

Learning possibilities

Text: Woollard, E 2016, *The dragon and the nibblesome knight*, MacMillan Children's Books, London.

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. What kind of creature is Dram? (dragon)
2. Where did the wind blow Dram? (to the end of the world)
Where did Dram fall? (into the lake)
3. What did James think Dram was? (a rare kind of duck)
What does James do to help Dram after his accident? (puts his claw in a sling, gives him honey for his sore roar and makes sure he has food)
4. Why was James wearing armour? (he's a knight for school sports day)

Respond

This story offers possibilities for talking about a number of rare/unfamiliar words in the story.

Rare word	Synonym	Rare word	Synonym
dreadful	horrible	thump	bang, knock, punch
nibblesome	small bites	bump	crash into something
hail	frozen rain	clatter	rattle, clang noise
gale	wind storm	crash	bang, smash
fountainous	spray of water	splash	spray of water

The story also challenges how we think about dragons as being dangerous and a knight needing to fight the dragons. The special point of discovery in the story is that people can form unexpected friendships. Use the idea of friendship and talk about what it is to be a friend and the things you do to show you are a friend, for example: co-operation, kindness, gentle actions and words.

Extend

- Act out the story encouraging your child/children to think of musical sound effects to accompany the events.
 - thunder clap (two saucepan lids)
 - lightning flash (torchlight on and off)
 - hail (shake gravel in a saucepan)
 - gale (make a wailing noise or blow across an empty plastic bottle)

Resources

Song

Early Learning HQ, *Can you see the dragon?*
<http://www.earlylearninghq.org.uk/celebrations-festivals/chinese-new-year/dragon-song/>

Video

The Dragon and the Nibblesome Knight (YouTube, SuperKidFriends)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktkb9-K0bwk>