

# DRAGON Fyre

THE **LEGEND** OF THE **KINNOULL HILL DRAGON**



Production created and performed by Adventure Circus  
Primary School's Resource Pack created by Suzie Bee BEd

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### **The Story**

The legend that was told centres on Kinnoull Hill above the city of Perth, which was regarded as an especially dangerous place to explore. Not just for the steep cliffs to the south, but because it was home to a ferocious dragon who made its base in a deep cave in Kinnoull Hill. It would torment the local countryside, snatching up livestock in its powerful jaws and carrying off bonnie, young lassies.

The people of Perth were in a panic. They knew where the dragons cave was but none of them were brave enough or strong enough to fight the beast. They turned to St Serf who had no problem at all slaying the mighty dragon with his staff.

This dragon had a diamond like stone in the middle of its head which was believed to be the source of its power. Somehow in the drama around the dragon's demise, the stone was forgotten about and lost. The people of Perth didn't care about the stone, they just rejoiced and a new festival started in celebration. Beltane, the firey Festival of the Dragon, was held on Kinnoull Hill. Young men and women would march through the town, beating drums and playing pipes on their way to the hill.

There, they would try and climb up to the dragon's cave as a spectacularly dressed figure looked on, with only a handful succeeding. In the 16th century, after the Scottish Reformation, the Festival of the Dragon was banned and the cave mostly ignored. Until now...

## Scene I- Dragon's Hole

Many centuries ago  
Perth was but a village – though  
No canny man would wish to go  
For danger lingered there

Deep within the hill, Kinnoull  
There dwelt a monster, fierce and cruel  
With cyclops eye of glowing jewel  
And scales in place of hair

Breathing fire, with claws of steel  
He ravaged with relentless zeal  
Took sheep or goat, or lamb or veal –  
Or human! Ate them all!

Crops and buildings vandalised  
All right before their very eyes  
And soon the people did despise  
The dragon, Fireball

His lair, he'd carved within a cave  
But neither beast nor man be brave  
Enough to venture near it, save  
A fool or the unwitting

Along the valley of the Tay  
In deep, dark night and bright long day  
The monster wrecked its wicked way  
Through chaos, unremitting

Each new day, the great devourer  
Grew in stature by the hour  
How did it acquire such power?  
The jewel – it had to be!

Impenetrable defence,  
It pulsed with vile malevolence  
And gave the bearer heightened sense  
Of immortality

With no achilles heel, the Beast  
Was free to ravage, west to east  
His murderous attacks increased  
The people were afraid

Who'll liberate us from this mire  
and best the monster breathing fire  
Our situation's very dire  
Everybody prayed

## SCENE II- Slaying the Dragon

Months went by, continual pillage  
Croft and castle, town and village  
Much destruction, much blood-spillage  
Fireball had to go

Livestock stolen, kin amiss  
Crops destroyed, and food is scarce  
Someone has to help with this!  
Who could they turn to, though?

How can simple farmers fight  
A foe of such enormous might  
He'd kill them all with just one bite  
An uphill task they faced

Something must be done, they hollered  
Nobody in charge seems bothered  
Somehow Fireball must be collared  
And, for good, erased.

Clandestine discussions held  
With plots to have the dragon felled  
And thus, his reign of terror quelled  
But leadership was needed

So, to a saintly man they turned  
Who, of their plight, was most concerned  
He promised them the peace they yearned  
For, if his word was heeded

They knew the task ahead was huge  
So learned the art of subterfuge  
To leave the beast no safe refuge  
In which it might recover

The day came when St Serf declared  
They were sufficiently prepared  
To do what no-one else had dared  
The fight was nearly over!

Up Kinnoull they headed where  
The Dragon's Hole contained the lair  
In which the monster might repair  
Midst bones of sheep and cattle

And while he was on raid out East,  
They set a trap and caught the beast  
Attacked it 'til it was deceased  
At last, they'd won the battle!

### **SCENE III- Stealing the Stone**

Word went out all round the state  
They danced and sang of Fireball's fate  
And celebrated long and late  
Into the wee small hours

At first, they thought their woes were gone  
Til some smart fellow said "hang on,  
What's gonna stop another one  
From taking up his powers?"

At least when Fireball was here  
No other dragons ventured near  
But now he's vanquished, seems that we're  
Susceptible again"

Amidst the sudden, frightened chatter  
All the elders had a natter  
"We know how to solve the matter -  
Hide the magic gem!

We'll keep it safe and out of sight  
From any other parasite  
Who fancies taking up the fight.  
So shall that be our vow."

But one amongst them, mischief maker  
Sought to be the power taker  
Didn't baulk at promise-breaker  
He would have it now

His fortunes, he hoped to advance  
So while the people sang and danced  
He engineered his perfect chance  
And stole away the charm

But quickly did the elders see  
It wasn't where it ought to be  
Alas, for him, discovery!  
Before he'd done some harm

#### **Scene IV- Beltane Celebration**

And they were never cowed again  
For magic now protected them  
The stone that had been Fireball's gem  
Radiated aura  
That kept the other beasts away  
So folks could go about their day  
Without a dragon in the way  
Causing fuss and bother

By way of thanks, they marked the date  
And celebrated Fireball's fate  
On first of May from dawn til late  
A-feastin and a-braggin

At Beltane every year they'd come  
With skirling pipes and banging drum  
And climb the hillside one by one  
To where they killed the dragon

And there, they'd gather, torches lit  
And re-enact the gory bit  
When Fireball got stabbed and hit  
And from his cave, ejected

That cave, we know as Dragon's Hole  
It's still there now - but please don't go!  
For deep inside, an eerie glow  
Can sometimes be detected.

