

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



Roar-Choo!

Written by Charlotte Cheng
Illustrated by Dan Santat

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

Dragon is fierce and Phoenix gentle. Can Phoenix help Dragon stop and rest due to a bad cold? What happens if Phoenix catches the cold? This story is inspired by Chinese mythology.

Genre: Picture

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *Roar-Choo!* to introduce in your classroom:

summon
tackle

fierce
patient

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage

Physical Development
and Health Item K
*(Personal care and healthy
behavior)*

Language, Literacy and
Communication Item Q
*(Book enjoyment and
knowledge)*

Creative Arts Item AA
(Pretend play)

Reading Tips

Begin by asking the children, "Who remembers how we "catch" our germs when we sneeze? This is a story about a dragon who is sick, and the friend who tries to help him get better." Point to the text as you read and ask the children to "help" reading by saying (loudly) "Choo!" each time the dragon sneezes. At the page Phoenix shows they have the cold, too, ask, "How did Phoenix catch Dragon's cold?" Talk about how they take care of each other. Ask the children what helps them feel better when they are sick.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Move like Dragon and Phoenix for **transitions**.

At **Greeting Time**, ask the children to tell stories about Dragon and Phoenix. Ask them to imagine them when they are not sick. Write down responses for a classroom story extender.

Play "Dragon, Dragon, Phoenix" instead of "duck, duck, goose" as your easy-to-join part of **Large Group Time**.

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Add very different books about dragons to the **Book Area** for comparison and discussion. Include "Flight of the Last Dragon" by Robert Burleigh and "King Jack and the Dragon" by Peter Bently.

Add doctor kit and tea-making materials to the **House Area**. Encourage acting out the story as well as doctor play with babies and stuffed animals.

Make sure there is a box of tissues in every interest area.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one "right" answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *Roar-Choo!*:

How did Dragon catch his cold?

When you are sick, what helps you feel better?

Which of the characters in the story are you most like? Why?

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact
The Family Connection:

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
@famconnsjc

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *Roar-Choo!* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

As you and your children read this story, discuss how the two characters must be friends. Ask your child questions like, "Why is Phoenix taking care of Dragon?" Compare Phoenix's caregiving with your family caregiving when family members are sick. Talk about what is the same and different. Ask your child to tell a story about the characters. "How did they become friends?" or, "What do these friends do together when they are not sick?" Notice together all that the two characters share—including germs. Ask, "How can we be more careful than Dragon to not share our germs?" If possible, make tea (or hot chocolate) to share together as you read the book again.