

The Story of William Tell

William Tell is a folk hero in Switzerland. This story takes place in 1307.

William Tell was known to be a strong and good man. He was a marksman with the crossbow.



The mayor of the town where William Tell lived was a tyrant. To show his importance to the townspeople, he hung his hat on a tree in the middle of town. He made a law that said everyone who passed by would bow to his hat.



When William Tell and his young son, Walter, visited the town, people noticed immediately that he refused to bow to the hat. So William Tell was arrested. However, the mayor told him that he could save his own life and that of his son's if he would shoot an apple off his son's head in one shot.

Happily, William Tell was successful. From 50 steps away in front of a crowd of townspeople, William Tell shot the apple off Walter's head.



When the mayor asked why William Tell had brought two arrows with him, Tell's response was that if he had accidentally hurt Walter with his arrow, he had planned to use the other arrow on the mayor.