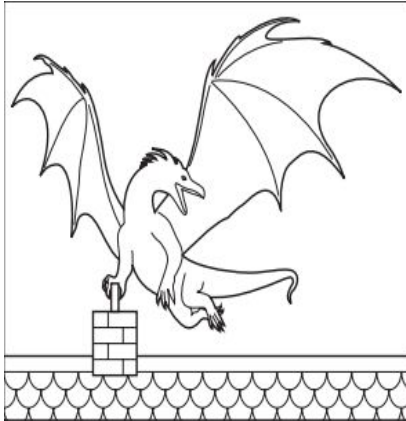


English Review 2

Reading Comprehension Practice

Here is part of the story of The Little Pet Dragon by Philippa Gregory. Read it and then answer the questions.



One day, James found a small dragon. He called him Lassie and kept him as a pet. When Lassie disappeared a few months later, James was very upset. Then, one evening, James saw a large crowd in the street outside his house. He looked up. He saw Lassie flying towards his house and trying to land on the roof.

People screamed and ran for their front doors. Lassie looked down on them like a great green airplane. James could see the pale green of his big belly, his claws stretched out as if he were trying to grab on to the air to slow himself down. James could see his wide frightened eyes as he flew overhead. A few puffs of orange smoke came from his mouth.

He saw James, and this seemed to make him less frightened. He headed straight for the roof of James' house. One of his feet grabbed the television aerial, the other snatched at the chimney pot. With a terrible tearing sound, the TV aerial was ripped loose and the chimney pot wobbled. Lassie balanced for a brief second on the very top of the roof. They heard the eerie unknown call of a dragon wailing in distress as he slid down the roof on the far side. Then they heard an awful crash as he smashed into the next-door-neighbour's garden shed.

James and his dad tore round into the back garden. It looked as if a hurricane had come through it. The fence between them and next door was squashed flat. The little shed where Mr Perkins kept his lawnmower was smashed to pieces. Slates were falling off the roof and dropping into the garden like rain. Amid all the chaos and confusion was Lassie, looking half-ashamed and half-proud. After all, it was his first ever landing. And he was only a very young dragon.

"Lassie!" James shrieked and rushed at him. Lassie's huge green head turned towards James and the dragon rubbed his head hard against the boy's skinny chest.



To help you answer the comprehension questions, here is a guide to some of the difficult words in the story.

◆ **disappear** (verb) – when someone or something vanishes or suddenly goes away

◆ **upset** (adjective) – when you are very sad

◆ **crowd** (noun) – a lot of people in one place

◆ **pale** (adjective) – describes a colour that is almost white. Pale green means

white with a bit of green

◆ **grab** (verb) – to quickly hold on to something

◆ **television aerial** (noun) – a long piece of metal that people used to have on their

roofs so that they could watch TV

◆ **chimney pot** (noun) – a stone tube on top of a house to let smoke out

◆ **eerie** (adjective) – describes something that is strange or weird

◆ **shed** (noun) – a small wooden building that some people have in their gardens

◆ **lawnmower** (noun) – a machine that you use to cut grass

◆ **slates** (noun) – flat, square pieces of stone used to make roofs

◆ **chaos** (noun) – when everything is crazy and confused

◆ **landing** (noun) – when a plane (or dragon) lands on the ground after it has been flying

◆ **shriek** (verb) – when someone screams very loudly

Please try and answer these questions about the text.

1. How did James feel when Lassie disappeared?

Put a cross in **one** box.

- ☐ A angry
- ☐ B happy
- ☐ C bored
- ☒ D upset

2. Where was Lassie trying to land?

Put a cross in **one** box.

- ☐ A the garden of James' house
- ☐ B the forest near James' house
- ☒ C the roof of James' house
- ☐ D the airport

3. Number these events in the order that they happened.

One answer has been done for you.

Lassie grabbed the TV aerial.

2

Lassie wailed in distress.

3

Lassie flew towards James' house.

1

Lassie smashed into the neighbour's shed.

4

4. a) Do you think Lassie was frightened when he was trying to land on the roof?

Put a cross in **one** box.

☒ yes

☐ no

b) Copy the sentence from the text that tells you this.

James could see his wide frightened eyes as he flew overhead.

OR He saw James, and this seemed to make him less frightened.

5. What kind of text is this?

Put a cross in **one** box.

☒ A a fiction text about a dragon

☐ B a non-fiction text about dragons

☐ C a historical text about Romans

☐ D a fiction text about Blackpink

6. 'He called him Lassie and kept him as a pet.' Why does the word 'Lassie' start with a capital letter in this sentence?

Put a cross in **one** box.

☒ A It is someone's name.

☐ B It is the name of a country.

☐ C It is an important word.

☐ D It is the name of a football team.

7. Draw lines to the correct endings for these sentences.

One answer has been done for you.

He called him Lassie	and trying to land on the roof.
He saw Lassie flying towards his house	and kept him as a pet.
Then they heard an awful crash as he smashed	the dragon rubbed his head hard against the boy's skinny chest.
Lassie's huge green head turned towards James and	into the next-door-neighbour's garden shed.

8. How many paragraphs are in this text?

5 (five)

9. There are lots of different adjectives in this text. Write three of them below.

small

upset

large

Or any other adjective that appears in the text.

10. Put the following names into the correct alphabetical order.

James

Lassie

John

Steven

1. James

2. John

3. Lassie

4. Steven

Story Writing

The Little Pet Dragon – Part Two

You have just read the story of *The Little Pet Dragon*. Now you must write what happens next! What will happen to James and Lassie? Will James keep him at his house? Will Lassie be a good pet, or will he cause more problems? What will James's mum and dad do?

Remember, this story happened in the past so it must be written in the past tense. Try and make your story entertaining by using as many adjectives and adverbs as you can.

Before you write your story, it is a good idea to plan. Think about what will happen in your story and answer the questions below to help you.

- Will James keep Lassie as a pet? _____
- Where will Lassie live? _____
- What will James' mum and dad say? _____
- What will James' neighbours do? _____
- Will James and Lassie be happy? _____

Now you are ready to write. Use the space below.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

