Defeating the Monster Story - The Reluctant Dragon – Week 1

The Reluctant Dragon

One evening, long ago, a shepherd ran home, terrified. “I saw something terrible,” he cried to his wife and son. “It’s as big as four horses. It has long, sharp claws, a long pointy tail and shiny blue scales all over its body.” His son looked up from his book. “That sounds like a dragon,” he said. His parents got scared, but the boy wasn’t scared.

The next day, he set off up the hill to find the dragon. “He might be friendly,” thought the boy. The dragon was friendly and he was thrilled to see the boy. The boy smiled and sat down and asked the dragon all kinds of questions.

The dragon told stories of long, long ago. “There were dangerous dragons everywhere and brave knights fought them to rescue princesses,” he told the little boy. The boy came back every day to hear the stories.

But then, the villagers found out about the dragon. They were terrified. The boy ran straight to the dragon and said “The villagers want to get rid of you!” “But I would not hurt even a fly,” said the dragon. That afternoon, the boy heard even worse news. Saint George, the dragon killer, was there to fight the dragon. Immediately, the boy rushed back to the dragon.

“Saint George, the dragon killer, wants to fight you’” gasped the boy. “And he has the longest spear I’ve ever seen!” “But I don’t like fighting. I’ll just hide in my cave until he goes away,” said the dragon. “You can’t! Everyone wants a fight!” cried the boy. The dragon yawned. “I’m sure you’ll think of something,” he said.

The boy walked slowly back down to his village. A crowd of villagers was talking about the dangerous dragon. “He eats ten sheep for breakfast! He burned down five houses!” roared the villagers. “It’s not true!” said the boy. “The dragon wouldn’t hurt a fly!” “But everyone wants a fight,” said George. “What can I do?” “Follow me!” said the boy and he took George to meet the dragon.

“What a perfect place for a fight,” said George. “No fighting!” said the dragon, firmly. “Not even pretend to fight?” asked the boy. “Maybe…” said the dragon. The boy turned to George, “Do you promise not to hurt him?” “Well, it has to look real,” said George. “Will there be a feast afterward?” asked the dragon. “There will, and you can come,” promised George.

The next morning, lots of villagers arrived to watch the fight. The boy waited nervously by the dragon’s cave. They cheered and waved when Saint George rode into view. Soon, a roar echoed through the hills. Flames filled the air. Everyone gasped as the dragon appeared. His scales sparkled and he breathed out fire. “Charge!” cried George. He galloped hard, his spear held high. The dragon bounded up and they shot past each other. “Missed,” yelled the crowd.

George and the dragon turned around and charged again, This time, there was no way they could miss. Finally, after a lot of fight, the dragion slumped to the ground. George towered over him. “Cut off his head,” shouted the crowd. “I think the dragon has learned his lesson,” George declared. “Let’s invite him to our feast!”

And he lead the villagers, the boy and the dragon back down the hill. The boy was happy because they’d seen a fight. George was happy because he’d won. But the dragon was happiest of all. He had lots of new friends and a full tummy. “Jolly night it’s been,” he murmured and began to snore. “How will I get him home?” said the boy. “I’ll help,” said George. He gave the dragon a prod and they set off up the hill arm-in-arm, the saint, the dragon and the boy.

Monday – Read story and start story map

Read the story of The Reluctant Dragon, above. Start to draw a story map for this story and learn to say the text out loud, adding your own actions.

Tuesday – Learn story and finish story map

Continue creating the story map for the The Reluctant Dragon. Continue learning to say the text out loud, adding your own actions.

Wednesday - Short burst writing – description of a dragon – show don’t tell!

Go through the Powerpoint to learn about ‘Show don’t Tell’.

Look at the descriptions below. Which is scarier? Which has more impact? Why?

The dragon was huge, fierce and very scary.

The dragon’s nostril’s flared, its eyes narrowed and it rose up tall on its hind legs. It thumped its enormous tail on the ground and tore at the ground with razor sharp claws. Its scales glowed like fire and it breathed in deeply.

Yes, the second description has much more impact because it uses ‘show don’t tell’.

Watch this video of The Dragon Slayer, paying particular attention to the dragon (facial expression, body language and actions). <https://www.literacyshed.com/dragonslayer.html>

Write a description of the dragon using ‘show don’t tell’. Pay particular attention to its facial expression, body language and actions.

Thursday – Vocabulary and understanding the story

Read the text again. Are there any words you don’t understand? Use a dictionary or online dictionary to understand the meaning of these words.

Discuss the story with a grown up. There are some questions below to help you. Write your answers to the questions using full sentences.

What does the boy think? How is the dragon feeling? What do the villagers think? Why? What does Saint George think? What happens in the end? Who was clever in the story? Explain your answers.