# ENGLISH

Lesson 1

## Year 5

**Topic: Fantasy stories**

### Exploring elements of fantasy

Today you will:

- understand structural elements of imaginative fantasy texts and how to present points of view about particular texts.

## Resources

**Text**

Baillie, A and Harris, W 2012, *DragonQuest*, Walker Books, Sydney. (Or use an online search engine to find a read-aloud version of the story.)

**Digital**

Video — The fantasy genre (0:43)

## Key terms

character, complication, event, fantasy story, metalanguage, narrative, orientation, point of view, predict, resolution, setting

For definitions and explanations of terms, please see the Glossary.

## Lesson

**Note**

This lesson is completed over two sessions.

### Review knowledge of fantasy stories

Hi, I'm Fiona. Have you ever read a fantasy novel, such as Emily Rodda's *Rowan of Rin*? In these lessons, we will be reading a fantasy book called *DragonQuest* by Allan Baillie and Wayne Harris. We will be learning about how the author has developed the main characters by showing how they are affected by events in the plot and by the setting. Before we get started though, I'd like to introduce you to some of my friends who will help guide you through these lessons.





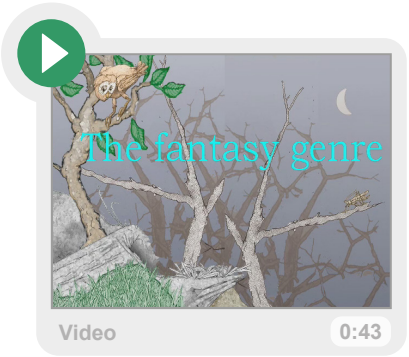

We will be your guides throughout these lessons on examining a fantasy story and will help you understand some of the ideas covered.





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1. View the **Video — The fantasy genre** to learn what a fantasy story is.



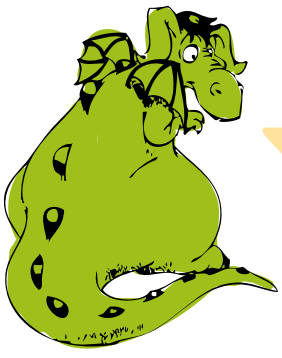

   In this video, you learned that **fantasy stories**:
   - are stories that are very imaginative
   - are about **events** that would not happen in the real world
   - have **characters** like fearless and noble knights, and fierce dragons
   - have **settings** which include eerie forests and beautiful castles.

Authors of fantasy texts create imaginary worlds with characters, events and settings that do not normally exist in the real world.

In this lesson, we will look at my favourite fantasy characters, dragons.



2. Find a copy or search online for a read-aloud version of *DragonQuest* by Allan Baillie. Look at the front and back covers of the book. Read the blurb on the back cover.
3. Predict what you think the story will be about and who the main characters will be. Write brief notes in the spaces below.



Remember: to **predict** means to make a sensible guess.

What I think will happen in the story:

Who I think the characters will be:

4. Read or listen to the book *DragonQuest*.
5. What did you think of the book, *DragonQuest*? Complete one of the following sentences.
   a. I liked *DragonQuest* because ...
   b. I did not like *DragonQuest* because ...

## Explore structural elements of *DragonQuest*



*DragonQuest* is a narrative text. Do you remember that a narrative has a particular structure?

A narrative can be a personal recount or an imaginative story.
A narrative has:

- an **orientation**, which gives information about the setting and characters, and is usually at the beginning of a story
- a **complication**, which is the problem or the thing that happens and requires the main character to respond and act
- a **resolution**, which is the way the main problem or complication is solved.

A fantasy story is a special kind of narrative with special characters, events and settings that would not happen in the real world.


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6. *DragonQuest* is a fantasy story which has the same structure as a narrative. Read the following events — one of them is the orientation, one is the complication and one is the resolution in *DragonQuest*.

   Select A, B or C in each section of the table below to match the orientation, the complication and the resolution.

