ENGLISH

Lesson 4

Year 5

Topic: Fantasy stories

Exploring plot, setting and theme

Today you will:

- understand how to use metalanguage to describe the effects of ideas and language features on particular audiences
- understand how to write a complex sentence to explain relationships between ideas.

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

Slideshow — Understanding sentence structure

Find and prepare

Sheet 3 — Complex sentences

Key terms

character, clause, complex sentence, dependent clause, event, independent clause, plot, setting, theme

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

Lesson

Analyse *DragonQuest* and explore plot, setting and theme

In this lesson, we will look at the plot, setting and theme of *DragonQuest*. Let's look at the plot first. Do you remember what a plot is?



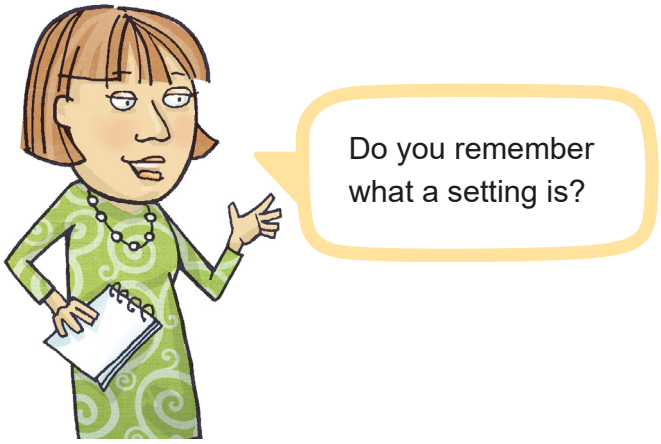
The **plot** of the story is a series of **events** that solve a conflict or problem in a story. In *DragonQuest*, the plot has many twists and turns which help you to understand the young boy and the knight. You can see how they behave in many different situations and in this way you learn a lot about their characters.

1. Rearrange the events into the correct order to summarise the plot of *DragonQuest*. In the answer spaces below, list the letters of the event in the order they occur.

A	Boy and Knight clear troll country.
B	Boy and Knight make it through the desert.
C	Knight encouraging Boy to go on a quest.
D	Falling rocks, watching for dragons. Boy doesn't want to fight the dragon — he just wants to see it.
E	Boy and Knight start journey. There are scorpions and wasps.
F	Boy and Knight riding on horse. There are toads, webs, owls, wolves, goblins and witches.
G	Boy and Knight can't find a dragon — or can they?
H	Boy and Knight clear the forest.
I	On the way up the mountain, there are werewolves, demons, dracula bats and a double-headed troll. Boy and Knight lose the horse.

The correct order of events:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.



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The **setting** of the story is the time and/or place where the events take place. In *DragonQuest*, you read about the young boy and knight in the shifting sands, the tangled forest and many exciting places. As well as adding excitement and interest to the story, the settings help you to understand the characters better because you see how they react to the different places.

2. Complete the following sentences about the settings in *DragonQuest*. The first one has been done for you:

   a. The boy is sitting *in a big chair.*

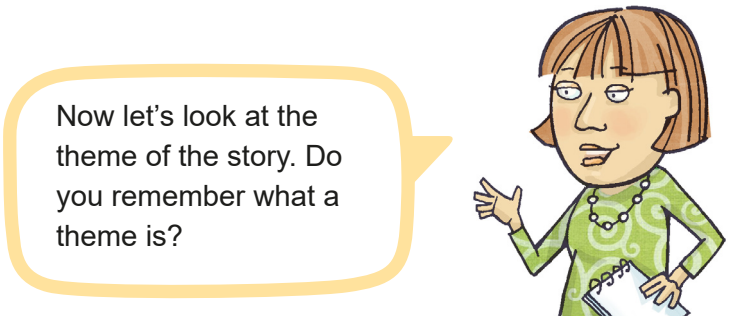
   b. They found scorpions and wasps _____

