

The Iron Man by Ted Hughes

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How to Trap the Iron Man

Are you kept awake by the sound of something tramping through your garden? Do you lie in your bed trembling at the sound of another car being squashed? Do you awake to smashed walls and footprints in the flower beds? Do you live in fear of what might await you round the corner? Do your knees knock at the thought of a walk to the corner shop? If so, the likelihood is that you have the Iron Man in the neighbourhood! Do not despair. Help is at hand. The Iron Man is not so hard to defeat, as he is rather dim-witted. Read these step-by-step instructions and soon you too could be rid of this terrible pest.

What you will need:

- a spade
- a brown sheet
- tent pegs
- a sack of leaves
- some branches
- plenty of soil
- a large lump of metal (maybe a lorry or a tractor)

What you have to do:

- 1 First, you must dig a very large and deep hole. (This needs to be deep enough to hold the Iron Man.)
- 2 Secondly, you must cover the hole with a brown sheet that is pinned securely by tent pegs into the earth's crust.
- 3 After that, scatter leaves, a few branches and enough soil on top of the sheet to cover it.
- 4 Now you have to tempt the Iron Man by placing a large lorry/tractor on top of the sheet.
- 5 Hide nearby and patiently wait for his arrival.
- 6 Soon the tempting smell of the metal warming in the sun will reach the nostrils of his nose.
- 7 Eventually, the Iron Man will come along and try to get the lorry.
- 8 In the end he will not be able to resist the food and therefore will fall straight into the pit.

Important note

An angry Iron Man can be a frightening sight, so keep all little children inside. He will try to escape so make sure that you do not go too near the edge in case he can reach over the top. The Iron Man may try to bargain his way out he may sob and weep and beg for his freedom. He may even promise you vast wealth, pretending to know the whereabouts of a dragon's treasure trove. Do not be fooled, the Iron Man only thinks of eating and sleeping.

Challenge - colour code the features of an instruction text. Use the key below or create your own.

Feature	Colour
Title	Blue
Introduction (hook)	Green
Question to reader	Purple
Subheadings	Orange
Imperative verbs (bossy verbs) e.g. scatter, dig, cover	Yellow
Time conjunctions e.g. first, second, last	Red
Chronological order (1,2,3 or a, b, c)	Pink