

# The Mount of Gold

## Comic Script

### Sets:

- 1 Richard's House  
Table with chairs, different furnishings for each house
- 2 Cave opening  
Mountain with cave opening
- 3 Just inside the cave opening  
Opening at the side; just see sunlight coming in from that direction
- 4 Mountain far
- 5 Mountain close
- 6 Tunnel
- 7 Dragon tunnel  
Has scaly sides
- 8 Debris slide
- 9 Stone City (this side)  
Houses built in the stone with a path in front of it
- 10 Stone City (far side)  
Houses stacked on top of each other (like pueblo) across cavern
- 11 Elevator room (top) [with elevator, without elevator]  
Small dead end to tunnel with elevator at back (opening below it)
- 12 Elevator room (bottom)  
Small dead end to tunnel with broken elevator at back (opening above it with ropes coming down)
- 13 Elevator shaft

### Characters:

- Steven  
Young man
- Grandfather  
Old man
- Peter  
Middle-aged man
- Martha  
Middle-aged woman
- Henry  
Young man
- Dragon
- Richard  
Middle-aged man
- Charles  
Boy
- Elizabeth (can be voice of Martha)

Middle-aged woman  
Other miner (can be voice of Richard)  
Middle-aged man

Other miners and their families (don't talk)

**Notes:**

Show faces when talking unless otherwise noted

**Script:**

[Old looking paper with an old font]

Narrator:

Once a kingdom in a wold,  
Dug into the deep unknown.  
Found they there a lake of gold,  
Underneath the rock and stone.

Not just gold was what they found,  
Food it was that God had grown.  
Brought it they above the ground,  
Wealth from under rock and stone.

Rich they were but not so wise,  
Seeking treasure for their own.  
Dragons came to claim their prize,  
Gold beneath the rock and stone.

Spewing from the cavern's wall,  
Brimstone burst out with a groan.  
Miners, dragons, both did fall,  
Underneath the rock and stone.

Set 2 (At the mouth of the cave)

[Peter and Henry walking (with picks in hand), facing to the left, in front of a meadow, on a path. A miner walks behind them, going the same way]

Peter: Ahh. Another day of mining gold! Henry, my boy, we shall soon be rich!

Henry: Yes, Father.

Peter: Do you realize what an age you were born in? All *my* days I labored with iron ore -- nasty dirty black stuff. But now -- we work for gold! That reminds me of the rhyme:

Those that mine for iron ore,  
They live lives that are a bore.  
But the one who mines for gold,  
Will live life with fun untold!

[Peter and Henry flat on their faces, stooped down, picks beside them, with a shadow over them. Still in same spot.]

{ROAR or some kind of noise that dragons make}

Peter: Ahhh, get down!

Henry: Help!

[Peter and Henry sit up facing the right. Henry looks at Peter. Peter looks to the left, pointing]

Henry: Father, what was that? Was it some monstrous bird?

Peter: No, Henry. Look, it is burning up houses like tinder! No bird ever breathed fire.

Birds cannot endure the heat.

Nor can they the same excrete.

When both fire and flying meet,

Run before you're dragon meat!

Henry: Gasp! Dragons are scary!

Peter: We must brave, Henry.

[Henry facing Peter. Peter's hand is on his shoulder.]

Peter: Quick, run Henry, go get your mother and brothers and bring them here to the mine! It is the only safe place!

Henry: But surely the dragon has come for the gold and will make his way here.

Peter: You are right. But the cave is safer from the dragon than our wooden house is from the dragon's fire. So go bring them!

Several minutes later. . .

[Rocky background and floor. Light coming in only from the left. Peter facing left toward a woman and two boys, who are walking in.]

Peter: Oh, Martha, boys, I am so glad to see you safe! Where's Henry?

Martha: He is warning all the neighbors he can to come here.

Peter: He is a good boy. Only I hope--

{CRASH!}

[Rocks falling down. Shadow over opening; Peter holds his family and everyone is afraid.]

Martha: What was that, Peter?

Peter: Martha, get yourself and the boys farther in. That was the dragon -- he's trying to get in!

Boy: Dragons are scary!

[Martha leaving; Peter facing out, but looking at a couple of other miners around.]

