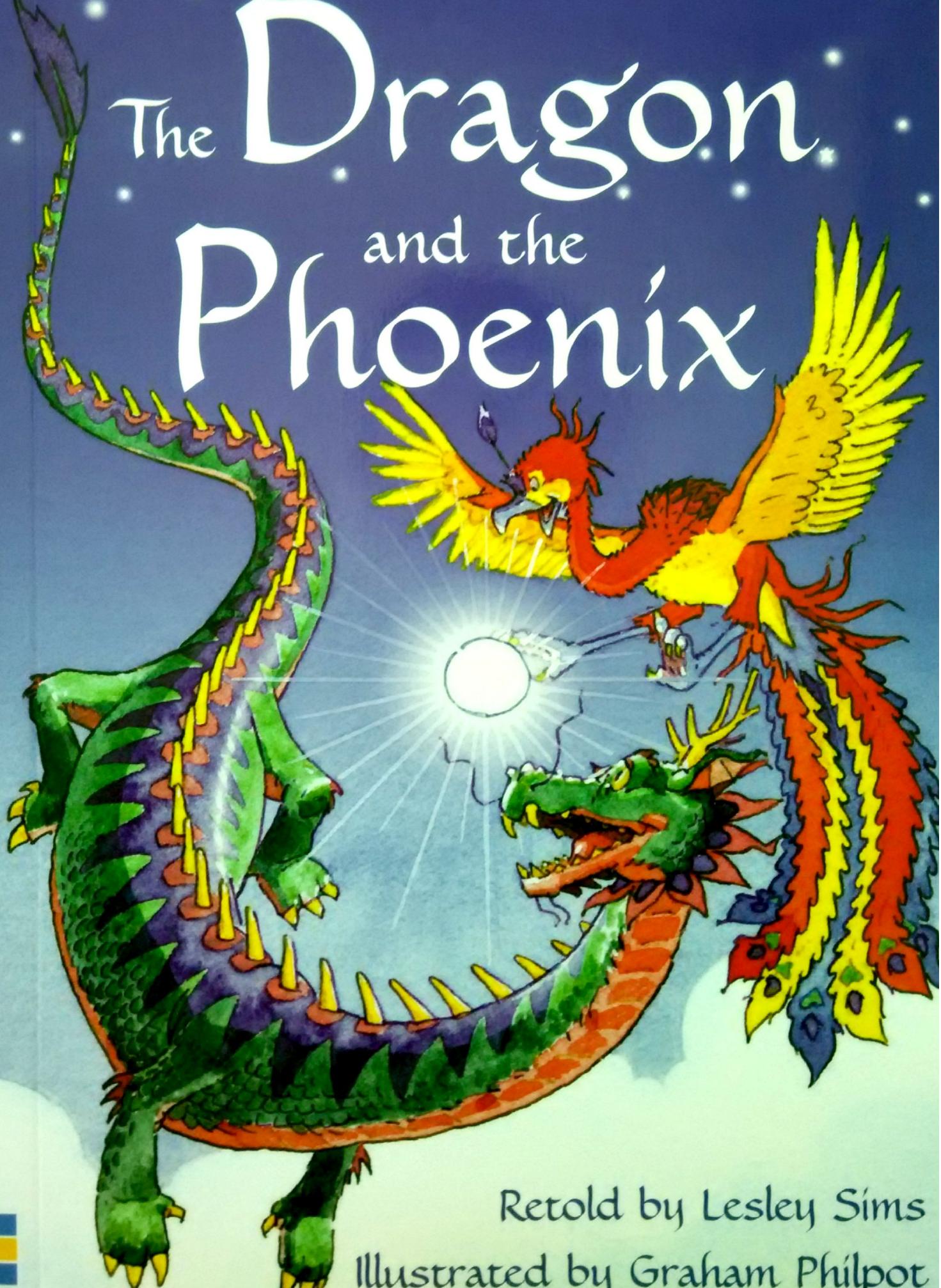


USBORNE FIRST READING



The Dragon. and the Phoenix

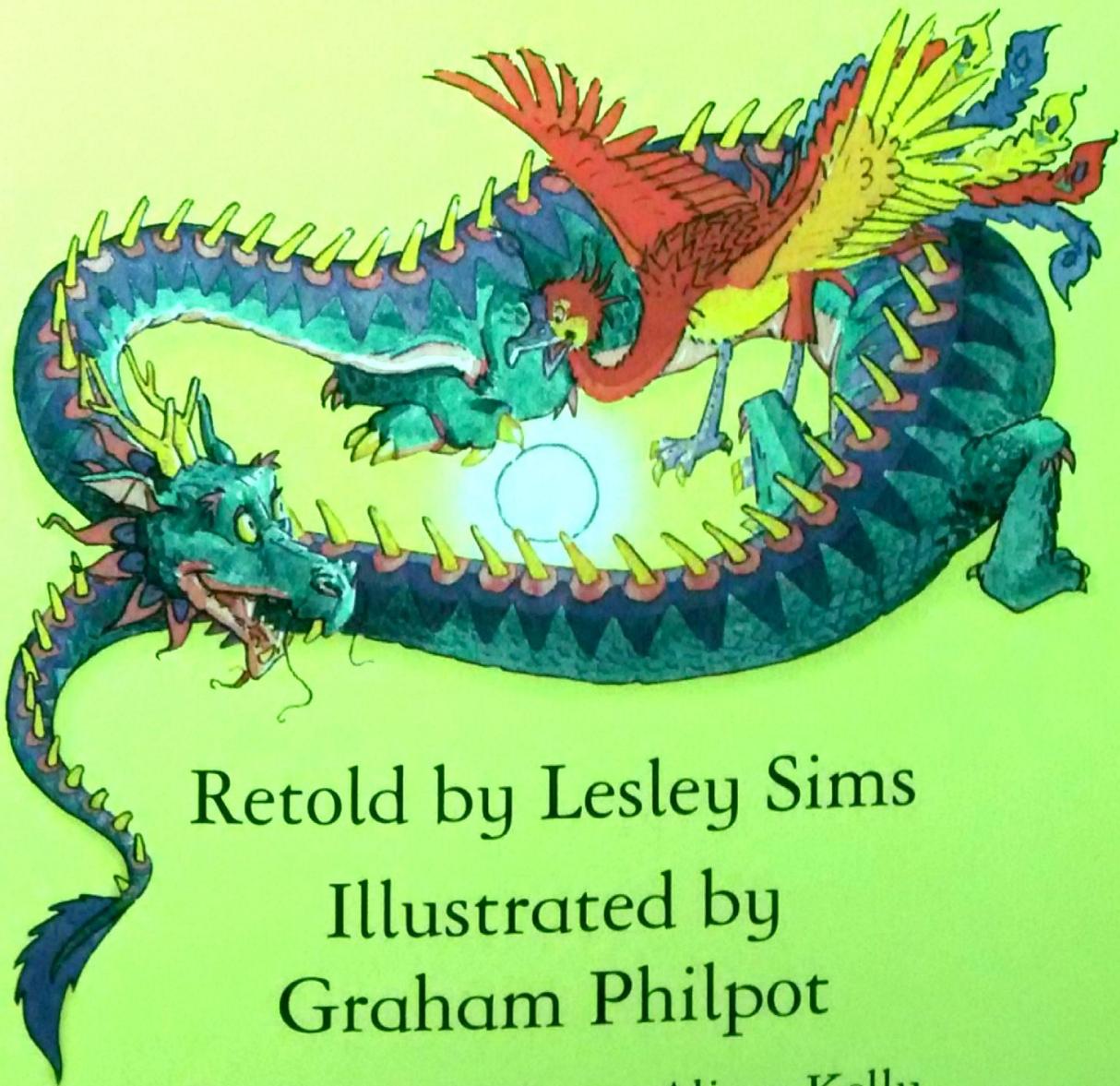


Retold by Lesley Sims

