

The Iron Man

Guided Reading Discussion Points and Activities

Chapter 5: The Iron Man's Challenge

(2b – Rex Retriever) 'There was no time to be wasted.' Can you explain why?

(2d – Iggy Inference) Why does the space-bat-angel-dragon laugh when the Iron Man challenges him to a test of strength?

(2a – Victor Vocabulary) Why did Ted Hughes describe the furnace that the Iron Man stretched himself out on as 'raging'?

(2g – Arlo the Author) The Iron Man and the space-bat-angel-dragon talk to each other a great deal towards the end. Why do you think there is so much talking?

(2e – Cassie Commentator) What message do you think Ted Hughes is trying to send to his readers about fighting and war? How does he use his characters to do this?

(2h – Cassie Commentator) How have your feelings about the Iron Man changed from the very beginning of the story?

Follow-up Reading Activities

1. The Iron Man is very brave in the story. He is 'terribly afraid' of going into the flames again, but summons all his strength to win the terrible contest in order to save the people of Earth. Can you think of a time you have been brave, or challenged yourself to do something that frightened you? Write about what happened, how you summoned the strength to go through with it and how you felt afterwards.
2. Did you think this was a good ending to the story? What did you like about it? What didn't you like about it? Plan and write your own alternative ending for this story. It can be a happy ending or a sad ending. What do you think should happen to the Iron Man, the people of Earth and the space-bat-angel-dragon?

