

# Tracking a Dragon

by Elliot Baker



Reiko lived near an ocean. A small island was not too far away. "What is it like there?" Reiko asked.

"Stay away," her brother said. He lowered his voice. "A dragon lives there."

He was trying to scare her. Reiko only laughed. One day, she rowed a boat to the island. She began to walk around. *There's nothing here*, she thought. Then she saw them. Tracks in the sand!

For a moment, Reiko was frightened. Then she thought, *Dragons don't have toes*.

Reiko began to follow the tracks. She followed them to a tree. An empty paper bag lay at the foot of the tree. *Dragons don't carry bags*, Reiko thought.

Reiko saw that the tracks turned to the left. They led to a little valley. She stepped on something, and it cracked. A broken pencil lay under her foot. She thought, *Dragons don't write*.

Then she saw it. A tent with a light inside! She sneaked up and looked in. "Some dragon!" Reiko cried.

"You've found my secret place," her brother said.

"Mine, too?"

Her brother smiled and nodded his head.

## COMPREHENSION

**A** Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 This story is about a brother and sister who
  - a** find a dragon on an island.
  - b** agree to share an island.
- 2 Reiko's brother told Reiko that a dragon lived on the island because he
  - a** didn't want her to go there.
  - b** liked to tell make-believe stories.

- 3 Reiko laughed because
  - a** her brother had told a funny story.
  - b** she did not believe in dragons.
- 4 When Reiko saw the bag and pencil, she knew
  - a** her brother had been there.
  - b** someone had been there.
- 5 You know that Reiko's brother really liked her because he
  - a** shared his secret place with her.
  - b** told her she could have the island all to herself.

## LEARN ABOUT WORDS

**B** A contraction is a short way of writing words. An apostrophe (') shows where letters are left out.

*he's* is made from *he is*

*what's* is made from *what is*

Say the contraction for each pair of words. Write the contraction.

- 1 what is
- 2 she is
- 3 who is
- 4 he is
- 5 there is

**C** Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence below? Write the word.

- 6 Reiko says \_\_\_\_\_ going to the island by herself.
- 7 Reiko wants to know \_\_\_\_\_ in the bag.
- 8 "I think \_\_\_\_\_ nothing in this bag," said Reiko.
- 9 *I wonder \_\_\_\_\_ in that tent?* thought Reiko.
- 10 Reiko's brother says \_\_\_\_\_ surprised Reiko found him.

## THINK ABOUT IT

- D** Read each story. Write *a* or *b* to answer each question.

**As Reiko swam, she felt hungry. Her brother called, "Lunch is ready! Let's eat!"**

- 1** What did Reiko do next?
  - a** Kept swimming
  - b** Got out of the water
- 2** What did Reiko and her brother do after that?
  - a** Ate lunch
  - b** Went to sleep
- 3** How did you know what Reiko and her brother did?
  - a** They were both tired. They had to go back home.
  - b** Reiko was hungry. Reiko's brother had lunch ready.

**A dog started digging in the sand. Reiko and her brother sat nearby eating their lunch. Sand flew at them.**

- 4** What did Reiko and her brother do next?
  - a** Moved to another place
  - b** Played with the dog
- 5** How did you know what Reiko and her brother did?
  - a** They wouldn't want to stop playing a game.
  - b** They wouldn't want sand in their food.

- E** Where is that island?

It is close by.

It's so beautiful!

A sentence that asks a question ends with a question mark (?).

A sentence that tells something ends with a period (.). A sentence that tells something with strong feeling ends with an exclamation point (!).

Read each sentence. If it should end with a question mark, write *question*. If it should end with a period, write *period*. If it should end with an exclamation point, write *exclamation*.

- 6** Reiko walked around the island
- 7** Where was their boat
- 8** Why wasn't it there
- 9** Then Reiko spotted the boat
- 10** How lucky they are