

LEVEL B1

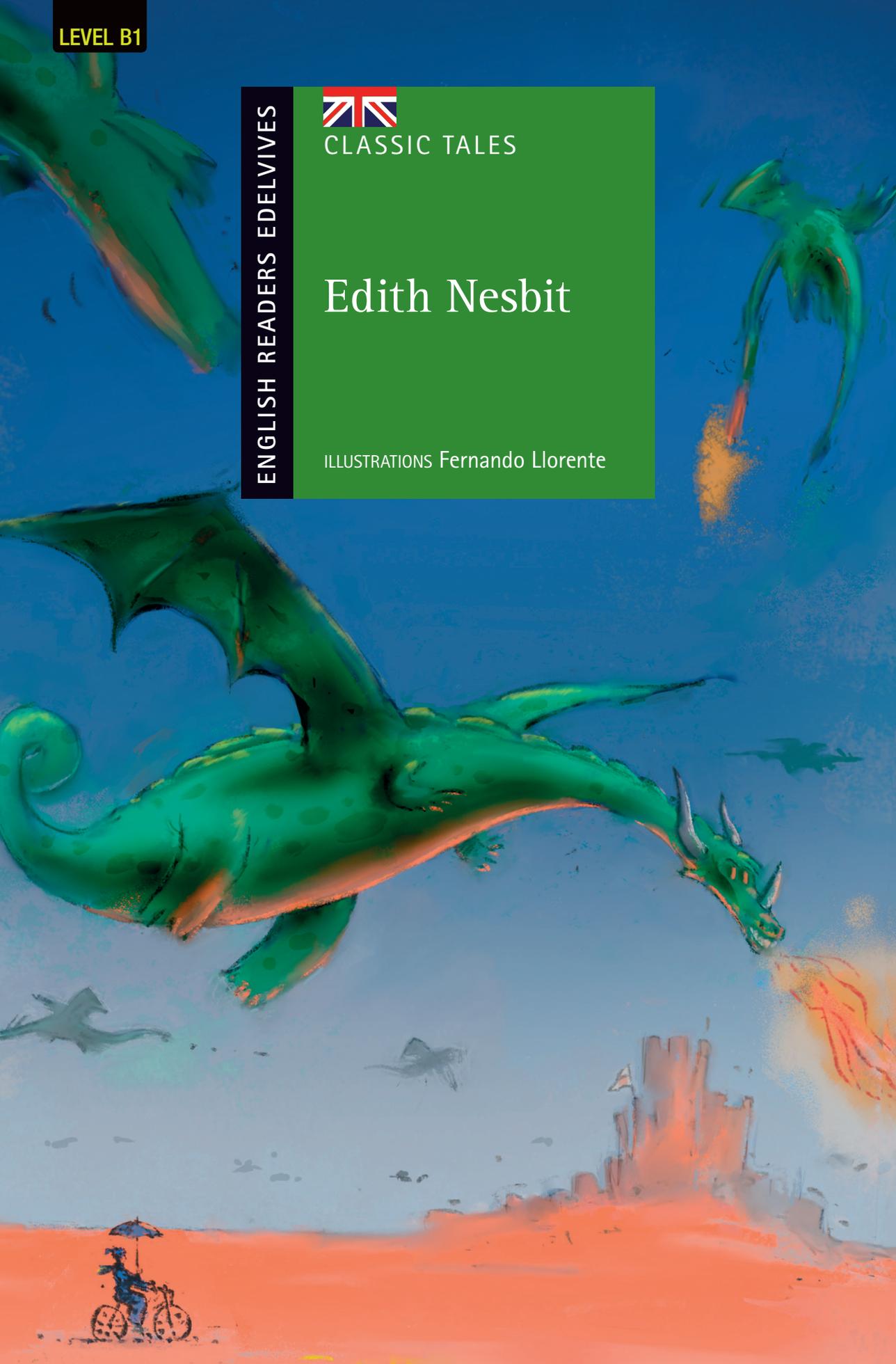
ENGLISH READERS EDELVIVES



CLASSIC TALES

Edith Nesbit

ILLUSTRATIONS Fernando Llorente



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Edith Nesbit

Illustrations  
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# before reading

1 Edith Nesbit is sometimes called “Harry Potter’s granny”. Can you guess why? **Decide** if you think these sentences are True (T) or False (F).

