Chinese dragons

In China, dragons are often shown as long snake-like creatures without wings. Sometimes dragons are made of parts of nine different animals, including the head of a camel, the neck of a snake and the claws of an eagle.

The ancient Chinese believed dragons were linked with power, strength and good luck. Dragons were also linked with the power of Chinese emperors. Dragons were often shown with four claws while the imperial dragons (the dragons of the emperors) had five.

Dragon dance

Today, a special dragon dance is performed at many celebrations, including Chinese New Year. A long dragon is made using hoops covered with brightly coloured fabric. The hoops are supported on poles. People make the dragon 'dance' by raising and lowering the poles.

Bespoke texts have been written to mirror extents of national test texts to give children plenty of opportunity to practice reading full texts, applying expert tips and composing answers to questions.

Texts ensure high levels of motivation and ample opportunity to apply the comprehension strategies.
“You know why, Boy,” said Father. He tuck an axe into his belt and picked up his spear. Both had blades made of chipped flint, which were tied to their wooden shafts with strips of dried hide. “You are not yet ready to follow the hunting trail.”

“But I am ready!” said Boy, frowning. “I am eight summers old...”

“Father is right,” said a voice behind them. Mother had come out of the cave now as well. Boy opened his mouth to argue, but Mother held up her hand to silence him. “Your day will come,” she said. “Besides, I want you to look after Little One.”

“Oh no, do I have to?” Boy groaned. Little One was his younger sister. She was only four summers old, always happy and smiling – and full of mischief. Boy enjoyed playing with her sometimes, but looking after her on his own was tedious. She was asleep inside the cave, curled up on some furs beside the fire.
Stage 3 Collection

Challenging words are explored in detail to broaden and enrich children's vocabulary

Now, since your eyes cannot behold
The awesome wonder of my kind,
I'll paint a picture that will bring
My image to your youthful mind:

I stand quite tall, eight feet or more,
My skin is tough and thick with hair,
My ears are pointed like my horns,
I think I'd give you quite a scare!

As sharp as blades, my pointed fangs
Could rip the flesh and pierce the heart,
And break the bones and pop the eyes,
And tear my hapless prey apart ...

If you could see my fearsome claws,
Your tales and legends would declare
My kind the fiercest in the world,
And search for us you'd never dare!

While teeth and claws are deadly tools,
I still have other ways to slay:
My tongue is venomous and long,
My poison kills without delay.

My muscles too, beneath my fur,
Stand hard as iron, thick and strong,
For wrestling prey down to the ground –
Then down my throat where they belong!