

Reading Comprehension

Secrets of the Dragon World

Year 5/6

HIAS English Team
Spring 2020
Final version

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Using the Home Learning Materials

The materials

- Each reading booklet contains a key text and suggested activities that can be used to develop comprehension and understanding.
- The sequence should take no more than 1 hour to complete.
- Reading for pleasure, fluency and stamina should be developed through regular sustained reading using the books identified by the school.

How to use

- Read the instructions carefully before you start a task.
- Each sequence contains simple explanations and examples to help you.

How can parents, carers and siblings help?

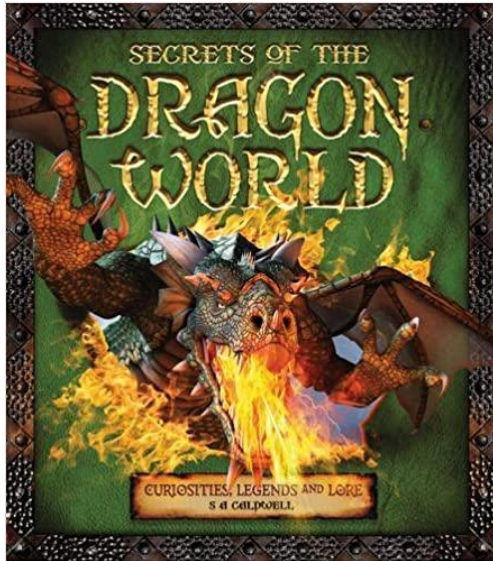
- Read the extracts aloud with your child
- Check your child understands any new or unfamiliar vocabulary
- Adapt any of the resources and materials as you feel necessary to support your child's needs

Reading comprehension sequence

Teaching sequence:

- 1) Read and enjoy with expression
- 2) Text mark – think aloud
- 3) Vocabulary checker
- 4) Response to reading
- 5) Quick quiz

1. Read and Enjoy



A printable version is available on page 9

THE DRAGON'S SENSES


A STUDY OF SIGHT, HEARING & SMELL

MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN of the dragon's astonishing eyesight. Our own vision is so limited by comparison, that it is hard to imagine the world as beheld by dragons. They can observe a scene many miles away in perfect focus and possess the facility to see the full range of colours. What human eyes perceive as the sun's glare appears as sharply defined to the dragon. Naturally, their night vision is also exceptional.


Dragon eyes come in every imaginable hue from forest-green and sky-blue, to copper, bronze and burnished gold. It is a well-documented fact that it is very likely impossible, and certainly rather foolhardy, to hold the gaze of a dragon. Its stare is so penetrating and hypnotic, that it has the effect of placing the viewer in a trance from which they are unlikely to recover.

UNEARTHLY PERCEPTION


Although not in the same league as their eyesight, a dragon's hearing and sense of smell are not to be underestimated. Dragons can discern sounds well outside the human range, and have been known to respond to courting calls over fifty miles away. Similarly, dragons can detect and decode scents carried on the wind over vast distances. Although barely understood, it is evident that dragons also possess a sixth sense. A case in point would be their uncanny ability to seek out gold and precious stones hidden from view.




The protective thorn-like eyelashes of the SICKLE-CLAWED FOREST DRAGON.



Many water species possess a "second eye" - a translucent protective covering that allows these dragons to see underwater.

