

Lesson #1

Day 1
~~2~~
7th

What's Up on the Downs

Many a fierce dragon live on the pages of fantasy books for young adults. This tale is abridged from Kenneth Grahame's book of the same name. It recounts the story of a non-fire-breathing dragon. He is befriended by a well-read English lad called *the Boy* and another—equally unlikely—friend.

Long ago—might have been hundreds of years ago—in a cottage halfway between this village and yonder shoulder of the Downs¹ up there, a shepherd lived with his wife and their young son. Now the shepherd spent his days—and sometimes nights—on the Downs, with only the sun and stars and sheep for company, and the friendly chattering world of men and women far out of sight and hearing. But his son, when he wasn't helping his father, spent much of his time buried in big volumes that he had borrowed.

The Boy's parents were very fond of him, and rather proud of him too, so he was left to go his own way and read as much as he liked. He was treated more or less as an equal by his parents, who thought it a fair division of labor that they supply the practical knowledge and he, the book-learning. They knew that book-learning might be useful in a pinch, in spite of what their neighbors said. The Boy chiefly dabbled in natural history books and fairytales, which, as far as reading went, was quite sensible.

One evening, the shepherd, who for some nights past had been disturbed and preoccupied and off his usual mental balance, came home all of a tremble. Sitting down at the table where his wife and son were peacefully employed, she with her seam and he in following out the adventures of a heartless giant, the shepherd exclaimed with much agitation,

"It's all up with me, Maria! No more can I go up on the Downs!"

"Now don't you take on like that," said his wife, who was a very sensible woman, "but first tell us about whatever it is that has given you this shake-up, and then me and you and the son here, between us, we ought to be able to get to the bottom of it!"

"It began some nights ago," said the shepherd, "at that cave up there—I never liked it, and somehow the sheep never liked it either. When sheep don't like a thing, there's generally some reason for it. For some time now, there's been faint noises coming from that cave—heavy sighs, with grunts mixed up in them and sometimes snoring—*real* snoring—yet somehow not snoring like us, you know!"

"I know," remarked the Boy, quietly.

"Of course, I was terrible frightened," the shepherd went on, "yet somehow I couldn't keep away. So, this very evening, I took a cast round by the cave, quietly. And there, O Lord! There I saw him at last, as plain as I see you!"

1 low grass-covered hills

RL.7.4 1. Match each word with its clue.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| _____ abridge | A) fiddle with; casually take part in an activity |
| _____ practical | B) disturbed or greatly worried condition |
| _____ dabble | C) useful; sensible |
| _____ preoccupied | D) barely noticeable |
| _____ agitation | E) shorten; condense |
| _____ faint | F) thinking about something to the exclusion of all else |

- L.7.4 2. From context clues in the last paragraph, you can tell that a *cast* is _____.
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| A) something thrown with force | C) a glimpse; a gander |
| B) a fishing line launched into water | D) become saddened |

- RL.7.1 3. How is the Boy in this story different from his parents?
- A) The parents are not afraid of giants and dragons, but the Boy is.
 - B) The parents are dignified, but the Boy acts like a spoiled young child.
 - C) The parents have practical knowledge and the Boy has book learning.
 - D) The parents spend all their time reading, while the Boy plays video games.

L.7.5 4. Authors sometimes use words to describe an item, idea, or activity in a clever or indirect way. Match each term with the italicized part of the phrase.

town sewing frightened reading finished in a story books

- fierce dragon *lives on the pages* _____
- friendly chattering *world of men and women* _____
- buried in big *volumes* _____
- all of a *tremble* _____
- she with her *seam* _____
- following out* the adventures _____
- It's *all up with me...* _____

RL.7.3 5. What impact does this sentence have on the story?

And there, O Lord! There I saw him at last, as plain as I see you!

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| A) makes readers laugh with the speaker | C) switches the narrators |
| B) establishes that the speaker has excellent vision | D) creates suspense at the end |

Lesson #2

Day 2
7th

What the Shepherd Saw

Saw who?" said his wife, beginning to share in her husband's nervous terror.

"Why *him*, I'm a telling you!" said the shepherd. "He was sticking halfway out of the cave and seemed to be enjoying the cool evening in a poetical sort of way. He was as big as four cart-horses, covered with shiny scales—deep blue scales at the top of him, shading off to a tender sort o' green below. As he breathed, there was a shimmer over his nostrils, like you see low over roads on a baking-hot summer day. He had his chin on his paws and appeared to be meditating about things. Oh, yes, a peaceable sort o' beast, not ramping or carrying on or doing anything but what was right and proper. I admit that, and yet, what am I to do? *Scales*, you know, and claws, and a tail for certain, though I didn't see that end of him—I ain't *used* to 'em, and I don't *hold* with 'em, and that's a fact!"

The Boy quietly closed his book, yawned, and said sleepily,

"Don't worry, Father. It's only a dragon."

"Only a dragon?" cried his father. "Only a dragon indeed! And what do you know about it?"

