



# Dragons Love Tacos

## Grab-and-Go Study Guide to Create Smart Readers

This is a **Grab-and-Go** study guide for reading, *Dragons Love Tacos*. Use all or any parts of the ideas listed. Before I read it, I usually decide what I'm going to talk about and write reminders on post-it notes attached to the appropriate pages. Of course, go along with any ideas your children want to add to the discussion. Also, decide beforehand if you want to focus on any one particular reading skill. I would suggest you not do this kind of reading with bedtime stories because you don't want to activate the mind but rather calm it. Just talk easily at bedtime.

This is the first step in raising your kids to become smart-thinking readers! Kids grow up fast – grab your moment! "Happy Reading!"

**Dragons Love Tacos** and the little boy in the story is hosting a taco party for them. He goes to a lot of trouble to prepare and cook. Read to find out what happens when an ingredient the dragons don't like appears in their tacos.

**So What?** This story matters because it shows kids that plans sometimes go awry and that acts of kindness come when least expected.

**Reading Skills:** Sequence of Events, Problem and Solution, Making Predictions, Compare & Contrast, Making Inferences, How Illustrations Support the Text.

**Words to Talk About:** If you come across a new word for your children while you are reading the story, say it like usual then just speak the meaning quickly and keep on reading.

- Cuisine, salsa, tacos, speck, snort, accordians, charades, conversation, decorations, fine print, jalapeno, good Samaritans
- Adjectives: big, gigantic, sizzling, crispy
- The “comforting sound” of friends’ laughter

**Before Reading:** Do a little talking and picture walking to get your mind ready for the reading. You will also activate background knowledge about the subject.

- Look at the cover illustration and title and talk about the possible meaning.
- Look at the illustration on the title page and discuss it.
- What do you know about tacos? Where do they come from? Do you like them?
- Are dragons real?
- Do you think dragons would like tacos? What kind?

**During Reading:** Stop along the way to point things out or discuss a confusing or interesting part. What things make you wonder? These are just suggestions; you do not have to use them all. Pick and choose according to your child's age and attention span.

- Look at the illustration on the first page. What does it tell you about the boy who lives in this room?
- Notice how some words are printed in big letters. Why?
- What kinds of food flavors do you like? Spicy, sweet?
- What animals snort? What does it sound like?
- What kind of “tummy troubles” do you think the dragons get when eating spicy foods?
- As you read about the different foods, talk about which foods your child likes or dislikes.
- How do the illustrations tell you the way the dragons feel about the spicy toppings?
- What kind of parties do you like? What makes them special?
- If you were hosting a party for dragons, what foods would you serve? Why?
- Do you think you could really bury food in the backyard? What might happen to it?
- If you were hosting a taco party, what kind of music and decorations would you use?
- Make a prediction about what will happen when the dragons eat tacos with hidden jalapeno peppers in them.
- Look at the illustrations after the dragons eat the spicy tacos. Talk about what is happening and why. How would you feel?
- At the end of the story, talk about why the dragons would help rebuild the house.
- What happened to the house anyway?

**After-Reading:**

- Fill out a Story Map.
- Fill out a Sequence of Event Flow Chart with words or pictures.
- Plan a Taco Party. Make lists and go shopping.
- Make invitations to your party and hand them to family members or friends.
- Make a food you like following a recipe.
- Plan a themed party with food, decorations, and music.
- Draw a “boatload” of tacos.
- How else could you show where large amounts of food are kept?

- Get your own calendar and keep track of your daily events
- Look at the food labels in your kitchen cabinets. Any “fine print?”
- Sample a new food each week. Draw a picture of your reaction to it.
- Be a good Samaritan to someone.
- Write a story about your favorite food.
- Turn your story into a play to perform for your family.
- Cook or bake something for a friend, family member, or neighbor as a surprise.
- Go to the Library and borrow some cookbooks.
- As a family, plan a trip to a restaurant to try new foods.

**Connections:** Research other books with foods in the title. Ask your public Librarian for help.

I hope you and your children enjoyed cooking and party planning with the Dragons. I would love to hear about your food adventures. Please visit me again at [www.booknooksbydesign.com](http://www.booknooksbydesign.com)

“Happy Reading!”