

The Dragon in the Closet

A Reading A-Z Level K Leveled Book
Word Count: 403

Connections

Writing

Pretend you are Simon. Write a letter to the dragon, asking him to be your friend. Be sure to tell what fun things you will do together.

Social Studies and Art

How can you help someone who feels lonely? Draw a picture and write about it.

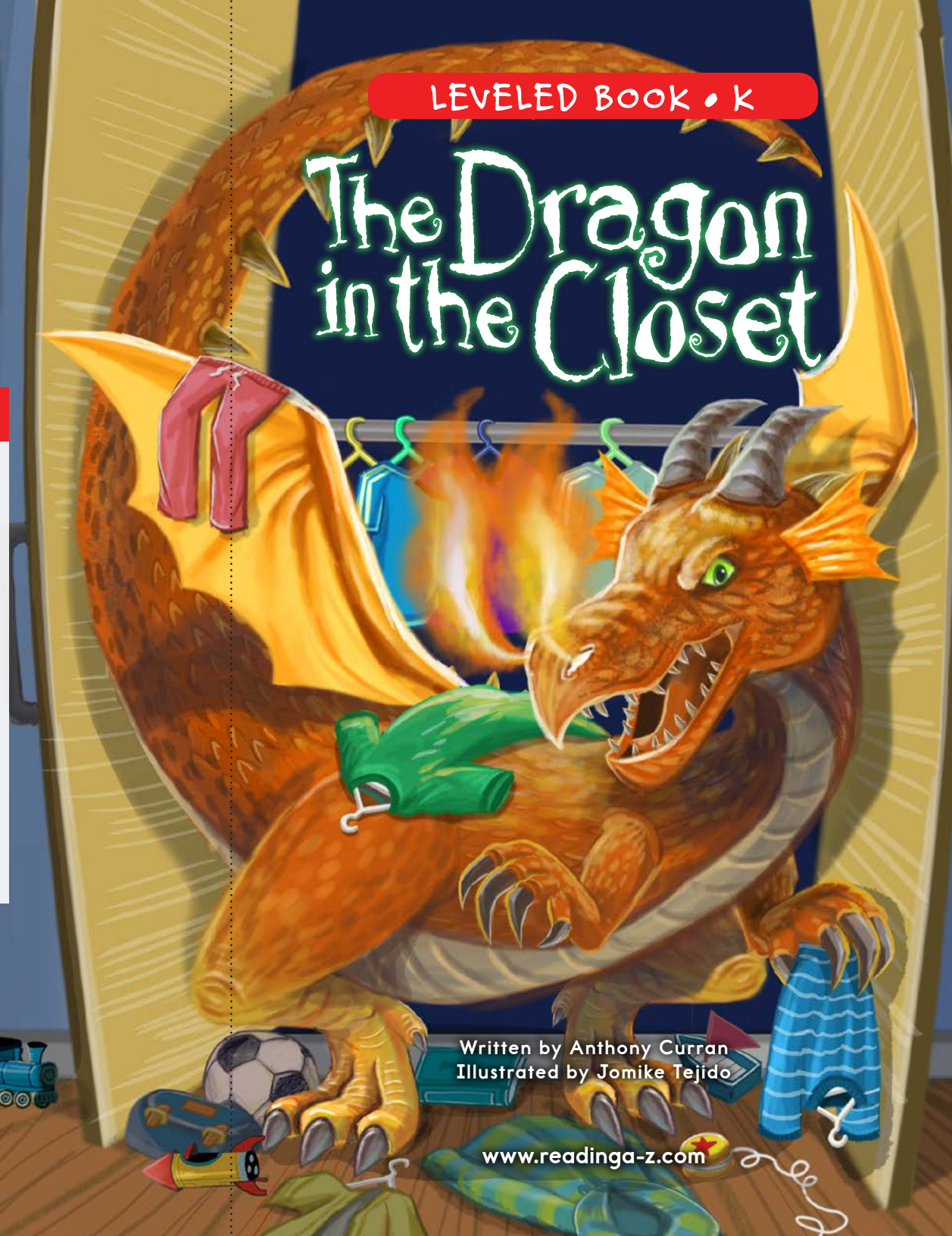

Reading A-Z

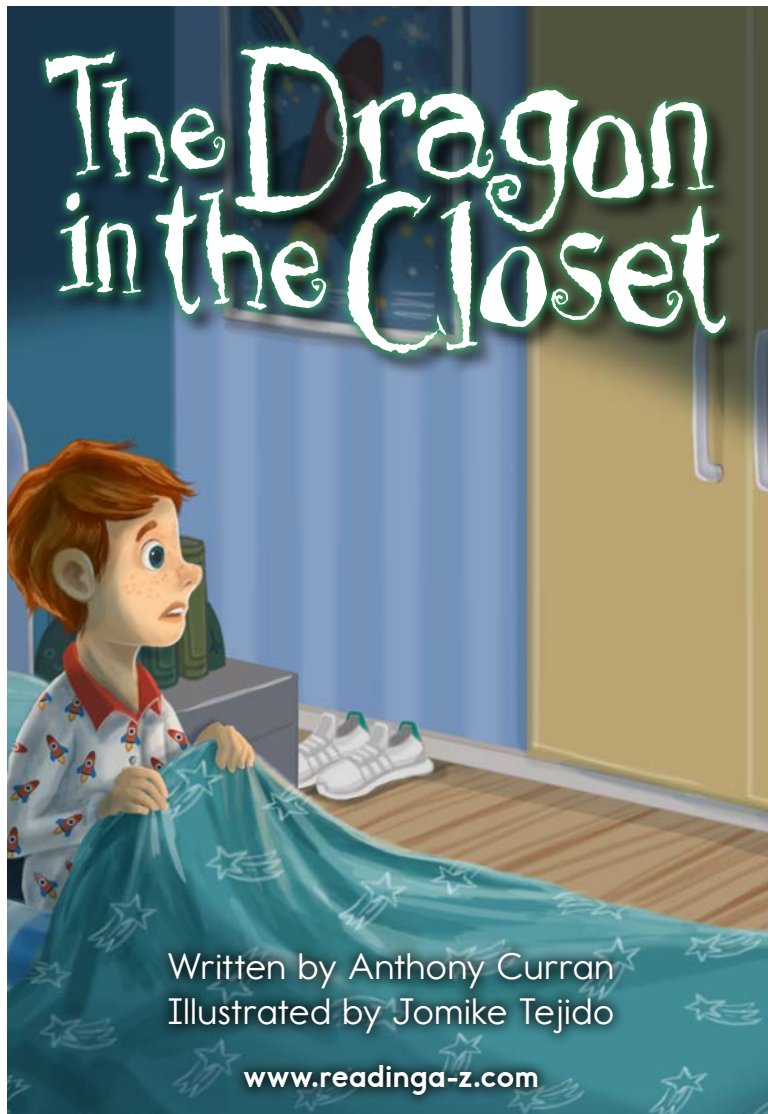
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Written by Anthony Curran
Illustrated by Jomike Tejido

www.readinga-z.com





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Focus Question

What is Simon's problem and how does Dad help him solve it?

Words to Know

adventures

beasts

creaked

excitement

lonely

spikes

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Level K Leveled Book
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Correlation

