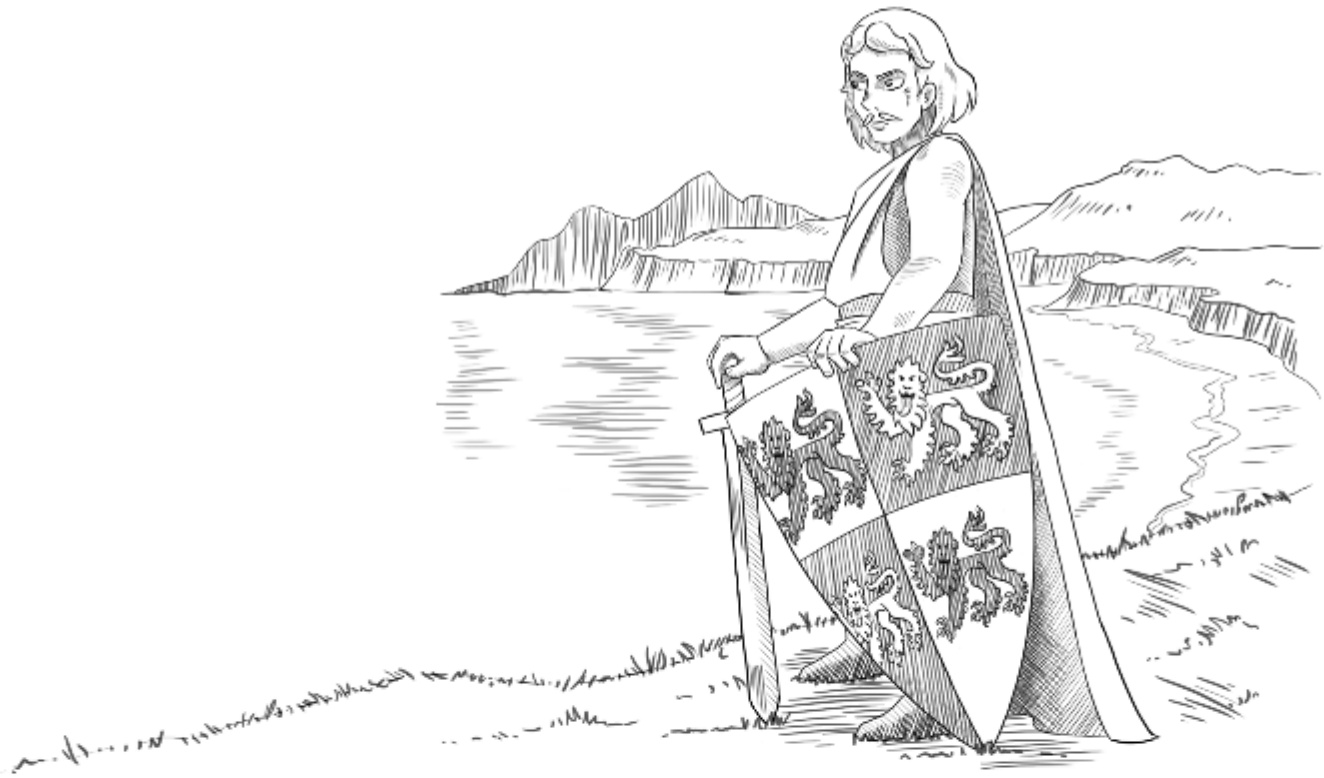


# THE MARCHER LORDS AND LLYWELYN THE GREAT



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Inker: Lexy Jones  
Produced by: Turnip Starfish Limited

