

THE SANGROON KIDS & THE DIRTY DRAGON



Student Workbook – “The Sangroon Kids and the Dirty Dragon”
A story to accompany the UNICEF WASH-Covid-19 student curriculum

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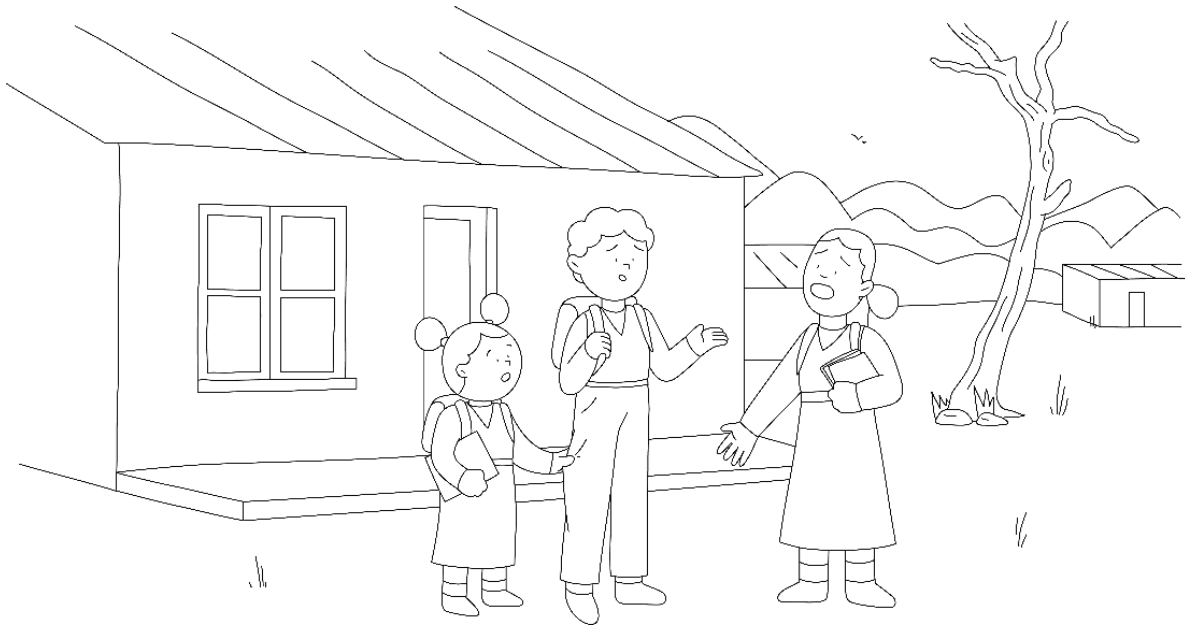
Do you ever feel that you are too young to make a real difference in this world?

Have you ever known someone your own age that was a real hero? Someone who protected their family, and even saved their whole village?

No?

Well, you are about to hear a story about three children, just like you, who fought a terrible dragon. They saved many lives by being smart and brave. Here's how they did it...

Chapter 1: The New Dragon



Thomas was excited to get home. He ran along the path, not waiting for his little sister, Katharine, to keep up. She's so slow, he thought. Why wasn't she as excited as he was? They were going to visit their cousins today!

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Visiting with his extended family was a special trip Thomas always looked forward to. It wasn't far but took a long time to travel, because it was on the other side of the Sangroon Hills.

When he reached home, he knew something was wrong! No provisions were packed for the big meal they usually shared with all the cousins. His mother was crying as she stood by the front door. He didn't see his father anywhere.

“Mama, what's the matter?” Thomas shouted as he rushed to her. “Where's Papa? When are we leaving for our trip?”

“Your Papa is meeting with the village elders,” Mama answered. “Something terrible is happening in the village across the Sangroon Hills, so our trip has to be cancelled.”

Sister Katherine finally arrived in the family's courtyard. “Something terrible? What is it?” Katharine asked.

“It's nothing for you to worry about, Katharine,” Mama said, quickly wiping the tears from her eyes. Mama was concerned that at age seven, Katharine would become afraid if she heard the news. “Thomas, why don't you take your sister inside and do some schoolwork?”

