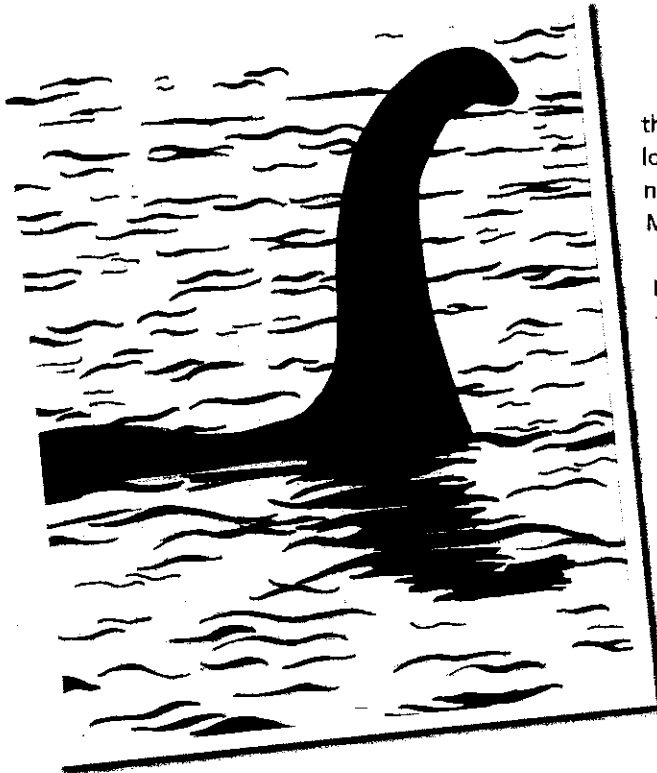


# THE LOCH NESS MONSTER



Is there really a monster swimming in the waters of Loch Ness? Photographs, videos and eye witness reports all seem to say 'yes'. But if there is a monster, why have so few people seen it? And why can't scientists find it? For many years people from around the world have puzzled at this great mystery. Perhaps it is time we looked at the evidence for ourselves.

On the 14th April 1933, Mr and Mrs Mackay were coming home from a trip to Inverness. It was almost three o'clock in the afternoon. Then, out of the corner of her eye, Mrs Mackay saw something moving in the Loch\*. As her husband parked the car, they both saw two enormous black humps rising and falling in

the water. The creature then sank from sight. It wasn't long before they were tickling the ears of a local newspaper reporter and the legend of the Loch Ness Monster was born.

But what did Mr and Mrs Mackay really see? Were the humps two dolphins swimming together? The dark water and shadows make it hard to see. And the humps were, after all, very far away.

In December that same year, footprints were found on the edge of the loch. Everyone was very disappointed when they turned out to be a hoax using an old umbrella stand made with a hippo's back foot!

This famous photograph was taken by Robert Kenneth Wilson, a London doctor who was on holiday in Scotland. The photo shows a long neck and small head, like that of a dinosaur. When it was printed in the Daily Mail in April 1934, many people talked about it. Was it true? Was this the first piece of hard evidence that the monster exists?

A journalist called Alastair Boyd said the photograph was a fake. He claimed it was a 30 cm plastic model glued on to a toy submarine. Wilson said it was not!

After looking at some of the evidence, what do you think? Does the Loch Ness Monster really exist or is it just an old story? Perhaps the best part of the story is the fact that we just don't know and the mystery (and the Loch Ness Monster) lives on.

*\*Loch = A Scottish word for lake*

## The Loch Ness Monster

1. Which part of Britain is the Loch Ness Monster from? England, Ireland, Scotland or Wales?
2. When did Mr and Mrs Mackay see the Loch Ness Monster, where were they travelling from and how were they travelling?
3. When were some monster footprints found? Were they real?
4. Who took the photograph you can see and what was his job?  
Journalist, doctor, photographer?
5. When was this photograph first printed?
6. What is the Scottish word for lake?
7. Were the two humps that Mr and Mrs Mackay saw very big or very small? What word tells you this?
8. Can you find a word in paragraph four that means a practical joke?
9. Can you find a word in paragraph 6 that means not real?

