

# WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SEVENTH THORN? (SCALE)

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## Definitions

|        |                                    |  |
|--------|------------------------------------|--|
| Scale: | an instrument for weighing         | The scale showed Susie's weight was perfect. |
| Scale: | small plate coverings as on a fish | It was difficult to remove the fish scales.  |
| Scale: | to climb                           | Jake tried to scale the slippery mountain.   |
| Scale: | graduated series of musical tones  | Practice your scales on the piano.           |

Setting: King Foo's Courtyard; the house of the Wise One; Lonely Mountain

## Characters:

Narrator

King Foo

Palo, his son

The Wise Ones

Fierce Dragon

**Narrator:** Once upon a time, Palo, the son of King Foo, was practicing scaling the highest peak in the kingdom. The loud sound of the conch shell called him home. He scurried down the mountain as fast as he could and swiftly ran into his father's courtyard.

**King Foo:** My son, come kneel at my feet. I have a very important task for you.

**Palo:** Yes, Father. Whatever you wish, I will do.

**King Foo:** My people are telling me day after day, that Fierce Dragon is ruining their fields and the cattle. You are a very smart young man. Do you think you can stop the dragon?

**Palo:** Father, I will go to the Wise Ones and listen to their advice.

**King Foo:** A brilliant idea, my son. Before you leave, let me weigh some gold on my antique scale. You must give it to the Wise Ones for their wisdom.

**Narrator:** Palo left immediately with the gold and journeyed to the house of the Wise Ones. He gently knocked on the door which opened slowly as if by magic.

**Wise Ones:** Enter Palo. We have been waiting for you. Sit here. (pointing to a small chair)

**Narrator:** Palo entered the shadowy room. He gave the bag of gold to the Wise Ones and sat. Smoke began to rise and bells tinkled a musical scale.

**Wise Ones:** Palo, we know why you have come. Only you can stop the dragon but this task is very difficult. Are you willing to try?

**Palo:** Yes, I will do my very best.

**Wise Ones:** You see, Fierce Dragon has seven thorns in his tail which are making him very angry. He has been trying to get the thorns out by thrashing about in the fields. Unfortunately, anything that gets in his way is destroyed.

**Palo:** What can *I* do?

**Wise Ones:** You must scale Lonely Mountain. At the top you will find the cave of the Fierce Dragon. You must enter the cave so quietly that the dragon doesn't know you are there. Then you must carefully pluck the 7 thorns from between the scales of the dragon's tail. Once you have finished, place them in this sack, turn quickly and return home.

**Palo:** When should I go?

**Wise Ones:** Immediately! Palo, for good luck wear this *golden* scale from Fierce Dragon's foot.

**Narrator:** Palo did what the Wise Ones told him. But just as he was plucking the seventh thorn from between the scales of Fierce Dragon's tail, there was an enormous roar! Palo was terrified.

**Fierce Dragon:** Roar! Whoo touchesssss my taaaaailllll? Whoo?

**Narrator:** The dragon whipped his tail around and...

*What happened next?*

Using as many definitions of scale as you can, end the play.