



Kaori and the Lizard King

- EXTRA!

Starter Level

This level is suitable for beginner-level students who have been learning English for less than a year. It precedes the Common European Framework level A1. Suitable for users of CLICK magazine.

SYNOPSIS

Kaori is a 13-year-old schoolgirl who lives on the island of Lucertola. The island is infested by lizards and has been suffering from a drought for several months. Kaori spends most of her time daydreaming about her classmate, Jeff. But Kaori is not a normal girl. She has special powers that her teacher helps to develop. She has to keep her powers secret from her friends at school.

One morning Jeff goes missing and Kaori realises that only she has the power to find him. She sets off down the long road that crosses the island. On the way she meets a talking lizard called Sim-Pat. The lizard tells Kaori that he knows where Jeff is.

Kaori discovers that the Lizard King has been stealing the island's children, including Sim-Pat, and turning them into lizards to work as his spies. He has also been stealing the island's water. Kaori follows Sim-Pat up Mount Oscuro. They rescue Jeff from the evil Lizard King who lives inside the mountain. When Kaori shares her secret and tells Jeff about her special powers, Jeff discovers that he has special powers, and Sim-Pat returns to being a boy. The three heroes fight and overcome the Lizard King. Life on Lucertola returns to normal. It starts to rain and the lizards change back into children.

CULTURAL BACKGROUND & THEMES

Kaori and the Lizard King is written in a manga style. Manga is the Japanese word for "comic book" and Japanese manga comics are now the most popular type of comic book in the world.

Kaori and the Lizard King uses many of the elements of a manga comic. Most of the story is told in black and white as is usual with manga comics. There is, however, one big difference that your students may notice. Manga comics come from Japan and, even when translated into English, usually read from back to front and from right to left. In this reader the story is told in the traditional western format to make comprehension easier for your students!

There are themes in the story of *Kaori and the Lizard King* that you can develop in class. There is the environmental theme of global warming. A severe drought on Lucertola is due to the evil Lizard King stealing the island's water supply. The story also promotes the idea that we can achieve more by working together as a team.

CASUAL LANGUAGE

There are three short informal expressions in the story.

- **'Let's go!'** is commonly used when someone is telling another person to go with them.
- **'Come on!'** can be used in the same context as "Let's go!" but can also be used to encourage someone to accomplish something.
- **'Wow!'** means "that's amazing" and is often used as an instant positive reaction to something.

HOW TO USE YOUR SCHOLASTIC MEDIA READER

Choosing and motivating

Is this the right story for your class? Does anyone in the class like manga or comics in general? Motivate them with background information and by reading aloud the People and Places pages with dramatic atmosphere.

Organising

Plan a class reading schedule. Decide how many pages to set for reading each week. Select exercises from the back of the reader and photocopy extra activities from this resource sheet. (All answers are on page 4 of this resource sheet.)

Using the CD

Students can listen and follow in their books. They can listen and then read. They can read and then listen. All these activities will improve their reading speeds and skills. You will also find a CD listening activity on these activity resource pages.

Glossary

Go to New Words at the back of the reader. Translate the words with the class or get students to find meanings at home. Tell students to look out for them as they read.

Casual language

Introduce the informal expressions in *Kaori and the Lizard King*. Put them into context (see above). Tell students to look out for them as they read.

Book exercises

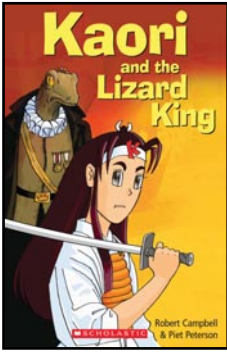
Show students the self-study exercises on pages 30-32. These are divided into sections, corresponding with the different parts of the story. Check exercise answers with the whole class. Answers to all exercises are on page 4 of the resource sheet.

