

Dragon breath

Just around breakfast time, shortly after Vera had returned from her daily jog in the forest, Snap shuffled into the kitchen, sat himself down in a chair, and glowered at his nose. As if he was annoyed with it.

“Snap, what *are* you doing?” asked Vera, pouring herself some carrot juice.

“I’m practising,” replied Snap, breathing out through his nose whilst frowning at his nostrils.

Vera looked puzzled. “Practising what?”

“Breathing fire,” replied Snap.

He took a deep breath, and frowned at his nostrils even harder than before. Suddenly, he sat back in his chair, stared up at the ceiling, and let his shoulders droop.

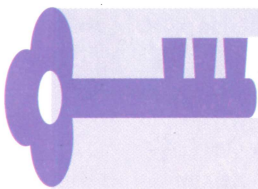
“What’s the use,” he groaned. “It’s no good. I can’t do it.” He turned to Vera sadly. “I haven’t breathed *any* fire since my birthday, you know. Not even the tiniest little bit.” He stuck out his bottom lip, closed his eyes and started sniffing to himself, quietly. The way he did when he was about to burst into tears.

“Never mind,” said Vera quickly - she hated it when Snap cried, his dragon tears stained the carpet. “Who wants to breathe fire anyway? That’s what I always say.”

“I do,” sniffed Snap.

“Why?”

“Because I’m a dragon - and that’s what dragons do. Boo-hoo-hoo.”



Answer in sentences.

- 1 Why was Snap unhappy?
- 2 "Snap shuffled into the kitchen." (line 2). How do you walk if you shuffle?
- 3 What two things do you learn about Vera that make you think she liked to be fit and healthy?
- 4 Why did Snap want to breathe fire?
- 5 What two signs always showed that Snap was going to cry?
- 6 Why did Vera not want Snap to cry?
- 7 If you were Vera, what would you say to cheer Snap up?