# The Curse of the Calcutta Diamond

"Ladies and gentlemen, put your hands together for the biggest diamond you have ever seen, the world famous Calcutta Diamond."

From the day it was found in 1934, bad luck had followed the diamond everywhere it went. Mrs Masood, who first spotted the diamond in a river when washing her clothes, was eaten by a crocodile. Then Mr Gates, the American who bought it from her, walked under a yellow New York cab. And its last owner, Mrs Peacock, fell off her horse and broke her neck. It was because of this that the diamond was now up for sale.

The people clapped and cheered. They took photographs and the flashes of light made the diamond sparkle even more.

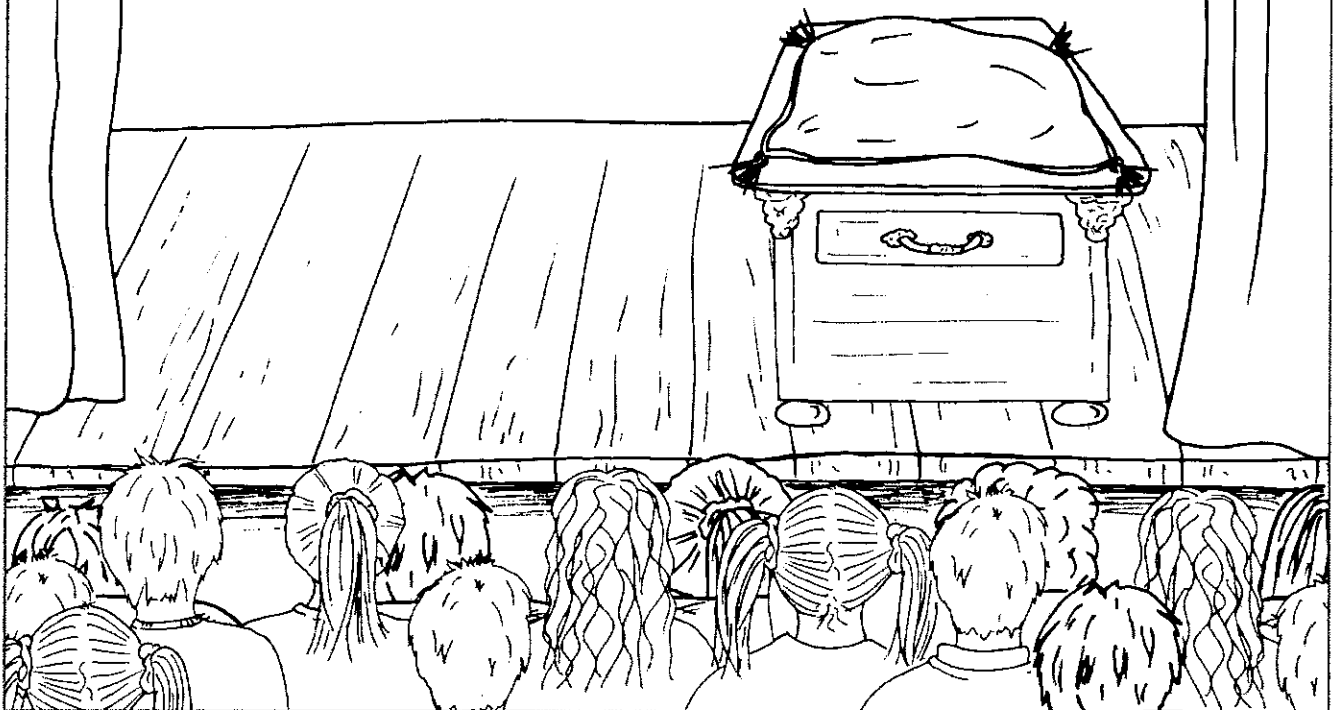
Rachael Langley was the best private detective around and she knew something was wrong. Pushing to the front of the crowd she tried to reach the diamond before it was too late. She picked up her radio:

'Matthew, don't let them get too close!'

The young and the old, the tall and the short, all pushed forward, trying hard to get a closer look. Children weaved in and out of legs like tiny bugs crawling through a forest.