"Cuz it *is*, and I *do* know," replied the Boy, quietly. "Look here, Father, you know about sheep, and weather, and things; I *know* about dragons. I always said that cave up there was a dragon-cave that must've belonged to a dragon once and ought to belong to a dragon now, if rules count for anything. Now you tell me it *has* got a dragon. I'm not half as surprised as when you told me it *hadn't* got a dragon. Rules always come right if you wait quietly. Now, please, leave this to me and I'll stroll up tomorrow morning—wait, I've got a whole heap of things to do in the morning—perhaps in the evening, I'll be free. I'll go up and talk to him, and you'll find it'll be all right. *Only*, please, don't you go worrying round there without me. You don't understand 'em a bit, and they're very sensitive, you know!"

"He's quite right, Father," said the sensible mother. "As he says, dragons is his line and not ours. He's wonderful knowing about book beasts. And to tell the truth, I'm worried about that poor animal alone up there, without a hot supper or anyone to change the news with. Maybe we can do something for him, and if he ain't respectable, our Boy'll find out quick enough. You know he's got a way with him that makes everybody tell him everything."



- RL.7.1 1. What is it about the dragon that seems to upset the Boy's father?
- A) The dragon runs, roars loudly, and breathes fire.
 - B) The dragon comes out of the cave and attacks the man.
 - C) The dragon has scales, claws, and probably a tail.
 - D) all of these

- RL.7.2 2. What is the main idea of this part of the story?
- A) A Boy believes a dragon in the cave is more natural than the cave without a dragon.
 B) A father has discovered a dragon as big as four cart-horses in a cave on the Downs.
 C) A father shares his shock and horror about finding a dragon; his son is not shocked.
 D) A mother knows her son will find out everything there is to know about a dragon.
- RL.7.6 3. The family members all have different opinions about a dragon in their midst. Describe each one's reaction.
- Father _____
- Mother _____
- the Boy _____
- RL.7.1 4. What does the Boy do that shows he is calm about the dragon?
- A) closes his book and yawns
 B) says it's only a dragon
 C) postpones going to the cave until it's convenient
 D) all of these
- RL.7.4 5. Choose the description that means about the same as each underlined word.
- A) rearing up
 B) poking around and fretting
 C) absorbed by the surrounding beauty
 D) ~~tolerate or approve of~~
 E) becoming lighter in color
- _____ enjoying the cool evening in a poetical sort of way
- _____ shading off to a tender sort o' green
- _____ not ramping or carrying on
- _____ I don't hold with 'em
- _____ don't you go worrying round there
- RL.7.1 6. What information does the Boy share about the dragon in the cave?
- A) It is very damp, cold, and dingy; the dragon will probably not stay long.
 B) He always thought it was a dragon-cave that would one day have a dragon in it.
 C) He was more surprised when his father told him it didn't have a dragon in it.
 D) both B and C

Lesson #3

Day 3
7th

Hullo, Dragon!

Next day, after tea, the Boy strolled up the track that led to the summit of the Downs; and there, sure enough, he found the dragon stretched out lazily in front of his cave. To be sure, the view from that point was a magnificent one. And a cool breeze played over the surface of the grass. No wonder the dragon seemed peaceful and contented. As the Boy approached he could hear the beast purring with a happy regularity.

"Well, as we live and learn!" he said to himself. "None of my books ever told me that dragons purred!"

"Hullo, dragon!" said the Boy, quietly.

The dragon began to courteously rise but when he saw it was a Boy, he set his eyebrows severely and exclaimed,

"Now don't try and hit me, or throw stones, or squirt water. I won't have it, I tell you!"

"Not goin' to hit you," said the Boy, wearily, dropping on the grass beside the beast. "And don't, for goodness' sake, say 'Don't,' I hear so much of it. It's monotonous and makes me tired. I'm simply here to ask you how you were, but if I'm in the way, I can clear out. I've lots of friends, and I'm not in the habit of shoving myself in where I'm not wanted!"

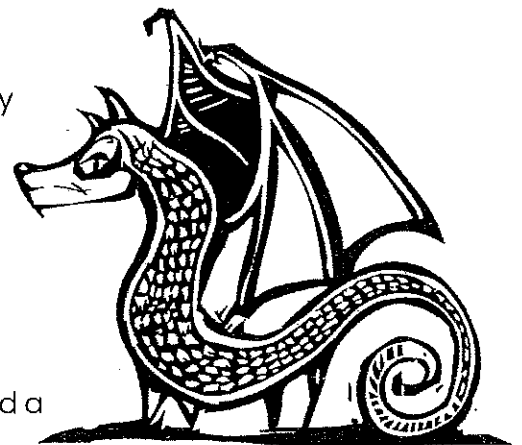
"Now don't go off in a huff," said the dragon, hastily. "Fact is—I'm as happy up here as the day is long, never without an occupation, and yet, between ourselves, it is a trifle dull at times."