# The Marcher Lords and Llywelyn The Great

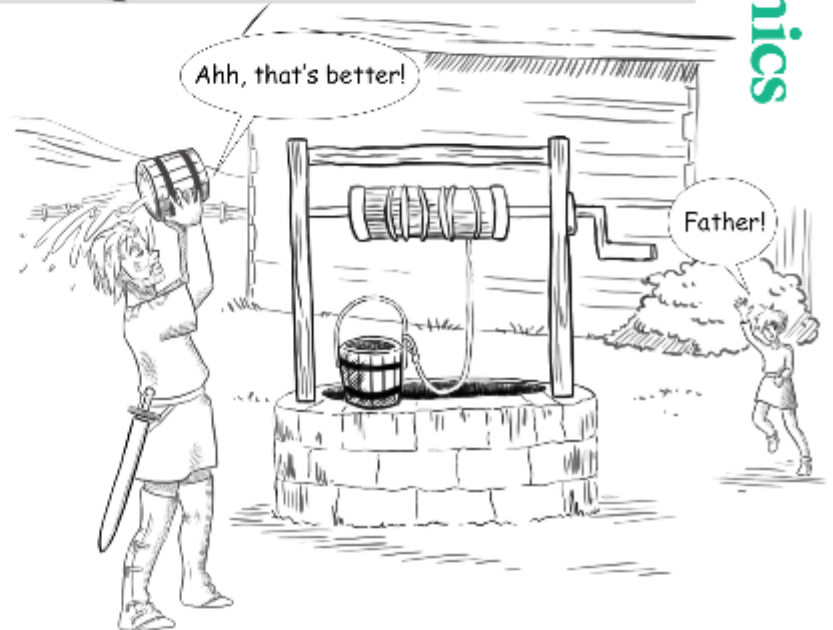


Tatsfield Manor, Surrey, England 1310.  
The home of Rhodri ap Gruffydd.



Good hunt my lord?

Yes James. Pheasants, rabbits and a nice deer.



Ahh, that's better!

Father!



Ah, Tomos, there you are my boy...

Did you know that our family is of Welsh nobility?

But we live in England?

But Father, if your grandfather was Llywelyn the Great a Welsh King, why do we live in England? And where's your crown?

Ah! My grandfather Llywelyn was King of Gwynedd. He was known as Llywelyn the Great. His wife was Joan, Lady of Wales, daughter of King John of England. Although she was not my grandmother.

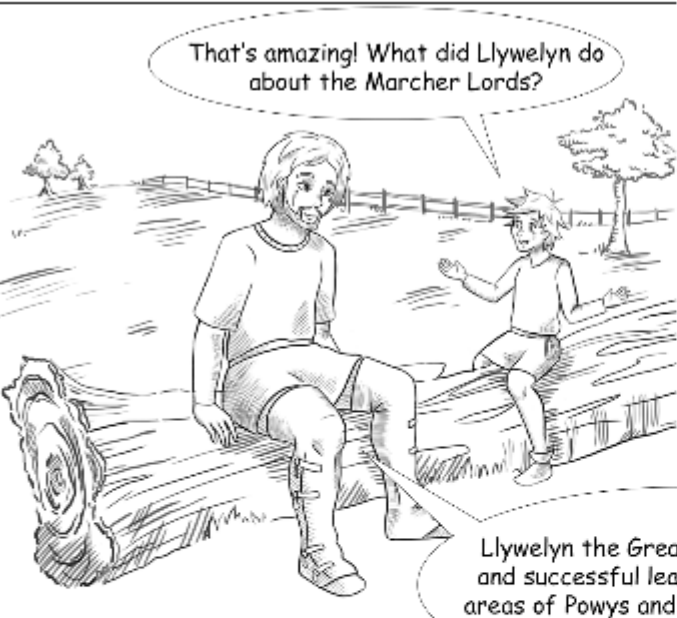
In 1066, the Normans invaded Britain from France.



They conquered most of England and their leader William became the new King. The Normans captured land in South Wales, and William gave the land to Norman soldiers who had supported his invasion.



These soldiers became powerful, taking more land from the Welsh. They became known as the Marcher Lords and ruled the land for generations. Llywelyn the Great wanted to take back the land.



Llywelyn the Great became a skilled and successful leader. He joined the areas of Powys and Penllyn to Gwynedd in North Wales.