Peter: Come, let's collapse the cave entrance so he can't get in!

[All the many miners start hurriedly pick at the entrance. Peter looking through the shrinking opening.]

Peter: I hope Henry is somewhere safe; he won't make it here in time.

{CRASH! dragon hitting mountain; KABOOM! mountain erupting}

[Rocks fall from the cavern's ceiling; The way is dark except for one who has a lantern. Miners run for cover, some fall on their faces]

Miner: The mountain has erupted!

Another miner: Quick run deeper in -- it's the only way to survive!

Peter: I do hope Henry is safe.

[Henry looking toward the collapsing, red-hot mountain, pick down at his side; dust and debris coming down all around the mountain. Back to camera]

Grandfather: And so I was left alone. Both my family and the dragon were swallowed up in rocks. All I had was my pick and my job.

[Henry's back to the camera, facing a wall with an important looking document]

Grandfather: Soon I lost even that. When the king heard all that had happened, he outlawed mining of any sort for fear of other dragons coming and bringing more ruin to the kingdom.

[Several small pictures of Henry picking the mountain, each one he's getting older and stooping more.]

Grandfather: But everyday I could, I secretly picked at the mountain where the entrance of the old mine had been, hoping someday to uncover the mine and recover my family.

Grandfather: Even though I worked for so many years, I still could not pick through the rock to get to the mines. Eventually I had to stop, because I was just too old and too weak to do any more.

[Grandfather and Steven standing (facing one another) in the place that Henry had picked. Grandfather is facing right and handing Steven the pick.]

Grandfather: Now, Steven, I am giving you my pick, to continue what I have started and find the remnant of our missing family.

Steven: But Grandfather, do you really think they're still alive? How could they have survived in the mines with nothing to eat?

Grandfather: You forget, Steven, that the gold we mined was special -- it could be eaten. Since it is possible that they had food, it is possible that they may be alive. So I continue to have hope that there is a remnant. But there is only one way to find out for sure -- you must make an entrance to the mines.

[Steven picking at mountain side; Grandfather behind him back to camera]

Grandfather: Strike harder, Steven. Use your whole arm -- not just your hand.

{Rumble}

[Steven and Grandfather's back to camera; Rubble falls to reveal hole]

Grandfather: You did it! You opened up the cavern! I knew we had to be close! Let's go inside.

[Both have lanterns, Steven has pick, Grandfather has walking stick; both standing in a dark cavern.]

Grandfather: I don't remember the entrance of the mine looking this way. It was not so large. Well, maybe the eruption changed the way it looks.

[Steven and Grandfather walking, Steven pointing.]

Steven: Look at the ceiling, Grandfather, how it spirals upward. It almost reminds me of a coiled snake!

Steven: And Grandfather, look at the walls -- they look like huge armor plates.

Grandfather: Yes, the plates cover the whole cavern. That is very odd.

[Steven and Grandfather walking in another spot, Steven pointing.]

Steven: And look up ahead at the end of the cavern -- the wall looks like a crocodile smashed his face into it!

Grandfather: Steven, that's no crocodile's face; that's a dragon's. This must be where the dragon was buried when the mountain erupted. He must have been covered with the molten lava. When it hardened, it petrified and created this cavern. But the dragon -- he isn't here.

[Close up of them both, looking at each other.]

Steven: But that should be good, shouldn't it? That means the dragon is dead and gone.

Grandfather: I'm afraid that couldn't be so. Notice, there are no bones, no remains, no trace. Dragons don't easily die. That dragon is alive. Though not here, he is surely further in.

Steven: I don't like that idea. Dragons are scary.

Grandfather: You must be brave, my son.

[Steven walking left, and holds up his lantern]

Steven: Hey, Grandfather! It looks like an opening down there! Maybe that is the old entrance.

Grandfather: Be careful, Steven, that path has a lot of debris on it. You might--

[Steven sliding down]

Grandfather: --slip

Steven: Whoa!

[Steven sitting down on debris at the bottom]

Steven: Oof.

[Steven stands up and faces right.]

[Grandfather in the distance looking down toward camera, at the top of slope]

Grandpa (calling): Steven, this is where we must part. I cannot come down to you and you cannot come up to me. You must go on; find our people; face the dragon; and come back in victory. I will await your return here.