Fact Files

Set these as self-study or use for whole class work. The files explore manga and fantasy worlds. Use the files as a springboard for class projects. Project ideas are on page 4 of this resource sheet.

What do they think?

Get everyone to do a short written or verbal review of *Kaori and the Lizard King*. Compare opinions. Take account of these opinions when you choose the next class reader. Did you like it? Let us know at readers@link2English.com.



Kaori and the Lizard King

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Pages 6-10: At School

1 Who says what? Write the correct name next to each sentence. Is it Kaori, Jeff or the Teacher?

- a) The name of the mountain is Mount Oscuro. *Jeff*
- b) It's time. Are you ready?
- c) Something is wrong.
- d) I don't want to be different.
- e) See me after the class.

2 Complete the sentences with words from the box.

after where when before about

- a) Kaori's thinking *about* Jeff.
- b) Kaori, see me the class.
- c) Wait for the right time you use your powers.
- d) is the right time?
- e) are you going?

Pages 11-16: On the Road

1 How does Kaori feel? Tick (✓) the adjectives that describe how Kaori feels.

- a) hungry
- b) happy
- c) tired
- d) hot
- e) cold
- f) sad
- g) angry

2 True or False? Correct the false sentences.

- a) The road isn't very long.
False. The road is very long.
- b) Kaori hears a lizard coming.
.....
- c) Sim-Pat can help Kaori.
.....
- d) The Lizard King gives the boy a drink.
.....
- e) The boy in the story is Sim-Pat.
.....

Pages 17-25: In the Mountain

1 Choose an adjective to describe each character.

brave clever friendly bad good

- Kaori *brave*
- Jeff
- Sim-Pat
- The teacher
- The Lizard King



2 Answer these questions

- a) What does the teacher say to Kaori in the mountain?
She says the time is right.
- b) Why do Jeff and Sim-Pat change into super-heroes?
.....
- c) What do the big lizards call the Lizard King?
.....
- d) Jeff knows what the Lizard King is doing. Who are the lizards on the island?
.....
- e) What happens when Kaori, Jeff and Sim-Pat come out of the mountain?
.....

RESOURCE SHEET STUDENT ACTIVITIES

FINAL TASKS

1 Create a new adventure. Look at the end of the story. What happens next? Work in pairs.

- a) Write a new adventure for Kaori, Jeff and Sim-Pat. Where do they go? Why? What do they do?
OR
- b) Draw the first page from a comic. What do the characters say?

2 Act it out! Read the story aloud with other students in the class.

3 Listen to part of the story on the CD and write what Kaori, Sim-Pat, Jeff and the teacher say.

VOCABULARY BUILDER

1 Look at the list of New Words at the back of *Kaori and the Lizard King*. Choose the right word for these sentences.

1. Sicily, Crete, and Ibiza are all *islands*
2. A is a type of animal we call a reptile.
3. Look left and right before you cross the
4. Everest is a
5. The Nile, the Danube, and the Thames are all

2 Finish these sentences with words from the list.

1. Is that my pen? "No, it's *mine*"
2. My dad drives a
3. A pen is you to write.
4. Let's that mountain.

3 Where can you see these things in the story? Use a dictionary to help you.

1. LUC88036B
..... *On the lorry*
2. TOKIKO
.....
3. BLOCK B
.....
4. SALAMANDER
.....
5. DANGER
.....

4 Complete the dialogue with the expressions below.

Come on Huh Wow

1. *Wow* ! That's fantastic!
2. ? I don't understand.
3. ! It's time to go.



MANGA FACTS (pages 26-7)

Reading survey

Organise a reading survey. Either give each student a copy of the questions and get them to interview another student. Or divide the class into pairs/small groups and give each pair a question. They then ask their question to all the other students. When they have finished, the students report back on what they discovered.

Do you like reading?

- a) yes b) no c) it depends

How often do you read?

- a) every day b) once or twice a week
c) once or twice a month d) never

What do you read?

