There Was an Old Dragon Who
Swallowed a Knight
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Meet the old dragon who swallows pretty much an entire kingdom! Will he ever learn a little moderation? This rollicking rhyme is full to bursting with sight gags, silly characters, and plenty of burps!
Lexile: AD 600 AR: Not Available

Author Website: http://pennyklostermann.com
Illustrator Website: http://www.benmantle.co.uk
Other Websites/links:
http://www.randomhousekids.com/media/activities/OldDragon_DownloadActivities_WEB.pdf

Nonfiction Title:
Dragons, Guillaum, Charlotte, Raintree, 2011
Dragons, Rau, Dana Meachen, Marshall Cavendish Benchmark, 2011
I'm a fire breather! : meet a dragon, Knudsen, Shannon, Millbrook Press, 2015

Introduction:
1. Show the front cover and then show the back cover. Introduce the dragon’s “To Swallow” list. Ask students if they know what these things are. Use illustrations from the book, or print out pictures from Random House website to define any unknown words.
2. At a prior storytime, read another “There was an old…” book.

Story time Activities:

Go to

Print out pictures of dragon and what and whom he swallowed. Pass them out to students. Have students review the sequence of events by swallowing the items in order.

Read another “There Was an Old…” story. Compare and contrast the two books using a Venn Diagram or Bubble Thinking Map.

Have student imagine another “There Was an Old…” story. Who would be their main character? What types of things, people or animals would get swallowed? Students could also draw their story characters.

While reading the story, stop after the phrase, “It's not polite!” Have students repeat the phrase and define the phrase. Encourage them to participate by repeating this phrase throughout the book.
Discussion Questions:

1. The book ends with the knight still in the dragon’s tummy. What do you think happens to him? How could he get out?

2. What other things were swallowed when the dragon swallowed the moat? (A: a frog and three alligators) What else could have been in the moat?

3. Open the book to the page where the dragon swallows the castle. Discuss who lives in the castle. Include characters shown illustration (A: king, queen, knight, minstrel, etc.) and those from students’ imaginations.

4. Did the knight know there was a dragon nearby? (A: Yes, there are warning signs.) Why did the knight ignore the signs? Is he the first knight the dragon swallowed? (A: no, there are bones, helmets and a charred shadow in the first page illustration)

5. How is the horse different when finally burped up? (A: he is missing his blanket or cover. What happened to the blanket? (If students do not remember, show them the next page, where the knight has a new blanket)