



Gusto The Dragon

- 1 Gusto the dragon and Dr Joe Murray are close friends. Dr Joe brought Gusto back to life when he found her in the Alps. She was frozen in a block of ice. This had been her home for thousands of years.
- 2 Gusto now lives in a zoo where she has her own cave. The cave is made out of fireproof bricks. Some artists made it look like a real cave in the Alps. It even has fake snow and a deep pond. Gusto drinks from this. She also has some large tree

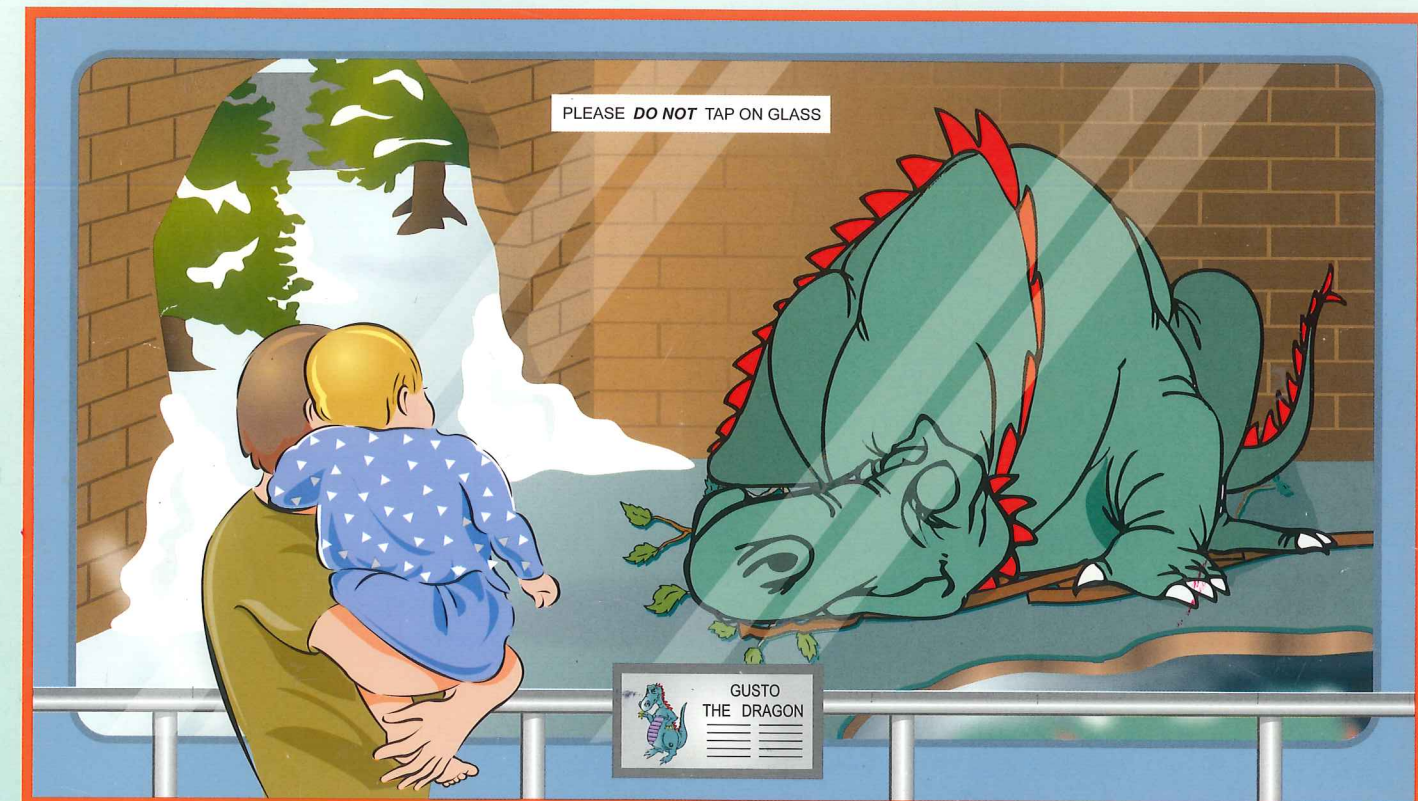
branches that she sleeps on. Near the front of the cave is a wall of fireproof glass. Visitors can look through this.

Dr Joe is the only person that can get close to Gusto. A zoo worker once tried to touch Gusto. He ran out of the cave with his pants on fire.

- 3 Gusto is four metres tall and very heavy. She has large rear legs and smaller arms. The skin on her belly is rough and light purple in colour. She also has a line of shiny scales running down her neck, back and tail. These scales are bright red. Gusto's head is long and thin, with two large nostrils at the end. Her green eyes

bulge on the top of her head. Dr Joe says that you can't sneak up on Gusto. Those eyes can look in every direction.

- 4 Unlike other animals in the zoo, Gusto doesn't do tricks. When she is angry, she breathes fire. It shoots out in a bright yellow jet, tinged in red and blue. If there are lots of visitors, the zookeeper will not feed her. This makes her angry and the visitors see her fiery breath. A mighty roar comes out when she does this. Lots of kids cry the first time they hear Gusto breathe fire. Sometimes there is also smoke. That only happens when she accidentally burns her bed.





Questions

- 1 Gusto was found in
 - a the zoo.
 - b the Alps.
 - c a brick cave.
- 2 Gusto sleeps on
 - a snow.
 - b bricks.
 - c trees.
- 3 What happened to the zoo worker who tried to touch Gusto?
 - a His pants were set on fire.
 - b He became good friends with Gusto.
 - c He was able to feed Gusto.
- 4 Gusto's scales are
 - a red.
 - b purple.
 - c green.
- 5 What happens when there are lots of visitors to the zoo?
 - a The zookeeper feeds her.
 - b Gusto does tricks for everyone.
 - c The zookeeper doesn't feed Gusto.
- 6 Why are Gusto and Dr Joe such good friends?
 - a Dr Joe brought Gusto back to life.
 - b Dr Joe always feeds Gusto when she is hungry.
 - c Dr Joe is a scientist.

Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues.
The brackets show the text sections ().

tinged shiny close bulge fireproof

- 7 The opposite of far away (1)
- 8 Cannot catch on fire (2)
- 9 Glossy or sparkly (3)
- 10 To stand out or swell (3)
- 11 To be slightly coloured (4)

Grammar

Find an **adjective** (a word to describe a noun) in these sentences.

- 12 She also has large branches.
- 13 It is a deep pond.
- 14 It shoots out in a yellow jet.
- 15 Gusto has a long head.

Back To The Text...

- 16 The dragon had been frozen for thousands of years.
 - a true
 - b false
- 17 Gusto roars when she is tired.
 - a true
 - b false
- 18 In which part of the library would you find this text?
 - a fiction
 - b non-fiction

Sequencing

Look back through the card to find what happened first. Choose **a** or **b**.

- 19 a The zoo built a fireproof cave.
b Gusto set a keeper's pants on fire.
- 20 a The doctor freed Gusto from the ice.
b Visitors looked at Gusto through the glass.

Think About This

- 21 The illustration on page 3 is described in section
 - a one.
 - b two.
 - c three.
 - d four.
- 22 Which word in section 1 rhymes with the word round?
 - a found
 - b Gusto
 - c frozen
 - d home
- 23 The purpose of this text is
 - a to describe the dragon.
 - b to inform the reader about dragons.
 - c to give instructions on how to catch dragons.

Challenge Option

Vocabulary: How many words can you make from the word DRAGONS?

