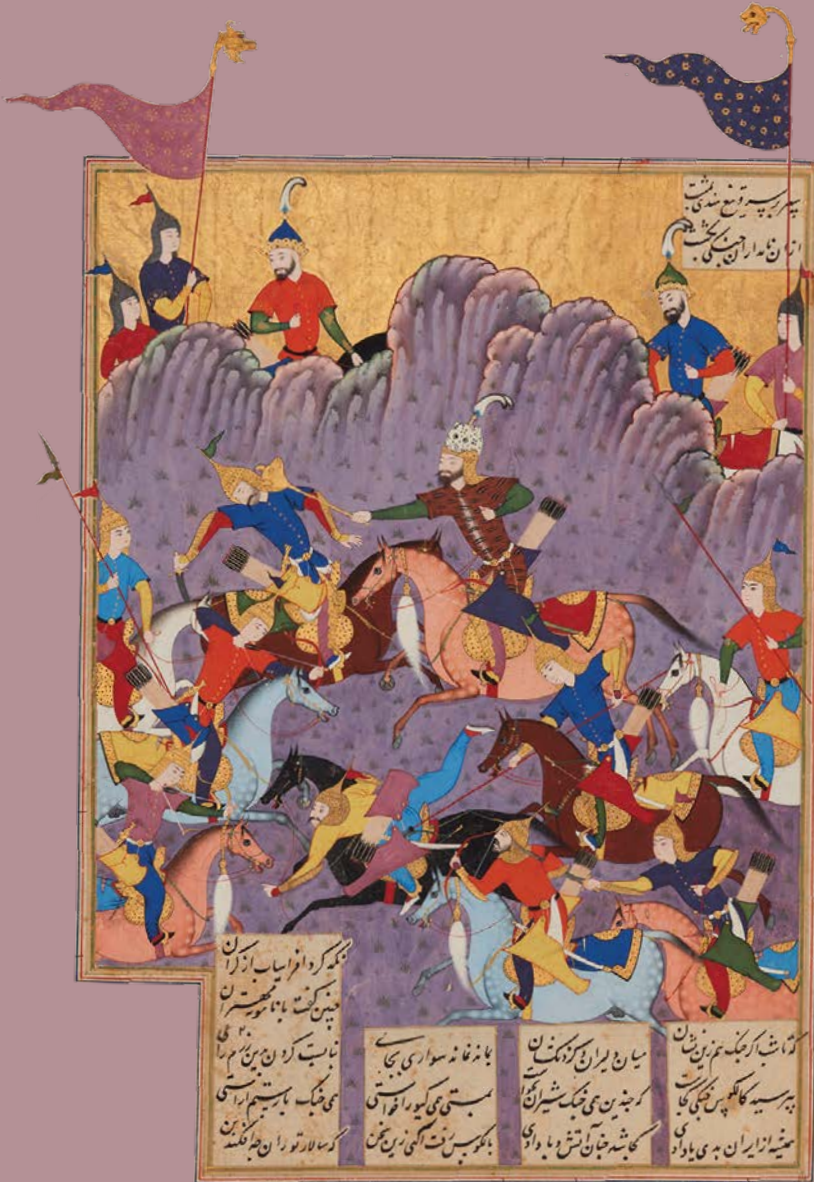


A Hero for Challenging Times: RUSTAM THE DRAGON SLAYER

Read a story written 1,000 years ago about the hero Rustam, then make a piece of art inspired by the Museum's paintings of that story! Great for pre-school to Grade 3 (and beyond!).



When telling a story, authors and illustrators need to choose how many pictures to have and what those pictures should show. Think of your favourite story: Which scene would make a good picture? Is there a scene that would be clearer if it had a picture?



Draw a picture of a scene from your favourite story! How did you decide which scene to draw?



If you were going to design an outfit for a hero, what would it be? Draw your hero.



The *Shahnameh* is the epic poem telling the story of Persian kings. One of the heroes of the story is named Rustam. Rustam often wears a tiger-skin coat — and sometimes even a snow leopard helmet — as you can see in the picture here.



Look around your home and see if you can find items you could use to create an outfit like Rustam's! What about the other characters in the story written below?



Read the story of *Rustam and the Dragon* (attached below!). Then have a look at the painting from the collection of the Aga Khan Museum. Can you tell where in the story this painting takes place?



How would the picture be different if it showed what happened just before this scene? What about just after?

Using materials you find at home, make some art to show what happened just before or just after this picture. Use paint, crayons, Play-Doh, or even recycled materials!



Did you know that these manuscripts were all painted by hand, even the tiniest details?



To see the painting in more detail, click the link below to view it on our website. Can you find other paintings of Rustam there?



Send us a picture of your artwork (and your costume) @agakhanmuseum to be featured on our social media! #agakhanmuseum

<https://agakhanmuseum.org/collection/artifact/rustam-kills-the-dragon-akm100>

Visit our website www.agakhanmuseum.org for more information.

RUSTAM AND THE DRAGON

The hero Rustam was travelling with his famous horse named Rakhsh. One night, he lay down to sleep after a long day. As he slept, a dragon swept out of the desert and was surprised by the hero and his horse. Nobody had ever come this way and braved the dragon's fury!

Luckily, Rakhsh saw the dragon and woke Rustam by drumming his hooves on the ground. Rustam shot awake, but the dragon used a magic spell to make himself disappear, and Rustam couldn't see him. After looking around, Rustam went back to sleep.

The dragon came back, and again, Rakhsh warned Rustam by drumming his hooves on the ground. Rustam flew awake, but again saw nothing. This time, he was getting annoyed with Rakhsh, and said to Rakhsh, "Why do you insist on waking me up? Can't you tell I need my sleep? If you do it again, I'm going to leave you and walk the rest of the way!" Then, Rustam lay back down and went back to sleep.

Of course, the dragon came back, and this time Rustam was so deeply asleep that he didn't even hear the dragon roar and he didn't see the flames coming out of the dragon's mouth. Rakhsh tried not to wake Rustam, and ran away, but he loved Rustam too much, so came back neighing loudly and kicking the ground as hard as he could. Rustam woke in a fury, but this time he saw the dragon! He drew his sword.

The dragon roared and said, "Who are you? I have lived here for centuries, and nobody ever dares come here. Tell me your name before I attack you!"

"My name is Rustam," replied Rustam. "I am the son of Zal, who is the son of Sam. And even on my own I am as strong as an army." The dragon rushed at Rustam, and his attack was so strong that it seemed for a few minutes that Rustam would be overwhelmed. But Rakhsh, seeing that Rustam was in danger, lunged at the dragon and bit the dragon's shoulder. This distracted the dragon enough that Rustam was able to defeat the dragon.

Rustam was so surprised by Rakhsh's bravery and thanked him for waking him. Then he cleaned himself up in a nearby stream, saddled up Rakhsh, and rode on his way.