Edith Nesbit was probably a horrible lady.

Edith Nesbit was probably a witch.

Edith Nesbit probably had a great imagination.

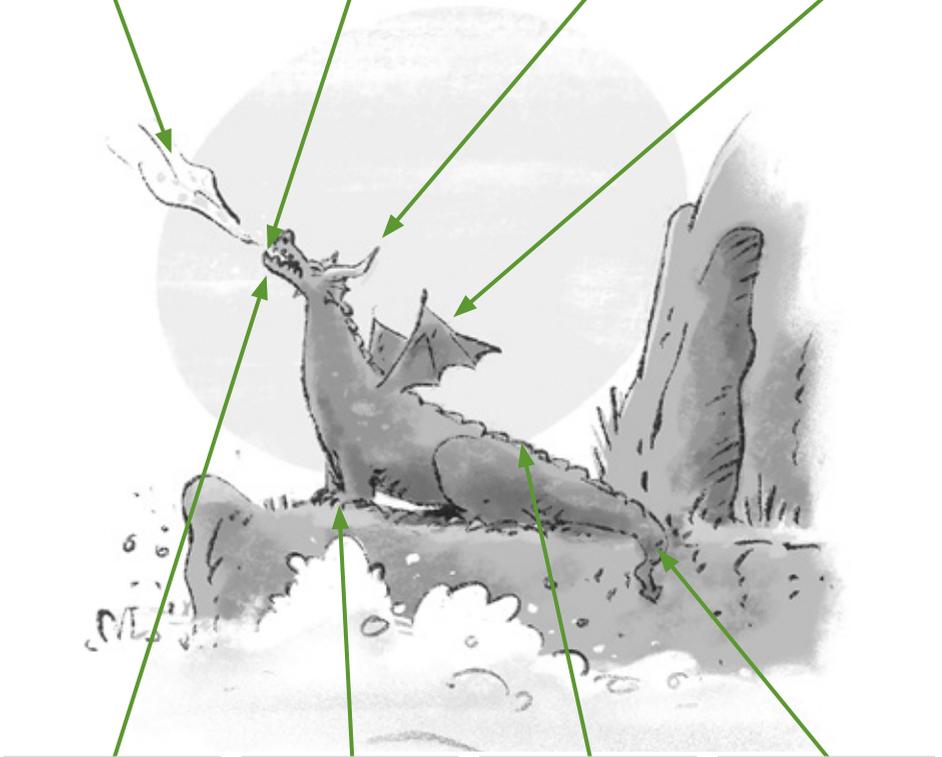
Edith Nesbit probably had a grandson called Harry.

Edith Nesbit was probably fascinated by magic.

2 Edith Nesbit is also called the “Dragon Lady”. **Label** this picture of a dragon.

tail wings horns teeth scales jaws  
claws smoke and flames

\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

3 What do you know about dragons? **Answer** these questions.

What colour are dragons? \_\_\_\_\_.

Where do dragons live? \_\_\_\_\_.

What do dragons eat? \_\_\_\_\_.

How big are dragons? \_\_\_\_\_.

What can dragons do? \_\_\_\_\_.

What can't dragons do? \_\_\_\_\_.

4 Dragons are very important in Chinese culture. **Choose** the correct words to complete these sentences.

The dragon is the 5th / 12th sign of the Chinese zodiac.

The first / last Year of the Dragon was in 2012, and the next will be in 2024.

The dragon is the most feared / respected animal in Chinese culture.

The lucky / unlucky colours for dragons are gold, silver and grey.

Dragons are symbols of anger, problems and bad luck / power, strength and good luck.

In mythology, dragons control water and rain / day and night.

5 How many countries have dragons on their flags? **Find out** about one and **draw** the flag here.



- 6 There are lots of dragons in the stories in this book. **Complete** the information about these dragons.

3	20	70	80
Indonesia	Lybia	dragon	
lizards	carnivores		
girls	princes		

Komodo dragons are \_\_\_\_\_ that live in \_\_\_\_\_.  
They can grow up to \_\_\_\_\_ metres long and weigh \_\_\_\_\_  
kilos, and can run at \_\_\_\_\_ kilometres an hour. They are  
\_\_\_\_\_.

St. George was travelling through \_\_\_\_\_ in the Middle Ages,  
and heard about a \_\_\_\_\_ that ate young \_\_\_\_\_.  
Its head was enormous and its tail was \_\_\_\_\_ metres long.  
St. George killed the terrible animal and saved the \_\_\_\_\_.

