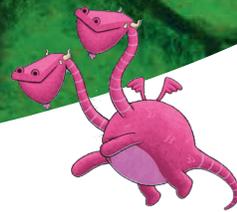


DRAGONS ARE THE WORST!

**A PRACTICAL
AND INFORMATIVE
GUIDE TO DISCUSSING
GOBLINS AND DRAGONS
IN YOUR CLASSROOM**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR DRAGONS ARE THE WORST!



1. Look at the “Beware!” and “Danger!” posters on the trees in the front endpapers. What tone does it set for the book? Do you think the dragons’ facial expressions match the warnings given? Would you be afraid of them after looking at these posters? How might the posters influence behavior toward dragons?
2. Why do you think the goblin wants to be “taken seriously, even feared”? Why does he want to be seen as scary? How do the people in the book really view him? How do they react to the dragons? Why do you think that is? Do you think you’ve ever judged someone by their actions or appearance before getting to know them?
3. What traits come to mind when you think of goblins and dragons? Does the book add to or change your thoughts on these creatures? Do you think all goblins and all dragons behave similarly?
4. Look at the opening spreads of the dragons outside in the fields and by “Ye Olde Snack Stand.” What are the dragons doing? What does this tell you about them? Do you agree or disagree with the goblin’s statement, “Now I know what you are going to say . . . Dragons are so scary”?
5. The goblin shares a drawing of himself highlighting some of his features, including “frighteningly good fashion sense” and “big ears-can hear danger.” Using your imagination and what you’ve observed about dragons in this book, create a drawing labeling at least five of a dragon’s features. Then draw yourself and at least five of your favorite features.
6. Name some of the reasons the goblin gives to show dragons are not really that scary. Can you think of other things that would be difficult to do if you breathed fire, had a lot of teeth, and had spiky horns? What tasks would be easier to do? What things do you find challenging in your own life? How do you handle those challenges? What is your greatest talent? What traits make you good at those things?
7. Look at the images that show the goblin running from another creature. What does this tell you about the goblin? Think about his statement that “You don’t see anyone fleeing in fear from a mermaid.” How do his actions differ from his words? Why do you think the author/illustrator chose to include this? What does it tell you about the book’s tone?
8. How does the goblin scare off the knights? Why does he change his mind about the dragons?
9. What advice would you give the goblin for learning how to live with dragons and making new friends?
10. What is your favorite part of the story? Which spread made you laugh the hardest? What do you predict will happen next for the goblin and dragons?

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