Illustrated by Graham Philpot

The Dragon and the Phoenix

A folktale from China



Retold by Lesley Sims

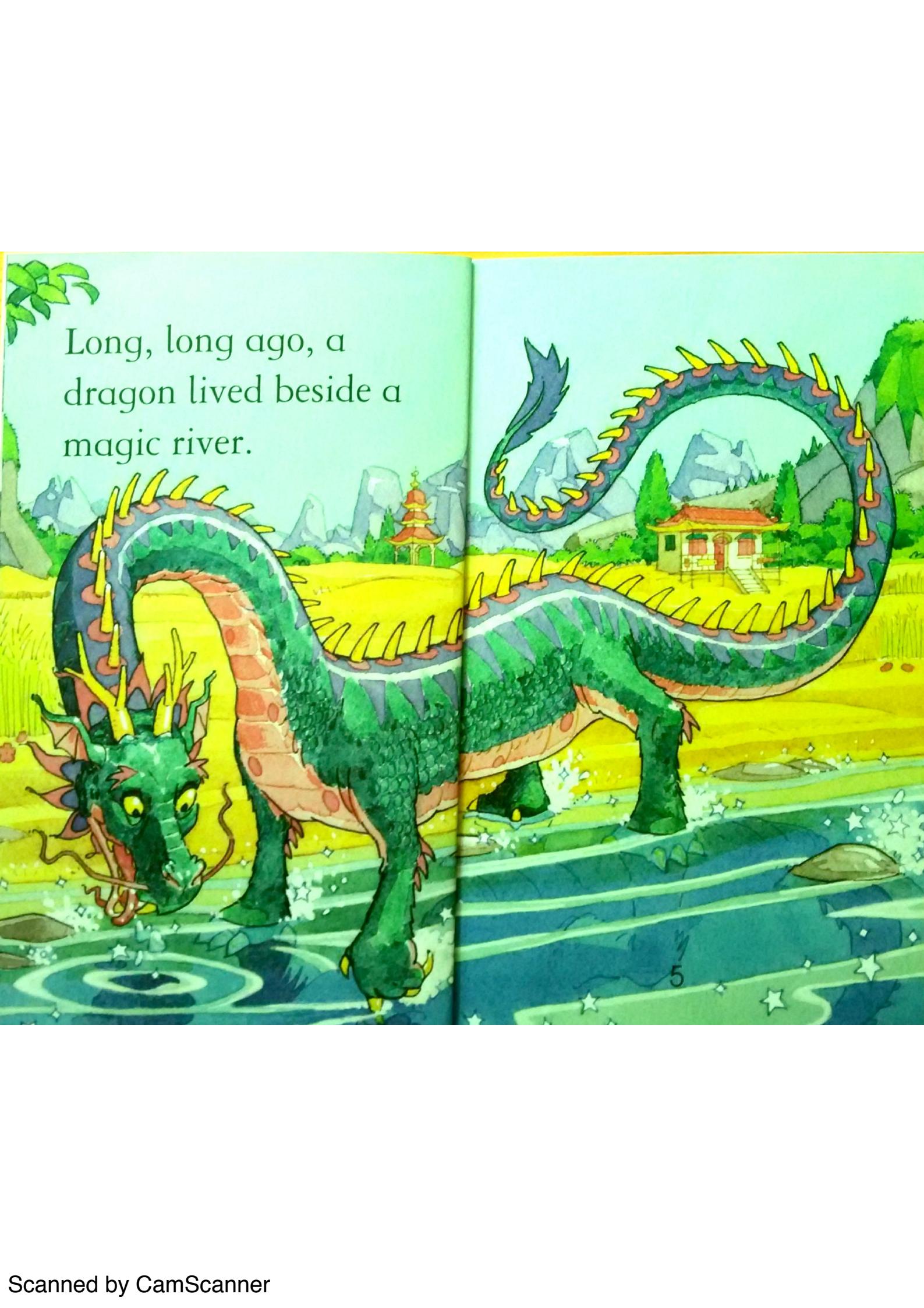
Illustrated by
Graham Philpot

Reading Consultant: Alison Kelly
Roehampton University

This is the story of
Dragon Mountain,
Phoenix Mountain

and a shining lake.

It begins thousands
of years ago, in China...