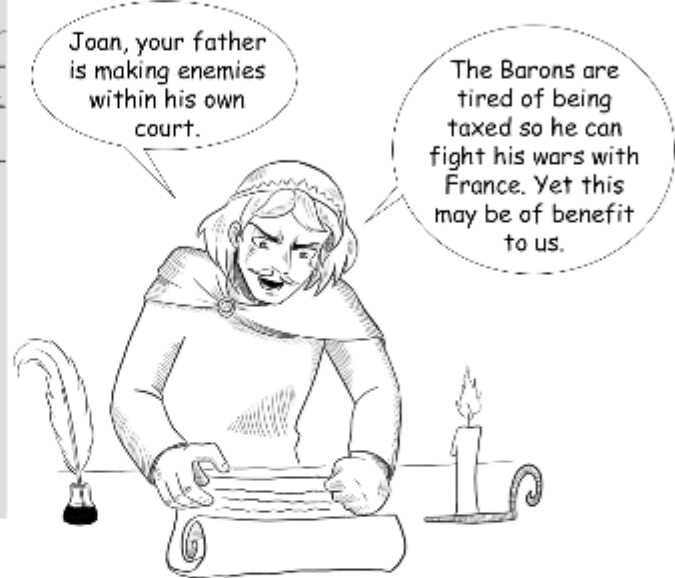


Llywelyn had a good relationship with King John of England and married King John's daughter Joan in 1205.



Joan was known as Joan, Lady of Wales and Lady of Snowdon, and also went by her Welsh name of Siwan.

In the years that followed, Llywelyn's relationship with King John of England deteriorated.



Joan, your father is making enemies within his own court.

The Barons are tired of being taxed so he can fight his wars with France. Yet this may be of benefit to us.

Llywelyn, you are as guilty as my father for wanting more power.



Yes, yes, but if the Barons are busy fighting each other, they won't notice if I pinch just a little more Welsh land back!



Well even I won't be able to calm my father down when he finds out!



That sounds like Llywelyn might have over stretched himself... I imagine you did not want to upset King John...

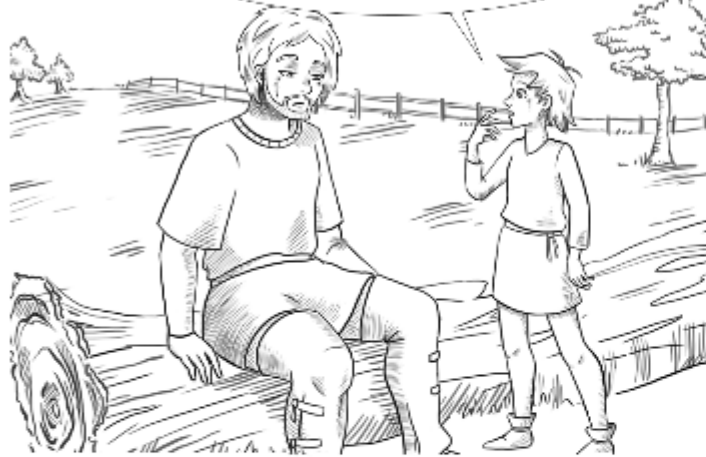
Was there a battle?

Yes there was, Llewelyn had angered King John. In 1211 King John sent an army into North Wales and Llywelyn just wasn't powerful enough to win.

