

Dinosaur Boy

By Cory Putnam Oakes

Annotation

- The summer before he begins fifth grade, Sawyer sprouts a tail with spikes. As a result, he is bullied in school. When the bullies begin to disappear, Sawyer, his best friend Elliot, and the new girl in school know they need to get to the bottom of the mystery before it is too late..

Book Talk

- Imagine how YOU would feel if you discovered that you were part dinosaur? For ten year old Sawyer, it begins with a small bump on his neck, and before he knows it, he has developed 17 bumps and the stump of a tail down his back. Soon plates begin to grow where the bumps were, and the tail becomes an uncomfortable nuisance. Sawyer realizes that he has the dinosaur gene - after all, his grandfather is part stegosaurus. When the students who bully him at school begin disappearing, Sawyer and his two friends know that they must get to the bottom of the disappearance before the children are shipped off to another planet.

Author on the Internet

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Items to use in a library display

- Model dinosaurs, student created “alien” masks

Food

- Salad, Mole Sauce, Salsa, Pixy Stix, Laffy Taffy

Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics

- His friends all assume that because Sawyer has the dinosaur gene he is a ferocious flesh-eating dinosaur. Instead, he is the gentle, herbivore (vegetarian) type dinosaur. How can false assumptions cause challenges for each of us? How did this affect Sawyer’s life?
- Why was Sawyer so upset when he lost his temper?
- Sawyer is relieved at first that those who have bullied him has disappeared. Why do you suppose he changes his mind and decides to discover what happens to them instead?

First Line of the Book:

- “It all started with a bump. A little one. Right on the back of my neck.”

Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)

- *Dinosaurs, Facts at Your Fingertips* by DK Publishing
- *Dinosaurs* (Magic Tree House Resource Guide) by Will and Mary Pope Osborne
- *National Geographic Little Kids First Big Book of Dinosaurs* by Catherine D. Hughes

What to Read Next

- *Dinosaur Boy Saves Mars* by Cory Putnam Oakes
- *The Escape of the Deadly Dinosaur* by Elizabeth Singer Hunt

Other Books by this Author:

- *Dinosaur Boy Saves Mars* by Cory Putnam Oakes

Additional Resources

- Art/craft activity: Making “plates” and tails using paper plates and construction (butcher) paper with students.
- Reader’s Theater script:
<http://www.thebestclass.org/uploads/5/6/2/4/56249715/dinosaurland.pdf>
- Interview with the author:
<http://www.fromthemixedupfiles.com/2015/02/interview-cory-putman-oakes-author-dinosaur-boy/>
- Lesson ideas: Learning about dinosaurs and their characteristics; discover the difference between herbivores and carnivores; personal character trait lessons on perseverance, friendship, patience, integrity, kindness