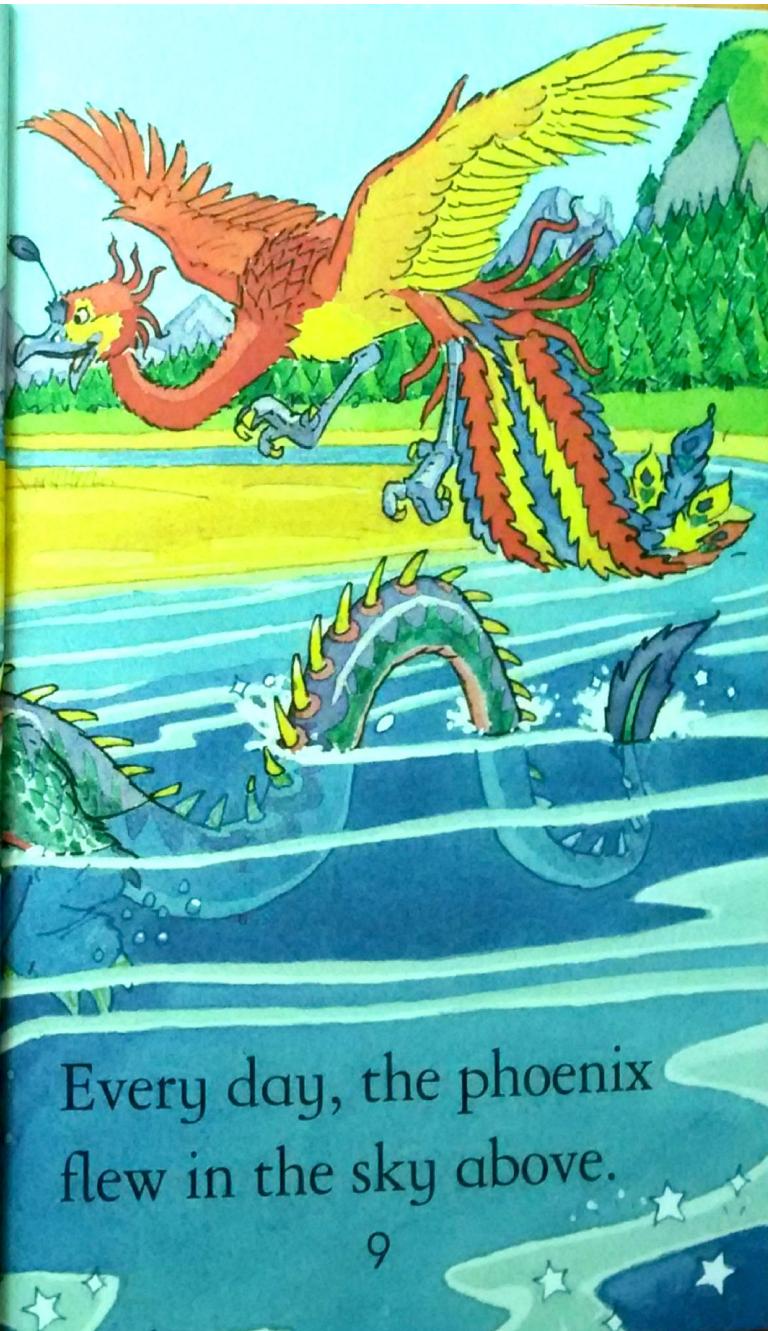
Long, long ago, a
dragon lived beside a
magic river.

A dark forest grew
on the other side of
the river.



Deep inside the forest
lived a phoenix.

Every day, the dragon
swam in the river.



Every day, the phoenix
flew in the sky above.

One day, they met on
an island in the river.

