

# DRAGONKEEPER

## TASK NAME

<p><b>Chapter One</b> <i>The Edge of the Empire</i> (pp. 1–14)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We meet a slave girl who does not know her name or age. She lives at Huangling Palace in a remote part of the western Han empire.</li> <li>• Master Lan, the Imperial Dragonkeeper, is very cruel to her. Her only friend is Hua, a rat she keeps as a pet.</li> <li>• The girl is responsible for feeding two imperial dragons. They are the last of their kind and have been held captive for decades.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Two</b> <i>An Evil Night</i> (pp. 15–21)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the dragons begins making loud metallic noises. Lan discovers that the other dragon has died.</li> <li>• Lan knows that if he will be executed if the Emperor finds out, so he butchers and pickles the dragon to hide the evidence.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Three</b> <i>The Imperial Banquet</i> (pp. 22–43)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The girl resolves to take better care of the remaining dragon. While cleaning his pit, she discovers a beautiful stone. An angry voice in her mind warns her not to touch it.</li> <li>• One day the Emperor arrives at Huangling. A banquet is prepared and the girl finds herself in the room where it is being served.</li> <li>• She learns that the Emperor is selling the dragons to a hunter named Diao. She also sees the Emperor and Empress eat the dragon pickle.</li> <li>• The girl’s hiding spot is discovered and she reveals the truth about the dead dragon. When the Emperor calls for Lan, she flees.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Four</b> <i>Escape</i> (pp. 44–51)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The girl frees the dragon, but he won’t leave without the stone. She retrieves it from the pit but returns to find Diao and the imperial guards restraining the dragon.</li> <li>• He breaks free and takes to the air, grabbing the girl in the process. They escape Huangling and take shelter in a cave on the mountain.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Five</b> <i>Fear of Flying</i> (pp. 52–68)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The girl realises that she can understand the dragon. He reveals her name, Ping, and then his own: Long Danzi.</li> <li>• Danzi intends to renew his strength in the magical waters of Ocean, but Ping insists on returning to Huangling.</li> <li>• While hiding from imperial guards, they learn that Lan has accused Ping of being a sorceress. The guards will execute her on sight. She cannot go back to Huangling now.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Six</b> <i>Beyond the Gate of Experience</i> (pp. 69–82)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danzi convinces Ping to accompany him to Ocean. Ping starts learning about dragons and how to care for the stone.</li> <li>• Danzi uses <i>qi</i> (spiritual energy) to disguise himself as an old man. They spend the night with a kind peasant family, who feeds them and gives Ping warm clothes.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Chapter Seven</b> <i>Combing and Counting</i> (pp. 83–99)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danzi explains that the other imperial dragons died of misery. He also says that Lan had none of the signs of a true Dragonkeeper.</li> <li>• The group bathes in a hot spring and Danzi combs Ping’s hair. They cleanse the stone in a small pool of arsenic.</li> <li>• Danzi teaches Ping many things, including how to count. He reminds her that all living creatures have worth – even her.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Eight</b> <i>The City of Eternal Peace</i> (pp. 100–115)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ping meets a young Confucian scholar who tells her that the Emperor has died, supposedly from something he ate.</li> <li>• Danzi realises that the stone is in a poor condition. He decides that they need to go to Chang’an to restore it.</li> <li>• She and Danzi make their way to the capital. As night falls and Danzi loses his grip on his disguise, they find the house they are looking for.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Nine</b> <i>Old Friends</i> (pp. 116–134)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The house belongs to a herbalist named Wang Cao. He tends to both the dragon and the stone while recalling his friendship with Danzi.</li> <li>• Ping’s pouch is stolen while shopping for supplies. She successfully focuses her <i>qi</i> to track down the thief.</li> <li>• Wang Cao invites the group to stay a little longer, but when Ping next ventures out, she spots Diao the dragon hunter.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Ten</b> <i>Magic at Midnight</i> (pp. 135–150)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group leaves Chang’an and resumes the journey to Ocean. Ping is happy and Danzi is in much better condition.</li> <li>• They cross paths with Diao at a village called Fengjing. Diao convinces the villagers to capture Ping and Danzi.</li> <li>• Ping plans their escape and they flee into the night. It is only when they stop running that they realise the stone is gone.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Eleven</b> <i>Offerings</i> (pp. 151–165)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With villagers from Fengjing closing in, Danzi reluctantly agrees to keep moving.</li> <li>• The group passes some peasants who believe a dragon lives in a nearby lake. They are trying to wake it so that it will bring rain.</li> <li>• That night, the peasants capture Ping and throw her into the lake as a sacrifice. Danzi rescues her just in time.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Twelve</b> <i>A Dark Cloud</i> (pp. 166–176)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ping realises that Hua is missing. Danzi assures her that he will return.