

**Title, Author, Illustrator:**

Joan Procter Dragon Doctor-The Woman Who Loved Reptiles

Author: Patricia Valdez

Illustrated By: Felicita Sala

## *Ideas for enjoying the book at home*

**Created by:** Natomas Unified School District Early Learning

### **About the Book:**

Some girls loved dolls. Some loved tea parties. But Joan Procter loved reptiles!

As a child, Joan was curious about snakes, lizards, and even crocodiles. While others were afraid, she wanted to learn more. Even when she was sick and stuck in bed, she studied reptiles and dreamed of caring for them someday.

Joan grew up to become a scientist at the London Zoo, where she cared for giant Komodo dragons. She helped people see that reptiles aren't scary they're amazing!

This inspiring true story celebrates bravery, curiosity, and loving what makes you unique.



### **Before Reading:**

- What do you notice about the cover?
- What do you think about the title?
- What do you think we will discover in this book?



### **While Reading:**

- What do you notice in the picture?
- What do you think about what we just read?
- What are you curious about now?



### **After Reading:**

- What did you think about the book?
- How did it make you feel?
- What was your favorite part?

### **Jump into Joyful Reading!**

Invite your child to share their thinking and ask questions as you enjoy the book together. The main thing is to have fun and enjoy one another's company as you read together. Here are some things you can say and do to create a joyful reading experience for your child.

**Turn the page over for creative expression ideas!**



# Creative Expression Activities

After you read the book, unleash your imagination and creativity! Use the ideas below to choose your own adventure. What other ideas did the book inspire your amazing mind to think of?

 <b>Creative Writing</b>	 <b>Visual and Digital Arts</b>	 <b>Kindness and Community</b>
<p>Talk with your family about animals you think are cool even ones others might find scary!</p> <p>Pick an animal you're curious about.</p> <p>Draw a big, colorful picture of it.</p> <p>Write as many sentences as you can about why it is amazing.</p> <p>Share your picture and facts with your family!</p> <p>Bonus: Give your animal a fun nickname like Dragon Doctor did!</p>	<p>Create art inspired by an animal you think is amazing!</p> <p>Draw, paint, or build your animal using crayons, markers, clay, or recycled materials.</p> <p>Or use a tablet/computer to make digital art of your animal.</p> <p>Add bright colors and fun details.</p> <p>Share your artwork with your family and explain your creative choices!</p> <p>Bonus: Create a cool title for your masterpiece!</p>	<p>Creative Family Activity: Kindness Adventure!</p> <p>Find ways to help others in your home or neighborhood!</p> <p>Talk with your family about one kind thing you can do today.</p> <p>Draw a picture or write a short note about it.</p> <p>Do the kind act together.</p> <p>Share how it made you and others feel!</p> <p>Bonus: Make a Kindness Wall at home to show everyone's good deeds!</p>
 <b>Mindfulness and Self-Awareness</b>	 <b>Music and Movement</b>	 <b>Dramatic Play</b>
<p>Take time to notice your feelings and the world around you.</p> <p>Sit quietly with your family for 1-2 minutes.</p> <p>Close your eyes and listen to sounds, notice your breathing, or imagine your favorite animal.</p> <p>Draw or write about what you felt or noticed.</p> <p>Share your calm moment with your family!</p> <p>Bonus: Give your quiet time a fun name, like "Joan's Dragon Pause"!</p>	<p>Move and make music inspired by your favorite animals!</p> <p>Pick an animal you love.</p> <p>Pretend to move like it crawl, slither, hop, or roar!</p> <p>Make sounds or use instruments to match your animal.</p> <p>Share your dance and music with your family!</p> <p>Bonus: Give your performance a fun name, like Komodo Dragon Groove!</p>	<p>Pretend to be your favorite animal with your family!</p> <p>Pick an animal you love.</p> <p>Act out how it moves, sounds, and explores.</p> <p>Create a little story or adventure for your animal.</p> <p>Perform it together for fun!</p> <p>Bonus: Dress up with hats, scarves, or props to bring your animal to life!</p>