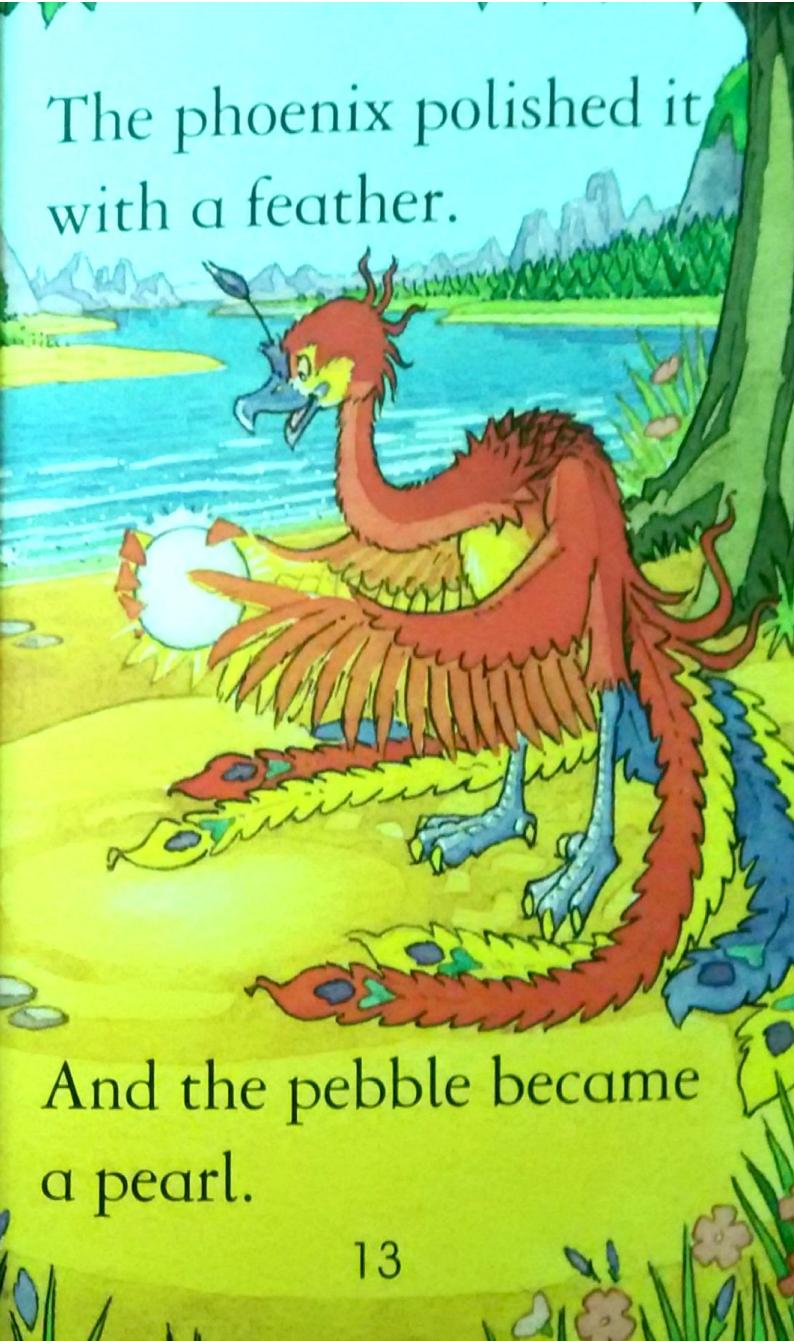
A shiny pebble lay
on the sand.





The dragon washed it
in the river.

12



The phoenix polished it
with a feather.

And the pebble became
a pearl.

13

The dragon and the
phoenix stayed on
the island...

