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Guster gripped the familiar stone. He could imagine the cool lake water washing his itches away. He crouched and wriggled. Just as he was about to leap, he spotted something that looked wrong – very wrong.
Questions

1. What type of creature is Guster?
   - a bird
   - a unicorn
   - a dragon

2. What did Redbreath wear over her ear?
   - a ribbon
   - a tiara
   - a hat

3. Match these nouns with the adjective that describes them.

   | leathery | stone |
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4. Label these events with the numbers 1-4 in the order that they happened.
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5. Find and copy one word that shows that Guster does not move gracefully.

6. Find and copy one word which means **claw**.

7. Read the paragraph beginning: ‘It was a crisp...’. What impression do you get of the place where Guster and Redbreath live? Which words give you this impression?
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“What are they wearing, Ma?” asked a curious Guster, peering at the human army with his pinpoint vision. The human’s heads and chests were coated in something yellow, but like no yellow Guster had ever seen. It was a sickly green-tinged hue so bright that it almost glowed. Guster knew that it couldn’t be natural. He was sure that it must be magic. “It looks like…”

“Armour,” said Redbreath grimly.

“Wizard armour,” Guster breathed, a puff of smoke curling from his tongue. Guster’s favourite stories were tales of humans and dragons battling each other – especially when the dragons won. Now, he felt like he was part of a story. He couldn’t wait to fly down to the lake and chomp the humans’ heads off. He flapped his yellowing wings.

“Guster!” Redbreath cried. Redbreath was prone to dramatics, but now there was a note of real panic in her voice. “Get down before they see you.”

“But I want to see what they’re up to, Ma.”

“I thought that humans had forgotten dragonkind,” Redbreath moaned. “I thought that we were safe. Into the cave, my diamond, quickly.” With that, she shrank behind the boulders.

Guster stared hard at the human army. There were so many of them and they seemed to multiply every time he looked. Where were they all scurrying from?

“Guster,” Redbreath scolded, in tones sharp enough to scare the dead. “Inside, now!”
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4. Read the last line of the extract. What does the word ‘scolded’ tell you about Redbreath?

5. Which of these words best describes Guster?
   - miserabe
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# Answers

**Of Crowns and Caverns**

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Guster stared hard at the human army. There were so many of them and they seemed to multiply every time he looked. Where were they all scurrying from?
“Guster,” Redbreath scolded, in tones sharp enough to scare the dead. “Inside, now!”

Reluctantly, Guster scuttled into the gloomy cave.

Redbreath sat very upright, with her eyes closed. “I foresee... I foresee... a human! In our cave!” Redbreath had the gift, rare even among dragons, of foresight.

Guster wasn’t scared of humans coming to the cave. He would chomp their heads off. “Is it a big one, Ma? With armour and a huge sword?”

Redbreath wailed, “I cannot tell! It has the shape of a human and the smell of a human, but all is blurred and dark. Oh, Wulf, Hund and Otor,” she muttered, “Catte and Naedre. Guide me, wise ones, guide me.” Guster knew that his ma was praying to the animal spirits. “Give me clear sight like my ancestors. Show me the human’s face.”

“We have to go down to the lake, Ma,” said Guster, impatient. “We have to find out why they’re here.”

“We already know why they’re here,” said Redbreath darkly. “It is the same reason humans always come. Humans and dragons have been at war for hundreds of years.” She shook her back legs and forelegs, as though shaking off a curse. Steadily, she sat down and wrapped her jagged tail all the way around herself. This was the way that Redbreath always sat when she was about to tell a tale of the old times.
Questions

1. Match these nouns with the adjective that describes them.

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   stone •
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   wings •
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9. Explain what the word ‘foresight’ means, using the prefix ‘fore’. List any other words that you know which contain ‘fore’.

10. Summarise the main ideas that this chapter has taught the reader in order to set the story up well.
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9. Explain what the word ‘foresight’ means, using the prefix ‘fore’. List any other words that you know which contain ‘fore’.

‘Foresight’ means seeing things before they happen. ‘Fore’ means earlier, or previously. Other words with ‘fore’ include: before, forewarned, forehead, fore, forecast, foreboding, forefront, forefather, foreleg, foreshadow, foreword, foretell...

10. Summarise the main ideas that this chapter has taught the reader in order to set the story up well.

**Main ideas in this chapter:**

- Guster and Redbreath are dragons who live at the top of a mountain.
- Dragons’ scales change colour for each season.
- Dragons and humans have been at war for a long time.
- There are humans by the lake acting suspiciously.