

Teacher Guide

Grades 7–8

Dragonwings

Laurence Yep

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DRAGONWINGS

by
Laurence Yep

Teacher Guide

Written by
Gloria Levine, M.A.

Note

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Novel Units, Inc.
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Skills and Strategies

Thinking

Classifying and categorizing,
evaluating, analyzing details,
synthesizing ideas

Comprehension

Predicting, sequencing,
comparison/contrast,
inference, cause/effect

Writing

Description, letter, news-
paper article, narrative,
advertisement, epitaph,
dialogue

Vocabulary

Antonyms/synonyms,
analogies, multiple meaning
words

Listening/Speaking

Participation in discussion,
role play

Literary Elements

Character, setting, plot
development, figurative
language, literal language,
conflict, foreshadowing,
theme, stereotype

Label each of the following statements a, b, or c to show whether the statement is made by the character, describes the character's behavior, or describes what others say about him. Then explain what the statement shows about the character.

1. Hand Clap was in his fifties and lively as a cricket.

2. Hand Clap's face lit up whenever he spoke about the good things about living in America.

3. Grandmother said of Hand Clap, "You're like the blind man who catches sparrows and calls them phoenixes."

4. Hand Clap said, "Even the demons have some principles."

PREDICTION: Father has said that he will explain later why he is called "Windrider." What explanation do you think he will give?

Chapter 31-48

Vocabulary

malicious (34) subtle (35) phenomenal (37) desist (37)
poultice (40) dubious (41) indecently (42) trial (43)
unalloyed (45) malleable (45) wistful (45)

Fill in the blanks below with words from the list above.

DIRIGIBLE is to _____ (*aerious*) as BOAT is to MACHINE

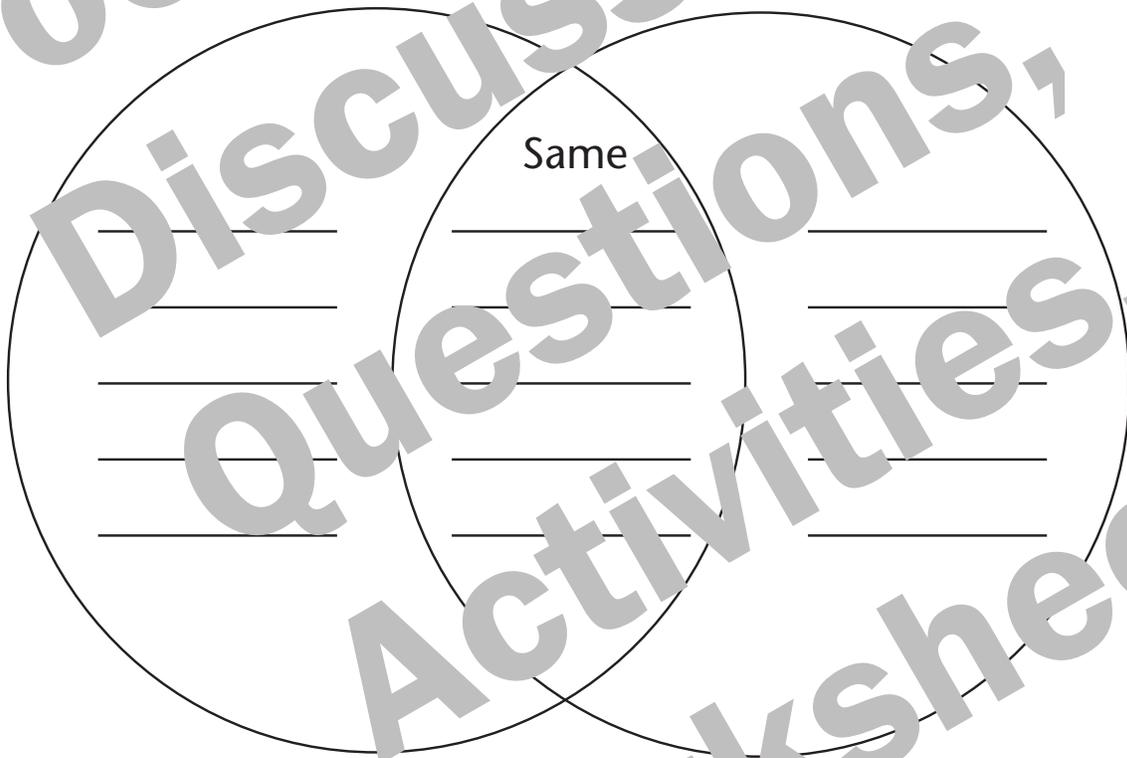
_____ (*dubiously*) is to DOUBT as MALICIOUS is to NASTY

