

RORY THE
KNIGHT

AND THE
GRUMPY OLD
ALLIGATOR

BY: D. B. RYEN

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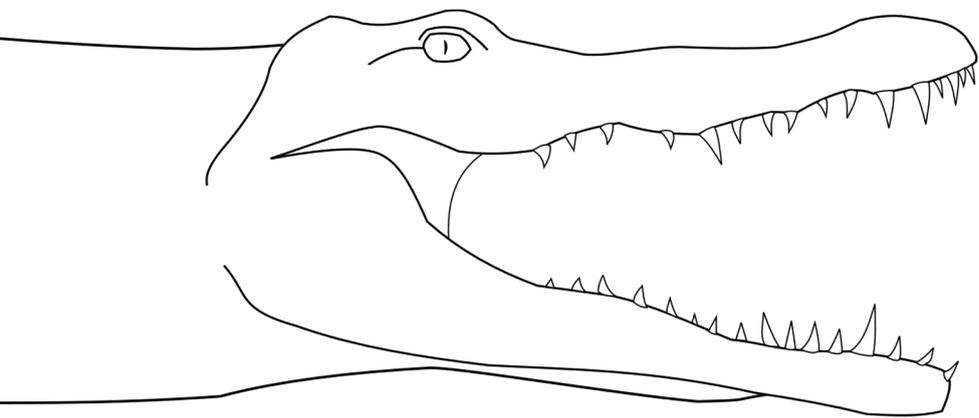
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Note to parents: This book is meant to be read aloud, with silly voices and sound effects. Also, your kids might need some help with the pictures. Make this book your own, something to look back on when your kids are older. Change the names, if you want to, to that of your own child. Then drop me a line and let me know how it goes. Enjoy!

For Rory,

Grab life by the horns,
then hold on tight!



Color in the alligator

Draw Rory with a sword in one hand and a rifle in the other

Rory was a brave young man. But despite his bravery, sometimes he needed help to defeat a deadly enemy. Sometimes Rory got help from an animal (like Burt the goat), and sometimes he got help from a friend.

This next story is how a good friend saved Rory's life from another monstrous and deadly animal.

Just in the nick of time.

Draw Rory's ship getting pounded by huge waves and lightning

After sailing away from *Isla de la Serpiente*, Rory's ship was struck by a terrible storm. It was a hurricane. For two full days, the wind howled, the waves crashed, and the ship was tossed about like a toy in the bathtub.

By the morning of the third day, the storm finally died down. The ship had a slow leak in the hold that had spoiled all their water barrels. They were forced to stop again to refill them.

They were sailing up the east coast of Florida, but the next port it was still far away.

Rory said, "Let's take a rowboat to shore and look for a little creek to fill up our barrels."

As usual, everyone agreed. Rory always had the best ideas. Unfortunately, no one realized that a *MONSTER* was waiting for them on shore.

Draw a stream underground, full of fish and turtles

They lowered their anchor near the mouth of a wide river. Nine of them set out in one of the big lifeboats – Rory plus eight of his friends.

It was a hot, humid day. The thick jungle on either side blocked any breeze. The current in the lazy river wasn't fast, but they were sweating buckets as they rowed.

Rory and his friends passed many muddy creeks flowing into the river, but none that had water good enough to drink.

Finally, after rowing all day in the heat, they came to a sandy beach. Through the middle of it flowed a little stream with cool fresh water. The stream flowed up from a spring underground.

Know what a spring is? It's an underwater tunnel through the ground, where fresh water comes up from deep in the earth. That's why the stream was so cool and fresh, not warm and muddy like the river they rowed up.

Draw Rory and his friends swimming in the creek

“Finally!” they said. “We’ve been rowing forever!”

Rory and his friends beached the boat on the sandy shore and stumbled over to the creek. They all bent down and took a long drink.

SLURRRRRRP!!

Then they dunked their heads in the water.

SPLASH! SPLASH! SPLASH!

Then Rory said, “Let’s just go in!”

So they all stripped off their clothes and took a bath right then and there! What a sight to see: nine grown men with nothing on, soaking in the crystal-clear water of a little stream in the Florida jungle. It was so hot and sweaty out that nobody cared. They laid in the cool water for half an hour!

Everyone felt much better after their bath, but there was still work to be done. They unloaded the barrels and started filling them in the stream.

Draw a wild boar (a big hairy pig with tusks)

By then, it was getting late. The sun wasn't down yet, but the shadows were getting long. Rory said to his friends, "Let's camp here on the beach and head back to the ship in the morning."

