



The Library Dragon

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When Sunrise Elementary advertised for a thick-skinned librarian with a burning love of books, Miss Lotta Scales knew she was perfect for the job. Who could guard books better than a REAL dragon?

"She kept a fiery eye out to make sure no one removed any books from the shelves...

The very thought of sticky little fingers

touching

and

clutching,

pawing

and

clawing,

smearing

and

tearing

her precious books just made her hot under the collar."

The teachers, singed and scorched, formed a delegation. But not even sweet Miss Lemon could convince Miss Lotta Scales that "the library belonged to the children."

Fortunately, nearsighted Molly Brickmeyer stumbles into a copy of "Snuff the Magic Dragon" and reads the tale out loud. Her storytelling beckons the children back to the library and brings them face to face with the Library Dragon.

Can an open book temper the flames of the school's hot-headed librarian?

The Library Dragon Details

Date : Published August 1st 2012 by Peachtree Publishers (first published October 1994)

ISBN : 9781561450916

Author : Carmen Agra Deedy , Michael P. White (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fantasy, Dragons

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From Reader Review The Library Dragon for online ebook

Kary says

I read this to most of my classes for orientation - I think it will be my go-to in the years to come.

Cheriee Weichel says

I would have loved to have had this book in our school library. It's very clever and full of hilarious puns. The ending is transformational!

Linnea Lyding says

This is a fun, eye-catching story. It is about a librarian who appears to be a dragon who hates having children in her library. There is a great deal of word play based on her being a fire breathing dragon. The pictures are bright and extremely detailed. There is a lot for the reader to take in. It ultimately shows how this horrific, frightening, beast can be melted by the love a little girl. It is a sweet story. It would be a good story to use with children when you are teaching them about looking for hidden meanings in books and/or details in pictures. It also illustrates that things that appear to be frightening may not really be so bad after all.

Jeremy says

Cute use of language in an attempt to relate to dragons (e.g., "The principal fumed. The teachers were incensed. Worst of all, the children had missed reading and storytime for weeks and their grades were going up in smoke.").

Nada says

This book is about Ms. Lotta Scales, the librarian at Sunrise Elementary School who loves to keep the library books a little too nice and clean by not allowing any of the students to remove or read any of the books from the bookshelves. What caught my eye right away was the consistent humor in the illustrations of the book and how well the author worked with wordplay. This book can definitely be used by teachers in all grade levels in teaching vocabulary and homonyms. I really enjoyed the illustrators modernization in the pictures and the variations in simplicity and complexity. The consistent labels and signs in the pictures were also a nice touch that are rare to see in fictional picture books. This book can be enjoyed by children of all ages and can also be a reminder of how important books are and how well we should be treating them.

Kim says

This book gets on my nerves with its exhaustive, self-referential, "Ooh! Ooh! Look at me! I'm punny!" overuse of every fire pun in the history of humanity. However, my 6yo and almost 8yo did not seem to notice, or if they did, they did not care. Fine for them, but reading this book was highly annoying for me, the parent. So if the kids bring this home from the library, brace yourself. I'm just sayin' ...

Professor Ritter says

The Library Dragon is a witty, pun-filled story of a school librarian who protects "her" books with the ferocity of a fire breathing dragon. The teachers and the principal all try to intervene. Nothing changes, however, until a little girl, missing her glasses, wanders into the library. Since she is unable to see the warning signs posted in the library, she unwittingly saves the day by taking a book off of the shelf and reading out loud. A great story about the power of putting real books into the hands of children. A great read aloud with both humor and hope.

Megan Franks says

The book begins with a want ad requesting a children's librarian--"a thick-skinned professional" with a "burning love for children." Turns out, Sunrise Elementary School has a real dragon of a librarian--literally! Miss Lotta Scales believes her job is to guard the library--to protect the books from snotty noses and sticky fingers. No one is allowed to touch the books and storytime is abolished. Everyone fears Miss Lotta Scales (because they often end up singed...even the principal!). In the end, thanks to a student named Molly, Miss Lotty loses her scales, reinstates story time and and transforms into a kinder, gentler librarian. It's laugh-out-loud fun (especially for librarians).

Dolly says

This is a fun tale about a librarian who takes a run-down elementary school library and makes it new and nice, but the only problem is that the children are no longer allowed to actually touch and read the books. Oh yeah, she's a dragon, too.

This story reminds me of the Black Lagoon series by Mike Thaler and Jared Lee. The librarian is mean and has lots of ways of protecting her books from the sticky fingers, most of which include fire.

The word play is amusing and the illustrations are fun, if slightly creepy. We enjoyed reading this story together and our girls loved the librarian's transformation at the end.

jacky says

I had seen this book at the library several times and finally took it out this week. Usually, I try to save all

books dealing with dragons for Mike to read to Natalie, but since he usually only reads to her at bed time, I read this to her one afternoon. That was probably for the best because this book turned out to be more about libraries and books (my area) than dragons (Mike's area). What I liked about this book was all the funny puns. This book would be an excellent tool for teachers of all grades to use to teach about puns and word play. I also greatly enjoyed how the pictures, while not pretty, were clever and added to the word play. My favorite was that the little girl Brickmeyer had bricks on her dress. There was also a lot of text to read in the pictures, which would be great for younger readers. As far as the plot was concerned, it was alright. And there was a lesson of taking care of something, but not so much so that you can't enjoy it anymore.

Barbara says

Miss Lotta Scales loves the books in the library of Sunrise Elementary School, but maybe she loves them a little too much. The librarian is overprotective of the books from which she is responsible, and makes sure they stay in pristine condition. This means the books don't get used by the children. Despite a visit from a teacher delegation asking her to be more lenient, things remain the same. But when Molly Brickmeyer wanders into the library and begins reading, she melts the heart of the school's dragon of a librarian. The airbrushed illustrations show the dragon's personality and the children's faces in wonderful fashion. The story itself is funny although it hides some truth about the tendency some of us to be reluctant to let our precious books get out of our sight.

Kaethe says

Deedy is at her best writing books-to-read-aloud. This would be great to read as part of an introduction to a library for a group of kids, but it also amuses those with more experience, even those who've loaned out their own books. So much fun, and so many little jokes in the text and the illustrations, that it rewards close attention.

Judi says

This is a great book for Media Specialists/ librarians to read aloud to students at the beginning of the year to teach about book care. I have done it many times - though not every year.

Jen says

This is a fantastic read-aloud if you really get into it. I always sniffed the book when she talks about the books being all smelly. Fourth-graders seemed to giggle the most.

Elizabeth S says

Parts of the book were really great. But it didn't have a really great feel overall. Maybe it is because today's

kids don't call strict teachers "dragons" anymore, so the twist here was lost on my kids. Maybe it is because we've never run into someone who is too strict with their books, so taking it to an extreme was only weird, not funny or clever. There were a lot of places where the kids and I were confused as to the character's motivations. For example, my preschooler kept saying, "But WHY did the teachers do ..." and I didn't really know how to answer.