Suddenly the lights went out and Rachael Langley, along with everyone else in the museum, was thrown into darkness. A woman screamed and a man shouted at people to stop pushing. Then, just as quickly as they had gone out, the lights came back on again.

Everybody stopped and stared – silence! The red velvet cushion which the diamond had been sitting on was empty. The diamond had gone!



## The Curse of the Calcutta Diamond

1. Which country was the diamond found in?
2. Do you think curse is a positive or negative word?
3. What type of story do you think this will be? Scary or funny? Why do you think this?
4. In what year was the Calcutta diamond found?
5. Who found it?
6. Where was the diamond found?
7. How did Mrs Peacock die?
8. Where did Mr Gates die?
9. Who do you think the main character of the story is Rachael Langly or Mrs Masood? Why?
10. What is Rachael Langly's job?
11. How does Rachael speak to Matthew? Face to face, by telephone, by radio or by letter?
12. Find a word in paragraph which means 'very well known'.
13. Place names are proper nouns and so start with capital letters. Can you find two words that must be place names in the text?
14. What do you think the phrase 'put your hands together' means?
15. What is the American word for taxi?
16. Why do you think the writer chose this word?

# SHIP AHOY!



In times gone by, pirates would sail the seas looking for other ships so they could jump aboard and steal their treasure. They would fly a Jolly Roger (or pirate flag) as a warning to other ships not to fight them and to give up their gold and jewels easily.

Now which flag you flew depended upon which pirate ship you worked on. The question is, which flag would you fly if you were a pirate?

"Ship ahoy, Captain!"

"Ah, good work Jim lad. Now fly the Jolly Roger and let's rob those poor devils."

"Aye, aye Captain!"

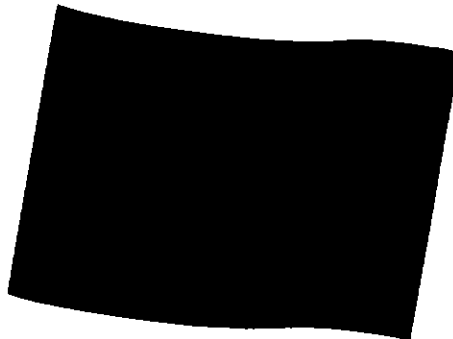


1. The first Jolly Roger was probably seen on board a pirate ship called the Fancy in 1694. Its Captain was **John Avery** and he used a skull and crossbones to look like death. He wasn't a very good pirate – he died a poor beggar in England.

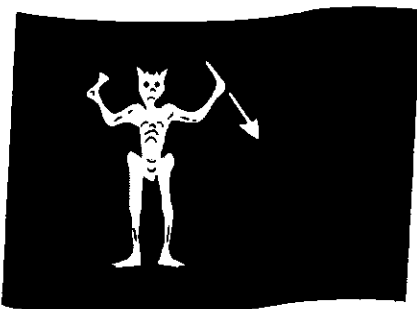


2. The most famous pirate flag belonged to **Edward England**, who sailed around Madagascar killing people after he robbed them. He probably had a wooden leg and a wild beard.

3. This flag belonged to **Captain Blackbeard**, who sailed on the Queen Anne's Revenge. On his flag a skeleton devil is holding an hourglass meaning 'your time is running out'. It is going to stab a bleeding heart. Very scary!



4. Not all pirate flags were black and white. **Nasty Ned Low** put a red skeleton on his flag. Red is the colour of blood. This meant 'I will kill you if you put up a fight'. He was last seen sailing his pirate ship around Africa in 1724.



5. **Thomas Tew** sailed around Europe and America when he was a pirate. His flag showed a strong arm holding a cutlass. He died in 1695 when he was hit by a cannon shot that ripped his belly open.



