

# The Tale of Custard the Dragon

This poem was written by Ogden Nash, who is known for his funny poems. It is about a girl called Belinda who lives with her four pets: a kitten, a mouse, a dog and a dragon. The dragon is teased by the others for being cowardly, but one day, he proves that he *can* be brave...

## The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Belinda lived in a little white house,  
With a little black kitten and a little gray mouse,  
And a little yellow dog and a little red wagon,  
And a realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

5 Now the name of the little black kitten was Ink,  
And the little gray mouse, she called her Blink,  
And the little yellow dog was sharp as Mustard,  
But the dragon was a coward, and she called him Custard.

10 Custard the dragon had big sharp teeth,  
And spikes on top of him and scales underneath,  
Mouth like a fireplace, chimney for a nose,  
And realio, trulio, daggers on his toes.

15 Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,  
And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,  
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,  
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.

20 Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful,  
Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him Percival,  
They all sat laughing in the little red wagon  
At the realio, trulio, cowardly dragon.

25 Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,  
And Mustard growled, and they all looked around.  
Meowch! cried Ink, and Ooh! cried Belinda,  
For there was a pirate, climbing in the winda.

30 Belinda still lives in her little white house,  
With her little black kitten and her little gray mouse,  
And her little yellow dog and her little red wagon,  
And her realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

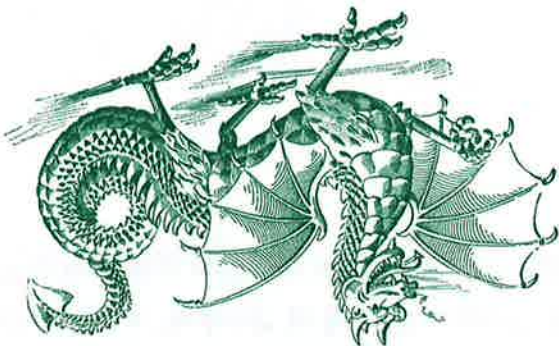
35 Belinda is as brave as a barrel full of bears,  
And Ink and Blink chase lions down the stairs,  
Mustard is as brave as a tiger in a rage,  
But Custard keeps crying for a nice safe cage.

40 He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm.  
The pirate gaped at Belinda's dragon,  
And gulped some grog from his pocket flagon,  
He fired two bullets but they didn't hit,  
And Custard gobbled him, every bit.

45 Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him,  
No one mourned for his pirate victim  
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate  
Around the dragon that ate the pyrate.

50 Belinda still lives in her little white house,  
With her little black kitten and her little gray mouse,  
And her little yellow dog and her little red wagon,  
And her realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

55 Belinda is as brave as a barrel full of bears,  
And Ink and Blink chase lions down the stairs,  
Mustard is as brave as a tiger in a rage,  
But Custard keeps crying for a nice safe cage.



Ogden Nash

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Year 4 — Targeted Comprehension