



## AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

**Leonie Lord** lives with her husband, two sons and her cocker spaniel, Lavender, in a village near Cheltenham. She has illustrated books by the likes of Martin Waddell, Caryl Hart (Whiffy Wilson series) and Jeanne Willis, as well as her own books which include *Super Duper Penguin Slide* (Walker, 2024) and *Sofa Dog* (Alison Green Books, 2017).

## WEBSITE

<https://www.leonielord.co.uk/>

## LINKS

Watch Leonie read *Super Duper Penguin Slide* here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkyJh253oQQ>

Visit the CBeebies page about St George's Day where there are two films about children preparing for and celebrating St George's Day.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/lets-celebrate-st-georges-day>



# GROTTI

Younger Children Shortlist 2025

## INTRODUCTION

Narrated by a **knight**, this is the story of how he finds a sweet **baby monster** who is lost. The knight does a good job of looking after him, swapping his own possessions for items required to keep Grotti comfortable, warm and well fed. But after a while, Grotti becomes homesick and the **kind** knight helps him to find his way back to his **family**. This means that the knight can now return to what he would normally be doing (battling dragons and defending kingdoms) – but then he realises that something is missing, 'something green and something grotti'. An engaging story about the sacrifices involved in parenting and the **love** that can grow between carer and cared-for.

When sharing the book encourage your child/children to take time to look at the detail in the pictures. Can they work out what's wrong with Grotti before the knight does? Or spot what the knight uses instead of the pieces of armour he has swapped.

## ACTIVITIES

**Read** a retelling of the traditional story of Saint George. St George's Day takes place on 23rd April. Find out how the day is celebrated by watching the films in the Links section.

**Write and illustrate** a story map which shows the different creatures the knight and Grotti meet along the way. The eleventh double page spread of the book provides a useful visual summary.

**Create** a simple cardboard shield and sword and/or a dragon's mask using this template <https://mrprintables.com/dragon-masks.html> Use them to act out the story of Saint George.

## NOW READ ON

*Saint George and the Dragon* by Louie Stowell (Usborne Publishing, 2012)

*George and the Dragon* by Chris Wormell (Puffin, 2018)

*We're Going to Find the Monster* by Malorie Blackman & Dapo Adeola (Puffin, 2021). A great book for reading aloud.

'Monsters' Booklist from Book Trust

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/bookstart/monsters/>