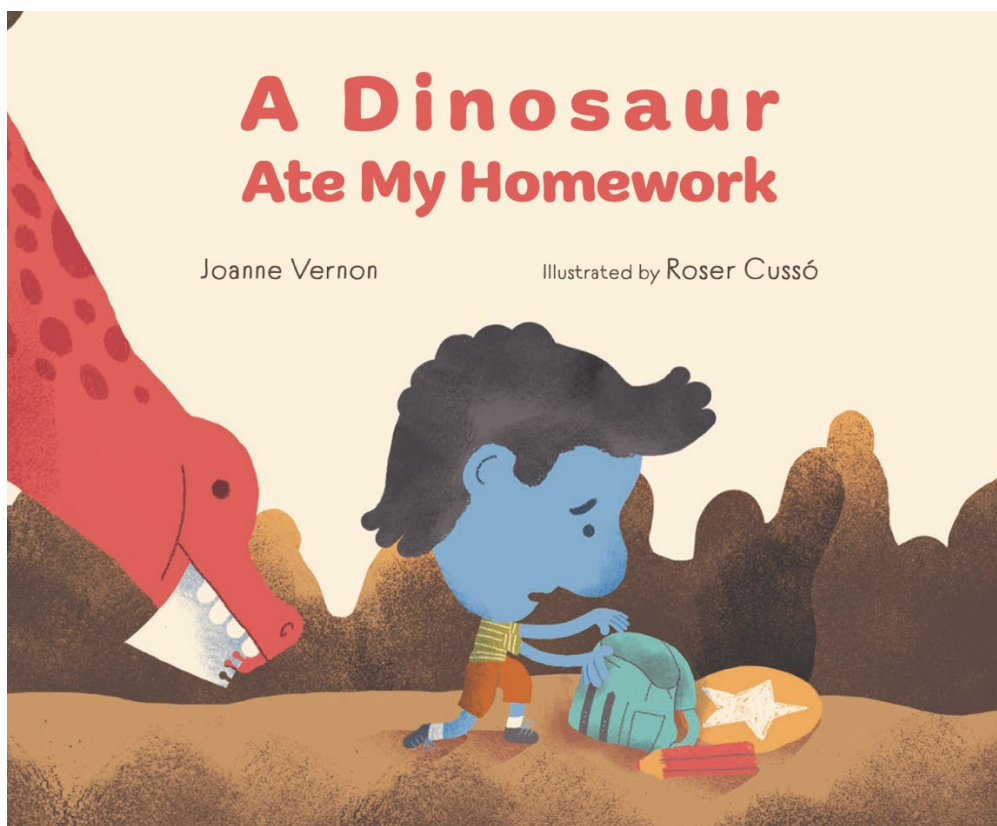


A Dinosaur Ate My Homework

Teaching Notes

Author: Joanne Vernon
Illustrator: Roser Cussó



SYNOPSIS

Did you know that dinosaurs absolutely love to eat homework? It's true! All that paper is made from trees, so it's a tasty snack for plant eaters! But when a young boy's math's assignment is suddenly snatched away, he decides to give chase — after all, he doesn't want to disappoint his teacher. But dinosaurs can be very stubborn, and who knows, maybe there is another reason for wanting to take it... This is a hilarious and exciting story about facing up to challenges and the importance of empathy, featuring wildly expressive and entertaining illustrations.

In the Classroom

Before Reading:

Discuss what is seen on the cover:

- Introduce the book by looking at the cover:
 - What can children see?
 - What emotion is the character on the cover feeling?
 - Why do you think this?
 - What is the dinosaur doing?
- What do you think the story is about?
 - Why do children think this?

Additional cover discussion:

- Do any children share the same letters from the title in their name?
- What colours can be seen on the cover?

During Reading:

Questions to ask children during the story:

- How do you think the main character is feeling?
 - How can you tell from the illustrations?
 - What clues do you get from the text?
- How does the main character act during the story?
 - Invite children to share a time they felt how the character feels.
- If the dinosaur could talk, what do you think it would say during this story?

After Reading:

Discussion about what children have learned from the book:

- Do children think a dinosaur would really eat homework/paper?
 - Why do children think this?
- The dinosaur in this book is a brontosaurus. What do you think would be a good meal for a brontosaurus?
- Why do children think the boy went back to the cave at the end of the story?

Classroom Activities:

- Make a 'herbivore' salad: Encourage children to help prepare salad foods. This can be achieved as an art activity with children drawing/making their own salads, or with real food.
- Natural Resource Art Activity: Walk around school gathering leaves and make leaf prints on paper. For example: 5 Minute Beautiful Leaf Prints Art (& 3 Secret Tips) - A Piece Of Rainbow

- A Dinosaur Ate My Homework Art Activity: Draw characters/scenarios from the book.
- Creative thinking/Writing Activity: Encourage children to tell or write an imaginative story like the boy in the text.

Possible extensions:

- Learn about dinosaurs
- Learn about how paper is made
- Learn about the history of storytelling – verbal/written or apply it to creative writing.

About the Author:

A Dinosaur Ate My Homework is Joanne Vernon's first picture book. During the day, she works in community mental health. Sometimes, she wishes dinosaurs would come and eat her work — the paperwork, not the people — so she could spend more time reading and writing picture books. Joanne lives in Auckland, New Zealand, with her two daughters and two cats.

About the Illustrator:

Roser Cussó is a picture book illustrator from Barcelona. She creates colourful illustrations using analogue and digital techniques. Her unique universe is created by intuition, investigation and storytelling through evocative images. She takes each project as a new opportunity to experiment and play with new artistic expressions.