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The Wawel dragon

Once upon a time in Krakow lived a King with his daughter, a beautiful Princess. They lived in a castle next to the river Vistula. The castle was on a hill called Wawel Hill. Everybody in Krakow was happy and they loved their King . All the knights wanted to marry the Princess and brought her gifts . But the King always said: " No, you are not good enough for my daughter ."

One day, a dragon came to Krakow. He found a cave at the bottom of Wawel Hill and lived there. The dragon was very big and was always very hungry. Everyday he went to fields and ate the cows, sheep and horses.

The people of Krakow went to the King : " Your Highness, you must do something . Soon we will have no animals and no homes!" So the King said: "The brave man who can kill the dragon will marry my daughter, the Princess, and I will give him half the kingdom".

"The man who can kill the dragon will marry the Princess! " the people of Krakow said their friends. Soon everyone in the kingdom heard the news. Many brave knights came from far away to kill the dragon . But when they saw the dragon they got scared and ran away. Soon, there were no knights brave enough to kill the dragon.

"Oh what will I do now ? " said the King in his castle. Just then, there was knock at the door. "Enter!" said the King and a young Shoemaker walked in. "I will kill the dragon," the Shoemaker said. "But you are just a shoemaker . How can you kill the dragon ?" "I may be just a shoemaker , but I am clever, and I will kill the dragon if you give me some wool and sulphur." So the King gave the Shoemaker some wool and sulphur. In the evening the Shoemaker put the sulphur in the wool and started sewing. When

he finished, it looked like a sheep . At night the Shoemaker put it outside the dragon's cave. When the dragon woke up, he was hungry . He went outside and saw the sheep. The sulphur went into the dragons's tummy. He soon became very, very thirsty. He ran to the river and drank. He drank more and more and got bigger, until BANG ! The dragon burst like a big balloon.

" Hurray !" shouted the people of Krakow, "Hurray for the Shoemaker!" And they carried him on their shoulders to the King. The Shoemaker married the Princess and the King gave him half the kingdom.

And all the people of Krakow lived happily ever after.