

The Story of Conor and Percy

(The dragon)

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Story One

Chapter 1: The Meeting

Once upon a fine summer day, not so far away...

A boy called Conor was with his Mum and Dad, working in the garden. Dad finished cutting the grass, put the lawnmower in the garden shed, then went indoors for a shower. Mum having finished putting the new flowers in, went indoors to get the tea ready, leaving Conor to water the flowers. Conor was filling the watering can with water, when he saw a small flame, under his dad's shed.

“OK” said Conor, “I'll use this water to put out that flame”. As he got close to the shed he heard a small voice saying, “Please don't splash me with water, it takes ages to dry out, and weeks to re-light my flame”. Conor knelt to look under the shed, where the voice had come from. Lo and behold, he saw a small green dragon, smaller than a sparrow. “You'd better come out before you set my Dad's shed on fire” said Conor.

Out came the dragon saying “Hello Conor, my name is Percy”. “Hello Percy, you seem a little small to be a grown up dragon” replied Conor. Percy puffed out his chest and said. “I will have you know that I am a full 3 inches long from nose to tail, and in six months time I will be an adult dragon, and be able to do all the things adult dragons do”.

“Why, Percy, how long is 3 inches, and how old are you ?”

“Oh I forgot you do not use the old measuring system, I am 18 centimetres long, and 99 years and 6 months old” replied Percy with a dragon smile.

“Why are you in our garden and under our shed ?” asked Conor.

“Well” replied Percy, “First, I thought I was lost, because as I was flying along a huge wind blew me off course, and I ended up in your garden. But that's where I was supposed to be. Also we dragons have to hide from cats when we sleep, so I am under your shed in my nice warm cosy nest. I made it from your Dad's grass cuttings”.

“What do you mean when you say you were supposed to be here “?” asked Conor. “well my Dad sent me, I will explain that later” replied Percy. Conor asked “How long have you been here? And what do Dragons eat ?”.

“Oh Conor, you ask so many questions, I've been here for 7 years, since the day you were born, waiting for you to find me. And so far I have been eating all sorts, also some of the bread you throw out for the birds, if I am quick I can beat them to the best bits, then I toast the bread with my flame, I really do like toast” said Percy.

Just then Mum called Conor to come in for his tea. “Oh, please stay Percy, while I bring my tea into the garden and we can share it between us”

“O.K. But you must promise not to tell anyone about me”.

“I promise” said Conor. This was the start of a firm friendship that would last for years and years.

They sat in the garden sharing a tuna sandwich and some coconut cake made by Nanny.

Chapter 2: About Dragons

Conor had now spent most of the summer holidays with Percy, and had learnt quite a lot about Dragons.

For instance, there were lots of different kinds of dragons and that most of them lived for hundreds of years. They were all shapes and sizes, though Percy thought that there were no longer any of the giant dragons left, the sort that had a hoard of gold and lived in caves, it seems they all died out, rather like Dinosaurs.

Dragons also had different names, like firebrakes and some were misnamed as dragons, such as the Kimono dragon which was really a giant lizard. Also among these were dragonflies, which really were insects. Percy also believed that lots of dragons lived in the Welsh mountains, because the Welsh flag had a dragon on it.

Percy showed Conor how he was able to change his colour, which let him blend into the background, so in the grass he was green, on the roof he could be red to match their tiles. If he flew sometimes he could be sky blue. He was able to move very quickly, which gave him the chance to hide before Conor's Mum or Dad could ever see him. Conor had kept his promise not to tell anyone about his friend Percy. Now that summer was coming to an end, and especially when it was raining, Conor took Percy into his bedroom and let him sleep at the end of his bed.

Percy also told Conor that he had a family and how he missed them, even though he was happy to stay with Conor for a few more months, until it reached his 100th birthday, when he was due to become an adult dragon.

Conor became upset at the thought of losing his new friend. Percy told Conor not to worry, as it was only going to be for a short time. "Anyway we dragons make our friends for life, I will always be your friend. It is just that when we reach 100yrs old, we have to attend a special meeting of dragons, there I will become a golden dragon."

Conor smiled and asked Percy "who was that other dragon, I have seen in the garden?".

At this question Percy changed to a bright red colour, and replied "Oh I did not think you had seen her! I guess that now you have, I had better tell you. We dragons are very set in our ways, it is our custom that lady dragons can choose their husbands, when they reach 75 years old. The dragon you saw is called Grace and she plans to marry me, not that I mind that at all. Its just that my Mum and her keep telling me about their plans for the wedding and that is a bit boring".

"When will that be?" asked Conor.

"Oh, about 10yrs after I become a golden dragon. Because Grace is only 90 years old, when she becomes 100 then she becomes a silver dragon, then she can marry." replied Percy, "So you can see why I am not really ready for plans, We have lots of time together before that happens".

Conor was happy with this answer.

They both settled down to a tea of pizza and crisps, and lemonade.

Chapter 3: Percy Helps

The summer holidays from school were finished, Conor would be moving up a class year when he returned to school. In one way Conor was pleased, because he would be able to meet up with all his friends in his class, as they were all moving up a class together.