Good plan. Nobody wanted to row back down the river to sleep on a hot ship. Plus, it was such a beautiful beach that they couldn't bear to leave it just yet.

The nine men set up camp for the night. Some of them went off hunting and came back with a wild boar. Do you know what a boar is? It's not someone who's boring. That's a *bore*. A boar is a wild pig. It's hairy and has tusks. They can be viciously mean, but they're really good to eat. So when the hunters came across a wild boar in the bush, they quickly shot it dead and brought it back to roast over the fire.

After everyone ate as much as they could, they quickly grew tired. They crawled onto their bed rolls around the fire closed their eyes.

Draw flies and mosquitos biting Rory all over

It was dark by the time Rory and his friends laid down, but do you think they could sleep? Nope. Not a wink. It was too *LOUD!* No sooner had they laid down than they realized how noisy the jungle was! There were bugs buzzing, birds chirping, and monkeys howling. Animals rustled in the bush all around them. And to top it all off, flies and mosquitoes buzzed around their heads and bit their skin. So, despite being very tired and eating so much, nobody could sleep.

Rory put his hat – his Australian hunting hat – over his face to protect against the bugs. Everyone else covered their heads with whatever they had around them.

Eventually, after what seemed like forever, they all drifted off to sleep.

Draw a big angry alligator

Now, what Rory and his friends didn't remember about Florida is that a dangerous animal lives there. It has big teeth and thick skin. It swims through the water with its big tail and walks on the land with its short legs.

Know what it is?

That's right: an alligator. Florida has lots of alligators. And although that particular beach didn't have *lots* of alligators, it had one big grandpa alligator. It was *GRUMPY* and it was *MEAN*. It kept all the other alligators far away from its territory. And it didn't like that nine young men were sleeping on its beach.

Not one bit.

Draw the alligator's strong, scaly tail

This old alligator had been around for many years and it was smarter than most. When it saw Rory and his friends land on the beach, it wisely hung back and hid in the shadows. It didn't come out during their bath in the stream, and it didn't come out during their feast. But when the jungle got dark and all the men had fallen sleep, it started crawling out of the bush, sliding along on its belly like all alligators do.

Slowly it crawled. The big paws stepped quietly in the soft sand. The big tail dragged silently behind. The big mouth opened and white pointy teeth gleamed in the moonlight.

The alligator was hunting man. And none of them heard a thing as it slowly crept forward.

Draw Rory sleeping with his hat over his face

Closer...

and *closer*...

and *CLOSER* the old alligator crept to the sleeping young men. It crept toward the person sleeping nearest, which happened to be Rory the Knight.

Rory was fast asleep with his hat over his face, snoring like a bear in winter.

SNOOOOOORRRRRRE

He didn't hear the alligator coming at all. And besides, the jungle was so loud that it drowned out the sound of alligator scales scraping softly along the sand.

The big alligator mouth was full of big alligator teeth. The monster looked hungrily at Rory, who had no idea he was about to become an alligator's dinner.

Draw the alligator's big paw scratching Rory's friend

As it approached Rory, the alligator tilted its head sideways and slowly reached its *GIGANTIC* jaws around Rory's sleeping head. But as it took one last step forward, the alligator's paw scratched against the man sleeping next to him. Rory's sleeping friend got scraped on his shoulder by the big claws.

"Ouch!" he said groggily. "What's the big idea?"

Rory's friend was annoyed that something had rudely interrupted his sleep. But then he saw the *GIANT* alligator beside him with *HUGE* jaws and *MASSIVE* teeth closing in around Rory's head!

***"WAAAAAAAAAHHHH! RORY!!!
WAKE UP! AN ALLIGATOR'S GONNA
EAT YOU!!!"***

Draw Rory with his head inside the alligator's open mouth

Rory sleepily opened his eyes and pulled the hat off his face.

“Huh? What’s going on?”

Suddenly, he saw the *HUGE* jaws and *MASSIVE* white teeth all around his head, just about to chomp down.

Rory screamed.

“BAAAAAAHHHHH!!!!”

As fast as he could, Rory jerked his head out of the alligator’s mouth just as the giant jaws snapped shut!

