

“Knight Sir Louis and the Dreadful Damsel”

By the Brothers McLeod

Published by Guppy Books

Story styles writing exercise and examples from
Knight Sir Louis and the Dreadful Damsel

Knight Sir Louis and the Dreadful Damsel is a middle grade, comedy adventure story (for 7 to 12-year-olds) about a young knight and his friends. Louis is sent on a mission to fight a giant robot damsel and to find out the identity of her maker. The story is mostly told in a traditional third person narrative, but there are a number of other literary devices used throughout the book! See a list of these below.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

STORY STYLE

It’s fun to think of how you might take a simple story like the three little pigs and then how you might retell it using different literary devices. How will the story change if it’s an interview, or a diary, or a poem, or as an advertisement, a song, or if it is mostly told through pictures.

QUESTIONS

Act out the TV interview (Chapter 3). What other questions could the interviewer ask Louis about himself and his life as a knight?

HAIKU

Write your own haiku poem about an important moment, or an adventure. Watch the online masterclass here (13 minutes):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrZ9WsAkVuQ>

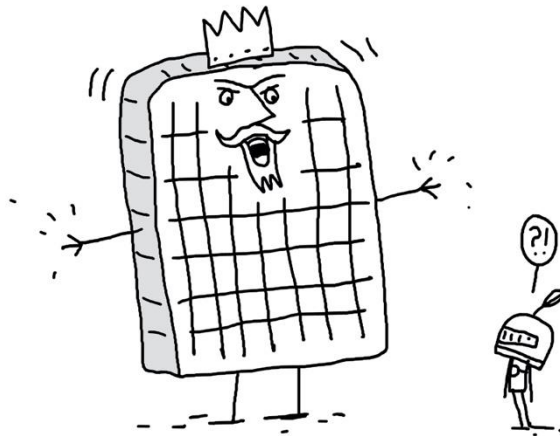
RULES

You are the monarch of your own kingdom. Make up some rules for your people to follow. See pages 198, and 212 for some silly rules invented by some silly rulers.

WRITE YOUR OWN WIZENTOR MANUAL

You are a wizard and inventor. A wizenor! You’ve just created a magical invention. What is it? Some time-travel gloves? Some spectacles that see invisible dragons? Now write a manual to explain how to use your invention, with warnings of what could go wrong if you don’t use them properly!

(See pages 102, 116-117.)



Different writing styles

Narrator

The book is told with a narrator's voice. The narrator talks directly to the reader and is sometimes surprised by events, or declaims their lack of responsibility for the nonsense that's going on.

Comic Strip Format / Story Board

Some story is told through visual panels (page 35, 113, 129-131, 141-142, 180-181, 218)

Poetry

Clunkalot the mechanical horse writes haiku about important moments in his life. (pages 14, 61, 96, 228, 288).

Those who speak with fire
and hurl hot abuse... beware
when insults return.

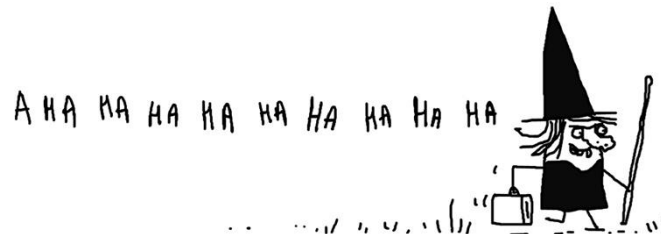
Script form: TV Interview

Chapter 3 (page 16-18) is written in script form, presenting a TV interview between Louis and a "NewsKnight" reporter. Similarly, a TV style news flash appears at pages 200-203 with the Dark Ages News Team.



Fairy Tale

Chapter 4 uses the conventions of a traditional fairy tale to tell Louis' back story. It includes key moments such as an edict from the parents, the subsequent absenteeism of the parental figures, the breaking of the parental edict and consequences, the confession and the resolution to restore balance.

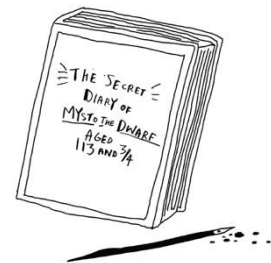


Newspaper

Most of Chapter 7 (pages 36-38) is told in newspaper form, adopting a comic journalistic style.

Diary

The diary of Mysto the wizard and inventor is a glimpse into his younger days, when he created a magical sword. It is a useful way of packaging up exposition in an interesting and amusing format. (Page 48 onwards.)



Police report

An official file on a naughty knight. Page 71.

