



# HOW DO DINOSAURS EAT THEIR FOOD?

AUTHOR: JANE YOLEN

ILLUSTRATOR: MARK TEAGUE

See a video of the book read aloud here: [How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food](#)

**\*\* REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! \*\***

## OVERVIEW

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Dinosaurs burp, throw their food, blow bubbles in their milk and more during meals, as their human parents stand at the side scowling at the lack of manners, continually questioning if this is how dinosaurs behave while eating their food. Of course they don't. They have good manners at mealtime, as demonstrated in the final pages of the book. The author includes the name of each dinosaur both on the end papers and on each page, although one has to search the page to find it.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jane Yolen is an author of children's books, fantasy, and science fiction, including *Owl Moon*, *The Devil's Arithmetic*, and *How Do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight?* She is also a poet, a teacher of writing and literature, and a reviewer of children's literature. She has been called the Hans Christian Andersen of America and the Aesop of the twentieth century.

janeyolen.com

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Mark Teague has delighted young readers with more than 20 picture books, and he has written many of them himself, including the popular *Pigsty*, *Baby Tamer*, and *One Halloween Night*. Mark Teague's life changed when he moved from San Diego to New York City. His first picture book was titled *The Trouble with the Johnsons*. Each of Teague's books start as "notebooks full of sketches and scribbles, strange little drawings and phrases that suddenly come together," Teague explains. Although he had no formal writing training, he possesses a creative imagination and an understanding nature.

## THE READ ALOUD

### BEFORE READING

Use these questions before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- I wonder what we will learn about dinosaurs?

HOW DO DINOSAURS  
EAT THEIR FOOD?

### TOPICS & THEMES:

- Manners
- Dinosaurs
- Perspective
- Vocabulary

### *Tips for every book!*

POWER PHRASES:

*I WONDER...*

*I NOTICE...*

*TELL ME MORE...*

DIGGING DEEPER:

*"Tell me more, why do you think that?"*

*"How do you know that?"*

*"Why do you think they feel like that?"*

*"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"*

- We're going to see different types of dinosaurs in this story. Let's see if we can find the name of each dinosaur on the page.

## DURING THE STORY

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*Use these questions while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.*

Emergent Literacy (Comprehension - connections to world/self - print referencing - open ended questions - phonological awareness).

- (all pages) Do you see the name of this dinosaur? (point out on some pages in the beginning – p.1-2 on tablecloth edge; p.2-3 under table edge; p.4-5 along chair back)
- (p.7) What do you think those red spots are on the amargasaurus' chest? How did they get there?
- (p.9) I notice that the supersaurus is too big to fit on the page. Where is the rest of him?
- (p.19, p.1) (go back to page 1) What's different about these illustrations? I wonder how mom feels now?
- (p.21-22) I wonder what "goodwill" mean?
- (p.26) Where did we see the deinonychus before? (he's on the dedication page, before the text begins)

## AFTER READING

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*Use these questions while after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.*

- What do you think would happen if you put beans up your nose?
- Did you notice the parents on each page? How did they feel about what their dinosaur was doing?
- Do you think this story is fiction (made up) or non-fiction (true)?

## BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

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- Which dinosaur is most like you?
- Where else do we use our good manners?
- I'm curious to go back and look at all the different foods the dinosaurs were eating. What's your favorite?

## COOPERATIVE LEARNING

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- Pretend we are eating together at the table. Show your partner what it looks like to practice good manners. How might you ask for water? What about when you'd like someone to pass the salt?

## SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

### 1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

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- Are good manners important? Why or why not?
- How would the story change if it were non-fiction? What would the dinosaurs be eating?

#### **Suggested Optional Activity:**

- Create two columns on your paper. Label one carnivores and the other herbivores. Under each heading, make a list of what foods each would eat.

### 2. WRITING ACTIVITY

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Write a list of all the places where good manners are helpful.

### 3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

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Act out all of the action words (e.g. burp, belch, other rude noises, fuss, fidget...)

## COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS, ELA-Literacy.RL.K1, K3, K4, K5, K6, K7, K10

The book we have based our activity on is "How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Food?" by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague. The question is asked in the first half of the book, where the authors illustrate pretty much any kind of bad behavior around the dinner table, just to show that the dinosaurs actually behave really well. It is really cute and has really nice illustrations (and a really nice little details is that they put the name of each dinosaur into the drawing) and since Nico is into dinosaurs a lot (and that is an understatement), he loved the book from the get go. How Do Dinosaurs Eat Their Foo...