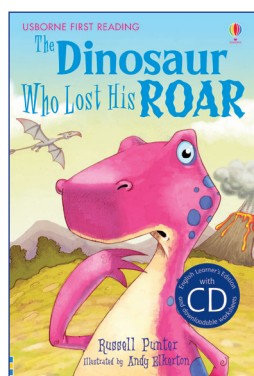


The Dinosaur Who Lost His Roar • Teacher's notes



Author: Russell Punter

Reader level: Lower Intermediate

Word count: 579

Lexile level: 320L

Text type: Story with fantasy setting

About the story

Sid is a fun-loving dinosaur with a very loud roar. What he likes most of all is creeping up on his dinosaur friends Spike, Ross and Ollie and startling them with a ROAR. Not surprisingly, his friends aren't so amused; that is, until Sid loses his voice and can only croak. This they find hilarious.

Embarrassed, Sid runs home to treat his sore throat with honey, a warm drink and a good rest. The next day, he sets out to find his friends and apologize; but they're not in their usual places. Then he notices some enormous footprints...

The footprints lead Sid to a huge dinosaur, Rex, who is about to eat his friends. There's only one thing for it – if only Sid can ROAR loudly enough... Rex doesn't see Sid but he hears the ROAR, releases his prisoners and runs away, and Spike, Ross and Ollie give three cheers for their brave rescuer.

About the author

Russell Punter was born in Bedfordshire, England. When he was young, he enjoyed making up and illustrating his own stories. His ambition as a boy was to become a cartoonist. When he grew up, he studied art at college before becoming a graphic designer and writer. He has written over twenty children's books.



Key words

Your students might not be familiar with some of these words, which are important in the story.

roar	p13 squashy	p33 spoonful
p4 forest	p14 grinned	warm
p5 crashing	stomped	p36 odd
bushes	p19 to collect	p38 footprints
p6 climbing	dinner	p40 deep
p7 splashing	fried	p45 terrified
p8 scaring	p22 throat	p47 hurray
p11 picking	hurt	saved
berries	p24 croak	mighty
juicy	p25 tiptoed	

Key phrases

p9	the loudest... of all
p10	to go for a walk
p12	to creep up on
p13	to get covered in
p25	red in the face
p32	being laughed at
	it felt bad
p35	say sorry for
p43	only one way to
	find out
p46	to run off
	three cheers for

The Dinosaur Who Lost His Roar • Teacher's notes

Before reading

Dinosaurs are always a popular topic. You will probably find that many students have facts to share on this subject. Try to focus their enthusiasm by finding a few pictures before the class – one of a Stegosaurus and one of a Tyrannosaurus Rex, for example.

Show the images to the students. Ask what the animals are and what the differences are between the two. You could write the differences in two columns on the board. What did they both eat? [T-Rex was a carnivore and Stegosaurus was a herbivore.] What else did dinosaurs eat? [e.g. Baryonyx ate fish, Oviraptor ate other dinosaurs' eggs.] Why did Stegosaurus have pointy plates on its back? [Experts believe that it was at least partly to protect it from carnivores such as T-Rex.] How else did dinosaurs protect themselves or warn off enemies? [Club tails, armoured plates, loud roaring...]

Explain that the book you're about to read is fiction, not non-fiction. It uses dinosaurs and their characteristics as a starting point, then tells a made-up story about them.

Reading or listening

You can listen to the story on CD or read it aloud to the students, take turns to read or read together silently. Each double page spread in the book is one track on the CD, so that you can pause between tracks or repeat tracks if your students need it. The first reading is in a British English accent, and it is followed by an American English reading. The words are exactly the same. After the story, there is a short selection of key phrases that can be used for pronunciation practice.

During reading: you might like to ask some of these questions.

pp4-5	Which of the characters look like real dinosaurs? Do you think there were any pink dinosaurs?	p23	What do you think is going to happen?
pp8-9	What do the other animals think of Sid?	p25	How does Sid feel? [Embarrassed, foolish]
p11	What is Spike holding? How would a real dinosaur pick berries? [Eating directly from the bush]	p31	Why do the other dinosaurs think it's so funny? Do you think it's fair to laugh at Sid?
p15	What do you think Sid's about to do?	p33	Do you think this is how dinosaurs used to live?
p17	Do <i>you</i> think it's funny? Would you think it funny if you were Ross?	p37	Can you see a clue to what might have happened to Ross?
p19	What's going to happen next?	p43	How do you think Sid is feeling right now?
p22	Why do you think Sid's throat hurts?	p46	Is it a good thing that Rex didn't look back. What might have happened if he did?
		p47	Are the dinosaurs friends now?

After reading

Ask the students if they enjoyed the story. What did they think of Sid at the beginning? What about when he lost his roar and his throat hurt? And at the end of the story?

Ask students what they think makes dinosaurs so fascinating. How do we know about dinosaurs? [Through discovering and studying fossilized bones.] For a more factual account, you might enjoy reading *Dinosaurs*, another Usborne English Learner's Edition, with them.

Do they know any more stories where dinosaurs behave like people? You could try making up some more titles and plots, either in small groups or as a follow-on activity: *The Dinosaur who...*

Did you know?

Hundreds of years ago the Chinese uncovered dinosaur fossils and thought they were dragon bones. A dinosaur bone found in England in 1672 was thought to be from a giant human. The name "dinosaur" was only invented in 1842. It means "terrible lizard".