[Steven looking up at Grandfather]

Steven (calling): But. . . but I can't do that -- dragons are scary!

[Grandfather in the distance looking down toward camera, but facing as if to leave, at the top of slope]

Grandfather: You must be brave, my son. Remember:

When meat is tough,

It's hard to chew.

Eat not the stuff,

Use it for stew.

The dragon will not eat you if you are tough! Farewell!

[Steven looking straight ahead, instead of up.]

Steven (to himself): That doesn't make me feel any better. Well, I guess there is only one thing to do. I must be brave; I must go on.

[Steven walking by himself]

[Steven facing away from camera toward a cavern filled with houses.]

Steven: Wow! All those houses. It looks like a city.

Steven: So they must have survived . . . and thrived, by the looks of it. But where are all the people now?

[Steven facing away from camera toward a cavern filled with houses. Now with bright firelight in the distance.]

Dragon (far away): I smell you, human and I will eat you like the rest of your people!

Steven: Yikes! The dragon!

[Steven turns around and runs along street]

Steven: So that's where all the people are -- in the dragon's belly! I must get out of here!

[Steven runs along street]

{Crash and dragon noises }

Steven: Oh, no! The dragon's coming! I must try going into one of the passages, so the dragon can't reach me. Dragons are so scary!

[Steven facing a dead end, back toward camera]

Steven: Oh, no - a dead end!

Dragon: You cannot escape from me!

[Steven, back against the wall (side view), hands shielding his face from the on coming flames. Lantern falling.]

{ROAR!}

Steven: I'm done for!

[Flames]

{SNAP!}

Steven: Ahhh!

[Steven on the floor of elevator falling; flames around him]

Steven: Ahhhhhhh!

{CRASH!}

[Lantern hanging off to the side of the room; Steven lying on the floor in a heap of broken boards]

Steven: Oof. . . Ow.

[Richard runs from behind camera to Steven; Richard has a lantern]

Richard: Robert, how come you came down here? It's much too dangerous to go anywhere with the dragon about.

Steven: What?

[Richard helps Steven up]

Richard: Oh, you are hurt! Come into the house and rest, Robert. We were just about to eat.

Steven: I'm okay. And my name is Steven, not Robert.

Richard: Oh, I'm sorry! I thought . . . You look so much like someone I know. My name is Richard.

[Steven pointing up]

Steven: Yeah, you wouldn't know me. I came from up . . . uh . . . from the surface. I wanted to know whether my relatives were still alive.

Richard: Amazing! All the way from the land above and the dragon didn't eat you! Your relatives were--?

Steven: My great grandfather was Peter.

[another view of them standing]

Richard: Oh, Peter! I knew him well, while he lived. Robert, the one I mistook you for, is one of his descendants. Many from his family live here -- or, at least I hope they still do. I haven't seen them nor many others since we freed the dragon.

Steven: What do you mean, "freed the dragon"?

Richard: I will tell you all about it as we go to my house. And then, over dinner, you will tell my family and me your story. Follow me.

[(side view) Richard and Steven walking side by side]

Richard: I assume you know about the dragon and the eruption?

Steven: Yes, we used to think that both the miners and the dragon perished in the eruption and then were buried together. But I saw that the dragon was buried in a cavern right outside the mines.

Richard: Yes, but the miners didn't know that. They thought that the dragon was still outside, waiting for them to come out with the gold again. So they decided to just live in the mines. And, we were happy, content to stay and eat the gold we mined.

[front view]

Steven: So how did the dragon escape from his prison?

Richard: Well, after many years of living here, some of us desired to live above ground again. So we reopened the old mine's entrance. But instead of the overland, as we had expected, we saw the dragon, stuck in a cavern exactly his size. We ran away as fast as we could, but he got some of us. I suppose he was terribly hungry -- not eating all those years.

Steven: But you escaped.

Richard: Yes, My family and I and several others fled deep down where the dragon could not penetrate. But we are not much better off than the ones who were eaten by the dragon.

[Side view]

Steven: Why do you say that?

Richard: Because in our haste, we left our picks up with the dragon and have no way to mine for food. We have little food left to eat.

Steven: Oh, how terrible.

