

# The Dragon

Written by Roger Carr

Illustrated by Scott Vanden Bosch

Level 15

## Getting ready for reading

Bring an egg into class. Ask children to imagine what might come out of it besides a chicken or a duck, and list the possibilities on a chart. Discuss how the children would feed each creature, and where it might live.

Creature	Would eat	Would live
monster	rusty metal	under the house

## Talking through the book

Hold up the book and say: *This book is called 'The Dragon'.* Turn to page 1 and ask: *What do you think might happen in this book?* Turn through the book, asking the children to predict what the book is about by reading the pictures.

## Reading the book

Children read the book individually while the teacher observes each child's reading behaviours and prompts children to use cues to read unfamiliar words. The teacher may select an additional teaching focus based on these observations.

## Returning to the text

Select the most appropriate teaching focus for the learning needs of the group. Choose one or more of the following.

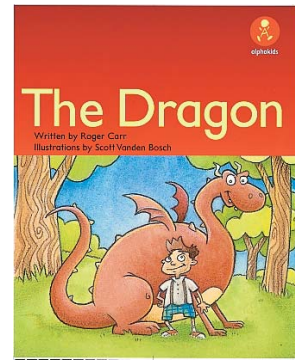
### ***Being a meaning maker***

Encourage the children to support their answers with evidence from the book as they discuss these questions.

*What was in the egg?*

*What did the dragon eat?*

*Why did the people become afraid of the dragon?*



## TEXT FEATURES

- **This is a narrative about a boy who finds a dragon egg, hatches it and cares for the dragon until it is old enough to leave and go into the wide world.**
- **It uses a range of sentence length and complexity.**
- **Colour illustrations support and extend the text.**

### ***Being a code breaker***

Children could investigate onomatopoeic words (words that sound like what they mean) such as: *bump, tap, crack*.

### ***Being a text user***

Discuss:

*Is this a true story? How do you know?*

*What type of book is it?*

### ***Being a text critic***

Discuss:

*The grandma in the story is quite happy for Mario to keep the dragon. Would your parents or grandparents let you keep a dragon?*

*At the end of the story the author has the dragon flying away? How else could the story have ended?*

## **Literacy learning centres – follow-up activities**

### **WRITING CENTRE 1**

Children could write about the next egg that Mario finds. What would be inside this egg? What would it eat? How would the people react this time?

### **WRITING CENTRE 2**

Have children work in pairs to write and draw alternative endings for the story. These could be shared and compared to the original.

### **INTERACTIVE LITERACY CENTRE**

Children could work in groups to practise and perform a readers theatre of the book.

### **BOOK BROWSING CENTRE**

Provide other stories about dragons or animals that hatch from mysterious eggs, for example: *Horton Hatches the Egg* by Dr Seuss and *Dragon Quest* by Allan Baillie.

### **WORD CENTRE**

Children could list and illustrate a range of onomatopoeic words. These could be collated into a class book to refer to when writing stories or poems.

pop	crash	tap
gulp	snap	crack
bang	bump	whoosh

### Keeping track

Children can keep an individual log recording their understanding of the book and their response to it.