

The Egg



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Introduction

Do dragons exist?

What if you found a dragon egg and took it home?

If the dragon hatched from the egg, what would you do?

Would you keep it?

The Egg

He found it in the small copse of trees on the edge of town.

A small blue egg that he put in his pocket and took home. Now it belonged to him. There were signs around the area reminding people to respect nature, to be aware of the laws and local by-laws.

One of them said that the taking of birds' eggs was considered theft and carried with it a hefty fine. Maybe even a prison sentence.

But Jake was only ten years old. He was old enough to know that he was doing something illegal. But young enough that he could say he didn't know. And his mother would protect him no matter what.

He could practically hear her voice now: *He is just a child. He didn't know anything about such laws. What are you going to do? Send him to court?*

And he would walk away from it all like it never happened and the next day at school he would be hailed as the hero in the playground. The boy who stood up to the local authorities, the kid who shrugged his shoulders at the police.

Jake took the egg from his pocket. It was heavy. And bigger than any other egg he had seen before. It was the colour he liked best of all — a really light shade of blue. And it had these cool greyish lines across it. The shell felt thick. Like he could smash the egg against the door and it would just bounce back.

He placed it on the floor of his room.

The next day he would take it to school. Wrap it up in some paper and use an old box to protect it.

All the other kids would surely want to have a look. Maybe he could charge money for a peek? Yes, that would be a great idea. He could charge the other kids a little each time. Collect enough money and he could buy something cool with it. Some of those new sports shoes with the flashing lights on. Or a new game. Spiderthon. Or RoundHouse5.

Well, whatever he would do with the money, the point was he would be very popular in school tomorrow.

“Jake, what are you doing?”

His mother’s shrill voice calling him for dinner.

He yelled back.

“Okay!”

One word. That was all she deserved.

Why can't she leave him alone for more than five minutes? That was not too much to ask.

He was not like his sister. She couldn't do anything on her own. Always needed Mum to take care of one thing or another.

“Jake!”

He yelled back again. “I said I’m coming.”

One more minute with the egg.

He looked at it and he thought he saw it move. Not the shell but something inside. A fluid movement like a fish was caught inside it.

Hey, wouldn't that be cool? Maybe the egg had a fish instead of a stupid bird. Birds were boring anyway. Fish were cool.

Jake tapped the side of the egg again. This time there was a definite movement. A shadow that moved, a body shape against the inside of the egg.

Jake held his breath. He stared back at the egg waiting for another movement. He reached out, and it moved. The whole egg shifted. Just a fraction but it definitely moved.

Jake pulled his hand away. What was it? What was inside the egg? Birds don't move like that. At least not the ones he had seen online. In science class, the teacher showed a video of ducks. It

was boring apart from when one came out of his egg. But it was not like this. The egg in the video was much smaller. And white.

This egg was much bigger and —

Wait, what colour was it? The colour had changed. Jake reminded himself to take a breath and stared hard at the egg. The blue was gone now. It was all grey. But had a glowing light inside.

Like the colour of gold.

“Jake, if you don’t come down here right now —”

Jake tried to reply to his mother downstairs, but no sound came. His mouth was dry and he could not speak.

The egg moved again. A little circle before shifting over to its side.

Then a crack.

Jake heard it. His sister was watching her stupid kids' show on TV, the volume at full blast. Stupid voices of cartoon pigs and sheep singing some stupid song, but Jake heard the crack as clear as if there were no other sound in the house at all.

Then a thin line appeared on the egg. Just a tiny little dark edge, no more than a few millimetres. But then another crack and another and the line appeared to grow, right across the egg from

top to bottom.

Whatever was inside the egg, Jake would take it to school. He could probably charge extra now the bird was out of the egg. More money meant more games, more cool things to buy.

Another large crack and a claw appeared. There were sharp talons at the end of the claw. They looked sharp and dangerous. Then a wet flap of flesh slithered out of the hole. The skin was very thin, supported by three small bones stretched across one side of it.

It extended out and flapped in the air.

Jake had never seen a wing like it. Birds had feathers, but this was all skin. On the wing, endless rows of small beads of flesh. Just like a fish.

Then in one deft movement, the egg cracked open in half.

The thing inside it crawled out and shook itself into life. It opened its mouth and a small hiss came out.

Jake stared back at it, and the creature, in turn, stared at Jake.

This was no bird.

It had wings, but no bird looked like this. And it was bigger than a bird. It was bigger than the actual size of the egg itself.

