

Classic Tales

Level 4

# Don Quixote

## Adventures of a Spanish Knight



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# Don Quixote

## Adventures of a Spanish Knight

*Retold by Rachel Bladon*  
*Illustrated by Tom McGrath*



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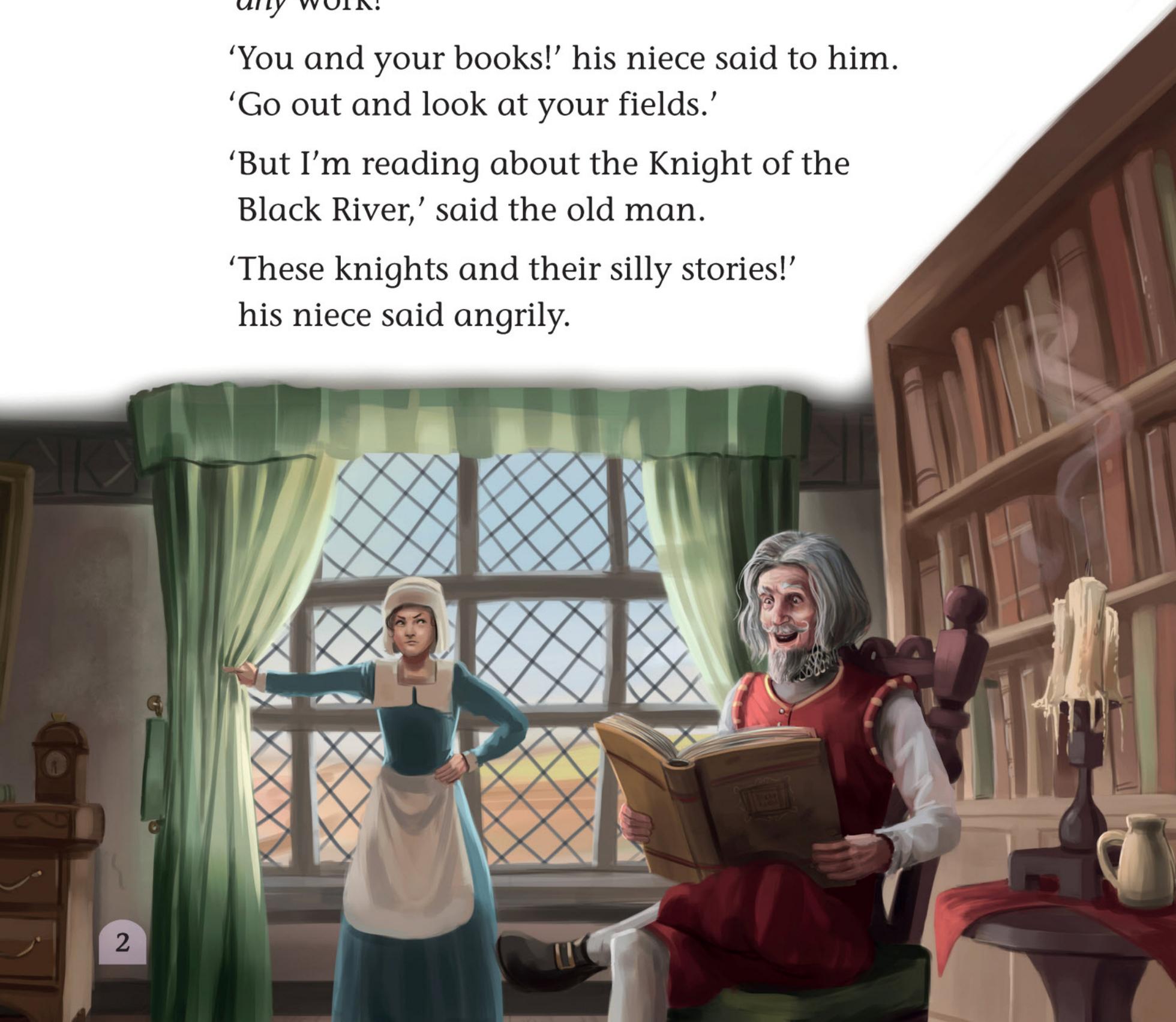
Many years ago, in a place called La Mancha in Spain, an old man lived with his niece. The old man had a big house, with many fields. The house and the fields needed a lot of work, but the old man never had time. He was always too busy reading stories about knights. Stories are wonderful, but the man read *all day, every day*, and never did *any work!*

‘You and your books!’ his niece said to him.

