

START

Reading

MIN

The Dinosaurs

They lived on our planet before there were people,
Forebears of our reptiles and fishes and birds,
They were not called dinosaurs then – they were nameless.
They lived on our planet before there were words.

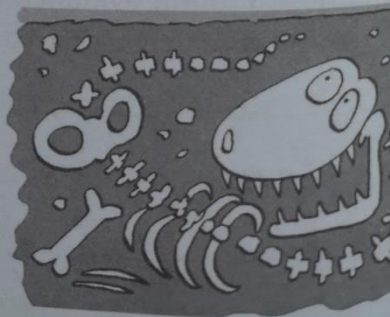
Some were as tall as a four-storey building.
To keep themselves going, they needed to munch
The green things around them from dawn until twilight –
Their waking existence was just one long lunch.

Some preferred flesh. They would tear at their dinner
With terrible fingers and teeth sharp as knives.
Others grew horns, massive spikes, bony armour,
To ward off the carnivores, safeguard their lives.

They all disappeared and the world went on turning.
We humans evolved, with our language, our games,
Our hunger for knowledge. We found the lost creatures.
We dug up their bones and we gave them their names.

They stand in museums; grand skeletons, relics
Exhumed after millions of years in the ground.
And we are still learning. Who knows what strange monsters
Lie buried around us and wait to be found?

By Wendy Cope



LO: Comprehension

1. The dinosaurs are described as *Forbears of our reptiles and fishes and birds*

Which word is closest in meaning to the word forebears

Children descendants parents ancestors

2. Read the **second** and **fourth** line of each verse. What do you notice?
3. Look at the verse containing the line: *Their waking existence was just one long lunch*. Why did some dinosaurs need to eat all day?
4. Name **three** body parts some dinosaurs used to protect themselves.
5. Find and copy the word used to describe dinosaurs that ate other dinosaurs.
6. The author compares how dinosaurs and humans behave. How are their behaviours different? Give some examples from the text.
7. What part of the dinosaurs do we display in museums?
8. How would you summarise the main theme of this poem?

Tick one

a) We have made lots of amazing discoveries about dinosaurs

b) We will probably find out lots more about dinosaurs in the future

c) We know that there were lots of different dinosaurs

d) We have learned lots and will always want to learn more from history

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