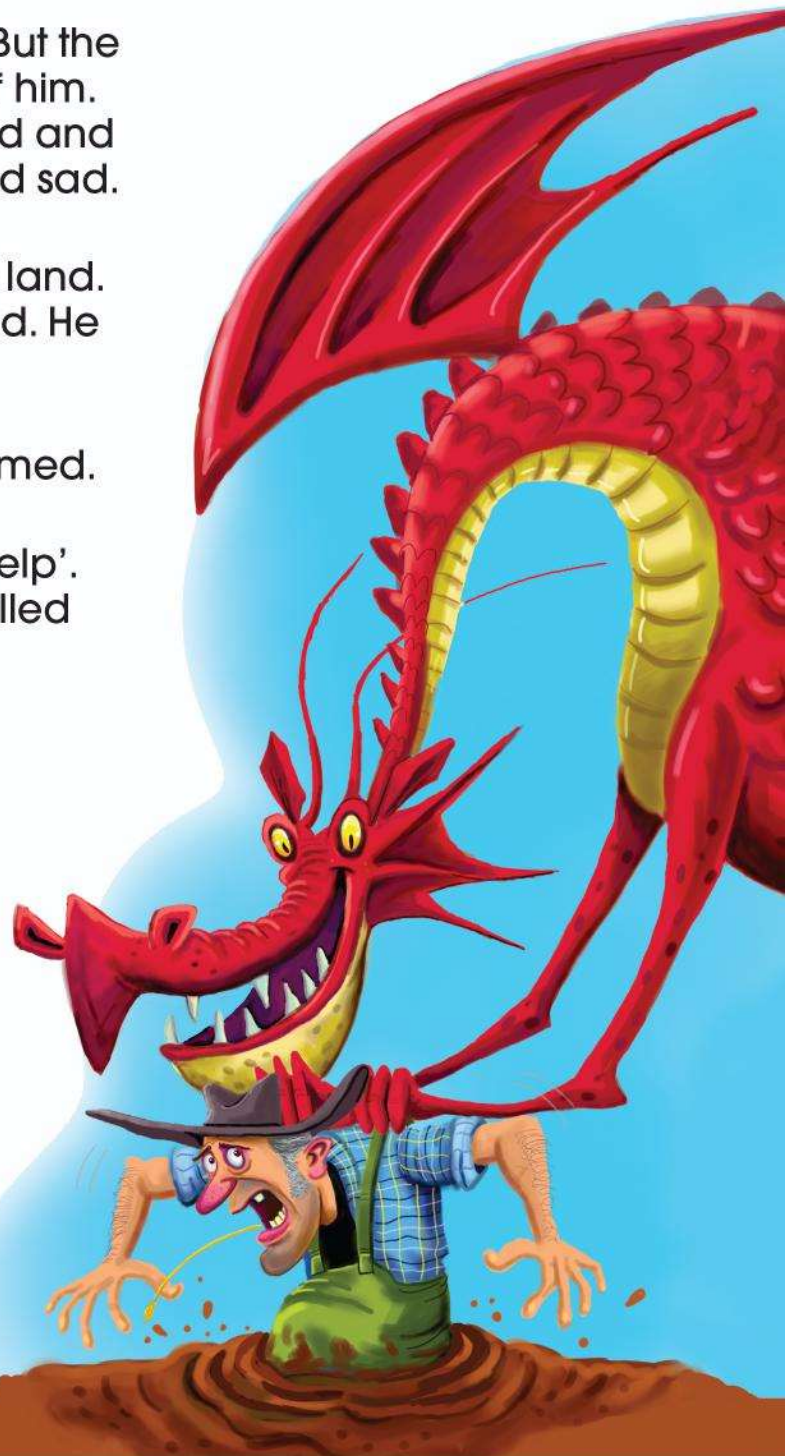


Eeek! Dragon!

- 1 Once there was a dragon named Dave. He lived in a cave next to a small town.
- 2 Dave was a very friendly dragon. But the people of the town were scared of him. When they saw him, they screamed and ran away. Poor Dave felt lonely and sad.
- 3 One day, Dave was flying over the land. He saw a farmer stuck in some mud. He flew down to help.
- 4 'Eeek! A dragon!' the farmer screamed.
- 5 'It's okay,' said Dave, 'I'm here to help'. Dave took the man's arms and pulled him out of the gooey, sticky mud.
- 6 'Thanks!' said the farmer. 'I'll tell everyone that you are a friendly dragon.' And he did.
- 7 From then on the people liked Dave. He was the town hero! And he was never lonely or sad again.



