

Prose/2nd place
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The Kraken

There once was a sea creature called the Kraken. It has survived for thousands of years. It lived in the deepest parts of the sea. It would only surface when ships passed over it. Most of the ships were fishing vessels from the local villages. The fishermen all knew the legend of the Kraken and were very scared of it. They still had to feed their families with fish, so they risked their lives. One day the Kraken attacked and sank a fishing vessel called the Blue Mayco. All 50 members of the crew died, except the captain. One of the crew members was named Marcas Stone. Mr. Stone had a son named Luke. When word of the attack made it back to the village, Luke was so upset. He made a vow to someday kill the Kraken.

Luke was only ten years old and was all alone with his mom now. Mrs. Stone would make Luke go to work with his Uncle Jake. Jake was the local blacksmith. Luke liked this alot because he liked watching metal being made into objects. He picked up the skills of a blacksmith quite quickly. While observing his uncle, he got a great idea. He would have his uncle teach him how to make weapons. These weapons could be used to someday kill the Kraken. Later that day Luke asked his uncle if he could show him how to make a weapon. His uncle said, "Yes, but you're going to have to get the materials yourself." You will have to find ten dark dragon scales, three different types of metal and a piece of spruce wood.

Luke left the next day to pursue his items. While walking down the narrow trail to the forest, he found a double edged sword half buried in the thickets. As he pulled it out and lifted it to the sky, the sun reflected off of it and revealed the beautiful damascus steel it was made from. Luke could only think that it once belonged to a Viking warrior. It was like his dad placed it there for him. He now was very confident about his quest. Luke just needed to sharpen the sword before he found the dragon. He decided to get the two easy things first and deal with the dragon last.

The dragon's lair was easy to find because of the rotten smell. Half eaten animals were laying all around. Luke walked in shaking, but was surprised to find the dragon asleep. With no sound, he snuck up close, lifted his sword and severed off the dragon's tail. The good thing for the dragon is that it has no feeling in his tail and it grows back fast. Luke went back home and gave the prized items to his uncle the next day. Luke's uncle made the most powerful magical sword, a "Kraken Killer". It was a sword that can slice anything in half, even other forms of steel.

Luke knew it was finally time to face his destiny. It was all about him and the Kraken. He joined a Kraken hunting party that set sail for the abis.

Luke knew that it was this trip that he would find the kraken. The captain of the ship shouted, "We are now in deep water, keep our eyes open!" Suddenly the ship rocked from side

to side. Giant tentacles rose above both sides of the ship. A horrible crunching sound was heard as the Kraken clamped down on the ship. Luke jumped into action with his sword. He gripped his sword with both hands and chopped off one of the Kraken's arms. The Kraken responded by knocking Luke off his feet with another arm. Luke went tumbling, but so did his sword. As the Kraken came up to chew Luke up, the sword came down and hit the Kraken with a one clean kill shot between the eyes. The Kraken made a horrible screech and splashed in the water. The fight was over and the Kraken's body sank to the bottom of the sea. The fear for the fisherman and the villagers was over. Luke was now at peace knowing that he had avenged his dad's death. When he made it back to shore, Luke decided to get a fire going on the beach and cook some fish in his dad's honor. While sitting by the fire and thinking of his dad, the clouds parted and allowed for the most beautiful sunset that Luke had ever seen. At that moment Luke knew his dad was with him in spirit, and he could rest well knowing the Kraken was dead....

Well, maybe not! Did the Kraken have babies?