## Ship Ahoy!

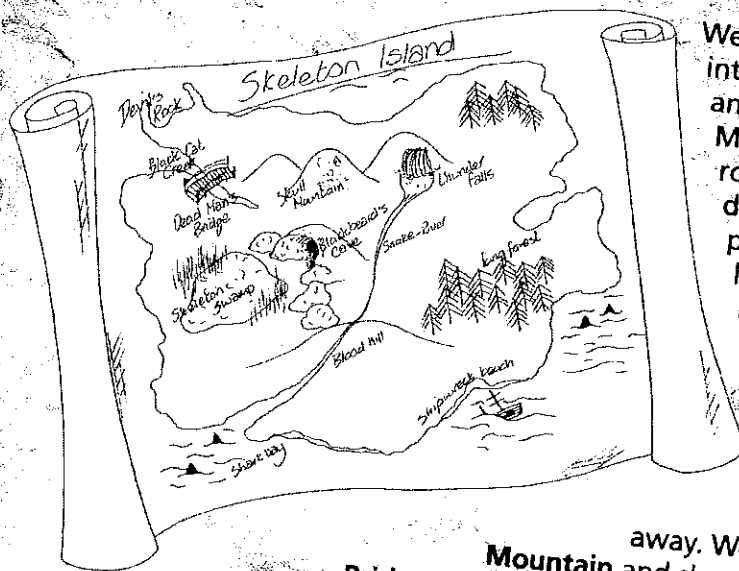
1. What do you already know about pirates?
2. Who do you think will enjoy this page most boys or girls? Why?
3. What part of pirate life are we going to read about today?
4. How many flags will we be looking at?
5. What treasure did pirates want to steal?
6. Did all pirates use the same flag?
7. Which of the pirates mentioned had a wooden leg?
8. Who flew the first pirate flag? When?
9. Was John Avery a rich pirate?
10. Who flew the most famous pirate flag?
11. What was the name of Blackbeard's ship?
12. When and how did Thomas Tew die?
13. Which pirate use colour on his flag?
14. Why was Ned Low's skeleton red?
15. Where did Edward England sail his pirate ship?
16. What is another name for a pirate flag?
17. Is a cutlass a sword or pistol?
18. What do you think an hourglass was used for?
19. Does the word 'aye' mean yes or no?
20. What adjective does the author use to describe Ned Low?

# Skeleton Island

It was seven months ago when Captain Grey found the treasure map. He found it one night inside a bottle washed up on the beach. It was written on an old piece of leather. On the back of the map were these words, which he read by the light of a full moon.

*Steal my treasure? Some have tried.  
Many have dared - All have died!  
But if you be strong and if you be brave,  
Then Blackbeard's treasure, you can take from my cave.*

Seven long months sailing at sea - seven long months being chased by other pirates and salty sea storms. But at last we arrived at Skeleton Island to begin our search for gold!



We sailed past Devil's Rock and into Sharks' Bay. We dropped anchor from our ship The Merry Mermaid and lowered our rowing boats into the dark, deep water near Blood Hill. We paddled up Snake River and heard parrots squawk in Fang Forest. We paddled faster and faster until we reached Thunder Falls. We got out of our boats and climbed Skull Mountain. When we reached the top we could see Shipwreck Beach far away. We climbed back down Skull Mountain and slowly crossed Dead Man's Bridge over Black Cat Creek. We cut our way through Skeleton Swamp and finally arrived at Blackbeard's Cave.

So here we are! And here we will camp for the night, too tired and too scared to enter the cave with darkness all around us. Will we find Blackbeard's treasure inside? Will we ever get off Skeleton Island alive?

## Skeleton Island

1. Make a list of the things you might see on Skeleton Island.
2. What type of people hunt for treasure?
3. What might you find in Blackbeard's treasure chest?
4. Who found the treasure map?
5. What material is the map written on?
6. Captain Grey read the map with a torch, true or false?
7. Where is the treasure hidden?
8. What was the name of Captain Grey's ship?
9. How long did they sail the sea for?
10. Read the pirate's diary and look at the map. Using red crayon draw a line on the map to show the route Captain Grey and his men took from Devil's rock to Blackbeard's Cave.
11. Which place did they see but not go to?
12. Which words best describe Skeleton Island? friendly, unfriendly, scary, safe, happy, dangerous
13. Which letter in climbed is silent?
14. What do you think the word 'lowered' means?
15. What noise do the parrots make in Fang Forrest?
16. Do you think Thunder Falls is quiet or noisy? Why?
17. Who do you think drew the map? Why?
18. Do you think the map is old or modern? Why do you think this?



