

Enemy Pie

by Derek Munson

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It was a perfect summer until Jeremy Ross moved in right next door to my best friend Stanley. I did not like Jeremy. He had a party and I wasn't even invited. But my best friend Stanley was.

I never had an enemy until Jeremy moved into the neighborhood. Dad told me that when he was my age, he had enemies, too. But he knew of a way to get rid of them.

Dad pulled a worn-out scrap of paper from a recipe book.

"Enemy Pie," he said, satisfied.

You may be wondering what exactly is in Enemy Pie. Dad said the recipe was so secret, he couldn't even tell me. I begged him to tell me something—anything.

"I will tell you this, Tom," he said to me. "Enemy Pie is the fastest known way to get rid of enemies."

This got me thinking. What kinds of disgusting things would I put into Enemy Pie? I brought Dad earthworms and rocks, but he gave them right back.





I went outside to play. All the while, I listened to the sounds of my dad in the kitchen. This could be a great summer after all.

I tried to imagine how horrible Enemy Pie must smell. But I smelled something really good. As far as I could tell, it was coming from our kitchen. I was confused.

I went inside to ask Dad what was wrong. Enemy Pie shouldn't smell this good. But Dad was smart. "If it smelled bad, your enemy would never eat it," he said. I could tell he'd made this pie before.

The oven buzzer rang. Dad put on oven mitts and pulled out the pie. It looked good enough to eat! I was beginning to understand.

But still, I wasn't sure how this Enemy Pie worked. What exactly did it do to enemies? Maybe it made their hair fall out, or their breath stinky. I asked Dad, but he was no help.

While the pie cooled, Dad filled me in on my job.

He whispered. "In order for it to work, you need to spend a day with your enemy. Even worse, you have to be nice to him. It's not easy. But that's the only way that Enemy Pie can work. Are you sure you want to do this?"

Of course I was.

All I had to do was spend one day with Jeremy, then he'd be out of my life. I rode my bike to his house and knocked on the door.

When Jeremy opened the door, he seemed surprised.



“Can you come out and play?” I asked.

He looked confused. “I’ll go ask my mom,” he said. He came back with his shoes in his hand.

We rode bikes for awhile, then ate lunch. After lunch we went over to my house.

It was strange, but I was having fun with my enemy. I couldn’t tell Dad that, since he had worked so hard to make the pie.

We played games until my dad called us for dinner.

Dad had made my favorite food. It was Jeremy’s favorite, too! Maybe Jeremy wasn’t so bad after all. I was beginning to think that maybe we should forget about Enemy Pie.

“Dad”, I said, “It sure is nice having a new friend.” I was trying to tell him that Jeremy was no longer my enemy. But Dad only smiled and nodded. I think he thought I was just pretending.

But after dinner, Dad brought out the pie. He dished up three plates and passed one to me and one to Jeremy.

“Wow!” Jeremy said, looking at the pie.

I panicked. I didn’t want Jeremy to eat Enemy Pie! He was my friend!

“Don’t eat it!” I cried. “It’s bad!”

Jeremy’s fork stopped before reaching his mouth. He looked at me funny. I felt relieved. I had saved his life.



“If it’s so bad,” Jeremy asked, “then why has your dad already eaten half of it?”

Sure enough, Dad was eating Enemy Pie.

“Good stuff,” Dad mumbled. I sat there watching them eat. Neither one of them was losing any hair! It seemed safe, so I took a tiny taste. It was delicious!

After dessert, Jeremy invited me to come over to his house the next morning.

As for Enemy Pie, I still don’t know how to make it. I still wonder if enemies really do hate it or if their hair falls out or their breath turns bad. But I don’t know if I’ll ever get an answer, because I just lost my best enemy.

Questions Enemy Pie

1. Who is telling the story?

- ☐ (A) Jeremy
- ☐ (B) Dad
- ☐ (C) Stanley
- ☐ (D) Tom

2. At the beginning of the story, why did Tom think Jeremy was his enemy?



3. Write **one** ingredient that Tom thought would be in Enemy Pie.



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4. Find the part of the story next to the picture of a piece of pie: . Why did Tom think it could be a great summer after all?

