

Dragon Poetry

The motto of [Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](#) is *Draco dormiens numquam titillandus*; Latin for *Never tickle a sleeping dragon*.



Today we are going to look at a poem about a dragon.

It is called “The Dragon of Death” by Jack Prelutsky.

Your first task is to find **effective use of language** and look up any meanings of words you are not sure of.

Use of language could include:

Alliteration

Repetition

Similes

Strong verbs

Rhyming words

Description/adjectives

Poet's use of language – some examples you can try and find

The Dragon of Death

In a faraway, faraway forest
lies a treasure of infinite worth,
but guarding it closely forever
looms a being as old as the earth.

Its body is big as a boulder
and armoured with shimmering scales,
even the mountaintops tremble
when it thrashes its seven great tails.

TTYP

With your partner, underline any words that you feel are very effective or ones that you are unsure of the meaning.

I then want you to use the post-it notes to find out what they mean in the context of this poem using the dictionaries and the thesauruses.

Your Turn: Poet's use of language.

The Dragon of Death

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Its body is big as a boulder
and armoured with shimmering scales,
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TTYP

With your partner/family member, underline any words that you feel are very effective or ones that you are unsure of the meaning.

I then want you to find out what they mean in the context of this poem using the dictionaries and the thesauruses.

Poet's use of language.

Its eyes tell a story of terror,
they gleam with an angry red flame
as it timelessly watches its riches,
and the Dragon of Death is its name.

Its teeth are far sharper than daggers,
they can tear hardest metal to shreds.
It has seven mouths filled with these weapons,
for its neck swells to seven great heads.

TTYP

With your partner/family member, underline any words that you feel are very effective or ones that you are unsure of the meaning.

I then want you to find out what they mean in the context of this poem using the dictionaries and the thesauruses.

Poet's use of language.

Each head is as fierce as the other,
Each head breathes a fiery breath,
and any it touches must perish,
set ablaze by the Dragon of Death.

All who have foolishly stumbled
on the Dragon of Death's golden cache
remain evermore in that forest,
nothing left of their bodies but ash.

Jack Prelutsky

TTYP

With your partner/family member, underline any words that you feel are very effective or ones that you are unsure of the meaning.

I then want you to find out what they mean in the context of this poem using the dictionaries and the thesauruses.

Mrs Hickman analysing the poem

Watch/Listen

<https://youtu.be/OMFKy71qsAY>

Poet's use of language.

Answer the following question in full sentences in your exercise book. **Use evidence from the poem** in your answers:

1. How does the dragon feel about its treasure?
2. How does the poet create a picture of how big the dragon is?
3. What do the eyes of the dragon tell us about its character?
4. Why does the poet mention that its teeth can “tear hardest metal to shreds”?
5. Why has the poet chosen the word “perish”?
6. Why are those who visit the dragon described as “All those who have foolishly stumbled”?



LO: Poet's use of language.

Answer the following question in full sentences in your exercise book. **Use evidence from the poem** in your answers:

Remember to answer in proper sentences

The poet suggests the dragon is angry when he says ...

When the poet uses language such as 'shimmering scales' we get the image of a shiny, reflective surface. It helps us to visualise the dragon more.



ANSWERS...



Possible answers, you might have something slightly different.

1. The dragon feels **very over-protective and possessive** about its treasure. I know this because the text said it is “guarding it closely forever” and “it timelessly watches its riches”.
2. The poet creates a picture of how big the dragon is by using **similes such as “as big as a boulder”**.
3. The eyes of the dragon tell us it is an **angry and aggressive character**. The **poet suggests** this when he says “they gleam with and ANGRY red flame”
4. The poet mentions that its teeth can “tear hardest metal to shreds” to show how **fierce, strong and frightening it is**.
5. The poet used the word “perish” to show that anyone who went to try and steal the treasure had a **very painful and shocking death**.
6. Those who visit the dragon are described as “All those who have foolishly stumbled” because they don’t know how foolish they are trying to compete against this fierce creature. No-one will get its treasure!