



## Setting the Scene

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**Bulletin Board.** Back a bulletin board with blue paper and design a fairy-tale castle as the focal point. Have a dragon breathing fire next to the castle. But instead of fire, use books! Copy an assortment of dragon book titles and arrange them on the board to look as if they are the dragon's breath. Use titles such as *Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin and *The Sunflower Sword* by Mark Sperring. Title the display "Get Fired Up With Reading."

**Display.** Use a bookshelf or small table to display fiction and nonfiction books, audiobooks, and DVDs about dragons. Include dragon coloring pages for the children to design their own dragon; hang their pictures next to the display.

**Check-Out Club.** Start a Dragon Check-Out Club. Make an outline of a dragon on white paper and place it on an accessible wall. Each time a child checks out books during the month, give him or her a sticker (round colored stickers work well) to "build" the dragon. Children will enjoy returning each week to see the progress being made. You can also hand out stickers at check out for each Dragon Member to keep, such as Upstart's Catch a Dragon by the Tale stickers (<http://bit.ly/1zcVcYg>).

**Dragon Hide & Seek.** Hide nine clip-art images of dragons throughout your library's collection. Put one in every area of the collection (fiction, nonfiction, DVDs, audio, etc.). You can make the images large or small, depending on how difficult you want to make the game. Challenge children to find all nine images to win a prize. Bookmarks, stickers, or whatever you find in your supply closet would make great incentives. Encourage children to check out a book from their favorite dragon's section.

## Games/Contests

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**Dragon vs. . . .** Create a voting station in your library. Post a picture of a dragon and one of another animal, creature, or object. Place a can, jar, or other container, along with popsicle sticks, near the pictures. Each week let kids vote with popsicle sticks for who would win in a battle. You can make the vote silly or serious, with candidates such as a cloud, flowers, a train, a knight, a king, or even a ninja turtle!

**Dragon Egg Search.** Get a bunch of hollow plastic eggs. Inside each egg, place a slip of paper with a nonfiction Dewey number. Hide the plastic eggs throughout your collection. Instruct children to each find one egg and open it. They then need to locate the Dewey number in



# Catch a Dragon by the Tale



the children's section (or library's collection) and select one book from that area. Give children a sticker when they find and check out their nonfiction book!

## Arts/Crafts

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**Dragon Mask.** Have kids create their own dragon masks from paper plates. Use crayons, scissors, construction paper, and glue to decorate the masks. For some examples, look to [www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mplate-dragon.htm](http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mplate-dragon.htm).

**Paper Chain Dragons.** Use the instructions at <http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/chinese-new-year-dragon> for a starting point on how to make your very own paper chain dragons. Be sure to have a variety of construction paper colors for the kids to use.

**Dragon Wings.** Fold a large piece of construction or butcher paper in half. Draw a *B* with the line of the *B* on the fold. Cut along the outline, leaving the fold intact. Unfold to see wings. Try creating different shapes of wings by making the *B* with sharper or more elongated curves. Provide feathers, sequins, pompoms, and other supplies so kids can decorate their wings. Punch holes in the wings and attach string to secure them to kids' backs.

**Dragon Eggs.** Using paper mâché, make and decorate your own dragon eggs! This activity requires two sessions: one to make the egg shape and one to decorate it. For instructions on how to make the paper mâché eggs, go to [www.firstpalette.com/tool\\_box/quick\\_how\\_to/papermacheballoon/papier-mâché\\_aloof.html](http://www.firstpalette.com/tool_box/quick_how_to/papermacheballoon/papier-mâché_aloof.html). Decorate the eggs with paint, crepe paper, glitter, markers, and construction paper.

## Snacks/Recipes

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**Dragon Claws.** Cover Nabisco-brand Nutter Butter cookies (or a similar cookie) in green frosting. Add unsalted cashews for dragon toenails. Serve with milk dyed with green food coloring.

