

The Fireball Wand

Meerfus, the wand-making Magician, was always making new wands. It was his hobby, his life, and his career. People would come to him with a desire for a magic wand, and he would find a way to make it. You see, not everyone could do magic, but anyone could use a magic wand. This time, he had been contracted to make a wand of fireballs.

Meerfus was often leery of making wands that could be used as dangerous weapons. Yes, he'd made some that started campfires, that spanked bad kids, or that killed bugs, but he didn't often make ones that could cause the owner to get into a lot of trouble if used wrong. The client this time was a traveling entertainer and an old friend, so he didn't doubt that man's intentions.

Meerfus set out early with Duncan, the young apprentice that helped Meerfus get some of his ingredients for wand-making. Their first task was to get a dragon's morning breath in a flask. It would not be easy at all, and it could be very dangerous.

Duncan crept up carefully, as quietly as he could in the cave. He spotted the red serpent-like creature with ease. This was about the size of a cow, not counting the tail. He knelt carefully and put the flask right next to one of the sleeping creatures. Duncan quickly corked the flask just as the dragon's eyes began to peel open, and then he ran for the exit, hearing the roaring at his back.

The two of them hid in a gully near the dragon's cave for a couple hours. Meerfus entertained Duncan with legends and lore as they rode along; that was part of his job as master to his apprentice.

The next morning, Duncan and Meerfus had gathered all ingredients. With the magic words: *Explodicus Smallus Fireballizimus*, Meerfus bound the ingredients magically. With a quick shake of the wrist, a fireball the size of a fist burst from the end of the wick, which glowed bright red and never burnt out. Meerfus clapped his hands in delight and patted his apprentice on the back. It was another success!

Fireball Wand Quiz

Which of these has he not made but could be made and used as a weapon?

- A. Kid spanking wand
- B. Bug killer wand
- C. Face slapper wand**
- D. Fire starter wand

Based on the story Grandma told, how would you describe Meerfus and Duncan's relationship?

- A. They are like best friends.
- B. They are like teacher/student.**
- C. They are like father/son.
- D. They are like enemies.

What is the author's purpose of the story?

- A. To persuade
- B. To inform
- C. To entertain**
- D. To confuse

Think about the world we live in, what job and how is similar to what Meerfus does?

- A. A doctor by healing wounds
- B. A carpenter by fixing broken items
- C. A captain by taking visitors on boat rides
- D. A magician by performing magic for others**

Textual Evidence

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