Recipe

Page 91.

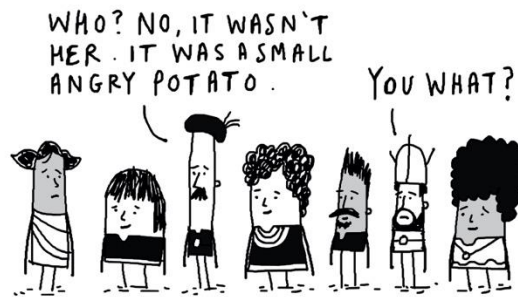
Secret Service File

An official file from a secret service file. Pages 93-94.



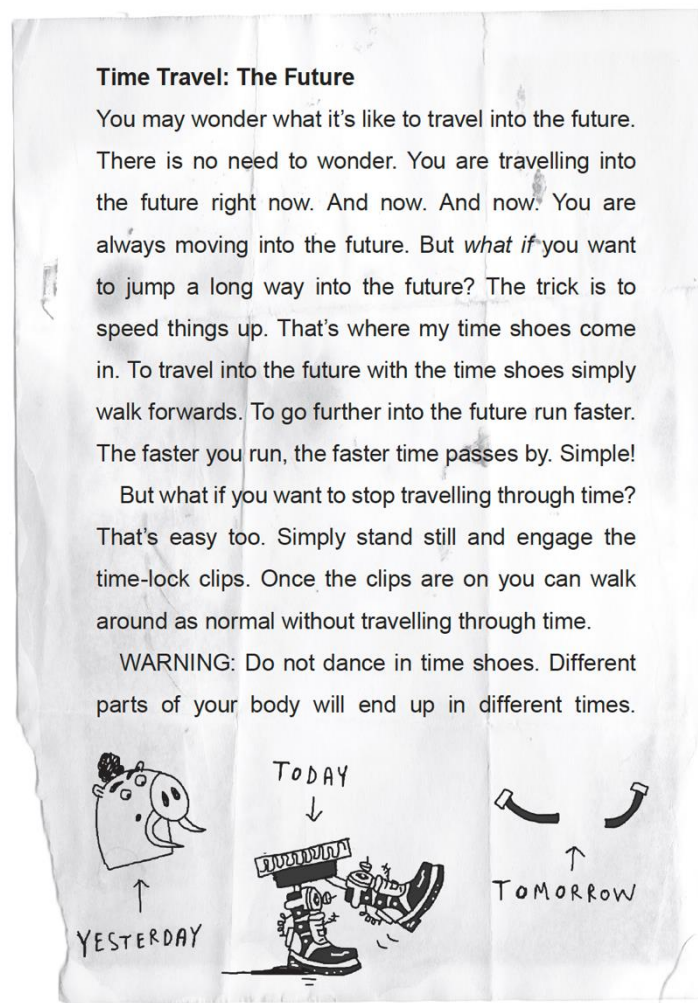
The Chorus

A chorus of characters repeats throughout the book – commenting on the story – and responding to the narrator. (Pages 5, 7, 8, 56, 60, 107, 157, 162, 165, 167, 182, 197 and more). They are a comedy element, but also provide useful summaries of story points, and their interrogations of the story provide more clarity. One reader described them as the 'peanut gallery' which we love.



Instruction Manual

A magic sword instruction manual features on page 102. A time shoes' instruction manual features on page 116-117.



Song Lyric Sheet

Merry Pickle the minstrel tells us a crucial part of the story (Louis and Mr Catalogue's escape) through a song. (Pages 185-187).

Flashback

The book is mostly told in a linear fashion. However, there are some memories, or past moments, that enter the narrative (see the diary and fairy tale moments). Pages 209-211 use the specific term "Flashback" and a wiggly border around the text and pictures to show a specific moment from the recent past.

Gothic Story

Matron O'Goole's accident form is on page 235. But it's not a straightforward report; it reveals her love of ghost stories.

Advertisement

An important object is introduced to the story through an advertisement. Page 238.

Scoreboard

Page 279.

Poster

Page 198. King Bazooka uses a poster to announce his new rules.



Rule book

The rules of a rather unstable king are shown on page 212 as though torn from the original book. Only one of these rules is relevant to the story, the others were an opportunity to have fun and highlight the comedic character of the rule-maker.

YE OLDE LAWS OF SQUIRREL HELM Scroll 54

RULE 236: Every Thursday in a leap year will be called a Thooooosday.

