

THE KNIGHT AND THE DRAGON

by Tomie DePaola

Before a young knight and a timid dragon can fight, they must do their homework. Humor-filled illustrations and a clever story follow the two main characters as they prepare for battle and ultimately find their true passion.

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, *Books help you learn about all sorts of things. What would you like to learn about?* 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 why the dragon is smiling?*

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 *The Knight and the Dragon*

- knight: medieval soldier of high rank
- castle: a large fortified building or complex of buildings
- rummage: search through things
- ancestor: distant relation somebody is descended from
- armor: protective clothing of metal or leather for soldiers
- swishing: make or move with a whistling sound
- meanwhile: period of time between two events
- letter: a piece of handwritten or printed text addressed to a recipient and typically sent by mail

After you read:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What creature had the knight never fought?
- How did the dragon and the knight learn how to fight?
- How many steps did it take for the knight to make a suit of armor?
- What did the dragon practice doing?
- How many different weapons did the knight prepare for the fight?
- What did the knight paint on his shield?
- How did the dragon and the knight let the other know they were ready to fight?
- How well did the dragon and knight do at fighting?
- What did the princess show them to do instead?

**DO!****FIND YOUR PASSION**

Both the Knight and the Dragon used books to learn what they needed to know about fighting, weapon making, tail swooshing, how to build a BBQ and cooking. What is something you would like to learn? Have you ever wanted to learn about an animal, how to make something, the history of something or how to walk on the moon? Now's your chance. Visit your local library and check out a book of your choosing. Learn something new or more about something you truly love.