



DEFINITELY DOMINGUITA'S GUIDE TO KNIGHTHOOD

Created for **DEFINITELY DOMINGUITA: Book 1: KNIGHT OF THE CAPE** by
Terry Catasús Jennings & illustrated by Fátima Anaya (Simon & Schuster)

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Outfitting Yourself

"I'm about to become a knight," she told el Señor Fuentes. "I need some armor."

—**Knight of the Cape**

In the chapter book **Knight of the Cape**, Dominguita decides to be a knight like her literary hero Don Quijote.

Dressing up can help us become a character, play a role, or simply give you the confidence you need to try something new.

What did knights wear?

If you visit the children's section of your library and look for the books in the 940 section, you should discover great information about knights. Check out all that armor!

What makes good armor?

You probably don't want to wear *real* armor. A knight's armor could weigh more than 50 pounds! Look at the shapes of knight or samurai armor and what portion of the body the armor covered. Can you look through the recycling bin or amongst your old clothes and invent your own armor? Duct tape can make almost anything—even old cardboard—looks like a knight's or samurai's gear.

What else makes a knight?

Good deeds, of course, make you a knight, but if you want to *look* the part, you might want to create a Coat of Arms. No, that is not a coat with extra arms! Because knights were covered with so much armor, it was often difficult to tell who was who. To identify themselves, knights would create four images with colors, symbols, and animals (both real or imagined) that represented who their family was and what they believed in. Those four images would sit inside four squares of colors on a flag, over-shirt, or shield. Look at historical images and then create a Coat of Arms that says what you believe in!

DEFINITELY DOMINGUITA'S GUIDE TO KNIGHTHOOD: Knight Naming

In the chapter book **Knight of the Cape**, Dominguita decides to be a knight like her literary hero Don Quijote. Her name, which means "Sunday" in Spanish, did not feel knight-like, however. Read the book to discover how she became "Dom Capote, the Knight of the Cape."

What will your Knight Name be?

Great knight names can contain:

- Alliteration or words that begin with the same sound like "knight" and "name."
- Wordplay like how "Dom Capote" sounds like the famous "Don Quijote."
- Clues to where you are from or what you are like.
- References to historical knighthood.
- Humor or other nonsense.

Let's get creating your knight name in the blanks below. Invent your own or turn to the next page for a Knight Name Generator.

_____, the
your name (real or invented)

adjective

noun

of the

knight-ish noun



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adjective

artistic

adventurous

brave

bumbling

cavalier

chivalrous

clever

curious

gallant

hesitant

hilarious

horse riding

languid

loyal

marvelous

noble

valorous

noun

acrobat

athlete

citizen

creator

dancer

daredevil

hero / heroine

healer

inventor

jester

leader

master

painter

protector

reader

thinker

writer

knight-ish noun

armor

arrow

battlement

castle

catapult

chain mail

chevalier

code

Fur Ūsiyya

lance

moat

paladin

round table

squires

sword

tournament

tower

Knight Name Generator

While one of your knightly abilities may be wordplay, you can also use this generator to simply play with words! To make a name generator, follow these steps:

1) Cut out the three word lists here on the left along the dashed lines.
2) On page 1 (Knight Naming), carefully cut the dashed lines. One way to do this is to:

- a) Go to the first set of dashed lines and gently bend the paper vertically in the middle of the lines.
- b) You should then be able to take scissors and cut the whole dashed line with one cut. Repeat.

3) Weave the word lists into the cuts you have made on page 1. How?

- a) Take the adjective word list and put it under page 1.
- b) Find the bottom cut you made over the adjective spot on page 1.
- c) Feed the word list up through that cut line.
- d) Take the top of the word list and feed it down through the top cut.
- e) Repeat this action with the other word lists.

4) Slide the word lists up and down to have different words appear! That's wordplay!

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Random Acts of Kindness & Knight-ness

"I'm a knight. I'm doing kind deeds. And I'm going your way."

The woman finally nodded. 'A knight! Well, of course you can help me. I live three blocks from here.'

Dom pulled the woman's cart. For six blocks. Not three. The woman lost her way because she was talking." —**Knight of the Cape**



In the chapter book **Knight of the Cape**, Dominguita sets out to prove to the class bully that girls can be knights just like her literary hero Don Quijote. To be a knight, Dom wants to be the doer of brave and kind deeds. *To be clear, she is not looking to save "damsels in distress," as most girls can take care of themselves.*

Are you ready to be an adventurous doer of random (and not so random) acts of kindness and knight-ness? Like Dom, deeds should always be done alongside squires and friends and with the full permission of your teacher and/or caregiver. Let's start envisioning your acts of knight-ness.