It hissed at him again, shook its body again, and stretched. Its

whole body the size of next-door's cat. The creature jiggled its head and then got on all four legs. Its tail whipped behind it and it spread its two wings out to their full span. Now bigger than next door's cat.

Jake crawled back, back to the door.

The creature opened its mouth and a plume of fire came out. It looked back at Jake and hissed again.

“Mum,” called Jake. “Muuuum!”

Reading Comprehension Questions

These are all the reading comprehension questions for the story *The Egg* in one complete list.

Students:

Read the story carefully and answer each question in **full sentences**, using details from the text to support your answers.

Teachers:

You'll find the **model answers** for all 44 questions at the **end of the lesson plan** for reference.

- 1.What is the main character's name, and how old is he?
- 2.Where did Jake find the egg?
- 3.Can you describe the appearance of the egg when he first found it?
- 4.What do the local laws say about stealing eggs?
- 5.What was the punishment?
- 6.Was Jake concerned about this? Why or why not?
- 7.Why did Jake think he could get away with taking the egg?
- 8.What did Jake imagine happening at school the next day?
- 9.How did Jake feel about himself in this fantasy?
10. What colour was the egg?

11. How did Jake plan to take the egg to school without getting caught?
12. What did Jake plan to do with the egg?
13. Why did Jake think the shell was unusual?
14. What rewards did Jake hope to get from showing the egg at school?
15. How did Jake feel about his mother calling him?
16. What do Jake's thoughts tell you about his personality?
17. Why did Jake compare himself to his sister?
18. What did Jake think was moving inside the egg?
19. How did he react when he saw the movement?
20. What can Jake see moving inside the egg?
21. Does Jake keep his hand on the egg?
22. Does Jake still think this is a bird's egg?
23. What did Jake see in his science class?
24. Was the egg he saw in class the same as the egg before him now?
25. Was it the same size?
26. What happens to the colour of the egg?
27. Why was Jake unable to respond to his mother?
28. What sound did he hear coming from the egg?
29. What is Jake's sister doing right now?

30. Are more cracks appearing on the egg?
31. How can the egg help Jake at school?
32. What can Jake see emerging from the egg?
33. How was the wing different from a bird's wing?
34. What did Jake compare the creature's wing to?
35. What did the creature do as soon as it came out?
36. Does Jake leave the room? Or stay?
37. What made Jake realise it wasn't a bird?
38. What noise does the creature make?
39. How big was the creature now?
40. What actions did it perform after hatching?
41. How did Jake react?
42. What did the creature do that frightened Jake?
43. How did Jake try to get help?
44. Describe Jake's feelings at the end of the story.

The Egg – story and reading comprehension questions

This story is divided into short sections, each followed by a set of reading comprehension questions.

Students:

Please read each section carefully and answer the questions that follow in **full sentences**. Use information from the story to support your answers.

Teachers:

Model answers for all questions can be found at the **end of the lesson plan**.

Section 1

He found it in the small copse of trees on the edge of town. A small blue egg that he put in his pocket and took home. Now it belonged to him. There were signs around the area reminding people to respect nature, to be aware of the laws and local by-laws.

One of them said that the taking of birds' eggs was considered theft and carried with it a hefty fine. Maybe even a prison sentence.

But Jake was only ten years old. He was old enough to know that

he was doing something illegal. But young enough that he could say he didn't know.

Reading Comprehension Questions

- 1.What is the main character's name, and how old is he?
- 2.Where did Jake find the egg?
- 3.Can you describe the appearance of the egg when he first found it?
- 4.What do the local laws say about stealing eggs?
- 5.What was the punishment?
- 6.Was Jake concerned about this? Why or why not?

Section 2

And his mother would protect him no matter what.

He could practically hear her voice now: He is just a child. He didn't know anything about such laws. What are you going to do? Send him to court?

And he would walk away from it all like it never happened and the next day at school he would be hailed as the hero in the playground. The boy who stood up to the local authorities, the kid who shrugged his shoulders at the police.

Jake took the egg from his pocket. It was heavy. And bigger than any other egg he had seen before.

Reading Comprehension Questions

7. Why did Jake think he could get away with taking the egg?
8. What did Jake imagine happening at school the next day?

9. How did Jake feel about himself in this fantasy?

Section 3

It was the colour he liked best of all — a really light shade of blue. And it had these cool greyish lines across it. The shell felt thick. Like he could smash the egg against the door and it would just bounce back.

