

Aims

1. To describe the behaviours of people / creatures
2. To describe the characteristics of people / creatures

Resources

- ❖ Weblink: <http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/dragonsville/pool.htm>
- ❖ Activity sheets:
 - Character portraits
 - Lost poster

Introduction

This is an activity that will ask the children to describe the behaviour and characteristics of a dragon from the Naming Pool within Dragonsville by writing a short character portrait, as well as creating a lost poster.

Activities and points for discussion

- ❖ Look at the dragons within the gallery at the Naming Pool. Invite the children to say one thing they notice about a dragon, to describe it.
- ❖ Discuss with the children whether they are able to describe the behaviour of the dragons just from looking at the images. Could they predict the behaviour? Does the image help?
- ❖ Using published materials, read the descriptions of characters from stories (e.g. The Iron Man)
- ❖ Look at the use of language in a character description. Is the character's name used all the time? What is used instead?
- ❖ What types of word are used in a character description (adjectives)? Why are these useful?
- ❖ Discuss what type of information you would need to write down if you wanted to describe the characteristics of a person / creature. Make a chart on the board / whiteboard.
- ❖ Ask the children to write a short character description of one of the dragons in the gallery using the points discussed before.
- ❖ Once the description has been written and edited have them submitted to the website.
- ❖ Discuss the use of a poster to help find a 'lost' pet. How does a poster describe a character in a few words? Explain how a keyword, (e.g. small, black, etc.) can be as effective as using a sentence (He has black fur and is small).
- ❖ Use the online flash activity to build a lost dragon poster (<http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/dragonsville/poster2.htm>)

Follow Up

- ❖ Create western-style 'wanted' posters for nursery rhyme / fairy tale / story villains with brief character descriptions. Display these around the class / school.
- ❖ Try to describe a character using a limited number of words. Now try again using fewer words. In how few words can you effectively describe a character?
- ❖ Write a letter to a friend describing a dragon you have met in Dragonsville.
- ❖ Use an image of character. Label it so that it describes them.
- ❖ Write a monster portrait in the Monster Motel (<http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/motel>)
- ❖ Visit the Kids' Castle and create character portraits of the people there. (<http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/castle>).