Task for *Ubby’s Underdogs*

**Looking first at the book cover**

Students could work in discussion pairs, or they could answer/address the series of question/points as a homework exercise.

**From the top of the cover page: Figures**

1. **Dragon**
   - What sort of dragon is this?
   - Have students ever seen a dragon like this before? Where and when?
   - What are the connotations (associations) of dragons in general and the Phoenix Dragon in particular?

2. **People in front of SUN PICTURES**
   - Who is the most prominent figure? Gender? Ethnicity? Expression? Approximate age?
   - Other figures?
   - Gender, ethnicity, ages of these figures?
   - The two male figures to the right of the girl are both doing strange gestures. What could these mean?
   - The figure to the left is wearing a red scarf around his face. What could be the reason for this? What sort of expression does this boy have? Worried? Anxious? Puzzled? Sad?
   - Looking at the title of the book, *Ubby’s Underdogs*, who do you think this group of people could be? Which one is Ubby?

3. **Predominant colours**
   - What do the main colours of blue and red/orange signify?

4. **Predictions about the story.** (Discuss in pairs or write a short paragraph if doing this as a homework activity.)
   - Looking at the title, taking into consideration the elements of the cover and without turning any pages, try and predict what this story could be about. Consider the title, *Ubby’s (who is Ubby) Underdogs* (what are underdogs?). What could a dragon have to do with anything?
   - Direct students to the blurb at the back.
   - Ask the students if the front cover and/or the blurb, have/has made them feel like reading the story, or if after predicting, they feel indifferent to the book.