

Learning Guide



Dragons

We hope you enjoyed learning all about dragons. Extend your learning with this print-ready Learning Guide!



What's in this Learning Guide?

Get Set to Listen

Write or discuss questions before and after listening to the episode.

Discussion Questions

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.3-8.1, SL.3-8.3

Writing Prompts and Extension Projects

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.3-8.1, W.3-8.2, W.3-8.3, W.3-8.4, W.3-8.7, W.3-8.8

Dragons as Metaphors

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3-5.1; RL.3-5.4; CASEL: Self-Awareness

Dragon Community Map

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3-5.2; W.3-5.3; Visual Arts Core Standards: VA:Cr1.1.3a – VA:Cr1.1.5a, VA:Cr2.1.3a – VA:Cr2.1.5a, VA:Re7.1.3a – VA:Re7.1.5a; C3 Social Studies Framework: D2.Geo.1.3-5 & D2.Civ.4.3-5

Dragons Around the World: Research & Comparison

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3-5.7; RI.4-5.9; W.3-5.8; C3 Framework for Social Studies: D2.His.2.3-5 & D3.1.3-5

Design a Dragon

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3-5.1; RI.3-5.7; Visual Arts Core Standards: VA:Cr1.1.3a – VA:Cr1.1.5a; C3 Social Studies Standards: D2.Geo.4.3-5 & D3.1.3-5

Additional Resources & Book List



The Children's Hour
kids public radio

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<https://www.childrenshour.org/dragons/>



Get Set to Listen

1. Before listening!



Write down your response to the question below. Share with a partner or small group when you are finished.

- **Dragons are sometimes a metaphor for our fears. Can you think of a time when something seemed scary at first but wasn't once you understood it better?**

2. After listening!



Write down your response to the following question. Share with a partner or small group when you are finished. How has your thinking about dragons changed after listening to this episode?

- **What does the comparison between dragons and dogs teach us about fear and behavior?**



Discussion Questions

1. What do you think life would be like if dragons suddenly appeared in our world?
2. Dragons are sometimes a metaphor for our fears. Can you think of a time when something seemed scary at first but wasn't once you understood it better?
3. Why do you think dragon stories exist in so many cultures around the world?
4. Do you think dragons could have been inspired by real animals or fossils? Why or why not?
5. Why do you think dragons are sometimes shown as scary and other times as friendly?
6. Why do people sometimes fear things they do not understand? Can fear lead to conflict?
7. If humans and dragons had to share the world, what rules or agreements would be important?

Group Discussion Strategies

Think Pair Share:

1. Individually, student writes down their answer to a question.
2. Students pair up and tell each other their answers.
3. Teacher calls for volunteers to share with the whole class their answer (and/or their partner's answer). Teacher notes key words/phrases on board.

Round Robin:

1. Teacher poses one question (written on top of a large page) to students, who are assembled into small groups of 3 or 4.
2. Students take turns brainstorming the answers. The recorder of the group writes down all answers.
3. The leader reads the group's ideas to the entire class. Teacher moderates.



Writing Prompts

Narrative Prompts

1. Imagine you wake up and see dragons flying outside your window. What happens next? Tell the story of your first day in a dragon-filled world.
 - Add dialogue between you and a dragon.
 - Include a problem (danger, fear, confusion) and a solution.
2. Write a story about a kid who becomes friends with a dragon, even though everyone else is afraid.
 - Show how the friendship changes other people's opinions.
 - Include a moment where trust is tested.
 - Add a scene from the dragon's point of view.

Informative/Explanatory Prompts

1. Write an informational piece about how dragons are described in different cultures.

Extensions:

- Compare at least two cultures
- Explain how dragons can be seen as good or bad

2. Listen to [The Children's Hour, "Dragons" episode](#) (segment 9:23-12:29). Explain how fear can come from not understanding something, using dragons as an example.
 - Include real-life examples
 - Add a conclusion about how people can overcome fear

Opinion/Persuasive Prompts

1. Do you think dragons should be feared or understood? Write an argument supporting your opinion.



Dragons as Metaphors

Listen

to [The Children's Hour, "Dragons" episode](#):

- "Befriending Dragons" (segment 9:23-12:29).
- "Dragons as Metaphors" (segment 34:17-38:15).

Discuss

How can dragons represent real-life problems (like fears or conflict)?