Thomas was very upset about the trip that would no longer happen. He wondered if his cousins were in danger. He wanted to know what was going on! He was 13 years old, after all, and could handle the news, even if Katharine could not. So, after he helped his sister get her homework started, he slipped away from home to discover what terrible thing was happening.

Thomas' friend Alice met him as he was walking the path to the center of the village. That was where the elders usually met to discuss important topics.

“Did you hear about the dragon?!” Alice exclaimed. “I heard it flew down from the hills and now the people are sick and dying!”

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Thomas was even more alarmed than before. All the children had heard stories about Queen Sarina, the dragon who lived in the caves deep in the hills. But weren't those just fairy tales? Several years ago, it was said that Queen Sarina terrorized the villages in the valley. Many people she breathed on had become sick, and some of them never recovered and died during that time. Or so the stories said. Thomas never believed them.

Thomas and Alice had reached the center of the village and could see the elders gathered under a large tree. Thomas' father was there. So was the doctor who made regular visits to the village. Thomas and Alice sneaked closer to hear the conversation.



“It’s important that you don’t let anyone from the other village come here,” the doctor was saying. “They are **quarantined** to try to stop the **spread** of the **virus**. While under quarantine the villagers cannot see anyone from outside of their village. This will help stop the virus from reaching other villages.”

“We understand the **risk** of getting sick is high, but we all have family who live there,” Thomas’ father replied. “We have to help them! What can we do?”

“Nurses there are providing what **treatment** they can to the sick people,” the doctor said. “Some will get better, but some are dying, especially the old and frail. To protect the families here, we have to limit contact with people who are sick. This is a **respiratory** disease that is spreading so fast, it is being called a **pandemic**.”

Thomas tried to make sense of what he was hearing. He knew that the word “respiratory” involved the lungs and breathing. So, it was true! The dragon was on the loose and spreading disease through her rotten breath!

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“Is this the same SARS illness we battled several years ago?” one of the elders asked the doctor.

“No, but it is related,” he answered. “This is a new virus, but has the same **symptoms**: fever, coughing, and shortness of breath. However, some people are **asymptomatic**; they have the disease and can spread it to others, but have no obvious symptoms. The only way to **diagnose** it for sure is with a medical **test**.”

“Besides **quarantine**, what else can villagers do to keep one another healthy?” another one of the elders asked the doctor.

“Right now, the villagers have been told to wash their hands often, cover their noses and mouths, and try to stay far apart from one another. There are no village gatherings and no school. It’s really hard, but **physical distancing** is stopping the infection from spreading any further.”



“Did you hear that?” exclaimed Alice when they started back on the path. “It’s not Queen Sarina, but someone related. It must be her son! Let’s call him the Duke of Destruction.”

Thomas was concerned that Alice seemed to be excited about the news, like it was a fun adventure. He tried to remember that Alice was two years younger than him. She also didn’t have cousins who lived in the village across the Sangroon Hills.

“Alice, this is serious! It’s not a game,” he replied. “We have to find a way to help. This Duke of Destruction could just as easily visit our village.”

Alice had not considered this possibility. You’re right!” she said. “What’s to stop him from flying over our houses and school, and breathing infection on us? What can we do?”

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Thomas thought of his sister Katharine, and his Mama and Papa. He thought of his granny and grandpapa. The Duke had to be stopped before danger could come to them! But how? He thought about those fairy tales he had heard, the ones he didn’t believe at the time. How was Queen Sarina stopped in those tales?

“I know what we need to do!” Thomas cried. “We have to go to the Sangroon Hills!”



QUESTIONS

1. Thomas and Katharine just learned about a big problem in their community. Is there a problem that is impacting our community in a similar way?
2. What symptoms were the villagers in the *The Sangroon Kids & the Dirty Dragon* story having?
3. List some **symptoms** that you have personally experienced when sick or sickness **symptoms** you have witnessed in others (you may draw or write these symptoms in the space below):

Remember, no one feels good about being sick or making someone else sick. If you learn that others in your school or community are sick, let them know you hope they feel better soon. Part of healing and recovery is having support from others.

