



Fiction

Oxford Level 9

# Dexter's Dinosaurs

Author: Michaela Morgan

Range: Fantasy story

Theme: Be careful what you wish for

Teaching Notes authors: Gill Howell and Vicki Yates

## Synopsis

Dexter is mad about dinosaurs and wishes he could have one of his own. But when his wish comes true he quickly changes his mind as the dinosaurs wreak havoc in the town.

## Group or guided reading

### Introducing the book

- Look together at the cover and ask the children to suggest what the story will be about.
- Read the title and ask the children to find the word 'dinosaur' in the title.
- Read the blurb on the back cover. Ask the children to predict what might happen in the story.
- Read the author's name and ask the children if they have read other books by this author.

### Strategy check

- Ask the children to tell you which strategies they can use to work out new words.
- Find 'Triceratops' on page 5. Ask a volunteer to read the word and break it into syllables.
- Ask the children to find 'blown' on page 6 line 3. Ask a volunteer to break the word into phonemes.

### Independent reading

Focus: Explain to the children that you want them to think about the following question while they are reading independently: *How did the wizard make the dinosaurs vanish?*

- Observe the strategies the children use when they meet new vocabulary, and prompt them as needed.
- At the end of a chapter encourage the children to recount the main points in the chapter.
- Praise the children for reading with expression.

### Returning and responding to the text

- When the children have read the whole story, ask them to turn to the first page of the story. Ask: *What evidence does the author give us to show how Dexter was dinosaur mad?*
- Ask the children how dinosaurs appeared in the town.
- *How did the wizard make the dinosaurs disappear?* Ask them to find the words in the text.
- *Was Dexter pleased when the wizard made a spell to bring dinosaurs to him? What was wrong with the spell?*
- *Why didn't Dexter get into trouble about all the dinosaurs' damage?*
- Do the children think the story is exciting or humorous?



## Fiction

- Ask the children if they have read any other stories in which someone makes a wish. *When someone's wish comes true in stories, is the person always glad? Can you think of a way to describe the theme of this story?*

## Speaking and listening activities

- Ask some of the children to take the role of the wizard and sit in the 'hot seat'.
- Ask them to retell the events from the wizard's point of view using the first person 'I'.
- Ask the other children to say how the story changes when told from the wizard's point of view.

## Further reading activities

- Ask the children to reread page 9, and take notice of the alliterative phrases. Ask them to write their own alliterative phrases about different dinosaurs. Ask them to add them to their writing diaries.
- Ask the children to look at the text and illustrations throughout the book and collect all the onomatopoeic words that the author uses.
- Provide the children with books about dinosaurs for the reading corner.

## Suggestions for using ICT

- Prepare the beginning of the letter for the writing activity as a text file. Ask the children to finish the letter.
- Look at information and images of dinosaurs on the internet. Ensure that the children only have access to child-friendly sites.

## Writing activities

- Discuss the events of the story with the children.
- Ask the children to imagine they have a pen friend and want to tell him or her about what happened.
- Discuss how to begin the letter with the children. Write a starter on the board, e.g. *Dear... Thank you for the birthday card. You'll never guess what I wished for this year! I...*
- Ask the children to finish the letter.

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