



Draught dragon in the fort

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The doors of the wooden frame play an important role in this story. As the plot progresses, we'll have to open and shut the doors. The relevant instructions are highlighted in grey, and you can use the small pictures as help.

To ensure a smooth show, it is worth checking, trying it out and practicing it first.

1.

Once upon a time there was a windswept mountain peak, and on that mountain peak there was a steep rock wall, and on that rock wall there was a 12 turreted fort, full of nooks and corners.

One could enter this fort only through a special wooden gate and only when it was open, as the fort's gate keeper, Mr. Paul Chitterling keeps it locked all day long.

Close the frame doors and pull the sheet out.

2.

Even at the beginning of our story, that is early dawn on Wednesday, he is checking all three wings, from top to bottom. The left wing, the right wing and the top wing.

Check the three doors, one after the other whether they are closed

This is necessary so that no wandering three...

Open the top door

Seven...

Open the left door

Or even a twelve headed dragon flies in.

Open the right door

"Dragon?!Where?!" asks Paul Chitterling panickily.

Shut all three doors suddenly

Relax, Pauly! There is no dragon danger just yet!

"Phew! Wow, I just hate dragons! A pox on them!"

3.

Suddenly, as if on cue, the doors open, and the nightcap flies off the gate keeper's head.

Open all doors

Then they close

Close the right door

The open again

Open the right door

"Blimey!" says Paul Chitterling.

What a shame! He can't control the gate!

"What on earth is going on here?"

4.

Well, what happened, dear Pauly, that the top window of the fort's tallest tower was opened by the charming princess Eleonora of Ivory Towers. Nobody, not even her great great great grandma has ever attempted such a dangerous act (as opening the window) in this windswept fort.

5.

Basically, it turned out that Eleonora of Ivory Towers, alias Lenci invited her best friends, Raponc (who is well known for her cascading golden hair) and Cinderella (the crownless queen of lentil picking) for a pyjama party yesterday. The three misses were having a wonderful time: they picked out almost 330 pounds of lentils from a giant bowl of ashes, and then they tried to untangle Raponc's hair with Lenci's ivory comb.

6.

By the break of dawn, they managed to untangle Raponc's 77-meter-long hair. There was barely enough space left for the misses in the suite with panoramic view.

Raponc suggested that they let her hair down from the tower, maybe a handsome prince will climb up on it? Cinderella and Lenci nodded giggling, and in the heat of the wild pyjama party, the hostess carelessly opened the window.

But what entered through the window was not a prince, but an invisible draught dragon.

"Dragon danger!!!" screamed Paul Chitterling terrified. "How many heads does this stinky intruder have? Three? Seven ? Or twelve?"

7.

Within a few minutes the naughty draught dragon made a huge mess. First she tangled Raponc's barely untangled tufts. Then she knocked down the 1001 piece baby elephant collection from Lenci's shelf, then ..swoop!..she swept the 330 pounds carefully selected lentils back in the bowl full of ash, nicked the ivory comb and raced further in the fort. She then cantered throughout the fort, managed to wake up all its inhabitants. And now she has arrived here. A minute ago she stole your sleeping cap and now she keeps slamming the gates. *Slam and open and close the doors. Keep them open at the end.*

"Oooh, maybe the spoilt Miss Lenci should have paid more attention to it, but I can't really accuse her, can I", the grumbled the upset gate keeper. "However..."

8.

"Where is now Pirouette, that silly weathercock?"

There we go, Pauly, you only have to mention it, and the draught dragon immediately ceased slamming the gates. You know, Pirouette was courting all night the hens from the neighboring farm (as usual) and he was too lazy to climb up to the top of the fort. Oh, here it is! Be careful, he is silly, you don't want it to knock you over!

"Pirouette!" shouts Paul Chitterling and grabs the weathercock by its crest. "You dandy peacock! You shame of all weathercocks! Were you gallivanting the whole night after the hens again? What are you, my little friend, poultry? Your job is to stay in guard on the top of the gate, send the wind reports regularly, not to give serenades and to loll around!"

Close the bottom two doors and pull out the sheet

9.

"Yes, Sir Fort gate keeper Chitterling!" says the embarrassed weathercock and flies up to the top of the gate.

The draught dragon curiously dances around it.

"Now why are you pirouetting up there, are you insane? I will get in to trouble because of you! rages Paul.

"I'm afraid I am being captivated by a ticklish tramp", says Pirouette, rather enchanted.

