

# DRAGONS LOVE TACOS

by Adam Rubin

Combining two children's favorite things, dragons and tacos! Action-packed, witty humor is brilliantly illustrated and warns us that just because dragons LOVE tacos, doesn't mean you should give them ANY salsa.

## 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, *Tacos are a part of Mexican cuisine. What other types of food do you like?*

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 many tacos the dragon can eat?*

### 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 *Dragons Love Tacos*

- gigantic: very large
- sizzling: fry with a hissing sound
- crispy: fragile or having hardness but little strength
- secret: a method or formula known only to the few
- spicy: seasoned with a hot, sharp or peppery spice
- salsa: a spicy tomato-based sauce
- chunky: consisting of or containing thick pieces
- smoke: the visible vapor and gases given off by a burning substance
- single: one in number
- speck: a small spot, bit or particle
- spark: an ignited or fiery particle thrown off by something burning
- accordion: wind instrument forcing air through small metal reeds, a keyboard for the right hand, and buttons for sounding single bass notes for the left hand
- charades: a game in which words or phrases are acted out and guessed upon
- conversation: talk socially with others
- congratulations: an expression of joy in the success or good fortune of another
- fine: very small
- rebuild: make, construct or form again

### **After you read:**

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What kind of creatures loves tacos?
- What different types of tacos do they love?
- What do dragons hate?
- What are the toppings dragons like on their tacos?
- Describe the type of parties that dragons like.
- What day of the month is the big taco party on?
- What are the different colors that dragons have?
- What was in the salsa that the dragons ate at the taco party?
- How did they react to eating the spicy salsa?
- What happened when they realized the house was destroyed?



**DO!**

## **ADJECTIVE HUNT**

**You will need:** paper and pencil/marker/pen

While re-reading the story write down every time the author uses an adjective to describe something. For example, on page 1, big, gigantic, tiny and little are all adjectives that describe tacos. How many adjectives can you find?