

Tchang and the Pearl Dragon

LI: I can listen to an excerpt from a story and answer questions about it.

Task 1. Can you find the meaning of these words in a dictionary?

harmless _____

squawking _____

in a jiffy _____

flocks _____

Task 2. Circle the word that describes...

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|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| a. the questions. | difficult | important |
| b. the dragon. | mighty | harmless |
| c. the palace. | golden | ancient |

Task 3. Put the parts of the extract in the correct order.

	It took Tchang a day to climb up the million steps to the door of the Wizard's place.
	Tchang was afraid to ask the Wizard his questions.
	The Pearl Dragon told Tchang to ask the Wizard why he couldn't fly.
	Tchang hopped on the dragon's back in order to cross the river.

Task 4. What do you think? Give evidence from the extract to support your answers.

1. How was Tchang feeling when he first spoke to the Wizard?

2. Find three different words that show that the Wizard is angry.

Challenge! Find two features of traditional tales and legends that the writer used in Tchang's story.

Listening Transcript: Tchang and the Pearl Dragon

Tchang was about to run away, but the dragon called to him. “Don’t be frightened! I’m quite harmless. Tell me why you want to cross my river.”

Tchang explained that he needed to ask the Great Wizard of the West some important questions.

When the Pearl Dragon heard the questions, it smiled. “You’re a good lad, Tchang,” it said. “Hop on my back and I’ll have you across in a jiffy.”

On the far side of the river, Tchang thanked the dragon.

“Think nothing of it!” the dragon replied cheerfully. “That’s what I’m here for. Oh, by the way. While you’re there, could you please ask the Wizard why I can’t fly? Every dragon in China can fly – except me.” Naturally, Tchang said yes. He set off again towards the West with the four questions going around and around in his head.

Forty-nine days later, he came to the golden palace of the Great Wizard of the West. The palace was carved out of a mountain. It took Tchang a whole day to climb the million steps up to the huge door. When he pulled on the bell rope, the mountain shook. Flocks of eagles rose squawking into the air from a thousand golden towers.

The great doors of the palace swung open. Tchang found himself in a mighty hall. It was so high he couldn’t see the ceiling for clouds. On a throne at the end of the hall sat the Great Wizard. He glared down at Tchang. “Well?” he bellowed. “What do you want, boy?”

Tchang tried to stop shaking. “I...I have four questions to ask you, sir!”

“HAH!” shouted the Wizard. “Then you may as well go home right now! I will only answer THREE questions. If you ask me four, I won’t answer any of them. So there!”

Tchang thought his legs would fold underneath him. What could he do? There was his poor mother’s question, then the old woman’s question, then the old man’s question, and then the Pearl Dragon’s question. For his own sake, as well as his mother’s, he desperately wanted to know the answer to the first question – but he also knew he couldn’t let his friends down. So he answered sadly, “Then I will only ask you three.”

From Dragon Tales by Andy Blackford