**Fireless S'mores.** Everyone knows dragons love fire. But even dragons have to eat inside. Make fireless s'mores during a dragon-themed storytime. Combine bite-size graham-cracker cookies, mini marshmallows,

and chocolate chips; then stir. Scoop the s'mores into individual serving cups.

## Writing Projects

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**Not Your Typical Dragon.** Provide a copy of *Not Your Typical Dragon* by Dan Bar-el for children to read and explore. Give children a half sheet of paper with the following prompt on it: "If I were a dragon, I would breathe...". Children can choose to write a description of what their dragon would breathe, draw a picture depicting their dragon, or both!

**Dragonology.** Share *Dragonology: The Complete Book of Dragons* by Dr. Ernest Drake. Then invite children to make their own booklet of dragon facts. They can use the book for a guide or come up with their own fun facts.

**Dragons Love...** Cover a table with bulletin board paper and place a copy of *Dragons Love Tacos* by Adam Rubin on the table. Display a writing prompt and encourage children to write or draw their answer. Some possible prompts include "Dragons love...", "My dragon loves...", or "My dragon's favorite thing is..."

**Dragon Fairy Tale.** Encourage imaginative play by having children come up with their own fairy tales, starring a dragon instead of the typical prince or princess. Provide paper and writing tools for children to write their short stories.

**Dragon Business.** Ask kids: "What do we know about dragons?" Compile a list of their answers on a white board or giant sheet of paper. Then have the kids write about what kind of business they would start for a dragon customer. Would it be a restaurant with all their favorite foods or a clothing store with clothes that won't catch on fire? The possibilities are endless! Make sure they give their business a name and describe why they think the dragons would love their store.

## Special Events

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**Scaly Petting Zoo.** Invite a representative from a local pet store or hire a reptile handler to bring in live dragons and other reptiles. Set up a display of library materials on dragons, both real and mythical.



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**Library Lair.** Turn the library (or the children’s corner) into a dragon’s lair by covering the walls and furniture with gray fabric or construction paper. Draw a large wooden door on paper, or create one by painting a wood pallet. Stage a live performance—starring children—of Robert Munsch’s *The Paper Bag Princess*. Have a library staff member narrate the story as the children act it out.

**Chinese New Year Celebration.** If it’s the right time of year (late January or early February, depending on the year), celebrate Chinese New Year with a parade, including traditional dragon puppets, lantern-making crafts, snacks, and a display of books and videos about the holiday. Get ideas, instructions, and resources at [www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/chinesenewyear](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/chinesenewyear).

## Math/Science Activities

**Whose Egg Is It?** Create a matching game with images of eggs and their corresponding animals. Include komodo dragon eggs and mythical dragon eggs. Challenge kids to sort the eggs based on their color or shape, or have them put the eggs in order from smallest to largest.

**Count a Dragon’s Hoard.** Set up a table with three piles of “treasure.” The treasure could be made up of fake coins, Lego blocks, or objects from your craft supplies. Display pictures of three different dragons next to their corresponding treasure. Place a sign on the table prompting kids to count each dragon’s hoard and determine which is the largest. Give a small prize (piece of candy, sticker, etc.) when kids bring you the correct answer.

## Internet Resources

The Crafty Crow: 10 Dragon Crafts for Kids  
[www.thecraftycrow.net/2012/01/10-dragon-crafts-for-kids.html](http://www.thecraftycrow.net/2012/01/10-dragon-crafts-for-kids.html)

Activity Village: Dragons  
[www.activityvillage.co.uk/dragons](http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/dragons)

Dragons in Literature Quiz  
[www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/quiz/2014/jul/09/how-to-train-your-dragon-the-dragons-quiz](http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/quiz/2014/jul/09/how-to-train-your-dragon-the-dragons-quiz)

National Geographic Kids: Komodo Dragon  
[http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/content/kids/en\\_US/animals/komodo-dragon](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/content/kids/en_US/animals/komodo-dragon)