Richard: Yes, our future does, indeed, look bleak. But however bleak, We will still share what little food we have with you.

After dinner in Richard's house

[Elizabeth on one end, Richard on the other, Steven next to him, and three kids sitting around a table]

Steven: Then the platform I was on fell, because the dragon breathed fire on it. I fell down the elevator shaft and would have died, had I not been able to slow myself down before I hit the bottom. That is when you found me, Richard.

Richard: That was quite an adventure you had. I can't imagine how you could've escaped from the dragon. It seems he gets everyone he means to.

[Camera on just Elizabeth and Steven]

Elizabeth: I am just glad you lived to tell it. It is a pity, though, that you went to such trouble -- only to die with us in the end!

Steven: Nonsense! I'm sure there's something we can do.

[Camera on Richard and Steven]

Richard: I have tried everything that I could think of and nothing has worked.

Steven: Well, as I see it, we have three choices: we either secretly go up and get your picks so we can survive down here; or we get rid of the dragon; or we get out of here.

[Camera of whole table, all looking gloomily at each other.]

Elizabeth: But all those would be dangerous.

Richard: Elizabeth is right. There is no way past the dragon.

Elizabeth: We will all just have to die down here.

Charles: And then there will be nothing for the dragon to eat.

[Steven jumps up]

Steven: Of course! Why didn't I think of that before? If we all die, the dragon will die, because he has nothing else to eat. if only we can make the dragon see that we are his only way to survive by bringing him food.

Richard: But that would mean someone would have to tell him. And who would be brave enough to face the dragon?

Steven: I will do it!

Charles: But dragons are scary!

Steven: I will be brave!

[Steven about to climb up the rope of the broken elevator, the rest of the family around him]

Richard: Are you sure about this, Steven? Dragons are really scary!

Steven: Yes, there is no other way. I must be brave. Good-bye all, if I don't see you again!

[Steven climbs up the rope.]

Steven: Am I crazy or what? I'm about to walk up to a dragon!

[Steven climbs up rope back to the place he fell.]

Steven: And dragons are scary! But I must be brave.

[Walks toward mouth of tunnel out into the open.]

Steven: Well, here it goes!

[He takes out a horn and blows at the place overlooking the city.]

{Dragon wings and things crashing down}

[Light in the distance]

Dragon: Who dares disturb my rest?

[Steven faces camera. A shadow covers him]

Dragon: You! Did you come that I may eat you?

Steven: I-- I came because I wish to speak with you.

Dragon: Then speak, before I grow hungry! Oh wait, I'm already hungry. Hurry and speak, before I eat you up!

Steven: You have eaten many people, O great serpent, to the ruin of all who live in these glorious caves! But we are not the only ones who will be ruined if you continue your feast. You too, will be! For what will you eat, if we are all consumed? Nothing else lives down here but you and us.

Dragon: Hmm. I see your point, midget. But how would you have it?

Steven: If you allow us to go up, O marvelous beast, we will come and bring you the choicest meat we can find.

Dragon: Ha, Ha, Ha! Do you take me for a fool, little one? Is it not said?

Do not trust the human tongue,

From which only lies have sprung.

I know you will escape if you get the chance and I will lose several good meals! No, if you want to survive, dig a hole big enough for me to escape from these caverns and I will leave you.

Steven: Do you take me for a fool, O magnificent dragon? For I know, if we do open up a way, you will be back to devour us and then take our gold. For:

No pull is stronger,

Than gold for a dragon.

Though he waits longer,

He will return again.

Dragon: Right you are! But:

We dragons are not fools,

Confusing yellow pools,

With gold that cannot bilk.

That gold is cheese from milk!

Steven: What? You mean the gold is just cheese?

Narrator:

After many silent years,

Steven was a man now grown.

Dragons were not of his fears,  
Sleeping under rock and stone.

So he dug to find the mine.  
Into caverns, he was thrown.  
Found he them with naught to dine,  
Starving miners under stone.

To the dragon, up he went,  
Fearlessly and all alone.  
He with courage dragon sent,  
Forth from under rock and stone.

Chief of miners king did give,  
To him for what he had done.  
Blissfully did Steven live,  
Underneath the rock and stone.

**The End**