



1st prize
11-13 years age
group

Name: Cameron B

Age: 12

Bio of author: My name is Cameron Bird, I am 12 years old, and I'm in year 6. I often write stories for my grandmother, and enjoy typing. I adore reading novels that have a twist or sense of suspense in them. I am an older brother to two spirited siblings. I am always telling them stories, improvising as I go along. I've worked very hard to get here. It would make my heart shine to see my siblings read a real book written by me.

Title: The Princess Strikes Back

Judge's notes: "SO MUCH FUN. A story showing brilliant imagination."

"Clever and imaginative."

"Cute idea and great twist on Princess story. Very fun, very clever!"

"Cute twist on the princess story formula."

"Fabulous concept of a Princess taking matters into her own hands - cleverly written by Cameron."

The Princess Strikes Back

The princess was bored. Every time George opened the book, she would sit there, helpless, as the bright red, sparkly, dragon scooped her up, and took her to his castle. And his castle was really luxurious! There was cooked food, and a bedroom with a curtain on the bed! So, all in all, a pretty good life.

Then, a few pages later, Sir 'I'm-so-handsome' came marching in, suddenly became friends with the dragon for no reason *whatsoever*, then flew up to the tower to take the princess to his castle, which wasn't fun at all. Not really the princess' style. The prince didn't even think about taking her back to her own castle, where her parents, King and Queen Beauty, sat grieving, believing their child had passed away. Then the book ended, with an extremely boring 'they all lived happily ever after'.

However, little George adored the story. He was only 3 years old, and that was just how he comprehended stories. But Mum and Dad, who read to him every night, were obviously tired of the young children's book. Little George had hundreds of books, but he picked the same one every night, for he didn't know the wonder of reading a new adventure. Then, the princess had an idea. What if she changed the storyline? Surely George would enjoy that! The princess smiled as a plan formed in her head.

"What story did you want me to read tonight, George?" asked Mum. Of course, she already knew the answer, he picked it every night. If only he would try something new, she thought.

“Princess Beauty and the Dragon!” George exclaimed.

“Here you go, George.” she replied, completely unprepared for what would come next.

As Mum opened the book, the princess got into position, making sure that George and Mum wouldn't notice anything. As the story was introduced, the princess marched out of her tower, and went over to the dragon's castle.

This was much to little George's delight and curiosity, and to Mum's bewilderment. At the end of each page, she would turn the book around to check that it was the same book. Was this really the same book? she thought curiously.

Once the princess got to the dragon's castle, she found the dragon warming up for his part, completely oblivious to the storyline change. “Hey dragon!” she called. The dragon looked over in bewilderment, puzzled by what he saw.

“Um...This isn't how the story goes...” he replied.

The princess smiled up at the dragon mischievously. “So, I had this idea...”

They sailed through the air, and it didn't take long for them to find the prince walking towards the dragon's castle.

The princess, the dragon, little George, and even Mum laughed aloud as they then proceeded to chase the prince into a large mud pit. This was much to little George's absolute delight and surprise. Mum looked at

her delighted son, and smiled warmly as he grabbed a new book, eager to hear a new adventure.