1. Where did Dave live?

- (a) in a cave
- (b) on a farm
- (c) in the mud

2. What happened after Dave helped the farmer?

- (a) Dave was sad.
- (b) The farmer screamed.
- (c) Dave was a hero.

3. This text is a:

- (a) fairytale.
- (b) letter.
- (c) poem.

4. After Dave helped the farmer, what might the farmer say to him?

- (a) Eeek!
- (b) Go away!
- (c) Hello, Dave!

5. Why did Dave save the farmer?

- (a) He was strong.
- (b) He was friendly.
- (c) He was hungry.

6. In Paragraph 2, **him** means:

- (a) the farmer.
- (b) the people.
- (c) Dave.



Something extra

- ★ Write five things a dragon has on its body.
- ★ Write a different ending to the story, starting with 'One day, Dave saw a farmer stuck in some mud ...'

The tomato-throwing contest

Dear Benita

1. We're having a great time in Spain and are staying in the town of Bunol. Yesterday, I watched the biggest food fight I've ever seen in my life!
2. Can you imagine being allowed to throw food at people and not get into trouble? Well, they can in Bunol. Each year, on the last Wednesday in August, people participate in a gigantic tomato-throwing contest. Thousands of people come to the town to take part or watch. I wasn't allowed to join in as I think you have to be older than 16. Dad and Madeleine joined in, but Mum and I watched from our hotel balcony.
3. First of all, we noticed shopkeepers covering their windows, doors and shop fronts with heavy plastic sheeting. Later, large trucks arrived in the town centre, loaded with thousands of kilos of overripe tomatoes. These were dumped in the main square. All the people who were going to be part of it gathered in the streets. There were heaps more guys than girls but I saw Madeleine with a group of girls ready to go! Everyone was dressed in old clothes and most of them wore eye goggles.
4. Water cannons signalled the start of the contest. Within minutes, everyone and everything was covered in squishy tomatoes. The rule was you were not allowed to throw anything but tomatoes and they had to be crushed by hand before you threw them to prevent injury. It is estimated about 150 000 tomatoes are thrown! People were ducking, running, aiming and throwing 'tomato guts' all over each other. Some were even pretending to swim in the street which looked like a river of tomato juice.
5. Water cannons signalled the end of the contest and no-one was allowed to throw any more tomatoes. Everyone hugged and laughed at each other—you couldn't tell who was who! Most people went to the river to wash off the saucy mess. Dozens of fire trucks came to hose down the streets.
6. Do you want to come here with me when we are older so we can join in?

Your cousin, Carlos



Questions

1. The word **participate** in Paragraph 2 means:

- (a) join in. (b) throw. (c) party.

2. In which month is the tomato-throwing contest held?

- (a) April (b) October (c) August

3. People covered buildings in plastic sheets so:

- (a) they could hide in the buildings.
(b) the buildings couldn't be seen.
(c) the buildings were protected from messy tomatoes.

4. What age would Carlos's sister, Madeleine, most likely be?

- (a) 17 (b) 7 (c) 14

5. What happened before people gathered in the streets for the contest?

- (a) Water cannons went off.
(b) Trucks dumped tomatoes.
(c) People pretended to swim in tomato juice.

6. In Paragraph 3, these means the:

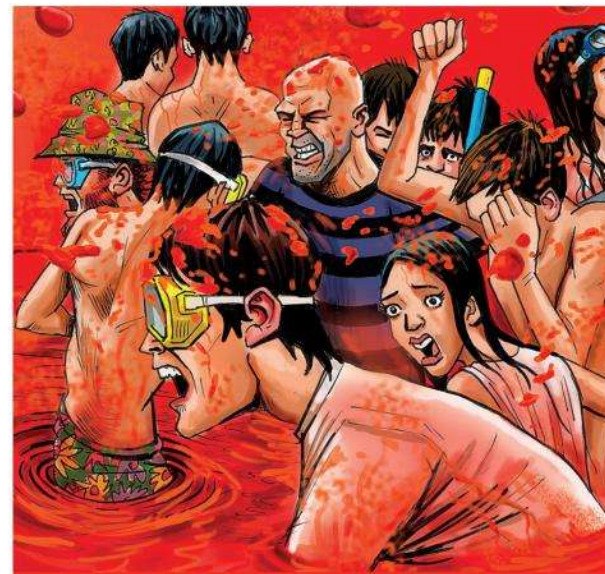
- (a) plastic sheeting.
(b) tomatoes.
(c) people.

7. People most likely wore eye goggles to:

- (a) see through the tomato juice.
(b) protect their eyes.
(c) look funny.