- (A) He liked playing outside.
- (B) He was excited about Dad's plan.
- (C) He made a new friend.
- (D) He wanted to taste Enemy Pie.

5. How did Tom feel when he first smelled Enemy Pie? Explain why he felt this way.



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6. What did Tom think could happen when his enemy ate Enemy Pie? Write **one** thing.



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7. What were the **two** things Tom's dad told Tom to do for Enemy Pie to work?



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8. Why did Tom go to Jeremy's house?

- (A) To invite Jeremy to dinner.
- (B) To ask Jeremy to leave Stanley alone.
- (C) To invite Jeremy to play.
- (D) To ask Jeremy to be his friend.

9. What surprised Tom about the day he spent with Jeremy?



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10. At dinner, why did Tom begin to think he and his dad should forget about Enemy Pie?

- (A) Tom did not want to share dessert with Jeremy.
- (B) Tom did not think Enemy Pie would work.
- (C) Tom was beginning to like Jeremy.
- (D) Tom wanted to keep Enemy Pie a secret.

11. How was Tom feeling when Dad passed the piece of Enemy Pie to Jeremy?

- (A) alarmed
- (B) satisfied
- (C) surprised
- (D) confused

12. What was it about Enemy Pie that Dad kept secret?

- (A) It was a normal pie.
- (B) It tasted disgusting.
- (C) It was his favorite food.
- (D) It was a poisonous pie.

13. Look at this sentence from the end of the story:

“After dessert, Jeremy invited me to come over to his house the next morning.”

What does this suggest about the boys?

- (A) They are still enemies.
- (B) They do not like to play at Tom’s house.
- (C) They wanted to eat some more Enemy Pie.
- (D) They might be friends in the future.

14. Use what you have read to explain why Tom’s dad really made Enemy Pie.



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15. What kind of person is Tom's dad? Give an example of what he did in the story that shows this.



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16. What lesson might you learn from this story?



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The GIANT Tooth Mystery

A fossil is the remains of any creature or plant that lived on the Earth many, many years ago. People have been finding fossils for thousands of years in rocks and cliffs and beside lakes. We now know that some of these fossils were from dinosaurs.



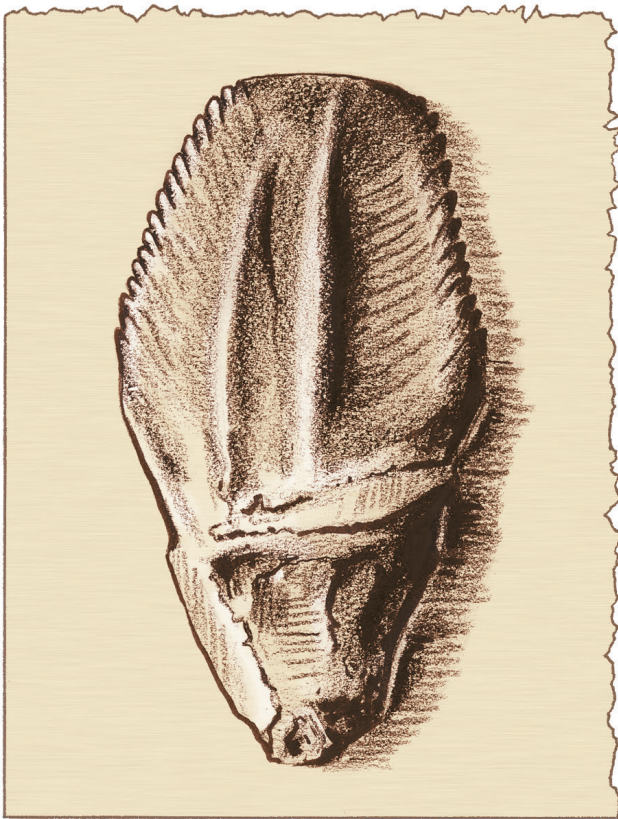
Long ago, people who found huge fossils did not know what they were. Some thought the big bones came from large animals that they had seen or read about, such as hippos or elephants. But some of the bones people found were too big to have come from even the biggest hippo or elephant. These enormous bones led some people to believe in giants.

