

# THE DRAGON TRILOGY – A NOVEL STUDY

by Jenny Mendick

Carole Wilkinson has completed the third book in the Dragonkeeper Trilogy. Each book is as wonderful as the other. Begin the study of the three books by reading *The Dragonkeeper* book number one and complete the novel study set out below.

## *The Dragonkeeper* by Carole Wilkinson

1. In diary form recount the stages of the journey from the rat Hua's perspective.
2. In your own words write an information report using all the facts you now know about dragons having read the book.
3. Discuss whether you believe Ping would have been better off staying as a friend of the emperor.
4. Rewrite the ending with Ping, Danzi, Hua and the dragon stone staying in the Garden of Secluded harmony.
5. Search for ten of Danzi's philosophical statements and write them on a wall poster.
6. Draw six of your favourite scenes from the novel.
7. Write your own dragon story.
8. Do some research on cloud seeding. Is it possible to make rain? How is it done?
9. Research three different places where dragons are said to have once existed.
10. Using the pronunciation at the back of the book, write the Chinese surnames using Chinese characters found at

<http://www.ocrat.com/chargif/surnames.html>

Then it's time to read *Garden of the Purple Dragon* and begin to

1. Compile a dragonology of what dragons eat and do while reading the book.
2. Choose a different statement from each chapter to describe an aspect from the chapter as the author has done.

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3. Should the baby dragon have been allowed to grow up in the garden of the purple dragon?
4. Explore how silk is made and consider what it would be like to be a silk farmer as the new possible dragonkeeper's family are.
5. What characteristics does a true dragonkeeper have? What are the responsibilities a dragonkeeper undertakes?
6. Consider the storyline of the second novel and decide which journey you prefer and which story resolution did you believe was most successful.

Finally, it's time to begin the triumphant conclusion to the trilogy:

## Dragon Moon

Carole Wilkinson connects the last two novels together very well with the small silk map sent from Danzi, with the rat Hua travelling on the back of a red phoenix.

The silk map allows for many wonderful explorations of Chinese tangram puzzles and it is only after the creation of the dragon's head from the magic tangram pieces that Ping is able to solve the puzzle of the map.

Another wonderful journey begins with vivid images of the Great Wall and the magical home to the only dragons left on earth. Here a challenge for students could be to create a world of dragons and explore their rituals and laws. This would be a wonderful lead into reading this last book.

Finally a review of the trilogy could be done recounting each student's most favoured sections.

<http://home.iprimus.com.au/carolew/books/books07.htm>

<http://www.carolewilkinson.com.au/index.php>

<http://www1.curriculum.edu.au/rel/values/book.php?catrelid=1484>