   c. There are dangers _____

   d. A troll lurks _____

   e. There are werewolves _____

   f. The knight cannot see the dragon _____



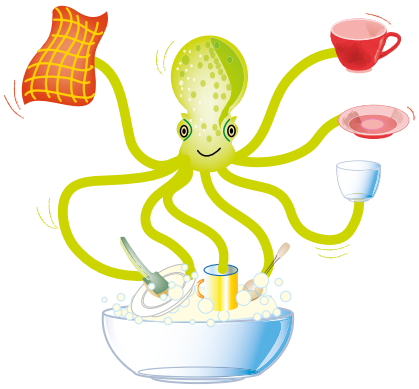
The **theme** of the story is the main idea of the story.

- It may be something that the writer wants you to understand about human nature.
- In *DragonQuest*, the quest itself has a surprising conclusion. This tells you a lot about the young boy's character.
- The theme is very important because it gives the story meaning and helps you to understand the characters.



3. The theme of a story can often be summed up with a saying. Read the examples of story themes below and the saying that sums up the theme.





Theme	Saying
A story about someone who has success because they are the first person on the job.	The early bird gets the worm.
A story about everyone chipping in to help.	Many hands make light work.
A story about what happens when there are too many people trying to help.	Too many cooks spoil the broth.
A story about things not being what they seem.	Looks can be deceiving.

Choose one of the sayings above that sums up the theme (main idea) of *DragonQuest*. Write it in the space below.

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Explore how plot, setting and theme build characterisation



The **plot** and **setting** of a story help us understand the characters because we see how they react to different situations and respond to their environment.

The **theme** gives the story meaning and positions the characters in a particular context. It may teach us something about human nature.

4. Answer the following questions.

   a. How do the settings in *DragonQuest* help create a picture of the boy's or knight's character? Are they enjoying the adventure? Why or why not?

   b. Does *DragonQuest* remind you of any other books you have read? Think about the setting and characters. In what way/s are they similar?

   c. How does the plot influence the characters and how they behave? Do the events in the story cause the characters to act a certain way?

d. The theme of *DragonQuest* could be 'having courage' or 'overcoming your fears'. Find an example in the story where the characters are being courageous. Use some words from the text to help you explain why you think they are being courageous.

Respond to literature using complex sentences

5. View the **Slideshow — Understanding sentence structure** to revise simple and compound sentences and to learn about complex sentences.



Slideshow

   In this slideshow, you revised simple and compound sentences. It also explained complex sentences.

   - A **complex** sentence is an **independent clause** (**main clause**) combined with a **dependent clause** (**subordinate clause**).
   - The **independent clause** makes sense on its own.
   - The **dependent clause** does not make sense on its own. It depends on the independent clause to help it make sense.

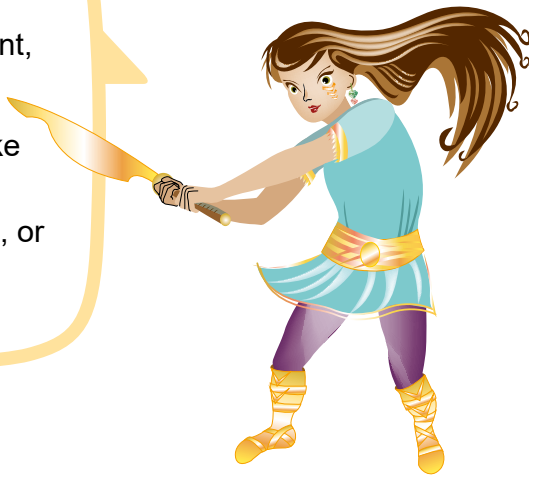


Clause A The noble knight crossed the desert

Clause B to save the beautiful princess

Clause A would make sense on its own, so it must be the independent, or main, clause.

Clause B does not make sense on its own, so it must be the dependent, or subordinate, clause.



6. Complete **Sheet 3 —** Complex sentences.

Complex sentences are a very effective way of describing the setting, characters and events in a narrative.



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.