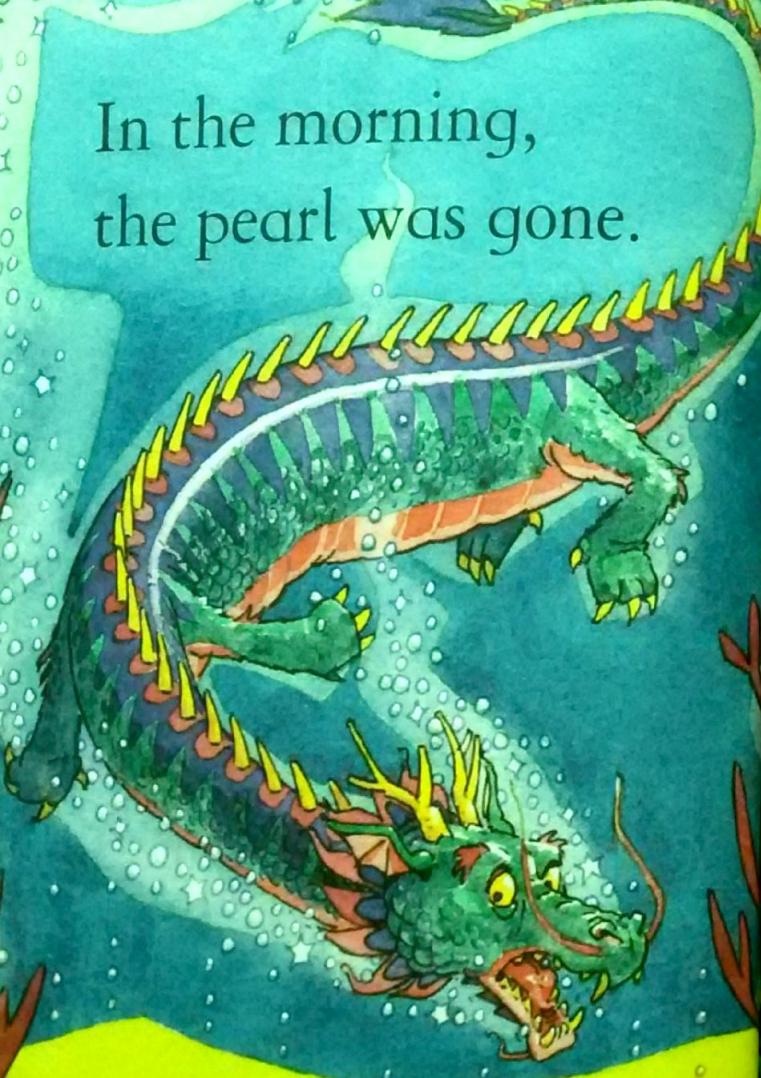


The pearl shone
brighter than stars...

...brighter than
the sun.

It was so bright, the
Queen of Heaven saw
it shine.