4. What did the doctor tell the elders in Thomas’ village about preventing infection?

Chapter 2: The Magic Wingnuts

“Go to the Sangroon Hills?! Are you kidding?” exclaimed Alice. She thought Thomas meant to try to stop Duke. That would be much too dangerous.

“Yes,” answered Thomas. “That’s where we will find the Bubbling Rock. All we need to do is break off pieces of the rock and bring them back to the village.”

“What are you talking about?” asked Alice. “How are pieces of a rock going to stop Duke? Do you plan to make a slingshot and kill him?” Alice laughed at the thought of Thomas trying to shoot tiny rocks at a huge dragon.

“No, silly!” Thomas exclaimed. “Don’t you remember? Years ago, when Queen Sarina was killing people by breathing on them, the villagers used pieces of the Bubbling Rock to wash the breath off their skin. So we need to go there, get as much bubbling rock as we can carry, and bring it back for everyone to use.”

Of course! Now Alice remembered those tales about Duke’s mother, Queen Sarina. In addition to covering their faces so they wouldn’t breathe in her infectious breath, the villagers had rubbed the rocks on themselves, making lots of bubbly lather, just like soap. Alice supposed that the Bubbling Rock must be a special weapon against dragons.



QUESTION: How did Thomas know that getting pieces of Bubbling Rock could work against the dragon’s breath?

“But Bubbling Rock is in the Cave of Sapo. That is all the way at the top of the Sangroon Hills,” said Alice. “How are we going to get all the way up there? It will take us a whole night and day to get that far.”

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“I know,” said Thomas. “But what choice do we have? Without something to clean off the dragon breath, all of us are in grave danger of falling sick – just like the villagers on the opposite side of the Sangroon hills.”

“I have an idea,” said a small voice from just behind the trees. Thomas and Alice turned to see Thomas’ sister, Katharine, step out onto the path.

“What are you doing here?” shouted Thomas. “You’re supposed to be doing your homework.” He was worried that she had overheard the conversation about Duke, and that she might be afraid.

Katharine ignored her older brother and turned to Alice. “Will you please tell my know-it-all brother that I can get us to the top of the Hills and back by dinnertime?”

Thomas and Alice didn’t know how to respond to such a silly statement. They just stared at the little girl.

“Oh! Just follow me and I’ll prove it to you!” said Katharine. And she turned and went back into the trees where she had been hiding.



Thomas and Alice followed Katharine deeper into the woods. Just as Thomas began to think they were lost, Katharine stopped at the base of a giant wingnut tree. It was deeply shaded, but looking up, Thomas could see tiny patches of sparkling light coming through bright green leaves. It was the most magnificent tree! Thomas was amazed he had never seen it before. Katharine was using some vines that were hanging from the lower branches to climb up.

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“This tree produces wingnuts, and they are magic,” said Katharine as she reached the first branch. She continued to climb. “When you hold them, your arms turn into wings and you can glide above the ground.”

Katharine continued to talk but soon was so high in the tree that it was hard for Thomas and Alice to hear her. But once Thomas understood why Katharine had brought them so far into the woods, he stopped listening anyway. He was angry.

“I can’t believe you’ve wasted our time with this magic wings nonsense!” Thomas shouted up into the tree. “We have a long way to go and now we’re even more behind schedule.”

Thomas and Alice walked away from the tree. They headed for the path that would take them to the Sangroon Hills. But first they would need to stop at home to gather supplies.



QUESTIONS:

1. What is it that Thomas and Alice are planning to do, and why?
2. In order to carry out this plan, what do you think the children need to take with them?

