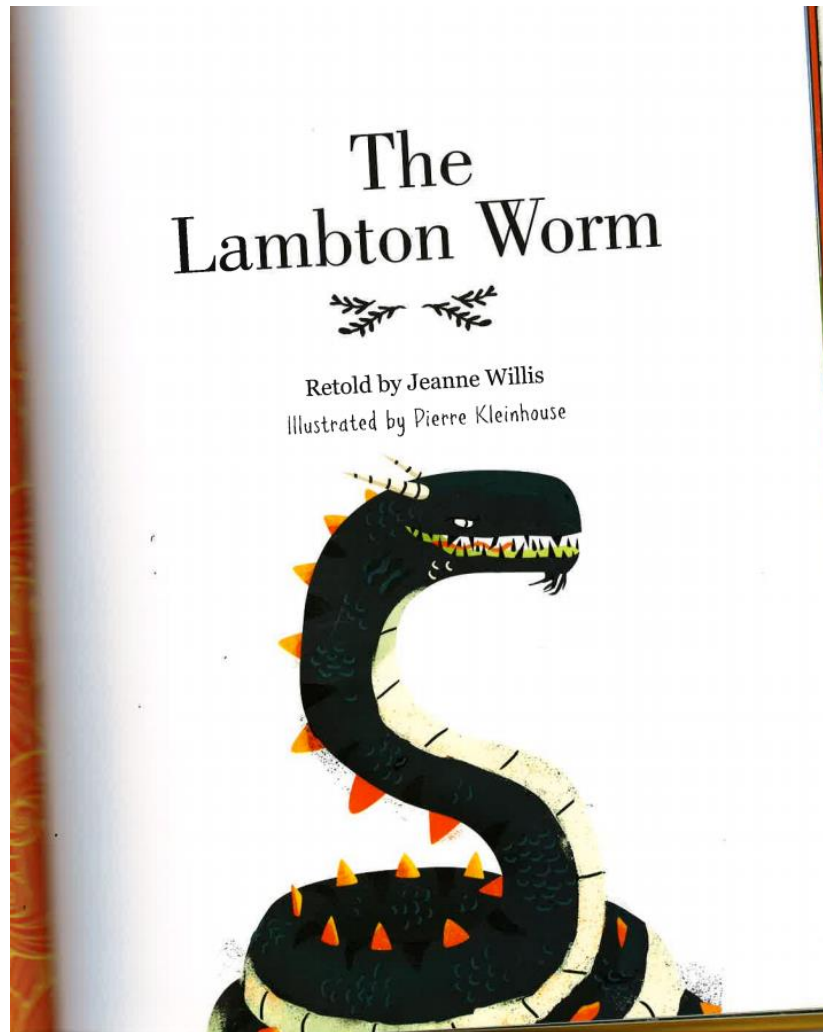


Task 1

On the next few pages, you have been given part of the legend of Lambton Worm. This is a legend that originated in Durham in North East England.



In this task, you will be working on your prediction skills. Predicating means you use evidence from the text to guess what is going to happen next.

You need to read through the extract of the Lambton Worm on the next few pages and answer the following questions in full sentences in your home learning journal.

1. What do you think will happen next?

Based on what I have read so far, I think...

2. Why? What evidence from the text can you find? (Look for quotes to support your prediction)

The evidence I have for this is....

Optional extension: write the ending of the Lambton Worm!

Long ago, John Lambton went fishing on
a Sunday. The villagers were shocked.