But Conor was a bit worried about not being with Percy all day, so he asked Percy. “Do you think you could come to school with me and meet my friends ?”

Percy thought about this for a while before answering, “I cannot come everyday, but I will come with you every now and then. You must keep your promise not to tell anyone about me. Because if anyone knows about me, I shall have to leave. So you can see how important it is to keep our secret.”.

Conor agreed not to tell anyone about Percy, for fear of losing his, by now, best friend.

On the first day back at school, Conor had a new outfit of trousers, shoes and school polo shirt and jumper, so he looked quite smart. He went with his mum on a bus, whilst Percy rode on the roof, changing his colour to red, so that nobody would notice him. When they got off at their bus stop Percy flew from tree to tree so quickly he could not be seen. As they arrived at school Percy settled down in a tree just outside the playground and watched as Conor met up with his school friends.

At playtime, Conor looked carefully at the tree outside and saw that Percy was still there, but did not wave or draw anyone's attention to his dragon. Conor joined in a game of football with his friends, when an older boy started to push Conor. Conor tried to get away but the older boy chased him. When, as quick as a flash Percy flew past the bully boy's ear, breathing warm air on to his ear.

“What was that ? “the bully said, “I did not see anything” replied Conor.

By this time Conor's friends had gathered around the Bully, telling him to leave Conor alone. This brought a Teacher over to find out what was happening, a girl told the teacher about the big boy bully. The teacher made the bully say sorry and he and Conor shook hands. The Bully became another friend to Conor.

When Conor and Percy came home, Conor thanked Percy for his help during his first school day. “That's all right, what are friends for, if not to help out now and then? Plus you have a new friend”.

Conor smiled and asked “Do you think as my best friend, you could help with my homework ?”

Percy remained silent while they ate their cheese sandwich, toasted of course by Percy. Then he said “You must do it yourself, but if you really need help, then I will help you”.

They then finished off by eating a biscuit and drinking Cola.

Chapter 4: Percy's Family

Conor had been at school for a few weeks now, still playing and practising football. He was also doing reasonably well in his lessons. But he was looking forward to the half-term holiday, so he could spend more time with his friend Percy.

Sadly Percy had to tell Conor that as he was now nearly 100 yrs old, he was almost due to return home for the dragon meeting. This was the meeting where Percy would be granted his adulthood and be allowed to become a golden dragon. This also meant Percy could practice the dragon magic he had learned. So it was a very important time for Percy.

Conor was sad about this but knew how much it meant to Percy. “Do you think that there may be any chance I could come with you Percy ? I would love to see you become a golden dragon”. Asked Conor. Percy took a long time before he answered, scratching his head, at last he answered. “Well I suppose there might be a special reason, because the meeting takes place at somewhere you already know of, also one of your family is already invited. So let me see what I can do. We will talk about it later”.

Meanwhile Conor asked “How did you get the name Percy ?”

Percy explained “As I told you earlier, we dragons are set in our ways, so naming is part of our custom. You see my Dad is called Oliver, my Granddad is Norman, so the name of my son will probably be Quinton. We are named in Alphabetical order, my full name is Percy, the fifth, Pindragon. I am the fifth dragon to have this name. So know you have an idea of how long dragons have been around for. Our history goes back at least 20,000 years, and possibly a lot longer”.

Conor had a problem trying to imagine this length of time. All he could say was “Wow”.

Conor thought for a little while before asking Percy anything else, but in the end could not stop himself from asking two questions.

“Percy I have two questions to ask of you, the first is you told me that your Dad sent you here, why was that? The second question is, who in my family would be invited to you 100th birthday?”.

Percy had not realised that he had given these clues away to Conor but now knew he would have to give away a secret. “Conor, you are my best friend and I cannot refuse to answer your questions, because dragons are not able to tell lies. My family of dragons have been loyal friends to your family for untold years. But because we live so much longer than humans, our friendship skips a generation. So my Dad is your granddads dragon friend, that is why he sent me to you. Now you can guess who in your family is invited to my 100th. Obviously it is your granddad. Before you ask, the dragon meeting is at his house in the country”.

So, thought Conor, all I need do is get an invite to visit my granddad during the half-term holiday, and I can get to see Percy become a golden dragon.

He seemed quite happy now,

They finished off their ham and tomato sandwich, followed by apple juice.

Chapter 5: Granddads Part

Conor and Percy, (secretly), were taken to Conor's Granddad and Nanny's house. Which was in a village in the country. They had a good size garden with lots of trees around the edge. Conor had asked to stay for a few days, this gave his Mum and Dad a chance to go away for a short holiday together, so they were pleased about that.

As soon as they were alone Conor asked his Granddad about dragons, but his Granddad took Conor into the garden, once there Percy introduced his family to Conor. His mum Pat, Dad Oliver and his younger brother Quincy.

Quincy was only 50yrs old and had lots more to learn. The whole family were interested in Conor, and asked him polite questions. Which Conor was pleased to answer as best he could.