"Going to make a long stay here?" the Boy asked, politely.

"Not sure," replied the dragon. "It seems a nice place, but I've only been here a short time, and one must reflect and consider before settling down. It's rather a serious thing, settling down. Besides, now I'm going to tell you something! You'd never guess it, but, fact is, I'm kinda lazy!"

"You surprise me," said the Boy, civilly.

"It's the sad truth," the dragon went on, delighted to have found a listener at last, "and I fancy that's how I came to be here. All the other fellows were so active and earnest and that sort of thing—always rampaging and skirmishing and scouring the desert sands, and pacing the margin of the sea, and chasing knights all over the place, and devouring damsels, and going on generally—whereas I liked to get my meals regular and then prop against a rock and snooze a bit. So—when it happened—I was caught."



RL.7.1 1. Choose the word(s) this dragon uses to describe the type of dragon he is.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|--------|-----------------|
| devourer of damsels | lazy | happy | fierce |
| prone to napping | angry | active | likes rampaging |

RL.7.4 2. Match each term with what the author means by the underlined term.

purposeful shore think over maidens behaving wildly

- one must reflect and consider _____
- were so active and earnest _____
- always rampaging, devouring damsels _____
- pacing the margin of the sea _____
- devouring damsels _____

RL.7.4 3. Choose the correct definition based on how the word is used in the text.

monotonous	dull, wearisome, tedious	a single unchanging tone
occupation	a job	a means to keep busy
trifle	dessert made with sponge cake	small amount
civilly	courteously	according to law
skirmish	short, unplanned battle	scales on a dragon's tail
scour	thoroughly search for something	clean by rubbing

L.7.5 4. The dragon says, "I'm as happy up here as the day is long." *As the day is long* is an idiom; explain what the idiom means as it is used in the text.

RL.7.6 5. The Boy and the dragon each have expectations about the other.

What does the dragon do that surprises the Boy? _____

What does the dragon expect the Boy to do? _____

RL.7.1 6. The dragon closes this passage by saying, "So—when it happened—I was caught." What "happening" is the dragon talking about?

- A) the appearance of the Boy
- B) the appearance of the Boy's father
- C) the passage doesn't say
- D) both A and B

RL.7.1 7. The dragon scolds the Boy and the Boy scolds the dragon right back. What does the Boy ask the dragon not to do?

- A) throw stones at him
- B) squirt water at him
- C) use the word 'don't'
- D) both B and C

Lesson #4

Day
4
7th

An Invitation and a Warning

When *what* happened?" asked the Boy.

"I don't precisely know," said the dragon. "I suppose the earth sneezed or shook itself, or the bottom dropped out or something. Anyhow, there was a tremendous shake and a roar and a general stramash, and I found myself miles underground tightly wedged in. Thank goodness, my wants are few. At any rate I had peace and quietness and wasn't always being asked to come along and *do* something. I occupied my mind creating poems but soon became curious about what was above. I scratched and burrowed and worked this way and that way until at last I came out through this cave here. I like the country, the view, and the people—what I've seen of 'em—so on the whole, I do feel inclined to settle down here. I'm awfully pleased to have met you, and I'm hoping the other neighbors will be equally agreeable. There was a nice old gentleman up here just last night, but he didn't seem to want to intrude."

"That was my father," said the Boy, "and he *is* a nice old gentleman. I'll introduce you someday, if you like."

"Can you two come up here and dine tomorrow?" asked the dragon, eagerly. "If you've nothing better to do," he added politely.

"Thanks," said the Boy, "but we don't go anywhere without my mother, and, to tell you the truth, I'm afraid she mightn't approve of you. There's no getting over the hard fact that you're a dragon, is there? And when you talk of settling down, I can't help feeling that you don't quite realize your position. You're an enemy of the human race, you see!"

"Haven't got an enemy in the world," said the dragon, cheerfully. "Too lazy to make 'em, to begin with. But I have written poetry I would gladly recite."

"Oh, dear!" cried the Boy, "You haven't grasped the situation properly. When people find you out, they'll come after you with spears and swords and all sorts of things. You'll have to be exterminated, according to their way of thinking! You're a scourge, and a pest, and a baneful monster!"

"Not a word of truth in it," said the dragon, wagging his head solemnly. "Character'll bear the strictest investigation. Want to hear my newest sonnets?"

"Oh, if you *won't* be sensible," cried the Boy, getting up, "I'm going home. I certainly haven't time for sonnets. For goodness' sake, try and realize that you're a pestilential scourge, or you'll find yourself in a most awful fix. Good-night!"



- RL.7.1 1. What did the dragon like about the time he spent underground?
- A) there was plenty to eat C) there was peace and quietness
B) he made friends with other dragons D) he could go above ground whenever he liked

RL.7.4 2. Choose the correct definition based on how the word is used in the text.

stramash	heavy flooding	earthquake-like disturbance
burrowed	blew smoke	dug
inclined	sloping upward	likely to do something
scourge	causes suffering	cleans rust from metal
baneful	of great benefit	causing great harm
pestilential	destructive	insecticides

RL.7.3 3. Sequence these events. Number from 1-7.

