

"That is the truth," said Don Quixote, "and if I make no complaint of the pain it is because knights-errant are not permitted to complain of any wound, even though their bowels be coming out through it."

"If so," said Sancho, "I have nothing to say. But God knows I would rather your worship complained when anything ailed you. For my part, I confess I must complain however small the ache may be, unless this rule about not complaining applies to the squires of knights-errant also."

Don Quixote could not help laughing at his squire's simplicity, and assured him he might complain whenever and however he chose, just as he liked. So far he had never read of anything to the contrary in the order of knighthood.

Sancho reminded him it was dinner time, to which his master answered that he wanted nothing himself just then, but that Sancho might eat when he had a mind. With this permission Sancho settled himself as comfortably as he could on his beast, and taking out of the saddlebags what he had stowed away in them, he jogged along behind his master munching slowly. From time to time he took a pull at the wineskin with all the enjoyment that the thirstiest tavernkeeper in Málaga might have envied. And while he went on in this way, between gulps, he never gave a thought to any of the promises his master had made him, nor did he rate it as hardship but rather as recreation going in quest of adventures, however dangerous they might be.

Review and Assess

Thinking About the Selection

1. **Respond:** Which aspect of Don Quixote's appearance or behavior do you think is most ridiculous? Why?
2. (a) **Recall:** What actions does Don Quixote take in order to become a knight himself? (b) **Make a Judgment:** Do you think this was a sensible decision for him to make? Explain.
3. (a) **Recall:** Who is Sancho Panza? (b) **Compare and Contrast:** What are some differences between Sancho Panza and Don Quixote?
4. (a) **Recall:** Why does Don Quixote attack the windmills? (b) **Interpret:** What makes the battle between Don Quixote and the windmills humorous?
5. **Speculate:** What do you think will happen in the later adventures of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza? Why?
6. **Evaluate:** Don Quixote makes the world fit his illusions. What are the advantages and dangers of such an approach to life?

Miguel de Cervantes

(1547–1616)



Poet, playwright, and novelist Miguel de Cervantes is counted among the world's greatest writers. His

masterpiece *Don Quixote* has been translated into more than sixty languages.

Cervantes was born in a small town outside Madrid, Spain. As a young soldier in Turkey, he was wounded and permanently lost the use of his left arm and hand. Sailing home, he was captured and enslaved by pirates for five years.

Once back in Spain, Cervantes married and became a purchasing agent for the navy. Problems with work and finances led to fines and imprisonment. His luck finally turned when he published the first part of *Don Quixote*. The book became a model for a new type of fiction in which the hero does not conform to his times.