# CHANNEL 7 News Flash!

**News Reader:** We can go straight to our reporter Katie Conner now, live on Haystack Hill. Katie, what's happening over there?

**Reporter:** Thanks Bruce. Well, as you can see, it looks as if a tornado has swept right through this area and brushed everything to one side. Just look at this mess! But here with me now is Mr Pig of Yellow Grass Grove. Mr Pig, can you tell us what happened?

**Mr Pig:** I'm lucky to be alive! The last thing I remember is old Wolfie boy asking if he could come in and the next thing I knew, my house had blown down and there was straw everywhere.

**Reporter:** And why did Mr Wolf want to come into your home?

**Mr Pig:** Like I said, I don't remember much. It's all a blur and I've got a banging headache. Who knows, a cup of tea, a slice of cake?

**Reporter:** And where will you go now that you're homeless?

**Mr Pig:** I guess my brother's place. It's not too far away and it's made of sticks, so it will be safer if those winds come back.

**Ambulance Man:** I'm afraid the only place you're going to is the hospital, Sir. Sorry Madam, but we need to take a look at this pig's head. He's bleeding very badly.

**Reporter:** Well, that's all for now. This is Katie Conner reporting live on Haystack Hill for Channel 7 news. Now back to the studio.

**News Reader:** Thanks Katie; and we'll have more on that story as and when it happens.



## News Flash!

1. What is a news flash?
2. In this news flash who is the news reader?
3. Who is the news reporter?
4. What news channel do they work for?
5. Which fairy tale do you think this could be a part of?
6. Is this news report inside or outside?
7. Of the three pigs, is the Mr Pig being interviewed the first, second or third pig?
8. Is his house still standing?
9. Has Mr Pig cut himself?
10. Is the cut big or small?
11. Why do you think Mr Pig has a headache?
12. Do you think this is why he can't remember anything?
13. Mr Pig believes a tornado hit his house. Do you think Katie Connor agrees with him?
14. Is the ambulance man at the scene polite?
15. When is this action taking place? A long time ago, a short time ago, now - as it happens?
16. Which word indicates whether Mr Pig has a big or small headache?
17. What do you think really happened to Mr Pig's house?
18. Why do you think 'old Wolfie boy' wanted to see Mr Pig?
19. Where do you think 'Wolfie' is now?



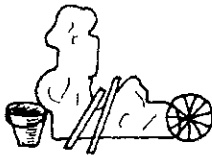
Planet Earth is on her knees.



Wily oceans gasping for breath, struggling to breathe.



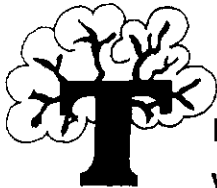
Itter bugs swarming through our streets and our hedgerows.



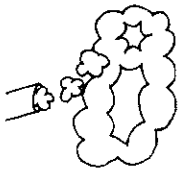
Landfill giants growing bigger and bigger, fatter and fatter.



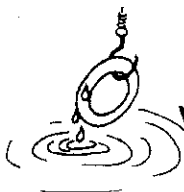
Unhappy people living in an unhappy world.



Trees crying out, chainsaws cutting down woods ... forests ... jungles ...



Invisible car fumes and factory smoke crawling through the grey air.



Never - fishing and empty seas.



Now is the time we need to act, before it's too late!

## Pollution

1. What type of poem is this? Does this poem have to rhyme? How many lines does this poem have?
2. Copy the first letter of each line; what word does it spell?
3. Why do you think planet Earth is on her knees?
4. Why are the oceans struggling to breathe?
5. What kind of person is a litterbug?
6. Where are these people? Town, countryside, cities or everywhere?
7. Is a landfill big or small?
8. Why do you think the poet describes them as 'giants growing fatter and fatter'?
9. Why are the seas described as being empty? Is this a good thing or bad thing?
10. Why do you think the poet uses 'we' and not 'you' in the final line?
11. Do you think the poet feels this is happening in the past, present or future?
12. Do you think the poet believes there are a lot of litterbugs around or a few? Which word tells you this?

