***Dragons and Marshmallows***

By Asia Citro

**Annotation**

Zoey’s mom is preparing to go on yet another business trip when Zoey discovers a photo that is glowing purple and learns an amazing secret she shares with her mom. Injured magical animals come to their backyard barn for help! One day a sick baby dragon turns up, and it’s up to Zoey and her cat Sassafras to figure out what’s wrong.

**Book Talk**

Zoey and Sassafrass is full of magical animals, science, mystery and adventure. What DO baby dragons eat? Will they be able to help little Marshmallow before it’s too late? Zoey loves scientific theory, and keeps track of her questions, hypothesis and findings in order to figure out the best way to care for Marshmallow the dragon.

**Book Trailer**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gr7a82qV7RA>

**Author on the Internet**

* Website: http://www.asiacitro.com/
* Twitter: @asiacitroauthor
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* Instagram: #funathomewithkids
* Pinterest: Fun At Home With Kids

**Items to use in a library display**

* Marshmallows
* Science Journal/Notebook for observations
* DK Eyewitness Reptile book
* Pet care books for reptiles
* Other books on dragons (Dragon’s Don’t Eat Tacos, Library Dragon, The Care and Keeping of a Dragon).

**Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

* Zoey had never taken care of a dragon before. There were no books on caring for magical animals, but her mother told her there were other ways to figure out the needs of magical creatures. Zoey gathered information from a book to help her determine what to feed Marshmallow, What was the name of the book and how did it help her?
* What experiment is Zoey working on in the first chapter of the book before she meets Marshmallow?
* Zoey discovered Sassafrass by the dragon’s side early one morning. What was Sassafrass trying to show Zoey? How was this important in caring for the dragon?
* Why did Zoey wear Goggles? What was her nickname for them.
* How did Marshmallow learn to take care of himself?
* Zoey learns the difference between cold-blooded reptiles and warm-blooded mammals. Can you explain the difference and why this was an important discovery to caring for Marshmallow?

**First Line of the Book:**

“What is it, Sassafras?” I crouched down and ruffled my cat’s fluffy fur.”

**Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)**

* *DK Eyewitness, Reptile* by DK Publishing
* *Learning to Care for Reptiles and Amphibians* by Felcia Lowenstein Niven

**What to Read Next**

* The Zoey and Sassafras series (multiple books)

**Other Books by this Author:**

* Monsters and Mold
* Merhorses and Bubbles
* Caterflies and Ice
* Curious Kids Science Book
* 150+ Screen-Free Activities for Kids
* A Little Bit of Dirt
* The Pod and the Bog (April 2018)
* Vrmm Vrmm Garbage Truck

**Aditional Resources**

* Music: Puff the Magic Dragon by Peter, Paul and Mary
* Art/craft activity:
	+ DrawBaby Dragons or Pip, the purple frog
	+ Imagine and draw other creatures that might visit Zoey and her mom for help
* Interview(s) with the author:
	+ [https://craftwhttps://taralazar.com/tag/asia-citro/hack.com/creative-human-interview-asia-citro/](https://craftwhack.com/creative-human-interview-asia-citro/)
	+ <https://taralazar.com/tag/asia-citro/>
* Lesson ideas: connecting science and nature; how to explore using scientific theory; creating and keeping a science journal for observations of every day life as Zoey did
* <https://www.zoeyandsassafras.com/printables/>

**Name that Book:**

“Most scientists wear goggles over their eyes, and I do too when I need to keep my eyes safe.” p. 6

“I was trying to act ike I didn’t mind her leaving for a trip. But maybe I felt a little nervous about not seeing her for a whole week.” p. 12

“This was going to be so much fun. I could hardly wait to see what creature I’d get to meet first.” p. 33

“Hypothesis: I think he will eat worms. (Sorry worms). Now I needed to set up my experiment. Everytime I’m experimenting, my mom always tells me the exact same thing: ‘Remember to change only *one* thing and keep everything else in your experiment the same.’” p. 48

“I should have remembered this! Only a few months ago, my friend Sophie went on vacation. She had just gotten the sweetest little baby lizard as a pet. I was over-the-moon excited to watch him while she was gone.” p. 61

“Mom walked me out to the barn with her arm around me. I had hoped I could handle all of this on my own. I wanted to impress my mom…” p. 81