

L.E.N.S. FOCUS

L – Literacy
E – Educators'
N – Network of
S - Saskatchewan

(formerly the Saskatchewan Reading Council)



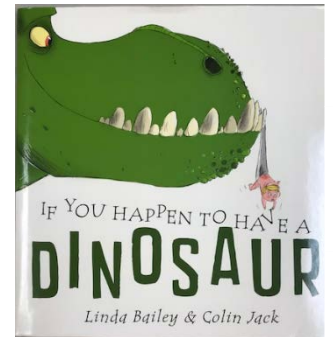
DECEMBER, 2017

Book Focus: If You Happen to Have a Dinosaur – Linda Bailey & Colin Jack

Synopsis: “Say there, Reader... do you happen to have a dinosaur lying around your living room? Eating you out of house and home? Well, what are you going to DO with it?

Put it to work, of course.”

And so begins a riotous picture book, depicting all the suggestions for what to do with a dinosaur. This fun and fantastical read takes the reader through many crazy ideas, and Jack’s illustrations make them all the funnier. At the end of the book, the reader is challenged to think about what you might do if you have, not a dinosaur, but ANOTHER animal lying around your living room?



Suggested teaching strategy:

I DO: Read the book, once “as a reader,” and once “as a writer.” Draw attention to the author’s craft. How has she engaged the reader? What descriptive words made the reader understand what the dinosaur could do? How is the book structured? First part? Middle part? Ending? How do the illustrations support and enhance the text?

WE DO: As a class, brainstorm things you could do or shouldn’t do with a kangaroo – write a short group narrative with all the ideas – perhaps a large class book. Think about what you would model during the writing lesson: descriptive language, fantastical ideas (magic), repetitive pattern of phrases, to name a few.

YOU DO: Individually, choose an animal that might be in your living room, whether it is real or fantastical, and write your own narrative about what you could do with it. There are lots of opportunities here for every level of writer – weaker writers that need more support could work in a group or in a pair with a stronger writer to come up with their narrative.

Note: If you are unable to access this book in your library, this strategy can be used with a multitude of picture books that includes a repetitive pattern and a topic that invites the reader to create their own ideas.