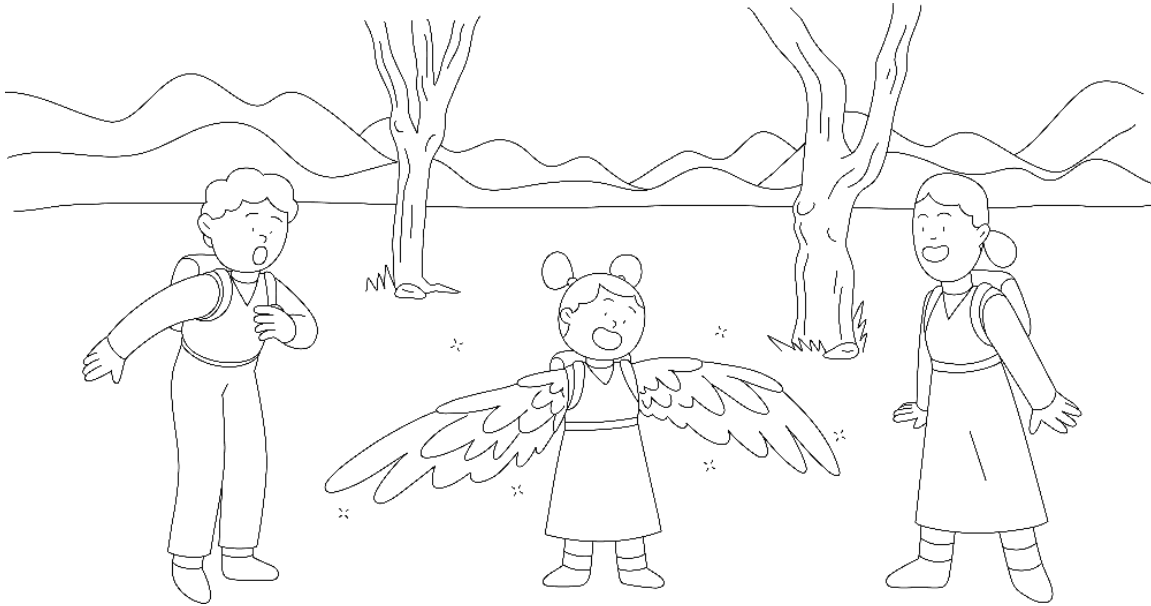
Thomas and Katherine were discussing supplies they would need. Suddenly something whooshed by their legs. It was Katharine! How did she get down from the tree so fast?!

Katharine stood in front of Thomas and Alice. She had her arms folded across her chest and let out a laugh.

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“I guess you didn’t believe that a little girl like me could have discovered a magic tree,” she said.



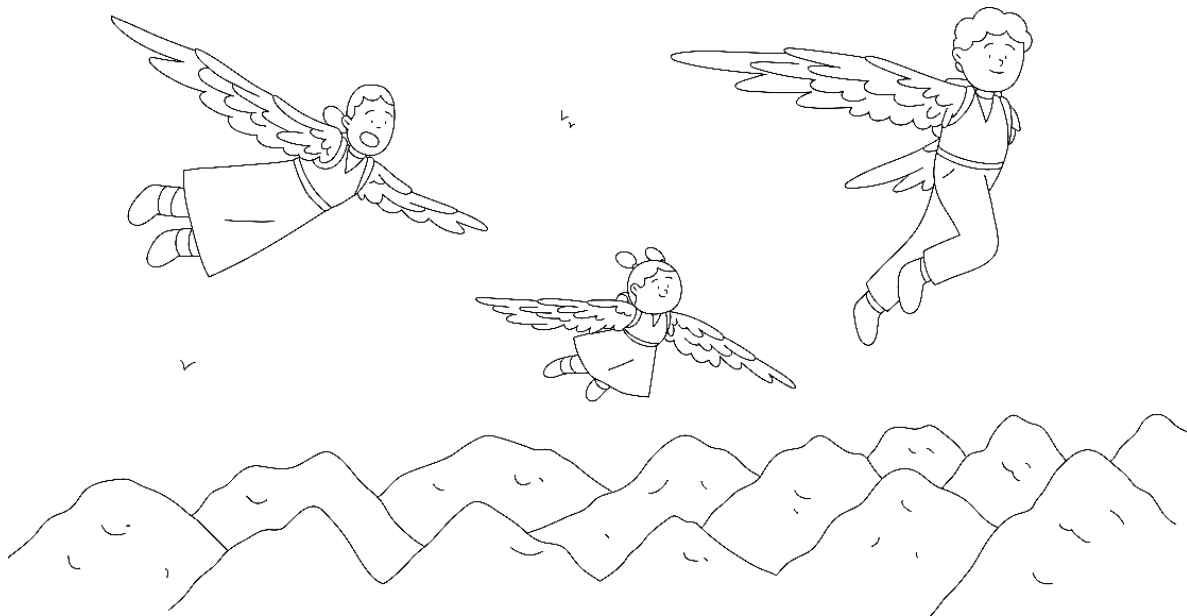
And at that moment, Katharine unfolded her arms and held them out wide. Thomas and Alice gasped in astonishment! They could still see her arms, but attached to them were beautiful silvery wings! Each one, about a meter in length, sparkled with special light from the wingnut tree.

