



The Man Who Fought Windmills

Warm up



In the middle ages, noblemen who fought for their king were known as knights. They are shown wearing armour and riding horses in pictures. Rearrange these groups of letters to identify the things this knight is wearing and holding.

- theelm _____
- arumor _____
- dishel _____
- words _____



How were these things useful to a knight?

A long time ago, there lived a man in a castle in Spain. He wanted to be a hero and help people in danger. He wanted to be a knight and ride on his horse dressed in a suit of armour; but the world had changed. There were no knights, nobody wore shiny armour any more, nor did anyone have magical adventures in strange, faraway lands.

Still, this did not stop Don Quixote (Don-Key-Hoh-Te). He decided to dress up in his great-grandfather's rusty armour and go out in search of adventure.

Once Don Quixote was in his armour and mounted on his bony old horse named Rocinante, even his squire, Sancho Panza, laughed until his sides hurt. However, Don Quixote didn't care; such was his confidence!

'Do you want me to make you the ruler of some distant land, Sancho?' asked the knight.

Sancho stopped laughing. 'Yes, yes,' he cried.

'Well, get on your donkey and come with me,' said Don Quixote. 'We'll have some wonderful adventures together.'

After many days of riding, Don Quixote and Sancho Panza came to a large field.



'Look at the giants!' cried the knight.

'What giants?' asked Sancho.

'Over there! See, those gigantic outstretched arms!'

'Where? I don't see any giants,' said Sancho. 'All I see are windmills.'

'There, Sancho! Look there!' Don Quixote was pointing at the windmills, his eyes round with excitement. His head was so full of magic and adventures that he thought the windmills were giants.

'I don't see any giants!' Sancho said firmly, hoping to change the mind of his fanciful friend.

'You are stupid, Sancho,' said Don Quixote. 'They are giants and I am going to fight them.'

Before Sancho could utter another word, Don Quixote charged forward on his horse, lowering his lance. Just as he reached the first windmill, the wind began to blow and the great arms of the mill creaked slowly around.

'Watch out, Don Quixote!' yelled Sancho; but it was too late. His lance stuck into one of the windmill's blades and he was swept up, off his horse and high into the air. He fell with a loud clang to the ground and his helmet turned the other way on his head.



'Didn't I tell you they were windmills?' said Sancho, as he ran over to help his friend get on his feet.

'They were changed into windmills by magic,' said Don Quixote. 'They are really giants.'

Then Don Quixote had an idea. 'Quick, Sancho! Get me my saddlebag; my magic bowl is in it. I'll show these giants they can't fool me.'

Sancho rushed over to Rocinante and got the saddlebag. He took out the bowl, filled as it was with curd. Perhaps Don Quixote has added a magic **potion** to the curd, he thought!

'Give me the bowl,' said the brave knight. 'I'll wear it on my head and turn these windmills back into giants.'

'But the bowl's full of—'

Too late. Don Quixote had already put the bowl on his head. The curd began to drip all over his face.

'Help! Sancho, help! My brain is melting! Sancho, my brain is melting! Those wicked giants have cast a spell on me!'

'Oh, Don Quixote!' Sancho couldn't stop laughing. 'Let's go home. We'll come another day when the wind is not blowing and get those giants,' he said finally.

'All right. We'll go, but just till I can get my brain fixed. I'm not giving up! I am a knight and someday I *will* be a hero!'

Abridged from *Don Quixote*
by **MIGUEL DE CERVANTES**



Value pick

Find the part of the story that shows us that living in a dream world can get us into trouble.

✓ squire	a young man who is an assistant to a knight
✓ fanciful	one who lives in an imaginary world
✓ lance	a weapon with a long wooden handle and a pointed metal head
clang	a loud and clear sound
potion	liquid with magic powers

Understand and answer

A. Answer these questions with reference to the context.

"I don't see any giants!" Sancho said firmly, hoping to change the mind of his fanciful friend.

1. Who was the 'fanciful friend'?
2. Why couldn't Sancho see any giants?
3. Why did Sancho hope to change his friend's mind?

B. Mark the statements as true (T) or false (F).

1. Don Quixote was a very adventurous person.
2. He had a suit of armour made for himself.
3. Knights in armour were common in Don Quixote's time.
4. Quixote was confident that he could make Sancho Panza a ruler.
5. Sancho Panza knew that Don often imagined things.

T
F
F
T
T

C. Answer these questions.

1. What did Don Quixote think the windmills were? Why did he think so?
2. Describe Don Quixote's adventure with the windmill.
3. How did he explain to Sancho why he was fighting a windmill?
4. Why did he ask Sancho for the magic bowl?
5. What happened when Don Quixote put the bowl on his head? What did he think had happened to him?
6. When did Don Quixote say he would be ready for his next adventure?

Think and answer

Do you think Sancho believed Don Quixote would make him a ruler one day? Give a reason for your answer.

Read this sentence.

- Don Quixote wanted to **have** an adventure and **do** good to others.

Notice the **verbs** used with adventure and good. We never say **do an adventure**, we always say **have an adventure**.

Expand words

