

In a land of old

A story by Richard Kay, written with the help of the children of St. Mary's Primary, Selby

In a castle, fine and tall,

By a babbling waterfall,

Lived a princess with her sister

And her prince (who always kissed her)

For they lived a life of bliss

(If only it would stay like this)

In a land of wonder, a land of old

A land that shone and shimmered with gold

In the neighbouring land of dragons and beasts

They wanted this gold for their midnight feasts

For a little known fact is that eating some gold

Helped the dragons breathe fire in those days of old.

The dragons invaded and ate up the gold

That shimmered and shone in this land of old

And the princess she ordered her troops to defend

To push back the beasts and bring war to an end

The land no longer shimmered and no longer shone

But at least all those dragons had finally gone

The only gold left was kept safe in the castle

Now even more precious but not worth this hassle

For though they all thought that the dragons had gone

They didn't know that this meant all except one

The greediest dragon, a wily old beast

Who wanted more gold for his midnight feast

He hid in the castle and bided his time

Then pounced on the princess and chanted this rhyme;

"Give me your gold or I'll set you on fire

All of your gold is my only desire

Your loved ones are safe if you feed me your bullion

But fail in your task and I'm certain to bully'em!"

The Princess she ran from the dragon in fright

But she planned to steal that very same night

The gold protected by her sister

And her Prince (who always kissed her)

At dead of night she crept around

Inside their rooms without a sound

(she knew she wouldn't wake her sis

And husband simply blew a kiss)

With muffled clink she took the feast
Straight up to the expectant beast
The gold was promptly all consumed
But then the dragon turned and fumed;

“Give me more gold or I’ll set you on fire
More of your gold is my only desire”
But the princess protested “you have all our gold
There is nothing left now in this land of old”

The dragon rose up; the fire raged inside
He looked at his target and opened up wide
But just as the princess protected her head
From the frazzling flames, she felt water instead.

She opened her eyes and was shocked at the view
For standing there was not one dragon but two
The fire breathing dragon was now soaking wet
And her sister was standing there next to her pet

“I’ve kept a pet dragon” her sister explained
“but this one is friendly, she cannot be blamed
For eating our gold and for causing us strife,
In fact my pet dragon has just saved your life!
She heard you creep into my bedroom just now

The woke me up wanting to help you somehow
We rushed to the waterfall, gathered up water
Then hurried back in to protect you from slaughter”

“But he will still scorch” said the princess “and scold us
If we don’t find gold, he has already told us”
“Fear not” said her sister “the flames are put out”
We’ve no more gold, he can’t make fire without”

The wily old dragon knew this to be true
So he made his excuses and promptly withdrew
The Princess could not thank her sister enough
For saving the day by removing his puff

“Don’t thank me thank my dragon” her sis quickly said
And counting their blessings they went off to bed
(Unaware of what he’d missed
The prince just cuddled her, and kissed)

So in a castle fine and tall
By a fire-saving waterfall
Lived a princess with her sister
(And her prince who always kissed her)
Their pet dragon, brave and bold
Protecting them, and as for gold

They had no more to shimmer and shine

But still they were happy for all of time

Richard Kay