

**RORY THE  
KNIGHT**

**AND THE  
GIANT SQUID**

**BY: D. B. RYEN**

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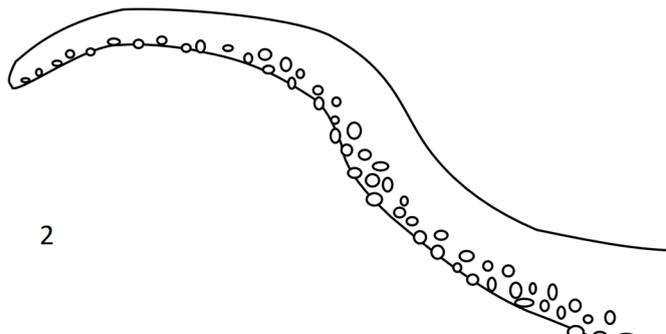
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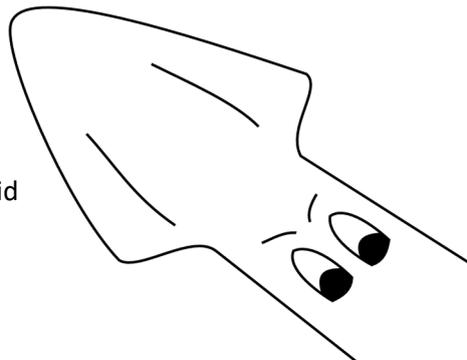
Note to parents: This book is meant to be read aloud, with silly voices and sound effects. Also, your kids might need some help with the pictures. Make this book your own, something to look back on when your kids are older. Change the names, if you want to, to that of your own child. Then drop me a line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



For Rory,

May you always live by the knightly way:  
Integrity, Justice, Courage

Color in the squid



Draw Rory's ship sailing on the sea

**T**his is the first and greatest story of Rory the Knight. He didn't like getting into trouble, but trouble seemed to find him wherever he went.

Rory was sailing in the Caribbean. Know what the Caribbean is? It's a beautiful sea between North and South America with lots of tropical islands and white-sand beaches.

The day our story takes place was a perfect day for sailing – not too hot, not too cold. A strong breeze was blowing from behind them, pushing their sails forward at a steady pace. Everyone on board was lounging on deck, enjoying the lovely weather.

Draw the giant squid underwater

As they were sailing along, the look-out up in the crows-nest shouted down, “Something strange to starboard!”

Rory and his crew looked out over the starboard rail (on the right-hand side of the boat) and saw a dark shape out in the water. They couldn’t tell what it was, but they could see that it was big.

Really big.

“What on earth is *that*?” Rory thought to himself.

As they were watching, the dark shape started coming closer...

and closer...

and closer to the ship.

“Oh no!” thought Rory, “it’s going to run into us!”

Draw the giant squid swimming underneath the Rory's ship

Just as it was about to hit them, it dove down under the boat.

***WHOOOOOOOSH!***

the giant creature dove down under the boat. Rory and his crew ran to the port side and watched it swim away.

“That was close!” he said. “What on earth was that thing?”

Rory didn’t want to say what he *really* thought it was – a *SEA MONSTER*. Thankfully, it faded into the distance, but it didn’t go away completely. As he watched, it turned around and started coming back.

“Uh oh...”

Draw cannons, guns, knives, and swords

As it swam back, the creature got faster and *faster*.

“It’s really going to hit us this time!” Rory said.

But all of a sudden,

***WHOOOOOOOSH!***

the sea monster dove under the boat again. Rory and his crew dashed back to the starboard side. Sure enough, it appeared again, just under the surface of the water.

Rory had a bad feeling. It all felt rather *ominous* (*ominous* means you think something bad is going to happen).

“Everyone to your battle stations!” he shouted.

Men started scrambling all over the deck. They loaded up the cannons and guns. They all strapped on a sword and a knife. They were armed to the teeth, ready for a fight.

Draw the squid getting angry, scaring all the fish away

The big sea monster was swimming out the starboard side when the man in the crow's nest yelled down, "It's coming back again!"

It was swimming back

*FASTER!*

*and FASTER!!*

*and FASTER!!!*

The water all around it was all churned up. Then, at the last second, it dipped underneath the boat again. Everyone ran to the other side, but....

*GASP!!!*

this time there was nothing there!

Draw the giant squid wrapping its tentacles around Rory's ship

As Rory and his crew were looking over the port rail, a huge tentacle came up out of the water from the starboard and *SMASHED* over the deck of the ship!

Then another huge suction-cupped tentacle came up from the port side and *SMASHED* across the deck! The two tentacles squeezed the ship and started shaking it back and forth! Everyone was knocked off their feet!

Many other tentacles came up from both sides of the boat. They wrapped around the mast, the railings, and the deck – anything they could reach! They even grabbed some of the men and squeezed them tight.

The whole ship was shaking like crazy!

Draw stinky poop on the deck of a ship

The men hacked at the tentacles with their swords, but the skin was too thick to slash through! They shot at them with their guns, but the shots just bounced off. Nothing could penetrate the squid's rubbery skin! They even tried blasting them with cannons, but they couldn't aim because the boat was shaking so badly. The men could barely stand up!

Then the boat started tipping backwards. The stern started sinking down into the water, with the bow sticking up in the air.