- _____ While he is stuck, the dragon passes time by writing poetry.
- _____ The dragon begins to scratch and burrow his way out.
- _____ A roaring, rumbling shake-up occurs.
- _____ The dragon sees the Boy's father.
- _____ The dragon becomes curious about the world above.
- _____ The dragon becomes wedged underground.
- _____ The dragon comes out through the cave and likes what he sees.

RL.7.2 4. Which of these is a main idea of this part of the story?

- A) The dragon invites the Boy and his father to dinner, but the Boy declines.
- B) The Boy realizes the dragon does not understand the danger of living in this place.
- C) The dragon offers to recite his sonnets for the Boy, but the Boy must return home.
- D) The Boy discovers that the dragon thinks highly of the Boy's father.

RL.7.6 5. The Boy tries to make the dragon understand what others will think of him. Underline three negative comments the Boy uses to do this.

RL.7.6 6. List two statements the dragon makes to dispute the Boy's negative comments.

Lesson #5

Day 5
7th

Preparing for Saint George



he Boy found it an easy matter to set the mind of his parents at ease about his new friend. The shepherd was formally introduced, and many compliments were exchanged. His wife was willing to do anything she could to mend things, set the cave to rights, or cook a little something when the dragon had been writing poetry and forgotten to eat. However, she would not recognize him formally. The fact that he was a dragon they didn't know much about seemed to count for everything with her. She made no objection, however, to her son spending time with the dragon, so long as he was home by nine o'clock. So, the Boy and the dragon passed many pleasant evenings while the dragon told stories of old, old times, when dragons were quite plentiful, and the world was a livelier place than it is now, and life was full of thrills and jumps and surprises.

What the Boy had feared, however, soon came to pass. The most modest and retiring dragon in the world, if he's as big as four cart-horses and covered with blue scales, cannot keep altogether out of the public view. A real live dragon was naturally a subject for talk. While the villagers recognized that it was an honor to have a dragon of your own and felt it to be a feather in the cap of the village, they were, nonetheless, frightened, and all agreed that this sort of thing could not go on. The dreadful beast, this pest, this destroying scourge must be exterminated.

The fact that not even a hen was any worse for the dragon's presence wasn't allowed to have anything to do with it. He was a dragon, and he couldn't deny it, even if he didn't choose to behave as such.

But in spite of much valiant talk, no hero was found willing to take up sword and spear, and free the suffering village. Meanwhile, the dragon lolled on the Downs, enjoying sunsets and polishing his old verses while meditating on fresh ones.

One day the Boy, on walking in town, found everything decked out for a festival, although none was on the calendar. The Boy saw a friend and asked,

"What's up? Is it the players, or bears, or a circus, or what?"

"It's all right," his friend hailed back. "He's a-coming."

"Who's a-coming?" demanded the Boy.

"Why, Saint George, of course," replied his friend. "He's heard of our dragon, and he's comin' to slay the deadly beast. Won't there be a jolly fight!"



RL.7.4 1. Match each underlined part with its description. One will not be used.

- | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| _____ set the cave <u>to rights</u> | A) an honor | D) cleaned |
| _____ soon <u>came to pass</u> | B) happened | E) hung out |
| _____ be a <u>feather in the cap</u> of the village | C) harmed | F) shy |
| _____ not even a hen was <u>any worse</u> | | |
| _____ <u>lollid</u> on the Downs | | |

RL.7.1 2. What fact shows that the dragon has not done any harm? Underline your answer in the text.

RL.7.1 3. According to the villagers, what negates or cancels out all that is good about the dragon?

RL.7.2 4. What is the main idea of this part of the story?

- A) The dragon likes to polish his scales.
- B) Despite what the villagers think of him, the dragon continues to write sonnets.
- C) The Boy's mother cooks and cleans for the dragon but will not formally recognize him.
- D) The amiable dragon is harmless, yet the villagers believe he must be exterminated.

RL.7.4 5. Choose the correct definition based on how the word is used in the text.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| compliments | completes something | flattering remarks |
| modest | not very bold | limited amount |
| retiring | ending a career | rather solitary |
| altogether | completely | combined in one place |
| recognized | understood | identified someone known |
| presence | gifts | being |

RL.7.1 6. In this part of the story, the reader can infer that the villagers _____.

- A) have discovered there is a dragon living up on the Downs
- B) do not know that a dragon can be dangerous to humans
- C) respect the Boy and will follow whatever directions the Boy gives
- D) all of these

L.7.4 7. Although there was much valiant talk, no hero was found to actually fight the dragon.

The underlined word means _____.

- A) terrified
- B) curious
- C) joyful
- D) courageous

Lesson #6

Day 4
7th

It's All Up, Dragon!

