IN CHINESE CULTURE, there are good dragons and evil dragons. Kind dragons and mean dragons. Old dragons and baby dragons. Wise golden ones and scary red ones. Ones that fly high up in the sky and ones that live deep under the sea.

So, next time you meet a dragon, politely ask it which one it is.

SPEAK IT

To say lóng, start saying the word “lone,” like Lone Ranger, or alone, or lonely. Then add “g.” Ready?

“lone + g” = 龍

MATCHING PAIRS

A dragon grabbed the words below and scattered them on the right. The dragon put two of each word. Find the matching pairs and circle them.

龍 (lóng)  Dragon
王 (wáng)  King
猴 (hóu)  Monkey
鳳 (fèng)  Phoenix
詩 (shī)  Poem
草 (cǎo)  Straw
忠 (zhōng)  Loyalty
Writing 龍 is complicated, but also fun. Just take it one step at a time:

UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

Can you unscramble these 7 words?

Tyolaly ___________
Warts ___________
Mope _________
Pixhone ___________
Konemy ___________
Gink _________
Nograd ___________

Word bank: Loyalty, Straw, Poem, Phoenix, Monkey, King, Dragon
One of the most famous Chinese dragons comes from the story *Journey to the West*. You see, the story’s hero, Monkey King, wants to find a magical weapon. Where does he decide to go looking for it? At the bottom of the sea, of course. So Monkey, who is pretty magical himself, dives deep into the water until he gets to a big palace. This is the home of the Dragon King.

The Dragon King is actually pretty nice to Monkey. When Monkey tells him he is looking for a weapon, the Dragon King offers him all kinds of swords, spears, battle-axes... but Monkey doesn’t like any of them.

Then, something catches Monkey’s eye. It is a giant pillar. This is no ordinary column—this pillar holds up the sea and keeps it steady. Monkey wants that to be his weapon. What a strange idea—how could a pillar be used as a weapon? This pillar was 20 feet tall. It’s way too big and way too heavy.

But this was a magical pillar. It also wanted to be Monkey King’s weapon. So it shrunk itself into the size of a large stick. Monkey spun it around a few times. As he was very strong, the crazy heavy weight of this stick didn’t bother him at all.

The stick then shrunk again, this time to the size of a needle. Monkey stuck the needle behind his ear and carried it there. From then on, whenever he needed a weapon, Monkey would just pull the needle out and it would turn right back into his heavy stick.

There was nothing the Dragon King could do. Monkey King was too powerful, and too much of a crazy monkey. The Dragon King was just happy to see Monkey leave his underwater palace.

*This drawing and the story are from Monkey King Coloring Book, which you can find at: www.ShenYunShop.com*