

For a whole day, while the people of the earth trembled and wept and prayed to God to save them, the space-bat-angel-dragon lay resting, its chin sunk in the Indian Ocean, the sea coming not quite up to its bottom lip.

But the next morning, early, its giant voice came rumbling round the world. The space-bat-angel-dragon was speaking. It wanted to be fed. And what it wanted to eat was – living things. People, animals, forests, it didn't care which, so long as the food was alive. But it had better be fed quickly, otherwise it would roll out its tongue longer than the Trans-Siberian railway, and lick huge swathes of life off the surface of the earth – cities, forests, farmlands, whatever there was. It would leave the world looking like a charred pebble – unless it were fed and fed quickly.

Its voice shook and rumbled around the earth for a whole hour as it delivered its

message. Finally it ended, and lay waiting.

The peoples of the world got together. If they fed it, how could they ever satisfy it? It would never be full, and every new day it would be as hungry as ever. How can you feed a beast the size of Australia? Australia is a vast land, all the countries of Europe will fit easily into Australia. The monster's stomach alone must be the size of Germany.

No, they would not feed it. The people of the world decided they would not feed this space-bat-angel-dragon or whatever it was – they would fight it. They would declare war on it, and all get together to blast it off the face of the earth. And so it was that all the peoples of earth declared war on the monster, and sent out their armed forces in a grand combined operation.

What a terrific attack!

1. Whilst the villagers 'prayed to God', what did the dragon do?

The dragon 'lay resting' whilst the villagers prayed.

2. What does the dragon like to eat?

The dragon liked to eat any living things such as 'people, animals' and 'forests'.

3. To show the reader how big the monster is, what does he compare him to? Why is this a good comparison?

The author compares the dragon's size to that of Australia. This is a good comparison as Australia is bigger than the whole of Europe so it helps the reader imagine the true size of the beast.

1. Match the event to where it happened. Use a ruler.

spilling teacups

Russia

jolting pictures

London

cracking statues

California

2. Why do you think the author repeats the word 'terribly'? Tick one.

- a. To make the reader laugh
- b. To show how friendly the creature is
- c. To show how scary the monster is

3. What happened to anyone that was sat on the mountain-top?

4. What is the size of the dragon's head compared too?