</li> <li>• Ping tells the peasants that if they plant their crops and end their sacrifices, Danzi will make it rain. He uses all his strength doing so and plummets into the lake.</li> <li>• Ping fears for the worst, but just as she is about to give up hope, she finds Danzi at the edge of the lake.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Thirteen</b> <i>A Stitch in Time</i> (pp. 177–182)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ping revives Danzi and Hua finds his way back to the group. Ping is relieved that they are both safe.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Chapter Fourteen</b> <i>Swift Passage</i> (pp. 183–196)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After a few days of rest, Danzi informs Ping that they are going to the Yellow River to take a boat.</li> <li>• Ping finds a boatwoman named Jiang Bing who is willing to give them passage to the east. Ping takes a liking to her.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Fifteen</b> <i>In the Shadow of Fire Mountain</i> (pp. 197–216)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group arrives at Wucheng, a town where sorcerers and necromancers gather. Danzi believes they will find the stone here.</li> <li>• Ping and Danzi search high and low but make no progress. Ping also notices a stranger watching from the shadows.</li> <li>• That night, she tries focusing her <i>qi</i> and realises that the stone is calling to her. She follows its call to the stranger from earlier.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Sixteen</b> <i>Lost and Found</i> (pp. 217–230)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ping steals the stone from the stranger, who is actually a necromancer. He pursues them when they try to leave Wucheng.</li> <li>• Back on the boat, Jiang Bing reveals that she is the necromancer’s accomplice.</li> <li>• Ping leaps overboard with the stone. She floats to safety, but Danzi and Hua are not with her.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Seventeen</b> <i>Strength and Weakness</i> (pp. 231–242)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ping lures the necromancer off the boat. She realises that she cannot overpower him, so she commandeers the boat instead.</li> <li>• Everyone is safe but Ping is shaken by Jiang Bing’s treachery. She resolves not to be so trusting of strangers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Eighteen</b> <i>Chance Meeting</i> (pp. 243–257)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danzi says that Ping has proven herself as a Dragonkeeper and offers her a mirror. If she accepts it, she will be bound to him and his heirs.</li> <li>• Before Ping can respond, the boat collides with an even bigger boat and everyone is forced to disembark.</li> <li>• They are captured by imperial guards. Ping tries to convince them that she is delivering Danzi to the new Emperor. A young boy emerges and claims that that is him.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Nineteen</b> <i>Another Imperial Banquet</i> (pp. 258–272)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Emperor accepts Ping’s explanation, reverses his father’s decree that she should be executed, and welcomes her to Ming Yang Lodge.</li> <li>• She is invited to an imperial banquet where the Emperor discusses his plans for eternal youth.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Twenty</b> <i>The Garden of Secluded Harmony</i> (pp. 273–295)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Emperor, Liu Che, appoints Ping as the Imperial Dragonkeeper. When he goes to meet with a group of scientists, Ping notices that Wang Cao is among them.</li> <li>• Ping contemplates staying at Ming Yang Lodge with the Emperor, but ultimately decides to leave with Danzi. She finds him with Wang Cao.</li> <li>• Ping feels unwell and blacks out. She awakes to find the herbalist, the dragon, and the stone all gone.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Chapter Twenty-One</b> <i>Halfway to Heaven</i> (pp. 296–315)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ping struggles to recover from Danzi and Wang Cao’s betrayal.</li> <li>• Liu Che invites her to accompany him to Tai Shan, the most sacred mountain in the empire.</li> <li>• After an arduous climb, they arrive at the peak. The Emperor completes his journey, but Ping senses that the dragon stone is nearby – and so is Diao.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Twenty-Two</b> <i>Blood on Tai Shan</i> (pp. 316–326)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ping locates Danzi, Wang Cao, and Diao. Wang Cao is fatally shot with a crossbow bolt.</li> <li>• Ping engages Diao in combat. Hua is wounded trying to help. Eventually Ping gains the upper hand and Diao falls to his death.</li> <li>• Wang Cao declares Ping the true Dragonkeeper before succumbing to his wounds.</li> <li>• Ping leaves Liu Che and escapes with Danzi, knowing that she is an enemy of the empire once more.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Twenty-Three</b> <i>Ocean</i> (pp. 327–337)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danzi apologises for abandoning Ping.</li> <li>• They finally reach Ocean. When Danzi tries to land, Ping loses her grip on the stone and it falls to the rocks below.</li> <li>• A baby dragon emerges from the cracked stone. It was an egg the whole time.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Twenty-Four</b> <i>Perhaps There is No End</i> (pp. 338–343)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Danzi now wants to reach the Isle of Blest. Both he and Hua require the water of life to survive, but Ping and the baby will have to stay behind.</li> <li>• Danzi declares Ping the last and best Dragonkeeper. He names the baby Long Kai Duan, then flies away for the last time.</li> <li>• Ping reflects on everything that has happened, and looks forward to a new journey with Kai.</li> </ul>