

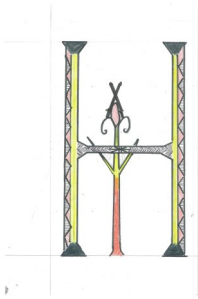
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Ideas: Charlie Dudley

Principal: Charlie Dudley (I wish!)

Teacher: Charlie Dudley (Glad I'm not!)



Have you ever had a life that feels like a dream? A nightmare where you're the only one who understands you. You're alone, no-one to help you, no-one to ask you a question and no-one to talk to. This is what my life is like and here is my story.



There is a land far, far away that was made by gods before time was invented. This is a place where the extra-ordinary is just ordinary. There are mountains that break the atmosphere and caves that reach the core of this majestic, mythical and mysterious place. There is a town of centaurs on top of the biggest mountain. In the deepest cave, a tribe of minotaurs. The centaurs are a democratic crowd. They settle their problems with a vote and if it's a 'tie' they fight in an arena. Whereas the minotaurs, on the other hand, have an 'Alpha' that is normally the strongest and most powerful of all minotaurs. The Alpha makes all the decisions.

In the town of the centaurs, a baby boy was born. That boy was me. When I woke up I saw a massive man whom was standing behind a box- he had no shirt on and he was really muscular. Like Hulk. He had orange hair and white skin. I couldn't get over how tall he was. If he were a horse he would have been about 18 hands. "Massive," I thought to myself. Then I saw a hoof step out from behind the box. He must have been riding a horse. Then the horse took another step. "No!" He **WAS** the horse! Half man half horse.

"He is not one of us," said a strange thing.

"Give him a chance," replied a smaller being.

"No, he is not centaur, therefore he shall not live with centaur," insisted the bigger one.

The smaller one trotted off.

Centaurs, is that what they call themselves?

"You may stay with us for two cycles, then you will leave," he told me.

In the minotaurs' cave, a scout had been spying on the town.

"Bulka, the centaurs have had another child," babbled the minotaur scout. "We should attack now or the town will get too big for us to attack. Then we will never find the Griffin's Cave of Gold."

"Remember, that we need to wait for our army to grow as well," replied Bulka the Alpha.

2 cycles went on and the time came for me to leave. I had gotten used to the centaurs. I didn't understand why I had to leave, besides the small reason that I was human. They gave me a sword. I left the gates. I'd been planning this for a while. I headed for the cave higher in the mountain. My father had warned me about the minotaurs- half bull half man. "They are dangerous," he warned me.

I started trekking up the hill towards the cave. When I got up to the edge of the cave I saw mountains of gold. I heard an eagle call. The figure came into the light. It was massive. Everything just has to be half one thing half the other. Well this was no different. It was an eagle and a lion. A griffin. I remember Chief Kakaa saying. It had the wings and head of an eagle and the hind legs of a lion. Its beak was a giant dagger. It used its beak to get the veins of gold out of the mountain. Its claws were even worse.

It reared up on its hind legs and flashed its wings. Instinct made me drop my sword. As soon as I dropped my sword it went back on all fours and sat like a tamed beast.



I slowly staggered up to it. I put my hand out to pat it. Its feathers were rough and coarse. I thought I'd name it. Phoenix. I grew fond of Phoenix and eventually I learnt how to fly with her. I loved flying it had always been my dream.

Eventually, I got the nerve to fly back to the centaurs. When I arrived on Phoenix they all ran into their houses. Everyone but Chief Kaka. He was holding the biggest sword. Then I realised it was a humongous spear.

"I will slay this beast," roared Chief Kaka.

"No! Stop!" I yelled from the back of Phoenix.

"This beast has been tormenting our village for over eighty cycles."

He continued, "It has destroyed our houses and statues of the ancient ones!" protested Chief Kaka.

The people that were scared weren't actually scared. They had ran into their houses to grab their bows and arrows and preparing to aim at Phoenix. Phoenix was spooked and flew uncontrollably around the town.

"Fire!" announced Chief Kaka.

The centaurs took aim, pulled back and released. Phoenix dashed dodged and dived, but there were just too many for Phoenix to handle. She hung on and flew and flew down to the bottom of the valley. When she landed she collapsed. I was wondering what was wrong and then I saw the red stain on her leg. The red blood stood out like a sore thumb. I pulled the arrow out. I could hear the centaurs galloping down the hill. I ran into the forest to grab some vine. When I had some I ran back to Phoenix. I ripped my fur shirt off and put it on the wound and used the vine to keep it in place. I jumped on Phoenix and urged her to get back to the cave. She spread her wings and started to run. She struggled a bit but she eventually got in the air. Just in the nick of time to, the centaurs were just coming over the last little hill and galloping full steam ahead.