Open the top two doors

Meanwhile, Miss Lenci arrives from the tower with great huff and puff, followed by her two, rather upset friends and she immediately begins to scream:

"We have a culprit! she shouts uncontrollably. "Only this sleazy weathercock could have made such a mess in my suite!"

The wildly spinning Pirouette arrives right in time for her, as she doesn't want to be told off for opening the windows.

10.

Now every living soul in the fort turns against the poor weathercock.

"Because of him I woke up from my deepest dreams!" says the king.

"Because of him the steak got burned!", says the cook.

"Because of him I got a slap on my neck!", says the scullion.

"Because of him the half-plucked hen escaped from my hands!" says the maid.

Lenci stomps her feet, and gives the order:

"Uncle Paul, do something!"

"Yes Miss Princess Eleonora of Ivory Towers!" replies the gatekeeper.

11.

He embarrassedly scratches his head and then says:

"Aren't you ashamed of yourself, Pirouette? Not only you are an ordinary lay about, but you also ridicule our beloved fort. I will have to let you go immediately. Off you go!"

"Poultry earlier, and now a scapegoat?", mumbles the weathercock, but there is no other choice: he creakingly opens its wings and lifts off.

Paul Chitterling quickly shuts the gates and turns the key. Once, twice, three times.

Close the doors, and turn the closing triangle three times

But in the same time, he has a bad conscience! "Why weren't you at your place, Pirouette?, he thinks. "If you had played a bit with this silly intruder, maybe there wouldn't have been any trouble."

12.

Open the door on the right

In the meantime, Pirouette is about to say a heartfelt goodbye to the hens so dear to his iron heart, when he hits an invisible wall.

"I am sssso terribly ssssorry!", hisses a deep voice in its ears. "All thiss iss my fault!"

Pirouette turns around three times, as a experienced weathercock should.

"Who on earth are you?" he asks dizzily.

"My name issss Windlined SsssSelena", buzzes the draught dragon.

No matter how thick the gate is, her voice can be heard crystal clearly inside, as if the wind whistle d through the keyhole.

What's more, the minute she says her name, she becomes visible.

Open the other two doors as well

She has one head and a long, supple body. She moves in the air like a cobra dancing to the snake charmer's music.

13.

"So did you mess up Lenci's suite?", asks Pirouette.

"Yes..."

"And did you play a joke on the king, the cook, the scullion and the maid?"

"Exactly. But I only..."

"Cockadoodleshush!", yells Pirouette.

"But I only wanted to play! the dragon says sadly. "It issss my fate that I am not welcomed anywhere. That I am locked out of everywhere immediately. I am sssso lonely!" The dragon flops down in front of the gates and bursts into tears. The whole fort is shaken by her wailing.

Shake the frame and close the doors

The dragon's sadness shakes not only the gate and the walls, but also the people inside it as well.

"I can't listen to this anymore", says Lenci. "I'll let her in through the top window".

"But my dear daughter!" the king is shocked.

"I am so sorry, my dearest father! Can't you hear how lonely she is? Can she stay and live with us?"

"A dragon?"

"Yes, a dragon. Please, can we take her in?"

"All right, I don't mind, just please, stop begging!", sighs the king, and orders the opening of the gates. Paul Chitterling turns the key. Once, twice, three times.

Turn the triangle three times, and pull the sheet out

14.

Open the door on the right

The three misses poke their heads through the gate.

"Hello, Selena!", shouts Lenci. "You can stay with us, if you want!"

The draught dragon immediately stops wailing.

"Pinky sssswear?"

"Yes, sure", laughs Lenci, "but first give me back my ivory comb that you've nicked."

"Of coursssse, of coursssse", vows the draught dragon. She presents the comb, as if by magic.

"Won't happen again, I promissse!"

Open the door on the left

"Are you going to help us keep the other dragons away?", asks the king.

“Of coursssse. I will blow them away, like draught!”

“Right then, you’ll have to practice a bit here”, smiles Paul Chitterling.

Open the top door and pull the sheet out

15.

“Oooh, but thiss isss a paper kite!”, cheers Selena.” Come Pirouette, let’s try it!

“I can’t, they’ve let me go already”, sulks the weathercock.

“Sorry, pal”, Paul apologizes.” You belong here!”

And so Selena moved in to the top of the fort, next to Pirouette, and from then on, she never nicked anything. Only the paper kite.