Here was news indeed! A great warhorse could be heard tramping up the street, which made the Boy's heart pound. Saint George trailed behind the horse. The Boy's heart stood still; the beauty and grace of the hero were so far beyond anything he had ever seen. His armor was inlaid with gold, his plumed helmet hung at his saddle-bow, and his thick fair hair framed a face, gracious and gentle beyond expression...till you caught the sternness in his eyes. The Boy heard the grave but gentle voice of Saint George assuring villagers that he would soon free them from their foe. The Boy bolted.

"It's all up, dragon!" he shouted as soon as he was within sight of the beast. "He's here! You'll have to pull yourself together and *do something* at last!"

The dragon was licking his scales and rubbing them with a bit of flannel the Boy's mother had lent him, till he shone like a great turquoise.

"Don't be absurd, Boy," he said without looking round. "Sit down and get your breath and be good enough to tell me *who's coming?*"

"That's right, take it coolly," said the Boy. "Hope you'll be half as cool when I'm through with my news. It's only Saint George who's coming, that's all. He rode into the village half-an-hour ago. Of course, you can lick him—a great big fellow like you! But I thought I'd warn you, 'cuz he's got the sharpest, wickedest-looking spear you ever did see!" The Boy stood up and began to jump round with the prospect of a battle.

"O deary, deary me," moaned the dragon, "this *is* awful. I won't see him. I'm sure he's not nice. Please, you must tell him to go away. Say he can write, but I can't give him an interview. I'm not seeing anybody."

"Now dragon," said the Boy, imploringly, "don't be perverse and wrongheaded. You've *got* to fight him sometime, you know, 'cuz he's Saint George, and you're the dragon."

"My dear little man," said the dragon, solemnly, "just understand, once and for all, that I can't fight, and I won't fight. I've never fought in my life, and I'm not going to begin now. In the olden days, I always let the other fellows—the *earnest* fellows—do all the fighting, and no doubt, that's why I have the pleasure of being here now."

"But if you don't fight he'll cut your head off!"



- RL.7.1 1. What has allowed the dragon the pleasure of being here now?
-

RL.7.4 2. Match each word with its clue.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| _____ gracious | A) contradictory; ornery |
| _____ prospect | B) calmly; in a dignified manner |
| _____ imploringly | C) likelihood; probability |
| _____ perverse | D) kind; chivalrous |
| _____ solemnly | E) pleading desperately |

L.7.5 3. An author sometimes describes a situation as the opposite of what it is. This is *irony*. The dragon believes he has lived a long life because he has refused to fight.

This is ironic because _____.

- | | |
|---|--|
| A) a dragon lives forever | C) dragons do not usually fight anyway |
| B) refusing to fight is about to get him killed | D) a dragon is not a real living thing |

RL.7.4 4. Choose the correct definition based on how the word is used in the text.

tramping	walking heavily	a poor person begging for charity
pound	beat rhythmically	smash, hit a nail
inlaid	placed indoors	material of one type embedded in another
plumed	feathered	having a rising tower of smoke
grave	serious	burial plot
bolted	fastened securely	ran away fast
lick	defeat	light coating of something

RL.7.6 5. How does the attitude of the dragon contrast with the attitude of the Boy in this part?

- A) The dragon is sad about having to kill Saint George, but the Boy is indifferent.
 B) The Boy is enthusiastic about the fight while the dragon is furious at Saint George.
 C) The dragon is determined not to fight, whereas the Boy feels the dragon must fight.
 D) The Boy is agitated, but the dragon is very content and is yearning for a fight.

RL.7.1 6. Why does the Boy urge the dragon to fight Saint George?

- A) His opponent is Saint George, and he is the dragon.
 B) He is the dragon and will definitely win.
 C) Saint George will cut off the dragon's head.
 D) all of these

Lesson #7

Day 87
7th

The Start of Negotiations



he moment he had spoken, Saint George was sorry for what he had said, as the Boy looked so genuinely distressed.

"I assure you, Saint George," he said earnestly, "there's nothing of the sort in the cave. The dragon's a true gentleman, every inch of him, and I may say that no one would be more shocked and grieved than he, at hearing you suggest he would do such a thing."

"Well, perhaps I've misjudged the animal," said Saint George. "Perhaps. But what are we to do? Here are the dragon and I, almost face to face, each supposedly thirsting for each other's blood. I don't see any way out of it. What do you suggest? Can you arrange things, somehow?"

"That's just what the dragon said," replied the Boy, rather nettled. "Really, the way you two seem to leave everything to me—couldn't you be persuaded to go away quietly?"

"Impossible, I fear," said the Saint. "Quite against the rules. You know that as well as I do."

"Well, then, look here," said the Boy, "it's early yet—would you mind strolling up with me and seeing the dragon and talking it over? It's not far, and any friend of mine will be most welcome."

"Well, it is *irregular*," said Saint George, rising, "but really, it seems about the most sensible thing to do. You're taking a lot of trouble on your friend's account," he added, good-naturedly. As they passed out through the door together, he added encouragingly, "Cheer up! Perhaps there won't have to be any fight after all."