He placed it on the floor of his room.

The next day he would take it to school. Wrap it up in some paper and use an old box to protect it.

All the other kids would surely want to have a look. Maybe he could charge money for a peek?

Reading Comprehension Questions

10. What colour was the egg?

11. How did Jake plan to take the egg to school without getting caught?

12. What did Jake plan to do with the egg?

13. Why did Jake think the shell was unusual?

Section 4

Yes, that would be a great idea. He could charge the other kids a little each time. Collect enough money and he could buy something cool with it. Some of those new sports shoes with the flashing lights on. Or a new game. Spiderthon. Or RoundHouse5. Well, whatever he would do with the money, the point was he would be very popular in school tomorrow.

“Jake, what are you doing?”

His mother’s shrill voice calling him for dinner.

He yelled back.

“Okay!”

One word. That was all she deserved.

Why can't she leave him alone for more than five minutes?

Reading Comprehension Questions

14. What rewards did Jake hope to get from showing the egg at school?

15. How did Jake feel about his mother calling him?

16. What do Jake's thoughts tell you about his personality?

Section 5

That was not too much to ask.

He was not like his sister. She couldn't do anything on her own.

Always needed Mum to take care of one thing or another.

“Jake!”

He yelled back again. “I said I’m coming.”

One more minute with the egg.

He looked at it and he thought he saw it move. Not the shell but something inside. A fluid movement like a fish was caught inside it.

Hey, wouldn’t that be cool? Maybe the egg had a fish instead of a stupid bird. Birds were boring anyway. Fish were cool.

Reading Comprehension Questions

17. Why did Jake compare himself to his sister?

18. What did Jake think was moving inside the egg?
19. How did he react when he saw the movement?

Section 6

Jake tapped the side of the egg again. This time there was a definite movement. A shadow that moved, a body shape against the inside of the egg.

Jake held his breath. He stared back at the egg waiting for another movement. He reached out, and it moved. The whole egg shifted. Just a fraction but it definitely moved.

Jake pulled his hand away. What was it? What was inside the egg? Birds don't move like that. At least not the ones he had seen online.

Reading Comprehension Questions

20. What can Jake see moving inside the egg?
21. Does Jake keep his hand on the egg?
22. Does Jake still think this is a bird's egg?

Section 7

In science class, the teacher showed a video of ducks. It was boring apart from when one came out of his egg. But it was not like this. The egg in the video was much smaller. And white.

This egg was much bigger and —

Wait, what colour was it? The colour had changed. Jake reminded himself to take a breath and stared hard at the egg. The blue was gone now. It was all grey. But had a glowing light inside.

Like the colour of gold.

Reading Comprehension Questions

23. What did Jake see in his science class?

24. Was the egg he saw in class the same as the egg before him now?

25. Was it the same size?

26. What happens to the colour of the egg?

Section 8

“Jake, if you don’t come down here right now —”

Jake tried to reply to his mother downstairs, but no sound came.

His mouth was dry and he could not speak.

The egg moved again. A little circle before shifting over to its side. Then a crack.

Jake heard it. His sister was watching her stupid kids' show on TV, the volume at full blast. Stupid voices of cartoon pigs and sheep singing some stupid song, but Jake heard the crack as clear as if there were no other sound in the house at all.

Reading Comprehension Questions

27. Why was Jake unable to respond to his mother?

28. What sound did he hear coming from the egg?

29. What is Jake’s sister doing right now?

Section 9

Then a thin line appeared on the egg. Just a tiny little dark edge, no more than a few millimetres. But then another crack and

another and the line appeared to grow, right across the egg from top to bottom.

Whatever was inside the egg, Jake would take it to school. He could probably charge extra now the bird was out of the egg. More money meant more games, more cool things to buy.

Reading Comprehension Questions

30. Are more cracks appearing on the egg?

31. How can the egg help Jake at school?

Section 10

Another large crack and a claw appeared. There were sharp talons at the end of the claw. They looked sharp and dangerous. Then a wet flap of flesh slithered out of the hole. The skin was very thin, supported by three small bones stretched across one side of it.

It extended out and flapped in the air.

Jake had never seen a wing like it. Birds had feathers, but this was all skin. On the wing, endless rows of small beads of flesh. Just like a fish.

