



Saint George and the Dragon

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This special new paperback edition of *St. George and the Dragon* commemorates the 25th Anniversary of the Caldecott Award-winning picture book. Hodges retells an exciting segment from Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*, in which the Red Cross Knight slays a dreadful dragon that has been terrorizing the countryside for years, bringing peace and joy back to the land. Featuring a fresh new cover design - with artwork that highlights the dragon adventure within - and distinctive embossed gold Caldecott Award sticker, this is the perfect way to introduce the classic tale to a whole new generation of readers.

Saint George and the Dragon Details

Date : Published September 4th 1990 by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (first published January 1st 1984)

ISBN : 9780316367950

Author : Margaret Hodges , Trina Schart Hyman (Illustrator)

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Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fantasy, Fairy Tales

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Download and Read Free Online Saint George and the Dragon Margaret Hodges , Trina Schart Hyman (Illustrator)

From Reader Review Saint George and the Dragon for online ebook

Marquise says

Another lovely book for my art collection, this one with a tale of dragonslaying, chivalric adventure, true knights, epic duels, and the gorgeous art of Trina Schart Hyman. What other reasons would I need to give this the highest rating? The art alone is worth it!

Book Concierge says

Illustrated by Trina Schart Hyman

This is a retelling from Edmund Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, which recounts the legend of Saint George who slew the dragon which was terrorizing the country. It's a wonderful tale of courage, dedication, and perseverance. George is pure of heart, generous of spirit, and brave beyond measure. A lovely fable.

Trina Schart Hyman was awarded the Caldecott Medal for excellence in illustration. Her paintings are rich and vibrant, and full of small details that support the storytelling. After I finished reading the story, I started again at the beginning just to pore over the pictures.

Remi Thorn says

Margret Hodges tells a story of the Red Cross Knight slaying the dragon that brings grief and heartache to the country side. The only thing the town wanted was to live in peace and joy with their gates open to anybody who was passing by, unfortunately there was a terrifying fire-breathing dragon who prevented the town from living happily and making them live in fear. There was only one man that was capable of bringing the dragon down, but could he face the dragon again after already being defeated? In this story the author brings this typical fairy tale to life with detailed illustrations by Trina Schart Hyman to compliment the story line. This book captured my childhood imagination and brought it all together in a short story. I think that it enhances a childhood imagination with the use of the detailed illustrations and text.

Karen says

The artwork in this little paperback book is so astonishingly lovely and vivid, I somehow ended up with two copies of this book. I'm not complaining; I will just share one copy. The text itself retells Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*, so that, with the artwork, makes this book pretty darn awesome for a Second Grade History class.

Mili Fay says

I have heard the basics of the story often, but have never read Saint George and the Dragon in any form. I looked forward to this book.

However, for me the story felt awkward and poorly written. It is almost as if the author tried to keep the poetry of an epic in a simplified children's tale and failed miserably, resulting in awkward phrasing. For example: "Whenever he looked at the brightness of her sunshiny face, his heart melted with pleasure." Or "Heart cannot think what outrage and what cries, with black smoke and flashing fire, the beast threw forth, turning the whole world to darkness."

I felt no fear for the knight, Una, or the kingdom. There is this fierce dragon terrorising the land, and yet they are greeted by smiling villagers on a sunny day? Farmers who are working in their fields?

In conclusion, I think this story could have been better told.

The illustrations by Trina Schart Hyman are lovely. I would not buy this book for the illustration quality, because the style is muddy and a bit stiff, but I liked the composition and some scenes were gorgeous. I also enjoyed the border designs.

Illustrations would get 4/5 stars, but the story is maybe 2/5. Therefore, together this book gets 3 stars.

Shanna Gonzalez says

In this retelling of a segment from Spenser's Faerie Queen, Saint George, the Red Cross Knight, is guided by the lady Una to her parents' realm, where in a mighty battle he slays a dragon who has terrorized the land. After thus proving himself, he and Una are married.

Hodges' prose distills much action and color into a fairly brief text, sprinkled with quotes from the original work. The adaptation retains a courtly eloquence but should be easily understood by older readers. For younger listeners it will still be challenging, and it may be best to begin with a paraphrase of the story events, leaving time for questions, and gradually introduce the full text of the story with successive readings. Hyman's mesmerizing illustrations, augmented by lavish and intricate borders, make this book excellent for this kind of exercise, because the pictures do most of the work in capturing a child's imagination. This story of heroism and love is wonderful in its own right, but it should also whet the appetite and prepare the reader for a future experience of the full poem (original text of which is here <http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/6930>, and audio is here <http://librivox.org/the-faerie-queene...>).

Kathryn says

The story is a bit long-winded, but the illustrations are absolutely gorgeous!!! Definitely a great "old fashioned fairy tale" sort of feel but good for boys who aren't into the princess thing.

ABC says

This book is wordy! As in, it is too wordy for a bedtime story. We read it in two parts. We are Shrek-loving family (and when I say Shrek, I mean the movie, not the William Steig book) and this book doesn't do it for us.

Also, this book is good for girls IF you like passive girls who watch from the sidelines while the dude slays the dragons, and then agrees to marry the dude because he is such a great dragon killer.

Jeremy says

Can't do much better than a story about a hero who conquers a dragon. That's the biblical narrative, after all: "Kill the dragon, get the girl." Red Cross Knight, with his shield bearing the red cross of St. George, is revealed to be St. George in Canto 10 of Spenser's *Faerie Queene*. The Caldecott-winning illustrations approach the sublime.

I started reading this on March 23, a month before the feast of St. George on April 23. I ordered a copy.