- Fear of the unknown
- Big emotions
- Family problems (like divorce)

Create Your Own Metaphor

"My dragon represents _____ because _____

_____."

Draw It



Dragon Community Map

Listen

to “Befriending Dragons” (segment 9:23-12:29).

Create

Imagine a world where humans and dragons share the same land. Design and draw a map showing how they live together.

Your map should include:

- Safe zones
- Dragon habitats
- Human cities and towns
- Roads, mountains, rivers, or forests

Label each area clearly and add color or symbols to show important places.

Extension

Create 3–5 rules that help humans and dragons live together peacefully.

Examples:

- *Dragons may not fly over cities at night.*
- *Humans must protect dragon nesting areas.*

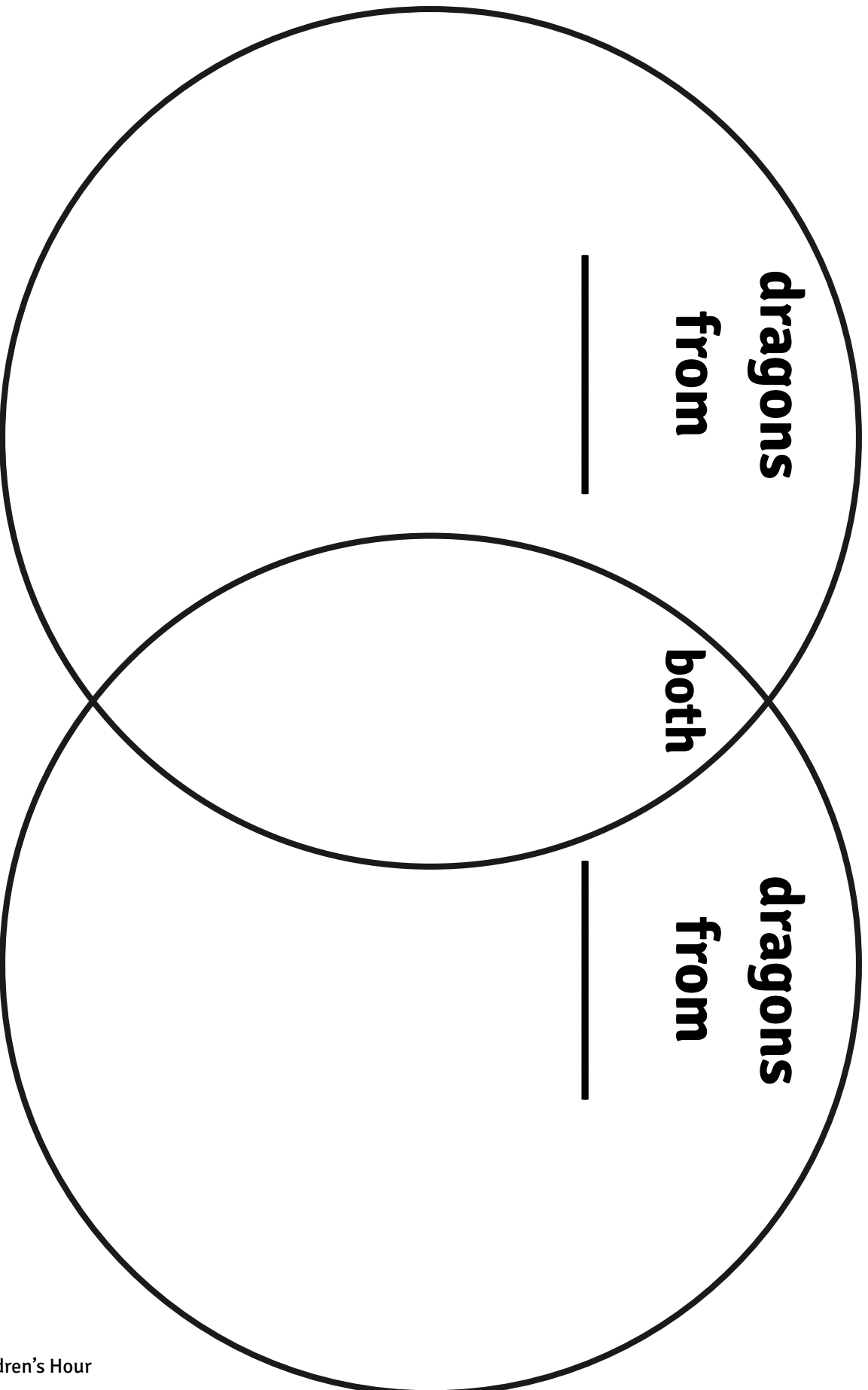




Dragons Around the World

Name _____

Dragons from different parts of the world show similarities and differences. Choose dragons from 2 different parts of the world and compare and contrast them with the Venn diagram below.



