

Name: _____

Topic: Castles and Dragons

MF: Comprehension

Ulric the Unbreakable

Long ago there lived an incredibly skilled craftsman called Ulric. In his younger days he was known as Ulric the Unbreakable. Through the decades, countless soldiers and knights approached Ulric to create the strongest and most reliable weapons. Although Ulric made many weapons, legend has it that his swords were unbreakable – made from the finest steel. Ulric was a blacksmith and it was his job to make vital weaponry for the castle defences. Without blacksmiths like Ulric, the castle would have been vulnerable to attack. In his younger days, Ulric was valued, and he was admired.

Many years later...

Ulric, who was now an old man, sat in his workshop day and night surrounded by tools. Each tool carried memories of the days when he felt useful, the days he was known as Ulric the Unbreakable. No one queued up for his weapons anymore because nowadays, he is known as Ulric the Unsteady. He is losing his strength as each day passes and he can no longer build the best weapons for knights and soldiers. "I wish I could be useful again!" he muttered.

Late one evening, when Ulric was attempting to make an unbreakable sword, something strange happened in his workshop. There was a rattle from the armour that stood in the corner and it tumbled over. Although frightened, Ulric lifted up the helmet and out jumped a little mouse. Moments later, a horn sounded and from the rafters and a tiny knight landed in front of Ulric. He thought he had gone mad.





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Answer the questions below

1. Explain what a blacksmith was and why it was an important job.
2. What was Ulric known as when he was younger? Explain why.
3. Why do you think Ulric muttered, "I wish I could be useful again?"
4. Explain why you think Ulric was known as Ulric the Unsteady in his later years.
5. Which word from the text tells us people looked up to Ulric in his younger days?
6. What do you think the knight and mouse are doing in Ulric's workshop?
7. How do we know Ulric made weapons for a long time?
8. What else did you find out from the text?



Use words or phrases to compare Ulric's life below

Young Ulric

Old Ulric



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Colour the words or phrases that describe young Ulric red

Colour the words or phrases that describe old Ulric blue

helpful Ulric the Unsteady feeble admired skilled popular

Ulric the Unbreakable vulnerable frightened lonely

useless important old strong helpless

One more word - Young Ulric _____

One more word - Old Ulric _____