Hundreds of years ago in France, a man named Bernard Palissy had another idea. He was a famous pottery maker. When he went to make his pots, he found many tiny fossils in the clay. He studied the fossils and wrote that they were the remains of living creatures. This was not a new idea. But Bernard Palissy also wrote that some of these creatures no longer lived on earth. They had completely disappeared. They were extinct.

Was Bernard Palissy rewarded for his discovery? No! He was put in prison for his ideas.

As time went by, some people became more open to new ideas about how the world might have been long ago.

Then, in the 1820s, a huge fossil tooth was found in England. It is thought that Mary Ann Mantell, the wife of fossil expert Gideon Mantell, was out for a walk when she saw what looked like a huge stone tooth. Mary Ann Mantell knew the big tooth was a fossil, and took it home to her husband.



When Gideon Mantell first looked at the fossil tooth, he thought it had belonged to a plant eater because it was flat and had ridges. It was worn down from chewing food. It was almost as big as the tooth of an elephant. But it looked nothing like an elephant's tooth.

Fossil tooth sketched life-sized

Gideon Mantell could tell that the pieces of rock attached to the tooth were very old. He knew that it was the kind of rock where reptile fossils were found. Could the tooth have belonged to a giant, plant-eating reptile that chewed its food? A type of reptile that no longer lived on earth?

Gideon Mantell was really puzzled by the big tooth. No reptile that he knew about chewed its food. Reptiles gulped their food, and so their teeth didn't become worn down. It was a mystery.

Gideon Mantell took the tooth to a museum in London and showed it to other scientists. No one agreed with Gideon Mantell that it might be the tooth of a gigantic reptile.

Gideon Mantell tried to find a reptile that had a tooth that looked like the giant tooth. For a long time, he found nothing. Then one day he met a scientist who was studying iguanas. An iguana is a large plant-eating reptile found in Central and South America. It can grow to be more than five feet long. The scientist showed Gideon Mantell an iguana tooth. At last! Here was the tooth of a living reptile that looked like the mystery tooth. Only the fossil tooth was much, much bigger.

Iguana



A life-sized drawing of an iguana's tooth from Gideon Mantell's notebook



Now Gideon Mantell believed the fossil tooth had belonged to an animal that looked like an iguana. Only it wasn't five feet long. Gideon Mantell believed it was a hundred feet long! He named his creature *Iguanodon*. That means "iguana tooth".

Gideon Mantell did not have a whole *Iguanodon* skeleton. But from the bones he had collected over the years, he tried to figure out what one might have looked like. He thought the bones showed that the creature had walked on all four legs. He thought a pointed bone was a horn. He drew an *Iguanodon* with a horn on its nose.



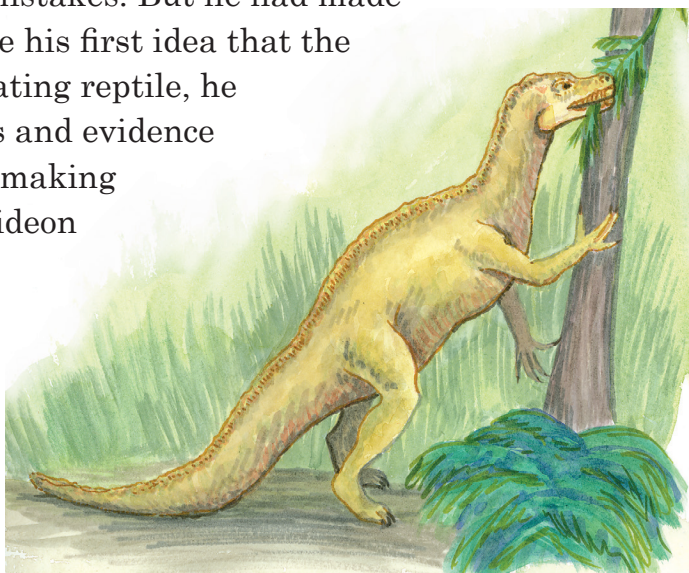
What Gideon Mantell thought an *Iguanodon* looked like

Years later, several complete *Iguanodon* skeletons were found. They were only about thirty feet long. The bones showed that it walked on its hind legs some of the time. And what Gideon Mantell thought was a horn on its nose was really a spike on its “thumb”! Based on these discoveries, scientists changed their ideas about what the *Iguanodon* looked like.