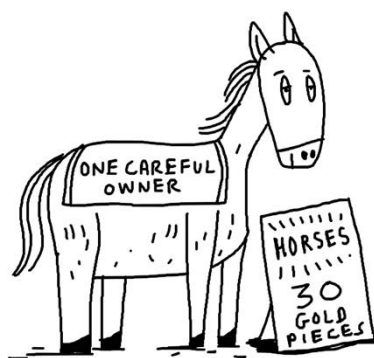
RULE 237: Anyone found whistling in the castle will have their lips painted blue for a year.

RULE 238: Prisoners who can juggle five firesticks are to be pardoned (and sent to the Royal Circus).

RULE 239: If you wallop the old king until he is a goner, then you shall become the new king. Congratulations, Your Majesty.

Illustrations

The book is heavily illustrated and includes some large spreads that tell the story through pictures alone (or with very few words at all).
(Pages 40-41, 92, 194-195, 252-253, 268-269)



OTHER RESOURCES

Facebook Page

<https://facebook.com/knightsirlouis>

Link Tree

<https://linktr.ee/knightsirlouis>

Readings by the Author

Chapter One: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g0e2y0Uz8mQ>

Chapter Six: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdPgZT2a5rE>

Videos by the Author and Illustrator

Playlist: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL2JOUykp4_rgBn3CGu8msXar_Bv0pinwx

Haiku Workshop: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrZ9WsAkVuQ>

Inspirations for the book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdtY2yIPLKU>

Rewriting the book: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDhsjcm2E90>

Illustration Workshop: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VxmFywdPIY>

Animated book introduction: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfZF7a5vhqs>

Animated character intros: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NA9IBd0qoA>

Funkids interview

<https://www.funkidslive.com/on-air/interview-the-brothers-mcleod-chat-about-knight-sir-louis-and-the-dreadful-damsel/>

ORDER THE BOOK

Peters: <https://peters.co.uk/book-page/9781913101282>

Blackwells: <https://bit.ly/3cg1eRR>

Waterstones: <http://bit.ly/2Qq12Xf>

Amazon: <https://amzn.to/33p14k>

Hive: <http://bit.ly/39WiJW8>

Or from your local independent bookshop!

Quotes from comedians, authors and directors:

'An epic non-epic' Stewart Lee

'Dazzlingly silly and brilliant fun.' Matt Brown

'A scampering, walloping fantasy adventure' Peter Lord

'A masterclass in silliness!' Gary Northfield

'A really funny book... will appeal to anyone who likes adventures and laughing' Philip Reeve

'Sublime daftness on every page' Jeremy Strong

Reviews

The following are children's reviews from Chatterbooks. Courtesy of The Reading Agency:

I would recommend this book to children who like a mix adventure and funny books. It will make you laugh your socks off! *Reviewer aged 8*

It was really funny! I hope there are more books in the future. This book is now one of my favourite books. 5 stars. *Reviewer aged 9*

I found it hilarious, exciting, fun, silly and had great sketches. I knew it would be funny but it exceeded my expectations and I can't wait for the next book! *Reviewer aged 10*

My favourite drawing is on page 222 when steam came out of Stompalot's bum :-)) *Reviewer aged 10*

It's full of fun and once you pick it up you will not put it down. 5 stars. *Reviewer aged 8.*

This is one of the best books I have ever read as it is just so funny. There wasn't one page that I read without me or Mummy laughing! 5 stars. *Reviewer aged 8.*

This book was much better than I expected. I thought it would be a bit boyish looking at the title, but I thought, 'I'll try it' and it was great. *Reviewer aged 10.*

It was funny. It was a page turner. I really liked Dave the Sword. *Reviewer aged 9.*

A great mix of words and pictures. Five stars. *Reviewer aged 7.*

This book is really, really funny. *Reviewer aged 7.*

I liked that there was humour on every page which made me howl with laughter. I will be telling my school to get some copies for our library and reading shelves because it is a fantastic book for all ages. Five stars. *Reviewer aged 10.*

I loved the book and there is nothing I did not enjoy. Five stars. *Reviewer aged 10.*

I would recommend this book to anyone in my class and my friends. I think it is also a good book for boys and girls. For children who like adventure and funny stories. My favourite part of the book was Chapter 46 because my mum read it with me and read out the donkey words like a real donkey, really loud and it made me laugh and laugh. Five stars. *Reviewer aged 8.*

I really like Mr Gum books a lot, and this book made me laugh out loud like Mr Gum books do. My mummy works in a school library and our local library too and she said she'd like to put this book into them. She should put it on display so it's the first thing they see in the library! Five stars. *Reviewer aged 6.*
