

Read through the information below carefully. If there are any words you don't recognise, see if you can work them out by reading around them and by using the context to help.

UNIT
10

Meeting the Dragon

Jilly takes the box home from Mr Pink's shop. That night, when her mother has kissed her goodnight and left the room, Jilly gets out of bed.

She lifted the pillow and took out the tiny green package. She carried it over to the table. Then she went to take down her dragon poster. Her fingers were trembling. She carried the poster over to the table and stared down at it.

She had lain in bed and gazed at it so many times before that she knew every tiny detail. If she closed her eyes, she could still see it. What was it Mr Pink had said?

'First, you must name him.'

Jilly had thought about this all day. She touched the painted dragon lightly on the head. 'I name you Lancelot!' she told him. He did not stir. He was still fixed and painted on the paper. She was pleased with the name. She thought it sounded good and dragon-like. You couldn't give a dragon an ordinary name like John or Mark or Keith.



Now came the most important moment of all. She opened the tiny parcel and stared at the pale green powder. Then, very carefully, she repeated to herself the words Mr Pink had told her to say. 'I take you, Lancelot, to be my dream,' she whispered. 'We will go invisible, like the wind!'

She waited, breath held, eyes still tight shut. Could it be, could it possibly be that, at this very moment, a real dragon was unfurling real wings from the flat prison of the poster? She thought she felt a stir of the air, a faint breath against her cheek. Half eager and half afraid she opened her eyes. 'Oh!' she gasped. There was the dragon she had longed for and dreamed of.

Dragon Ride, Helen Cresswell

Understanding the text

- 1 What two things did Jilly put on the table?
- 2 What was the first thing that Jilly had to do?
- 3 What was in the tiny parcel?
- 4 What did Jilly feel against her cheek?
- 5 What was happening?

Looking at language

- 6 If Lancelot goes 'like the wind' how will he travel?
- 7 Explain the meaning of these words as they are used in the story. Use a dictionary to help you.

a trembling b detail c stir d eager

- 8 Find the opposite of these words in the story.

a extraordinary b visible c furling

Exploring building suspense

- 9 How do you know Jilly was excited?
- 10 Make a list of things she had to do before the dragon came to life.
- 11 Why do you think Mr Pink told her to say, 'I take you ... to be my dream'?
- 12 Jilly is 'half afraid'. What do you think she is afraid of?
- 13 Why do you think the writer didn't just write: 'Jilly did what Mr Pink told her and the dragon appeared'?

Taking it further

- 14 Imagine you could talk to Jilly about her dragon. What questions would you ask her?

▶ RB, Unit 10, Extension



Talk

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