

LEVEL 2.3

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## THE DRAGON OF KAKOW

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A hungry dragon comes to town. As you read, think of questions to discuss.

Long ago there was a little village in that had no name. The people who lived there worked so hard, they had no time to think of one! Every morning a rooster crowed at the raising sun. When the villagers heard "kru, kru, kru," they woke up. They had to get up very early because there was so much work to do. The farmer fed the pigs. The milkmaid milked the cows. The butcher made sausages. The baker made cakes, rolls, and pies. The woodsman cut down trees. But one morning the rooster woke up late smoke covered

everything. It blocked out the sun. Day was as black as night. Then the rooster saw the dark day and smelled the smoke. He began to crow. He crowed "kru, kru, kru" ten times lower than ever before. The villagers came out to see what was the matter. The villagers could see bright flames down by the river. "The forest must be on fire!" yelled the woodsman.

A young man named Krakus called "Follow me, and we will see!"

Krakus and the villagers went down to the river. On the edge of the river was a dragon. He was covered with scales. He had rows of long, pointy teeth. Flames and smoke came out of his mouth "I'm hungry!" roared the dragon. Bring me the best foods in the land. Then make me your king, or I will eat "What can

we do?" cried the villagers. "I have a plan," said Krakus. "Just I'll need help from all of you." Krakus asked the villagers for all their spicy foods. They gave him the hot peppers and hot mustard. They gave him the hottest sausages in the land. Krakus mixed all the food together. Then the baker baked it into a pie. The dragon took off, never to be seen again. The villagers made Krakus their king. Then they named their village their village Krakow for the clever man who had saved one and all. The dragon ate the whole pie. But the hot, spicy food burned his insides. He roared, and the mountains shook. Then he nearly drank the river dry.