‘Go out and look at your fields.’

‘But I’m reading about the Knight of the Black River,’ said the old man.

‘These knights and their silly stories!’ his niece said angrily.



The old man read more and more – and soon he read all day, and all night too. He sold his fields because he wanted to buy more books. And, because he never worked and never slept, he began to have many silly ideas in his head.

‘I want to be a great knight like the knights in my books,’ he told his niece. ‘I want to fight giants for my lady-love.’

‘Don’t be silly, Uncle,’ said his niece. ‘There are no knights now. There are no giants, and you don’t have a lady-love.’



But the old man had more and more silly ideas. One morning, he suddenly thought of something.

‘There’s a suit of armour in the house!’ he remembered. ‘Now, where is it?’

At last he found the suit of armour. It was old and dirty, but the man cleaned it carefully. The helmet was broken, so he put it together with green ribbons.

‘There!’ he said. ‘Now I can be a knight, and have great adventures!’



He went out to his old horse. 'You are the horse of a great knight now,' he said. 'So you need a new name. I will call you Rocinante!'

The horse looked at him, and then went on eating.

'And my name,' he said, 'will be Don Quixote!'





‘Now I need a squire,’ Don Quixote thought.  
‘All knights have squires.’

Just then, he saw a farm worker called Sancho outside his house. Sancho was a good man, but not a very clever one.

‘Sancho will be a good squire,’ Don Quixote thought. ‘I’ll go and ask him.’



‘I would like to be your squire,’ Sancho said to Don Quixote. ‘But I can’t leave my wife and daughter.’

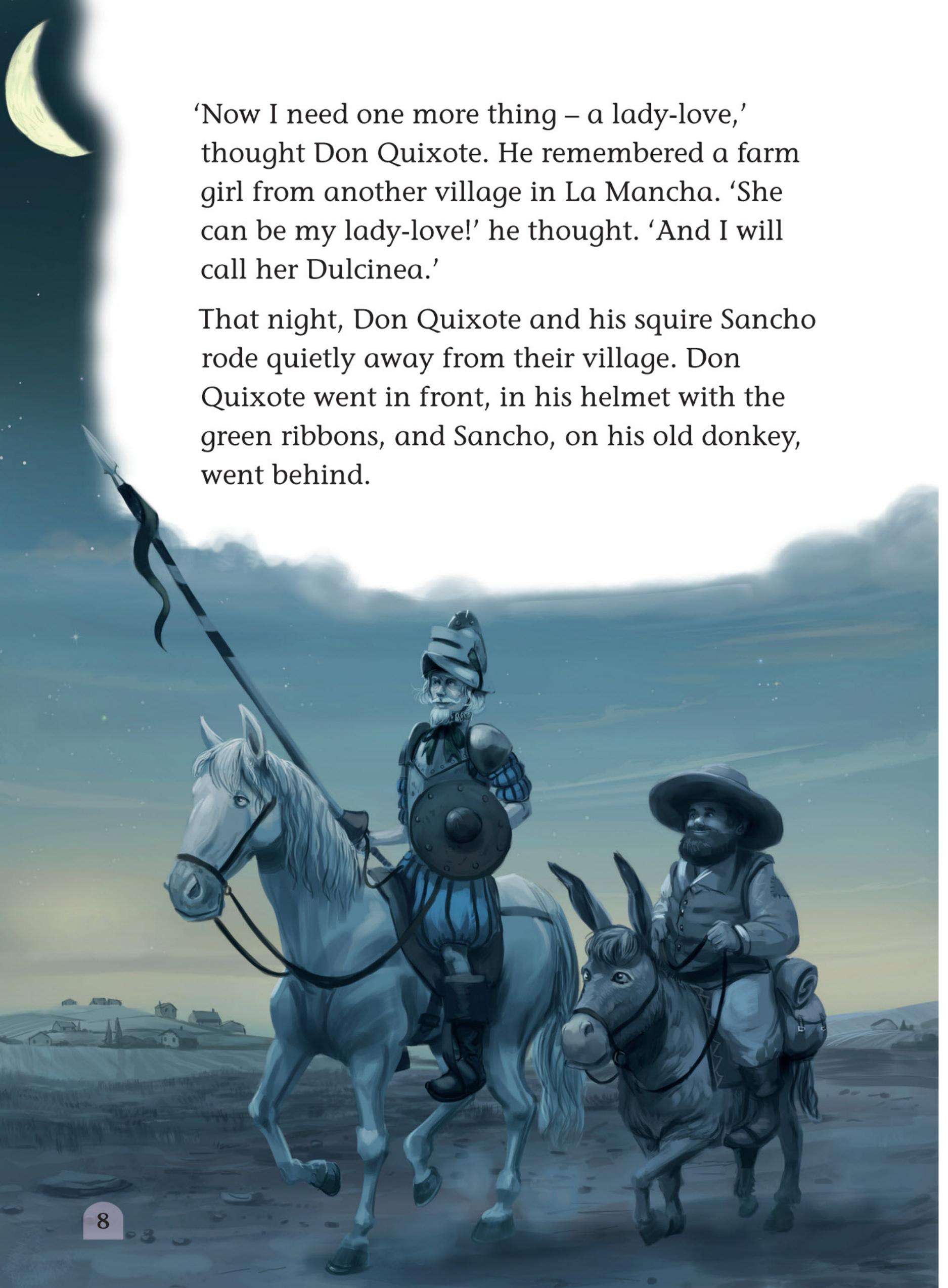
‘We’ll have great adventures,’ Don Quixote said. ‘We’ll do good things for people, and we’ll be rich.’

