

“The Legend of the Ice Dragon” written by Pavitra Sanker, Age 9

Once there was a very special dragon, she was the world’s first ice dragon. Her name was just as beautiful as her - Mishika - meaning the Love of God. When she was old enough, her parents sent her to Dragons Academy. On her first day of school, at lunchtime, even the cook seemed to spy on her. That day she met a flying teacher who always gave her the creeps. The second day of school was better because she made friends with a water dragon, Aisha. It turned out that Aisha was friends with a fire dragon, Flames, a wind dragon, Tornado and an earth dragon, Rocky.

Aisha and her friends decided to let Mishika in on their big secret. But, for that, Mishika had to successfully complete a test. Actually there were five tests in a row! Aisha, Flames, Tornado and Rocky, each got a chance to test Mishika. Rocky went first, he was really strong, so he locked Mishika in a box made out of bricks, and then he put another layer of bricks, and then another. There were five layers of bricks on top of Mishika. She had to break free and she didn’t even know how! So she tried to freeze the bricks and since the bricks were very tight together, they collapsed when they were frozen. Rocky was surprised and impressed! Next was Tornado’s turn. He made a twister and commanded it to pick Mishika up and bring her to the mangroves two miles away. Mishika was wise enough to swish her tail and boom! She was transported back from the mangroves to where Tornado was. This made Tornado angry and he created 3 tornadoes around Mishika and she almost fell down. Now, Flames was up next. He formed a wall of fire around Mishika. But, Mishika flapped her wings and all of a sudden, she grew as small as an acorn. This helped her easily slip out of the fire wall and escape.

It was time for lunch and Aisha led the way to a very long grove of trees. The trees were growing awesomely big fruits. When Mishika tried a few of them, it made her hop up and down. Suddenly, her wings got caught in some of the branches. Aisha and her friends flew to help her but their wings also got caught in the branches. Flames had his attackers' attention. To his surprise, a small human appeared, a boy, which made Flames roar out loud. All other dragons joined in. Tornado made a huge tornado, Rocky made bricks fall on the boy, Aisha created a Tsunami and Mishika froze the boy! Lo and behold! There appeared a huge creature with long hairy tentacles. It was Kraken, and it grabbed Aisha. “Aisha needs help...”, Mishika screamed. Flames threw fire everywhere to free his friends. Rocky threw boulders at Kraken while Mishika was trying to attack with her ice. Out of the corner of her eyes, Mishika saw the little boy getting away. “STOP”, Mishika yelled. The boy has been frozen again by Mishika. She saw Kraken lunge for catching her. Mishika shot an ice jet straight at Kraken’s eyes and poof! Kraken vanished into thin air.

Soon, when Aisha recovered, she told everyone, “C’mon, let’s tell Mishika the secret”. Flames, Rocky, Tornado and Aisha said in unison, “We’re the Dragon Warriors a.k.a DW”. Mishika was surprised and excited, she asked, “Can I join the group?” Rocky replied, “We will think about it.” Mishika thought they were reluctant to say yes and the reply sounded more like a grumble. As they flew back to the Dragons Academy, Aisha comforted Mishika and said, “Don’t worry. They will agree. Rocky is always hard on new people”. Finally, someone was nice and caring towards her, Mishika thought. When they were back in their classroom, Aisha had placed a note on

Mishika's chair without her knowledge. It read "You are in the group!" with a smiley face. Mishika couldn't believe her eyes!

The next day was slated for flying lessons, which required complete attention without any distractions. The dragons were learning to take off and land smoothly. As Mishika tried to land, she fell on her stomach. A dragon named Glisten had started making fun of her since her first day. As Mishika got up and walked hugging her stomach, Glisten and her friends laughed out loud teasing Mishika. Luckily, Aisha was there to save the day! Aisha shooed them away with her mesmerizing power. Flames and Tornado joined them and asked if they could practice flying lessons together. "Of course!", Mishika and Aisha chorused. But, where is Rocky? Flames said, "Rocky is practicing alone and he should be fine". Once Mishika was with her friends, it made flying effortless and so much easier. She successfully landed smoothly in her flying practice lessons. The day ended on a happy note and all the dragons returned to their dormitory tired and ready to sleep.

The next day, the morning sun awakened the dragons with its bright and warm rays. There were cooking lessons today. Mishika knew what they were going to do - make yummy treats! She decided to make ice cream, because she had ice powers. She really wanted to make the ice cream perfect because she knew this treat would be cold and Kraken, the deadly creature, would really hate anything close to cold. Mishika's hard work paid off and she got first place in the cooking competition. As a reward, she got to do whatever she wanted for a week! "A week!", Mishika asked her friends, "Can you believe it?" The next morning breakfast was the ice cream that Mishika had made! It gave Mishika great energy and encouragement and she excelled in her flying lessons. It was one of her best days ever!

As time went on, Mishika grew really close to the Dragon Warriors group. One day, Mishika and her Dragon Warrior friends were lounging in a clearing in the Ancient Forest of Mohai, when suddenly, the deadly creature, Kraken and the little boy, who had vanished that day, reappeared again. But, the Dragon Warriors were ready! As the fight began, Mishika took the lead and flew higher and higher and called the Warriors at the gates of the Academy to come help. They came quickly and caught the little boy, who screamed his lungs out. Just then, while everyone was watching, the boy released his true form. Aisha gasped in shock and felt betrayed. The boy had transformed into Rocky! Aisha collapsed to the ground. Mishika healed Aisha, and said to Flames, "I have healed her and she will wake up soon. But, she will still remember this betrayal." As the battle continued, the monstrous Kraken had no choice but to give up. There lay the Kraken, dead and cold, as a rock. Mishika knew this would cause too much grief to Rocky and that would make him very aggressive.

Suddenly, Aisha vanished in thin air. Mishika knew where Aisha had vanished. She knew Aisha was totally shattered from Rocky's betrayal. Mishika needed to comfort Aisha, so she zoomed to the girl's dormitory. Mishika knew Aisha would be there. "May I come in?", Mishika asked, knocking on the door. No answer, but continued sobbing. Mishika went in and sat down beside Aisha and hugged her. When Aisha had calmed down, Mishika called Tornado and Flames in.

They came in with the news that the entire Dragon Academy was informed about Rocky's deeds and he was banished from the school. That gave a tiny smile to Aisha's face.

The Dragon Warriors, with the exception of Rocky, were all happy now. They all started dancing happily and merrily in the dorm, as if in a party, to cheer Aisha up. All of a sudden, a barouche burst into Aisha's dorm room. All the dragons were shocked and they screamed, thinking it was Rocky once again. But, no, it was a barouche sent by the Principal of the Academy to transport the Dragon Warriors safely. The ice, fire, water and wind dragons were celebrated at the Dragons Academy ball for their integrity and bravery. They had a sumptuous dinner because everyone was tired. These words echoed across the dinner table - "that was one adventure". The Dragon Warriors smiled and said, "we are up and ready for the next one!"