

Poetry

✓ Classroom Activity

✓ Tutor Learning Activity

✓ Home Reinforcement

Directions

Student may complete the activities below orally or write the answer on paper or a dry erase board.

Language Arts

Decoding – Verb Tenses
Comprehension – Predicting
Reading Standards 3, 4, 8, 9
Level MS MI - VL, Inter, Intra

A Fire-Breathing Dragon

A fire-breathing dragon
Would make a precious pet –
It's great for grilling hot dogs
And drying clothes all wet.

It gladly guards the house and yard
From burglars in the street.
On winter nights how it delights
To warm your frozen feet.

It eats unwanted guests for lunch
And munches noisy neighbors.
Insistent salesmen at the door,
A hungry dragon savors.

A dragon is a noble beast,
A perfect primal pet.
The only trick
Is when it's sick,
Don't let it eat the vet.

This poem is from Bing Bang Boing by Douglas Florian.
It can be found on page 97.

Reading the Poem

Read the poem silently to make sure you know all the words. If you don't know a word, try to figure it out (think about the rhyme, context, letter sounds, etc.). Then read the poem aloud at least two times to help you read smoothly.

Word Wise

Verb tenses show action or state of being in the past tense (done, asked); present tense (doing, asking); and future tense (will do, will ask).

1. Write or tell the missing words.

Past Tense	Present Tense	Future Tense
grilled	grills	will grill
	guards	
munched		
		will savor

2. Write or tell five sentences using the verbs in exercise 1.

3. Past tense is usually formed by adding -ed to the end of a verb. Some verbs, however, have an irregular past tense form. For example, the past tense of make is made and the past tense of eat is ate. Write or tell the past tense of each verb.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| a. find | b. go |
| c. lie | d. sink |
| e. dive | f. read |
| g. steal | h. drink |

Meaning Master

Predicting means to think about what could happen.

- What does the poet predict will happen to the vet if the dragon gets sick? Write or tell the prediction from the poem.
- Predict what the fire-breathing dragon might do to each item. Write or tell your answers.

a. brother's baseball	b. welcome mat
c. video game	d. lost dog
e. tea bag	f. sister's makeup
- Predict what might happen to the animals in each situation. Write or tell your answers.

a. dog on a space shuttle	b. seal on a cruise
c. kangaroo on a picnic	d. polar bear on skates

Brain Stretch

Write or tell at least five benefits of an animal you would like as a pet.