

How to Catch a Dinosaur

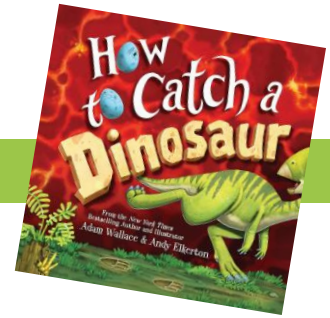
READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: Creativity, Problem-Solving, Persistence, Imagination, Teamwork

Book Brief: What would you do if you found a real dinosaur? In this story, some kids are determined to catch one! They come up with clever plans and silly traps, but catching a dinosaur is harder than they think.

Author:
Adam Wallace

Illustrator:
Andy Elkerton



BEFORE READING

The Cover & Pictures: Look at the cover together. Ask, “What do you notice about the dinosaur? What clues do you see about how the characters might try to catch it?” Take a quick picture walk and invite students to make predictions.

Prior Knowledge: Ask, “What do you know about dinosaurs? If you could find a real dinosaur, how would you try to catch it?” (Think, Pair, Share)

Vocabulary: Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Tier Two Vocabulary Guide](#).

Purpose for Reading: “As we read, pay attention to the different plans and traps the characters use to catch a dinosaur. Think about what happens when their plans don’t work and how they keep trying.”

DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- What are some of the different ways the characters try to catch the dinosaur?
- What happens when their traps don’t work?
- How do the characters change their plans as the story continues?
- What do the characters’ actions show us about their determination to catch a dinosaur?



Think Aloud: “I’m noticing that the characters keep coming up with new ideas to catch the dinosaur, but their plans aren’t working the way they expected. Instead of giving up, they keep trying something different. I wonder what they’ll think of next!”

AFTER READING

Our Purpose: Ask, “What different plans did the characters try? How did they respond when their traps didn’t work? What did they accomplish even though they didn’t catch the dinosaur?”

Extending Our Thinking: Ask, “Did the characters fail, or did they succeed in a different way? What can we learn from their experience?” Have students imagine they are trying to catch a dinosaur. Draw and label a trap they would design. Encourage students to explain how it works, what materials they would need, and why they think it would be successful.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.