Reading Comprehension Questions

32. What can Jake see emerging from the egg?

33. How was the wing different from a bird's wing?

34. What did Jake compare the creature's wing to?

Section 11

Then in one deft movement, the egg cracked open in half.

The thing inside it crawled out and shook itself into life. It opened its mouth and a small hiss came out.

Jake stared back at it, and the creature, in turn, stared at Jake.

This was no bird.

It had wings, but no bird looked like this. And it was bigger than a bird. It was bigger than the actual size of the egg itself.

Reading Comprehension Questions

35. What did the creature do as soon as it came out?

36. Does Jake leave the room? Or stay?

37. What made Jake realise it wasn't a bird?

Section 12

It hissed at him again, shook its body again, and stretched. Its whole body the size of next-door's cat. The creature jiggled its head and then got on all four legs. Its tail whipped behind it and it spread its two wings out to their full span. Now bigger than next door's cat.

Jake crawled back, back to the door.

Reading Comprehension Questions

38. What noise does the creature make?

39. How big was the creature now?

40. What actions did it perform after hatching?

41. How did Jake react?

Section 13

The creature opened its mouth and a plume of fire came out. It

looked back at Jake and hissed again.

“Mum,” called Jake. “Muuuum!”

Reading Comprehension Questions

42. What did the creature do that frightened Jake?

43. How did Jake try to get help?

44. Describe Jake's feelings at the end of the story.

Essential Vocabulary

belonged	millimetres	fluid
respect	claw	caught
aware	talons	shadow
local	wet	definite
by-laws	flap	fraction
theft	flesh	reminded
hefty	stretched	teacher
sentence	extended	smaller
authorities	movement	colour
playground	dangerous	glowing
practically	beads	gold
shade	feathers	circle
cool	deft	crack
greyish	cracked	line
thick	crawled	appeared
bounce	spread	edge
protect	span	deserved
wrap	crawled	hissed
charge	plume	shrill
peek	fire	spread
popular	jiggled	

Exercise

Write down all the words and phrases in your vocabulary notebook. Look in your dictionary and find the meaning of each word. Write the definition next to each word.

Then make up your own sentences using each word or phrase.

For example:

Millimetres — *a metric unit of length equal to one-thousandth of a metre.*

Claw — *sharp, curved animal limb used for gripping or digging.*

Then write a sentence of your own that uses the new word or phrase correctly.

I was surprised to see a crack on my phone screen, but it was only a few millimetres long.

While playing with my cat, she caught her claw in my sweater.

Do this with all the vocabulary and, over time, this will help improve all your English skills — reading, writing, speaking and

listening.

Discussion Questions

Give a summary of the story in your own words.

What kind of kid is Jake? Is he a good kid?

How do you think Jake feels about authority?

Do you think Jake gets into trouble at school? Why/why not?

How does Jake get on with his mother, do you think? Describe their relationship.

How does Jake get on with his younger sister?

Do you think Jake is a good kid at school?

Jake talks about taking the egg to school. Why does he need approval or admiration from the other kids at school?

What came out of the egg?

How is it possible for a creature like this to exist in the modern world?

Do you think the creature could be dangerous? How should it be treated?

If you found a very large egg while out walking somewhere, what would you do with it?

If Jake had taken the egg to school the next day, what do you think could happen?

The story ends suddenly. What do you think happens next? Try to think of several possible next steps.

If you were in Jake's situation at the end of the story, what would you do next?

Is there a lesson that the story is trying to teach us? What is it?

What do you think the creature symbolizes in the story? What might it represent or stand for?

What strange things have people found recently in the world? How does science explain them? Can science explain everything in this world?

What unknown phenomenon do you think science cannot explain?

Is there a myth or folktale of some unexplained creature in your country's culture? Tell the class.

Writing

This is a creative writing exercise.

You are going to write a short story. It is an extension of the short story you read at the beginning of the lesson.

Take a look at the story prompts below.

Use one of the prompts below and write a short story about it.

Describe Jake's internal struggle as he decides whether to run from the mysterious creature or face it.

Write a conversation between Jake and his sister, Lily, about the creature he found and his request for help.

Depict a heart-warming interaction between Jake and the baby dragon, revealing a growing bond of trust.

Detail a funny scene where the dragon's actions lead to chaos in Jake's room.

Write a situation where Jake diverts his mother's attention from his hidden secret, the dragon.

Describe Jake's suspenseful quest to find a new home for the dragon without attracting attention from his family.

Depict the thrilling moment when Jake and the dragon take their first flight together.

