

The Iron Man

Guided Reading Discussion Points and Activities

Chapter 4: The Space Being and the Iron Man

(2b – Rex Retriever) What is the 'strange news' that everybody is talking about at the beginning of Chapter 4?

(2d – Iggy Inference) Why did the people of Earth tremble and weep and pray to God?

(2g – Arlo the Author) Why do you think Hughes chooses to repeat the word 'terribly' so often as he describes the space-bat-angel-dragon landing on Australia?

(2e – Cassie Commentator) How do you feel when you read about the space-bat-angel-dragon?

(2h – Cassie Commentator) Why has Ted Hughes used a mixture of lowercase and uppercase letters in the words BIGger, Grew and NEARer?

(2e – Predicting Pip) What do you think the Iron Man will do when he goes against the monster from space?

Follow-up Reading Activities

1. Draw a character sketch of the space-angel-bat-dragon. Use evidence from the story to help you decide how it should look. Label your drawing with quotations from the text, e.g. 'vast indescribably terrible eyes'. Compare your drawing with a partner's. What similarities and differences do you notice?
2. Plan and write a newspaper report about the space-angel-bat-dragon's landing in Australia. Imagine you are a reporter in a neighbouring country, and have seen events unfolding before your eyes. Use a short, snappy headline to get your reader's attention, and then use evidence from the story to describe the terrifying events you have seen. steps of your plan, and include a labelled diagram to show your reader exactly what is going to happen.

