

Year 1 English Home Learning - Week commencing 22 June 2020

Poetry

Thursday – The Battle of Hastings (by Marriott Edgar)

This poem is quite long, but tells the story of the Battle of Hastings. Not everything happened quite as the poet tells it. He changed a few things to make it funnier. It's written in what we call dialect and if you go to the website, Mr Wilkinson has tried to read it in that.

I'll tell of the Battle of Hastings,
As happened in days long gone by,
When Duke William became King of
England,
And 'Arold got shot in the eye.

It were this way - one day in October
The Duke, who were always a toff
Having no battles on at the moment,
Had given his lads a day off.

They'd all taken boats to go fishing,
When some chap in t' Conqueror's ear
Said 'Let's go and put breeze up the
Saxons;'
Said Bill - 'By gum, that's an idea.'

Then turning around to his soldiers,
He lifted his big Norman voice,
Shouting - 'Hands up who's coming to
England.'
That was swank 'cos they hadn't no
choice.

They started away about tea-time -
The sea was so calm and so still,
And at quarter to ten the next morning
They arrived at a place called Bexhill.

King 'Arold came up as they landed -
His face full of venom and 'ate -
He said 'If you've come for Regatta
You've got here just six weeks too late.'

At this William rose, cool but 'aughty,
And said 'Give us none of your cheek;
You'd best have your throne re-
upholstered,
I'll be wanting to use it next week.'

When 'Arold heard this 'ere defiance,
With rage he turned purple and blue,
And shouted some rude words in Saxon,
To which William answered - 'And you.'

'Twere a beautiful day for a battle;
The Normans set off with a will,
And when both sides was duly assembled,
They tossed for the top of the hill.

King 'Arold he won the advantage,
On the hill-top he took up his stand,
With his knaves and his cads all around
him,
On his 'orse with his 'awk in his 'and.

The Normans had nowt in their favour,
Their chance of a victory seemed small,
For the slope of the field were against
them,
And the wind in their faces an' all.

The kick-off were sharp at two-thirty,
And soon as the whistle had went
Both sides started banging each other
'Til the swineherds could hear them in
Kent.

The Saxons had best line of forwards,
Well armed both with buckler and sword -
But the Normans had best combination,
And when half-time came neither had scored.

So the Duke called his cohorts together
And said - 'Let's pretend that we're beat,
Once we get Saxons down on the level
We'll cut off their means of retreat.'

So they ran - and the Saxons ran after,
Just exactly as William had planned,
Leaving 'Arold alone on the hill-top
On his 'orse with his 'awk in his 'and.

When the Conqueror saw what had happened,
A bow and an arrow he drew;
He went right up to 'Arold and shot him.
He were off-side, but what could they do?

The Normans turned round in a fury,
And gave back both parry and thrust,
Till the fight were all over bar shouting,
And you couldn't see Saxons for dust.

And after the battle were over
They found 'Arold so stately and grand,
Sitting there with an eye-full of arrow
On his 'orse with his 'awk in his 'and.

Word Bank

'orse = horse

'awk = hawk

'aughty = haughty = acting posh (a bit rude)

Regatta = a sailing competition

swinehards = people who look after pigs

cohorts = teammates

retreat = escape

Today's task

Can you answer these questions about the poem?

1. Who are the kings in this poem?
2. Where did Duke William land?
3. "Nowt" is a word used in the North of England. What do you think it means?
4. The poet makes the battle sound like a football match. Why?
5. What happens at the end of the poem?
6. How do you think William feels at the end (remember, the words 'happy' and 'sad' are banned!)?
7. Can you draw a picture of the battle using the poem to help you?

Optional Extension: This poem is based on the Battle of Hastings. The Story of the Battle of Hastings is told in the **Bayeux Tapestry**. What can you find out about the Bayeux Tapestry?