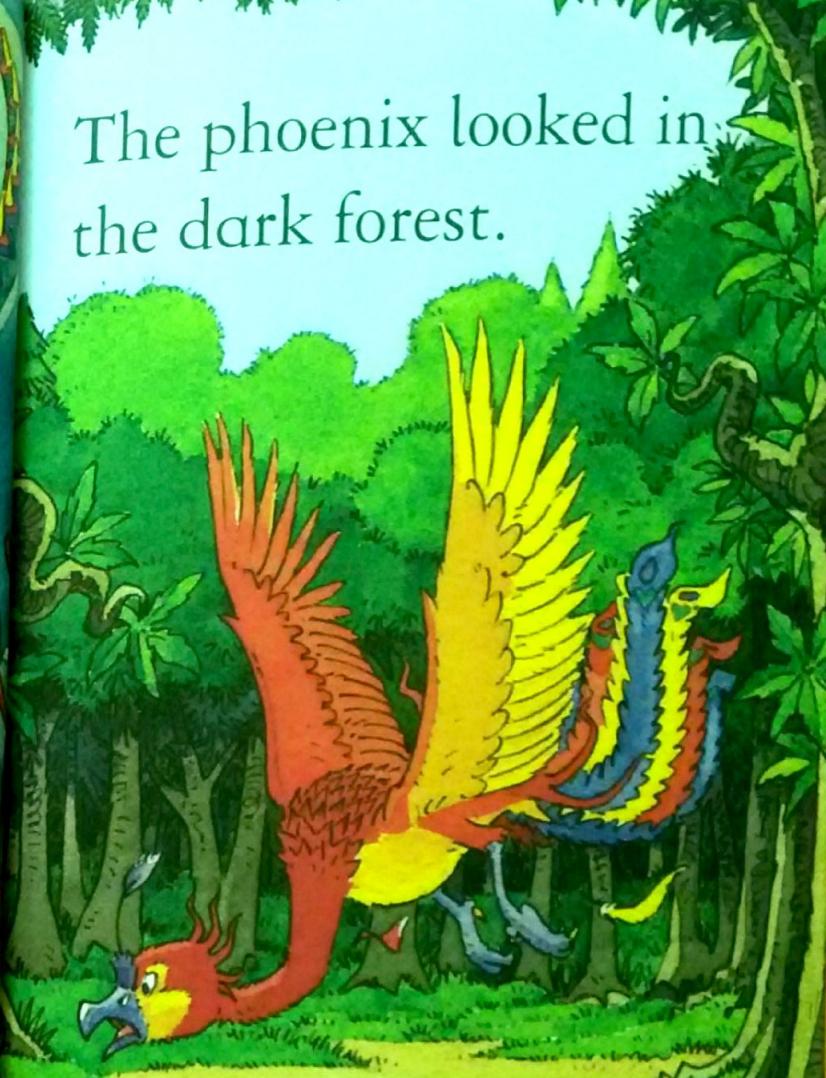




In the morning,
the pearl was gone.

The dragon looked in
the magic river.

20



The phoenix looked in
the dark forest.

No pearl there...

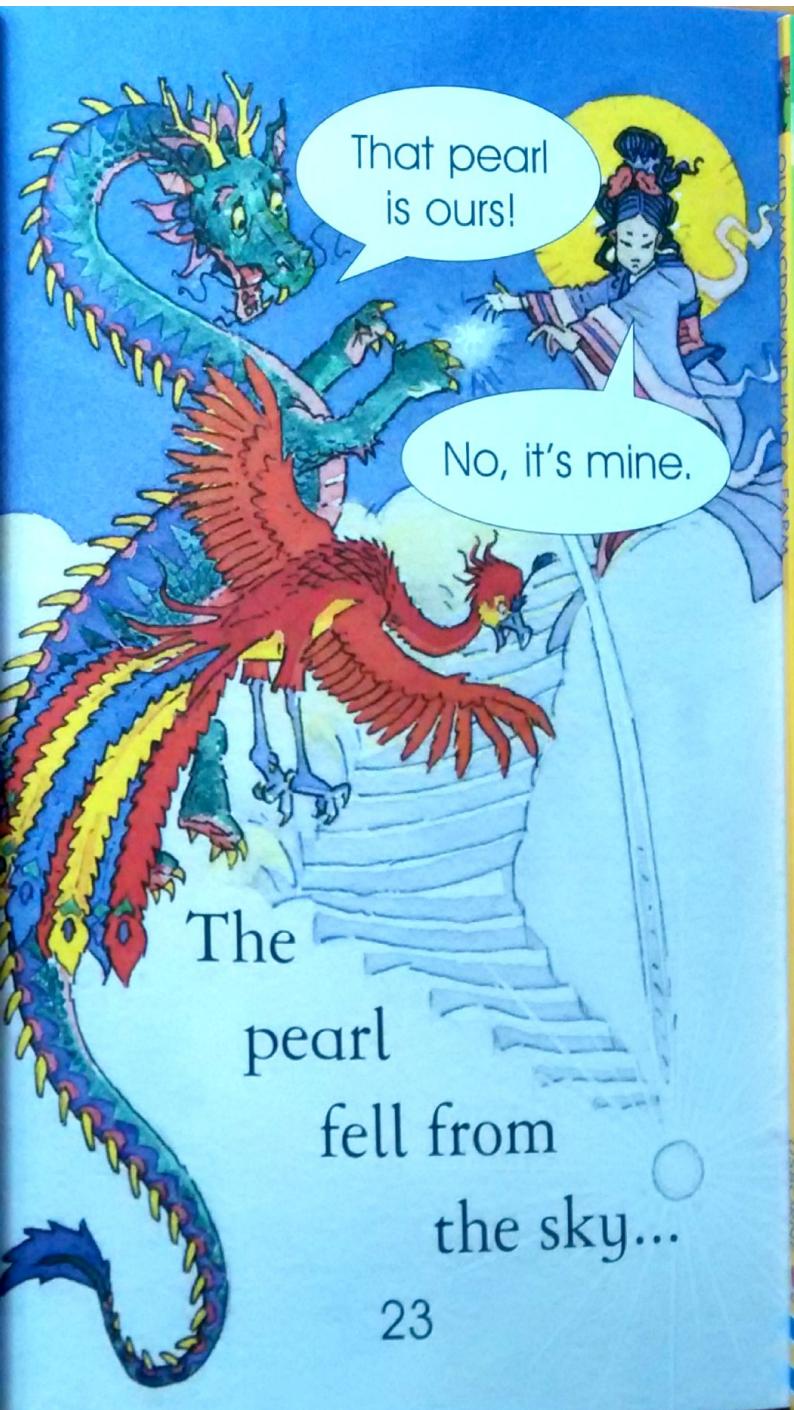
21

Then they saw it shining
in the sky.