The family lived in Granddads shed, having several shelves set aside for their use. Granddad had cleared and cleaned the shed out. Also it was freshly painted, because this was where the dragon meeting was going to take place. Food and drink had been made ready and there were plenty of treats for the dragon guests. So everything was prepared for the great meeting of dragons.

“How long have you and the family known of dragons Granddad ?”. Conor asked.

Granddad replied “I myself have known Oliver for some 70yrs, we met when I was 5yrs old.

Oliver had been sent by my Granddad Henry on the day I was born, but Oliver waited until I was 5 years old to let me know he was there. Dragons have been with our family for a very long time, they are the most loyal friends you could ever have. It was generations ago when our first family member found a dragon, who had been hurt rather badly, I think it was a farming accident. Well our family member took the dragon home , there he cared for and nursed the dragon back to full health. It appears that it took several years to cure him.”

“That was the start of a long friendship with dragons it has stayed the same for all the years in between then and now. The dragons choose which family member to befriend, usually grandparent to grandchild. So we are lucky to have been chosen”.

“We are only allowed to tell another member of the family, if they also have a dragon friend. So my Granddad told me, and I am telling you, but you will have to wait until you have a Grandson to tell, which will be along time”.

Before the big dragon meeting, the dragon family, with Conor and Granddad, had their tea of Jam sandwiches, fruit cake and fruit squash.

Chapter 6: Golden Percy

Nanny had gone out for the day, this allowed Conor and Granddad to prepare the shed for the dragon meeting. They put in a wooden board that nearly filled all the space in the shed. Then they covered all the windows but for one, then made an entrance in the door, rather like a small cat flap, to let the dragons in. They put in night lights, which the dragons could light with their flames, when they were ready. Finally they arranged a bench outside the only uncovered window, with cushions for them to sit on in comfort.

The last touch was to cover their seating area with a waterproof sheet, to keep them dry in case it rained. As Granddad explained, he and Conor could watch what happened, but were not to be part of the meeting.

There was a small ledge inside the window, on this sat Percy, his Mum, his Dad and his younger brother. All of them just in front of Conor and Granddad, the dragon family turned and waved at them. Everything was as ready as could be, when with a flash of light in came a pure white dragon wearing a small gold crown. Conor gasped at the sight of this wonder.

Granddad leaned over to Conor, "That is the king of all the dragons, he is Norman, father of Oliver and Grandfather of Percy".

"Do you mean my Percy is a *prince!*" asked Conor. "Oh yes and Grace is a princess, one day Percy will be king of dragons. Quiet now, it begins" said Granddad.

With that 50 golden dragons entered the shed, followed by 50 silver dragons. They lined up along the sides of the board facing one another. Shortly after 100 dragons of every colour rushed into the shed and took their places on the shelves.

Among them was Grace all shining in a rich blue colour, she flew to Percy's side and kissed him hard. This gathered a lot of clapping and whooping from the younger dragons, making Percy blush a bright red face. Everyone else smiled.

Now it was time, Percy stood at one end of the board, Norman the king stood at the other end. Percy started to slowly walk between the rows of gold and silver dragons, they breathed gentle flames all over Percy.

As he walked his green colour was burned off to a deep brown colour, he continued to walk as the flames now burned off the brown colour and a dull gold could be seen coming through. By the time he reached the king at the other end, Percy was a golden dragon, everyone cheered and clapped, they were so happy for Percy, now a full grown dragon. There were lots of speeches and handshakes.

Followed by the feast Granddad had laid out for them, then some dancing and singing. Slowly the dragons left for their own homes, leaving the Pindragon family alone with Conor and Granddad.

The king dragon thanked Conor and Granddad for their help, which allowed the meeting to go well. Percy leaned toward Conor and said "Thank you my best friend, we have such great adventures to come".

Then they sat around eating Fish fingers and chips with chocolate biscuits to follow. (Well it was a special day).

The End of Story One...

Story Two

Chapter 1: After The Meeting

Conor and Percy had now returned home, after the Dragon Meeting, where Percy had been made into a fully grown up dragon. He was now 9 cm's long, which is the biggest his type of dragon could be, as well as a shining gold colour.

Conor noticed the Percy was acting in a strange manner. Percy was prancing up and down in front of a window, stopping every now and then to puff up his chest and flap his wings. Also twirling around on one foot and looking over his shoulder. This had been going on for almost ½ an hour. It was then, that Conor realised that Percy was admiring his reflection in the window. Conor said “ Percy, you are such a show off, parading and admiring your reflection in the window. I would have thought you have seen enough of yourself during your 100yr lifetime”. “Ah but I was not a golden dragon before was I ? So I am looking at the new me”. replied Percy.

