

# Sir Belvidere Practice Activities

## Sir Belvidere

Fog had blanketed the kingdom for weeks. It was a fog so thick, it seeped in every open window. It was a fog so heavy, movement was dangerous. Village life ground to a halt. No horse would budge. No bread was baked. No cows were milked.

Making matters worse, a dragon was on its way.

"He will steal our princesses, burn our crops, and hoard our treasures as all dragons do," Sir Belvidere, the dragon-slayer, told the king.

"Then slay him!" ordered the king.

But the next morning, Sir Belvidere couldn't see his sword in front of his face. "I cannot slay what I cannot see. This fog must go!"

Sir Belvidere summoned the wizard. "Surely you must have a potion or spell for the fog," he said. The wizard mixed potions and cast spells, one after another, but the fog grew thicker.

Sir Belvidere passed out paper fans to every villager. "We must fan this fog away!"

The villagers fanned with all their might, but the fog stayed put.

Finally, Sir Belvidere tried moving the villagers to other parts of the kingdom, but the fog followed them, making each step more treacherous than the last.

In the distance, Sir Belvidere heard the sound of the dragon's massive flapping wings. A shiver ran up his spine. What could he do?

Just then, Sir Belvidere felt a tug on his armor. He peered through the fog and saw a young boy.

"Follow me," said the boy.

Sir Belvidere followed the boy partway up the mountain.

Suddenly, through the fog, they faced the shadowy form of the dragon.

"The dragon?" Sir Belvidere hissed. "But dragons steal princesses, burn crops, and hoard treasures!"

"Do you know that about this one?" asked the boy, taking three steps forward until he was nose to nose with the dragon. Then he whispered something in the dragon's ear.

With that, the dragon's eyes glowed red, and his nostrils flared as he inhaled deeply. Sir Belvidere drew his sword, as the dragon blew a barrel of roaring fire, not at them but across the fog. With each fiery blast, more fog disappeared. As the air cleared, cheers from the valley below erupted.

After thanking the dragon, Sir Belvidere and the boy hurried off to tell the king that Sir Belvidere's dragon-slaying days were over, but his dragon-protecting days had just begun!

## First, please read the story, "Sir Belvidere."

### Next, answer the following questions:

1. What is the problem presented in the story?
2. What type of conflict occurs in the story?
3. What is the solution to this story?
4. What is the pattern of action in the story?

## Finally, see if you can think of another possible idea that Sir Belvidere could have tried to get rid of the fog before going to the dragon? Use your imagination and discuss your idea with a family member or friend.

Compare your answers with **Natalie's Think Aloud**.

## Before You Read:

Remember, for a story to hold our attention it must have a well-written plot.

**Plot** is a combination of **Conflict** and **Pattern of Action**.

This story has a "**Person Against Nature**" conflict. In a "Person Against Nature" conflict the main character has a problem or is challenged by some aspect of Nature.

This story has a "**Progressive**" **pattern of action**. A progressive story has a plot **structure** that includes: an introduction, **rising** action, climatic event (high point of action), **falling** action, and a resolution.

## Diner Dilemma

The bell on the diner door jingled. A family walked in and sat down in my section. My heart pounded as I realized that I'd be the one waiting on them.

"Smile, and look people in the eye," my auntie had said when she trained me. "Be friendly, and listen carefully as you take their order."

"This has to be the worst job for a shy girl," I thought. "I have trouble talking to people I know, much less strangers."

I took a deep breath and whispered under my breath, "It's normal to be nervous on my first day. I'm not letting that stop me."

With a pen and order pad in hand, I approached the family. "Welcome to Diana's Diner! Would you like to hear about today's special?"

**First, please read the story, "Diner Dilemma."**

**Next, answer the following questions:**

1. What is the problem presented in the story?
2. What type of conflict occurs in the story?
3. What is the solution to this story?

**Finally, imagine the rest of this story has a progressive plot structure. Use your imagination to think of three possible events that could happen during the rising action, after the waitress takes the family's order. Discuss your idea with a family member or friend.**

Compare your answers with **Jason's Think Aloud**.