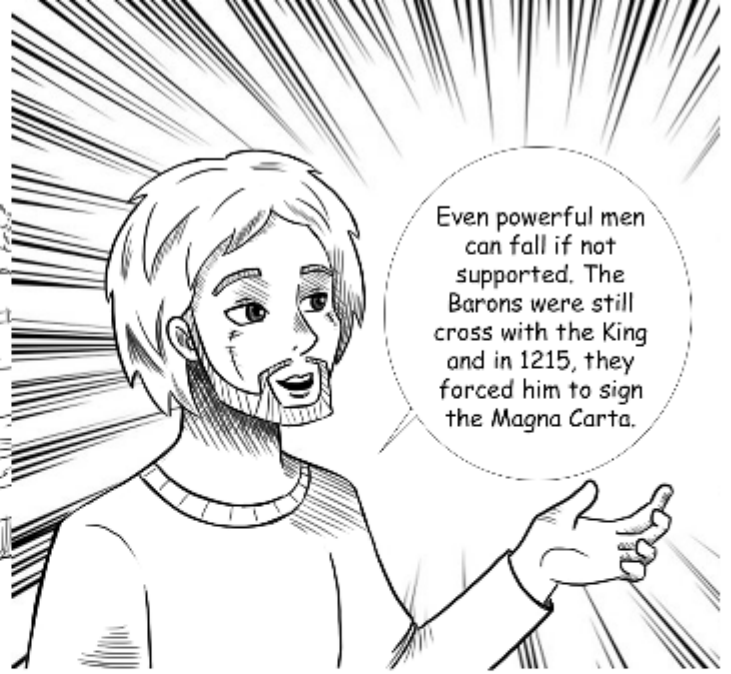


Llewelyn lost the castle of Deganwy. He would have lost all his land if it hadn't been for Joan, who persuaded her father to let Llywelyn keep lands to the west of the River Conwy!

It sounds like you did not want to mess with King John, he was very powerful!



Even powerful men can fall if not supported. The Barons were still cross with the King and in 1215, they forced him to sign the Magna Carta.



The Magna Carta laid down laws which the King had to obey, for example no one is above the law, not even the king!



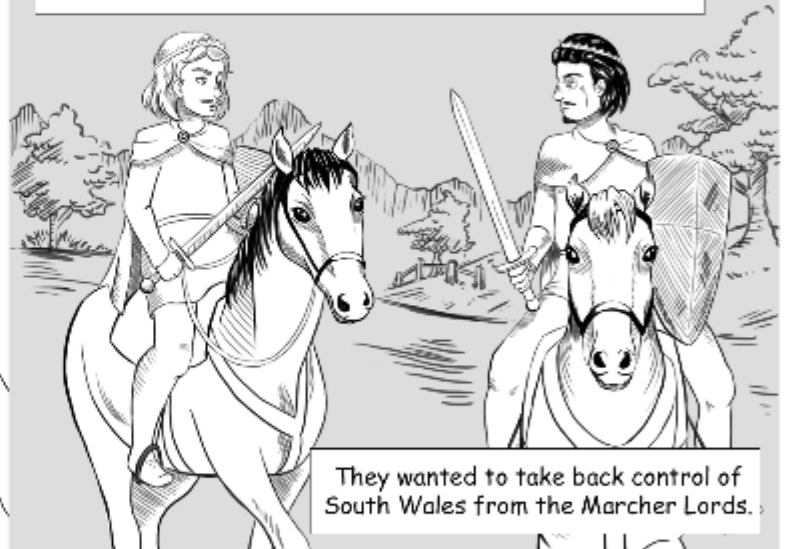
Llywelyn agreed with the barons. He wanted King John's power to be curbed!

Llywelyn the Great lived in a really exciting time!



He did and slowly his power and influence grew again...

Llywelyn was respected by the other Welsh nobles. Princes such as Rhys Gryg, who ruled part of the Kingdom of Deheubarth were happy to join forces with Llywelyn.

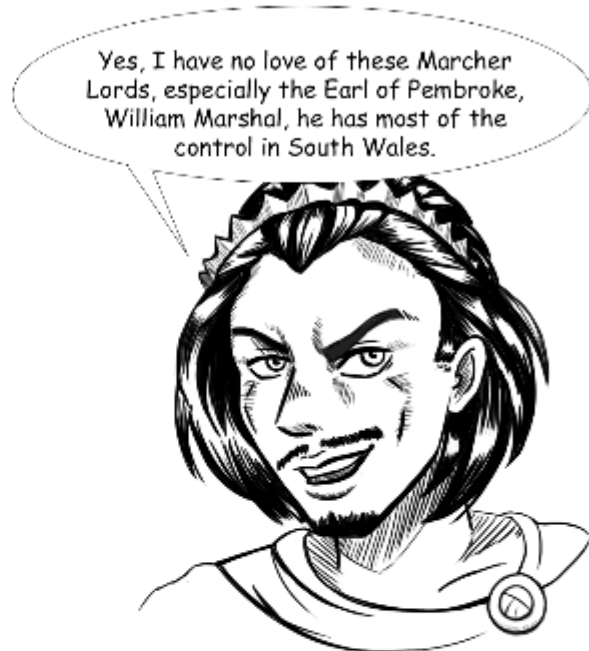


They wanted to take back control of South Wales from the Marcher Lords.





