

# The Final Challenge

**10** So far today, Maeve had chased away three dragons and  
**20** one troll who had wandered too far from the mountain.  
**30** She dragged the sword behind her and sighed. It wasn't  
**40** that she disliked her job – being protector of the realm  
**50** was an incredible honour – it was just a little boring  
**52** at times.

**65** She looked down at her list of things to do. A farmer had  
**74** complained that something was scaring the sheep. 'It was  
**81** probably another dragon,' thought Maeve. 'Simple enough  
**84** to chase away.'

**92** Arriving at the field, Maeve immediately felt that  
**99** something was wrong. Suddenly, an enormous shadow  
**108** appeared and a deep, slow voice said: "Welcome, Maeve,  
**112** to the final challenge."



# Quick Questions



1. What is Maeve's job?

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2. Compare how Maeve is feeling in the first paragraph to how she is feeling in the last paragraph.

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3. Summarise the events in the story using 20 words or fewer.

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4. What do you think will happen next?

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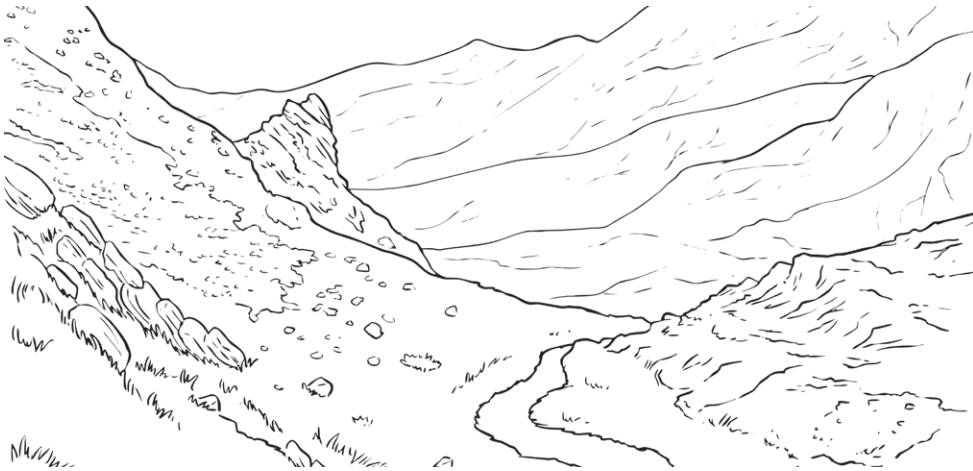
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# Answers



1. What is Maeve's job?

**Maeve's job is to be the protector of the realm.**



2. Compare how Maeve is feeling in the first paragraph to how she is feeling in the last paragraph.

**Accept any sensible comparison, such as: In the first paragraph, Maeve is feeling bored of chasing off dragons because it's too easy. In the last paragraph, Maeve is feeling worried because something felt wrong and a giant shadow had appeared.**



3. Summarise the events in the story using 20 words or fewer.

**Accept any sensible summary, such as: Maeve went to see what was chasing a farmer's sheep away when a shadow appeared and a voice challenged her.**



4. What do you think will happen next?

**Accept any sensible answer, such as: I think that Maeve will have to fight a giant dragon and, when she wins, she won't think that her job is boring any more.**