Conor asked Percy if gold was the only colour he would be. “No”, answered Percy,” We dragons can choose the colour we would like to be. Before we are 100yr old our normal colour is green, after we reach 100yrs our normal colour is gold. But we can all change colour all of our lives. The only colour we cannot be is white. Because that is the colour of our King”. Conor, reminded Percy that he had promised to show Conor, some of the dragon magic you learned before he reached 100 yr old. “ So I did” said Percy, “I will show you only one piece of magic today. Now, hold your hand out”. Which Conor did and Percy flew up to sit on Conor's hand. “Now Conor, I want you to close your eyes and count to 3, before you open them”. Conor counted to 3 and opened his eyes and could not see Percy, though he still feel him sitting on his hand.

Percy proved he was still there by pulling up Conor's little finger, and laughing while he did it. “Oh Percy, you are invisible, you really are !”. Cried out Conor. Percy replied “ Yes I truly am invisible, this is some of the dragon magic I told you about and promised to show you. Now, you know why, not a lot of adult dragons are ever seen, because we can make ourselves disappear”.

Conor asked Percy if he would come to school with him, especially now he could become invisible, so nobody would be able to see him. Percy agreed to come, because he wanted to find out if he could remain invisible for a whole day. He felt it was worth trying. So that was settled. But they did not know what trouble that might be for them.

Conor and Percy sat down for a tea of Spaghetti Bolognese. Conor thought this was great fun, watching Percy sucking up a long strand of spaghetti, which when it came to the end, splashed tomato sauce all over Percy's face. It was a good job Percy had such a long tongue, as it allowed him to lick himself clean.

Chapter 2: Schoolday

It was a Friday and Conor was being taken to School in his Dad's car. When Conor got into the car, with the invisible Percy, his Dad made sure Conor was in his "Booster" seat and had his safety belt on. For Percy this was the first time he had been in a car, he usually rode on top holding on to the aerial, so he asked about the seat belt. Conor eased the belt back a little so that Percy could share it with him. Then off they went to School.

Percy said " I like the Greek heroes, I hope we hear about them today, my favourite is the Odyssey, with Odysseus and his adventures". Conor replied that they had already been taught about this so doubted they would have that in lessons. They entered the school and Conor showed Percy where he hung his coat, before going into the classroom. The lesson was to be about Fairy Stories, Percy said " My Great Granddad Mathew, he was called Matt by the family, knew Rumpelstiltskin. He was a horrible little man with a long beard". " Oh, come on Percy you are making it up" said Conor. At which point the teacher said "Conor, are you talking ?". "Sorry" replied Conor and the lesson continued, without Conor or Percy interrupting.

At lunch break Conor went into the dining area with his friends, with Percy, still invisible, perched on his shoulder. When they all sat down to eat, one of Conor's friends said "You have been a little strange today, are you alright?". Conor replied that he was. When he made his big mistake, he had cut off a small piece of his dinner, put it on a fork and lifted to his shoulder, when it disappeared. Of course he was sharing with Percy. One of his friends said "How did you do that ?". Percy said quietly into Conor's ear, "It is no good pretending, you will have to tell them". Conor said to his friends, "I will tell you in the playground after we have eaten our meal".

The friends gathered about Conor in the playground, he asked them to close in so nobody else could see, he then asked them all to promise not to tell anyone, about the secret he was sharing with them. They all clasped hands and made a promise never to tell. Then Conor asked Percy to sit on his hand and make himself visible to his best friends. This Percy did and appeared as a shining, bright golden dragon. All of Conor's friends gasped with amazement at the appearance of a dragon in their circle. They decided to call it a magic circle, Percy promised to come into the magic circle every Friday at playtime. The friends also decided that they would form a Percy club, with Percy as the head of the group. This was how the Percy club came to be a group of friends with a secret.

Percy and Conor went home, where they talked about the day's events. They thought that it ended up alright, and were sure none of the group would tell of their secret. They settled down to jam sandwiches and a glass of milk. They also agreed that they had to be more careful in future.

Chapter 3: Magic circle

It was Friday morning again, the day Percy had promised the magic circle, that he would meet them at playtime. So Conor and Percy set off for school in Dad's car. "You seem more eager than usual to get to school Conor" said Dad. "Well Friday is a good day to go to school" replied Conor. Whilst the invisible Percy had a quiet giggle about it. Dad set Conor down in the playground outside the school building, telling him to be a good boy. "I will" said Conor waving goodbye to his Dad as he and Percy entered school.

The Percy club members, all close friends of Conor, could hardly contain their excitement while waiting for playtime to come around. Then they would be meeting Percy for the second time. The lessons seemed to take forever, but at last playtime came. They gathered around in their usual circle, in a quiet corner, then Percy appeared before them. They were full of all sorts of questions for him, but the main one was about colour changing. So Percy changed, while they watched, from a gold to a bright red, then to a deep brown, before returning to his normal golden colour. He then showed a few tricks, where he made a pokerman card disappear and reappear. Much to all their delight.