Use the following to help you fill in the Venn diagram:

- [The Children's Hour's "Dragons" episode](#) "Dragon Stories" (segment 23:09-26:38). and "Dragons Around the World" (segment 42:27-45:30).
- Resources from "Additional Resources" page.



Design a Dragon



Listen

to [The Children's Hour, "Dragons" episode](#):

- "Dragon Stories" (segment 23:09-26:38).
- "Dragons Around the World" (segment 42:27-45:30).

Use what you learned from the episode, the resources in "Additional Resources," and your own knowledge and imagination to create a unique dragon species!

My Dragon

Name _____

Size _____

Powers _____

Personality _____

What it eats _____

How it interacts with humans _____

This is what it looks like:



Additional Resources

[Dragons from Around the World](#)

An article from *Smithsonian Magazine*: “From China to the Mediterranean and More, Here’s How Different Cultures Envision Dragons”.

[Why Dragons Appear in So Many Cultures](#)

An article from History.com speculates.

[A Gallery of Dragons from Around the World](#)

View artifacts featuring dragons from around the world, from World History Encyclopedia.

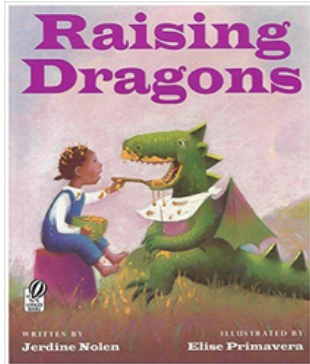
Videos

Why do so many cultures have dragon legends? [This video from TedEd](#) speculates.





Book List



Raising Dragons

by Jerdine Nolen, illustrated by Elise Primavera

Even though her parents don't believe in make-believe, a curious girl knows dragons are real—and when she secretly hatches a strange egg, she instantly makes a new friend.

ages 4-7

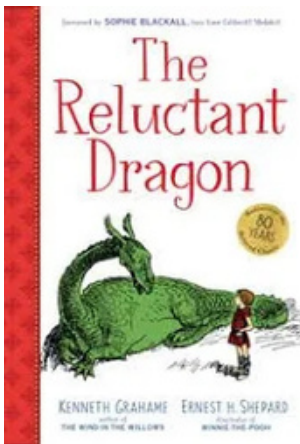


The Truth About Dragons

by Julie Leung, illustrated by Hanna Cha

In this award-winning book, a young child learns two different but equally enchanting truths about dragons. Eastern and Western mythologies coexist and enrich each other in this warm celebration of mixed cultural identity.

ages 3-8



The Reluctant Dragon

by Kenneth Grahame

A boy meets a peaceful, poetry-loving dragon, but the town assumes he has evil intentions and sends St. George to slay him. Together, they stage a fake fight, which results in the dragon's acceptance by all. This 1898 children's story was originally a chapter book and later inspired the 1941 Disney film of the same name.

ages 5-8



Dragon Masters

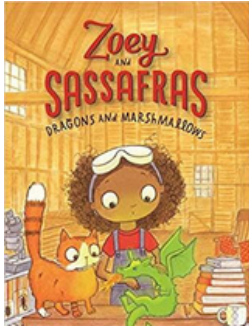
by Tracey West

An early chapter book series with lots of pictures about training dragons.

ages 5-8



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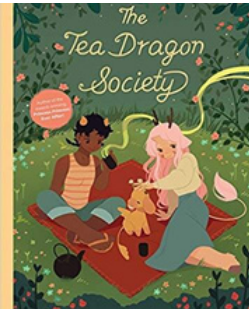


Zoey and Sassafras: Dragons and Marshmallows

by Asia Citro, illustrated by Marion Lindsay

Science-minded Zoey discovers she can see magical creatures that no one else can, and it's her responsibility to help them. Her first patient is a very sick dragon!

ages 6-9



The Tea Dragon Society

by Katie O'Neill

In this charming, inclusive graphic novel, a half-goblin girl named Greta learns to care for rare tea dragons and discovers a fading tradition.