Sancho thought for a moment. ‘I would like to have great adventures, do good things, and be rich. Very well, then, Master, I will be your squire. I will bring my donkey, and come with you.’

‘Good,’ said Don Quixote. ‘Tell no one about this, Sancho. We will leave tonight!’

‘Now I need one more thing – a lady-love,’ thought Don Quixote. He remembered a farm girl from another village in La Mancha. ‘She can be my lady-love!’ he thought. ‘And I will call her Dulcinea.’

That night, Don Quixote and his squire Sancho rode quietly away from their village. Don Quixote went in front, in his helmet with the green ribbons, and Sancho, on his old donkey, went behind.





All the next day, the two men rode slowly on, but they saw nothing and met nobody. Then, they came up a hill and saw some windmills.

‘Look at these giants, Sancho,’ said Don Quixote. ‘I will fight them, and we will take their money.’

‘I don’t see any giants,’ said Sancho.

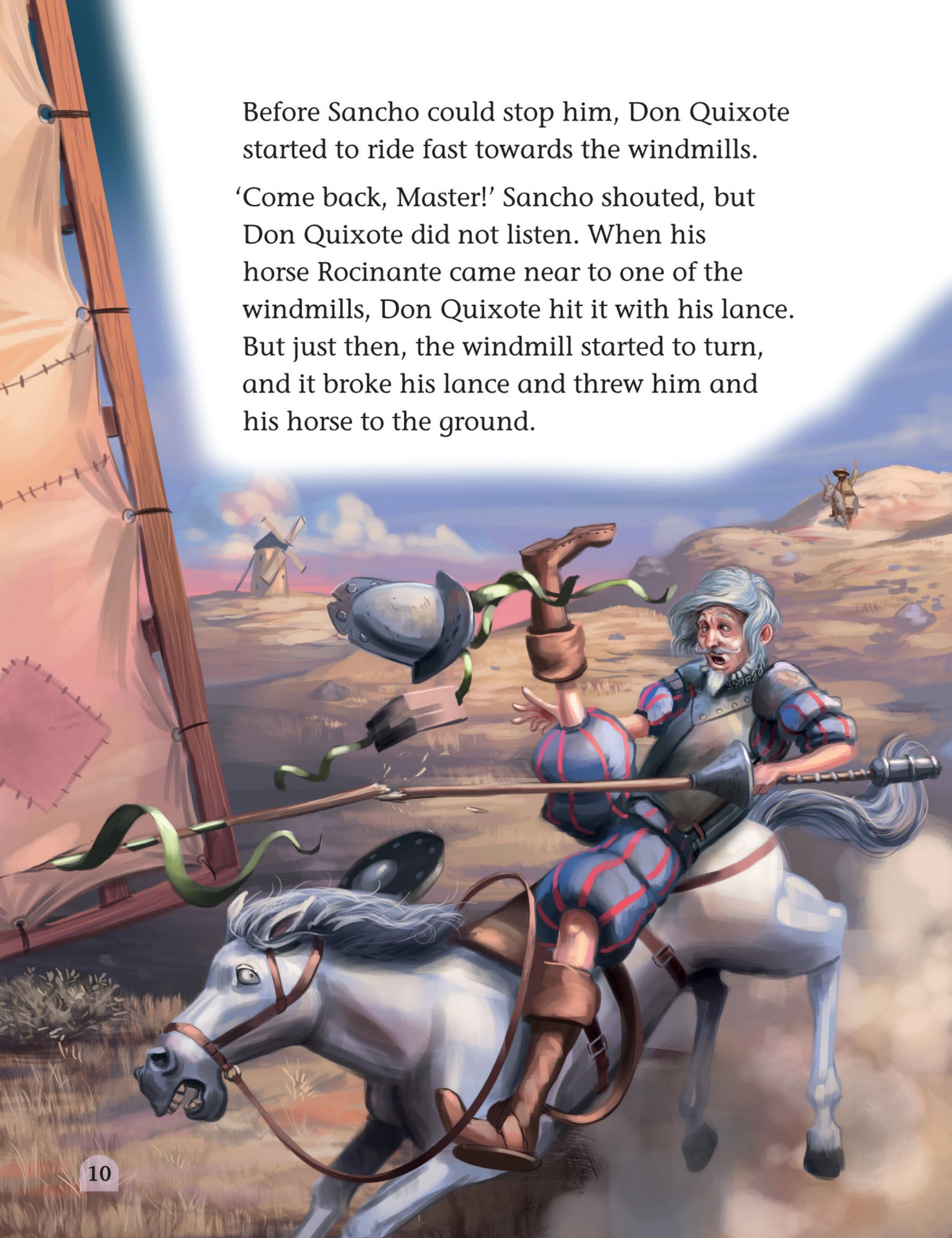
‘They’re right there!’ said Don Quixote. ‘Look at their long arms.’

‘But Master,’ said Sancho, ‘Those are windmills.’

‘Sancho, those are giants!’ said Don Quixote. ‘I can see that you’re afraid. Wait here and I will fight them.’

Before Sancho could stop him, Don Quixote started to ride fast towards the windmills.

‘Come back, Master!’ Sancho shouted, but Don Quixote did not listen. When his horse Rocinante came near to one of the windmills, Don Quixote hit it with his lance. But just then, the windmill started to turn, and it broke his lance and threw him and his horse to the ground.



Sancho ran to them. 'Why did you do that, Master?'

'I wanted to fight those giants, but they turned into windmills and broke my lance!' said Don Quixote.

After their adventure with the windmills, Sancho and Don Quixote were tired, and they soon stopped for the night under some trees, and made a fire.

Sancho ate his dinner and then went to sleep. Don Quixote made a lance from an old tree, and then, like all good knights, he sat and thought of his lady-love.



Every day, Don Quixote and Sancho rode on and on, and every day they had new adventures. One day, they came up a hill and saw two great clouds of dust on the road in front of them.

The clouds of dust were from sheep, but because Don Quixote had many silly ideas in his head, he said, 'Look, Sancho! It is the army of the great emperor Alifanfaron, and the army of the king of the Garamantas. They're going to fight, and the Garamantas will need my help.'





Don Quixote took up his lance, and began to ride away down the hill.

‘Come back, Master!’ cried Sancho. ‘They’re not armies, they’re sheep!’

But Don Quixote did not stop. He rode through the sheep, and began to hit them with his lance. The shepherds shouted at him and threw stones at him, but Don Quixote didn’t listen.

‘Where are you, Alifanfaron?’ he cried. ‘Come here and fight me!’

