



The
DRAGON'S
HOARD Study Guide

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For the novel by
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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 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.

10. He risked his life to save Beth and the pony by attacking the spider with a small sword.

11. This verse teaches us that sacrificing yourself to save someone else is the greatest love you can show.

12. These verses tell us that God and Jesus both made the greatest sacrifice—the life of Jesus to pay for sin, so we might believe in him and have eternal life.

Chapter 7

Vocabulary:

1. lunged, 2. vibrated, 3. lurched, 4. clambered, 5. frantically

M	C	E	Q	P	K	I	T	F	F	M	E	B	Y	E	K
A	C	N	E	I	N	C	O	U	R	A	G	E	I	Y	E
K	R	N	D	E	R	E	B	M	A	L	C	E	S	R	N
N	O	W	P	M	Q	H	P	Z	N	R	U	K	P	C	N
E	W	L	L	O	R	O	D	E	T	A	R	B	I	V	A
E	N	O	U	H	G	W	H	L	I	F	C	W	D	L	N
T	K	G	N	I	K	F	T	L	C	I	T	G	E	U	T
R	K	E	G	N	B	S	E	Z	A	X	Q	P	R	T	B
U	F	M	E	Y	I	R	B	T	L	E	N	E	S	T	O
H	H	I	D	E	H	C	R	U	L	W	E	D	O	O	R
Y	C	U	P	R	E	E	U	J	Y	B	U	R	T	I	M

Questions:

1. They pull out the cup and hold it in the sunlight as Roac showed them. They insert the key and then jump through the door that appears.
2. Peace: quiet, calm, stillness, serenity. Panic: unreasoning fear, frantic behavior, terror
3. Answers will vary, but may mention being able to think clearly and/or having the time to consider your options and choose wisely.
4. A ruby for a crown.
5. Their mother calls them to come in out of the rain and have their lunch.
6. They make plans to return to the Hall of Doors with Jon and Ben, their younger brothers.

Thinking About the Story:

7. Answers may vary because the nature of the King is not explained, but the King is a veiled reference to God or Christ.
8. Answers will vary, accept reasonable answers. Some may include: *Sound*—"Spider voices and clicks rose up inside the trunk"; "The sounds of spiders clicking and crawling rose higher and nearer"; "The Elven music grew louder as the