

A dragon sleeps here

‘I see Snowdon!’ says Parker. ‘That mountain – it’s Snowdon!’

Parker is with his family. They’re driving in Snowdonia, a national park in Wales. It’s a warm, sunny day in April. They are going to be in Snowdonia for three days.

‘Oh yes! I see it too!’ says his sister, Olivia. Parker is fourteen and Olivia is sixteen. ‘Snowdon is 1085 metres tall.’ Olivia is reading from a book, *Walking in Snowdonia National Park*.

‘We’ll be at Dinas Emrys in five minutes,’ says their father, Frank. Frank is looking at a map of the national park.

‘Good,’ says their mother, Chris. She’s driving. ‘We can have lunch there.’

Parker’s parents are archaeologists. Dinas Emrys is an ancient fort. Chris and Frank are going to work there.

‘There’s the car park,’ says Frank.

Soon, the family are walking on the path to the fort. They all have their lunches in their backpacks. The path goes up ancient stone steps and through a big forest.

‘There’s a story in my book about this place, about Dinas Emrys,’ says Parker. He takes a small book out of his backpack. ‘The story is about Merlin, King Arthur’s wizard. I love stories about Merlin and King Arthur. And I love stories about magic and dragons.’

‘We know that!’ says his mother.

Parker tells Olivia, 'Emrys is Merlin's other name.'

Frank says, 'And Dinas means fort.'

Olivia says, 'So, Dinas Emrys is ... the fort of Merlin!'

'It's good to be here,' says Parker. He looks up at Snowdon. 'Merlin's asleep up there. I know he is.'

'That's what the old stories say,' says his father.

They walk across a small bridge. There are two paths ahead of them.

'Where do we go now?' Chris asks.

Olivia looks at a map in her book. 'That way.'

They walk for thirty minutes. The path goes up a hill. They climb over a stone wall.

'We're here!' says Chris.

'Where's the fort?' asks Parker.

'This is it,' Frank answers. 'Look at these stones. Mum and I are going to photograph these ancient walls and stones.'

The family walk over and look at the ancient stones. They sit and eat their lunch.

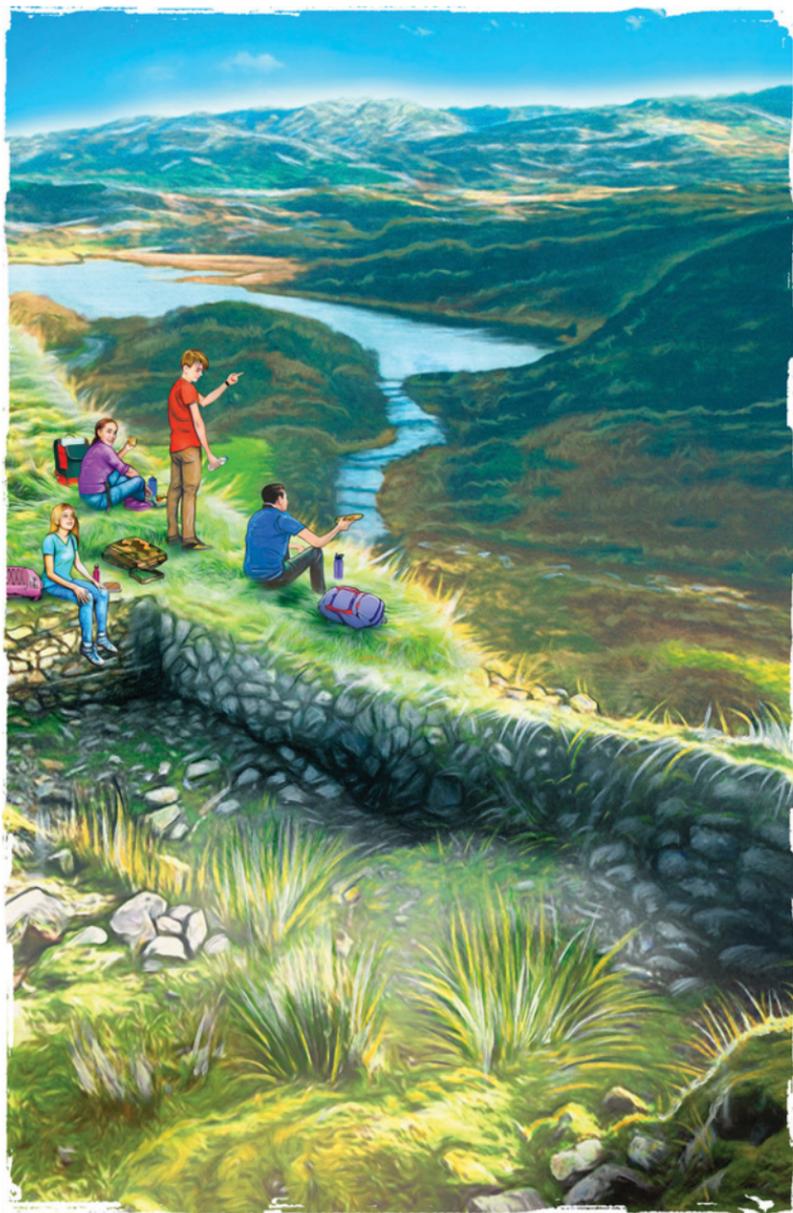
'Wow, look at the view!' says Parker. 'It's a great place for a fort.'

They are at the top of a large hill. They can see mountains, fields, forests and a big lake.

Chris says, 'We're here! At Vortigern's fort.' She looks at Frank and smiles.

'Who is Vortigern?' Olivia asks.

'Ah! I know who he is,' says Parker. 'Vortigern is in my book. He's the king. At the start of the story, King Vortigern builds a fort. But the walls of his fort fall down every night. Vortigern must stop the walls from falling down. He asks his wizard for help. A lot of people are looking at the



stones. Merlin is there too. He's a boy, and people call him Emrys.'

Parker opens his book. He reads to his family:

Vortigern's wizard says, 'King Vortigern, there is bad magic here.'

'Bad magic?' the king says. 'I must stop it.'

'To stop the bad magic, you must kill a boy with no father,' the wizard tells Vortigern. The wizard looks at Merlin. 'You must kill this boy. Kill him, or your walls are going to fall down every night.'

Merlin looks at the king. 'I have no father, King Vortigern. But don't kill me. I can stop these walls from falling down every night. It's not bad magic,' Merlin says. 'It is dragons. There are two dragons under your fort: a red dragon and a white dragon. They are asleep now. They sleep every day. But they fight every night. Their fighting makes the walls fall down every night.'

'Kill the boy!' says the king's wizard.

'Dig here,' says Merlin. 'Wake up the dragons.'

Vortigern looks at his wizard and at the young boy.

'Dig!' says Vortigern to his men.

Parker closes his book. He says, 'And soon, everyone sees the two dragons. The dragons wake up. They fight. The red dragon wins. And that dragon is the red dragon of Wales. At the end of the story, Vortigern wants to thank young Merlin. He names this place Dinas Emrys!'

This is the German version of **Merlin's Dragon**

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