



## Don Quixote and the Windmills

by Eric A. Kimmel

illustrated by Leonard Everett Fisher

### Summary

In this retelling of the most famous part of Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra's, *The Ingenious Hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha*, we experience Don Quixote's proclamation that he is now a knight off to battle "monstrous giants" who have plagued the countryside!

### Ideas for Classroom Use

#### Discussion Questions

Encourage the children to find examples from the story to document their answers.

- > *Describe Senor Quexada's secret sorrow.*
- > *How do you think Senor Quexada's family reacted when he proclaimed that he was now the knight Don Quixote de la Mancha? Why?*
- > *What was Sancho Panza's reason for joining Don Quixote's adventures? Was he just being a good friend? Do you think he was wise to join Don Quixote?*
- > *Why didn't Don Quixote believe Sancho Panza when Sancho told him the "monsters" were actually windmills?*
- > *Why do you think Sancho continued to journey on with Don Quixote after the windmill incident?*
- > *Can you summarize this story to a friend in two sentences? What would you say?*

### Responding to the Text

#### Writing

Don Quixote says to Sancho Panza, "Follow me and I promise we will dip our arms up to the elbow in what common people call 'adventures.'" What kind of bold adventures would you like to go on? Think like the dreamer Don Quixote was – where would your heart take you if you could go anywhere in the world? Write about your amazing dream adventures.



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### Science

#### **Exploring wind and windmills (Younger children)**

Younger children can explore the concepts of wind energy by creating their own pinwheels or whirligigs. You will find these terrific wind projects as well as a pattern to create your very own “parachuting pinwheel” or “whirling wonders” at the following educational website:

[www.sci.mus.mn.us/sln/vollis](http://www.sci.mus.mn.us/sln/vollis)

#### **Exploring wind and windmills (Grades 3-5)**

Find the steps to assist children in exploring, designing and creating their own windmills at this interactive website. It takes children step-by-step through the inquiry and design processes necessary to create and then test their own windmill designs. Everything you need is described in this fabulous lesson which includes video clips. Plan to devote 3, 50-minute lessons in order for your students to really step up to the challenges and excitement involved. Go to:

[www.teachersdomain.org/3-5/sci/engin/design/zmill/index.html](http://www.teachersdomain.org/3-5/sci/engin/design/zmill/index.html)

Be sure to go to the lower left on the page and click on lesson plans to begin planning your exciting windmill energy lessons!

### Art

#### **Design your own Knight in Shining Armor**

In Don Quixote and the Windmill, it states that Don Quixote found a “rusty suit of armor, his grandfather’s sword, a round leather shield, and an antique lance.” Create your very own Knight in Shining Armor suit, using a variety of art materials. Sketch your armor first and be sure to consult the book to find out what else “a knight must have.”

### Cooking

#### **Windmill Cookies**

Years ago we used to buy cookies that were in the shape of windmills and have them with milk. Today, Archway still makes Dutch Windmill Cookies. Find some of those to share or better yet, make your own Dutch Windmill shaped cookies by using the recipe from this website:

[www.cooksrecipes.com/cookie/dutch\\_windmill\\_cookies\\_recipe.html](http://www.cooksrecipes.com/cookie/dutch_windmill_cookies_recipe.html).