One of them asked about Rumpelstiltskin, because this had got Conor in trouble. Percy then told them the tale that his Great-Granddad had told him, when Percy was a child dragon. "Long ago and far away, my Great-granddad, Matt, lived in small village. It was within a valley that was surrounded by mountains. Streams came down the mountains to fill a large lake. In the village lived a small nasty man called Rupert, when anyone tried to be friendly to him he was very rude to them. So people stopped trying to be friends. Rupert lived in a cave, part way up a mountain, where he kept a flock of sheep. One day Rupert noticed flecks of gold in the river, he rushed home and got a sheepskin, which he then pegged onto the bottom of the river. He left there for a few months, then came back to find it covered in tiny pieces of gold, washed down from the mountain".

Percy continued the story. "Now Rupert had to find something to do with the sheepskin, but in his selfish way he decided it would make a splendid jacket, but how to make it? So he crept down to the village and grabbed the Mayor's wife, he took her back to his cave and imprisoned her. Right said Rupert, if you want to eat and drink, you must make me a coat of this sheepskin. The Mayor's wife agreed, she made Rupert a coat, that was shining in gold. But the village people were very angry as they could not find her. My Great granddad, few everywhere, in his invisible state of course, and found her. He unlocked her door and locked Rupert in".

"Rupert was found out and the villagers locked him up again, this time in jail. He was brought up before the Mayor in the morning. When somebody said, "Look at Rupert in his crumpled sheepskin". From that day on he was called Rupert the rumpled sheepskin. He was punished by having to sweep the village streets for a year".

When they got home Conor laughed and laughed at Percy's version of the story of Rumpelstiltskin. They sat down for their tea of toasted muffins and lemonade.

Chapter 4: Snow

Conor went to school on a really snowy day, there was lots of it and quite deep. Percy enjoyed the snow, because he did not feel the cold. During the playtime period there was a lot of snowball fighting going on. Percy had great fun, he gathered his snowballs and flew above the children playing below, then dropped them like small bombs onto their heads. Luckily nearly all of them had a hat or a hood on their coats, this was their protection from Percy's bombardment.

Later Conor told Percy that the school had an Inset day, so only the teachers were at school and the pupils had a day off. Percy started to laugh, Conor asked why Percy thought it was funny. Percy replied " Why would the teachers teach Ants and Bugs and things?". Conor said "Of course they don't, what gave you that idea ?". " Well you did say it was an Insect day" said Percy. Now it was Conor's turn to laugh, " I said Inset day, not Insect day". Replied Conor, and they both laughed.

Conor told Percy, that as they had a day off school the next day. Granddad and Nanny were coming to collect them that evening, so they would spent the night and the next day with them. This would give Percy the chance to have time with his family. It would also allow Conor to ask his Granddad more questions about dragons. So both of them were pleased and looked forward to the visit.

Conor told Granddad all about the Percy club at school, Granddad explained that not all dragons had human friends, some dragons did not want to be bothered, but others would like to try. One of these was Quincy, Percy's younger brother. So Granddad said he would ask Oliver what he thought about it. It was agreed that Quincy would go home with Conor and Percy, then meet the members of the Percy club on Friday. The Plan was for Quincy to spend one week with each member in turn, this would give everyone a chance to get to know about dragons. Also Quincy would learn about humans and at the end of this time, he would make up his mind whether to become friends or not.

Conor's Granddad had had dragons for about seventy years, with an entire dragon family staying with him. Granddad was used to them and by now knew all their ways and customs. He told Conor " Dragons live by a simple set of rules. 1) Do not lie. 2) Be loyal to friends and family. 3) Don't hurt anyone. 4) Help others when you can.". But to get along with dragons, the most important thing is to like them, then they will like you back.

Conor and Percy as well as his family enjoyed a Burger and bun. They agreed that the day had gone very well. Quincy was looking forward to his new adventure with the Percy club.

Chapter 5: Christmas

The Christmas holiday had come and Conor, Percy and Quincy were getting really keen on the arranged visit to Granddad and Nanny's home, for a few days. Mum and Dad had made the preparations and they were ready to go. So everyone got into the car and off they set. When they arrived they found that Conor's Auntie and Grand Auntie were already there. Granddad had, as usual said Nanny had "Gone over the top, with the decorations". There were colours everywhere and a lovely decorated Christmas tree, with lots of lights. " I like Christmas" Conor said.

Percy and Quincy rejoined their family, who had so many questions for both of them. Quincy told them about his new made friends among the Percy club. Percy made them laugh about Rupert Ruffled Sheepskin and the Insect day at Conor's school. So their parents Oliver and Pat were very happy that everything had gone well during their son's visit to Conor's home. They all looked forward to the special feasts that Granddad was getting ready for them.

They all had their evening meal, then Conor, Nanny, his Auntie and Great Auntie, sat at the table and played games, the one Conor enjoyed most was Monopoly, I guess that was because he won! Conor helped Granddad to make up his special bed. Then Granddad told him some nice stories about the dragons and their adventures. He also asked Conor not to get up too early the next day, which was Christmas day, so they set the alarm for 8 am. They decided that was early enough. Even though Conor was awake long before that, he waited until 8.

