



## Dear Dragon

*Josh Funk , Rodolfo Montalvo (Illustrations)*

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**A sweet and clever friendship story in rhyme, about looking past physical differences to appreciate the person (or dragon) underneath.**

George and Blaise are pen pals, and they write letters to each other about everything: their pets, birthdays, favorite sports, and science fair projects. There's just one thing that the two friends don't know: George is a human, while Blaise is a dragon! What will happen when these pen pals finally meet face-to-face?

## Dear Dragon Details

Date : Published September 6th 2016 by Viking Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780451472304

Author : Josh Funk , Rodolfo Montalvo (Illustrations)

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Fantasy, Dragons, Poetry

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## From Reader Review Dear Dragon for online ebook

### Kid Lit Reviews says

George and Blaise begin the new school year, at two different schools, assigned as pen pals. They will write, in rhyme, to each other during the school year. This new activity is a first for both boys, who rely on twenty-first century technology, including the internet, social media, and texting via smart phones. Putting a pen to paper will be a conundrum for both boys. To add a layer of difficulty, each letter must be written in rhyming poetry. Wow.

Letters begin as formal short descriptions of their recent day and then delve into a friendship.

*Dear Dragon* is clever, a fun read, and a brilliant tale for young children who will learn more than anyone could ever expect from a pen pal. There is no twist at the end. Readers understand from pages one . . .

Originally reviewed by Kid Lit Reviews. To read the full review and see interior illustrations, go to:  
<http://bit.ly/DearDragon>

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### Michele Knott says

I have a confession to make. I actually read the mock up of this book back in July 2015. And it was my favorite Josh Funk book. Shhhh, it still is.

I love this book because of the joy it gives to readers.

I love this book because of the many mentor text purposes it has.

Thrilled to be sharing it with readers and teachers.

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### Karen Upper says

What a fantastic concept!

This tale introduces the concept {old-fashioned for sure, :-)} of actually writing letters! WOW! Letter writing is greeted with a great sigh of reluctance....and as time continues ....this initial emotion is transformed, as each 'pen pal' begins to find common ground /interests.....and at the reveal where the pen-pals come face to face.....holds a delightful surprise for both the reader as they witness the characters reacting to the discovery of their differences!

Highly Recommended!

FIVE STARS

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### Stephanie Croaning says

**This clever story features two pen-pals getting to know each other through the exchange of rhyming**

## **letters. When they meet face-to-face, will their expectations match reality?**

Picture book, fiction

Interest level: K-3; Reading level: 2.6

4 out of 5 stars

As an assignment for class, students in two different schools are assigned pen pals. They are to write letters that rhyme to their assigned pal. Readers get to instantly see that the two schools are VERY different...one school is for humans and the other schools is for dragons!

The illustrations, by Rodolfo Montalvo, are key to the humor and purpose of the story. Each letter from one of the pen pals is featured in a two-page spread. Readers get to share the letters between Blaise Dragomir and George Slair. From the names alone, you can guess which one is the human and which is the dragon.

Each letter is accompanied by two different illustrations. The first illustrations shows the recipient reading the letter and envisioning his own version of events, while the author of the letter is seen on the accompanying page depicting the event happening in their own life. The difference between what the letter writer and reader see is very humorous!

In one exchange, Blaise Dragomir writes, "My favorite sport is skydiving. I just near Falcor Peak." You can see from the illustration that Blaise and George have very different ideas of what it means to skydive!

It is fun to watch a friendship develop through the progression of letters. The letters become more personal and less formal.

The writing project ends with a pen pal picnic where the friends will get to meet each other. What makes this moment special is when they finally realize that their pen pal is not the same species that they are, and then when you turn the page, they are high-fiveing their friendship and differences.

This story has a good message about the similarities and differences between people of different cultures (or species) and celebrates the ability to bridge those differences and form friendships. In a global 21st-century world, this is a good message to spread to young readers.

Montalvo's illustrations are such fun and are vital to the telling of the story. Teachers could use this book as a way to engage students at the beginning of a pen pal writing project.

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### **Penny Ramirez says**

What fun! Poetry and pen pals! I would really like to have a dragon as a pen pal.

The bright, colorful artwork was engaging. I enjoyed how George and Blaise each imagined the other's activities.

