

# Traditional Mummers Play: St. George and the Dragon

Adapted from a traditional play by Sally Smith



This play can be done any time of year but traditionally, plays like this were performed around St George's Day, Easter, All Souls' Day, Plough Monday and Christmas.

Mummers plays change according to where they are performed. There is nothing to stop you writing in extra characters or writing in funny lines about your school or local area.

The plays are usually a fight between good and evil where good wins. So, like pantomime, cheers and boos/hisses are encouraged to involve the audience.

## Characters:

Traditionally, all character have some sort of disguise on the face (they were often referred to as guisers or mummers) which could be face paint or hats with rags (paper or cloth) hanging over the face.

**Jacky** – The narrator of the play, dressed in bright colours and tatters. Carrying a broom to sweep the area to make room for the play at the start.

**St. George** – A knight dressed in a white tabard with red cross and carrying a sword and shield.

**The Hooded Knight**– wearing a hood, mysterious, dressed in black/dark colours with sword and shield (hidden innertube in the costume).

**Fool** – a court jester (cardboard saw needed as a prop).

**Doctor** – dressed smartly with a small brown suitcase or leather doctor's bag containing a bottle of medicine and a ping pong ball.

**Dragon** – can be played by one or more people depending on how long you want the dragon. A dragon's head or mask (with a hole for the mouth) on the front person.

**Jacky:** *[Brushes the area with a broom to clear a space]*

Room, room brave gallants,  
Come give us room I pray  
For in this spot before you all  
St. George will sport and play  
He comes to fight and win the day  
So, step in St. George and clear the way!

**St. George:** Here comes I – St. George – a valiant man  
Who spent his blood for England's rights  
And England's rights I will maintain  
I'll fight for old England once again  
Show me the man who bids me stand  
I'll cut him down with my courageous hand

**Hooded Knight:** In comes I the Hooded Knight  
In the deep, dark lands I learned to fight  
I'll fight St. George with my courage bold  
And if his blood's hot, I'll run it cold

**St. George:** Stand off, stand off you Hooded Knight  
And let no more be said  
For if I should ever draw by sword  
I'm sure the see thee dead.

**Hooded Knight:** How canst thou\* slay me  
When my head is made of iron  
My body's made of steel  
My hands and feet of knuckle bone  
I challenge thee\* to feel

[\*canst thou is old fashioned English for 'can you' and thee is old fashioned English for 'you']

**St. George:** Thou speakest\* very bold  
To such a man as I  
I'll cut thee into eyelet holes  
And make thy\* buttons fly  
So, draw thy sword and fight  
Or draw thy purse and pay  
For satisfaction I must have  
Before I go away.

[\*speakest is old fashioned English for 'speak', thy is old fashioned English for 'your']

**Hooded Knight:** No satisfaction shall thou have  
but I shall bring thee to thy grave.

**St. George:** Battle to battle with thee I call  
To see who on this ground shall fall

***[St. George and The Hooded Knight fight until St. George wins and The Hooded Knight is laid on the floor]***

**Jacky:** Is there a doctor to be found  
Or any near at hand?  
To heal this deep and deadly wound  
And make The Hooded Knight stand?

**Fool:** In comes I as I ain't been yet  
With big charm and jolly wit  
I'll dance a jig to please you all

***[Fool dances – music can be added at this point]***

**Jacky:** Away Fool , enough of you  
this knight is wounded through and through.

**Fool:** Doctor, Doctor, come and see  
This knight's been wounded in the knee  
Doctor, Doctor, come and try,  
This knight's been wounded in the eye  
Doctor, Doctor, do thy part  
This knight's been wounded in the heart.

**Doctor:** I be the noble Doctor good  
And with my skill I'll stop his blood  
My fee's ten pounds but only five,  
If I don't raise this knight alive

**Jacky:** What canst thy do and what canst thy cure?

**Doctor:** All sorts of diseases  
Just what the Physic pleases:  
the itch, the stitch, the palsy, the gout  
pains within and pains without

**Fool:** Then try thy skill Doctor...

***[Doctor looks like he/she is operating on the knight and pulls out a hidden innertube]***

**Doctor:** Oh dear, a blooper I have made  
I must concentrate with this blade!

**Fool:** ***[appears with a cardboard saw]***  
Since the answer was not within  
Maybe my assistance is the thing?

**Doctor:** Stand back, stand back, knight's body you'll mark,  
Those gruesome methods went out with the ark!  
I have a little bottle by my side,  
The fame of it spreads far and wide  
A drop on his head, a drop on his heart  
Rise up bold knight and take thy part!

