

EXPLORE with STORM DRAGON

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1. Look at the cover of the book.



Where does the story take place?

Who do you think are the main characters in the story?

Who do you look at first... the little girl or the grandpa? Why?

Do you think it's a sunny or a stormy day? Why?

Can you tell me something strange about the boat? Where is it?

What else do you see on the cover?

Apart from the name of the story, why are there two names on the cover?

Can you guess what the story is about?

2. How can you tell there is a storm on the first page?

Look at this picture in the book. The page starts with the words STORM! STORM!



Can you see at least 5 things in the illustration that shows us the weather is stormy?

What colours has the illustrator used to give us the idea of a storm?

3. Can you make the sounds of a storm?

Can you make sounds with your mouth, or by tapping on a table or clapping with your hands to make the sound of a storm?

What sound does the rain make?

What sound does the wind make?

What sound does thunder make?

What sound do the waves make when there is a storm?

If there are a few of you, get into groups. Each group chooses to make a different sound of a storm eg. the wind, the waves, the rain, at the same time like an orchestra. Start quietly and then get louder and louder as the storm gets fiercer and then get quieter again. Someone can be the conductor.

4. Listen to music to help you EXPLORE and IMAGINE a storm.

Can you imagine your own storm? Close your eyes and perhaps put your head on your table or desk. Keep very still. Feel as if you are dreaming. Imagine running down to the beach with the wind blowing and the rain beating down. Imagine how wet and cold the sand will feel. Can you hear seagulls? Can you hear the waves?

With the help of your teacher or an adult, you can listen to free soundbites of storms on the internet like this one:

<http://soundbible.com/tags-snow-storm.html>

Afterwards when you have dreamt of your own storm, can you tell something about how you felt when you heard the sounds.

5. Make sounds with your feet.



In the story the feet of the little girl and grandpa make sounds as they walk on the wooden boardwalk.

They also walk through squelchy foam and wet sand.

When a word sound copies the *real* sound – like when we say WHOOSH for the wind, or STAMP when you bang your foot down – we call it ONOMATOPOEIA.

In the story we have:

Trip! Trap! STOMP! STAMP!

Harumph! Galumph! JUMPY! JUMP!

Clatter! Splatter! SCATTER! SCATTER!

Phaw! Phaw! ROAR! ROAR!

Can you act out these sounds with your feet? You might need some space. Maybe you can even make up your own rhymes or onomatopoeic words?

6. Find the action words



The story has lots of action in the words as well as in the illustrations.

Can you make a list of words that tell us an action? We call these 'doing' words or verbs. Here are a few to start with:

Raps
Rattles
Fetch
Stamp
Tramp
Jump
Roar

7. Find action in the pictures

Look at the illustrations. Look how the little girl and her grandpa move. Look at the sea and the dog and the clouds.

How does the illustrator show action in the pictures? What sort of lines does she draw? What sort of marks does she make with the paint?



8. Make your own STORM DRAGON



At the very end of the book the illustrator shows a **STORM DRAGON** on the sand. She has drawn it as if it is made of bits and pieces of plastic and netting washed up by the sea. We call these bits and pieces, flotsam, because they have floated ashore. We are trying very hard to protect our sea from plastic and old netting because it hurts sea creatures.

1. Make your own **flotsam STORM DRAGON** from things you find on the beach. Maybe take a photograph of your storm dragon, but then help keep our sea clean by picking up all the pieces (flotsam) afterwards and putting them in the plastic recycling bin.
2. **Paint a STORM DRAGON**. Decide what colours you will use to make it look as if it comes from the sea. Don't forget to make it a little scary. Will it have scaly patterns? Fins? Claws? Perhaps a long tail?

3. Make a collage **STORM DRAGON** from textured paper, cellophane, magazine pictures and bits of card.

Perhaps even make your own printed paper from wood, bark, netting, metal grids, paving stones and leaves.

To make the printed patterns, place your paper over the object and rub with a soft crayon or pencil. This is fun to do in the school playground.

Then make your dragon by tearing or cutting out shapes from the paper and glue them down on a piece of background paper.



Some sequins and threads will help your storm dragon look as if it's come from the sea. Don't forget wings. You can use folded tissue paper for these. The wavy sea in the picture below is made from rubbing two different coloured crayons over wood.



Here's another Storm Dragon collage made by the illustrator using rubbings to show texture. The amazing fiery tongue was made with orange netting.



Watch Carol Thompson make a Storm Dragon Collage on YouTube by clicking [here](#)

9. Make a Sea-Jewel Crown to show you are ruler of the sea.

In the story we read about *dragon's jewels*. What do you think dragon's jewels are? Can you make a crown of dragon's jewels?

1. For the base you will need a ring of coloured cardboard to fit your head, or you can use twigs and weave them together.
2. Make seaweed by dipping old rope into green paint or using strips of bubble wrap and netting that comes from orange bags.
3. You can use silver foil or glitter paper to look like shells and starfish. Or cut sticky-backed stars to make them look more like starfish.
4. If you are lucky enough to have a shell with a hole in it you can attach it with wire.
5. Or attach sparkling plastic beads with thin gardening wire.





A silver cardboard crown with a dragon made from coloured paper and sequins. Fix the cardboard at the back with tape to fit your head.

10. Or make a Sea Mask

Start with a shape for your mask. Paint it with splotches to look as if it's come from under the sea. Add fish shapes, seaweed, coral, starfish, sea-horses or netting.



Add sparkle with glitter, or sequins, or cut a gold or silver paper plate, or a paper lace doily and glue it in place. A stapler helps if something is tricky to glue.

Watch Dianne Hofmeyr make a Storm Dragon Crown on YouTube by [clicking here](#)

Have FUN with STORM DRAGON!



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