

HOME LEARNING

English Home Learning Pack 13 – Year 8

Spoken Language

For this week's speaking and listening activity, you will be discussing dragons. Have a discussion with a friend or family member using the following questions and information to guide your discussion.

- What do you know about dragons?
- What are they able to do?
- Are any of its abilities supernatural? Look up 'supernatural' if you aren't sure of its meaning.
- What famous Dragons are you aware of?
- Do you believe in dragons? Why? Why not? Try to explain your answer.

Reading – Task Two

Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Dragon by Jean Kenward

Look very lightly
Look that way –
I saw a dragon there
Yesterday;

His ears were open,
His eyes were shut,
His scales were as hard
As a coconut.

His body was thick,
His tail was strong,
It stretched round the railings
Ten feet long...

His snores were thunderous,
Dark and deep.
He breathed like an engine
In his sleep.

Look through your lashes
Faint and small...
Can you see anyone
There at all,

Down by the railings,
Way-away?
I saw a dragon there
Yesterday.

Questions:

1. What is the poem about?
2. What does 'His ears were open; His eyes were shut' tell us about the dragon?
3. What are the dragon's scales likened to?

4. Which of the dragon's features are described in the third verse or stanza?
5. How long is the dragon's tail and where is it?
6. How are its snores described?
7. What impression does this give of the dragon? How do you feel about him?
8. What does the poem encourage you to do in the fifth verse or stanza?

Writing

For your writing task, create an encyclopaedia style definition and description of a dragon. Think about the who would be likely to read your article (your audience) and what information they would want to find out. As an example, Wikipedia describes dragons as follows:

A dragon is a large, serpentine legendary creature that appears in the folklore of many cultures around the world. Beliefs about dragons vary considerably through regions, but dragons in western cultures since the High Middle Ages have often been depicted as winged, horned, four-legged, and capable of breathing fire. Dragons in eastern cultures are usually depicted as wingless, four-legged, serpentine creatures with above-average intelligence.

