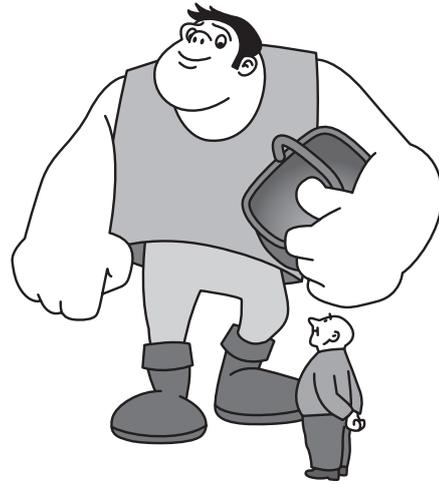




This text is from *Mr Giant and the Beastly Baron* by Tony Bradman.

Mr Giant and the Beastly Baron



It was a lovely morning, and the sun shone on Mr Giant as he walked into the village to do his weekly shopping. He was careful where he put his boots, of course. But he needn't have worried.

The villagers weren't scared – they were pleased to see him.

“Hey there, Mr Giant!” people called out happily. “How are things?”

“Er ... couldn't be better, thanks,” said Mr Giant with a shy smile.

In fact, he could hardly believe how well things were going for him these days. He still had occasional nightmares about Jack, and hoped he would never, ever meet him again.

But he was also grateful to the little rascal – Jack had made him think about the kind of life he was living.

The truth was that up there in his castle, Mr Giant had been rather bored and lonely. He'd had no hobbies or interests, and no friends. Everybody had always run off screaming as soon as they heard him start to growl, “Fee, fi, fo, fum...”

A week in the Fairy Tale Clinic For Recovering Villains had made all the difference. He had learnt that he could change if he wanted to, and Mr Giant had promised himself he would give up being nasty and violent ... for ever.

He decided to leave his castle, and moved to a lovely village on the far side of the Forest. Mr Giant settled down to live a peaceful, happy life. The villagers were nice to him right from the start, and he soon made plenty of friends.

He joined the Village Social Club...

...and took up stamp collecting.

Now the only problems he had were small ones. His cottage was a bit cramped, and he didn't think he would ever get used to eating such tiny portions of food...

Today Mr Giant soon finished his shopping and set off for home. But suddenly he heard shouting, and went back to find out what was happening. He stopped behind an enormous old oak tree and peered out.

A short, plump man with a mean face was standing on one of the benches outside the village tavern. He was shouting at a group of villagers, who were being pushed around by a band of tough-looking soldiers.

“I'm Baron Beastly, your new lord and master,” the short man yelled. “And I'm doubling ... no, tripling your taxes. You have till next week to pay me.”



This text is adapted from the original text on the Natural History Museum website (www.nhm.ac.uk/kids-only).

I Want to be ... a Palaeontologist

palaeontologist: pay-lee-on-tol-o-jist



What made you want to be a palaeontologist?

Some of my earliest memories are of visiting the Natural History Museum with my mum and younger brother. I still have a dinosaur postcard from a visit when I was four! In the last year of my degree at university I studied basic palaeontology, and got really into it.

What advice would you give anyone wanting to be a palaeontologist?

You need to study science at school. For many jobs, you will have to be a student until you're about 25 or even older! Go fossil collecting, but make sure you do it legally and safely, and go with someone who knows the site well.

You can volunteer in museums, but remember that not all palaeontologists work in museums. Many collect and study fossils in their spare time, not as a paid job.

What's the best thing about being a palaeontologist?

I meet interesting people from around the world, and help them to use the museum's collections for their research. Talking about my work to adults and children visiting the Museum is also great fun.

What's the worst thing about being a palaeontologist?

The worst thing is if a fragile **specimen** gets broken. I also hate having to move heavy specimens. The pterosaurs that I work with are not too bad but some of the dinosaur specimens are difficult to move.

What would you do if you weren't a palaeontologist?

