

One sunny afternoon, in a land far away from Mossbourne, Mr Walton was walking home from school. He was feeling very sad because Coronavirus had forced schools to close early. He noticed a worm munching some leaves. "How odd" he said out loud, "that worm seems to have arms". He knew that **Jevae, Ethan and Jack** would tell him that worms don't have arms. After all they had just been observing worms in their topic lessons. All of a sudden a huge bird swooped down and swallowed the worm. Mr Walton watched on, amazed. He wondered if his class could remember if the worm was the predator or the prey. He longed for the chance to ask **Kamron, Imani, Carys** and the rest of 2M to draw a food chain with the worm and the bird in it. He knew they would also remember to add the most important part of the food chain, even though he wouldn't tell them what it was. (He might give them a hint, it has three letters. Then again, he might not).

When he turned onto the path leading to his door he spotted a beautiful squirrel. The squirrel had unusually large, blue eyes. All the better to see me thought Mr Walton, remembering the fairy tales he had read to 2M recently. The squirrel was busy storing his delicious nuts in a nearby tree. "Ah food" thought Mr Walton remembering the five basic needs of all living things. He knew that **Rosie, Sade - Leah or Xavier** would know the other four; but alas, he couldn't ask them.

Suddenly, there was a loud roar and the sound of ginormous wings beating against the wind. "Ahhh, air resistance" thought Mr Walton out loud. Just as he was remembering **Jules and Lyra's** excellent demonstration of reducing air resistance a huge gust of wind knocked him flying backwards. Terrified Mr Walton looked up towards the sky. If he wasn't so terrified he may have recalled the positional language that **Renae and Rumaysa** used during maths. What he saw you will not believe.

What do you think he saw high in the sky **Amina**? What do you think **Mikel**? Surely no birds beating wings could knock down an adult. **Kingsley**, what do you think?

Let me give you some clues. It was green. Had two gigantic wings. Razor sharp teeth. Blood red eyes. Claws as sharp as razor blades. Scales on its back. It was uglier even than a goblin shark. Have you guessed it **Gyeri**?

Oh and it was spouting fire from its mouth. A DRAGON!

Mr Walton ran for his life. Hoping to make it inside where he would be safe. The dragon circled. Once. Twice. Then it swooped. Mr Walton ran as fast as his legs could carry him, wishing he had spent more time exercising and, oddly given the circumstances,

remembering how **Jeremiah, Ted and Amelia** knew how to spell the word 'exercise'. Mr Walton put one foot on the doorstep. Nearly safe he thought. An excruciating roar went up right behind him and Mr Walton was gobbled up whole.

The squirrel had witnessed the whole shocking affair. He thanked his lucky stars he wasn't gobbled up whole and went back to his nuts. As he busied himself storing them in his tree he began to feel guilty. Just then a gorgeous butterfly flew gently up to the squirrel. "What's wrong?" she asked. The squirrel explained what he had seen at that he felt guilty because he hadn't helped save Mr Walton. The butterfly trying to help said, "But you are just a small squirrel. You couldn't have saved anyone from a fire breathing dragon".

"I guess you're right" said the squirrel sadly. It was at that exact moment that a fairy godmother appeared from the sky.

"Why the sad face?" she asked the squirrel. Once he had explained the fairy godmother said that she would help.

"Help how? Are you going to fight the dragon" asked the butterfly.

"Goodness no" said the fairy godmother. "But you are!". With that she said her magic words and turned the squirrel into a strong knight. Then she flew away.

The squirrel, who was now a knight, was very impressed. But then he looked at his shield and was a little worried. He wasn't sure it would offer much protection against the dragon. Why do you think he was worried about his shield **Amelie**? What do you think **Pryce**?

The squirrel knew what he must do. Wooden shield or not. He was off to save Mr Walton. He said "Goodbye" to the butterfly and she quickly flew away before the squirrel began a long journey to the dragons lair.

The squirrel ran across wide open plains for days. He thought he could hear the dragon in the distance but he could never see it. The squirrel walked across fields where he saw flowers as yellow as the sun. He didn't know what these were called and wanted desperately to ask Mr Walton. Do you know what these are called **Romaine**? **Jared**? **Bella**?

Eventually the squirrel arrived at the dragons lair. The dragon roared. The squirrel ran away. Slowly, quietly, carefully the squirrel snuck back up on the dragon. The fierce dragon was staring at something glittery at the back of his lair. Can you see what it is **Malana**? What do you think it is **Riley**? The squirrel could sneak up on the dragon because the dragon was distracted by his treasure. Bravely the squirrel got closer. And closer. And closer. Roarrrrrr. The squirrel stepped on the dragons tail! The gruesome dragon spun around and his long, strong tail sent the squirrel flying. The element of surprise was lost. The squirrel charged at the dragon. The dragon was too strong for the squirrel and was about to gobble him up whole too. Although we all know dragons are fierce, strong fire breathing monsters they have one weak spot. How can a squirrel know this though? He doesn't know. Do you **Dempsey**? Do you **Senay**? Anyone? Shout if you do. Help the squirrel. Wait. **Nathan** do you hear that? A muffled voice calling from inside the dragons stomach. It's Mr Walton, luckily still alive. Although probably covered in a lot of disgusting digestive juices! "Stab him in the stomach" Mr Walton pleaded. "Stab him in the stomach or we will both die!"

It worked! The dragon retreated. Mr Walton popped out of the hole in the dragon's stomach. "Wow Thank you" he cried. Mr Walton was safe and looking forward to returning to school soon to see all of 2M and they would all live happily ever after.

The End.

Comprehension questions and activities.

(Use the text above)

1. Having listened to the story explain what happens first, next and last.
2. Who turned the squirrel into a knight?
3. Where had Mr Walton been before he saw the squirrel?
4. How many adjectives can you find?
5. Which adjective is your favourite?
6. What other adjective could you change the adjective gigantic for?
7. Can you find all of the dialogue? (Hint: some of this dialogue is Mr Walton speaking out loud.)
8. An adverb of manner tells you how something is done. For example, I am typing quickly. 'Quickly' is the adverb of manner. Can you spot any adverbs of manner in the story?
9. How do you think the dragon felt at the end of the story?
10. At the end of the story Mr Walton pops out of the dragons stomach. Write a different ending. Maybe Mr Walton isn't saved. What happens in your ending?

Activities.

- Draw (or create with household objects) a food chain with the bird and worm in it. What two things do you need to add to the food chain? (There was a clue for one in the story).
- Design your own monster that will gobble Mr Walton up.
- Act out the story with family members, teddy bears or other toys as characters.
- Spell the word exercise.
- What other words do you know that have that soft c sound?