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### **Sadie says**

This book is by far the CUTEST book I've ever read. I love the rhyming and the letters. As they write to each other I love how they have the dual perspective because they don't know that they are writing to a human/dragon. I also love the moment they meet. Everyone is shocked by what they see, but none of that matters because they are all happy to meet in person and have a good picnic. It gives a great message to kids about physical features and how to get past that and discover who someone is on the inside.

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### **Niki (Daydream Reader) says**

I just love the illustrations that go with the letters. I think this would lead to great discussions about point of view...thinking about others...different perspectives, etc.

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### **Marianne says**

I like the story a lot and the pictures even more but the rhythm of the poetry really did not work for me.

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### **Jan Polep says**

My favorite kind of book (written in letter form) revives the idea of pen pals...social media before there was social media. The hidden message in this rhyming pre-school -3rd grade picture book is how easy it is to become friends if kids/dragons subtract what they look like and concentrate on what they have in common. The meet-up at the end is priceless. Thanks for the recommend, Penny!

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### **Julie Kirchner says**

I first read this book at NERDCampMI with the author by my side. Pretty lucky! A great story of two pen pals and their journey to get to know each other through letters and then finally in person. I love how they start out not enjoying writing and through their friendship, develop a desire to write beyond the assignment. Watching friendships grow as they get to know each other through written word, the way inaccurate assumptions are discredited in the end, and a true friendship is solidified despite differences are lessons that are particularly important with the current climate in our country.

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### **Ryan says**

Such a cute book. Two people have a class assignment to write a letter to a new pen pal in poetry form. What is neat about this book is the side by side pictures. So if Blaise is reading a letter from George, you have one side that shows what Blaise is thinking, and one side that shows what George meant. Only towards the end do they know one is human and one is dragon. This was a neat way to tell a story. Lots of fun.

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## **Lynn Davidson says**

This is one of those books that made me laugh out loud. It's delightful!

Written in rhyme it's about a class of young children - focusing on one boy in particular - involved in a penpal program. They are to write faithfully in rhyme to their penpals. The funny thing is they are given dragon penpals but, until the penpal picnic at the end, the dragons think their penpals are dragons and the children think theirs are children.

The illustrations show how the boy and his dragon penpal are misunderstanding one another - such as, the boy wrote that he and his dad built a giant fort. It's made out of boxes, but the dragon imagines a huge castle. When the dragon writes that his dad is in demolition the boy imagines him as a heavy-equipment operator.

This is an entertaining story that the reader will want to go through again and again.

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## **Earl says**

Dear Dragon is such a clever and hilarious book about friendship and mistaken identity told in rhyme. It'll be perfect for National Poetry Month but I know I'll be recommending it year-round!

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## **Ricki says**

I simply adored this book. It was quite clever and imaginative! I imagine it took a lot of thought to try to show how different George and Blaise's lives might be and how they might misinterpret the descriptions of simple daily life events. I am a huge fan of Josh Funk's writing and recommend all of his books. They all are witty and humorous, and my son and I always giggle while we read them. Each of his books teaches a life lesson that has been very useful for me as a mom, and I know they are equally useful for elementary school teachers. For *Lady Pancake & Sir French Toast*, I have been able to constantly refer to the variety of foods in the text in order to help my son with his picky eating habits. With this book, *Dear Dragon*, I have been able to talk with my son about differences and how we might work to understand how others might lead different daily lives than ours. I am really looking forward to Josh's next book, *Pirasours!*. Based on his other books, I know it will be a good one!

I fondly remember our elementary school experiences with pen pals. My fourth class wrote to a class in Germany. It was so interesting to learn about all of the differences between our lives. This book would make for a great jumpstart to a pen pal project. It would be neat to connect to a class in another country or even across our own country. Students would learn a lot about how we are both similar and different from others-- and how this is a good thing, indeed!

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## **Paul Orsino says**

Josh Funk, author of *Lady Pancake & Sir French Toast*, is back with another hilarious, charming, and rhyming picture book!

Dear Dragon is the story of two students who have been paired as “pen pals” for the year. Blaise, a dragon, and George, a human, are tasked with getting to know each other through the exchange of written letters. Neither of the boys are particularly fond of writing but reluctantly participate in this exchange. As the letters start to arrive, George and Blaise get to know each other and form an unlikely friendship. They swap favorite hobbies and sports, talk about school subjects, and their families. The only thing they don’t learn is that one of them is a dragon and the other is a human! With the end of the school year pen pal picnic approaching, these two are excited to finally meet, but what will happen when they see each other for the first time?

Full review here!: <http://wp.me/p78P3e-3E>

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