

Dragon, Dragon

John Gardner

2 There was once a king whose kingdom was plagued by a dragon. The king did not know which way to turn. The king's knights were all cowards who hid under their beds whenever the dragon came in sight, so they were of no use to the king at all. And the king's wizard could not help either because, being old, he had forgotten his magic spells. Nor could the wizard look up the spells that had slipped his mind, for he had unfortunately misplaced his wizard's book many years before. The king was at his wit's end.

Every time there was a full moon the dragon came out of his lair and **ravaged** the countryside. He frightened maidens and stopped up chimneys and broke store windows and set people's clocks back and made dogs bark until no one could hear himself think.

He tipped over fences and robbed graves and put frogs in people's drinking water and tore the last chapters out of novels and changed house numbers around so that people crawled into bed with their neighbors.

He stole spark plugs out of people's cars and put firecrackers in people's cigars and stole the clappers from all the church bells and sprung every bear trap for miles around so the bears could wander wherever they pleased.

And to top it all off, he changed around all the roads in the kingdom so that people could not get anywhere except by starting out in the wrong direction.

Vocabulary Builder
ravaged (rəv' (j)d) v.
violently destroyed;
ruined

3 **Literary Analysis**
Character Based on his actions, what words would you use to describe the dragon?

4 **Reading Check**
What is the problem in the kingdom?

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1 Motivation

Prepare an **Anticipation Guide** (*General Resources*, pp. 8–10) with the following statements:

- Always follow your parents' advice.
- Arranged marriages never work.
- You can always find a way to defeat any opponent.

Give students a copy of the prepared **Anticipation Guide** and have students mark their responses in the **Me** column. Have students discuss the statements in pairs or groups and mark the **Guides** again in the **Group** column.

Concept Connector

Students will return to the **Anticipation Guide** after completing the story.

Learning Modalities

Visual/Spatial Learners

Have students take notes about the dragon in the story or make sketches of it as they read. When they have finished, ask students to either draw or write a description of the dragon based on what they have read about it.

2 About the Selection

The kingdom in John Gardner's story "Dragon, Dragon" is plagued by a dragon that outsmarts those sent to kill it. The kingdom's cobbler, who thinks he is the least important person in the land, is perhaps the smartest. His two eldest sons fail to slay the dragon because they refuse to take their father's advice. The younger son, He takes his father's advice and slays the dragon.

3 Literary Analysis

Character

- Remind students that writers often use a character's actions to reveal what the character is like.
- Read the bracketed passage together. **Ask** the **Literary Analysis** question.
Possible responses: The dragon is mean, destructive, wicked, and imaginative.

4 Reading Check

Answer: The kingdom is plagued by a dragon.

Differentiated Instruction

Solutions for All Learners

Support for Less Proficient Readers
To assist students' comprehension, have them read along with the audio CD version of the story. Stop the recording frequently, and have students discuss what has happened. Guide the discussion by asking them questions about characters, story events, and changes in setting.

Strategy for Advanced Readers
A humorous element of this story is that although dragons, kings, and wizards are associated with medieval times, the dragon wreaks havoc with modern things such as car batteries. Invite students to write an additional paragraph that addresses more ways the dragon plagues the kingdom. Ask them to describe ways that it interferes with advanced technology, such as computers and telecommunications.

Lesson Plans For Dragon Dragon By John Gardner

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Awesome Hands-on Activities for Teaching Literary Elements Susan Van Zile, 2001 Setting Pop ups Paper Chain Characters Plot Mini Books and more to help students learn by doing Includes reproducible student direction sheets and rubrics

Grendel Recast in John Gardner's Novel and Beowulf Sandra Hiortdahl, 2022-07-12 This book brings John Gardner's bestselling *Grendel* to life in the most comprehensive study of the novel to date Using as a guide Gardner's discussions on art his extensive scholarship on Anglo Saxon poetry and his love of stories this chapter by chapter analysis shows *Grendel* to be much more than an ironic twist on *Beowulf* It reveals three distinct fights that mirror the poem which solves mysteries that have stymied readers for decades Anyone studying or teaching the novel will find useful analyses of *Beowulf* a discussion of the novel within Gardner's views on morality and art and an assessment of *Grendel* as a modern tragic hero and anti hero The monster wants to be human with every ounce of his being even at his death This issue of identity particularly for those who are outcast from society culture and community finds resonance in nearly all of Gardner's works It does so in *Grendel* as well and importantly so as this work reveals

