

STORYTELLING IDEAS

BLOOMSBURY

AN INTRODUCTION TO *THERE IS NO DRAGON IN THIS STORY*

There Is No Dragon In This Story is a funny and beautifully drawn new picture book from Bloomsbury. Lou Carter's entertaining story of a dragon who wants to be the hero of a story rather than its villain is complemented by Deborah Allwright's compelling illustrations that reference many favourite fairytales. It is a book that will captivate children and get them talking about words, pictures and themes. Here are some ideas to help you start the discussions.

SEVEN WAYS TO INTRODUCE CHILDREN TO *THERE IS NO DRAGON IN THIS STORY*

1. GUESS THE CHARACTERS

The cover of *There Is No Dragon In This Story* features seven characters from six different fairytales. How many of them can children name? (From left to right: Goldilocks, the Frog Prince, the Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood, Pinocchio, Hansel and Gretel)

2. TALK ABOUT FAIRYTALES

What other fairytales do children know? Which are their favourites? Which do they think are the scariest tales? And the funniest?

3. WHAT IS THE MOOD OF THE BOOK?

Can children guess what the book will be like? Do they think it will be happy or sad? Cheerful or scary? Can they detect any clues from the faces of the fairytale characters on the cover?

4. THE DRAGON: FRIENDLY OR FIERCE?

Show children the dragon on the cover. Do they think it looks like a friendly creature or a fierce one? Can they predict whether it will turn out to be a 'goodie' or a 'baddie' in the story?

5. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT DRAGONS?

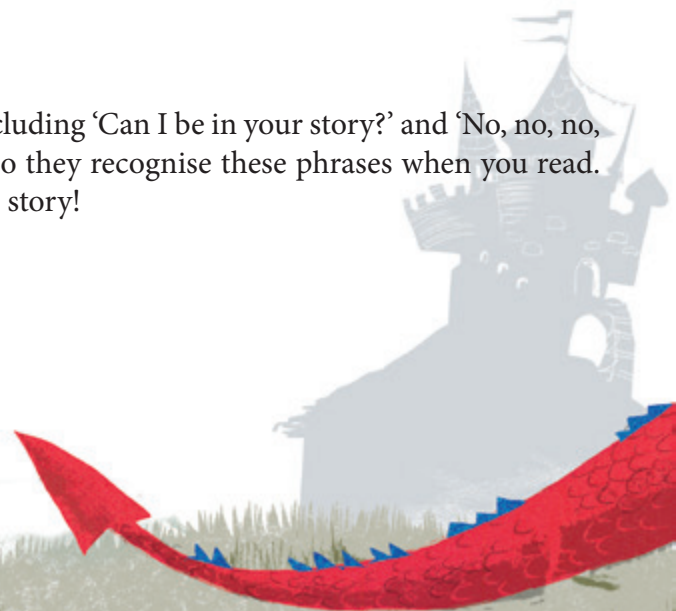
What can children tell you about dragons? Can they name any other stories that feature dragons? What sort of things do they think dragons do?

6. DISCUSS THE COVER

Do children like the picture on the cover of the book? Does it look like any other covers or pictures they have seen before?

7. MEMORISE THE PHRASES

There are a few phrases that are repeated throughout this story, including 'Can I be in your story?' and 'No, no, no, that's not how it goes'. Help children to practise repeating them so they recognise these phrases when you read. And get them to rehearse a big sneeze for the halfway point of the story!



SEVEN QUESTIONS TO ASK CHILDREN AFTER READING THE BOOK

1. WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE DRAGON?

Did children like the dragon in the story? What words would they use to describe it to someone who has not read the book yet? Recall children's opinions about the dragon before they read the story. Have they changed?

2. HOW DOES THE DRAGON FEEL?

Discuss how the dragon's mood changes as the story goes on. How does it feel when the other characters say they don't need it in their story? And how does it feel when it is finally able to help them?

3. WHICH ARE YOUR FAVOURITE CHARACTERS?

Of all the fairytale characters that the dragon meets, which are children's favourites? Take a vote among the group to decide the most popular.

4. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE DRAWINGS?

Did children enjoy the illustrations in the book? Did they like the way the dragon was drawn? What words would they use to describe the illustrations?

5. HOW COULD YOU HELP OTHER PEOPLE?

The dragon becomes much happier when it is able to help other people and join in their fun. Can children learn any messages from this? How do they think they could help include their own friends in their fun?

6. HOW CAN 'BADDIES' BECOME 'GOODIES'?

What other fairy tale 'baddies' can children think of? How could these become the heroes of a story and not the villains? Use the examples of the giant in 'Jack and the Beanstalk', the wolf in 'The Three Little Pigs' or the witch in 'Hansel and Gretel'.

7. MIGHT YOU HAVE ANY HIDDEN TALENTS? WHAT COULD THEY BE?

The dragon is surprised when it realises it can light up the sun again. What do children worry they can't do? Could they be inspired to try it, like the dragon?

THREE ACTIVITIES TO TRY

1. DRAW YOUR OWN DRAGONS

Ask children to draw a dragon of their own. Use bright colours and include distinctive features like wings and a tail. Choose a name for it too.

2. TELL YOUR OWN STORIES

Can children make up another story about the dragon? Encourage them to think of another way the dragon could help one of the fairy tale characters.

3. READ THE BOOK AGAIN, TOGETHER

Allocate six characters – the gingerbread man, the little pig, Goldilocks, Hansel or Gretel, Little Red Riding Hood and Jack – to six children in a group. When it comes to their turn, encourage each to say: 'No, no, no, that's not how it goes. There is NO DRAGON in this story.'