



# The Tale of Custard the Dragon

Embark on a delightful journey through Ogden Nash's whimsical poem, "The Tale of Custard the Dragon." This humorous ballad tells the endearing story of a rather timid dragon named Custard, residing in Belinda's cosy little white house. Prepare to have your perceptions of bravery and heroism charmingly challenged!



# About the Author: Ogden Nash



Born on August 19, 1902, in Rye, New York, Ogden Nash (1902-1971) was a renowned American poet celebrated for his witty and humorous verse. Nash redefined light poetry with his clever wordplay, unconventional rhymes, and satirical observations on everyday life. With over 500 published poems, he mastered the art of playful rhymes and unexpected twists, making his work timeless and enjoyable for all ages. "The Tale of Custard the Dragon" perfectly encapsulates his unique literary style, blending entertainment with subtle life lessons.

# Meet the Quirky



## Belinda

A brave little girl who owns the house and its peculiar pets, always ready for adventure.



## Mustard

A spirited yellow dog, always barking and brimming with supposed bravery.



## Ink

A sleek black kitten, quick and cunning, always prepared for mischief.



## Custard

The seemingly cowardly pet dragon, who, despite his fearsome appearance, often cries for a safe cage.



## Blink

A tiny grey mouse, deceptively small but with a heart full of courage (or so he claims).



# A Peculiar Home and its Inhabitants

The story unfolds in Belinda's quaint little white house, a place filled with an unusual assortment of pets. While Ink, Blink, and Mustard frequently boast of their immense courage, there's one pet who stands out for his apparent lack of it: Custard, the dragon.

Despite possessing all the frightening features of a dragon—sharp teeth, menacing spikes, and hard scales—Custard is portrayed as exceedingly timid, always yearning for the safety of his cage. His friends often tease him for his perceived cowardice, little knowing the true strength that lies beneath his fearful exterior.



# Custard's Curious

## “Cowardice

**"Oh, a real, true, brave dragon!"**

The other pets often mocked Custard, calling him a "coward" and even nicknaming him "Percival," a knight known for his bravery, in ironic jest.

“

**Yearning for a Safe Cage**

Custard constantly preferred the security of his cage, often crying for it, which further solidified his reputation as a fearful creature among his peers.

“

**Boasts of Bravery**

Ink, Blink, and Mustard would frequently boast of their own bravery, comparing themselves to mighty tigers and lions, while Custard remained timid and withdrawn.

”



# The Unforeseen Pirate Attack

One fateful night, the tranquil atmosphere of Belinda's home was shattered by the arrival of a menacing pirate. With pistols clutched in each hand and a shiny cutlass clenched in his teeth, he climbed through the window, his appearance truly sinister—a black beard, a wooden leg, and a glint of malice in his eyes. Panic ensued among the brave pets and Belinda. Ink darted to the bottom of the house, Blink disappeared into his mouse hole, and Mustard let out a terrified yelp, fleeing in fright. Even Belinda, the usually brave little girl, shrieked and hid, leaving the fearsome intruder seemingly unchallenged.



# Custard's Unexpected

## Heroism

### 1 Snorts and Clashes

As everyone else fled, Custard, the timid dragon, sprang into action. He snorted like an engine, his tail clashing like irons in a dungeon, charging directly at the pirate.

### 2 Pirate's Vain Efforts

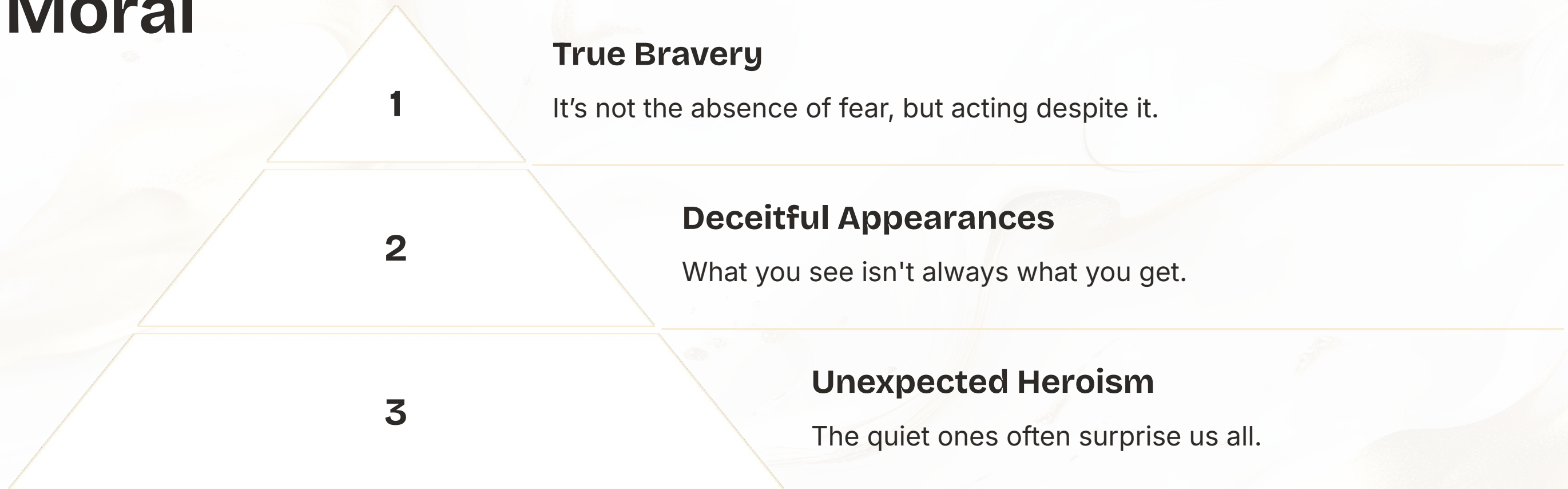
The pirate, startled by Custard's sudden bravery, fired two bullets, but they missed their mark, proving ineffective against the dragon's determined advance.

### 3 A Gulp and a Victory

With astonishing speed and courage, Custard devoured the pirate whole, leaving no trace behind. The "cowardly" dragon had saved the day, surprising everyone with his true might.



# Profound Themes and the Enduring Moral



The tale beautifully illustrates that true courage lies in confronting fear, not in its absence. It challenges superficial judgments and celebrates the unexpected hero who rises to the occasion when it truly matters.



# The Poem's Distinct Tone and Style



## Humorous Language

Nash's use of playful and light-hearted language creates an entertaining and amusing narrative.



## Engaging Rhymes

The poem's distinct AABB rhyme scheme and rhythmic flow make it enjoyable and memorable.



## Irony and Satire

Nash subtly employs irony and satire to highlight the contrast between perceived bravery and true courage.



## Vivid Imagery

The rich descriptions paint clear pictures, helping readers visualize the characters and their actions.

# Key Takeaways and Everlasting Message

## Courage Redefined

Custard's actions reveal that bravery isn't about boasting, but about facing fear head-on.

## Unexpected Heroes

The poem celebrates the idea that heroes can emerge from the most unlikely of places.

## Beyond Appearances

It's a reminder not to judge others based on initial impressions or perceived weaknesses.

## Life's Valuable Lesson

Ultimately, the tale encourages us to appreciate true courage in all its forms and celebrate the unexpected heroes in our own lives.