"Oh, but I actually hope there will, though!" replied the Boy, wistfully.

Saint George and the Boy traveled, conversing and planning along the way, to the cave up on the Downs, which was the home of the dragon.

"I've brought my new friend to see you, dragon," the Boy called, as they approached the cave.

The dragon woke with a start. "I was just—er—thinking about things," he said in his simple way. "Very pleased to make your acquaintance, sir. Charming weather we're having!"

"This is Saint George," the Boy cut in. "Saint George, let me introduce you to the dragon. We've come up to talk things over quietly, dragon, and now for goodness' sake, do let us have a straight common-sense talk. We must come to some practical businesslike arrangement, for I'm sick of views and theories of life and personal tendencies, and *all* that sort of thing."

RL.7.1 1. According to Saint George, why can't he go away without fighting the dragon?

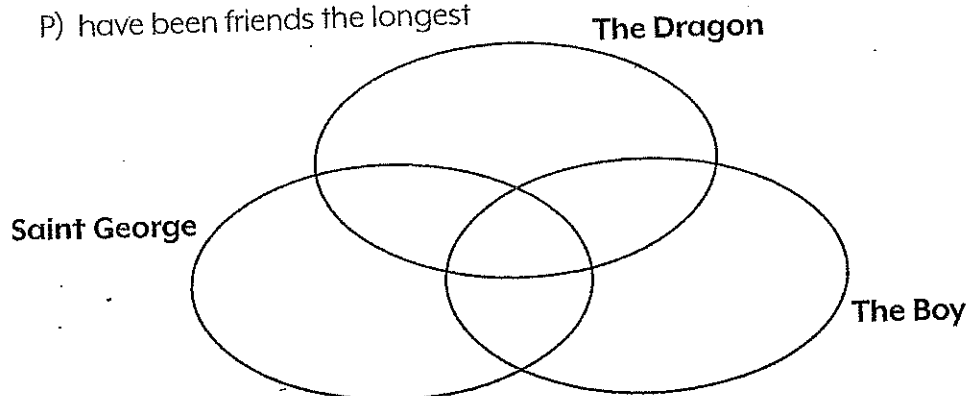
- RL.7.2 2. What is the main idea of this section of the story?
- A) After the Boy explains the nature of this dragon to Saint George, they set off to find a businesslike arrangement.
 - B) Neither the Boy nor Saint George want to save the dragon by cancelling the fight.
 - C) The Boy introduces Saint George to the dragon, who initially is quite pleasant.
 - D) The Boy wonders why saving the dragon's life has become his responsibility and secretly hopes Saint George will leave town.

- RL.7.4 3. Match each word with its clue.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| _____ earnestly | A) yearningly |
| _____ grieved | B) leanings |
| _____ nettled | C) sincerely |
| _____ wistfully | D) saddened |
| _____ tendencies | E) annoyed |

- RL.7.3 4. Based on the story so far, complete the Venn diagram.

- A) refuses to fight
- B) is the second one to suggest the Boy find a solution
- C) ends up on the Downs because of an earthquake-like event.
- D) comes to the town when he hears that his services are needed
- E) has learned many things by reading books
- F) expected by the villagers to fight
- G) does not believe he can leave town without fighting
- H) introduces one opponent to the other
- I) believes it is his duty to fight
- J) meet to negotiate on the Downs
- K) a writer of poetry
- L) defends the character of his friend
- M) would be shocked to hear anyone thinks he has kidnapped a princess
- N) suggests one combatant chat with the other
- O) is dismayed to learn the townspeople are betting against him
- P) have been friends the longest



Lesson #8

Day 8
7th

Getting Down to Business

So glad to meet you, Saint George," reiterated the dragon, rather nervously.

"You've been a great traveler, I hear, and I've always been rather a stay-at-home. But I can show you many antiquities and interesting features of our countryside, if you're stopping here anytime—"

"I think," said Saint George, in his frank, pleasant way, "that we'd really better take the advice of our young friend here and try to come to some understanding, on a business footing, about this little affair of ours. Now don't you think that after all, the simplest plan would be just to fight it out according to the rules, and let the best man win? They're betting on you, down in the village, but I don't mind that!"

"Oh, yes, *do*, dragon," said the Boy, delightedly! "It'll save such a lot of bother!"

"My young friend, please shut up," said the dragon, severely. "Believe me, Saint George," he went on, "there's nobody in the world I'd sooner oblige than you and this young gentleman here. But the whole thing's nonsense, and conventionality, and popular thick-headedness. There's absolutely nothing to fight about, from beginning to end. And anyhow I'm not going to, so that settles it!"

"But supposing I make you?" said Saint George, rather nettled.

"You can't," said the dragon, triumphantly. "I'd only go into my cave and retire for a time down the hole I came up. You'd soon get heartily sick of sitting outside and waiting for me to come out and fight you. And as soon as you'd really gone, I'd come up again. Frankly, I like this place, and I'm going to stay here!"