Rhys, we have had our differences in the past, but will you work with me now?



Yes, I have no love of these Marcher Lords, especially the Earl of Pembroke, William Marshal, he has most of the control in South Wales.

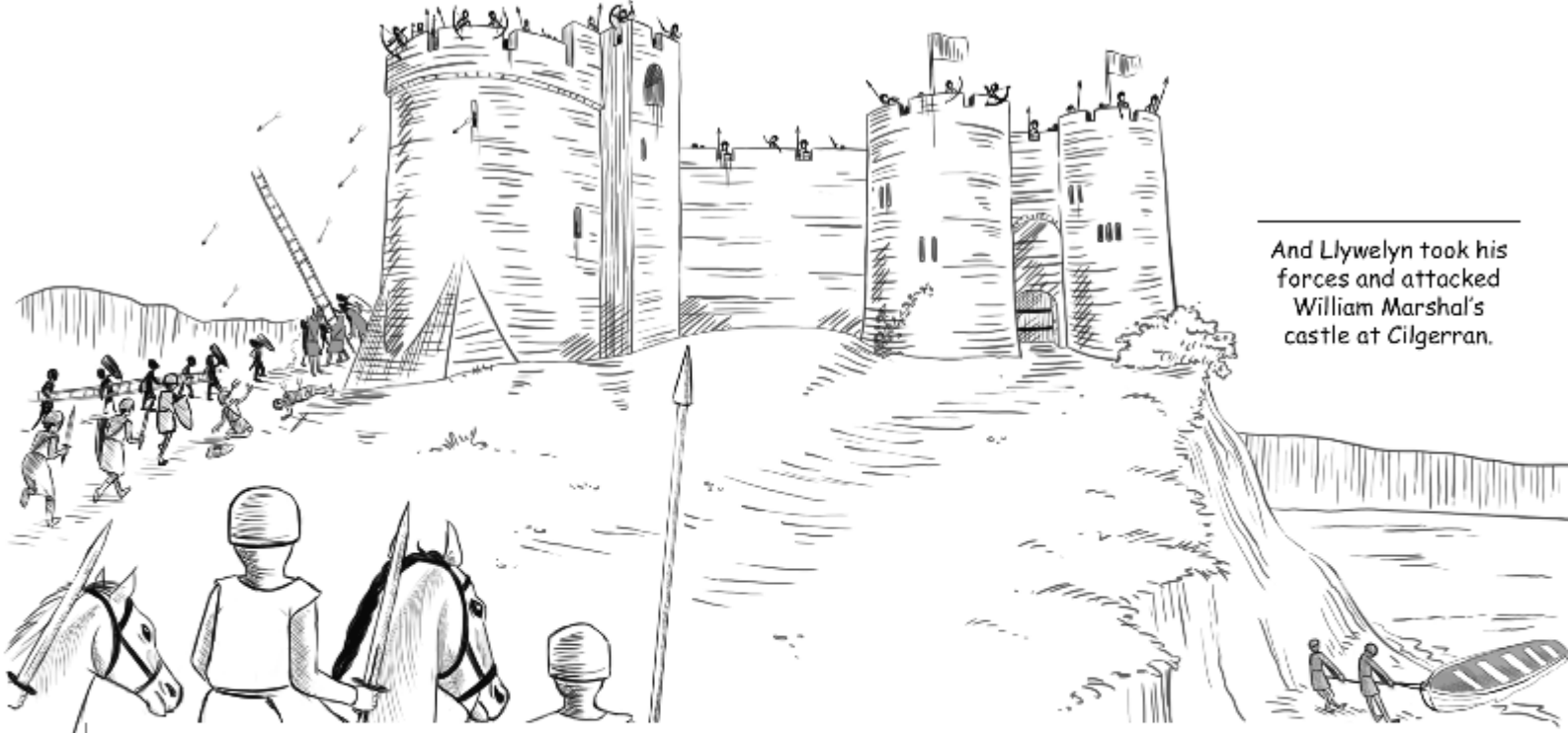


Let us start with William Marshal and attack his castles in South Wales.

