

**From:** Edward Smith-Pickle

**To:** Morton Pickle

**Date:** Tuesday 2 August

**Subject:** The zoo



Dear Uncle Morton,

Mum is about to ring the zoo. She's going to ask them to take the dragon away.

I tried to persuade her not to. But she said it was the dragon or her.

I said the zoo probably wouldn't want her.

She said I should be careful because I was treading on thin ice.

I don't know what she meant, but I didn't want to ask. She had that expression on her face. Do you know the one I mean? The one that says: "you'd better keep out of my way."

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Today's task – answer the inference questions.

Explain where the clues are in the text which helps you know the answer. Use the sentence stem "**I know this because...**" this will help you explain where the clue in the text is.

#### Example

##### Question: What is Edward's mother cross about?

Answer: She is cross about having to look after the dragon. She wants him to go. **I know this because** it says "she's going to ask them to take the dragon away."

She is also cross with Edward for being cheeky. **I know this because** it says "she said I should be careful because I was treading on thin ice."

So I have.

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**From:** Edward Smith-Pickle

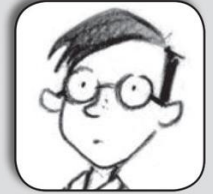
**To:** Morton Pickle

**Date:** Tuesday 2 August

**Subject:** Don't worry!



**Attachments:** Mum and the dragon



Dear Uncle Morton,

The zoo aren't coming. They thought Mum was joking.

When they realised she was serious, they thought she was crazy.

Finally they put the phone down. So she rang the RSPCA, but they didn't believe her, either.

They said, "There's no such thing as dragons."

Mum said, "Come here if you want to see one."

That was when they put the phone down too.

Now Mum doesn't know what to do. She's threatening to kick the dragon out in the street.

**Question 1**

**How does Edward's mother feel about the dragon?**

**Explain how you know.**



I said she couldn't just leave a poor defenceless dragon out in the middle of

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the road where anything might happen to him.

“I’ve got to do something,” she said. “Or I really will go crazy. What if he bites the neighbours? What if he eats one of the twins?”

It’s true, he could easily pull them out of their pram. They live opposite and they’re only eight months old. With teeth like his, he could gobble them up in a moment. I know you said he’d never harm another living creature, but that wasn’t true, was it? What about Jemima?

Uncle M, I must have written you ten messages by now. Could you please write back?

Eddie

**Question 2**

**How does Edward feel about the dragon?**

**Explain how you know.**

**From:** Edward Smith-Pickle

**To:** Morton Pickle

**Date:** Wednesday 3 August

**Subject:** Maud



**Attachments:** Cat attack; Mum chatting



Dear Uncle Morton,

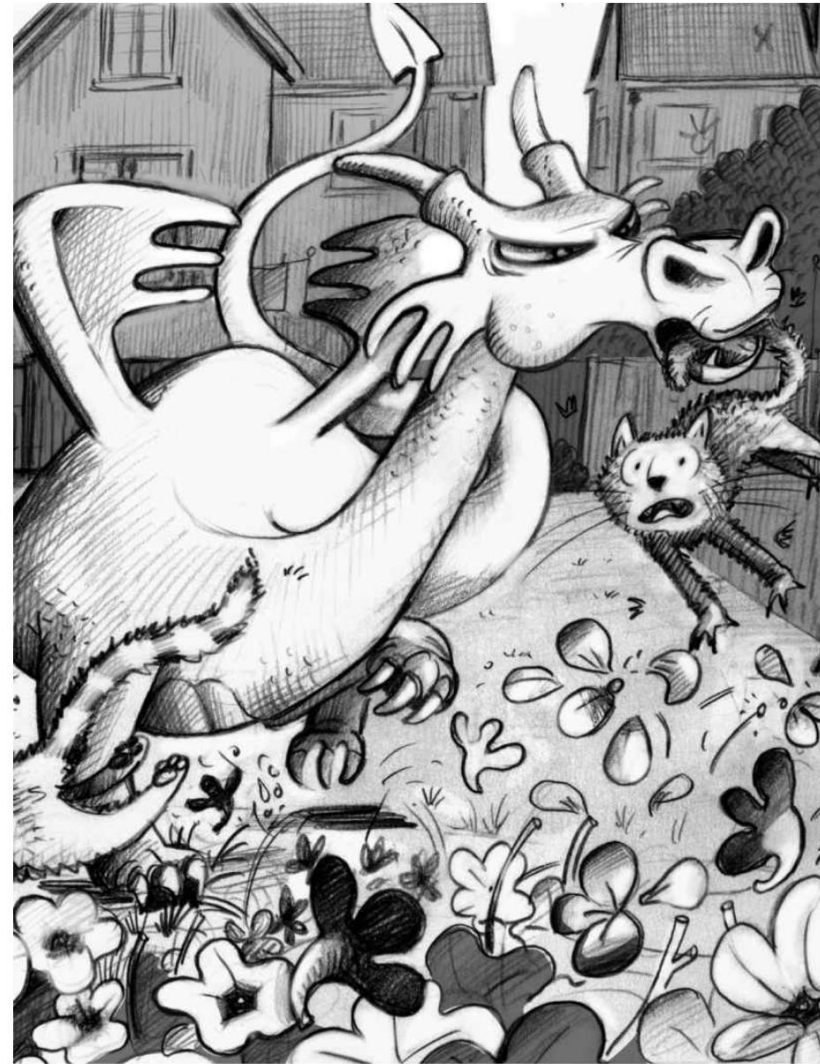
You’re not going to believe what’s happened now. The dragon just attacked Mrs Kapelski’s cats again. This time the garden is full of fur, and the petunias have gone up in smoke.

It was their own fault, I suppose, because they know they’re not allowed in our garden. They came in anyway. They always do. They didn’t see your dragon snoozing on the patio. They were rolling around on the grass when he woke up and jumped on them.

Tigger got away without any problem, but

the dragon managed to grab Maud's tail in his jaws.

I saw it all through the French windows. I was banging on the glass, trying to make the dragon stop, but he took no notice.



Finally Maud turned round and scratched



him on the nose. The dragon wasn't expecting that! He was so surprised, he opened his jaws and she was over the fence in a second. He breathed a great burst of flame after her.

Luckily he missed.

Unluckily he got Mum's petunias.

Luckily Mum didn't see what happened. She was on the phone to the pet shop. She's been ringing everyone she can think of, but no one wants a dragon.

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Now she's sitting at the kitchen table with her head in her hands. She's run out of people to ring. I haven't told her about the petunias yet, but she's going to see them soon, and then I don't know what will happen.

To be honest, Uncle M, I'm a bit worried about her. I asked about mending the fridge and she said, "What's the point? The dragon will just make another hole in it."

**Question 3**

**Why did Edward's mother have her head in her hands?**

**Explain how you know.**

I suppose she's right, but even so, it would be good to have somewhere to keep the milk.

Eddie

PS. You'll be glad to hear Maud is fine. She's still got all her tail.

PPS. Your dragon has spent the rest of the morning picking fur out of his teeth. He won't be attacking any more cats in a hurry.

**Question 4**

**How do you think the dragon is feeling? Explain how you know.**