

2006

Paolini, Christopher. *Eragon*. Knopf, 2003.

SUMMARY:

Eragon, a poor peasant boy, lives with his uncle outside the village of Carvahall. He discovers what he thinks is a sapphire stone, but instead is a dragon egg which soon hatches. The dragon, Saphira, becomes Eragon's companion, along with an old man names Brom, who teaches him about the old dragonriders.

On their journey together, they encounter many enemies, including the Urgals and a dangerous, undefeatable spirit called Shade. They try to stop the evil King Galbatoiox from invading the country and attempt to rescue an elfin princess named Arya.

QUESTIONS:

If you had a pet dragon, of what use would he be to you?

Who is the most significant character that Eragon meets on his journey?

What is the greatest danger that Eragon faces?

JOURNAL STARTER:

As the character of Eragon, write a letter to your mother describing your travels.

ACTIVITIES:

Draw a map of the journeys in this book.

Create a fantasy language.

Make a papier-mache dragon and name it.

Research artistic depictions of dragons.

Submit writing to programs for young authors.

Create word searches, acrostics and poems that reflect your reactions to this book.

Compare this novel to *Harry Potter* and *The Hobbit*.

INTEREST LEVELS: Grades 6-8

BOOKTALK:

If you enjoy *Star Wars*, *Harry Potter*, and *The Lord of the Rings*, *Eragon* will captivate you. A poor peasant boy named Eragon lives with his uncle in the village of Carvahall. He finds a sapphire stone and tries unsuccessfully to sell it for food, but later the stone hatches into a dragon. Eragon tries to raise the dragon Saphira secretly, but word gets out and the evil Urgala come and burn Eragon's home, killing his uncle. Eragon vows revenge for his death and begins on a long journey. Along the way he meets Brom, an old man who will become his teacher, as he prepares to become a dragonrider.

What is a dragonrider? Who is the spunky elfin princess being held captive? Will King Galbatorix destroy all the riders or use them in his evil quest to take over the land? Read *Eragon* and let your quest for the answers begin!

READ-ALIKES:

Paolini, Christopher. *Eldest*. Knopf, 2005

Paolini, Christopher. *Brisingsr*. Knopf, 2008

Base, Graeme. *Discovery of Dragons*. Harry N. Abrams, 1996.

Coville, Bruce. *Jeremy Thatcher, Dragon Hatcher*. Harcourt Brace, 1991.

McKinley, Robin. *The Hero and the Crown*. Greenwillow, 1984.

Pierce, Tamora. *Circle of Magic*, (8 Volumes). Scholastic, 1999-2006.

Wrede, Patricia. *Enchanted Forest Chronicles*, (4 Volumes). Harcourt Brace, 1990-1993.

RELATED WEB SITES:

Alagaesia: <http://www.alagaesia.com>

Shur'tugal: <http://www.shurtugal.com>

Book Browse Reading Group Guide:

http://www.bookbrowse.com/reading_guides/detail/index.cfm?book_number=1284

Teachers@Random:

<http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=9780375826689&view=rg>

OTHER RECOGNITION:

Winner of a Children's Choice Award in each of the following states and region:

Arizona, 2006; Colorado, 2005; Hawaii, 2006; Iowa, 2008; Missouri, 2006;

New Hampshire, 2005; Ohio, 2007; Oklahoma, 2006; Pacific Northwest, 2006;

Pennsylvania, 2005; Rhode Island, 2005; Tennessee, 2006; Utah, 2005; Virginia, 2006;

Washington, 2006; Wisconsin, 2006; Wyoming, 2005.

MOVIE TIE-IN: *Eragon*. Twentieth Century Fox, 2006.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0449010>