- 7 Edith Nesbit wrote many books for children. **Match** the beginnings and ends of these titles.

Long Ago When I Was

Luck

The Story of the

Children

The Book of

Young

Five Children and

It

The Story of the

Treasure Seekers

The Railway

Amulet

The House of Arden and  
Harding's

Dragons

## The Last of the Dragons

- 1 **Decide** if these ideas are about a **dragon** or a **princess** or **both**.

	Dragon	Princess
Lived in Cornwall		
Was frightening		
Was unladylike		
Was beautiful		
Rescued by a prince		
Killed by a prince		

- 2 **Put** the princess's plan in order.

- Tell everyone prince killed dragon.
- Send parrot to prince with note.
- Fight dragon with the prince.
- Work hard at fencing.
- Cry with happiness.
- Untie from rock.

- 3 **Decide** if these words sound positive 😊 or negative ☹️.

friend

tasteless

kindness

frightened

pointed claws

fear

shake with fear

stronger

tamed

horrid

present

please

# during reading

## 4 Who did what?

The king	spoke in a voice as sweet as honey.
The princess	wiggled like a puppy.
The prince and the princess	said they were getting married.
The dragon	pulled out swords.
The dragon	was very old-fashioned.
The prince	started to cry.

## 5 Decide if these things are True (T) or False (F).

- Dragons like to drink petrol.
- The princess and prince ate toast at their wedding.
- The princess and the prince had a dog called Fido.
- The dragon took 150 children to the beach.
- The dragon didn't like children.
- The king modernised the dragon and made it into a plane.



## The Deliverers of their Country

1 **Identify** the differences between Effie's dragon and Harry's dragon.

Effie found the dragon in her e \_ \_ .

Harry found his dragon in his t \_ \_ .

Effie thought the dragon was a red-hot s \_ \_ \_ \_ .

Harry thought the dragon was an a \_ \_ .

Effie's dragon w \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ .

Harry's dragon h \_ \_ \_ \_ .

Effie's dragon was the size of a f \_ \_ .

Harry's dragon was the size of a small l \_ \_ \_ \_ .

2 The dragons were all different sizes. **Unjumble** the words to see what Edith Nesbit compares them with.

lyf \_\_\_\_\_

nat \_\_\_\_\_

draizl \_\_\_\_\_

brickblad \_\_\_\_\_

tac \_\_\_\_\_

bbrait \_\_\_\_\_

god \_\_\_\_\_

heeps \_\_\_\_\_

gidinn romo \_\_\_\_\_

# during reading

**3** **Put** the words in order to describe what happened next.

early / frightened / went to bed / of the cold night air. / Dragons  
always / because they were

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enormous towers / with special glue. / built / The police / covered  
them / and

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one afternoon / elephants, / Some dragons ate / some ate / three  
dragons ate / Prime Ministers and / a hospital.

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Effie and Harry / lighted by / thought it was fun / playing in the gar-  
den / electric lights. / to stay up all night,

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their mother. / in the beautiful daylight, / but they did not like / They  
wanted / to disobey / to go out

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**4** **Match** the beginnings and endings of the sentences.

Harry knew exactly what they had  
to do

who knew about  
dragons.

St. George was the only person

too many dragons.

Effie knew they could find St.  
George

but he didn't know how  
to do it.

The dragon-killer said there were

in St. George's Church.

St. George told them to look for

the taps.

**5** **Answer** the questions.

What did the dragon the size of a dining room want to do with Effie and Harry?

It wanted to \_\_\_\_\_.

Where did the dragon fly to?

It flew to \_\_\_\_\_.

How did Effie escape?

Effie used \_\_\_\_\_.

Where did the children go?

The children went \_\_\_\_\_.

Why was the dragon angry?

It was angry because \_\_\_\_\_.

**6** **Match** the labels on the taps with the descriptions.

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| “Sunshine”                 | Turn this tap to eliminate all rubbish.        |
| “Fair to moderate”         | Turn this tap if you want it to rain a little. |
| “Showers”                  | Turn this tap if you want warm, sunny weather. |
| “South breeze”             | Turn this tap if you want the sun to shine.    |
| “Nice weather for picnics” | Turn this tap if you want it to rain.          |
| “Skating”                  | Turn this tap if you want quite nice weather.  |
| “Good weather for ducks”   | Turn this tap if you want a little warm wind.  |
| “Waste”                    | Turn this tap if you want ice and snow.        |

## The Dragon Tamers

- 1 **Find** 9 words about the castle where John the blacksmith lives.