“Oh no!” Rory shouted, “*it's pulling us under!*”

He scampered to the back of the ship, up onto the poop deck.

[*Poop?* I know, it's a funny name. A poop deck is at the back of a ship and has the steering wheel. And yes, poop is its *real* name. Isn't that silly?]

Draw the giant squid eating the back of the ship

Rory reached the back railing and looked down into the sea. There in the water was the huge head of a giant squid. It had big black eyes and a razor-sharp beak. Its mouth was gaping open and screaming,

*AAAAAARRRRRRRGGGGHHH!!!*

as it chomped away at the back of the boat.

*CHOMP! CHOMP! CHOMP!*

The squid was biting through the hull! Water started pouring in beneath the waterline.

Rory knew that if he didn't do something quickly, the ship and all of his friends were going to be destroyed by the giant squid.

Draw a Rory jumping off the ship with his sword

Do you know what Rory did? This is the best part. He did something very *dangerous* and very *brave*. Rory stood up on the back railing of the poop deck and looked down at the giant squid writhing in the sea below him. He yelled,

***“AAAAARRRRRRGGGGHHH!!!”***

then he jumped off the ship and landed right on top of the squid’s head!

Draw Rory trying to stand on the squid's slippery head

## ***BOUNCE! SLIP! SPLASH!***

Rory could barely stand up! He couldn't get a grip on the squid's slippery skin as it as the tentacles squeezed and shook the ship. He nearly slipped off into the foamy water, but he managed to stab his hunting knife into the rubbery skin and hung on for dear life. Rory crawled and slipped his way over between the eyes and stabbed his knife in again, then he drew his sword and yelled, "That's it, squid! You're finished!"

With all his might, Rory swung the sword  
down...

down...

down...

as hard as he could onto the squid's eyeball!

But...

Draw the big deadly axe

***BOUNCE!!***

The sword bounced right back up!

“What?!” Rory exclaimed. “This squid’s eye is so tough I can’t cut through it!”

He hacked at it again,

***BOUNCE! BOUNCE! BOUNCE!***

The sword flew back up off the tough cornea (the cornea is the outside of the eye).

“Oh no!” Rory said. “This squid is going to eat the entire ship and there’s nothing I can do to stop it!”

Then he remembered his father’s axe. It was a big slab of iron on a stout oak handle, honed as sharp as a filet knife. Everyone called it *The Persuader*. It could be very persuasive with tough old trees, so maybe, Rory thought, it might work against a tough old squid.

“Hey!” he shouted up to the ship, “Get me *The Persuader!*”

Draw Rory smashing the axe into the squid's eye

Rory's first mate scampered across the shaking deck, grabbed the axe, and scurried his way back to the poop deck. Then he yelled down, "Here you go, Rory! Catch!"

Rory was barely managing to hold onto the slippery squid. *The Persuader* came falling down towards him, and in one fluid motion, Rory grabbed the handle and swung it down toward the squid.

***SMAAAAASH!!!***

Rory sliced the axe through the squid's cornea into the middle of the giant eyeball!

Draw Rory underwater, swimming in squid blood

The beak of the squid let out a terrible cry:

***RRRRAAAAAGGGGHHH!!!!***

All its tentacles flew off the ship and started writhing around in mid-air. Oily black blood spewed out of the eyeball with *The Persuader* embedded deep inside it.

As it released the ship, the giant squid started sinking under the water. Rory leapt into the water and swam away with all his might, but the squid reached out with its flailing tentacles and pulled Rory under!

Down into the water he was pulled. Rory knew he would soon drown if he didn't break free. He reached down and pulled the suction-cupped tentacle off his ankle, but he was running out of air! Finally, he was free and kicked toward the surface with the last of his strength.

***GAAAAASP!!!***

Rory burst into the air! The squid was nowhere to be seen – it was sinking to the bottom of the Caribbean, leaving a trail of black blood.

Draw Rory with his friends on deck very happy

The ship was barely afloat. Men were working furiously to patch up the stern where the squid had chomped away chunks of the hull.

His friends on the poop deck shouted down, “Rory, are you alive?!”

“Yeah, I’m still here,” he sputtered. “Throw me a line!”

They hauled Rory up on deck. Back on board, he puked up sea water and squid blood.

“Darn it,” Rory said, “I lost my father’s axe.”

The men all laughed.

“Rory! You saved our lives and our ship! Three cheers for Rory!”

*HIP-HIP-HOORAY!!*

Everyone gave him big hugs and slaps on the back.

Eventually, the crew patched up the hull and bailed out the water. The ship was in terrible shape – broken mast, torn sails, and supplies all over the place – but at least they were alive. They sailed to a nearby island to repair their ship.

Draw Rory with lots of muscles

The legend of Rory the Knight and the giant squid spread all over the world. At every bar and tavern, hamlet and palace, market and court, people heard how Rory disregarded his own safety and did the bravest thing any man had ever done. He fought a massive squid and defeated him with his father's axe.

Rory was the bravest man in the Caribbean, maybe even the world. All his men were forever in his debt for saving their lives that day. Otherwise, it would have been certain death from being eaten or drowned by a giant squid, which (thanks to Rory) was never seen again.

The end.

## Hey Kids!

You've probably noticed that there are no pictures in this book. That's because kids always do a better job at imagining stories than adults. So go back and draw 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!

*D. B. Ryan*

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