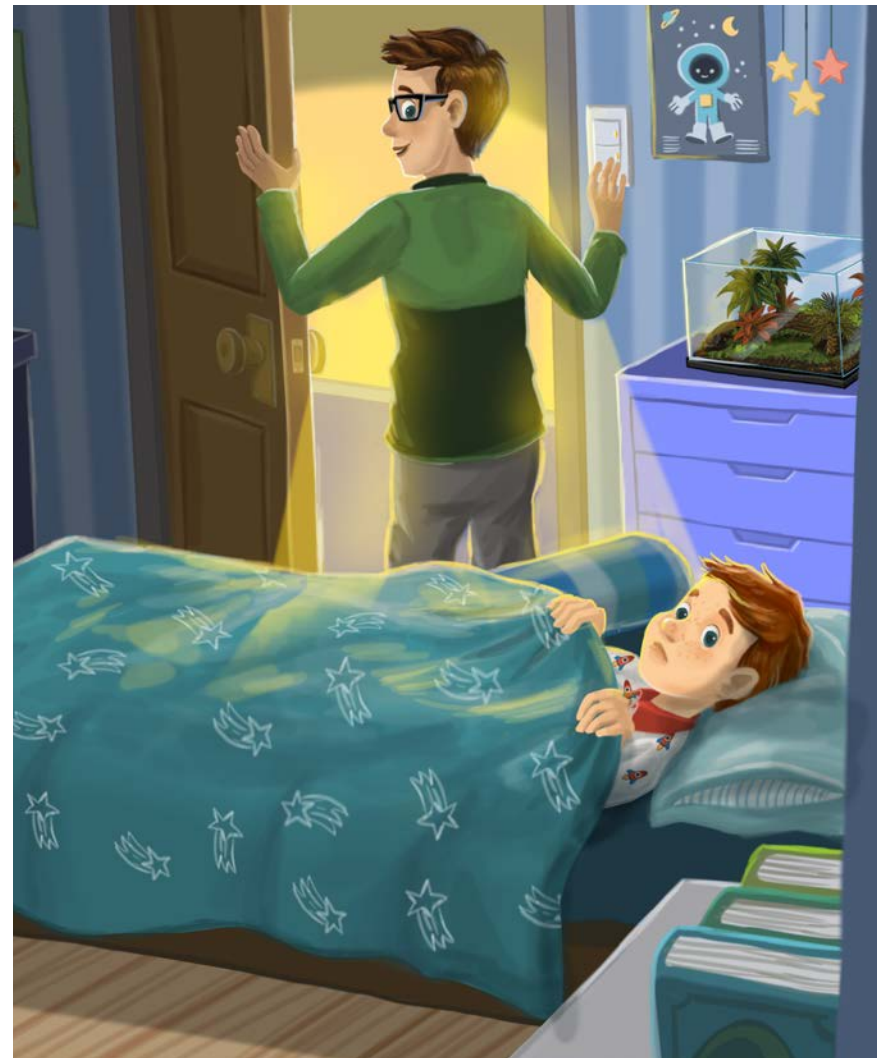
LEVEL K

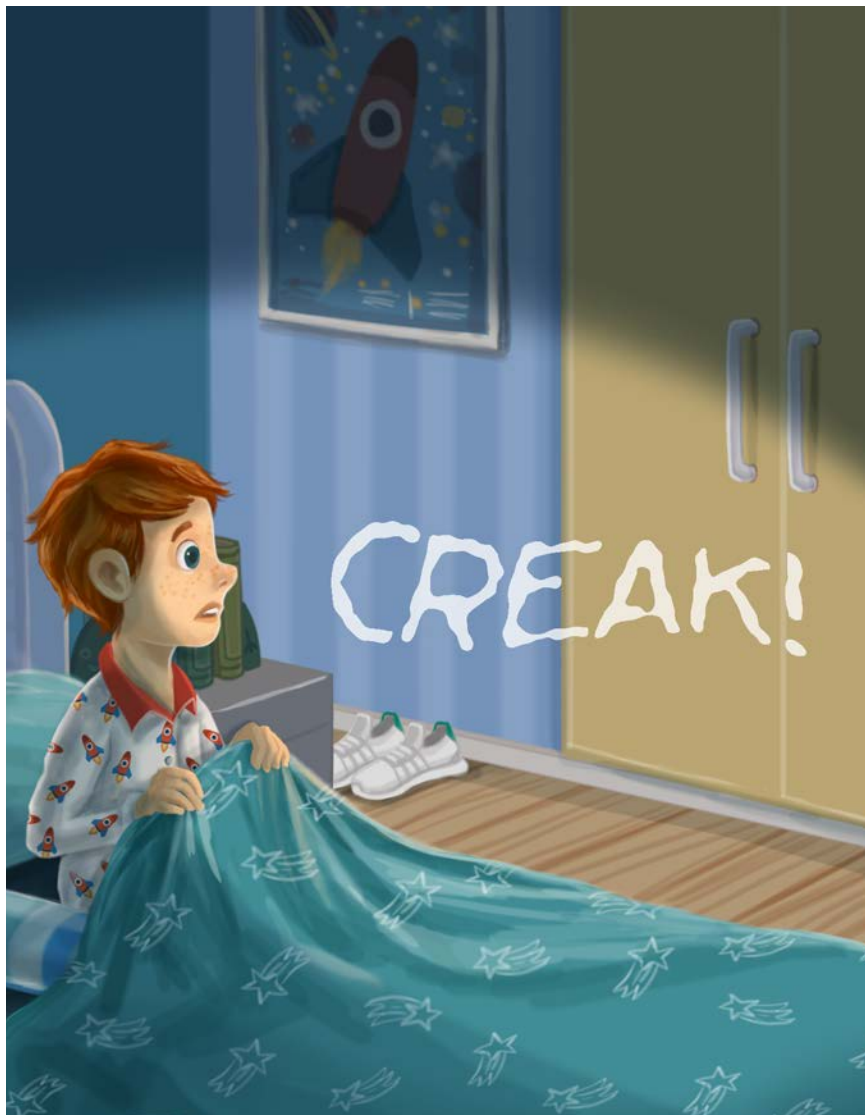
Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18



