

Two Other Famous Dogs

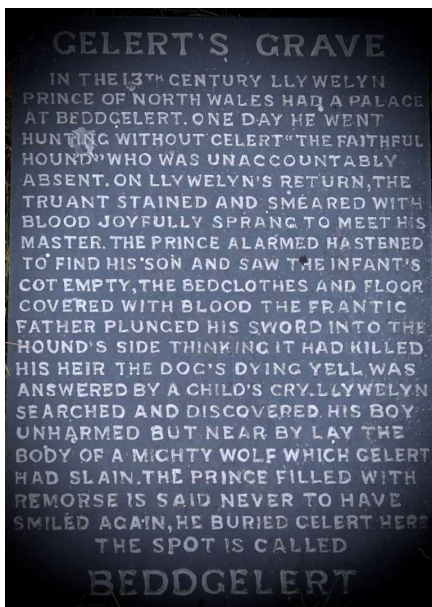


GREYFRIAR'S BOBBY

Greyfriar's "Bobby" was a Skye Terrier who became famous in 19th-century Edinburgh. He belonged to John Gray, a nightwatchman for the Edinburgh City Police.

After John Gray's death in 1858, Bobby spent the following 14 years sitting on his master's grave in Greyfriars churchyard, only leaving to be fed at a local eating house and then going straight back to the grave. He became famous locally and was given a special collar, now in the Museum of Edinburgh. "Bobby" died in 1872. He was buried just inside the graveyard, close to John Gray.

A year after he died a statue of "Bobby" was erected in Edinburgh and tourists still visit to see him.



THE LEGEND OF "GELERT"

There is a village in Wales called, Beddgelert, which means Gerlert's grave.

The story goes that Gelert was a wolfhound whose owner was Llywelyn the Great. Llewelyn had a young child and one day he came back from hunting to find his baby's cradle pushed over and the baby gone. Gelert was stood next to it with blood all around his mouth. Llewelyn was horrified. Although he couldn't really believe it, it seemed clear that Gelert was the culprit and devoured the baby.

With a heavy heart he drew his sword and killed Gelert so that no one else would be hurt.

Only then did he hear his baby cry and saw him unharmed under the cradle, lying next to a dead wolf. Gelert had killed the wolf to save the child.

It is said that Llewelyn the Great was so sad he never smiled again and that he named the village after the loyal Gelert.

ACTIVITIES:

1.

Ask them to discuss these questions in pairs, then discuss as a class.

Think about the role that animals play in our lives as pets.

What is our relationship to our pets like?

What do people enjoy about keeping pets?

What do you think it might feel like to be the animal?

2.

Write a diary as if you were someone's pet

They imagine a day in the life of a pet dog / cat or other animal and write a diary **in the first person** as if they are the animal.

SUBJECTS: English: Speaking and Listening; Writing / History