Back at the cave, I started to realise how lonely I was. There was no-one to talk to (Phoenix doesn't count). No-one was even like me. No humans as far as Phoenix could fly. I couldn't believe I hadn't thought about this before. I was really tired so I just dropped the topic and went to sleep. Phoenix needed some rest as well.

I woke to the sound of hooves hitting the ground. "Oh no!" I thought to myself. The centaurs have found the cave. I ran up to the edge of the cave but I couldn't see anything. I could only see what the moon was allowing. I could make out a massive stampede of what I thought were centaurs climbing up the mountain. They couldn't be centaurs they were too small. Minotaurs are coming! I jumped onto her and flew her down to the town. I ran straight through all the houses like a bulldozer, I didn't stop until I got to Chief Kaka's house.

"Get out!" he yelled "You're not welcome here."

"Just listen," I pleaded.

"I will not listen to someone who was riding the very beast we tried to destroy," replied Chief Kaka.

"There is a stampede of minotaurs approaching the town. You must tell your men to be prepared," I explained.

I took the chief outside and told him to listen. They were only about two minutes away now.

Chief Kaka did as I instructed and he ordered his men to prepare for war.

"Open your gates," demanded Bulka the Alpha Minotaur. "Or we will open them ourselves."

I have always wondered what a minotaur looked like but I have never actually seen one.

"Archer's ready," commanded chief Kaka.

The Centaurs had created a semi-circle around the gates with the swordsman at the front and archers at the back.

"Charge," howled Bulka.

Arrows showered down on the centaurs, but luckily they had their shields up. The minotaurs came charging in with no swords. The fight had begun. There were swords slashing everywhere. The centaurs were falling rapidly to the strength and numbers of the minotaurs. They were ugly beasts with massive hooves.

"Fall back!" commanded Chief Kaka.

I had an idea. I jumped onto Phoenix and flew back to the pile of gold and told Phoenix to pick up as much gold as possible. She dug her claws into the mountain of gold and managed to pick up $\frac{3}{4}$ of it.

We then flew back to the town.

"You want the gold, come and get it," I screamed at the top of my voice.

We started flying towards the far end of the forest where they will never be able to find their way back.

"No! Don't, he'll trick you," bellowed Bulka.

The minotaurs were too greedy and didn't follow their leader.

"You idiots!" hissed Bulka.

Phoenix went so far away we couldn't even see the town. I trusted Phoenix to know her way back home. She dumped the gold, and just as planned the minotaurs followed.

"Just you and me Bulka," hissed Chief Kaka.

"No, just me!" snorted Bulka.

In one swift movement Chief Kaka disarmed and sliced Bulka., leaving the centaurs victorious. (Or so we thought!)

The earth started shaking and then out of the dust came a massive Minotaur. It was ugly. It had massive hooves that could make earthquakes. Massive biceps and triceps and some other 'ceps'. Massive horns that would cut cleanly through anyone or anything that got in it's way!

"I don't think this one wants gold!" I whimpered.

About The Author



Hi, my name is **Charlie (Douglas) Dudley**. I live 35 odd km out of Deniliquin. I have one annoying brother (Harry) and one sister (Izzy)- Izzy went to North School and Harry is still here. I love Deni North. I have surprisingly written a lot more than I thought which was a pain. I like to play footy, soccer and I also like to swim. I made it into the Deni team for soccer and AFL and to State for swimming. I am a school captain at North. Izzy was also a captain at North! I hope Harry is too!



In a world far, far away there is a land of hills, mountains, caves and crevices. There is a town in the biggest mountain, home of centaurs. In the deepest cave a tribe of minotaurs! One day, a baby centaur was born, or so they thought. It showed them that being different is a privilege not a disappointment! It showed them how to beat the minotaurs and kill them all. *But did they?*

What they said about Hugo;

'I'll be back! Back to read this book'

(Arnold Schwarzenegger)

'Might have to send me a hard cover!'

(Edward Scissor Hands)

'This book is over the moon!' **(Neil Armstrong)**