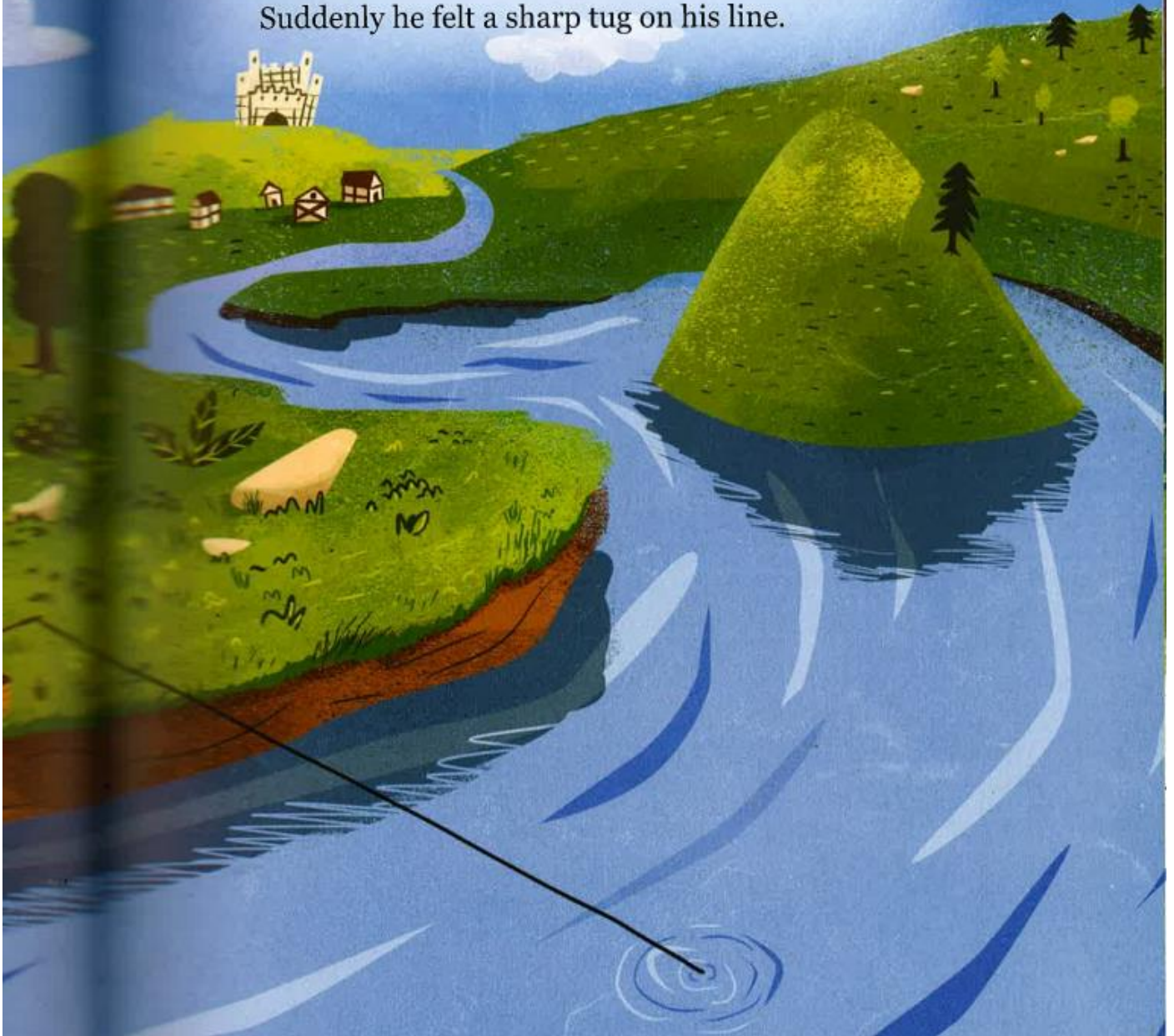
‘Tut tut! Fishing?’ they said. ‘That boy should
not be out having fun on a Sunday!’



John was the son of a lord. He thought he could do as he pleased. So he sat by the River Wear and fished.

After two hours, he had caught nothing. He was about to pack up and go.

Suddenly he felt a sharp tug on his line.



He had caught something! He tried
to pull it in, but it fought hard.
It must be a huge fish! thought John.





At last, he dragged it onto the bank. But it was not a fish.
It was a slimy black worm with an ugly head. It was small
but scary . . . and very smelly!

It wriggled and snapped at John. Its teeth
were as sharp as needles.

John did not like the look of it at all.





He was about to throw it back in the river. Just then, a strange old man appeared.

‘Keep it, or you will be sorry, lad!’ said the old man. Then he vanished into thin air.

