

Yellow Finger Monster

Tips for Telling

Our friend Charlie Steele tells this story to his colony. It's a play-on-words based on a well-known advertisement slogan. You probably know jokes based on other slogans or well-known phrases. Think how can you work them into a story, and see if you can add some type of refrain. Anyway, there is a moral at the end of the story. While it is easy to fall into the trap of stating the play-on-words (we'll get it, but Beavers won't), the moral is really about working together and using all of your resources — no matter how unlikely they may seem. Keep trying. Persistence.

The Story

In a kingdom, long ago, lived a King who was loved and respected by everyone. One day, a messenger came to the King saying, "A mean monster has entered our land. He is staying in the Valley of the Rock of Persistence. The monster says you are to give up your throne or else everyone in the kingdom will die." The messenger said the monster was a formidable foe; that it had taken the lands of all the surrounding kingdoms. He described the monster as four men high and six men wide. The monster was very ugly, had large yellow hands, and breath like from the sulphur springs.

Now the King was not about to give up the throne, and at the same time he did not want the people of his kingdom to die. So he sent out his foot soldiers to rid the kingdom of the Yellow Finger Monster.

The foot soldiers marched proudly from the castle, all in step and their armor shining, and into the Valley of the Rock of Persistence. There, they surrounded the Yellow Finger Monster and prepared to do battle. But the Monster just looked at the soldiers and laughed, "HA! HA! HA! HA!" (Here, encourage the Beavers to laugh along with you.) And the Monster reached out with his yellow hands and the soldiers disappeared, *Zip. Zap. Blown away. History.*

When word of their defeat reached the castle the King sent his cavalry, marksmen and knights to defeat the monster. But when the monster saw the army, it laughed, "HA! HA! HA! HA!" And the Monster reached out with his yellow hands and the cavalry, the marksmen and the knights disappeared, *Zip. Zap. Blown away. History.*

Now the King was starting to worry. What would he do next? So he called for Merlin, his most powerful magician, and he asked Merlin to take all of the magicians and see if they could make the Monster disappear. Surely, if anyone could do it Merlin could. But the Monster saw them coming. And though it was the magicians he laughed, "HA! HA! HA! HA!". He said, "I'm not afraid of your puny magic tricks." And he reached out with his yellow hands, and Merlin and the magicians disappeared, *Zip. Zap. Blown away. History.*

And now the King was really worried. So he gathered the members of the his court and asked them what he should do. They said, "Your majesty. We will do our best to save the kingdom." So they gathered all their weapons and courage and went after the Monster. But the Monster saw them coming. And he laughed, "HA! HA! HA! HA!" This is the best of what is left?". And he reached out with his yellow hands and courtiers disappeared, *Zip. Zap. Blown away. History.*

When news that the Monster was still there came back to the castle the King looked around and saw only his young pages. "I will have to save the kingdom myself," he said. But while he was preparing to go a meet the monster a page came to him. "Please, sire," he said. "Let us

challenge the Monster." The King just smile, and said kindly, "I'm afraid you're too young, my boy." But the page insisted. "My lord, we are but twenty pages, and though we are young, we can still fight to save the kingdom. This is our home too."

"Alright," said the King. "You may try." So off the pages went. But the Monster saw them coming. And he laughed even more loudly, "*HA! HA! HA! HA!* These are but children." As he reached out with his yellow hands the pages kept walking closer and closer. And as they did the Yellow Finger Monster began to fade, and fade, and fade, until it was *Zip, Zap, Blown away, History.*

So the moral of this story is: even when you've done your best, and there's nothing left, don't give up. Keep trying.

Or, for those of you who need to know, the moral is: *Let your pages do the walking through the yellow fingers.*