Simon hated bedtime. His pajamas itched, and his toothpaste tasted terrible. Most of all, Simon hated when Dad tucked him in and turned out the lights.

That was when the dragon that lived in his closet would come. During the day, the dragon was never around. It only came after dark.





One night, the closet door **creaked** loudly after Simon went to bed. The dragon was there! He was sure of it.

Simon took a deep breath, climbed out of bed, and raced down the hall. "Dad!" he whispered. "Dad, wake up!"





“What is it?” Dad asked.

“I have to show you something,”
Simon said.

As soon as they returned to Simon’s bedroom, Dad switched on the lights.

“Oh no!” Simon groaned. “Now I can’t show you the dragon. He only comes when it’s dark.”

“The dragon?” Dad sat on the end of Simon’s bed. “What dragon?”





"He has big green eyes," Simon said. "His breath smells like smoke, and his tail is covered with **spikes**. He lives in the closet. One day, he is going to come out and gobble me up!"



Describing the dragon made Simon's heart beat faster. With Dad there, though, he had nothing to fear. At least he thought he didn't.

"Oh, now I understand," Dad said at last, getting up to leave.

"Aren't you going to check the closet?" Simon sighed.

“No need,” Dad said. “I’m sure you’re right that there was a dragon in there.”

“How do you know?” Simon asked.

“Oh, I had the same kind of problem with a lion under my bed when I was young,” Dad said.



“What did you do?” Simon asked, eyes wide.

“Do you know why so many scary **beasts** and monsters live in children’s closets and under their beds?” Dad asked.

“No,” Simon said. “Why?”

“Because they’re **lonely**,” Dad explained. “They really just need a friend to play with.”



“Once I realized that the lion was lonely, we became friends. We had many wonderful **adventures** together,” Dad said as he tucked Simon back in.

Simon glanced at the closet door. His heart was still beating fast. Now, though, it was with **excitement**.





Dad gave Simon's shoulder a squeeze. "You know, the lion still visits me from time to time," he said. "I'll ask him to let the dragon know you'd like to be friends."

Simon smiled.

"Thanks, Dad," he said. "Goodnight! Don't forget to turn off the light."

Glossary

adventures (<i>n.</i>)	unusual or exciting experiences (p. 14)
beasts (<i>n.</i>)	animals, especially those that are large or dangerous (p. 12)
creaked (<i>v.</i>)	made a harsh scraping or squeaking sound (p. 5)
excitement (<i>n.</i>)	a feeling of joy and enthusiasm (p. 14)
lonely (<i>adj.</i>)	feeling alone and sad (p. 13)
spikes (<i>n.</i>)	thin, pointed objects or pieces of something (p. 9)