“Here,” said Katharine, giving them each two magic wingnuts. Holding these magic nuts in their hands, Thomas and Alice sprouted wings, too! They flapped their wings a little bit at first, and then made bigger motions. Soon they were gliding up to the Cave of Sapo.



QUESTION: Do you sometimes wish you had magic wings? What do you think is the most special thing about them?

Chapter 3: The Cave of Sapo



“How much longer until we get there,” cried Katharine. The magic wings had eased the journey to the Cave of Sapo at the top of the Sangroon Hills, but climbing inside the cave was hard work.

“I think we’re almost there,” said Thomas. “I can hear water trickling.”

The children had put the magic wingnuts in their pockets. They didn’t need their wings for climbing in this dark and gloomy cave. They did, however, have scarves over their faces, just in case some dragon’s breath was drifting around.

The light was getting less dim now, and Thomas saw a tiny, iridescent bubble. And then another one, and another one. Each one somehow had the colors of an entire rainbow! A large bubble slid slowly by, and Thomas could see his own face reflected in it.

When they came around the next turn, they saw the incredible sight of Bubbling Rock. It soared at least 15 meters into the dome of the cave. Looking up that high, Thomas could see an opening to the clear, blue sky. The sunlight made small rainbows of flashing light out of

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thousands of tiny bubbles floating in the air. Each time a bubble burst, a new one formed on the wet rock and popped into the air.

Thomas was dazed by the beautiful sight. But then he snapped back to reality. “Okay, grab a hammer, everyone! Let’s get as much bubbling rock as we can carry back to the village.”



QUESTION: What do you think the Bubbling Rock inside the Cave of Sapo is made of?

Thomas, Alice and Katharine carried baskets slung over each of their shoulders. Each basket was loaded with pieces of bubbling rock for the village. Now they wouldn’t have to worry about getting dragon breath on them, because they could just wash it off. The weight of the baskets made it harder to climb out of the cave, and the children were getting very tired.

Thomas didn’t recognize the footpath they were following. Just as he realized they were lost inside the cave, they came into a giant cavern. Even with the scarves covering their faces, they could tell there was a very bad smell in the cavern.

“Where are we?” asked Alice. She stopped to rest and put her two baskets on the ground.

“Pee-Ew! It stinks in here!” said Katharine, scrunching up her nose.

Thomas looked around. He saw a small pool of water, and beside it a pile of rotting waste that looked like the remains of a giant dinner. He saw what looked like a large sleeping nest. He had a bad feeling that this might be the dragon’s lair!



QUESTION: Is the dragon’s lair clean or dirty?

“Let’s retrace our steps and get back on the right path,” Thomas said. But before they could leave the cavern, they heard a deep rumbling. They felt the ground shake with one stomp. Then another stomp.

It was the Duke of Destruction himself!



The dragon was as big as the Bubbling Rock they had just seen! His skin looked like greenish-gold leather. His wings, tucked at his sides, were made of long, shaggy feathers. His massive tail was banging along the cavern walls as he stomped toward them.

Thomas risked a quick glance at Duke’s face. Sharp fangs jutted from his lower jaw, and ran the length of a long snout. Two large nostrils quivered as the dragon picked off the children’s scent. His eyes were also large, but he had not seen the children yet.

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“Quick!” Thomas whispered to the girls as he spun around. “Don’t let him breathe on us! Let’s run!”