Random Act of Kindness...

Random acts of kindness means acting by:

a) Observing a need around you. *For example*, Dom offers to carry her neighbor's groceries or...

b) Doing something that benefits someone who encounters your act of public kindness. *For example*, hanging up a sign you make that says something like, "You are BRAVE!! Signed, A Fellow Knight in the World." Google "random acts of kindness"

Or Not So Random Act?

Dom discovered some of her Acts of Knight-ness by asking neighbors what they needed or thought others needed. If you and your fellow knights want to follow this path, consider circulating a sheet like the one on the next page. See what the needs are, decide what you want to do together, make a plan, and approve your plan with a caregiver and/or teacher. Ready, Set, Knight!

Random Acts of Kindness & Knight-ness



We have been reading the chapter book **Definitely Dominguita: Knight of the Cape** by Terry Catasús Jennings. In the book, Dominguita sets out to do brave and kind deeds just like her literary hero Don Quijote.

We are wondering what acts of kindness YOU think need to be done here at school or in the neighborhood. Tell us your ideas! If we like your idea, we will make a plan and do something worthy of knights! *Your idea can be anonymous.*

Your Idea: _____

Deliver Your Idea To: _____

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Selecting Squires

"Pancho turned out to be a brave and excellent squire. Steph turned out to not be a damsel at all. Reading about adventures was fun, but it was better to have real adventures with friends."

—**Knight of the Cape**

In the chapter book **Knight of the Cape**, Dominguita wants to spend her weekend having adventures like her favorite literary knight Don Quijote. While looking for good deeds, she meets up with classmate Pancho Sanchez who agrees to be the squire to her knight.



What makes a good squire?

In the age of the knights, squires were required to master the "seven points of agilities." Those included riding a horse, long jumping, swimming, using weapons, climbing, competing in tournaments, fencing, wrestling, and dancing (all while wearing armor).

As a modern squire, Pancho simply needed to brave, come up with good ideas, redirect Dom when she was too focused on her quest, and support her when she got discouraged. All of those traits sound like the makings of the a really good friend! On the next page, make a list of "seven points of friendship" or the traits you think make the best of friends.

Don't assume that damsel is in distress!

When Dom and Pancho meet Steph, Dom rescues her leg brace from the neighborhood bully. While Dom says, girls are not "damsels in distress," she is stuck for a time thinking of Steph only as someone that she "rescued." Both Steph and Pancho convince Dom that Steph has more to offer—including cookies. *What assumptions have you made about classmates or neighbors that you eventually discovered were not true or important? How can you try and not make assumptions about others?*

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7 Points of ~~Squires~~ Friends

Pancho Sanchez was not just a great squire to Dom's knight, he also turned out to be a great friend. In the days of the medieval knights, squires were required to master the "seven points of agilities" to support their knights. Write down seven points or traits you want in a good friend.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

Knighting Your Friends

In medieval times, squires became knights. If Dom, Pancho, and Steph got together again for knightly adventures, do you think Dom should remain the only knight? Should Pancho and Steph be knighted? Write down seven ways you could "knight" your friend (or friends) or show them how much you appreciate their friendship.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

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Abuela's Book Club

"All she wanted to do right now was read the books she and Abuela used to read at night. Starting with the one she'd been reading during recess—**Don Quijote**—Abuela's favorite. She needed to be reading to stay close to Abuela."

—**Knight of the Cape**

In the chapter book **Knight of the Cape**, Dominguita's abuela moves away after sharing a house with Dom since she was a baby. Your abuela or abuelo, grandparents, or favorite elders may also live far away or cannot visit as much as you would both like. Can stories help you stay connected the way Dom and Abuela stay connected?



Can you read together?

We read to meet new people, see new places, and imagine new experiences. If you and your favorite elder cannot be together, imagine traveling together and having new experiences *through books*.

Using the phone, FaceTime, or other connection apps, could you:

- Read aloud to your favorite elder like they might have once read to you?
- Each read the same chapter book and discuss it?
- Swap books that you both love and read and discuss those?
- Share non-fiction books and swap favorite facts?

What else can you share with each other?

The amazing thing about having an elder in your life is that they have experienced *so many things*! A great question to ask each time you read together is, "What did this story (or information) remind you of *or* what did it make you think about?" Then, share what *you* were reminded of or thought about. There is no greater gift than thoughts and memories, and reading is a great inspiration for both! Read on!