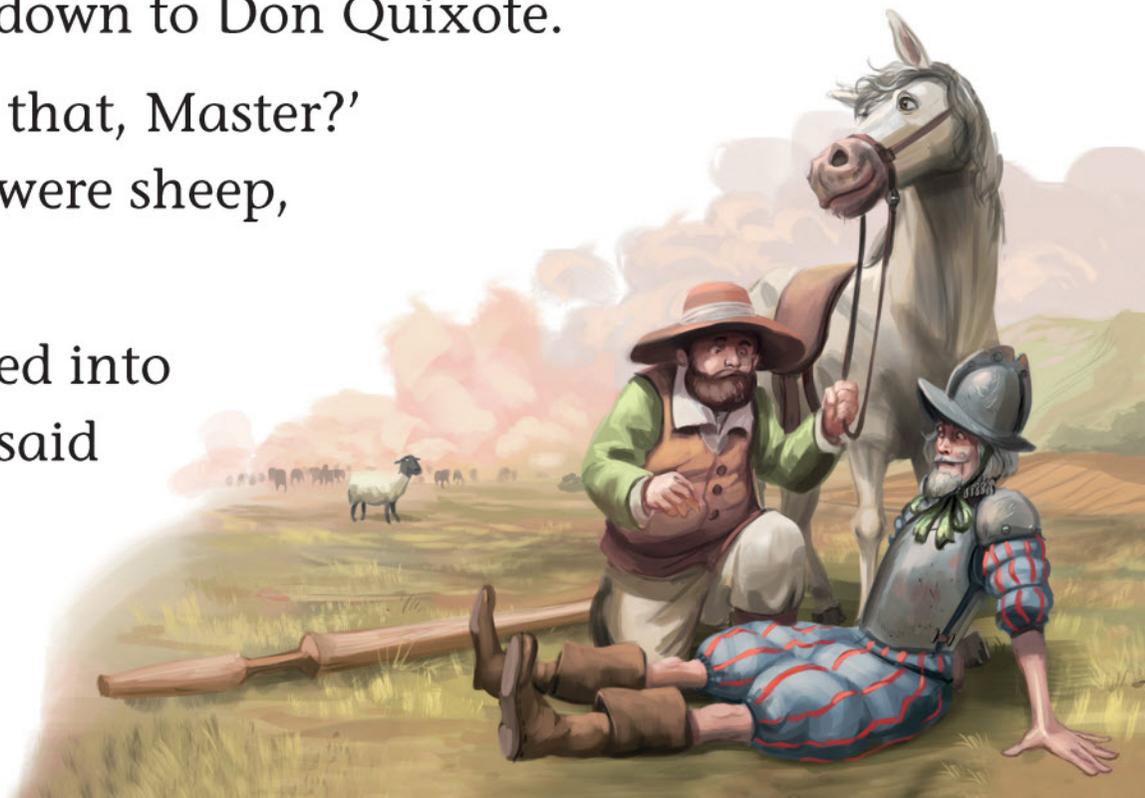


One stone hit Don Quixote on the hand, one stone hit him on the head, and at last he fell from his horse.

The shepherds ran away with their sheep, and Sancho hurried down to Don Quixote.

‘Why did you do that, Master?’ he asked. ‘They were sheep, not armies.’

‘The armies turned into sheep, Sancho!’ said Don Quixote.





At home in Don Quixote's village, his niece was hearing strange stories about him.

'Last week he stole a man's bowl because he thought that it was a helmet,' she told her neighbour, Samson. 'Then yesterday, he tried to fight the king's lion!'

'I shall go and find him,' said Samson. 'And I'll bring him home.'



When Samson found Don Quixote and Sancho, they were in Barcelona.

‘We can’t come home now, Samson,’ Don Quixote told him. ‘A knight and his squire can’t suddenly stop their good work.’

But Samson had an idea.

The next morning on the beach, Don Quixote saw another knight, in a suit of armour. The knight came towards him.

‘Don Quixote of La Mancha,’ the knight said. ‘I am the Knight of the White Moon, and my lady-love is much more beautiful than Dulcinea.’

‘No one in the world is more beautiful than Dulcinea!’ said Don Quixote.

‘Then let’s fight for our lady-loves,’ said the Knight of the White Moon.





The two knights moved away and then turned and started to ride towards each other. The Knight of the White Moon was much faster than Don Quixote. He pushed Don Quixote to the ground, and then held his lance above Don Quixote's head.