# The Dragon of Andor

Near the village known as Andor,  
Lay a forest with a cave.  
And here there lived a dragon,  
Whom the children nicknamed Dave.

A friendly beast this dragon was,  
He did not roar or bite.  
Taught little ones to love, not hate,  
That never should they fight.

With eyes that glowed like rubies,  
And skin that shone like gold,  
This wise and kindly dragon,  
Was considered very old.

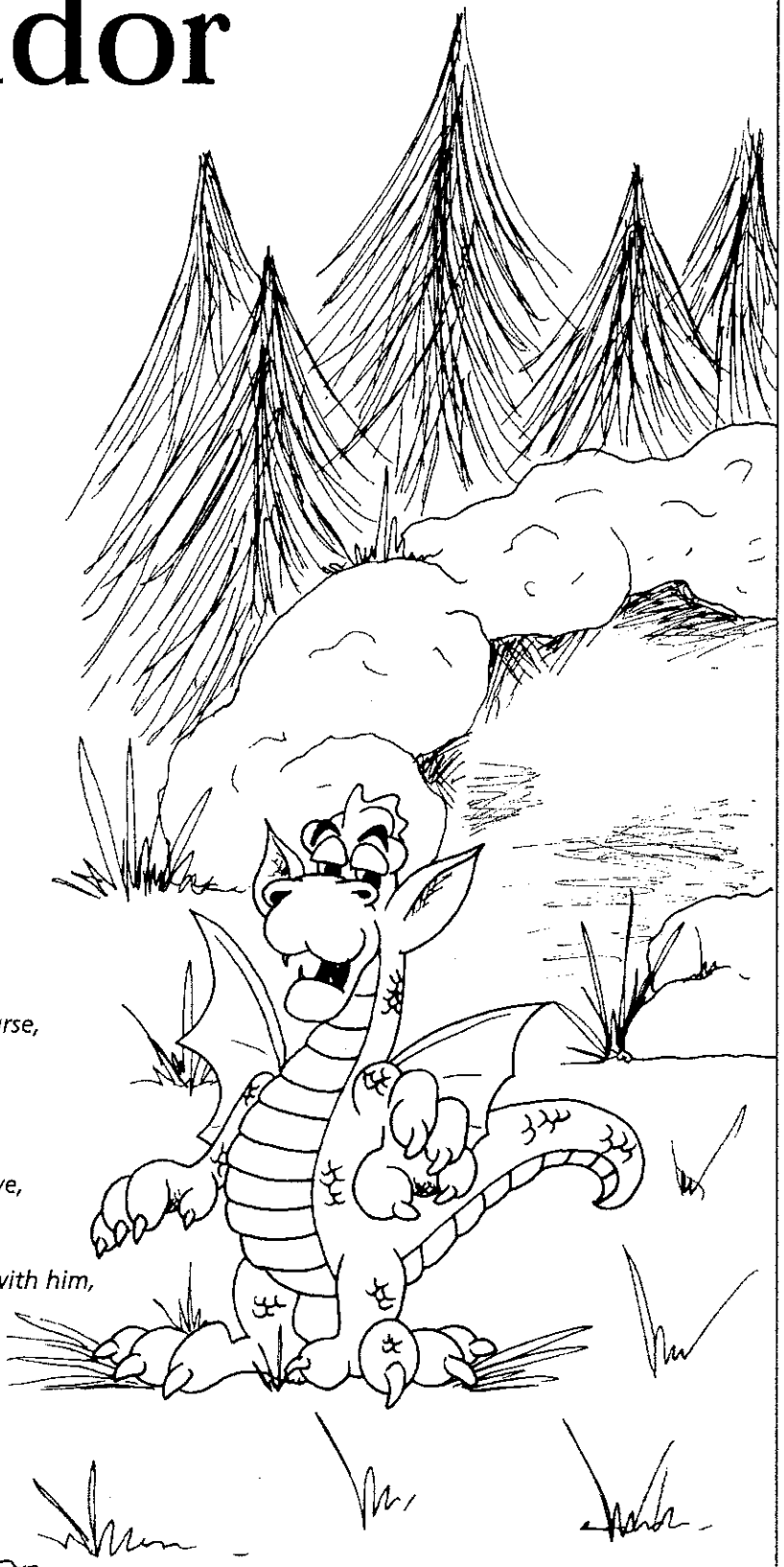
With a tail that sparkled silver,  
And two wings of diamond white,  
His beauty could be seen by all,  
By day and through the night.