ages 7-11

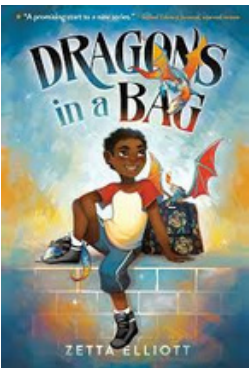


How to Train Your Dragon

by Cressida Cowell

A young Viking learns that friendship and understanding dragons is more powerful than fighting. Funny and full of engaging illustrations, this series has become a modern favorite loved by millions worldwide.

ages 7-11

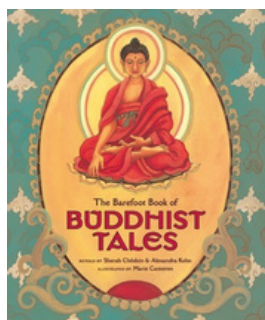


Dragons in a Bag

by Zetta Elliott

Jaxon discovers his "grandma" is a witch and must help deliver three baby dragons while keeping them hidden—no easy task as trouble and magic get in the way. In the sequel, *The Dragon Thief*, Kavita has to figure out how to care for the dragon she took from Jax while keeping the creature a secret.

ages 7-11



"The Living Kuan Yin" in The Barefoot Book of Buddhist Tales

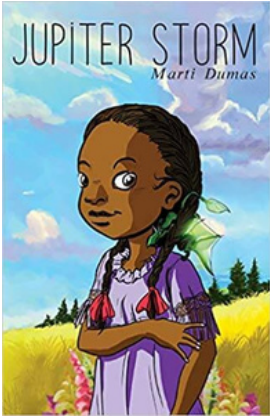
retold by Sherab Chodzin & Alexandra Kohn, illustrated by Maric Cameron

A generous young man seeks help from Kuan Yin but must choose between his own question and keeping promises to others along the way.

ages 6-10



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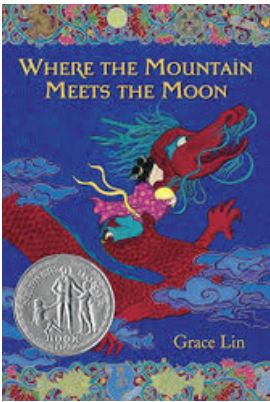


Jupiter Storm

by Marti Dumas

A science-loving girl named Jackie secretly raises a baby dragon that hatches from a mysterious egg, leading to unexpected challenges and adventures. In the sequel, *The Dragon Keep*, Jackie and her brother learn to properly care for their young dragon from their strict and mysterious aunt.

ages 8-12

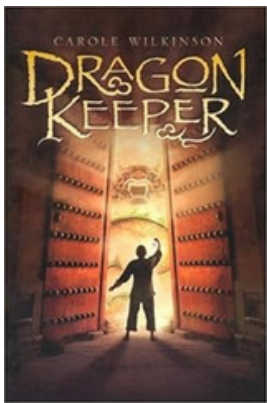


Where the Mountain Meets the Moon

by Grace Lin

An award-winning middle grade fantasy novel that blends ages Chinese folklore with a story about a young girl named Minli who embarks on a quest to change her family's fortune.

ages 8-12



Dragon Keeper series

by Carole Wilkinson

An orphan girl must protect the last dragon in ancient China while fleeing dangerous enemies and discovering her own courage and destiny.

ages 9-14



New Dragon City

by Mari Mancusi

What would happen if dragons came to our world? Are dragons really the monsters that we think they are? Can there be peace between humans and dragons? Read this book (and the others in the series) to find out!

ages 9-14



Book List



Dragon World

by Tamara MacFarlane

Explore dragon myths from around the globe, showcasing their many forms, meanings, and legends. Discover dragon lore, habitats, and even how to draw these fascinating creatures.

ages 7-12



Illustrated Stories of Dragons

part of the Usborne Illustrated Story Collection Series by Andy Prentice

A collection of beautifully illustrated tales featuring dragons from myths and legends around the world.

ages 7-12



Mary Anning and the Sea Dragon

by Jeannine Atkins, illustrated by Michael Dooling

The true story of 19th-century paleontologist Mary Anning, who, at age 11, discovered a massive ichthyosaur “sea dragon” fossil on the English coast and launched her career.

ages 5-9