OLD  
STAIRS  
TOWERS  
ARCHES  
RUINS  
FORGE  
DUNGEON  
HIGH WALLS  
IRON RINGS



- 2 **Add** the right word to describe how John and his wife were feeling.

When John's wife lived with her father and John bought her flowers, they were \_\_\_\_\_.

When the baby cried, John's wife couldn't sleep either, so she was \_\_\_\_\_.

John the blacksmith never dared to go down the stone steps in the dungeon because he was \_\_\_\_\_.

John and his wife were so poor they didn't have a proper house and they didn't have enough food to eat, so they were \_\_\_\_\_.

When John and his wife heard the noise coming from the dungeon, they were both \_\_\_\_\_.

**3** **Choose** the right words to talk about the dragon.

The dragon was angry / surprised when it knew that John was a blacksmith.

The dragon was covered in orange fur / iron scales.

The dragon wanted John to fix its broken wing so it could eat up the town / fly away.

The dragon did not want to be tied up because it was undignified / frightened.

The dragon wanted John's hammer / baby so that John would keep his promise and untie him.

The dragon believed / didn't believe that babies are poisonous if dragons put them in their mouths.

**4** **Decide** who said what to who.

John said to the Mayor	“Do you know anything about babies?”
John's wife said to John	“I've captured the dragon and saved the town.”
The dragon said to John	“Noble deliverer!”
The dragon sang to the baby	“Please come and save my baby.”
The dragon asked John's wife	“Oh, you terrible father!”
John said to the Mayor	“I can't continue to make this noise all night.”
The Mayor said to John	“Hush-a-by-Dragon.”

# during reading

**5** **Put** the next parts of the story in the right order.

- The Mayor offered £1,000 to anyone who could save the town.
- The Mayor offered £1,000 to anyone who could tie up the dragon.
- Johnnie and Tina untied the dragon so it could fight the giant.
- A giant as big as a church was coming to eat up the town.
- Tourists paid John and his wife to look at the dragon.
- The town's people promised to make Johnnie Mayor if he could tie up the dragon.
- The Mayor said the £1,000 was for the dragon, not for Johnnie and Tina.
- The Mayor proclaimed John the town hero.

**6** **Underline** the mistakes.

All the \_\_\_\_\_ in the town took their breakfast to Johnnie.

Johnnie and Tina told the dragon there was a giant as big as a \_\_\_\_\_ who wanted to eat him.

They explained that the giant wanted to eat a wild dragon with \_\_\_\_\_ sauce.

The dragon asked Johnnie and Tina to tie him up so the \_\_\_\_\_ wouldn't eat him.

Johnnie became Mayor and gave all the children a fantastic dinner of only \_\_\_\_\_.

The tame dragon's wings and scales fell off and it became a very, very \_\_\_\_\_ cat.

**1 Match** these words from the story with their definitions.

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| If you wiggle         | you are brave enough to do a frightening thing.         |
| If you tame something | you make a noise like an angry dog or an enormous bear. |
| If you dare           | you make a noise like metal banging together            |
| If you growl          | you move from side to side with short, quick movements. |
| If you rattle         | you domesticate it and make friendly.                   |

**2** Think about the three stories and **choose** the answers.

	The Princess	Effie and Harry	John the blacksmith
Who lived in a castle?			
Who was brave?			
Who wanted to destroy dragons?			
Who talked to dragons?			
Whose dragon/s transformed into something different?			
Whose dragon/s hated rain?			

# after reading

- 3 **Write** a short sentence under each picture, describing what is happening.



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**4 Match** the things Edith Nesbit compares her dragons to.

Some dragons had wings like	a cat.
One dragon became a pet like	a factory.
One dragon made a noise like	a bat.
Some dragons had wings like	a dog.
One dragon became a pet like	an old train.
One dragon made a noise like	a half umbrella.

**5 Identify** the odd one out and explain why.

princesses biscuits petrol

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prime ministers rain bricks

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tomato sauce apple sauce bread sauce

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bread ice-cream cake

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lolly-pops milk chocolate

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