

Finley's Story

In this big world, a dad and a son called Steve and Sam were watching TV. They saw an ad about a famous castle. 'Did you hear that?', said the father. The ad said you're allowed to visit the castle for free, but only on Monday. It was Sunday.

The next day they woke up very early. They drove all the way to the castle. When they arrived they started to look around. In time, they went into the armour room where a shiny sword caught Sam's eye. He grabbed it and started play-fighting with it. But then something strange happened when the sword struck an old brass bell.

Time fell away.

It was 1459.

He didn't know what was happening or where he was.

He was surrounded by knights.

‘But I don’y know why !’

The knights had seized Sam and taken him to the king. The King had asked him what he was doing with one of own best swords.

‘Take it from him,’ said the King. ‘You can have it back when you reach sixteen.’

‘But I need it now,’ Sam heard himself saying. ‘I need to train for battle.’

This pleased the King. He allowed Sam to keep the special sword.

After a while, the King sent his men down to the village to see if everything was all right.

But the village was on fire.

The men - Sam amongst them - raced back to the King. It was the work, he said, of King Edward. An army must be readied.

A month later the Ling had a million knights ready for battle. They set off for Edward’s kingdom. It took a day’s hard riding to make it there. At once they attacked the chapel and

knocked it down. King Edward's response was to send out his army. The two armies battled for three days. There was much death and wounding on both sides. At last the two armies separated, King Henry's army returning to his kingdom.

'So ?,' said Henry, when his army arrived. 'Who won ?'

'We did,' said Sam proudly.

The King smiled and ordered several days of feasting. At the feast, King Henry officially gave Sam the special sword. 'You have earned it with your bravery,' he said. Sam took the sword and started waving it about, accidentally hitting the brass bell again.

Again, something strange happened.

Time fell away.

Suddenly, again, it was 2017.

'Where have you been ?' said Steve, Sam's dad.

Sam closed his eyes, thinking maybe he was dreaming. He opened them; he was not. 'Just here and there,' he said. His dad shrugged.

And so what had Sam learned ?

Most of all he'd learned not to pick up something he shouldn't.