

*Dealing with Dragons*, by Patricia C. Wrede  
Vocabulary

clamoring

conjugations

culprit

declension

fervently

feverfew

forfeit

hovel

indivisible

paramour

perturbed

preposterous

remiss

reprovingly

soothsayer

subside

truculently

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Short Answer Questions, page 1

Answer in complete sentences.

1. What was the name of princess Cimorene's kingdom?
2. What did the princess learn about her parents' plans for her when they traveled to the kingdom of Sathem-by-the-Mountains?
3. What was the frog's advice to Cimorene in terms of not wanting to marry the prince?
4. Who resided in the run-down building to which Cimorene was directed by the frog?
5. Why was the dragon Roxim sneezing so much?
6. What did the dragon Kazul want the princess to do for her?
7. What happened after Cimorene had worked for Kazul for two weeks?
8. Why didn't Prince Therandil show up to save Cimorene until the third week of her employment?
9. Who was Morwen?
10. What was Morwen's suggestion for slowing some of Cimorene's rescuers?
11. How did Cimorene get rid of Prince Therandil in the end?
12. What was Kazul's reason for having a dinner party for the dragons?
13. How could Cimorene tell which dragon was most important and who should be served first at the dinner party?
14. Who did Zemenar turn out to be?
15. Why were the dragons worried about wizards sneaking around their mountains?
16. What was the dragon king's crystal able to do?
17. What was Cimorene and Kazul's plan of action in order to learn Zemenar's motives?
18. What happens when a dragon gets irritated?
19. What spell did Cimorene and Alianora look for in Kazul's library?
20. What was the book *Historia Dracorum* about?
21. How did the dragons select a king?

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**Short Answer Questions, page 2**

22. What place were the wizards particularly interested in?
23. Why were there so many enchanted princes in the Caves of Fire and Night?
24. What did Cimorene pick up in the king's cave?
25. What kind of subtle magic did Cimorene witness at Morwen's house?
26. What two reasons did Kazul have to visit Morwen?
27. What was the one ingredient that Cimorene was lacking in order to be able to complete her fire resistance spell?
28. What happened when Prince Therandil accidentally opened a jar with a lead stopper?
29. What made Therandil finally rethink his option of marrying Cimorene?
30. Why had Alianora used up all of her feverfew in such a short time?
31. What did Cimorene and Alianora find in the hidden valley when they were looking for herbs?
32. What was the wizard picking in the hidden valley?
33. What did Cimorene learn from Roxim when she went to give him Kazul's urgent message?
34. What plot did the stone prince overhear in the dragon banquet hall?
35. What were the wizards promised as a reward for helping someone to cheat in the king-trials?
36. What happened to Antorell when Alianora threw a bucket of soapy water with lemon juice on him?
37. How did Cimorene and her friends get to the Ford of Whispering Snakes in time to smite the wizards?
38. How did Cimorene and her friends find out where the wizards were hiding?
39. How did Woraus manage to poison the old dragon king without suffering the effects of the dragonsbane himself?
40. For which king did the stone prince perform a great service, as the prophecy had foretold?

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Essay Questions

**Answer in detail, in complete sentences. Support your answer with information from the text and/or from your own experience.**

1. In what ways was Cimorene different from her sisters? Are siblings often this different?
2. How can Cimorene and her parents differ so much in their opinions of what a princess should be doing?
3. Why do you think that Cimorene was convinced that her parents wouldn't be worried about her when they found out that she was serving a dragon?
4. Why do you think the rescuers kept arriving even though Cimorene informed everyone that she didn't want to be rescued?
5. Why didn't Cimorene trust the wizard Zenemar when they first met? Would you have trusted Zenemar if you had been in Cimorene's position?
6. Why was the dragon Moranz so eager to spread the rumor that Cimorene had run away from Kazul?
7. Why is the expression "by George" is a curse for the dragons? Can you think of other words that are strongly offensive to some people but might not be to others? Have you ever "invented" a curse word; if so, was it effective?
8. Where does a wizard's magic comes from? Was this a believable part of the story? What else would be an interesting origin for magic?
9. Why do you think Cimorene was visited by the other princesses?
10. Why didn't the other princesses just run away from their dragons? If you were a princess, would you stay with the dragon?
11. What difference did you notice between Princess Alianora and the other two visiting princesses? What does this reveal about Alianora?
12. In what ways do royal positions have different meanings to dragons than to humans? Can you think of a parallel of different positions meaning different things?
13. Why did the white bird that Cimorene killed in self-defense look on her with respect before it died? Are there circumstances under which you would respect someone who hurt you?
14. In what way was Cimorene able to trick the jinn back into the jar? Can you think of a more clever solution?
15. What did the events around the dragon-king trials mean for the agreement between the dragons and the wizards? How might things have been if those events had not happened?

