

I Met a Dragon Face to Face

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Imagining a fantasy encounter with a dragon through vivid descriptions.
- Reading and reciting the poem with the correct rhythm, expression and emphasis.
- Answering comprehension questions based on the poem.
- Learning new words, their meanings, spellings, pronunciation and rhyming patterns.
- **Outcome:** Learning about a child's world of imagination where it meets a dragon and explores themes of bravery, curiosity and wonder through engaging poetic language.
- Understanding the poem well.
- Learning to pronounce perfectly by reciting the poem.

Read and Understand

- This poem is by Jack Prelutsky and talks about him as a little boy of ten and his wild imagination. It talks about how he imagined his fantastic adventures with strange creatures and beings. It was all very real for him. Only at the end of the poem does he tell us it was all in the books he read and enjoyed when he was ten years old.
- The poem has one theme running throughout and has no distinct stanzas. However, its rhyme scheme is in four lines, with alternate lines rhymed. Thus, we have broadly four stanzas with a rhyme scheme that is abab, cdcd, efef, ghgh. Read the whole poem through once and then begin to explain it.
- Right at the outset, the poet tells us two things: that he was ten years old, and that his adventures begin with his meeting a dragon, a mythical creature that breathes fire out of its nostrils and mouth! He follows it up with a trip to outer space, which was quite impossible for a ten year old, and then managed to get into and also apparently escape from a pirate's den! It might be that he read 'Peter Pan', who saves children from Captain Hook and his pirates.
- He goes on further to share his wild imaginary adventures by wrestling with a wicked troll, which is a horribly ugly and frightening creature that lives in caves and can be a giant or a dwarf. He also fought with a great white shark, perhaps a reference to 'Moby Dick'. He followed a rabbit down into its hole or burrow, which makes it similar to Lewis Carroll's Alice following the White Rabbit into Wonderland. He says he even hunted for a 'snark', a creature that is found in Lewis Carroll's poem called 'The Hunting of the Snark', an imaginary creature that seems a mixture of a snake and a shark!

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He stealthily got into a submarine. He even went to a land with magical doors too and opened them! He travelled in a time machine to an era when there were dinosaurs on earth and searched for them. ➤ Then he got on top of a giant's head and found a pot of gold! This could be an outcome of reading 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Then he confesses that he did all this when he was just ten years old, and it was all done in the books he had read! Each of the adventures could be related to some book or fairy tale that he had read and where he had imagined himself as the hero of the stories he read. ➤ You may like to compare this poem with some of the poems by R.L. Stevenson or A. A. Milne, which also show little boys with a great imagination. ➤ Exercises A, B and C: Do the exercises orally first and then ask the students to write down the answers. Announce the answers aloud and let the students check their work in pairs. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Exercise A: Do the exercises orally first and then ask the students to write down the answers. Announce the answers aloud and let the students check their work in pairs. 	Appreciating the Poem
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Exercise A: Use a dictionary to find synonyms for the word HUMOROUS. 	Word Wise
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discuss Exercises A, B and C with the students so that they understand what is required to be done. 	Project Work/ AIL Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Then, let them do the exercises on their own. Help them, if required. 	