

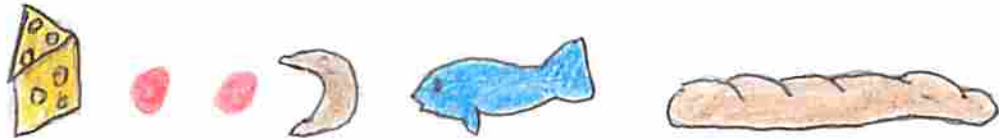
The Story of Kasey

There once was a fearsome monster that roamed the land of Scorthia. The monster was so fierce that no one had ever seen it and lived. The stories that were told of the monster were all different. Some said it was a dragon that breathed fire hotter than the sun. Others said it was a witch that turned the people into frogs and then ate them. There was even a story that said it wasn't even a beast, but it was a man-eating plant.



But this is the story of what the monster truly is. It all started with the dawdling of a little boy named Kasey. Now Kasey liked to go off on adventures he wasn't supposed to. When his parents told him to go get milk from the cow or feed the chickens, he would get distracted and go play with his friends instead. His parents got very mad with him. But there was one chore he liked to do. He liked going to the market to buy things.

Kasey was an awesome trickster. He could trick people into doing what he wanted with ease. He once swindled a toymaker of toys at such a low price that Kasey got the toys and money! Mostly Kasey was nice to the store owners and spent the money his parents gave him on what he needed to: food. He brought piles of food home that had to be carried on wagons.



But another problem that Kasey had was that he loved stories. Kasey asked his dad to tell him a story every night before he went to bed.

And one day at the market, he overheard some men telling a story about the biggest, baddest monster in all the land.

“I heard that it smashed a whole army with one step and eats everything in its path,” said a young man to the older man.

“I don’t know about that, but it probably could do it if it wanted to,” replied the old man. “I heard the nasty thing lives in a cave not too far away. And the king has put a reward on the beast.”

“I think its all myth. The king is wasting his time. No one has any proof of the beast,” said another man.

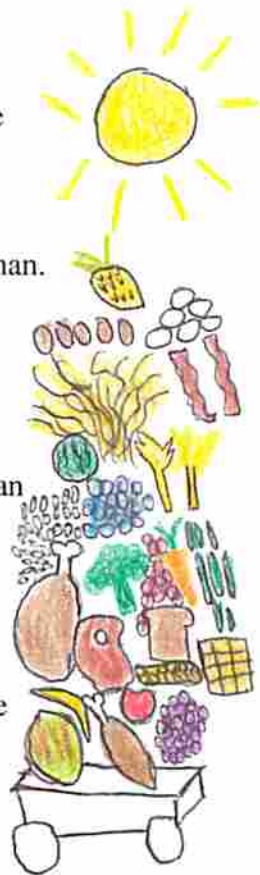
“Then why have men gone missing and skeletons appearing?” asked the old man.

“Maybe another, less scary animal has done it. Like a bear or wolf,” said the doubter.

“Ha!” exclaimed the old man. Kasey was so entrenched in the story the old man told of the monster that he just had to see it.

“Where exactly does the monster live?” asked Kasey.

“In a cave in the Shari mountains. But I heard his favorite meal is curious little kids who try to find it,” said the old man spookily. Kasey looked at the old man with wide eyes and tried to get as much info as possible about the monster.



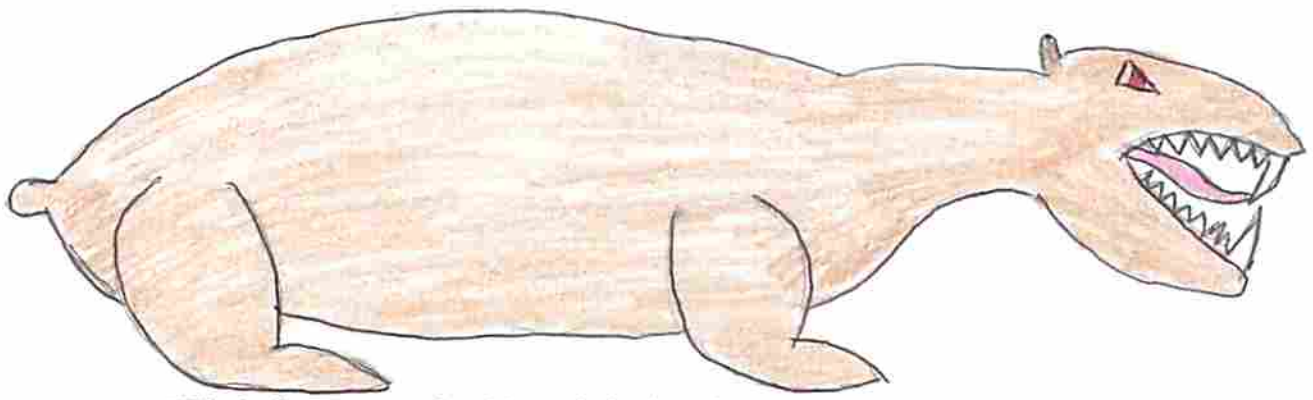
When Kasey got home, all he could think about was the adventure he was going to go on to find the monster. He thought about it at dinner. He thought about it during his bath. He thought about it during story time. He thought about it in his dreams.

