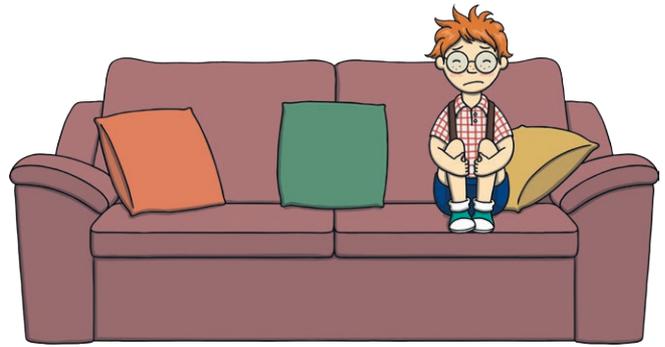


The Making of Milton

Let me tell you about Milton,
before he got so scared.
He used to be adventurous...
but now he never dared.



'Oh, Milton? He's a brave young
boy' is what they used to say.
'Why, he goes on fun adventures
almost every single day.

He climbs up all the tallest trees...
then swings down on a rope.
He rides his bike up long, steep hills...
then races down the slope.'



But as he had got older, he had somehow lost his way.
He found a new thing scared him when he went out every day.

He wouldn't play in football games; he'd always stand aside.
He feared he'd fall and hurt himself and so he never tried.

He stayed out of the garden
and instead, he played indoors.
He worried that the neighbour's dog
would get him with his paws.

He never slept in darkness
– he made sure he used a light.
He imagined he saw monsters
hiding every single night.

He never rode his bike
because he thought it went too fast.
He pictured himself tumbling
as everything rushed past.



On one fine sunny morning,
Milton headed on his way...
and came across a strange old man
whose beard was long and grey.

He wore a cloak with patches
and a hat upon his head.
He placed a jar in Milton's hands
and this is what he said:

"Inside, you'll find your courage;
I know how you've missed it so.
With this, you will feel brave again.
Now, I must up and go!"

With that, the old man vanished and left Milton standing there.
He held the jar of courage and he couldn't help but stare.

He set off back towards his home and wandered round the back.
But sitting in the garden was the neighbours' dog, Old Jack!

He looked down at the jar he held and felt his courage grow.
He slowly walked towards Old Jack and felt his worries go.

Old Jack rolled over on his back
and Milton rubbed his belly.
It turned out this dog wasn't scary
(just a little smelly!).

Milton said goodbye to Jack
and knew just what to do.
He grabbed his bike and helmet,
hopped on quick and off he flew.

He pedalled up the steepest hill; he pushed with all his might...
and when he reached the top, he thought, 'This isn't such a fright.'



I don't know why I was so scared,
this seems like such a breeze!
With that, he pushed hard off the ground
and flew downhill with ease.

As Milton headed straight back home,
he cycled past the park.
His friends were playing football
and he felt an idea spark.



He asked if he could join them and they handed him the ball.
He played with them all afternoon and several times, did fall.

But he found it didn't matter, he enjoyed it all the same.
He had a blast with all his friends and they were glad he came.

He couldn't understand why
he was feeling brave once more.
Then he thought about the jar
as he sat down upon the floor.

He took his backpack off his back
and opened it with care.
He reached inside to find the jar...
but there was only air!



The jar had disappeared and the thought filled him with dread.
"I cannot do without that jar, it keeps me safe!" he said.

He quickly turned his bike around, he knew just where to go.
He raced to where the old man was, he didn't dare go slow.

The old man stood upon the spot from earlier that day.
His hat still perched upon his head, his beard still long and grey.

"My jar has vanished!" Milton cried. "Whatever will I do?
It helped me to feel brave again, it made me feel brand new.

Without it I'm not brave and I will never be again."

His tears fell down upon his shirt and soon left quite a stain.

The old man turned to Milton and he said, "That isn't true. The jar was never special, there's still courage inside you.

You didn't need to use the jar - your heart was always strong. Your courage never went, you see; you had it all along."

Again, the old man disappeared, no sign of him around.

So Milton sat and wondered, 'Has my courage now been found?'

He'd faced up to the neighbour's dog, he'd cycled down a hill.

Yet none of this had scared him - now it just gave him a thrill.

He thought about the future and he saw how it could be.

"Now that I have my courage back, there's nothing to stop me!"

The sun began to fade as Milton walked through his front door.

He was tired from his adventuring but still he wanted more.

He couldn't have felt better after being scared so long.

His courage wasn't really gone; the old man wasn't wrong.

He climbed into his bed and then turned out the bedroom light.

He didn't even think about it being off all night.

So if you're scared or fearful, then remember, you're brave too.

Just like Milton, you can find it - your courage is in you.



Questions

1. What sport was Milton scared to play? Tick one.

rugby

cricket

football

2. What was the weather like on the morning Milton met the old man?
Tick one.

rainy

sunny

snowy

3. What do you know the old man was wearing? Tick two.

a hat

glasses

boots

a cloak

4. Where did Milton cycle past on his way home? Tick one.

the park

the shop

the school

5. Where did Milton put the jar of courage? Tick one.

in his pocket

on his handlebars

in his backpack

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Questions

1. What did Milton imagine he saw every night? Choose one.

- stars monsters shadows

2. What did Milton worry would happen if he rode his bike? Choose two.

- He would crash.
 He would enjoyed himself.
 He would go too fast.

3. Order these events from the story by writing 1, 2 and 3 in the boxes.

- Milton rode down the steepest hill.
 Milton played football with his friends.
 Milton rubbed Old Jack's belly.

4. What word best describes Milton when he finds out the jar has vanished?
Choose one.

- upset calm brave

5. What did Milton do just after he climbed into bed at the end of the story?

Answers

1. What did Milton imagine he saw every night? Choose one.

- stars monsters shadows

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5. What did Milton do just after he climbed into bed at the end of the story?

Milton turned out the light just after he climbed into bed at the end of the story.

Questions

1. What did the old man give to Milton?

- a bottle a plain jar a labelled jar

2. Draw a line to join the activity to Milton's fear.

sleeping

being scratched

stroking Old Jack

the dark

football

getting hurt

3. Tick two things Milton took with him when he went riding.

pump

helmet

bike

knee pad

4. What did Milton do when he first realised his jar was gone?

- played football
 went back to the old man
 started to cry

5. Why didn't Milton need to be worried that the jar was gone?

6. What would you use a jar of courage to help you do?

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 went back to the old man
 started to cry

5. Why didn't Milton need to be worried that the jar was gone?

Milton didn't need to be worried because his courage was already in him, not the jar.

6. What would you use a jar of courage to help you do?

Children's own response.