If we divide our forces we can strike at different places at the same time.

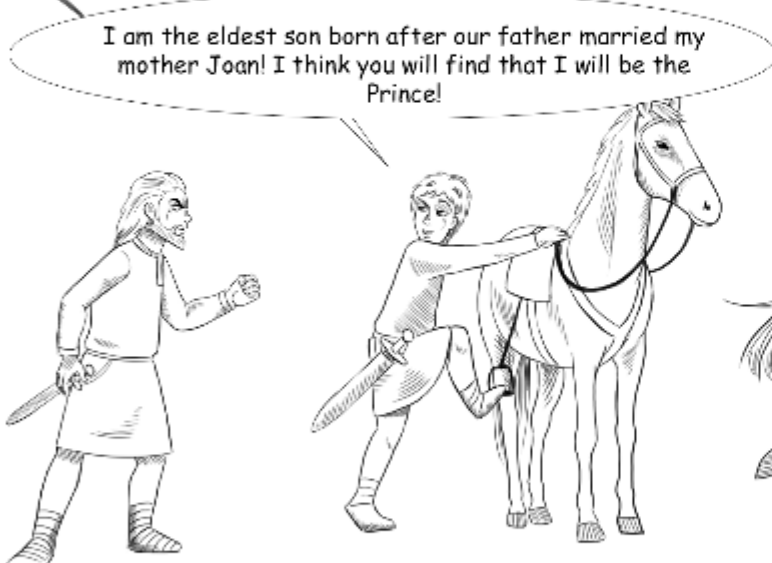
Excellent, if we can take control of his lands, the lesser Marcher Lords may surrender their rights to Welsh land without too much of a fight!

Rhys took his men and attacked William Marshal's castle at Chepstow.



