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| **Key Vocabulary** |
| absorb | To take in or soak up something |
| brandishing | Wave something threatening or in anger/excitement |
| camouflage | A natural colouring to hide something in its surroundings. |
| contentment | A state of happiness and satisfaction |
| geyser | A hot spring in which water boils and shoots in the air. |
| loitering | Stand or wait around without apparent purpose. |
| materialising  | Appear or be present when expected |
| plummeted | Fall or drop straight down at high speed |
| radioactive | Glowing with a dangerously transmitting energy |
| scalloped | Cut, shape, or arrange in the form of a scallop shell. |
| sprouting | To start to grow or spring upwards |
| tendrils | Long threadlike dangling part of a plant which curls out. |
| uncooperative | Unwilling to help others or do what they ask. |



**Context**

The dragon is a legendary animal, similar to a huge lizard or snake, that appears in stories and art from all over the world. Dragons typically are portrayed as having scaly skin, a powerful jaw with sharp teeth, four legs with long claws, and a long tail. The story itself was inspired by her two sons who she once told that they had a dragon living on the roof of their shed. In the Cambridge Independent she said, “I think it started because we were stuck in a traffic jam and I said wouldn't it be brilliant if we had a dragon who could lift our car up and take us to the beach? After that I started telling stories about this dragon who lived in our garden.”

**Key Quotes**

“Now, there’s something you should know about my grandad – he twinkles.”

“A little ripple of turquoise flashed along Flicker’s body from snout to tail. It was like a contented purr in colour.”

**Key Characters**

Tomas – protagonist - A young boy who discovers a dragon fruit tree.

Grandad – Grandfather to Tomas and owner of a special tree in his garden.

Flicker – the little dragon that Tomas meets.

Tomtom – the family cat.

Jim – antagonist – Grumpy next-door neighbour to Grandad who Tomas calls Grim.

Mrs Logan and Mr Firth – both teachers in Tomas’ school.

Mrs Olive – a pleasant librarian who works in the tiny village library and is a midday supervisor during school lunchtimes.

**Themes**

The main themes are friendships, nature, family, bullying and nurturing.

**Plot summary**

When Tomas discovers a strange old tree at the bottom of his grandad’s garden, he doesn’t think much of it. But he takes the funny fruit from the tree back into the house – and gets the shock and delight of his life when a tiny dragon hatches! The tree is a dragon fruit tree, and Tomas has got his very own dragon, Flicker …Tomas soon finds out that life with Flicker is great fun, but also very … unpredictable. Yes, dragons are wonderful, but they also set fire to your toothbrush and leave your pants hanging from the TV aerial. Tomas has to learn how to look after Flicker – and quickly.

And then something extraordinary happens…

The Boy Who Grew Dragons

By Andy Shepherd

D – Decode

E – Explain

R – Retrieval

I – Inference

C – Word Choice