly foe had left them quite bemused!

"Don't worry," said Sir Gorrell. "I'm just keeping out the way,
As fighting makes me nervous and they're practising today."

"Me too," responded Aristar, "I find the flames too hot!
I hate the fact that dragons have to breathe them such a lot.

If only we weren't enemies, we wouldn't need to fight
And maybe, if we worked together, things would be all right."

Then suddenly, Sir Gorrell turned to Aristar and said,
"Forget this silly training; let's put on a show instead!"

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They put their heads together and devised a cunning scheme
To join the knights and dragons into one united team.

They laughed and worked all afternoon, with growing, hopeful grins;
This plan could bring a peaceful truce where everybody wins.

They headed for the castle, where the knights all gazed in shock.
"How did you catch a dragon?" asked the biggest knight, Sir Jock.

"I didn't," said Sir Gorrell. "She's not scary; she's my friend!
We've come up with a plan to bring our squabbles to an end."

Then, Aristar took flight and as she did, their plan was clear.
The banner flew behind them and Sir Gorrell gave a cheer.

The message in the sky said:

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They headed next to Dracton Lair
to show off their new plan.
The dragons shouted, "Aristar,
how did you catch this man?"

"I didn't," she responded. "He's
not scary; he's my friend!
We've come up with a plan to
bring our squabbles to an end."

Then, Aristar flew back towards the village from the wood
And headed for the castle, where the great arena stood.

They worked until the sun went down and left a dusky glow,
Preparing all the things they'd need for putting on a show.

The knights back at the castle huddled tightly in a scrum;
A show seemed odd to many but it did appeal to some.

"I do quite like to juggle," said Sir Thea with a smirk.
"And I've been known to dance a wicked rumba," said Sir Kirk.

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The dragons back at Dracton were all huddled in a scrum;
A show seemed odd to many but it did appeal to some.

"I **am** quite good at singing," Ruxley mentioned, feeling shy.
And Cloudie said, "I might give writing poetry a try."

Sir Gorrell sat with Aristar upon the empty stage.
The audience consisted of a donkey and a page.

"At least we tried," said Aristar. "I guess they just don't care."
But then, as she was talking, raucous laughter filled the air.

They looked up to the sky and
saw the most amazing sight:
A host of flying dragons, each one
carrying a knight!

Sir Thea called, "I guess that we
can give this thing a go!"
"It's worth a try," called Maddox.
"Now, let's get on with the show!"

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The audience were captured by the a cappella squires
And Maddox and Sir Trundlefoot did somersaults on wires.

A group of street performers brought the house down with a roar
And Knit United knitted like they'd never done before.

Their lives were much more wholesome
with new talents and new friends.
They realised that life becomes more fun
when fighting ends.

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Questions

1. How are the knights of Stombart described? Tick **one**.

   ◯ the funniest in the land
   ◯ the bravest in the land
   ◯ the scariest in the land

2. What do you think 'friendly foe' means?

   _____

   _____

3. Find three adjectives used in the story.

   1. _____
   2. _____
   3. _____

4. Draw a line to match each word to its meaning.

raucous	joined together for a common purpose
truce	making a loud noise
united	an agreement between enemies

5. What is the 'most amazing sight' that Aristar and Sir Gorrell see?

   _____

   _____

6. What do you think is the **message** in this story?

   _____

   _____

   _____

Answers

1. How are the knights of Stombart described? Tick **one**.

   ◯ the funniest in the land
   ✓ **the bravest in the land**
   ◯ the scariest in the land

2. What do you think 'friendly foe' means?
   Children's own answers relating to the fact that Sir Gorrell and Aristar are meant to be enemies but they are actually friendly.

3. Find three adjectives used in the story.
   Any three from the following: noble, bravest, uncomfortable, angry, scary, good, mighty, fiercest, young, cooling, green, scaly, confused, bemused, friendly, nervous, hot, alright, silly, cunning, united, hopeful, peaceful, biggest, clear, friendship-building, great, dusky, odd, wicked, shy, empty, raucous, amazing, wholesome, new, fun.

4. Draw a line to match each word to its meaning.

raucous	joined together for a common purpose
truce	making a loud noise
united	an agreement between enemies

5. What is the 'most amazing sight' that Aristar and Sir Gorrell see?
   A host of flying dragons, each one carrying a knight! (Accept children's own wording of this, too.)

6. What do you think is the **message** in this story?
   Children's own answers relating to being yourself/not letting others tell you what you should be. Also accept answers about being friends with people who are different to you.