

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.

Answers About Dragon Dragon John Gardner Test

CH Cherryholmes



Answers About Dragon Dragon John Gardner Test:

Quiz Kids Martin A. Gardner, 2013-08-24 *Quiz Kids* was a network radio program that aired from 1940 to 1953 featuring smart children answering difficult questions submitted by listeners Part of radio history during its golden age *Quiz Kids* thrived during a period of dramatic change in America Audiences marveled at the speed with which the Kids answered the most difficult questions vaulting the show beyond the producers wildest expectations Eleanor Roosevelt invited the Kids to the White House to meet with them Their appearance at the Senate is discussed in the Congressional Record During World War II they toured America and raised 120 million in war bonds They were guests on Jack Benny s radio show for three consecutive weeks Walt Disney Bob Hope Fred Allen the Lone Ranger Gene Autry and other famous people were on their program This thorough history describes the creation of the program its national popularity and the children who made it such good listening *Books Out-of-print* ,1986

Savage Dragon #9 Erik Larsen, 1994-03-31 Dragon recovers from his injuries in the hospital where he is then suddenly attacked by SuperPatriot Dragon is able to fend off the attack and protect his Nurse Ann Stevens who is the roommate of Phyllis Deeder **Children's Books in Print** ,1980 **Cyclopedia of**

World Authors II Frank Northen Magill, 1989 Truth Seeker ,1887 **The Index** ,1873 The Publishers' Circular and Booksellers' Record of British and Foreign Literature ,1894 **The Building News and Engineering Journal** ,1884

Australian and New Zealand Gazette ,1853-12

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