There is something fishy going on, thought John.
He put the worm in his fishing basket.
But it looked so evil he was afraid to keep it.
So he threw it down the village well.



Task 2

Read through this myth, answer the questions on the following page and mark your answers, which are on the page after that.

The Story of Nu Wa

The Story of Nu Wa is a Chinese myth that is hundreds of years old. It tells the story of a goddess called Nu Wa who saved the Earth from destruction. Because the myth is so old, there are many different versions of it. One of the most popular versions is described below.

Contrary to popular belief, not all gods are perfect — they have flaws just like you and me. Some gods are vengeful, some are cruel, some are vain and some are unbearably arrogant. But no gods were more arrogant than two gods who lived many, many moons ago: Gong Gong, the God of Water, and Zhu Rong, the God of Fire. These two quarrelsome gods each thought they were more powerful than the other.

5 “I am superior!” crowed Gong Gong. “Look how much devastation I can cause by flooding the plains!” And with a nod of his head the river below him burst its banks and washed into the surrounding farmland.

10 “Water is no match for fire!” spat Zhu Rong, as he sent a jet of flame to Earth and reduced a forest to cinders.

The fight between the two gods raged on and on, and they brought untold misery to humankind. Eventually, Gong Gong realised that he was losing the battle. Angered, he punched Mount Buzhou, an enormous mountain whose summit* held up the sky. As he landed his blow, the summit collapsed, the sky caved in and the Earth cracked open. This caused the slumbering dragons that lived beneath the surface of the Earth to awaken and crawl out of the cracks. They flew out of the ground and hungrily went in search of food, breathing jets of fire as they swooped across the shattered sky.

20 A goddess called Nu Wa, who was as caring as the other gods were selfish, was distraught at the sight of the devastation and suffering. She believed that gods and goddesses should use their powers for good and decided to save humankind.

Firstly, she knew she needed to mend the sky. She melted together five coloured stones and used the mixture to repair the cracks. Next, she killed 25 a giant turtle and used its legs as pillars to support the fallen sky. Finally, she turned her attention to the dragons which were terrorising the land below. Using her bare hands, she plucked one dragon from the sky as if it were nothing but a feather and crushed it between finger and thumb, causing all the other dragons to flee in panic.

30 And this is how Nu Wa saved humankind from the selfishness of gods.

Glossary

summit — the very top of a mountain

Written by Holly Robinson.

1 Which of the following words is closest in meaning to "flaws" (line 1)? Circle one.

- a. problems b. weaknesses c. strengths d. feelings

☐

1 mark

2 Which word is used instead of 'said' in line 7?
Why do you think the author chose this word?

.....
.....

☐

2 marks

3 In your own words, explain why Mount Buzhou is important.

.....
.....

☐

1 mark

4 Give two features of the text that suggest it is a myth.

.....
.....

☐

2 marks

5 Do you think that Nu Wa is a powerful character? Explain your answer.

.....
.....

☐

2 marks

6 Do Gong Gong and Zhu Rong behave like you would expect gods to act?
Explain your answer.

.....
.....
.....

☐

2 marks

Total
out of 10

Answers

1. b. weaknesses
2. crowed. E.g. Because it means 'boasted' and Gong Gong is boasting about how powerful he is.
3. E.g. Because its summit is holding up the sky.
4. Any two from: the main characters are supernatural; it is set a very long time ago; the events of the story are supernatural; it is a story about gods and goddesses.
5. Any appropriate answer. E.g. Yes, because she mended the sky and crushed a dragon with her fingers.
6. E.g. No, they destroy the Earth with their selfishness. Gods are meant to protect the Earth. OR E.g. Yes, you would expect gods to be powerful, and Gong Gong is powerful enough to cause floods and to cause the sky to fall down.



Reading for pleasure task (optional)

If you are reading to your parent, ask them to ask you some of these questions about the book you are reading:

Predict

Predict what might happen from the details given and implied.

Example questions

- From the cover what do you think this text is going to be about?
- What is happening now? What happened before this? What will happen after?
- What does this paragraph suggest will happen next? What makes you think this?
- Do you think the choice of setting will influence how the plot develops?
- Do you think... will happen? Yes, no or maybe? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.