

# NOT YOUR TYPICAL DRAGON

by Dan Bar-el

It's common knowledge that dragons breathe fire. Well for Crispin, that's not the case, whenever he tries he breathes marshmallow, whipping cream and even music. Children will celebrate being different and enjoy when Crispin finds his inner "fire" and saves his family.

## READ!

### Before you read:

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, *Crispin is different from other dragons and that's okay. What makes you special or unique? What can you do that others can't?* 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 how the dragon is blowing bubbles without any bubble mix?*

### While you read:

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 *Not Your Typical Dragon*

- breathe: take in air through the lungs
- imagined: form an image or idea of somebody or something in the mind
- neighbor: somebody who lives next door or close to somebody else
- whisked: moved with a sweeping motion
- confidently: certain of having the ability and judgment needed to succeed
- typical: having all or most of the characteristics shared by others of the same kind
- curry: a highly spiced dish
- attitude: an opinion or general feeling about something
- flames: a hot glowing mass of burning gas
- declared: state something in a plain, open way
- singed: scorch something slightly

**After you read:**

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- How old did Crispin Blaze have to be to start breathing fire?
- What different things did Crispin imagine doing with his fire-breathing ability?
- What happened when Crispin tried lighting his birthday candles?
- Where did Crispin's father take him the day after his birthday? Why?
- What came out of Crispin's mouth at the doctor's office?
- Why did Crispin run away from home? Who found him in the cave?
- What different things did Sir George do to help Crispin learn to breathe fire?
- Why did Crispin's father breathe flames towards Sir George's father?
- How did Crispin put out the fire?

**DO!****DRAGON MATCH**

Print the *Dragon Memory* sheet on a piece of cardstock paper. Color and cut each pair of items. Shuffle the pile of cards and lay them face down in rows. Flip over one card and then try and find its match. If no match is found, flip over the cards (so they're facing downward) and try again. You can either play with a partner or by yourself. How quickly can you find all the matches?



