

4 Daenerys's dragons

A. Look at the still. What is Daenerys' relationship with this dragon?

B. Read the text. Focus on the dragon's characteristics and on Daenerys's (Dany) feelings.

C. Why is Daenerys also called "the mother of dragons?"

D. How has the dragon evolved from *Beowulf* to *Game of Thrones*?



Daenerys and Rhaegal, *Game of Thrones*, Season 1, episode 10, HBO, 2011

The dragons were no larger than the scrawny cats she had once seen skulking¹ along the walls of Magister Illyrio's estate in Pentos... until they unfolded their wings. Their span² was three times their length, each wing a delicate fan of translucent skin, gorgeously colored, stretched taut between long thin bones. When you looked hard, you could see that most of their body was neck, tail, and wing. Such little things, she thought as she fed them by hand. Or rather, tried to feed them, for the dragons would not eat. They would

hiss and spit³ at each bloody morsel of horsemeat, steam rising from their nostrils, yet they would not take the food...

until Dany recalled something Viserys had told her when they were children. Only dragons and men eat cooked meat, he had said. When she had her handmaids char⁴ the horsemeat black, the dragons ripped at it eagerly, their heads striking like snakes. So long as the meat was seared⁵, they gulped down several times their own weight every day, and at last began to grow larger and stronger. Dany marveled at the smoothness of their scales, and the heat that poured off

them, so palpable that on cold nights their whole bodies seemed to steam. Each evenfall⁶ as the khalasai set out, she would choose a dragon to ride upon her shoulder. Irri and Jhiqui carried the others in a cage of woven wood slung between their mounts, and rode close behind her, so Dany was never out of their sight. It was the only way to keep them quiescent. [...] The largest of her three [dragons] was shiny black, his scales slashed⁷ with streaks⁸ of vivid scarlet to match his wings and horns. [...]

"The green one shall be Rhaegal, for my valiant brother who died on the green banks of the Trident. The cream and gold I call Viserion. Viserys was cruel and weak and frightened, yet he was my brother still. His dragon will do what he could not. "And the black beast?" asked Ser Jorah Mormont.

"The black", she said, "is Drogon".

1 rôder • 2 envergure • 3 siffler et cracher • 4 faire brûler • 5 cuite • 6 crépuscule • 7 balafrées • 8 marques

A Clash of Kings,
George R.R. Martin, 1998



HELP!

Nouns

- shriek /ʃri:k/ / screech /skri:tʃ/ / scream /skri:m/

Adjectives


- bloodcurdling:
à glacer le sang

- fearsome /'fiə.səm/:
- redoutable
- fantastic /fæn'tæstɪk/
- mythical /'mɪθɪkəl/
- feral /'ferəl/ / wild /waɪld/
- voracious /və'reɪʃəs/

Verbs & expressions

- obliterate /ə'blɪtəreɪt/
- = make disappear
- unleash /ʌn'li:ʃ/: déchaîner
- fire-breathing beast
- reduce to ashes

YOUR PROJECT

Bilbo is back from the dragon's lair! He tells the dwarves what happened. Act out the scene. Use  Worksheet n°48 for help.