Conor went through the house making sure everyone was awake, he dashed downstairs and there under the tree were lots of parcels wrapped in colourful paper, he whooped in delight. The adults seemed so slow in coming downstairs, but at least Conor had a Christmas stocking to start with, this contained small gifts and chocolate money, so that kept him happy until everyone arrived. The previous night Conor had left out some food and drink for Father Christmas, it was all gone, with just a few crumbs left behind. They all had plenty of nice things to eat and drink, with lots of presents to unwrap, so the day went by very quickly.

Later on Conor and Percy had some quiet time together when Conor asked Percy "Do you believe in Father Christmas?". Percy thought long and hard before he answered. " Well Conor that is a very difficult question to answer properly. Let me explain, you sometimes believe in things you can't see, say for instance you know you can see the stars when it is dark. But you can't see them in the daytime, yet you know they are there. Sometimes when I am invisible you know I am there. So all I can tell you is that Father Christmas is as real as I am". Conor seemed to be satisfied with this answer.

They both sat together, Percy and Conor eating mince pies and drinking lemonade

The End of Story Two...

Story 3:

The Stone Dragon

It was a wet and rainy Saturday, Conor and Percy were watching one of Conor's DVD's for the second time. Conor declared he was bored. Percy asked him if he would like to hear a dragon story. "Yes I would like that very much". Said Conor, turning off the T.V. Percy said Conor would have to imagine the setting of this story. Many miles away, about a Days flying time by aeroplane, there was a large Island. Most of the Island was very Mountainous and covered in dense jungle, as well as being very hot, even when it rains like today. Then Percy started the dragons tale, Conor laughed saying "Its a Tale, not a tail". Percy responded by saying "But it is as long as a dragons tail".

Part way up the highest mountain was a huge cave, the mouth of the cave was as wide as 10 Buses alongside each other and as high as 10 Buses on top of each other. In this cave lived the very last, giant golden dragon. He was responsible for looking after the last 3 dragon eggs, which contained 3 dragonettes. He could not be sure they would hatch, he hoped so because it would continue the family line of dragons. It took 25 years for a dragon egg to hatch, he had already waited 16 years, so it was only 9 years to go. As was traditional, this dragon had a secret horde of treasure, containing gold and jewels and lots of other valuable things. Many people had tried to get his treasure over the years, none had succeeded. He used his dragon magic to make them forget where his cave was.

There was a spoilt prince on the Island called Carls, he was used to having anything he wanted, he had heard of the dragons gold and he wanted it for himself. He went to the palace library and bullied the gentle Librarian into showing him the oldest books about dragons. The books were covered in dust, as nobody had looked at them for ages. These books were very precious and rare, but the prince did not care and threw them on the floor when he could not find what he wanted. Then the prince spotted one book that he had left, on the highest shelf in the Library. He clambered up and fetched it down, there in the middle of the book was map. This was the map to the dragons cave, the prince tore it out and raced out of the Library. Leaving the Librarian in tears.

The prince kicked the stable boy and told him to prepare his war horse. Meanwhile he charged around the palace, getting his best armour polished, until it gleamed like new. Then he dressed in his metal armour and placed his helmet on his head. He armed himself with a long lance and buckled on his great sword. His sister princess Kaitee, asked him where he was going, all dressed up for a battle. The prince rudely told her to mind her own business, it was nothing to do with her. He rode out of the palace leaving a trail of dust behind him. He checked on the map and set off to the dragons cave.

When he reached the cave, he called out for the dragon to leave his cave and face up to the prince. The prince was not prepared to see just how big the dragon was, but he dug his spurs into the horse side ordering him to charge at the dragon. The dragon had an amused look on its face, then he breathed on the horse which promptly fell asleep. The prince fell from the horse and on foot ran at the dragon with his lance pointed at the dragon. The dragon breathed a flame, which set light to the lance turning it into ash. The prince was really angry, he unsheathed his great sword and aimed it at the dragons head. The dragon sent out another flame which melted the sword. Now the prince was terrified, he had come to kill the dragon, now it looked like the dragon would kill him!

The dragon looked the prince up and down, “Well he said, you came to kill me and take my treasure, can you tell me why I should let you live ?” The prince was shaking in his shoes, he had never had to ask for anything, he just took what he wanted, now he had to ask for his life. “ Sir dragon, I will promise never to come back, or tell anyone where you live. Anyway you have already set fire to the map I had and there was only one of them”. The dragon sighed, “what you could do for me, is to let me have a musician, to stay with me for a month. Then I will let you go”. The prince rapidly agreed, mounting his horse he rode away as fast as he could.

When he got back to the palace, his sister asked where he had been. The prince was still angry about what had happened, so he slyly told his sister he had seen something truly amazing in the jungle. If she wanted to see it they would have to hurry. Princess Kaitee was excited by this and agreed to go with him. He lifted her on to his saddle and they raced back to the Dragons cave. Once they got there Carls tied Kaitee to a tree then ran away before the dragon saw him. Kaitee cried out to her brother to come back.

