

An illustration of a red dragon with yellow horns and wings, breathing a large plume of orange and yellow fire. Below the dragon, a boy in a red shirt and blue pants looks up at the dragon with an open mouth. A girl in a pink shirt and brown cloak stands next to him, looking towards the viewer. The background shows a rocky landscape under a blue sky.

The Dragon's Hoard Study Guide

by Rebecca Gilleland

For the novel by
Rebecca Gilleland



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Synopsis

Upon walking into a hidden hall of doors in their barn on a rainy day, Kennan and Beth are propelled into adventure beyond their expectations. They choose a door and find themselves on a windswept mountain summit with a dragon flying all too nearby. As they travel across this land following the clues they've been given, they encounter a lost pony, talking crows, elves, and the spiders of Mirkwood. Realizing they are in a story from a book, they know they must follow the clues to the end to return home, having learned a special lesson in courage along the way. This courage will help them to serve "The King they already know."

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3. *Characterization* is the process the author uses to reveal a character's personality. The author may tell us about a character by telling us what she looks like, how she acts, or what she likes, dislikes, or fears. The author also may use dialogue (what characters say) to help us get to know her or may use the character's thoughts and actions to show us her personality. From these chapters, how would you describe Beth? How would you describe Kennan?
4. As they climb the mountain, Kennan comforts Beth. How does he do this?
5. What four items do Beth and Kennan find?
6. What does it mean to be "practical"? In what ways are Beth and Kennan practical at the end of Chapter 2?
7. *Setting* is the time and location and surroundings in a book. Describe the setting in Chapter 1. How does it change in Chapter 2?

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8. A *simile* is a figure of speech used to describe something by comparing it with something else. A simile uses words such as *like* or *as* to show that a comparison is taking place. (For example: The carpet was green *like* moss.) Find and finish these similes in the story. Then write two similes of your own.

a. The hall smelled dry and dusty, _____

b. A full moon glowed _____

Your own similes:

c. _____

d. _____

Dig Deeper:

9. Beth often seems frightened by the weather, their circumstances, and the danger they encounter. Read Deuteronomy 31:6 and Psalm 27:1. What do these verses teach us about fear?

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Chapters 3 & 4

Vocabulary:

1. *weave*: sew, tie, or form threads or strips into cloth or baskets. 2. *examine*: to look closely and carefully at something. 3. *angle*: the space or measurement between two lines that meet or intersect. 4. *shattered*: broken and smashed 5. *bearer*: a person or thing that carries or brings items. 6. *quirking*: shifting or twisting 7. *feat*: a great action or deed 8. *lope*: to run with a long, easy stride 9. *glade*: an open space in a wood or forest

Questions:

1. Beth and Kennan meet Roac, the crow. He shows them how to find the key hole in the cup. He also tells them to travel south for a day to find the key.
2. He is sent by his elven king to find the bearers of the Dragon cup.
3. They are to travel south to the Glade of Alcarin, speak the power of rhyme, grab the key, and perhaps climb a tree.
4. The elven army is traveling to the aid of the Lake-men.

Thinking About the Story:

5. To be on guard against the evil in the woods.
6. They believe they are actually in a book called *The Hobbit*. Answers will vary.

Dig Deeper:

7. They tell us to avoid *all* evil and deceit. These verses teach us to focus on good, harmony, love, compassion, blessing, self-control (our tongue), and peace.
8. We must trust in God completely to guide us and he will help us. We also need to listen to advice from wise counselors. Answers will vary.

Chapters 5 & 6

Vocabulary:

Answers are going to vary, but should have similar meanings to the following. 2. empty, full; 3. delicious, terrible; 4. sometimes, constantly; 5. inside, outside; 6. curled, straight.

Questions:

1. She knows their parents will worry if they are gone very long.
2. Kennan reads the words of the poem.
3. A monstrous spider named Gorlob.
4. Kennan kills the spider, cuts them free, and saves them all.
5. Yes, it was thoughtful. The pony could have been trapped and caught by the spiders or possibly it might have starved if they had not returned.

Thinking About the Story:

6. The sentence from the book is: "It crawled out of the trees into the sunlight and *shadows seemed to crawl out of the trees with it.*" Shadows can't really crawl. You may wish to point out that a talking spider is itself anthropomorphic. Students' sentences will vary.
7. The dialect of the spiders is that they snick and click, and they hiss with many long "s" sounds.
8. Answers will vary.

Dig Deeper:

9. Answers will vary.