**Hooded Knight:** *[Rises and goes down on one knee in front of St. George]*  
Oh pardon, pardon, brave St. George  
Spare my life this day  
I'll leave these shores and tell to all  
You're the hero of this play

**St. George:** Yes, proud knight, arise  
And go and tell the lands  
What a bold champion now  
in England there doth\* stand

[\*doth is an old fashioned English word for 'does']

**ALL:** HOORAY!

**Jacky:** Proceed St. George...

**St. George:** Here stand I, St. George,  
A champion on these shores  
Now I'll fight the dragon bold  
As none have won before...  
I'll clip his wings, he shall not fly  
I'll cut him down or else I'll die.

**Jacky:** Step in bold Dragon...

**Fool:** A fool, a fool, a fool am I,  
Pray sweep some room for me  
And let me join the company.

**Jacky:** On your bike Fool, St. George has called for a Dragon.  
Let's try that again St. George...

**St. George:** Here stand I, St. George,  
A champion on these shores  
Now I'll fight the dragon bold  
As none have won before...

**Jacky:** Step in bold Dragon...

**Dragon:** Who is he that seeks the Dragon's blood,  
that calls so angry and so loud?  
That English dog? Will he before me stand?  
I'll cut him down with my courageous hand.  
With my long teeth and scurvy jaw  
Of such I'd break up many more.

**Fool:** Now champion knocked down the Hooded Knight  
Make haste to beat the Dragon in the fight.

**St. George:** Battle to battle with thee I call  
to see who on this ground shall fall.

**Dragon:** Battle to battle with thee I pray  
to see who on this ground shall lay.

***[St. George and the Dragon fight, Jacky encourages the audience to shout for St. George. Music or drums may add to the atmosphere here]***

**St. George:**           Then guard they body and mind thy head  
                                  or else my sword shall strike thee dead.

***[They fight again and St. George wins, the Dragon falls to the ground.]***

**Jacky:**                 Is there a Doctor to be found  
                                  or any close at hand,  
                                  to heal this deep and deadly wound  
                                  and make the Dragon stand?

**Doctor:**               Yes, here is a Doctor to be found  
                                  already close at hand  
                                  to heal this deep and deadly wound  
                                  and make the Dragon stand.

**Jacky:**                 What is thy fee Doctor?

**Doctor:**               Fifteen pounds it is my fee  
                                  the money to lay down  
                                  but as 'tis such a rogue as he  
                                  I'll cure him for ten pounds!

**Jacky:**                 Then try thy skill Doctor...

**Doctor:**               This Dragon looks so pale and ill  
                                  I think I'll try him with a pill.

***[Doctor gives ping pong ball pill to the Dragon but the Dragon actor flicks it out of the mouth when it is in there so it looks like the dragon is spitting out the pill]***

**Doctor:** I have a little bottle by my side,  
The fame of it spreads far and wide  
A drop on his head, a drop on his heart  
Rise up bold Dragon and take thy part!

**Dragon:** Oh pardon, pardon, brave St. George  
Spare my life this day  
I'll leave these shores and tell to all  
You're the hero of this play.

**St. George:** No, no that may not be  
For thus is the story told  
Of how the brave St. George  
Did slay the Dragon Bold

***[St. George uses his sword once more and the Dragon falls]***

**Jacky:** St. George thou hast\* the Dragon slain  
With thy brave hand our lives are saved.

[\*old fashioned English word for has]

**Fool:** Away from here his body carry fast  
First go his feet, then his head comes last.

***[Jacky and Fool slide the Dragon away, these words are particularly good if the dragon is played like a pantomime horse in 2 or more parts]***

**Jacky:** All who are gathered, our sport is done. We can no longer stay  
Remember now, forever more, St. George will hold the sway

**ALL:** HOORAY!

***[Everyone come back to the performance area and takes a bow]***

----- THE END -----