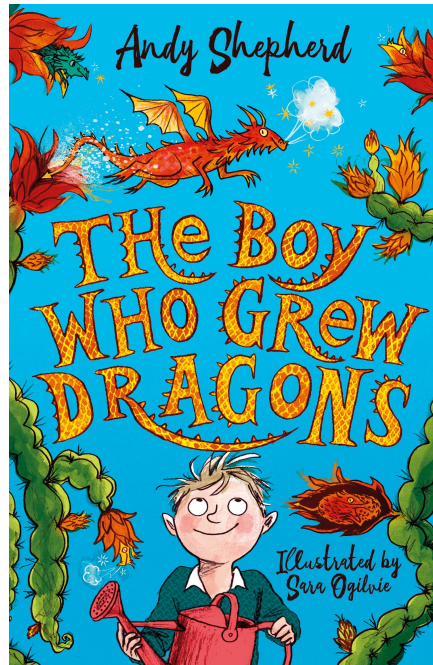


The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd

- discussion questions for book groups



When Tomas discovers a strange old tree at the bottom of his grandad's garden, he doesn't think much of it. But he takes one of the funny fruits home – and gets the shock and delight of his life when a tiny dragon hatches! The tree is a dragon-fruit tree and Tomas has got his very own dragon.

Tomas soon finds that life with Flicker is great fun, but also very...unpredictable. Yes, dragons are fiery, fantastical and dazzling, but there are also the flames and the flammable poo to deal with – and how long can Tomas keep his dragon secret from everyone? And what about all the other dragon fruits on the tree...what could be hiding inside those?

Before you begin

Why not have some super snacktastic treats ready for while you read or chat? Here are the superhero squad's favourite nibbles:

- Jam tarts
- Toasted Marshmallows
- Dragon-frosted slushies
- Grandad's caramel toffees
- Crumpets and syrup (be careful Sunny didn't get there first and add slug slime!)

While you're munching...

Tomas loves comics and superheroes – and he calls his friends the superhero squad. If you could be a superhero what would your special power be?

Here a few more questions to natter about:

Imagine you could grow dragons in your own garden!

1. What would you dragon be like? What would it look? Would it have any special powers or abilities?

2. Read the opening of 'The Boy Who Grew Dragons'.

It sounds like having a dragon in your house isn't all fun and games.

- a) What other problems do you think having a dragon might cause?
- b) What would be the up side to having your very own dragon?

3. In 'The Boy Who Grew Dragons' family and friendship is very important.

'Now then, Chipstick, how many times have I told you? What's the deal with families?'

I smiled. 'They stick together.'

'Exactly,' he grinned. 'Not unlike jam tarts. Now get digging.'

- a) What does family mean to you?
- b) Write a card to someone in your family telling them why they are important to you.

4. Tomas goes to the library to find out more about the dragons. He learns that there are different dragons all over the world. See how many different dragons you can find out about – how do they differ from each other?

5. Tomas has a very big imagination, but he also notices the little things around him. Like a snail on a bush or a mouldy looking fruit in his grandad's garden! He sees the world with his eyes wide open, full of wonder.

a) Go outside and take a little walk around. What can you hear? Smell? See? Notice as much as you can. Then choose one thing, a leaf, a stone, a bug. Describe it to someone in as much detail as you can. What does it look like? What does it feel like? Does it make you remember anything else?

b) Stories often start with questions. For 'The Boy Who Grew Dragons' it was: 'What if dragons really did grow inside dragon fruit?'

Can you think of a 'What if' question for the object you have been studying?