Alice grabbed her baskets of bubbling rock and dashed out of the cavern. Katharine was a little slower. She lost her balance and fell down. Thomas ran to help her. They heard Duke take a giant inhale. “Oh, no, it’s too late,” thought Thomas. “That’s a poisonous exhale coming!”

Thomas shielded Katharine’s body with his own as she got up and ran out of the cavern. They made it to a turn on the footpath as they heard Duke exhale. They heard the roaring sound and the smelled the foul breath. Katharine was so afraid she stopped moving.

Alice, who was ahead of Thomas and Katharine, looked back and saw the danger they were in. Soon Duke would turn the corner... She snatched the magic wingnuts from her pockets. Out came her wings! She quickly flew to her friends and helped them get their wingnuts out, too. Their wings allowed them get out of the cave before Duke could find them.

Safely outside, they flew down the Hill to go back home. Thomas was out front with Katharine. Alice was flying behind them. She could see Thomas’ back and was alarmed.

“Thomas, stop!” she shouted. “You’ve got dragon breath on your back!”

“Duke must have sprayed me as we were running out of the cave,” he said. “Help me wash it off with some bubbling rock”

Katherine put her wingnuts in her pockets and then grabbed a piece of rock from her basket. She rubbed it on Thomas’ back but it didn’t make any bubbles.

“Oh, no! They don’t work!” she cried. “It’s not making any bubbles!”

Thomas thought about this problem. What was wrong with the rocks? Had this whole trip been in vain?



QUESTION: Why do you think the rock is not working?

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“Maybe you just need to add water,” said Katharine. “Just like in the Cave of Sapo.”

“Of course!” said Thomas. “You are so smart, Katharine!”

“Quick!” said Alice. “Let’s fly down to the stream and wash this off before you get infected. And don’t touch your face! I remember that was part of the Queen Sarina story too, right?”

The children flew down to the stream at the base of the Sangroon Hills. They all decided to jump in and rub the bubbling rock on themselves, in case they had dragon breath on their skin. Just then, a shadow passed over them. They looked up into the sky, and what they saw struck terror into their hearts...it was Duke! And he was flying in the direction of their village!



QUESTIONS:

1. Let’s compare Duke the dragon to COVID-19. What are some similarities between how Thomas, Alice and Katharine are protecting themselves from the dragon, and what we are doing to protect ourselves from COVID-19?

2. Now let’s talk about some differences between what the story characters are doing, and what we are doing to protect ourselves from COVID-19.

Chapter 4: The Cleaning Crew



Thomas, Alice and Katharine used their wings to get back to their village. They went as fast as they could, but they couldn't fly faster than Duke. By the time the children arrived home, Duke had already been there. Not only could they see Duke's dragon breath splattered around, but the dragon must have actually landed in the village...it looked like a hurricane had passed through!

Walls were wrecked. Store fronts were broken in. Buildings were smashed. They couldn't see any people anywhere.

“Oh, no!” shouted Thomas. “We better go check on our families!”

As he and Katharine headed in the direction of home, Alice said, “Don't forget – don't touch anything with dragon breath on it!”

The village was fortunate that Duke made his landing away from where most people lived. Thomas and Katharine were so relieved to see their house was untouched. It didn't even have any dragon breath on it. Mama was standing outside when they arrived.

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“Oh, my goodness!” she exclaimed. “Where have you been? Are you alright? Are you hurt?”

“We’re fine, Mama,” said Katharine. “We saw the dragon! And we brought Bubbling Rock to wash off all the dragon breath.”

Mama looked quizzically from Katharine to Thomas. She clearly needed an explanation. But just then, Papa came running from the house.

“Where have you been? You had us so worried!” Papa said.

“Look,” Thomas said, pointing to the baskets of Bubbling Rock he and Katharine had carried down from the Cave of Sapo. “We can add this to water and start cleaning all the dragon breath in the village before people start getting sick.”

Papa knew what Bubbling Rock looked like. He knew where it came from. And he knew how helpful it was going to be. But he didn’t have time to wonder how his children had gotten all the way to the Cave of Sapo and back since the last time he had seen them. He needed to get to the village center and start figuring out what to do. There was a lot of mess to clean up!

