

## Guided Reading

Week 4

# THE DRAGON'S SENSES

## A STUDY OF SIGHT, HEARING & SMELL

**M**UCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN of the dragon's astonishing eyesight. Our own vision is so limited by comparison, that it is hard to imagine the world as beheld by dragons. They can observe a scene many miles away in perfect focus and possess the facility to see the full range of colours. What human eyes perceive as the sun's glare appears as sharply defined to the dragon. Naturally, their night vision is also exceptional.

Dragon eyes come in every imaginable hue from forest-green and sky-blue, to copper, bronze and burnished gold. It is a well-documented fact that it is very likely impossible, and certainly rather foolhardy, to hold the gaze of a dragon. Its stare is so penetrating and hypnotic, that it has the effect of placing the viewer in a trance from which they are unlikely to recover.

### UNEARTHLY PERCEPTION

Although not in the same league as their eyesight, a dragon's hearing and sense of smell are not to be underestimated. Dragons can discern sounds well outside the human range, and have been known to respond to courting calls over fifty miles away. Similarly, dragons can detect and decode scents carried on the wind over vast distances. Although barely understood, it is evident that dragons also possess a sixth sense. A case in point would be their uncanny ability to seek out gold and precious stones hidden from view.



*The protective thorn-like eyelashes of the SICKIE-CLAWED FOREST DRAGON.*



*Many water species possess a "second eye" - a translucent protective covering that allows these dragons to see underwater.*



*The uniquely-shaped eye pupil of the BLACK BOG DRAGON.*



*The vertical eye pupil of the TRIPLE-HORNED NIGHT DRAGON.*



## Session 1

Read the extract and think aloud as you read. Do you have any questions? Do you need to use your prior knowledge? Can you visualise? Make notes on the text.

### THE DRAGON'S SENSES A STUDY OF SIGHT, HEARING AND SMELL

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Although not in the same league as their eyesight, a dragon's hearing and sense of smell are not to be underestimated. Dragons can discern sounds well outside the human range, and have been known to respond to courting calls over fifty miles away. Similarly, dragons can detect and decode scents carried on the wind over vast distances. Although barely understood, it is evident that dragons also possess a sixth sense. A case point would be their uncanny ability to seek out gold and precious stones hidden from view.

## Session 2

### Vocabulary checker

Vocabulary	What I think it means	Dictionary Definition	Synonyms
astonishing			
possess			
perceive			
hue			

Check your understanding of the words listed above:

1. Identify them in the text and read around the word for meaning.
2. What do you think it means in this context?
3. Check the meaning in a dictionary.
4. Are there alternative synonyms you could use that are just as effective?

## Session 3

### Capturing the Nuggets

Sieve the text for the key information. What are the golden nuggets to summarise?



What do you learn from the text? Use no more than 20 words.



## Session 4

Dragons can discern sounds well outside the human range ... What does the word discern mean in this sentence?

2. What happens to people who gaze into the eyes of a dragon?

3. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Dragons only see in black and white.		
It is not a good idea to look into a dragon's eyes.		
Their hearing and sense of smell are as good as their eyesight.		
Dragons have a sixth sense.		