22

They flew up to Heaven
and saw the Queen.



23

The
pearl
fell from
the sky...

It landed on the ground and became a shining lake.

We must never leave it.

The dragon and the phoenix lay beside it.

24

They are still there today.

25



PUZZLES

Puzzle 1

Put the pictures in order.



Puzzle 2

Can you spot the differences between the two pictures? There are six to find.



Puzzle 3

Find the opposites.



happy



summer



asleep



sad



winter



awake

Puzzle 4

Can you see...?

one pearl

two fish

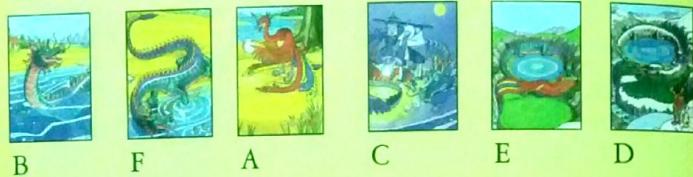


three flowers

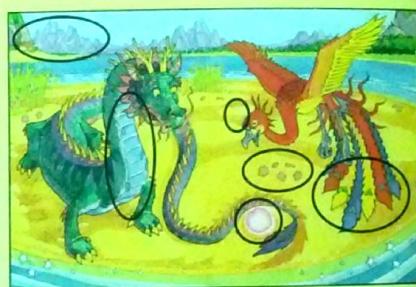
four pebbles

Answers to puzzles

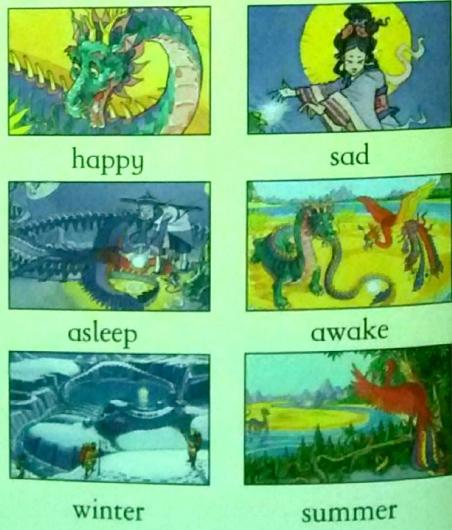
Puzzle 1



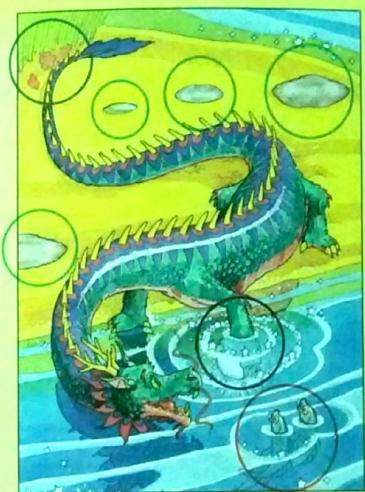
Puzzle 2



Puzzle 3



Puzzle 4



The Dragon and the Phoenix

This story is based on *The Bright Pearl*,

a folktale from China. In Chinese stories, dragons and phoenixes are often shown together.

Chinese dragons have lots of magical powers and can even fly without wings.





Designed by
Catherine-Anne MacKinnon

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The Dragon and the Phoenix

Once upon a time, there was a dragon,
a phoenix and a very, very special pebble...
This charming Chinese tale has easy-to-read
text and fun puzzles to try after the story.



The Dragon and the Phoenix is in the **Usborne First Reading** series, written especially for children who are learning to read, and developed in consultation with Alison Kelly, Principal Lecturer in Education and reading specialist at Roehampton University. With delightful illustrations, these books combine great stories with simple text to excite and inspire any beginner reader.

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