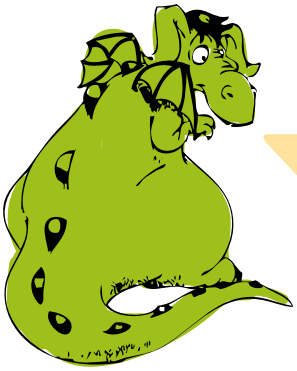
A. The young boy sees the dragon but does not want to fight the dragon. He just wanted to see it.

B. The young boy and the knight encounter many perils on the journey. When they reach the top of Glass Mountain, the knight cannot see the dragon.

C. The young boy is called to go on a quest with the knight.

| A | B | C | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | **Orientation** Sets the scene and introduces the characters. |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | **Complication** The event/s that lead to a problem. |
| ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | **Resolution** How and why the complication is resolved. |

## Express points of view about *DragonQuest*

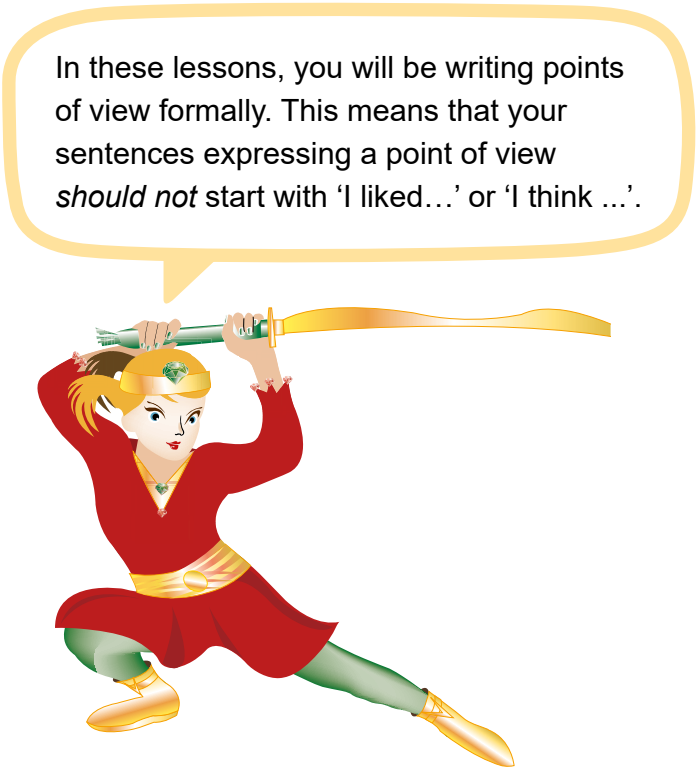


What did you think of *DragonQuest*? Remember, what you think about something is your **point of view**.

A **point of view** is a personal opinion, based on a person's experiences, understanding and interpretation of a topic.

A point of view can be expressed:

- informally — 'I think …' or 'I liked …'
- formally — '*DragonQuest* is a great book because …' or 'The boy in *DragonQuest* is …'




In these lessons, we will be using the **metalanguage** of a fantasy text to express a point of view. **Metalanguage** is the language we use to talk about language. For fantasy texts, this could include words such as:

- character, plot, setting
- orientation, complication, resolution
- author, the reader, the story, narrative
- character names, place names.

These are all words we might use as we present our point of view about the characters, setting and events of a fantasy story.

7. Rewrite your answer from Task 5 formally. This means writing your sentence without saying ‘I liked’ or ‘I did not like’ to express your point of view about *DragonQuest*. For example, you could start your sentence with:

> *DragonQuest* is a great book because …

Write 2–3 sentences to justify your point of view about the characters, setting and events in the book.

## Reading

Remember to complete your daily reading today. You can read at any time, for example: when you first wake up, during free time or at bedtime.

At the end of each text, reflect upon:

- your enjoyment level
- interesting points about your reading and the text.