Who says there's no such thing as dragons.....

## Video – 30 minutes

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DJxPbBNN\\_I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DJxPbBNN_I)





## Literacy and English



### Smaller tasks

- Summarise the story.
- Question master- ask and answer questions about the story. Who? What? Where? Why? When? How?
- Vocabulary- find some WOW words. What do they mean?
- Rhyming words- how many can you find? What else would rhyme? Can you make an alternative line?
- Read the story aloud- try to use expression to show what is happening.

### Longer tasks

**Rewrite the story from the Dragon's perspective. ENG 1-31a/2-31a.**

Why did the dragon terrorise the people of Perth? What had they done to deserve it?

Lots of fairy tales have been written from a different perspective. It may be useful to explore and read:

- The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs (told from the wolf's perspective) or The Wolf's Story by Toby Forward.
- Seriously, Cinderella is so annoying! (Told by the wicked stepmother)
- Goldilocks Broke into my House (the story told by baby bear)

**Be a critic! Watch the show and be a journalist; write about what you liked and didn't like. LIT 1-08a/2-08a. LIT 1-28a, 1-29a, 1-30a. 2-28a, 2-29a, 2-30a.**

Firstly, describe the show and the story. What were the four acts and what happened in each act? Was the story clear to follow? Were there any impressive or memorable moments? Were there any moments that you switched off? Why? If you were to see it live, have you any suggestions about what you'd like to see improved?

Model examples of film reviews

[https://www.scholastic.com/content/dam/teachers/lesson-plans/migrated-files-in-body/sample\\_movie\\_reviews.pdf](https://www.scholastic.com/content/dam/teachers/lesson-plans/migrated-files-in-body/sample_movie_reviews.pdf)

**Read other Scottish myths/legends LIT 1-11a, 2-11a.**

For example, the Loch Ness monster and the Kelpies. A good place to start to find out a little bit about these legends is:

<https://www.scotland.org/features/scottish-myths-folklore-and-legends>



## Social Studies

- **Trusted sources-** can this legend be trusted? Where did the information come from? What is factual? What is a myth/legend? SOC 1-01a/2-01a.



- **Compare life now and then-** the legend is from the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the Middle Ages or Medieval period.  
A good start to compare life now and then with regards to jobs, food, sports and clothing is:  
<https://www.middleages.org.uk/medieval-scotland/>  
Life in a Medieval Village video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yq3q7KMIvw0> SOC 1-04a/2-01a



## Expressive Arts- Drama



- **Drama- hot seating the dragon or St Serf.** Have the pupils write their own questions to ask the character. Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? Discuss open and closed questions. Can be done in groups or as a whole class.  
What is hot seating? <https://dramaresource.com/hot-seating/> EXA 1-12a/2-12a.

### Examples Questions for the dragon

Why did you scare the people of Perth?
What did the people of Perth do to you?
Where are the other dragons?
Why are you by yourself?
How do you feel about the people of Perth coming to attack you?
If you could go back in time, what would you change? Why?
If you could choose, what magic power would you have chosen for the stone? Why?

- **Drama- create a freeze frame.** Give each group a section of the story to create a freeze frame for, it must be done in secret as the class will guess what is happening. If the pupils can convey what is happening through their body, facial expression, props etc, the class will hopefully guess correctly! EXA 1-12a/2-12a  
What are freeze frames? Examples <https://dramaresource.com/freeze-frames/>

### Example Freeze Frames

1.The dragon is in its cave. The people of Perth try to find it and when they do, the dragon breathes fire and scares them away! The people of Perth are terrified!
2.St Serf was taught how to fight. He was knighted with a sword and he began the climb up Kinnoull Hill.
3.St Serf slayed the dragon with his sword! The dragon let out an enormous wail and fell to the ground.
4.St Serf stole the magic gem from the dragon's forehead! The gem would protect the people of Perth from other dragons.
5.A local mischief man stole the stone for himself! The people of Perth were worried as they wouldn't be protected so they worked together to come up with a plan to steal it back!
6.In May, Perth used to celebrate the slaying of the dragon with a festival called Beltane. There was Scottish dancing, bagpipes and lots of fire performances!

## Expressive Arts- Art

- **Art- step by step dragon eye.** You'll need: paper, pencil, rubber, ideally chalk pastels as they blend easily. EXA 1-03a/2-03a  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-i1tqBCpp9U>



- **Art- dragon craft-** EXA 1-02a. The website has the printable head and tails to make the dragon puppet!  
<https://www.redtedart.com/chinese-new-year-craft-dragon-puppet-free-printable/>



## Thanks

Story by: Inspired by the Legend of the Kinnoull Hill Dragon first read on 'Scotland's Stories' and adapted by Adventure Circus

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