Discussion Questions

1. Why is the chapter called, "The Dragon Man"? (*Windrider tells Moon Shadow of a dream in which the imperial dragon told him that he was formerly a dragon physician.*)
2. What is the difference between the way Tang men are named and the way demons are named? (*p.31 Tang men can change their names as they change; demons keep the names they have had since birth.*) What are the advantages and disadvantages of each way? Which do you think is better? What name would you choose for yourself?
3. Why is Moon Shadow frightened by his father's room? (*p.32-33 He is afraid of the "magic" in the electric light, the crystal set, etc.*)
4. What does Father do to help Moon Shadow stop being afraid? (*p.34 tells him the story of the Dragon King*) Do you think Father really talked to a dragon? Do you think so? (*yes*) Does Moon Shadow think so? (*yes*) Does the rest of the Company think so? (*no*)

Father

Son



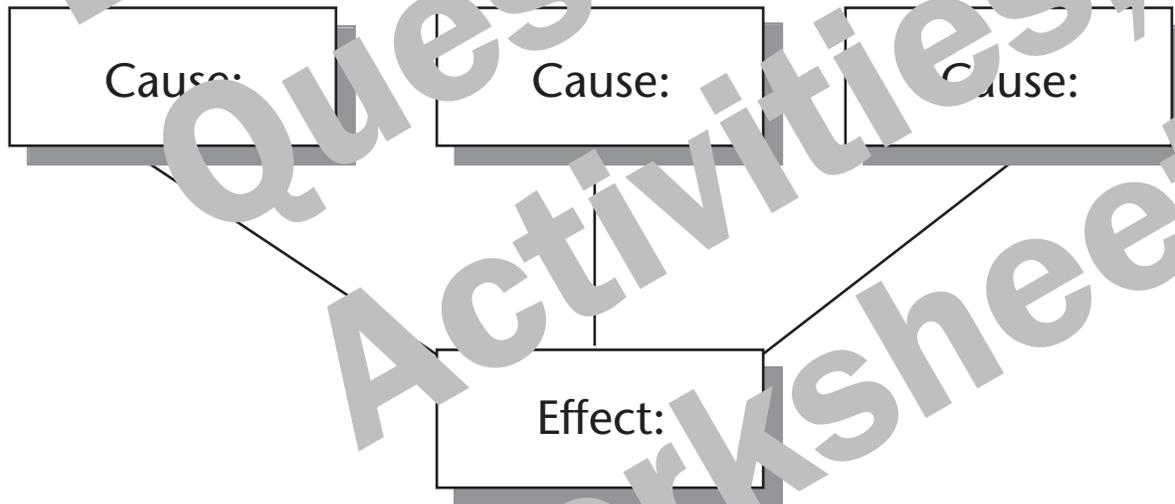
5. How does Uncle show that beneath his grumpiness, he loves Moon Shadow? (*p.47 He gives the boy a beautiful wooden carving of Monkey he made secretly.*)
6. What do we know about Windrider? Let's begin an attribute web for him.

Cause-Effect Map

To plot cause and effect in a story, first list the sequence of events. Then mark causes with a C and effects with an E. Use an arrow from the cause to the effect. Remember that many effects cause something else so they might be marked with an E and a C with an arrow to the next effect.

Events in the story

1. Black Dog becomes an opium addict.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
10. White Rider and Moon Shadow move in with the demoness.



PREDICTION: Father is taking Moon Shadow to live in the stable of the "demoness." What do you think the "demoness" will be like?