Saint George gazed for a while on the fair landscape around them.

"But this would be a beautiful place for a fight," he began again persuasively. "These rolling Downs for the arena—and me in my golden armor up against your big blue scaly coils! Think what a picture it would make!"

"Now you're trying to get to me through my artistic sensibilities," said the dragon. "But it won't work. Not that it wouldn't make a lovely picture, as you say," he added, *wavering* a little.

"We seem to be getting rather nearer to *business*," put in the Boy. "You must see, dragon, that there's got to be a fight of some sort, 'cuz you can't want to have to go down that dirty old hole again until goodness knows when."



- L.7.4 1. From the context clues, you can tell that *wavering a little* means the dragon was _____.
- A) trembling fiercely as he spoke C) signaling to the Boy for help
B) having second thoughts about the fight D) trying to steady himself

RL.7.4 2. When the dragon says, "there's nobody in the world I'd sooner oblige," he means there is no one else he would _____.

- A) excuse from a task
B) fight and defeat

- C) rather do a favor for
D) like to meet sooner

RL.7.4 3. Match each word with its clue.

_____ reiterate

A) accepted way of doing things

_____ antiquities

B) wholly; deeply

_____ conventionality

C) awareness; ability to appreciate

_____ heartily

D) convincingly

_____ persuasively

E) relics; artifacts

_____ sensibilities

F) say again

RL.7.1 4. In the end, Saint George appeals to the dragon's _____ to convince him to fight.

pride in himself fear of failure love of beauty sense of shame

In the text, underline evidence that supports your answer.

RL.7.1 5. What argument does the Boy use to convince the dragon to fight Saint George?

- A) tells the dragon that the villagers are betting on him
B) flatters the dragon, saying he would make a stunning combatant
C) offers the dragon a reward if he can beat Saint George
D) reminds the dragon he doesn't really want to go back down the hole

RL.7.3 6. In this part of the story, which character "takes the moral high ground" (makes his decision based on what is right and honest)?

the Boy Saint George the dragon all of these

Explain your answer.

RL.7.1 7. Why does the dragon tell the Boy, "shut up"?

- A) The Boy is encouraging him to return to his cave until it all blows over.
B) The Boy tells him he is betting on Saint George.
C) The Boy agrees with Saint George that the fight should happen according to the rules.
D) The Boy tells the dragon that the villagers want him dead.

Lesson #9

Day 9
7th

What's in It For You?

It might be arranged," said Saint George, thoughtfully. "I *must* spear you somewhere, of course, but I'm not bound to hurt you very much. There's such a lot of you that there must be a few *spare* places somewhere. Here, for instance, just behind your foreleg. It couldn't hurt you much, just here!"

"Stop! You're tickling," said the dragon, coyly. "No, that place won't do at all. Even if it didn't hurt—and I'm sure it would awfully—it would make me laugh, and that would spoil everything."

"Let's try somewhere else, then," said Saint George, patiently. "Under your neck, for instance—all these folds of thick skin—if I speared you here, you'd never even know I'd done it!"

"Yes, but are you sure you can hit off the right place?" asked the dragon, anxiously.

"Of course, I am," said Saint George, with confidence. "You leave that to me!"

"It's just because I've got to leave it to you that I'm asking," replied the dragon, rather testily. "No doubt you would deeply regret any error you might make in the hurry of the moment, but you wouldn't regret it half as much as I would! However, I suppose we've got to trust somebody, as we go through life, and your plan seems, on the whole, as good a one as any."

"Look here, dragon," interrupted the Boy, a little defensive on behalf of his friend, who seemed to be getting all the worst of the bargain, "I don't quite see where *you* come in! There's to be a fight, apparently, and you're to be licked, and what I want to know is, what are *you* going to get out of it?"

"Saint George," said the dragon, "just tell him, please—what will happen after I'm vanquished in the deadly combat?"

"Well, according to the rules, I suppose I shall lead you in triumph down to the marketplace or whatever answers to it," said Saint George.

"Precisely," said the dragon. "And then—"

"And then there'll be shouting and speeches and things," continued Saint George. "And I shall explain that you're converted, and see the error of your ways, and so on."

"Quite so," said the dragon. "And then—?"

"Oh, and then—" said Saint George, "why, then there will be the usual banquet, I suppose."

"Exactly," said the dragon, "and that's where *I* come in. Look here," he continued, addressing the Boy, "I'm bored to death up here, and no one really appreciates me. I'm going into Society!"



RL.7.2 1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A) Saint George looks for the safest place to spear the dragon.
- B) The dragon is almost giddy with the prospect of attending the banquet.
- C) The three characters conspire to fake Saint George's victory over the dragon.
- D) The plan is good, but the dragon fears that Saint George might miss the intended target.

- RL.7.1 2. According to the dragon, he will benefit from a defeat. Underline what the dragon says will happen.

Explain the statement you underlined.