She then saw the dragon emerge from his cave and slowly approach her, he stopped a little way away from her. Kaitee, who had more courage than her mean brother, asked the dragon what he wanted. The dragon smiled, with what he thought was his nicest smile, then asked if she could play any musical instruments. Kaitee laughed and said “Yes, I can play a violin and also a harp”. “Oh, good, good. We can make music together, I will sing and you will accompany me. After dinner of course”. “ I wondered if I was going to be dinner” replied Kaitee. “Certainly not, we giant dragons are vegetarians”. The dragon untied Kaitee, and they entered his cave. In the cave was a lake that the dragon liked to swim in, Kaitee enjoyed it too. Sometimes in the evening when it was dark the dragon flew above the mountains and Kaitee rode on his back. They were having a great time, even though the dragon had a nice voice, Kaitee did not think it was that good.

While Kaitee was enjoying herself, there was uproar in the palace the King and Queen, had everyone searching for the princess. The prince remained silent about what he had done to her. At last the King decided to send for Nilrem, even though he was young, he was the most powerful magician on the Island. Nilrem was known to be very wise and knew lots of things and was able to cure most peoples illness. He came to the palace one evening and the King gave a feast in his honour, then explained that the princess had disappeared, asking Nilrem for his help in finding her. Nilrem agreed to do his best.

After the meal Nilrem went to visit his old friend, the Librarian and saw the terrible state the library was in, he asked who did it. The librarian told him it was prince Carls. He also told of the map of the dragons cave that was torn out and taken by the prince. Nilrem wanted to see the book, while he was reading it, the prince had crept up and was listening at the door. Nilrem told the librarian that there was a powerful spell in the book, one that could turn a dragon to stone, if you called out his name and I know his name is Biran. Overhearing this the prince tip-toed away, knowing he could hurt the dragon. But he did not hear the rest of the conversation, where Nilrem said, “ Of course it only works if you are pure in heart”.

The dragon and the princess were getting along very well, once after their musical evening, the dragon said with a touch of pride, "You may not know this, but my voice was classically trained". The princess laid down her violin, and looked at the dragon, saying "Well, I guess you have not been able to practice very much". Just then they heard a lot of shouting outside the cave, when they went to find out what was happening. Carls, Kaitee's brother appeared. "Oh good, you have come back to get me" said Kaitee. "No way, you can stay here forever as far as I care, I have come back to teach this dragon a lesson". With that said Carls stood in front of the dragon and yelled at the top of his voice "Barin, Barin, Barin" and laughed as he waited for the dragon to turn to stone. It did not work, because he did not have a pure heart. He started to panic and tried to run away, only to find that his legs had gone solid, he was turning to stone and he was completely stone within minutes. Kaitee started to cry, "What has happened to him? Can you help him please?". The dragon sighed, saying "I am sorry, but there is nothing I can do, he caused it to happen himself".

Meanwhile, Nilrem, who had found another map within the old book, was making his way through the jungle with two horses. When he found Carls war horse beside the path, he took the horses reins and carried on with three horses. At last he reached the mountain where the dragon lived. When he noticed a statue that looked like Carls, then he worked it out, Carls must have tried the spell on the dragon and it had failed. Nilrem climbed the mountain to get to the cave, when an owl flew out. It is well known that owls and magicians work well together. Nilrem asked the owl why he was leaving the cave. The owl Replied "It is bad enough when the dragon sings, but when he sleeps on his back he snores, nobody can sleep". "What about the princess" asked Nilrem. "She is O.K. she stuffs cloth in her ears". This was not really the answer Nilrem expected.

Nilrem entered the cave and woke up Kaitee, "Who are you". She asked. Nilrem explained that the King had sent him to find and return Kaitee to the palace. "I cannot go back without my brother" Kaitee exclaimed. With all this talk going on the dragon awoke. "Why hello Nilrem, what are you doing here?". Nilrem explained that the King and Queen were worried about their daughter and had sent him to find her. "You have, so what happens next?". asked the dragon. Nilrem thought about it and suggested, that they could find a solution to their problems.

What this powerful magician did, was to shrink the Golden dragon down to just 3 inches long. Then he shrunk the eggs and made them hatch, one egg had twin girl dragons, the other two eggs had a boy dragon in each. Nilrem then closed the cave, so nobody could ever enter it again. Of course he removed the treasure first. Barin gave some to Nilrem and kept the rest. Now the dragon and his new family could easily hide from treasure hunters. To finish Nilrem changed Carls from stone to human, Carls was so grateful he became a nicer person altogether. The humans mounted their horses and rode back to the palace, where they got a joyful arrival. They swore never to tell what had happened, they only said that Kaitee got lost.

"That was how our type of dragons started" said Percy, as he and Conor tucked into crisps and Cola.

The Stone Dragon (part 2)

This day Conor had been unwell, so his Mum had told him to stay in bed for the day. His Dad stayed to look after him, working from home. After a while Conor wanted to get up, but he was not allowed to. He was becoming better and feeling bored. He asked Percy to tell him more about the stone dragon. So Percy proceeded with the story.