Write a scene where Jake's sister, Lily, discovers Jake's secret about the dragon.

Write your story.

When you have finished writing your short story, read it out loud in front of the class.

Or you can hand it to your teacher for review.

Reading Comprehension Questions – Answers

These are all the model answers below.

Remember: *These are just model answers.*

Your answer may not be exactly the same. But as long as it is a good variation it is acceptable.

Ask your teacher for help!

Section 1

What is the main character's name, and how old is he?

The main character's name is Jake, and he is ten years old.

Where did Jake find the egg?

Jake found the egg in a small copse of trees on the edge of town.

Can you describe the appearance of the egg when he first found it?

When he first found it, the egg was small and blue.

What do the local laws say about stealing eggs?

The local laws say that taking birds' eggs is considered theft.

What was the punishment?

The punishment mentioned was a hefty fine or possibly a prison sentence.

Was Jake concerned about this? Why or why not?

Jake was not very concerned because he thought he could pretend he didn't know the law due to his young age.

Section 2

Why did Jake think he could get away with taking the egg?

Jake thought he could get away with it because his mother would protect him and argue that he didn't understand the law.

What did he imagine would happen at school?

Jake imagined he would be praised and treated like a hero by the other kids.

How did he feel about himself?

Jake felt bold and proud, imagining himself as someone who challenged the authorities.

Section 3

What colour was the egg?

The egg was a very light shade of blue with cool greyish lines.

How did he plan to carry it?

Jake planned to wrap the egg in paper and place it in an old box.

Why did Jake think the shell was unusual?

Jake thought the shell was unusually thick, like it could bounce off a door.

What did Jake plan to do with the egg?

Jake planned to take it to school and charge other kids to look at it.

Section 4

What rewards did Jake imagine?

Jake imagined he could buy sports shoes or a new game with the money.

How did he respond to his mum?

He shouted "Okay!" back at her.

What do his thoughts tell us about him?

His thoughts show he is annoyed by his mother and focused on his own plans.

Section 5

How did Jake feel about his sister?

Jake felt his sister was too dependent and couldn't do anything by herself.

What did he see in the egg?

Jake saw something move inside the egg like a fish swimming.

What did he think it might be?

He thought it might be a fish instead of a bird.

Section 6

What can Jake see moving inside the egg?

Jake saw a shadow or a body shape moving inside the egg.

Does Jake keep his hand on the egg?

No, he pulled his hand away after feeling it move.

Does Jake still think this is a bird's egg?

No, he begins to doubt it because it moved differently than birds he had seen before.

Section 7

What did Jake see in his science class?

Jake saw a video of duck eggs hatching.

Was the egg he saw in class the same as the egg before him now?

No, the one in class was much smaller and white.

Was it the same size?

No, this egg was much bigger.

What happens to the colour of the egg?

The colour changed from blue to grey with a golden glow inside.

Section 8

Why couldn't Jake answer his mum?

Jake was unable to speak because his mouth was dry and he was shocked.

What sound did he hear?

Jake heard a loud crack coming from the egg.

What was his sister doing?

His sister was watching a loud cartoon show on TV.

Section 9

Are more cracks appearing on the egg?

Yes, more cracks were appearing and spreading across the egg.

How can the egg help Jake at school?

Jake thought he could charge more money now that something was coming out of it.

Section 10

What can Jake see emerging from the egg?

Jake saw a claw with sharp talons and then a wing made of skin.

How was the wing different from a bird's wing?

The wing had no feathers and was made of thin skin.

What did he compare it to?

He compared it to a fish because of the small beads of flesh.

Section 11

What did the creature do as soon as it came out?

The creature crawled out, shook itself, and hissed.

Does Jake leave the room? Or stay?

Jake stayed and stared at the creature.

What made Jake realise it wasn't a bird?

Jake realised it wasn't a bird because it looked different and was bigger than the egg itself.

Section 12

What noise does the creature make?

The creature hissed.

How big was the creature now?

It was about the size of the neighbour's cat.

What actions did it perform after hatching?

It shook its body, walked on four legs, and spread its wings.

How did Jake react?

Jake crawled back toward the door in fear.

Section 13

What did the creature do that frightened Jake?

The creature breathed out a plume of fire.

How did Jake try to get help?

Jake screamed and called for his mother.

Describe Jake's feelings at the end of the story.

Jake was terrified by the creature and called out in fear.

Credits

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