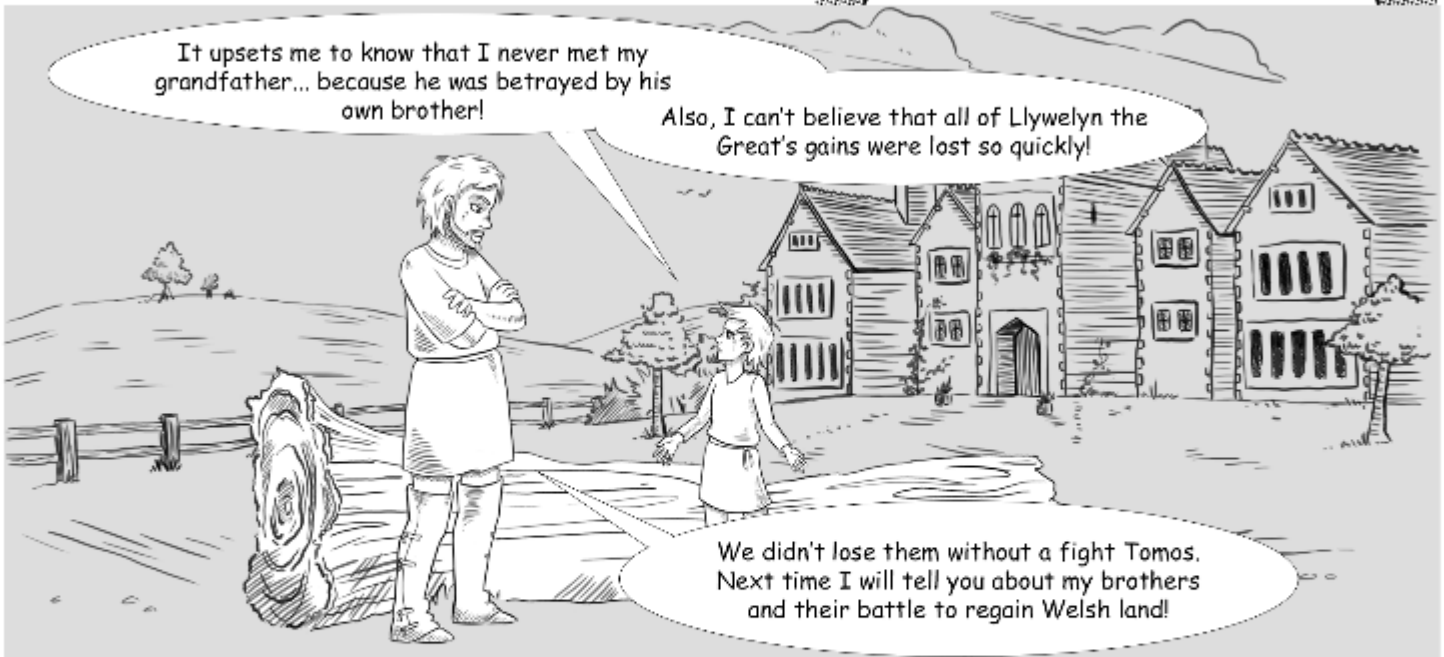
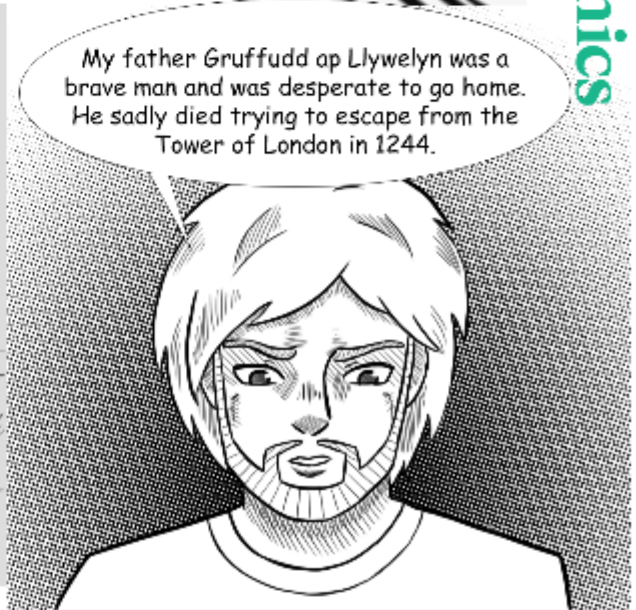
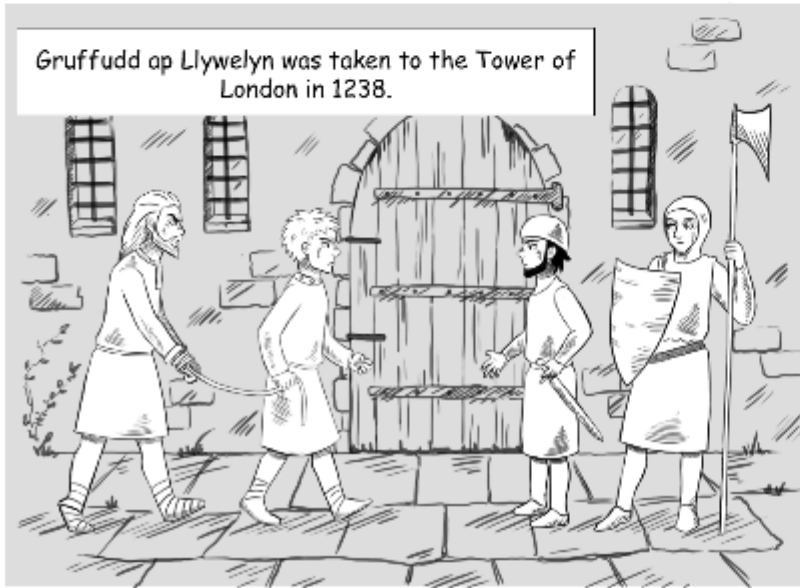
And Llywelyn took his forces and attacked William Marshal's castle at Cilgerran.

My grandfather Llywelyn the Great's army was very successful. Not only did he capture William Marshal's lands, but he went on to capture many other castles such as Carmarthen and Llansteffan. Some Marcher Lords even sided with Llywelyn and were rewarded by marrying one of his daughters and were allowed to keep their land.



And with that Dafydd ap Llywelyn, first son to Joan and Llywelyn went to see his uncle King Henry III of England.







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