8. The tomatoes had to be squashed before throwing so they:

- (a) couldn't hurt anyone.
(b) would be juicier.
(c) could make tomato sauce out of them.



Something extra

★ Make a list of other foods that wouldn't hurt people if used in a throwing contest.

★ Draw a picture of what you might look like if you were in the contest.

Krishna and the serpent

1. *Lord Krishna is one of the most revered deities (gods) in the Hindu faith and there are numerous stories involving him. The story of Krishna and the serpent, Kaliyan, is one of the most well known.*
2. Krishna lived in a village near the Yamuna River, which, along with the Ganges, is one of the most sacred rivers in India. He was dark, handsome and always wore beautiful clothes adorned with attractive ornaments.
3. Krishna had a charming personality and was liked by everyone. He delighted in playing music and was an excellent flautist. Whenever he played his flute, everyone would stop what they were doing to come and listen to his lilting tunes. Even the wild jungle animals would be subdued by the sound of his flute.
4. One of Krishna's tasks was to herd cattle to and from the jungle near the river. This location provided plentiful grass for grazing and an ample water supply. One day, as Krishna was playing a wistful tune to the other cowherds, a massive poisonous serpent named Kaliyan slithered past them and slunk into the river. He had chosen to make his home in the deepest part.
5. The river soon became contaminated by Kaliyan's venom and any living thing that drank from the river perished. Poisoned fish, wading birds and crocodiles floated upside down in the water. Even the forest trees and plants near the riverbank shrivelled up and died. The river had been the source of fresh water for all living things in the surrounding area and great suffering was endured by all.
6. Krishna decided to teach the treacherous serpent a lesson. He walked purposefully up to the riverbank, jumped in at the deepest point and swam to Kaliyan's home. Immediately, the serpent launched himself at Krishna, intending to crush him to death. In an instant, Krishna got hold of Kaliyan's head and stood on it. Kaliyan tried in vain to shake Krishna off and plummeted down, hoping to drown him. But Krishna had the power to hold his breath at will and it was Kaliyan who needed to surface first.
7. Throngs of terrified villagers gathered on the riverbank to witness the struggle. Kaliyan twisted his body in an attempt to bite Krishna, who managed to get both hands around the serpent's head and set about kicking him as hard as he could. Slowly but surely, Kaliyan began to weaken as he could not withstand the pain of Krishna's assault. Kaliyan started spurring poison but Krishna kept attacking him until all the poison left his evil body.
8. Finally, the once mighty serpent surrendered and pleaded with Krishna to spare his life. Krishna considered his plea and decided to be merciful. Kaliyan was banished from the Yamuna and slithered painfully away, never to be seen again.
9. The exhilarated villagers cheered Krishna as he swam ashore. Thanks to his almighty feat, the river was pure once more.

Questions

1. The main idea of Paragraph 5 is to explain:

- (a) that Kaliyan poisoned the river.
- (b) that many dead animals could be seen in the river.
- (c) the devastation the poisoning caused.

2. The word *subdued* in Paragraph 3 could be replaced with:

- (a) awakened.
- (b) calmed.
- (c) scared.

3. Which statement is an opinion, not a fact?

- (a) The Yamuna River is located in India.
- (b) Krishna is one of the deities in the Hindu faith.
- (c) The story of Krishna and the serpent is inspiring.

4. Before Kaliyan attempted to bite Krishna, he:

- (a) tried to drown Krishna.
- (b) started to spurt poison.
- (c) began to lose his strength.

5. Which word would not be included in a summary of Krishna's personality?

- (a) inconsiderate
- (b) courageous
- (c) appealing

6. Kaliyan wanted to reach the surface because:

- (a) Krishna couldn't hold his breath any longer.
- (b) he needed air to breathe.
- (c) it was difficult fighting underwater.

7. You can conclude that Krishna:

- (a) possessed many gifts.
- (b) was an old man.
- (c) was nervous.

8. This text is a form of:

- (a) explanation.
- (b) narrative.
- (c) procedure.

9. An antonym for the word *purposefully* in Paragraph 6 is:

- (a) undecidedly.
- (b) positively.
- (c) deliberately.

10. The pronoun *them* in Paragraph 4 is used instead of the:

- (a) cattle.
- (b) cowherds.
- (c) cowherds and Krishna.

11. Kaliyan was different from Krishna because he was:

- (a) thoughtful.
- (b) uncaring.
- (c) forgiving.

12. It is likely in a few months time that:

- (a) Kaliyan will return.
- (b) birds will not be seen on the river.
- (c) trees and plants will grow once again.

Something extra

- ★ A serpent is another word for 'snake'. Make a list of ten snakes and write them in alphabetical order.