The next day when Kasey was supposed to do chores around the house, he went to the market to buy the things he needed for his adventure. He got food, a knapsack for the food, a bow and arrows, and a small shield. And off he went into the forest to simply go hunting for deer and rabbits. As Kasey wandered through the forest and shot arrows at small game, he imagined he was battling the fearsome monster.



He was so into the battle that he got lost in the forest and found himself at the bottom of a mountain. He thought, “Oh what the heck” and climbed the mountain. He got up to a deep, dark cave that was silent. He peered inside and thought, “Oh what the heck” and went in. He couldn’t see anything and every time he bumped into a rock or the wall his skin would shiver thinking that it was the monster he hit. But luckily, Kasey never met the monster in the cave. So Kasey went towards the light and back outside the cave.

But as he left the cave, he saw the biggest object he ever saw in his life. It was the monster! But it was not a dragon. It was not a witch. It wasn’t a plant. It was a big, bear-looking beast! The monster raised its nose and sniffed the air and immediately looked at Kasey.



“Why hello. Are you lost? I can help though, at no cost,” spoke the monster.

Kasey looked on in surprise that the monster could talk. “Y-ye-yes. I am a little lost,” Kasey stuttered with fear and shock.

“Well come on in and lift your chin,” said the monster with a snap and lick of its teeth. The monster grabbed Kasey with its arm and brought him into the cave. The monster then lit the cave with a breath of fire.

“My name is Yimeyam. Do you know who I am?”

“Y-ye-yes I do. You’re the monster who eats everything in sight.”

“Right are you, you’re next on the menu.”

“Oh, but I am not a child. I am just a midget.”

“Adult or child, my hunger is wild,” said the monster.

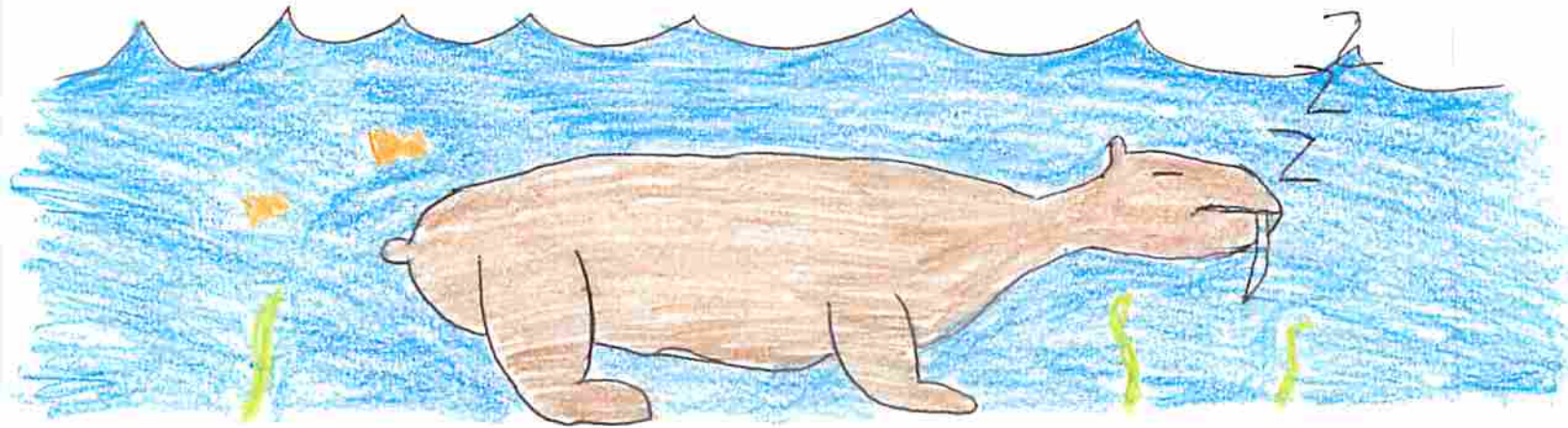
“Ahhh but the village you have been snacking on is not a village of humans. We are really a group of poisonous things,” Kasey said trying to convince the monster to not eat him.

“But my I feel no pain, since I am not slain.”

“You aren’t, not yet at least. Many beasts have tried to eat us, but all have failed.” Kasey mentioned the fire-breathing dragon, the evil witch, and the man-eating plant who all came and went because the people could not be defeated.

The monster looked sick and lost his mind. “Oh no! I’m going to die! Where can I find a cure? Please tell me of a cure!”

“Go into a lake and stay underwater as long as you can. That will get rid of the poison.” And with that the monster went into the nearest lake and was never seen or heard from again.



For his feat, Kasey got the king's reward. Kasey could wish for anything he wanted.

Kasey did not ask for money or a princess in marriage, but he wanted the best storyteller in all the land to tell him stories whenever Kasey wanted. Kasey's favorite story was of himself and how defeated the most terrifying monster that ever lived.