'I will not hit you. But you must make me a promise. Go home now. No more adventures,' said the Knight of the White Moon.

'No more adventures?' cried Don Quixote. Then he looked at the lance above his head.

'OK, I promise,' he said.

Then, the Knight of the White Moon got back on his horse, and rode away.



For six days after that,  
Don Quixote stayed in bed.

‘The Knight of the White  
Moon is greater than Don  
Quixote!’ he said sadly.

‘Never mind, Master,’ said  
Sancho. ‘We can go home now, and forget  
about adventures.’

A knight never breaks a promise, so at last  
Don Quixote and Sancho left Barcelona for  
their village.

‘I have an idea!’ Don Quixote said. ‘Let’s  
be shepherds when we get home. I’ll buy  
some sheep, and we’ll walk around the  
hills every day. We’ll drink from the rivers,  
eat apples and oranges from the trees, and  
sleep under the moon.’

‘Now that’s a very good idea,’ said Sancho.





When they arrived back at Don Quixote's house, his niece was there, with Samson, and Sancho's wife and daughter.

'You're home at last, Uncle!' his niece said. 'Now, no more stories about knights!'

'No,' said Don Quixote. 'But do we have any books about shepherds and sheep?'



# Exercises

## 1 Match the pictures with the sentences.



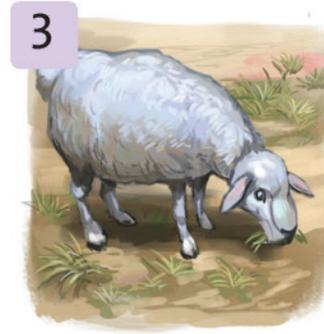
- a 'Give me that helmet!' 4
- b 'I will fight these giants!' \_\_\_\_\_
- c 'Let's fight for our lady-loves.' \_\_\_\_\_
- d 'This will be my new lance.' \_\_\_\_\_
- e 'Look! Two armies are going to fight.' \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Write the words. Then write a sentence for the last word, using *will*.

bring take drink go be fight ~~call~~ do

- 1 'You are the horse of a great knight now, and I will call you Rocinante.'
- 2 'Sancho will \_\_\_\_\_ a good squire.'
- 3 'We'll \_\_\_\_\_ good things for people.'
- 4 'I will \_\_\_\_\_ these giants, and we will \_\_\_\_\_ their money.'
- 5 'I shall \_\_\_\_\_ and find Don Quixote, and I'll \_\_\_\_\_ him home.'
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_.

### 3 Circle the pictures. Then write sentences.



silly

fast

big

old

- 1 Don Quixote is sillier than Sancho.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_

### 4 Circle the correct word.

- 1 At the beginning of the story, Don Quixote wanted to be a **knight** / squire.
- 2 Dulcinea was Don Quixote's **niece** / lady-love.
- 3 Don Quixote broke his **lance** / helmet when the windmill started to turn.
- 4 The shepherds threw **dust** / stones at Don Quixote.
- 5 Don Quixote stole someone's **bowl** / lance because he thought it was a helmet.
- 6 At the end of the story, Don Quixote wanted to be a **sheep** / shepherd.

# Glossary

**adventure** a new or exciting thing that happens to you

**army** a group of soldiers who fight for their country

**bowl**



**broken** *It's broken.*



**cloud**



**donkey** an animal like a small horse with long ears

**dust**



**emperor** the most important person in a country; like a king

**farm** a place where people keep animals and grow things

**field** a piece of land for farming

**fight**



**giant**



**helmet**



**hit**



**idea** something you think of or decide to do

**knight** a rich man who fights for the king and queen

**lance**



**lion**



**moon**



**niece** the daughter of your brother / sister

**promise** (noun and verb) to tell someone you will do something

**ribbons**



**rode** past tense of **ride**: to sit on a horse and make it move

**sheep**



**shepherd** a person who looks after sheep

**squire** a person who helps a knight

**stole** past tense of **steal**: to take something from someone and not pay for it

**stone**



**suit of armour** metal clothes that people wore when fighting

**towards**



**turn into** to change into something different

**village** a very small town in the country

**windmill**



# Classic Tales

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- Peach Boy
- The Princess and the Pea
- Rumpelstiltskin
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**Word count for this story: 1,654**

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