- RL.7.4 3. Choose the correct definition based on how the word is used in the text.

bound	obligated	tied up
festily	irritably	quizzically
deeply	far down in a hole	intensely
answers	serves the purpose	responds verbally
addressing	writing out the envelope	talking directly to someone
appreciate	increase in value	recognize one's full worth

- RL.7.4 4. Match each word with its clue.

_____ coyly	A) defeated
_____ anxiously	B) seems to be true
_____ apparently	C) modestly; shyly
_____ vanquished	D) exactly
_____ precisely	E) transformed
_____ converted	F) nervously

- RL.7.3 5. The dragon says to Saint George, "It's just because I've got to leave it to you that I'm asking." Why does he say this?

- A) The dragon must rely on the accuracy of Saint George's aim.
- B) The dragon would regret any error twice as much as Saint George would.
- C) The dragon can only hope Saint George will take him to the banquet.
- D) both A and B

- RL.7.6 6. Choose a character. Describe how he feels at the end of the passage and why he feels that way.

Lesson #10

Day 10
7th

The Moment You've Been Waiting For



I am going into Society, through the kindly aid of our friend here, who's taking such a lot of trouble on my account, and you'll find I've got all the qualities to endear me to people who entertain! So now that's all settled, and if you don't mind—I'm an old-fashioned fellow—don't want to turn you out, but—"

"Remember, you'll have to do your proper share of the fighting, dragon!" said Saint George, as he took the hint and rose to go. "I mean ramping, and breathing fire, and so on!"

"I can *ramp* all right," replied the dragon, confidently. "As to breathing fire, it's surprising how easily one gets out of practice, but I'll do the best I can. Good-night!"

They had descended the hill and were almost back in the village again, when Saint George stopped short, "*Knew* I had forgotten something," he said. "There ought to be a Princess, terror-stricken and chained to a rock, and all that sort of thing. Boy, can't you arrange a Princess?"

The Boy was in the middle of a tremendous yawn.

"I'm tired to death," he wailed, "and I *can't* arrange a Princess, or anything more, at this time of night. And my mother's waiting *up*, so *do* stop asking me to arrange more things till tomorrow!"

Next morning, the people began streaming up to the Downs at quite an early hour, in their Sunday clothes and carrying baskets, everyone intent on **securing** good places for the combat. Places were chosen, with a view **and** a **speedy retreat** in case of emergency. The front rank was mostly composed of boys who had escaped from parental control and now sprawled about on the grass, ignoring of the threats and warnings discharged at them by their anxious mothers behind.

The Boy had secured a good front place, well up towards the cave, and was feeling anxious. Could the dragon be depended upon? He might change his mind and proclaim the whole performance rot, or seeing the affair had been so hastily planned, without even a rehearsal, he might be too nervous to show up. The Boy squinted at the cave but saw no sign of life or occupation. Could the dragon have made a moonlight flitting?

The Downs were now thick with sightseers, and presently a sound of cheering and waving of handkerchiefs told that something was visible to them. The Boy, far up towards the dragon-end of the line, could not yet see. A minute more and Saint George's red plumes topped the hill. Very gallant and beautiful he looked, on his tall warhorse, his golden armor gleaming in the sun and his great spear held tall with a white pennon, crimson-crossed, fluttering at its point. He drew rein and remained motionless. The lines of spectators began to give back a little, nervously.

The Boy, growing impatient, fidgeted where he sat.

"Now, dragon!" he whispered.

RL.7.1 1. According to the dragon, what will make him acceptable in Society? Underline your answer in the text.

RL.7.4 2. Choose the correct definition based on how the word is used in the text.

ramp	run in circles	slope or incline
secure	claim for oneself	lock up
rot	nonsense; foolishness	decay
occupation	job; career	being lived in

RL.7.4 3. Match each word with its clue.

_____ endear	A) showy; finely dressed
_____ proclaim	B) pennant; banner
_____ hastily	C) cause one to be liked
_____ gallant	D) announce officially
_____ pennon	E) hurriedly

L.7.4 4. At the cave, Saint George “drew rein and remained motionless.”

From context clues, you can tell that this means he _____.

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| A) filled a glass of water from the stream | C) cast a spell |
| B) brought his horse to a stop | D) said a prayer |

RL.7.3 5. Sequence the events. Number from 1-7.

- _____ The dragon promises to ramp and breathe fire to the best of his ability.
- _____ The townspeople begin to claim the best seats up on the Downs.
- _____ The Boy mentally encourages the dragon to appear.
- _____ The dragon signals to his guests that he'd like them to leave his cave.
- _____ The Boy fears the dragon will be a no-show.
- _____ Saint George appears and wows the awaiting crowd.
- _____ The Boy refuses to provide a terror-stricken princess.

RL.7.1 6. Why does the boy say he can't arrange to have a princess chained to a rock?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| A) It is late in the evening. | C) He is too tired to do anything more. |
| B) His mother is waiting for him. | D) all of these |