

Learning possibilities

Text: Clanton, B 2016, *It came in the mail*, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, New York.

Engage

Step 1. If you have this book at home, encourage your child/children to predict what the story is about from the cover. If not use the suggested video link in the Resources box and watch the story together.

Step 2. Read/watch the story drawing your child/children's attention to the details in the illustrations.

Step 3. Here are some questions to ask your child/children about the story.

1. How did Liam feel when he didn't get any letters in the mail? (sad, he wasn't smiling)
2. How did he solve this problem? (by writing a letter to the mailbox)
3. What did Liam ask for first? (something big)
4. What happened when he opened the letter box? (the dragon breathed fire and smoke on him)
What happened next in the story? (he kept writing letters asking for things and ended up with too many)

Respond

Discuss how exciting it would be to have a magic mailbox that answered your letters and brought you all kinds of things. 'If your mailbox could send you a surprise, what might it be?'

Talk about all the different ways that people can communicate with one another. For example, people can communicate via email, video chat, phone, through paintings, drawings, and drama.

Extend

- Invite your child/children to make their own individual mailbox with a shoe box or empty ice cream container.
- Set up a writing centre with lots of different paper, card, cardboard offcuts, stickers, pens and pencils to draw and write letters to family and friends.
- Send a letter from a dragon to your child/children— perhaps the letter could ask your child/children to leave some food for a very hungry and very tired dragon. This letter could be used as a springboard for discussions about what dragons might eat and where they might sleep.

Resources

Video

It Came In The Mail – Kids Books Read Aloud (YouTube, Storytime Anytime)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lz0KD4feq8A>