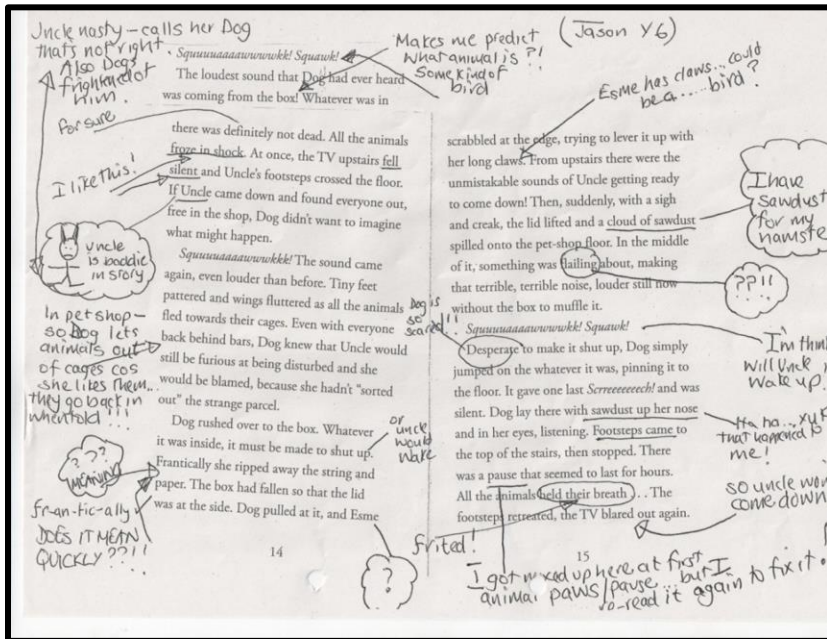


The uniquely-shaped eye pupil of the BLACK BOG DRAGON.



The vertical eye pupil of the TRIPLE-HORNED NIGHT DRAGON.

2. Text mark – think aloud



Uncle nasty - calls her Dog that's not right! Also Dogs frightened of him. For sure I like this! Uncle is boddy in story. In pet shop - so dog lets animals out of cages cos she likes them. They go back in when told!!! Fran-tic-ally DOES IT MEAN QUICKLY??!

Makes me predict (Jason Y6) What animal is it? Some kind of bird. Esmee has claws... could be a... bird?

scrambled at the edge, trying to lever it up with her long claws. From upstairs there were the unmistakable sounds of Uncle getting ready to come down! Then, suddenly, with a sigh and creak, the lid lifted and a cloud of sawdust spilled onto the pet-shop floor. In the middle of it, something was flailing about, making that terrible, terrible noise, louder still now without the box to muffle it.

frantically she ripped away the string and paper. The box had fallen so that the lid was at the side. Dog pulled at it, and Esmee

there was definitely not dead. All the animals were in shock. At once, the TV upstairs fell silent and Uncle's footsteps crossed the floor. If Uncle came down and found everyone out, free in the shop, Dog didn't want to imagine what might happen.

Squuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu! The sound came again, even louder than before. Tiny feet pattered and wings fluttered as all the animals fled towards their cages. Even with everyone back behind bars, Dog knew that Uncle would still be furious at being disturbed and she would be blamed, because she hadn't "sorted out" the strange parcel.

Dog rushed over to the box. Whatever it was inside, it must be made to shut up. Frantically she ripped away the string and paper. The box had fallen so that the lid was at the side. Dog pulled at it, and Esmee

dog is scared!! I've sawdust for my hamster. ??!! I'm think! Will Uncle wake up. Ha ha... yuck that happened to me! so uncle won come down. I got mixed up here at first but I animal paws pause... so read it again to fix it!

From comprehension strategies → comprehension skills

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|
|  apply word reading strategies |  notice breakdown and fix it |  infer |  skim |  scan |
|  form opinions |  think aloud |  visualise |  connect to prior knowledge | |
|  ask questions |  get the gist |  note text structure |  predict | |

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Read the extract again and think aloud as you read.
 Do you have any questions?
 Do you need to use your prior knowledge?
 Can you visualise?
 Make notes on the text.

3. Vocabulary checker

| Vocabulary | What I think it means | Dictionary definition | Synonyms |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| astonishing | | | |
| possess | | | |
| perceive | | | |
| hue | | | |

Check your understanding of the words listed above:

1. Identify them in the text and read around the word for meaning.
2. What do you think it means in this context?
3. Check the meaning in a dictionary.
4. Are there alternative synonyms you could use that are just as effective?

4. Response to reading

Capturing the Nuggets

Sieve the text for the key information. What are the golden nuggets to summarise?



What do you learn from the text? Use no more than 20 words.
Summary:



5. Quick quiz

1. *Dragons can discern sounds well outside the human range ...*
What does the word discern mean in this sentence?
2. What happens to people who gaze into the eyes of a dragon?
3. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

| | True | False |
|---|------|-------|
| Dragons only see in black and white. | | |
| It is not a good idea to look into the eyes of a dragon. | | |
| Their hearing and sense of smell are as good as their eyesight. | | |
| Dragons have a sixth sense. | | |

Text mark – think aloud

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HIAS English team

The HIAS English team offer a wide range of high-quality services to support schools in improving outcomes for learners, including courses, bespoke consultancy and in-house training.

During the current school closures, we are still offering school support in a variety of ways such as video conferencing, phone calls and bespoke creation of resources remotely. Coming soon will be teacher training via virtual classrooms. We would be happy to discuss your needs.

For further details referring to English, please contact:
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For further details on the full range of services available please contact us using the following details:

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