Draw the alligator eating Rory's hat

Rory's friend was still yelling: *“WAAAAHHH!
RORY! THAT ALLIGATOR ALMOST ATE YOU!!!”*

Then Rory started yelling: *“WAAAAHHH!
THAT ALLIGATOR ALMOST ATE ME!!!”*

Then all the other men woke up and started yelling too: *“WAAAAHHH! WHAT'S GOING ON?! WHY ARE WE YELLING?!”*

Then they all saw the alligator. It was thrashing around with something in its mouth – Rory's Australian hunting hat. Rory got away just in the nick of time, but his hat wasn't so lucky. The alligator was tearing it apart.

Draw the alligator hissing with its mouth open

Rory finally got himself together and calmed everyone down. He was very angry that the alligator had tried to gobble him up. But then he was happy that it didn't. And then he was mad again because it ate his favorite hat!

As they watched, the alligator threw its head back and swallowed Rory's hat in one gulp. Then it faced the nine frightened men and *HISSED* its meanest alligator hiss.

Rory was undeterred.

“Men, this alligator's not going get away with that. *Let's get him!*”

Draw Rory doing a flip over the alligator

The men slowly surrounded the alligator. The alligator hissed and clawed at the ground. It was *HUGE*. And because it was so old, this alligator was a really good fighter.

None of the men wanted to fight it. They thought the alligator would...

CHOMP off their leg,

CHOMP off their arm,

or *CHOMP* off their head!

But Rory was mad. He took three big steps backward

1... 2... 3...

and started running straight toward it!

The alligator saw Rory coming. Its mouth was open wide, ready to bite him. But just as Rory got to it, he leapt over top of the alligator's head and landed – *POW!* – in the middle of the alligator's back!

Draw nine men wrestling a gator

Rory wrapped his arms around the alligator's jaws and yelled, "*NOW!*"

With the jaws held closed, all the rest of the men jumped on too, grabbing onto its legs, tail, and neck.

The alligator went *CRAZY!* It kicked men into the river, smacked them into the creek, and thrashed its head around. But Rory held on for dear life, wrapping his arms and legs around the alligator's snout. As long as its jaws were closed, the men were safe, but if the alligator managed to open up its mouth, it would gobble them all up!

They had an enormous fight! Bodies were flying everywhere! Before long, some of the men started laughing. They thought it was fun!

"Gator wrestling!"

Men got thrown off and landed in the sand but quickly got up and piled back on.

Do *you* think that would be fun?

Draw pliers pulling out a big tooth

Eventually, the alligator got tired and lay still. It knew it was beaten.

“Quick, somebody get me a belt!” Rory said.

One of the men took off his belt and helped Rory wrap it around the alligator’s jaws. They all took a step back and looked at the massive gator.

“Mr. Alligator, you ate my favorite hat. You’re going to pay for that.”

Rory took out a pair of pliers. He grasped a big tooth sticking out the front of its mouth and pulled as hard as he could.

POP!

Out came the tooth.

But then the alligator got *really* mad.

Draw Rory and his friends running away

SNAP!

The belt holding the alligator's mouth broke apart. The alligator charged towards the men, jaws wide open!

*“WAAAAAAHHHH! LET’S GET OUT OF
HERE!!!”*

They all ran for their lives. The one with no belt had to hold his pants up so they wouldn't fall down.

Fortunately, the alligator was too tired to chase them very far. It soon gave up and slinked back toward the edge of the jungle, where it collapsed under a bush.

It still had lots of teeth left.

Draw Rory rowing his boat under the moon and stars

Well, do you think Rory and his friends wanted to sleep on that beach anymore?

No way.

“Men,” said Rory, “I think that’s the end of our little vacation. Let’s get back to the ship.”

Everyone agreed. So, in the middle of the night, when it was cool and the moon was shining, they packed up camp and set off down the river. It was a lot easier rowing down the river than it was rowing up. And just as the sun rose in the sky, they reached their ship.

Safe and sound.

Draw yourself with your eight best friends

That is the story of how Rory lost his hat but came away with his life. He wore that big alligator tooth around his neck as a reminder of night he was nearly an alligator's supper. If it wasn't for his friend waking up and screaming, Rory wouldn't have lived to tell the tale.

Remember the value of a good friend. He can save your life when you're in no position to save it yourself. So treat everyone as well as you can, because you never know when, and from whom, you'll need helping hand in the middle of the night.

Or a helping scream.

Hey Kids!

You've probably noticed that none of the pictures in this book have any color. That's because kids always do a better job at coloring than adults. So go back and color in all the pictures. Get your parents to scan and email them to me and we'll post the best ones on our website! Be sure to include your name and age.

Enjoy!

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