

Title, Author, Illustrator:

The Truth About Dragons

Author: Julie Leung

Illustrator: Hanna Cha

Ideas for enjoying the book at home

Created by: Natomas Unified School District Early Learning

About the Book:

Have you ever wondered what a dragon is really like?

In this beautifully illustrated story, two boys—one who celebrates the traditions of his Chinese family and one who celebrates the traditions of his Western family—discover that dragons can look different depending on where they come from. Some dragons are fierce and fiery, and some are wise and full of good luck. As the boys share their stories, they learn that even though their dragons aren't the same, there is room for both kinds in their hearts.

The Truth About Dragons is a warm and gentle tale about friendship, family traditions, and learning to appreciate the many ways people see the world. It reminds us that our differences can make life richer—and that sometimes the best stories are the ones we share together.



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?

 Creative Writing	 Visual and Digital Arts	 Kindness and Community
<p>My Make-Believe Creature!</p> <p>Imagine a creature that lives in your home, backyard, or favorite place.</p> <p>Draw your creature and give it a special name.</p> <p>Write 2–3 sentences (or tell an adult to help write) about what your creature likes to eat, where it sleeps, and what makes it magical.</p> <p>Share your story with your family and act out how your creature moves!</p>	<p>My Dragon Portrait</p> <p>Think about the dragons in <i>The Truth About Dragons</i>—some are fierce, some are gentle, and each is special.</p> <p>Draw your own dragon and give it a name. Add patterns, colors, or textures to show its personality—does it have shiny scales, rainbow wings, or sparkling eyes?</p> <p>Use a digital drawing app to add stickers, colors, or effects if you like.</p> <p>Share your dragon with your family and tell them what makes it unique, just like the dragons in the story.</p>	<p>Think about the dragons in the book and how they might help others or share their special gifts.</p> <p>Make a 3x3 bingo board with small acts of kindness, like “draw a picture for someone,” “give a compliment,” or “help clean up.”</p> <p>Complete a square each day and imagine your dragon doing that act too.</p> <p>Color in the squares as you finish them. Share your acts with your family and talk about how your dragon (and you!) made the day brighter for someone else.</p>
 Mindfulness and Self-Awareness	 Music and Movement	 Dramatic Play
<p>Imagine you are a dragon like the ones in <i>The Truth About Dragons</i>—some are fiery, some are gentle and wise.</p> <p>Take a deep dragon breath: inhale slowly through your nose, then “breathe out fire” slowly through your mouth.</p> <p>Notice your feelings—are you calm, excited, or curious?</p> <p>Draw your dragon and color it to show how it feels inside.</p> <p>Share your dragon story with your family and talk about what makes your dragon (and you!) special.</p>	<p>Dragon Dance</p> <p>*Imagine you are a dragon from the story—some dragons fly, some slither, some twirl.</p> <p>*Put on music you like (or gentle instrumental music) and move like your dragon: stretch, twist, hop, or glide across the room.</p> <p>*Try different dragon “moves” for different moods—happy, excited, sleepy, or playful.</p> <p>*Create a short dragon dance with your family, taking turns showing your dragon moves.</p> <p>*Talk about how your dragon felt while moving—was it calm, strong, or joyful?</p>	<p>Dragon Role-Play</p> <p>*Pretend you are a dragon from the story—some dragons are big and fiery, some are small and gentle.</p> <p>*Choose a dragon name and decide how your dragon moves, talks, and breathes.</p> <p>*Act out a dragon adventure with your family—fly, explore, or protect something special.</p> <p>*Include different dragon personalities—try being a wise dragon, a playful dragon, or a silly dragon.</p> <p>*Share your dragon story and talk about how each dragon is unique, just like in the book!</p>