If my hobbies are anything to go by, I should have been a motorcycle mechanic or a tattooist, but I would also like to work in wildlife conservation or animal welfare.

This is an interview with Lorna Steel who is a **palaeontologist** – this means that she studies **fossils**. Lorna works at the Natural History Museum in London, where she helps to look after the collections of fossils. Lorna's work focuses on flying reptiles known as pterosaurs [te/row/sors].



Glossary

fossil – the remains of an animal or plant that has been in the ground for a very long time and is hardened in rock

palaeontologist – a person who studies fossils

specimen – an animal or plant (including a fossil) that is studied or put on show, e.g. in a museum

Name:	Class:	Date:
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Mr Giant and the Beastly Baron

1 Why was Mr Giant *careful where he put his boots*?

	AF3
1 mark	

2 What does Mr Giant think of Jack? Tick the **best** answer.

- He has nightmares about him nearly every day.
- He feels grateful and would like to thank him in person.
- He doesn't like him much but is thankful they met.
- He thinks he is a horrible little boy who can do no good.

	AF3
1 mark	

3 a) What was Mr Giant's life like when he lived **in his castle**? Tick **two**.

- He felt peaceful and happy.
- He had nothing to do.
- He didn't have any friends.
- He had lots of hobbies.
- He felt a bit cramped.

	AF2
1 mark	

b) How has his life changed since he moved **to the village**? Explain your answer as fully as you can, using the story to help you.

	AF2
2 marks	

	/ 5
Total for this page	

- 4 Mr Giant spent a week in the Fairy Tale Clinic for Recovering Villains. Why did Mr Giant go there?

AF3
1 mark

- 5 Now the only problems he had were small ones.

a) What were Mr Giant's problems? Write **two**.

1 _____

2 _____

AF2
1 mark

b) Why has the word *small* been used to describe the problems?

AF5
1 mark

- 6 Think about Mr Giant as he is now, and Baron Beastly. **Tick** to show which of the following words could be used to describe which character. One has been done for you.

	Mr Giant (now)	Baron Beastly
shy		
nasty		
small		✓
loud		
gentle		

AF3
2 marks

/ 10
Total for this test

Name:	Class:	Date:
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I want to be ... a Palaeontologist

1 Draw lines to match the following words with their meaning in the text. Use the first paragraph and the glossary to help you.

Word	Meaning in text
palaeontologist	a fossil that is studied or put on show
pterosaur	a person who studies fossils
specimen	a flying reptile

AF2
1 mark

2 How do you think Lorna felt about visiting the Natural History Museum when she was young? Explain why you think this, using the text to help you.

AF3
1 mark

3 We know from the text that Lorna is a palaeontologist. What else do we learn about what Lorna's job involves? Write two things.

1 _____

2 _____

AF2
2 marks

4 What advice does Lorna give to someone who wants to be a palaeontologist? Tick two.

- You need to travel around the world.
- It is important to study science at school.
- First, you must find paid work in a museum.
- It does not matter how long you study for.
- Go fossil collecting but do it safely.

AF2
1 mark

/ 5
Total for this page

5 Look at Lorna's answer to *What's the worst thing about being a palaeontologist?* Find and copy a phrase of two words which shows that objects in the museum are delicate and should be handled carefully.

AF3
1 mark

6 *The pterosaurs that I work with are not too bad...*

What does Lorna mean? Tick **one**.

- The pterosaurs are the most fragile specimens.
- The pterosaurs are the most difficult things to move.
- The pterosaurs are not as heavy as other specimens.
- The pterosaurs are not the worst thing about the job.

AF3
1 mark

7 Look at the paragraph beginning: *If my hobbies are anything to go by...*

Using the text, what do you think Lorna's hobbies might be? Write **one**.

AF2
1 mark

8 palaeontologist: pay-lee-on-tol-o-gist 

How does this box help the reader?

AF4
1 mark

9 Where might you find this interview with Lorna? Tick **one**.

- in a fiction book
- in a dictionary
- in a magazine
- in a diary

AF6
1 mark

/ 10
Total for this test