Heidi-Marie says

Meh. The illustrations are pretty--have that old feel to them. But the story dragged for a picture book. Too much text. Too much description. This is what one would get if I wrote a picture book! And that's not a very good thing. I had hoped I'd see glimpses of the legend I saw portrayed in "Lark Rise." But no. And what was up with the pretty castle in the middle? Or the hermit knowing an unknown identity. I suppose legends often don't make sense. But if you're going to write or re-tell a legend in our day, I think I'd like to have some of the "Huh?" gaps filled in.

Manybooks says

With absolutely gorgeous accompanying illustrations by Trina Schart Hyman (detailed to such an extent that they tell the story of the Red Cross Knight's fight with the fearsome dragon as vividly and as intensely as Margaret Hodges' narrative does), Saint George and the Dragon is basically the legend of Saint George (and how he became the patron saint of England) as adapted from a section of Sir Edmund Spenser's Renaissance epic *The Faerie Queene*. A bit long-winded and due to textual density and length thus more suitable for older children, Saint George and the Dragon gracefully and glowingly presents a tenderly descriptive and evocative old fashioned folktale type legend (and more than well deserving of the Caldecott Medal it won, as the illustrations are truly in all ways breathtaking).

Now that all being said, and as much as I truly enjoyed this retelling, I most definitely would have appreciated a bit more detailed background information than simply being told that Saint George and the Dragon is an adaptation of Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*. An informative author's note, while not absolutely required, as at least the literary sources are mentioned, would definitely have increased Saint George and the Dragon to a five star read for me and considerably augmented its folkloric and literary value (such as perhaps

a mention of Una's name, which is Gaelic for Agnes, the lamb, and the fact that she is also leading a white lamb, which of course has allusions to Jesus Christ being the lamb of God, not to mention that Una is riding a white donkey, which is again a biblical, New Testament allusion to Jesus Christ himself, who entered Jerusalem on what is now celebrated as Palm Sunday, not astride a horse, but astride a donkey).

Esther Owens says

This is a GREAT book! It refers to the Bible. Jesus (Saint George) crushed Satan (the dragon's) head. Jesus saved The Church (Una), and marries her (meaning The Church). I recommend it to all!

Jennifer (JenIsNotaBookSnob) says

Five stars for the illustrations, but, only around 2 stars for the story.

The problem with this book is that it is just so very wordy to tell a simple tale. The whole time I was left thinking that they should have left more room for Trina's fantastic illustrations.

The other thing I didn't particularly like was the lack of source material acknowledgement. For retellings, I feel there should always be a page at the back of the book with some source information. Granted, I can just do a search and find a pile of stuff on Wikipedia, but, that doesn't tell me where this author found this particular tale and why she went with this particular version.

I recommend this book for older children who like knights and dragons and otherwise for fans of Trina Schart Hyman's illustrations.

BTW, the earliest written versions of this story are from the 11th century. Pretty amazing really, though apparently in the original tale, the knight rescues the princess who has been chosen as a sacrifice. I think I would have preferred that version more.

Kalaam Juarez says

This book is a really good adventure story, and it had great details.

Set says

This is an old folk tale about the legend of Saint George and how he became the patron saint of England based on the Sir Edmund Spenser's Renaissance *The Faerie Queene*. The illustrations are absolutely gorgeous; I love medieval art. The only thing that was a bit off was the drawings/painting of the angels because they are all depicted as female and it is not Biblical considering that all the angels were created male and the first female came from the garden of Eden. I loved the metaphorical depictions of the princess riding on the donkey as Jesus once did on Palm Friday and how she is also carrying her lamb which represents

Jesus Christ as the sacrificial lamb. The water with healing properties is like the living waters/springs that represents the blood of Christ and the truth of his word. The healing apple is like the fruit of life from the garden of Eden. Both the water and apple represent eternal life.

Mike (Makayla) says

Hello friends ??

This book had me absolutely transfixed ! This adaptation of the Fairy queen has made me want more . I'll be reading the original also !?

The drawings were so lovely ! Such excellent work for a children's book . No only was it fully illustrated ,the story was framed by intricate drawings of fairies , vines ,flowers and dragons ! ???

It was unlike any fairy tale I've ever read before ! ?????

Thanks for reading ?

Kest Schwartzman says

the borders are, by far, the strongest part of this book.

Joshua says

I remember my parents reading this book to me when I was young, but even more than that I remember the dragon. This book is largely responsible for my early love of drawing and monsters and so for that I'll be forever grateful.

This most recent reading however was illuminating because I understood now when the text notes that the story is directly taken from The Faerie Queen by Edmund Spenser. Having read that book in college a few years ago the depth of myth in this book assumes a real beautiful quality.

What's truly beautiful about this book however is the way it is arranged. Every page is structured to maintain the aesthetic of the setting while also maintaining the tone of each page. This is a beautiful book and I can't wait to read it to my kids...as soon as I have kids. I'll get to it eventually.

Aaron says

I like when he fights the dragon.

J. Boo says

Excellent adapted from Spenser's "Faerie Queene", and backed by marvelous illustrations.

The language is *very* dense, with details (and sometimes quotations) coming directly from the original. Half the book is taken up by the pulse-pounding action of the duel between St George and the Dragon, but neither density nor duel has kept my very girly DD (age 3) from regarding it as one of her favorites.

On the strength of this adaptation, I've read two further depictions of Spenser's Red Cross Knight Vs Dragon rewritten for children. Neither Jeanie Lang's "Stories from the Fairie Queen" nor Sophia Maclehorse's "Tales from Spenser Chosen from the Fairie Queene" handled it as well as Margaret Hodges.

Hodges and Hyman collaborated on a few other adaptations of classic literature for children. I will have to check out more of their work.

DS#1 (age 5) 4/5

DD#1 (age 3) 5/5

Me 5/5