“Grab those rocks and some buckets, Thomas,” Papa said. “You’re coming with me!”



When Thomas and Papa got to the village center, people had already started to gather. They were surveying the damage. Thomas was glad to see Alice there with her family. They appeared unharmed.

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The mayor of the town was trying to address the crowd.

“Attention!” he shouted. “Everyone listen!”

The people stopped what they were doing to hear the mayor speak.

“We’ve all been through a terrible crisis!” he began. “We have to work together now to deal with the results of this frightening event! If you were hurt when the dragon landed, go to the hospital. If you breathed the dragon’s breath, go back home immediately. Isolate yourselves from everyone else so you don’t spread infection. Tie a piece of red string on your door and the doctor will come and help you. We’ll make sure you have food to eat and water to drink. Everyone else – cover your faces with cloth scarves and wash your hands often. Let’s start cleaning up!”



QUESTION: The mayor has a plan to start dealing with the crisis. He knows different people have had different experiences. What are the three ways he is trying to categorize people based on what might have happened to them - for example, how close they might have been to the dragon?

Thomas was glad to be helping with the clean-up. He was assigned an area near the school that had been damaged. He was on a clean-up team with Alice. Several of their school friends were there, too.

“We heard you went to the Sangroon Hills,” said Joseph, a boy in Thomas’ class. “That was really brave! Did you bring back all this Bubbling Rock?”

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Each clean-up team had been given several pieces of the Bubbling Rock that Thomas, Alice and Katharine had chipped off the walls inside the Cave of Sapo. The teams were asked to put a piece in each of many buckets, and fill the buckets with water. In this way, the teams could make the soapy cleaner they would all use on the mess that Duke had made.

“Yes, and Alice helped, too,” Thomas explained.

“The Duke of Destruction nearly got us!” said Alice. When Joseph looked confused, she added, “That’s what we call the dragon – the Duke of Destruction. And he is definitely living up to his name.”

Alice looked at what had once been the school. A whole side had been knocked down. Joseph said that when Duke landed in the village, the dragon’s tail had slammed into the school. Chairs and parts of broken desks lay amid the rubble. Papers, books, posters and art supplies littered the school’s courtyard.

The school principal stood among the debris, shaking her head. She couldn’t believe what she was seeing. When she noticed that the clean-up team of students was ready for work, she joined the group.

“Thank you all for helping today,” the principal said. “I see you have the buckets of soapy water ready for everyone to use for cleaning. Make sure you use it to wash your hands often, too – we don’t want you to get sick!”

The principal chose Thomas, Joseph, and a girl named Sarah to carry the broken desks to the village’s trash site. He chose Alice to work with two other children, Clarence and Toby, to stack all the books and supplies that were still usable in the undamaged part of the school. Then they were to pick up all the damaged papers and put them into trash bags.



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In just a little while, the principal came back to check on the clean-up crew. She brought them all some bottled water to drink.

“For now, this is the only safe water you can drink,” she explained. “The dragon damaged the latrines, and the waste tank is broken and leaking into the village’s water supply.”

Alice, Clarence and Toby talked while they stacked the school books and supplies. Toby’s house was closest to the school. He said he’d looked out his window and saw Duke’s massive body land near the school.

“The whole earth shook!” Toby said. “You wouldn’t believe how big that dragon is! I was so scared, I started to shake. I didn’t stop shaking until after the dragon finally flew away again. Even now, I think I will have nightmares about what I saw.”

“That’s understandable, Toby,” Alice said. “When Thomas’ sister Katharine saw Duke, she was so scared she couldn’t move. It will be okay...and don’t forget, you have us to talk to if you ever need a friend. We’re all in this together.”

THE END



QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of Alice’s response to Toby when he described being scared after Duke’s visit to the village? How do you act when you are scared? What are some ways we can be supportive of each other?
2. The story doesn’t tell us what happened the children and their village. Do you think they stopped the dragon’s reign of terror?
3. Which character do you relate to the most? Why? What traits displayed by the characters do you most admire?