

**“This is as far as I take you.” declared Kamali, “That was the deal.”  
“But...the way back?” asked Kupe.  
“You won’t need it !” smiled Kamali, and with that he vanished.**

**The caustic scent of sulphur drifted up to Kupe and Marco, they knew they were close. A low rumbling tremor shook the floor around them. Despite the dread that instantly overcame them, they grasped the overhanging roots and began to climb down.**

**Even the legend of Ryoko did not do her justice. Transfixed by her glowing eyes, burning like molten metal, they knelt before her, heads bowed... and waited.**

1. What do the words ‘caustic’ and ‘transfixed’ mean ?
2. Why don’t you think Kamali wanted to go any further?
3. Why do you think that Kamali smiled before he vanished?
4. What adjectives could you use to describe Ryoko, the dragon?
5. Why might Kupe and Marco have knelt down in front of the dragon?
6. What do you think will happen to Kupe and Marco next? Explain why?

### **Be a detective.**



What is the history of dragons ? Why have they become so popular ?

What kind of person do the Chinese believe you will be if you are born in the year of the dragon?

Find out about a famous dragon. What is it like? Who created it?

Look at the dragons created by Jackie Morris <https://www.jackiemorris.co.uk/tellmeadragon.htm> Design your own dragon, create a description of it, or maybe a labelled diagram. Why is it special?

The Polynesian origin of the name Kupe is ‘heroic explorer’. Find out about a famous explorer, what did they discover?



A Starter for 10