

CERVANTES AND THE QUIXOTE



Cervantes was born in the beautiful city of Alcalá de Henares in 1547. He was the fourth of five children.





*He was the son of a surgeon
barber, a very common job in
those days.*



In 1569, after an important quarrel, he left Spain and set ahead to Rome, where he joined the Spanish Army as a soldier.





He got wounded in one arm and was crippled for the rest of his life. From that moment on, he was known as the “Manco de Lepanto”.

His ill fortune did not end here, and on his way back to Spain, his ship was captured by fierce Turkish pirates.



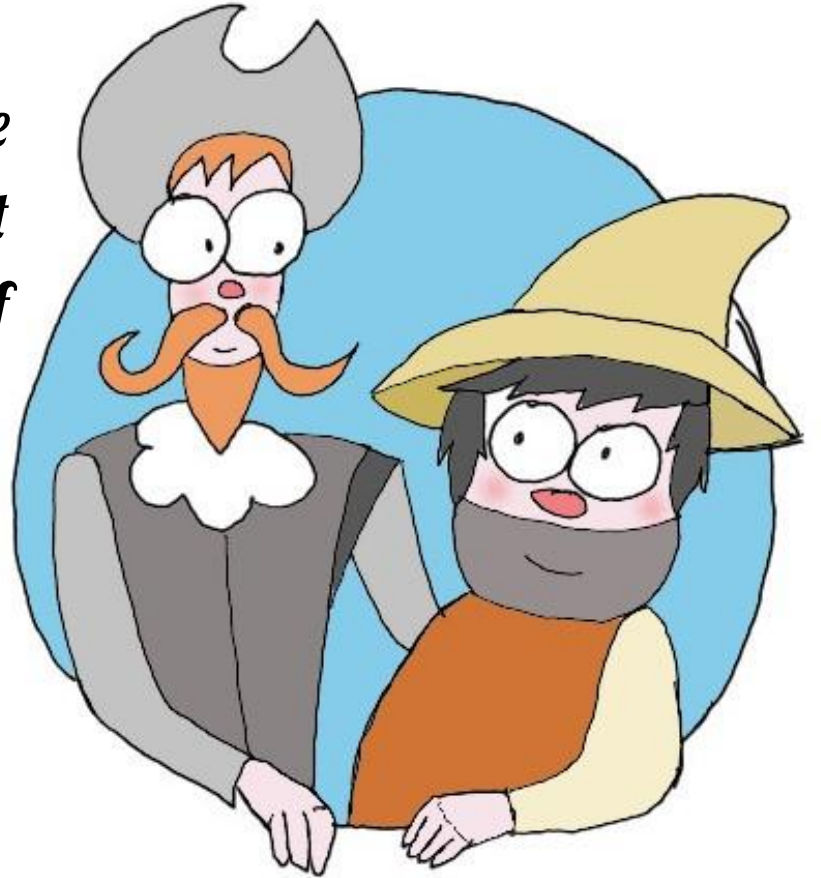
He was kept as a prisoner for five years in Algeirs until being released in 1580.





*Back home, Cervantes married Catalina de Salazar and wrote his first novel: **La Galatea**.*

In 1594 he moved to Madrid where he started to write the novel that would change the future of literature: Don Quixote



His novel was immediately famous and soon translated to English and French. Without being aware of it, Cervantes had created a new literary genre: the modern novel.



*On April 19, 1616,
Cervantes died. He did not
have high qualifications,
but his imagination would
transform the path of
literature in years to come.*



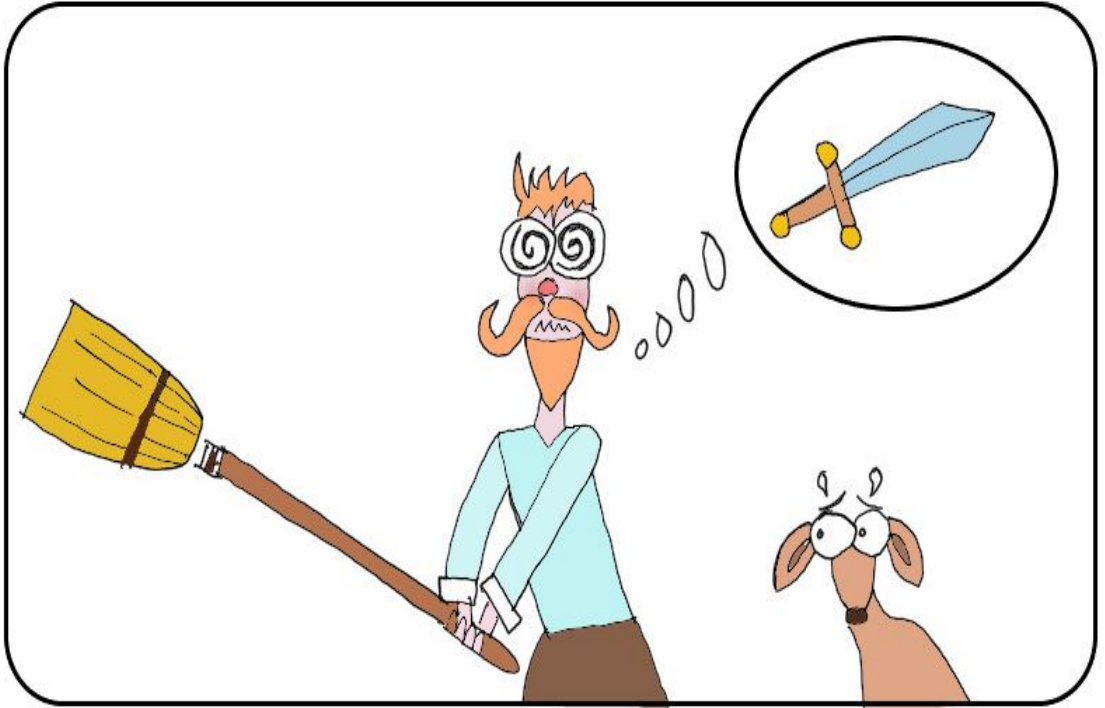
Don Quixote is one of the most remarkable works of art in the universal literature, translated to more than fifty languages, crossing borders, just like the Erasmus+



Cervantes' main character is Alonso Quijano. He spent nights long reading novels of chivalry, fascinated by the adventures of old knight-errants.



He admired them so much that he ended up losing his mind, and thought he was a knight himself. That's how he became Don Quixote of La Mancha



*In his world of fantasy,
Rocinante is a great
horse. Dulcinea, a farm
girl, becomes the Lady of
his Thoughts, and
Sancho Panza, his loyal
squire.*





His endless imagination would play tricks on him: he mistook windmills for giants and flocks of sheep for wizards.





*And that is
how our
great writer
guided the
rest of
authors
towards
modern
novel.*