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### **Answers**

#### **Vocabulary:**

***Possible vocabulary exercises: find definitions in a dictionary; define in original words; locate the words in the text and re-write them; use original sentences to show the meaning in context. Below are sample definitions.***

Clamoring - loud and persistent outcry from many people

Conjugations - presentations of the complete set of inflected forms of a verb

Culprit - a person charged with an offense or crime

Declension - a class of words of one language with the same or a similar system of inflections, such as the first declension in Latin

Fervently – with great intensity or spirit

Feverfew – a plant bearing small white flowers, formerly used as a remedy for fever and headache.

Forfeit – something that is lost, or to lose the right to something

Hovel - a small crude shelter used as a dwelling

Indivisible - not separable into parts; incapable of being divided

Paramour – a lover

Perturbed - thrown into a state of agitated confusion

Preposterous – absurd, contrary to common sense

Remiss - negligent, careless

Reprovingly - in a criticizing manner

Soothsayer - someone who makes predictions of the future

Subside - to sink to a low or lower level, to become quiet or less active

Truculently – in an aggressive, defiant manner

#### **Short Answer and Essay Questions**

***For the short answer questions, students may answer questions briefly on the page or at greater length on their own paper or in writing journals. For the essay questions, we suggest a writing journal where students could record answers as they read. Alternatively, a limited number of questions could be assigned to each student. The essay questions can also be used as discussion questions.***

1. The Kingdom of Linderwall
2. She learned that her parents were planning to sign a marriage agreement between her and Prince Therandil.
3. The frog advised her to run away.
4. Five dragons resided in the old building.
5. Roxim had eaten a wizard and was having an allergy attack.
6. Kazul wanted Cimorene to cook Cherries Jubilee for her, to catalogue her Latin scrolls and to sort her treasure.
7. After two weeks, the first knight came to rescue Cimorene.
8. Therandil hoped that the dragon would have defeated 10-15 knights already, by the time he would fight her.
9. Morwen was a friend of Kazul's, and a witch.

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**Answers, continued**

10. Morwen suggested that Cimorene should put up signs telling the rescuers that the road was washed out.
11. Cimorene pretended that she had sprained her ankle and couldn't climb down the pass for at least a month.
12. Kazul wanted to throw a dinner party so that her friends could see that Cimorene was still in her service and that Moranz had been lying.
13. Cimorene could tell the rank of the dragons by the way they were seated.
14. Zemenar was the head of the Society of Wizards.
15. The dragons were afraid of having their magic stolen by the wizards.
16. The crystal could show things happening in other times and places.
17. They planned for Cimorene to play dumb and trick Zemenar to reveal what he wanted.
18. When a dragon gets irritated, he starts to breathe fire.
19. The princesses were looking for a fire resistance spell.
20. The book was about dragon history.
21. The dragon who could carry Colin's stone to the Vanishing Mountains became the new king.
22. The wizards were particularly interested in the Caves of Fire and Night.
23. All of the stone princes had chosen the gold dipper instead of the tin dipper when they tried to steal the Water of Healing.
24. Cimorene picked up a pebble of the same dark stone as the walls of the cave.
25. Cimorene witnessed the big dragon Kazul fit into Morwen's house through the doorway, without the doorway seeming to become bigger or the dragon smaller.
26. Kazul wanted to borrow Morwen's rare book about the Caves of Fire and Night, and to drink Morwen's cider again.
27. Cimorene lacked the ingredient of powdered hen's teeth.
28. Therandil released a giant jinn who had been imprisoned in the jar.
29. Cimorene convinced Therandil that he had to rescue another princess who had seniority over her own case.
30. Alianora was using the fire resistance spell so much because her dragon had such bad mood swings lately.
31. Cimorene and Alianora found the wizard Antorell in the hidden valley.
32. The wizard had picked dragonsbane in the hidden valley.
33. Cimorene found out that King Tokoz had been poisoned by dragonsbane the same morning.
34. He overheard two wizards plan to help a dragon cheat in the trials for a new king.
35. As payment for their help, the wizards were promised the king's crystal.
36. Antorell melted when he got soapy water with lemon juice on him.
37. Cimorene used one of the black feathers she had gotten from the bird she killed. The feather had the ability to transport anyone anywhere instantly.
38. Cimorene and her friends found out where the wizards were hiding with the help of Morwen's magic mirror.
39. The wizards had made Woraug a dragonsbane-safe tea bag to carry the poison in.
40. The stone prince did the king of the dragons a great service.