



## **ISA Reading Sample Materials**

**Grade 3  
Grade 4  
Grade 5**

### **Spring Dragon**

'Good morning, Grandfather.'

'Ah... Tan Yali. You are awake. Do you know what tomorrow is?'

'Yes, Grandfather. Spring Dragon Day.'

Grandfather sat heavily on his chair and helped himself to a ladle of rice porridge. Wisps of steam curled upwards from his bowl.

'Tomorrow,' began Grandfather, 'is the day dragons raise their heads. When they wake from hibernation, they begin to growl and shake their tails, causing thunderclaps.'

Tan Yali's mother cleared her throat.

'What do dragons look like?' asked Tan Yali.

Every year he asked this question, and every year Grandfather answered it as though it was the first time.

'The dragon has the body of a snake, antlers of a deer, talons of an eagle and the face of a horse.'

'Father,' interrupted Tan Yali's mother, 'you know dragons are a myth from the old days. You should not fill the boy's head with such nonsense. It would be better to help him with his lessons.'

Grandfather bowed his head and slurped his porridge. Tan Yali tried not to grin. He knew his mother hated it when Grandfather slurped. And he suspected Grandfather did it for that very reason.

## Spring Dragon

*SPRING DRAGON on the opposite page is from a novel.*

*Use SPRING DRAGON to answer the questions below.*

**7** Grandfather says that when dragons shake their tail

- ☐ spring begins.
- ☐ it is time for them to sleep.
- ☐ you hear thunder.
- ☐ the dragons start fighting.

**8** Why does Tan Yali think Grandfather slurps his porridge?

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**9**

Why does Tan Yali's mother 'clear her throat'?

- ☐ She is trying not to laugh at the story.
- ☐ She is worried that Tan Yali will be frightened by the story.
- ☐ She has noticed a mistake in the story.
- ☐ She does not approve of Grandfather telling the story.