

Dragon's Fat Cat

by Dav Pilkey

The endearing blue Dragon is back in this Caldecott award-winning author's humorous and charming story about friendship and taking care of pets through many silly mishaps.



Read

Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *How many of you have a pet?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if there really are blue dragons?

During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Rare Words in *Dragon's Fat Cat*

- lump: a small irregularly shaped solid mass or piece
- scooped: to pick somebody or something up swiftly
- cozy: warm, comfortable, and snug
- puddles: a shallow pool of water
- smelly: giving off a strong or unpleasant smell
- litter: a dry absorbent substance, that is spread in a shallow container where a pet, especially a cat, can urinate when indoors
- scattered: in a number of different places far away from each other
- flashlight: a small hand-held lamp usually powered by batteries
- crate: a large open sturdy box

After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- In what kind of weather did Dragon find Cat?
- What did Cat look like? Fat? Skinny? What color?
- How did Dragon finally get Cat to come inside?
- What did Dragon do to keep Cat warm and cozy?
- What did Dragon use to make Cat a bed? Where did Cat sleep?
- What were some things that Dragon tried to teach Cat?
- Can you name some foods to feed cats? What did Dragon feed Cat?
- How do inside cats go to the bathroom? Do they use the toilet?
- Who told Dragon that his house stinks? What did mailmouse suggest he do?
- How did Dragon make Cat a litter box? What was wrong with this litter box?
- What type of animal was the sales person at the Pet Store?
- What did Dragon forget at the Pet Store?
- What happened when Dragon went outside to look for Cat?
- How many kittens did Cat have? What did he name them?



Do

Cat Masks

Using paper plates or paper bags along with paper scraps, yarn, crayons, scissors, and paint, let the children design cat masks.