Things had changed at the palace, Nilrem and Kaitie were seen everywhere together, The King and Queen hoped for a royal wedding, so did everyone else, the reason being that if there was a wedding. Everybody had a week's holiday, during which there was lots of feasts and games. The games included horse-racing, wrestling, foot races, discus throwing and lots more. So everyone kept a close eye on Nilrem, hoping he would ask Kaitee to marry him. Prince Carls was spending his time helping in the Library, cleaning the dusty books and fixing the shelving. There was one book that was no longer there, it was the one with the dragon spells in it, that was because Nilrem had kept it safely locked up. The Librarian was pleased with the work, he also had 2 young ladies helping out, though he suspected they were more interested in the prince, than the books.

Once a week Nilrem and Kaitee, sneaked away from the palace, taking a horse each and a spare horse to carry Nilrem's Viola and Kaitee's Violin, it also had a picnic basket with lots of nice things within it, though no meat, because the dragons they were meeting were of course vegetarians. This weekly trip was for them to enjoy the company of dragons, as well as having a musical concert.

The older dragon, Biran, in later history was called the ZA dragon, as he was the last large dragon and the first small dragon. So he the end and the beginning, like the letters in the alphabet. Which was Due to Nilrem's magic spells. When the dragon eggs hatched, Biran decided to call the twin girl dragons RaRa and ReRe, the 2 boys he called Adam and Alan. They asked if there was truly a stone dragon. Biran told them to wait for Nilrem and Kaitee to come and he would tell the story of the stone dragon.

At last Nilrem and Kaitee arrived, they laid out the picnic, it was as always a delightful day. They played their music, Nilrem on the Viola, Kaitee on the violin, RaRa with the recorder and ReRe the flute. Biran and the boys sang, as always they thought their singing was better than it was. Biran explained that the dragon family were now able to return to the cave, even though the boulders closed the mouth of the cave. They were now small enough to find a way through and they had restored their treasure to its proper place. But the young dragons were impatient for the story, so Biran agreed to tell it to them.

Well it all happened about 60 years ago and about 100 miles north of here, there lived another large dragon, he was called Grim the Grey, he was a really grumpy dragon. He had one dragon egg to look after, but did not do his duty properly. Anyway, he used to set fire to the local villagers houses and burn their fields of corn. He was an unpleasant dragon, nobody liked him. When the villagers re-built their homes and planted their crops. This dragon would attack them again, sometimes really hurting people. The villagers could not take any more, so they sent the village headman to see the old king.

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The King listened to the sad story the village headman told, then after a lot of thought, decided to send for the greatest Magician on the island. (This happened to be Nilrems Granddad). His name was Artur and he lived by the seaside, in small but very deep cave. A cave he shared with Bats and Owls, as well as a large library of old books. Most of the books were written by previous magicians, who gathered as much knowledge as they could. When the messenger arrived, he told Artur about the dragon problem. Artur sent the messenger back to the king, telling him that Artur would be coming along soon. Meanwhile Artur sorted out through his books to find the one on dragon spells, when he found it he read through it as quickly as he could. At last he found what he wanted, then set off for the palace.

When he came to the palace the king gave him his fastest horse, so that he could get to the village as speedily as he could, Artur got to the village just as the dragon had finished attacking them again. Artur used his skills to cure the sick and help repair the damage. He was really angry at the dragon. He asked for directions to the dragons cave, the people begged him not to go, it was so dangerous, but Artur insisted. So one brave young boy called Alex, would act as his guide, Alex showed the path up the mountain that led to the dragons cave. When they got near to the cave, Artur told the boy to go home now,. The boy pretended to go, but hid behind a huge rock.

Artur approached the dragons cave, when the dragon roared out "Who is there?". Artur replied "Someone for you to fear". The dragon laughed at that and raised himself to his full height, taller than 20 men, then he breathed a large flame at Artur. Artur stood still and weaved a protective spell around himself, the flames did not touch him. "Dragon, you must stop you attacks on the villagers". "Of course not, and when my egg hatches, then the villagers will have 2 dragons to worry about" replied the dragon. Artur could see there was no point talking to the dragon. So he pointed his wand at him and repeated his name three times. "Grim, Grim, Grim". Then the dragon and the egg which was about to hatch turned to stone. The boy Alex rushed forward and hugged Artur, thanking him for saving the village.

Artur returned to the village where he was greeted as their hero. How ever can we thank you said the headman. Artur asked that when they harvested their crop, later that year and every year from then on, that they sent him a loaf of bread. They agreed and asked him to stay as their guest for a little while, that Artur did. Barin looked at Nilrem, saying " That is where your Granddad met your Grandmother, also why you will never go without bread. It was all because your Granddad was so brave". The dragons and Kaitee clapped, for it was a fine story.

Percy had finished telling his tale. He had some news to tell Conor. " I must leave you for a few months". Conor was not ready for this and asked why. "Well, I have to go away with my Dad and my Granddad, the king of dragons. As a future king I have lots to learn and they are the only ones who can teach me". Conor accepted that Percy had to go, so before he went. They had Percy's favourite, jam on toast and a glass of milk

The End of Story Three...