The Write Answer (eBook) Kathy Tuszynski, Angela Yarber, 2003-03-01 Got questions about how to link your writing activities to rich and relevant literature How to improve your students writing skills and test scores You need *The Write Answer* This book contains student worksheets resource lists teacher pages samples and activities for individuals and groups These practical activities direct students to apply skills learned on the reproducible pages to their work in class

English Journal, 1978

Elements of Literature, Grade 6 Holt, Rinehart and Winston Staff, 2003

Teaching Science Fact with Science Fiction Richard Raham, 2004-08-17 The literature of science fiction packs up the facts and discoveries of science and runs off to futures filled with both wonders and warnings Kids love to take the journeys it offers for the thrill of the ride but they can learn as they travel too This book will provide you with an overview of the past 500 years of scientific thought and the literature of science fiction which it inspired suggestions for finding and adapting the kind of science fiction that will work best for your classroom detailed ideas and resources for teaching concepts in the physical earth space and life sciences as well in history and mathematics and suggested activities for a variety of grade levels Appendices provide science references to help you keep the facts and the fictions straight national science content standards and detailed lesson plans for an earth science unit where students travel the depths of time and create their own time travelers diaries

Communication in Action Dorothy Grant Hennings, 1982

Year Book Covering the Year ..., 1975

Ate Elem of Writing REV Ed 98 Intro/Gr 6 Kinneavy, 1998

Quadrennial Review of Activities United States Olympic Committee, 1965

Great American Writers Robert Baird Shuman, 2002 Highlights the lives and works of more than ninety American and Canadian writers of fiction drama nonfiction poetry and song lyrics

Instructor's Resource Manual to Accompany Through the Eyes of a Child Donna E. Norton, 1991

Books in Print Supplement, 2002

The Elementary School Library Collection, Phases 1-2-3, 1976

Merlin's Magic Carol H. Thomas, 1984 Intended for public and school librarians teachers and other school personnel and community groups working with children to promote an interest in reading this book contains planning suggestions and activities for developing a reading program around the theme of Merlin the magician and Arthurian legend The first portion of the book focuses on planning and organizing the thematic program and includes guidelines for defining the theme publicizing the program and creating decorations for the theme The major portion of the book discusses various aspects of the theme and describes actual reading related activities for use with children The separate chapters discuss Merlin and Arthur the Middle Ages castles dragons and other mythical creatures and magic tricks and potions At the end of each chapter is an extensive annotated bibliography of books with the appropriate grade range given for each The book concludes with a list of additional resources including films and sound recordings HTH **Normal Instructor and Teachers World** ,1922

El-Hi Textbooks in Print ,1984 **Books in Print** ,1991 **American Bookseller** ,1984 Paperbound Books for Young People ,1980

Unveiling the Power of Verbal Art: An Mental Sojourn through **Lesson Plans For Dragon Dragon By John Gardner**

In a global inundated with screens and the cacophony of instantaneous connection, the profound power and emotional resonance of verbal art frequently disappear into obscurity, eclipsed by the regular onslaught of noise and distractions. However, situated within the musical pages of **Lesson Plans For Dragon Dragon By John Gardner**, a fascinating function of literary splendor that pulses with raw feelings, lies an unique journey waiting to be embarked upon. Composed with a virtuoso wordsmith, that enchanting opus books visitors on a mental odyssey, delicately exposing the latent potential and profound influence stuck within the delicate web of language. Within the heart-wrenching expanse of this evocative analysis, we can embark upon an introspective exploration of the book is key themes, dissect their charming writing model, and immerse ourselves in the indelible effect it leaves upon the depths of readers souls.

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