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Texts about Dragons



The dragon, often classified as a type of serpent, is a clear example of a figure that is salient throughout history, cultures, and texts. Dragons range from complex mythical creatures to personified adorable characters. Dragons are great examples of cross cultural characters and universal symbols that play varying roles in children's literature both historically and in contemporary times.

Not only are dragons engaging characters, but due to their evolution in literature and even pop culture, they can be a catalyst for comparing representations across contexts and different cultural functions, values, appearances and perspectives. Dragons can be compared across cultures such as the representation and symbolism of Eastern and Western Dragons and the various representations of the Rainbow Serpent of many different Aboriginal cultural groups across Australia. Often the dragons found in texts for young students are characters who become imaginary friends or integral in struggles with friendship and moving into relationships beyond the family. Traditional stories have dragons in a range of roles depending on the cultural origins. As readers mature, the dragon becomes a critical character in the fantasy genre and can evolve from the cuddly, supportive symbol to a fire breathing aggressor or a symbol of prosperity and good luck, often a key feature of ongoing novel series.

Clearly, a diverse range of texts are available that we can choose to share with students based on the cultural knowledge and experience they bring to the classroom, their linguistic strengths and needs as well as their age. Take a look at the suggestions below ranging from picture books and novel series to information books, poetry and movies.



Picture Books

Dragons Don't Share by Nicola Kinnear (2022, Scholastic) <u>A Tale of Two Dragons</u> by Geraldine McCaughrean (2022, Andersen Press) <u>Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon</u> by Kat Zhang and Charlene Chua (2021, Simon & Schuster)

<u>Ten Minutes to Bed Little Dragon</u> by Rhiannon Fielding and Chris Chatterton (2021, Ladybird)

<u>Here be Dragons</u> by Susannah Lloyd and Paddy Donnelly (2021, Quarto) <u>Storm Dragon</u> by Dianne Hofmeyr and Carol Thompson (2021, Otter Barry) <u>Ellie's Dragon</u> by Bob Graham (2020, Walker Books)

<u>Where the Dragons Live: A Rosie and Rasmus story</u> by Serena Geddes (2020, First Aladdin)

George And the Dragon by Christopher Wormell (2019, Penguin)

<u>Nian, the Chinese New Year Dragon</u> by Virginia Loh-Hagan and Timothy Banks (2019, Sleeping Bear Press)

The Night Dragon by Naomi Howarth (2019, Quarto)

Dragon Post by Emma Yarlett (2018, Walker Books)

<u>There is No Dragon in this Story</u> by Lou Carter and Deborah Allwright (2017, Bloomsbury)

Dear Dragon by Josh Funk and Rodolfo Montalvo (2016, Penguin)

Zog by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler (2016, Scholastic)

Again! by Emily Gravett (2016, Pan Macmillan)

Dragons Love Tacos by Adam Rubin (2015, Penguin)

<u>Once Tashi Met a Dragon</u> by Anna Fienberg, Barbara Fienberg and Kim Gamble (2013, Allen & Unwin)

<u>The Mark of the Wagarl</u> by Lorna Little and Janice Lyndon (2012, Magabala Books)

<u>Puff the Magic Dragon</u> by Peter Yarrow, Lenny Lipton and Eric Puybaret (2012, Union Square Kids)

<u>I Don't Believe in Dragons</u> by Anna Walker (2010, Scholastic) <u>The Trouble with Dragons</u> by Debi Gliori (2009, Bloomsbury) <u>The Knight and the Dragon</u> by Tomie dePaola (1998, Penguin)



Novel Series

The novels listed are the first book in each series. Follow the links to find other novels in each series.

Dragon Storm: Tomas and Ironskin by Alastair Chisholm, Eric Deschamps and Ben Mantle (2022, Nosy Crow)

<u>Naughty Dragons Make Trouble!</u> by Natalie Jane Prior and Simon Howe (2020, Hardie Grant)

<u>Children of the Dragon: Relic of the Blue Dragon</u> by Rebecca Lim (2019, Allen & Unwin)

The Secret Dragon by Ed Clarke (2019, Penguin)

The Boy who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd (2018, Piccadilly Press)

<u>The Erth Dragons: The wearle</u> by Chris d'Lacey (2015 Hatchette)

The Dragon with the Chocolate Heart by Stephanie Burgis (2017,

Bloomsbury)

<u>Wings of Fire: The Dragonet Prophecy</u> by Tui T. Sutherland (2013, Scholastic) <u>Dragonkeeper</u> by Carole Wilkinson (2012, Black Dog Books)

The Dragonsitter by Josh Lacey and Garry Parsons (2012, Andersen Press) The Last Dragon Chronicles: The fire within by Chris d'Lacey (2011, Hatchette)

Dragons of Wayward Crescent: Gruffen by Chris d'Lacey (2010, Hatchette) <u>How to Train your Dragon</u> by Cressida Cowell (2010, Hatchette)

<u>Kumiko and the Dragon</u> by Briony Stewart (2007, University of Queensland Press)

Dragon Rider by Cornelia Funke (2004, Chicken House)



Graphic Novels

Nimona by Noelle Stevenson (2015 HarperCollins) Dragon Girl: The secret valley by Jeff Weigel (2017, Andrews McMeel Publishing) City of Dragons: The awakening storm by Jaimal Yogis (2022, Scholastic) Wings of Fire: The Dragonet Prophecy by Tui,T Sutherland and Mike Holmes (2018, Scholastic)

The Tea Dragon Society by Katie O'Neill (2020, Oni Press)



Poetry

Dragon Poems by John Foster and Korky Paul (2019, Oxford University Press)

<u>The Dragons are Singing Tonight</u> by Jack Prelutsky and Peter Sis (1998, HarperCollins)

<u>The Dragon's End and Other Children's Poems</u> by Kevin Bower (2011, Xlibris) <u>More Tales from the Dragon and Other Children's Poems</u> by Kevin Bower (2008, New Generation Publishing)

Information Books

Discover Dragons: Magic, Myth, and Mystery Express by Virginia Loh-Hagan (2023, 45th Parallel Press) Real-life Dragons and their Stories of Survival by Anita Ganeri and Jianan Liu (2022, Hachette) The Magnificent Book of Dragons by Stella Caldwell and Gonzalo Kenny (2022, Weldon Owen) Dragon World by Tamara Macfarlane (2021, Dorling Kindersley) The Secret Lives of Dragons by Professor Zoya Agnis and Alexander Utkin (2021, Flying Eye Books) Incomplete Book of Dragons by Cressida Cowell (2016, Hachette) Dragonology: The complete book of dragons by Ernest Drake (2003, Candlewick)



Movies

Raya and the Last Dragon (2021, PG) Wish Dragon (2021, PG) Dragonrider (2020, PG) Pete's Dragon (2016, PG) How to Train your Dragon (2010, PG)