- a) books b) magazines c) comics d) nothing

Are you reading a book, magazine or comic now?

- a) yes b) no

If your answer is "yes", what are you reading?

.....

Where do you usually read?

- a) in bed b) on my way to school c) at school

Who is your favourite writer?

.....

Comic book projects

There are various project activities you can do with comics.

Favourite comics: If your students like comics, ask them to bring comics to class. Elicit information about the different comics in class.

Hero fact files: Elicit the names of famous comic book heroes and write them on the board. Write a sample fact file for one of the heroes. For example:

Hero: Superman	Girlfriend: Lois Lane
Real name: Clark Kent	Special powers: He can fly.
Home: Metropolis	Enemies: Lex Luthor
Job: Reporter	

Now get students to create a fact file for one of the other heroes.

Create a superhero: Students work in pairs and create their own superhero. They create a fact file for their hero similar to the one in the previous activity. They can draw a picture of their hero and write a description. Use the "Make a Manga" activity on page 27 to help get them started.

Make a manga comic: Students can use their superhero character from the previous activity and create a manga comic book adventure which they can display in the classroom. Encourage them to think of a story and then decide how they can represent it visually. Get them to look at the Kaori reader to see what elements are used in a comic. Make sure they use their English to write dialogues for the speech bubbles. They can also use text to set the scenes.

Students can create an "authentic" manga comic. Tell them to read the Manga Fact File pages for information. They must remember to tell the story backwards. The back of a traditional book is the front of a Japanese manga book which is read from back to front and from right to left!

FANTASY WORLDS (pages 28-9)

Fantasy films

Ask students to tell you the titles of the four stories mentioned in the Fantasy Fact File and write the titles on the board:

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
Peter Pan

The Lord of the Rings

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

What other fantasy films do they know and love (e.g. Harry Potter). Compile a list on the board. Now write a selection of positive and negative adjectives on the board and ask students to choose the ones they think best describe each film. Adjectives can include: good, bad, fantastic, terrible, boring, exciting... Which film has the most positive adjectives? Which film has the most negative adjectives?

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 30-2)

- a) eyes b) hair c) mouth d) nose e) feet
- a) Very good b) Thank you c) Do you remember?
d) Listen to me e) Are you ready?
- a) iii b) iv c) ii d) v e) i
- a) True b) False c) False d) True e) True.
1. f 2. c 3. h 4. a 5. d 6. g 7. b 8. e
- a) tired b) hungry c) sad d) hot.
- a) iv b) i c) ii d) iii
- a) down b) onto c) in d) in e) into
- a) A lorry.
b) Yes, he can.
c) To the mountain.
d) A drink.
e) He changes into a lizard.
f) Sim Pat.
- c) lizard
- a) v b) iii c) iv d) ii e) i
- a) iii b) ii c) iv d) i

Resource Sheet Activities

Pages 6-10: At School

- a) Jeff b) Teacher c) Kaori d) Kaori e) Teacher
- a) about b) after c) before d) when e) where

Pages 11-16: On the Road

- a) hungry c) tired d) hot f) sad
- a) False: The road is very long.
b) False: Kaori hears a lorry coming.
c) True.
d) False: The big lizards give the boy a drink.
e) True.

Pages 17-25: In the Mountain

- Answers may vary:
a) Kaori brave b) Jeff good c) Sim-Pat friendly
d) The teacher clever e) The Lizard King bad
- a) She says the time is right.
b) When Kaori shares a secret, she shares her powers.
c) Your majesty.
d) They are children. The Lizard King takes them.
e) It starts raining. The lizards change into children.

Vocabulary Builder

1. islands 2. lizard 3. road 4. mountain 5. rivers
1. mine 2. lorry 3. something, use 4. climb
1. On the lorry
2. On the Lizard King's computer
3. On the school building
4. On the Lizard King's computer
5. On the mountain
1. Wow! 2. Huh? 3. Come on!