

Sigurd & Fafnir *a Viking story illustrated by Vikings*

Hreidmar the Dwarf King had three sons;



Otr, who enjoyed turning himself into an otter and splashing about after fish,

Fafnir, who was big, fierce and selfish, and just the sort of chap likely to turn into a dragon,



and Regin, who was a skilful blacksmith.

One day the god Loki killed Otr, mistaking him for an otter because of his fur and his tail and the bits of fish stuck in his moustache.

Hreidmar was upset and cried a bit, then demanded Loki gave him lots of gold so he could reach closure and move on.

Loki stole a hoard of gold and a magic ring from a rich dwarf. He gave it all to Hreidmar just to get some peace.

The Dwarf King cheered up no end, until Fafnir killed him and took the gold for himself.

Fafnir hauled his loot up onto the moors and turned into a giant dragon to guard his mound of treasure.



Regin was cross with Fafnir, but couldn't do anything about it because he had been off school with a slight cold the day they did 'How to Change into a Dragon Bigger than your Brother'.

Fortunately, Regin knew Sigurd the superhero and begged him to kill the dragon.

Sigurd agreed that this was the sort of work superheroes had to do as part of their job-description, so he asked Regin to make him a sword suitable for dragon-slaying.



When Regin finally made a blade Sigurd was happy with, he set off on his superhorse, Grani, to Fafnir's lair out in the moors.



Sigurd dug a pit and lay in wait for Fafnir. Soon he felt the ground shake as the dragon slithered down to drink in the nearby pool. As Fafnir passed over Sigurd, he plunged his sword deep into the beast's side and killed him.

Regin reappeared, planning to kill Sigurd and take the gold for himself.



Sigurd removed the dragon's heart and roasted it over a fire. He burnt his finger by touching the heart to see if it was cooked. Sigurd sucked his finger to stop it hurting and swallowed some of the dragon's blood.



One of the lesser known side-effects of drinking dragon's blood is that it lets you understand what animals are saying. Sigurd overheard some nearby birds chatting about how Regin would kill Sigurd and keep the gold for himself.



Sigurd turned round, saw Regin moving towards him looking guilty, and chopped his head off.

He then loaded the gold onto Grani and trotted off for more adventures.