But then one day a knight did come,  
With a sword across the land,  
And slayed this beast of beauty,  
With his mighty, fearsome hand.

'Alas, why did you do that?'  
Cried the children to the knight.  
'Because he looked so strange, of course,  
He gave me such a fright'.

So the age of wise old dragons,  
Came sadly to an end.  
No more could children play with Dave,  
The dragon they called friend.

For the knight had brought a world with him,  
A world of tears and pain.  
But still the children looked for love,  
For peace to rule again.



## The Dragon of Andor

1. Do you think this text is factual or fictional?
2. Do you think the dragon will be friendly or scary?
3. How do you know Dave is a friendly dragon?
4. In verse two was Dave a noisy or quiet dragon?
5. What colour were Dave's eyes in verse four?
6. Why do you think Dave the dragon could be seen in the dark?
7. How do we know in verse five that the knight was violent before he killed Dave?
8. Were the children sad when Dave the dragon died?
9. How do you know this?
10. Read the final verse. Does the poet believe adults or children are to blame for war and suffering?
11. Which name is more friendly Dave or David?
12. Why do you think the children chose a name beginning with the letter 'D'?
13. Is this a poem that rhymes?
14. Which word in the third verse means 'very clever'?
15. Which word in verse five means 'killed'?
16. Why do you think the knight killed Dave the dragon?
17. Why do you think this was such a bad thing to do?
18. When we meet people who look different from us what should we try and do?

# The Chase

"Quick. He's getting closer!"

Pippin and Blackberry zigzagged across the field, past the dandelion patch they had been eating that morning and into the woods.

The smell of damp fur was getting stronger and both could hear the footsteps getting nearer.

If only they had listened to wise old Burdock. She had told them to stay close to the woods but Pippin and Blackberry were both far too busy to listen to boring adults talking about boring safety. They wanted to go on an adventure. Little did they know they were being watched by two beady eyes from a hill not too far away.

"I'm getting tired," cried Pippin. "I'm not going to make it".

"I'm not going home alone, now come on – HURRY!"

All they could do now was run – run as fast as they could. Through the woods and past Mr Briggs' farm they ran, and all the time the panting was getting closer and closer.

Pippin began to cry, her tears running down her face. "You go Blackberry, I'll try and hide in the grass".

"It's no good, Pippin. He'll only sniff you out. You know what a good sense of smell he has".

They ran and they ran and just as the beast was about to grab them..... Whoooooosh! Down the hole they jumped and into the darkness they called 'home'.



## The Chase

1. Read the first line. Do you think this is going to be a fun chase or a scary chase?
2. Who is being chased in this story?
3. Do you think these names belong to people or animals? Why?
4. Is this story set in the city or the countryside?
5. What type of animal do you think Pippin is?
6. How do we know that Pippin is scared and upset?
7. Do you think the grass Pippin wants to hide in is short or long? Why?
8. Did Pippin and Blackberry have breakfast earlier that day?
9. Do you think 'the beast' has eaten or is it still hungry?
10. What type of hole do you think Pippin and Blackberry jumped into at the end of the story?  
Why?
11. Are the beast's eyes big or small?
12. Which word tells you this?
13. Why do you think they zigzagged instead of running in a straight line?
14. What sound do Pippin and Blackberry make as they jumped down the hole?
15. Is this a slow or fast word?
16. Does this story have a happy ending?
17. How could the story have ended?
18. Do you think Pippin and Blackberry learnt a lesson from their adventure?
19. What do you think the lesson was?
20. Do you think Pippin and Blackberry will listen to Burdock in the future?