

Participation

Hello boys and girls and others – are you sitting or standing comfortably? Good. Remember that.

For when a storyteller, such as myself, sits and tells a story, *you* take part...

You listen. – You may learn.

You picture. – You may burn

The words of a story into your head

Told by a teller either living or dead.

The word of a narrator, beginning a tale

A serpent or dragon, a flagon of ale,

A cave, a castle, a princess, a prince

A fairy-tale romance, a traveller with hints

Of a future that's brighter, not orange... but blue

(Because rhyming is not always an easy thing to do)

Taking part is the key to a door I will show

But only you can open it, close it, or go.

How does this work? We need to take *a part*;

This participation – let's go from the start:

Recall the inclusion, the use of address

Direct to the audience, remove the distress

Encourage to join in, to involve, to belong

(An echo from times past – but that's another song.)

We participate, daily, sign and tick boxes

Of forms, in letters and on petitions for foxes...

But *they* do not listen, they don't partake

Of our world and our thoughts but is it our mistake?

To participate daily, to create pictures true

Yet read fake understandings, me sharing to you;

An audience now listening and burning my words
Direct into meanings until there are birds.
But don't listen to wizards and experts and truth;
Like and share stories; reject the gospel of Ruth.
Ignore other stories from lands of afar.
The heavens are wide yet people only followed one star.
Religion and fable, both need you to take part
To listen to words, to take them to heart.
The soldier grasps at what they can take,
The scholar missing what history might fake,
The parent and child repeating the tale,
The loner recalling pasts over flagons of ale.
New bards arrive and tell of new tales
Of lands and of monsters, of ships and of whales.
They combine with others; their stories are telling,
Yet they're made now for profit and only for selling.
Our stories known wider, on film and on screen;
We Marvel at stories that once were obscene.
Less care is given, and we take part less
Our stories made simpler, Mice clean up the mess.
Participate and get what you want
Don't complain if you get what you need,
Because the taking of a part from the whole
Makes the whole weak and causes all to bleed.
Are you still sitting or standing comfortably?
Are you still participating?
Are you still?
Take apart your taking part,
And tell *your* story to others with heart.