Gideon Mantell made some mistakes. But he had made an important discovery, too. Since his first idea that the fossil tooth belonged to a plant-eating reptile, he spent many years gathering facts and evidence to prove his ideas were right. By making careful guesses along the way, Gideon Mantell was one of the first people to show that long ago, giant reptiles lived on earth. And then they became extinct.

Hundreds of years before, Bernard Palissy had been thrown in prison for saying nearly the same thing. But Gideon Mantell became famous. His discovery made people curious to find out more about these huge reptiles.

In 1842, a scientist named Richard Owen decided that these extinct reptiles needed a name of their own. He called them *Dinosauria*. This means “fearfully great lizard”. Today we call them dinosaurs.



What scientists today think the *Iguanodon* looked like

Questions The Giant Tooth Mystery

1. What is a fossil?

- ☐ (A) the surface of rocks and cliffs
- ☐ (B) the bones of a giant
- ☐ (C) the remains of very old living things
- ☐ (D) the teeth of elephants

2. According to the article, why did some people long ago believe in giants?



3. Where did Bernard Palissy find fossils?

- ☐ (A) on the cliffs
- ☐ (B) in the clay
- ☐ (C) by a river
- ☐ (D) on a path

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4. What was Bernard Palissy's new idea?



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5. Why was Bernard Palissy put into prison?

- (A) People were not open to new ideas.
- (B) He copied his ideas from Gideon Mantell.
- (C) He left tiny fossils in his pottery.
- (D) Studying fossils was forbidden in France.

6. Who found the fossil tooth in England?

- (A) Bernard Palissy
- (B) Mary Ann Mantell
- (C) Richard Owen
- (D) Gideon Mantell

7. What did Gideon Mantell know about reptiles that made the fossil tooth puzzling?

- (A) Reptiles had no teeth.
- (B) Reptiles were found under rocks.
- (C) Reptiles lived long ago.
- (D) Reptiles gulped their food.

8. Gideon Mantell thought the tooth might have belonged to different types of animals. Complete the table to show what made him think this.

Type of animal	What made him think this
A plant eater	The tooth was flat with ridges.
 A giant creature	
 A reptile	

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9. Why did Gideon Mantell take the tooth to a museum?

- (A) to ask if the fossil belonged to the museum
- (B) to prove that he was a fossil expert
- (C) to hear what scientists thought of his idea
- (D) to compare the tooth with others in the museum

10. A scientist showed Gideon Mantell an iguana tooth. Why was this important to Gideon Mantell?



11. What did Gideon Mantell use when trying to figure out what the *Iguanodon* looked like?

- (A) bones he collected
- (B) ideas from other scientists
- (C) pictures in books
- (D) teeth from other reptiles

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12. Look at the two pictures of the *Iguanodon*. What do they help you to understand?



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13. Later discoveries proved that Gideon Mantell was wrong about what the *Iguanodon* looked like. Fill in the blanks to complete the table.

	What Gideon Mantell thought the <i>Iguanodon</i> looked like	What scientists today think the <i>Iguanodon</i> looked like
	The <i>Iguanodon</i> walked on four legs.	
		The <i>Iguanodon</i> had a spike on its thumb.
	The <i>Iguanodon</i> was 100 feet long.	

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14. What were found that showed Gideon was wrong about what the *Iguanodon* looked like?

- (A) more fossil teeth
- (B) scientific drawings
- (C) living *Iguanodons*
- (D) whole skeletons