

WHEN A DRAGON MOVES IN

by Jodi Moore

Is there really a dragon running wild on the beach or is this a case of an over-active imagination? Children will love the full page illustrations and antics as they try and figure out what's really happening.

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, *If you could have any animal move in with you, what would it be? What would you and your animal do all day?* 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 if the dragon is going to burn down the sand castle?*

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 *When a Dragon Moves In*

- perfect: without errors, flaws, or faults
- sandcastle: a small model of a castle that is made out of damp sand
- cozy: warm, comfortable and snug
- toaster: something that browns food by exposure to heat
- raft: a flat floating structure
- practically: very nearly but not quite
- lifeguard: somebody trained in rescue techniques whose job is to watch over swimmers and save those in danger of drowning
- ocean: a large expanse of salt water
- business: activities or things that are not clearly described or defined
- manners: the way something is done or happens

After you read:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- What happens if you build a perfect sandcastle?
- What kinds of activities do the boy and dragon do together?
- Who wouldn't dare stomp a castle with a dragon inside?
- What did the boy have to do to keep the dragon a secret from the lifeguard?
- What did the boy's mom think the dragon's roar sounded like?
- What did the boy's dad say the feather came from?
- What did the boy's sister think the sharp teeth really were?
- What all did the boy and dragon eat and drink together?
- What happened when the boy's sister said that, "There's no such thing as a dragon?"
- What did the boy do when he got in trouble for throwing sand on his sister?

DO!

CAN YOU BUILD THE PERFECT SAND CASTLE?

If you do not have sand available at your home, go to your local park, pool, beach or garden that does have sand. Spend the afternoon or day building your perfect castle. You can use common household items (bucket, cup, spoons, bowls, etc) to create different shapes. Who knows, a dragon just might decide to live in your castle!