

# SLANT, THE PURPLE DRAGON

## CHAPTER QUESTIONS

All questions will seldom be appropriate for all young readers. Please choose the ones that will most likely help them stay interested and will dovetail best with your teaching goals.

### Chapter 1 - Single Side - Questions

1. What happened in Chapter 1 - Single Side?
2. What examples of poor thinking are found in Chapter 2?
3. The Dragon Hunters travel into some mountains. Have you ever been in the mountains?
4. The innkeeper reveals that the local people believe the dragon hunters are allies, not enemies. Why would the Purple Dragon allow that? Why is the innkeeper so friendly? Why are the locals friendly and accommodating?
5. Why don't the dragon hunters go ahead and talk to the local people and unmask Slant's lies without confronting him, like they did Quiver?
6. When Hai interrupts Trudy with "a squeaky, screeching noise only a monkey can make," Jay makes a joke and walks away, saying, "I think it is time we oiled our monkey." Does your young reader understand this joke?
7. Are "half-truths" lies? Is leaving out part of the truth lying?
8. What do you think Lucas Light's letter will say?

### Chapter 2 – Lucas Light's Letter Begins - Questions

1. What happens in Chapter 2 - The Letter from Lucas Light Begins
2. What examples of poor thinking are found in Chapter 2? 3. What do you think makes one place more important than another?
4. Lucas says, "Slant lies by only telling one side of the story and pretending the other side of the story does not exist." Is that an accurate description of Suppressing and Ignoring Evidence?
5. Was it a good idea to get a room and an extra night just for a rest? How much rest do we need?
6. Lucas claimed he ran out of time and couldn't tell them about Perf, the black dragon. That might be true, but what other reasons might he have for leaving out information about Perf?
7. How are the dragon hunters going to solve the problem of the magic earwax?

### Chapter 3 - Fibber and Slobber - Questions

1. What happens in Chapter 3, Fibber and Slobber?
2. What examples of poor thinking are found in Chapter 2?
3. Is there such a thing as a black iguana? What color eyes can an iguana have?
4. What do Mayumi and dendrobiums have in common?
5. Do you suspect the dragon soldiers have a different reason for being on the trip to Slant's lair other than to protect the dragon hunters as they claim? If so, what?
6. Jay and the others suspect the dragon soldiers are deliberately trying to separate them in order to remove some of them from the protection of the Magic Key. What do you think?
7. Have you ever had a long, uncomfortable ride like the dragon hunters did that morning? Was yours worse or better than theirs? Why?
8. What do you think is going to happen during the rest of their trip into the mountains?

## Chapter 4 - Eva Dense - Questions

1. What happened in Chapter 4 - Eva Dense
2. What examples of poor thinking are found in Chapter 2?
3. Was this a reasonable representation of how mule caravans work?
4. Do cougars, lynx, and wolves ever really share the same environment?
5. Is the description of the amethyst mine reasonable? Is it anything like a real mine would be?
6. Why do you think Fibber saved Trudy from falling?
7. Do you think Fibber deliberately rushed them into the confrontation because she thought they would be too tired to be effective?
8. Why did Fibber gather the dragon ear earwax from the mule handlers?
9. The title of the next chapter is "Iron in an Amethyst Mine." What do you think is going to happen next?
10. Are there any Figures of Speech in this Chapter?

## Chapter 5 - Iron in an Amethyst Mine - Questions

1. What happens in Chapter 5 - Iron in an Amethyst Mine
2. What examples of poor thinking are found in Chapter 5?
3. Is it reasonable that an almost deserted mine in a place without power poles or generators would have electric lights? How much infrastructure is required to support electrical conveniences like lights?
4. It appears Fibber might have helped the dragon slayers on purpose. If she did, why would she have done that?
5. Lug commented, "Wealth never made anyone free." Is this true? Why or why not?
6. Hai added, "Seems to me you should be more grateful for your liberty." Are we as grateful for our liberty as we ought to be?
7. They ate "a delicious meal. Of course, it might not really have been delicious, because they were so hungry, almost anything would have been delicious." Is this true?
8. In life, sometimes we don't get something we wanted, and at the same time, learn it would have been bad for us if we had gotten it. Are your young readers prepared for this?
9. Change, even good change, can be very uncomfortable. Are your young readers ready for that?
10. Slant argues that the Magician Key is a liar by pointing out what appears to be an inconsistency in what the Magician Key told them. Do you think the Magician Key may be being deceitful? Why or why not?
11. The muleteers' clothing changed from various shades of purple to other colors. Did you learn any new shades of purple?
12. If you had been with the dragon hunters standing in front of the dragon, what would you have done and said differently?
13. When the earlier dragons were destroyed, their former enslaved people wanted to celebrate, but Card Stacker and the other muleteers are more subdued. The dragon slayers have to pass back through Eva Dense and Single Side. If others are like the muleteers, what kind of reception do you think the dragon slayers will have there?
14. The title of the next chapter is "The Lost Door." What do you think is going to happen next?

## Chapter 6 - The Lost Door - Questions

1. What happens in Chapter 6 - The Lost Door
2. What examples of poor thinking are found in Chapter 2?
3. Hai and Jay seem to constantly compete for leadership of the group. Hai is ready to give up, but Jay is determined to continue. Who is the leader? Could it be Lug?
4. Fibber's odd behavior is discussed. This was brought up in the teacher's notes for the previous chapter. Does this discussion between the dragon slayers enlighten the mystery any?
5. Are the invisible dragons who used to be good an analogy for fallen angels?
6. In the discussion about letting one more invisible dragon loose among billions, the group decides that even one more would be one too many. Is this the right decision? Why or why not?
7. Lug says that not everything has two sides. Is he right or wrong?
8. Without looking, can you explain the lies of the Brown, Blue, Green, and Purple dragons using the examples the dragon slayers came up with to remember them?
9. Just like Card Stacker in the previous chapter, the innkeeper, while glad to have his own mind back, is worried about his future. What kind of reception do you think the dragon slayers will get in Single Side?
10. Can you find examples of Purple Dragon lies/fallacies in books and websites you normally read?
11. What was your favorite part of this book? Why? Are there any sections you believe the author could have left out? Why?
12. Were any of the characters in this book like you? In what way?
13. What do you think is going to happen in the next book?
14. The chapter titles, book titles, and series titles of these adventures use both Roman and Arabic numbering systems. This might be a good opportunity to dive into the differences with your young reader.