

The Reluctant Dragon

**Question Book:**

Year 3, pages 8-9

Author / Source:

Kenneth Grahame (adapted)

Genre:

Classic fiction — novel extract

Cross-curricular links:

- Science (animal behaviour)
- PSHE (prejudice)

Introduction

The Reluctant Dragon is a parody of the legend of St George and the Dragon. Kenneth Grahame's dragon is an intellectual, who prefers reading and writing poetry to fighting and killing. When St George hears of a dragon living on the South Downs, he goes to kill it — only to find a dragon who doesn't want to fight. St George's reputation is in jeopardy and it's left to the dragon's only friend, a young boy, to protect the dragon and St George's honour. This extract describes the first meeting between the dragon and the Boy. Before reading the extract, make sure that pupils know what the word "reluctant" means.

Answers

1. E.g. Evening because there is a "large moon".
2. a. a verb
3. E.g. Very happy, because the text says that he is "clearly delighted" to have someone to talk to.
4. E.g. happy; good; cheerful; satisfied
5. E.g. He doesn't do all the normal things dragons are expected to do like "chasing knights" and "gobbling damsels". He likes to sleep instead.
6. E.g. Because it makes it sound like the other dragons are very busy and do a lot more than the reluctant dragon.
7. Any appropriate answer. E.g. No, because he seems friendly. He talks to the Boy politely and doesn't seem to do any of the bad things that dragons are famous for.