## Book Resources

- *Again!*, by Emily Gravett. Macmillan Children’s Books, 2011. ISBN 0230745369. PK–2.
- *Dragonart: How to Draw Fantastic Dragons and Fantasy Creatures*, by Jessica Peffer. Impact, 2005. ISBN 1581806574. 1–6.
- *Dragonbreath*, by Ursula Vernon. Dial, 2009. ISBN 0803733631. 2–5.
- *The Dragonet Prophecy*, by Tui T. Sutherland. Scholastic, 2012. ISBN 0545349184. 3–6.
- *The Dragon in the Sock Drawer* (Dragon Keepers), by Kate Klimo. Random House Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN 0375855874. 3–5.
- *Dragonology: The Complete Book of Dragons*, by Ernest Drake. Candlewick, 2003. ISBN 0763623296. K–5.
- *The Dragon Prophecy* (Kingdom of Fantasy), by Geronimo Stilton. Scholastic, 2012. ISBN 0545393515. 3–6.
- *Dragon’s Egg*, by Sarah L. Thomson. Greenwillow Books, 2007. ISBN 0061288489. 4–6.
- *Dragons Love Tacos*, by Adam Rubin. Dial, 2012. ISBN 0803736800. K–2.
- *Drawing Dragons*, by Sandra Staple. Ulysses Press, 2008. ISBN 1569756414. 2–6.
- *The Fire Within* (Last Dragon Chronicles), by Chris d’Lacey. Scholastic, 2001. ISBN 0439672449. 3–6.
- *Get Well, Good Knight*, by Shelley Moore Thomas. Penguin Young Readers, 2004. ISBN 0142400505. K–2.
- *Hatching Magic*, by Ann Downer-Hazell. Atheneum, 2003. ISBN 0689834004. 3–6.
- *Have You Seen My Dragon?*, by Steve Light. Candlewick, 2014. ISBN 0763666483. PK–2.
- *Horrible Harry and the Dragon War* (Horrible Harry), by Suzy Kline. Puffin, 2003. ISBN 0142501662. 1–3.



## Catch a Dragon by the Tale



- *How to Train Your Dragon*, by Cressida Cowell. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2004. ISBN 0316737372. 3–6.
- *Kenny and the Dragon*, by Tony DiTerlizzi. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2008. ISBN 1416939776. 3–6.
- *The Last Dragonslayer*, by Jasper Fforde. HMH Books for Young Readers, 2012. ISBN 0547738471. 4–6.
- *Magyk* (Septimus Heap), by Angie Sage. HarperCollins, 2005. ISBN 0060577312. 3–6.
- *Me and My Dragon*, by David Biedrzycki. Charlesbridge, 2011. ISBN 1580892787. PK–2.
- *The Paper Bag Princess*, by Robert Munsch. Annick Press, 1980. ISBN 0920236162. PK–2.
- *A Practical Guide to Dragons*, by Lisa Trumbauer. Mirrorstone, 2006. ISBN 0786941642. 3–6.
- *Puff, the Magic Dragon*, by Peter Yarrow. Sterling, 2007. ISBN 1402747829. PK–2.
- *Secrets of the Dragon Sanctuary* (Fablehaven), by Brandon Mull. Shadow Mountain, 2009. ISBN 1606410423. 3–6.
- *The Sasquatch Escape* (Imaginary Veterinary), by Suzanne Selfors. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2013. ISBN 0316209341. 3–6.
- *Thomas and the Dragon Queen*, by Shutta Crum. Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2010. ISBN 0375857036. 3–5.
- *When a Dragon Moves In*, by Jodi Moore. Flashlight Press, 2011. ISBN 0979974674. PK–1.
- *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, by Grace Lin. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2009. ISBN 0316114278. 2–6.
- *Where's the Dragon?* by Jason Hook. Sterling, 2004. ISBN 1402716249. PK–1.
- *Who Wants a Dragon?* by James Mayhew. Orchard Books, 2004. ISBN 0439672376. PK–1.