

# The Ember Eye



The Ember Eye is one of the most important keys to making the Dragon **SLAY**er journey truly work. This is your lens as the Dragon Master. It's the intentional practice of watching closely for small, often quiet moments where character is taking shape.

Before good choices become lasting habits, they usually begin as flickering embers. A child tells the truth when it's hard. Another pauses to calm down instead of reacting with anger. One chooses kindness when it would be easier to give in to peer pressure to tease a classmate.

These moments aren't loud or flashy, but they matter. And with your Ember Eye, as you see, name, praise, and help students reflect on their choices, you help these embers grow into sparks and then into flames.

## Growth Requires More Than Correction

Character development doesn't happen through discipline alone. It requires education, encouragement, guidance, and reflection. That's why your regular lessons are essential to lay the groundwork. But your greatest tool as Dragon Master is your *Ember Eye*. It lets you catch their character development in action.

When you notice a child trying to **SLAY** a dragon, *name* and *affirm* their good choices. When you see both wise and unwise decisions, take a moment to *guide and reflect*. These small, intentional interactions show our young dragon slayers their effort, build a growth mindset, and motivate them to keep choosing what's right, especially when it's hard.

The Ember Eye reminds us: If we want to fan virtue into flame, we must first acknowledge the embers. These are the glowing hints of transformation that take root before habits are formed. We must nurture these embers to help them develop into steady flames.

## What Gets Noticed, Gets Repeated

Developing character isn't one big heroic moment. It's a series of small, deliberate decisions. And unless we're looking, we can miss them. But when we do notice and call out the good choices, they stick. Our dragon slayers begin to think, "*Oh...that's what slaying Falsefire looks like.*" And once they see it, they start to imitate it. And what gets noticed, gets repeated.

Examples:

Someone accidentally knocks over a jar of supplies, and it breaks. No one sees it happen, so they sneak back to their desk. When you see the mess, you ask what happened. The student hesitates but then says: "*I did it. I knocked it over by accident.*"

This is a **SLAY** moment because Falsefire's temptations were resisted! They took a step to **awaken** Trueflame. Turn to the young dragon slayer and say, "*Thank you for being honest. You could've stayed quiet or blamed someone else, but you didn't. And that honesty just weakened Falsefire's flames! That's a dragon-slaying move.*"



Then, gently guide them: “Now, let’s figure out how to clean this up. I want you to know that I respect the courage it took you to tell the truth, but please be more careful next time.”

Now they have a picture of honesty in action, and they’ll want to rise to the challenge again.

Other examples:

- You spot a student resisting peer pressure to tease someone: Snubfang’s whispers ignored.
- You notice a student is consistently using manners and being polite: Honorfang is growing.
- A student has their head down in frustration but then takes a breath and tries again: Mundragon fades.
- A student realizes they don’t understand the concepts and takes initiative to get help: Exceldragon rises.



It might only take ten seconds to acknowledge these moments, but the ripple effect lasts far longer.

And precisely how you use the Ember Eye is up to you. If you can find ways to consistently weave this naturally into their day, noticing and naming behaviors in real time, this is ideal. But you could also have other methods: a reflection log, a checklist, a shout-out board. Whatever approach you choose, the key is consistently. *Don’t let these moments pass you by.* They’re the heart of the Dragon SLAYer journey. It’s the bridge between lessons and lived-out behaviors. The Ember Eye is not just about seeing but about shaping. And when we consistently name the good and celebrate it, we help dragon slayers become who they were meant to be.

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## EMBER EYE TIPS

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### What to Look For

- Look for small moments. They matter the most.
- Focus on behaviors tied to a skill or dragon you’re currently focusing on
- Respect and character aren’t just what students say, it’s *how* they say it, *how* they listen, and *how* they carry themselves. Look for these moments of respect and strong character.

### Catch & Coach

- Keep your tone warm and invitational, not corrective.
- Use simple language and offer a chance to “try again.”
- Reinforce the why: “We do this because it shows respect... kindness... leadership...”

### Celebrate What You See

Be sure your praise is specific, encouraging, action based, and aligned with your character development theme. Guide students to reflect on the impact of their choice. *“You helped a friend who was struggling. Why do you think that matters?”*

