

The Dragons are Singing Tonight by Jack Prelutsky
Reviewed by Martin Brown, Village School K-1 Teacher

I first discovered this book in the poetry section at a local library while looking for new books for my classroom. “A whole book of poems about dragons,” I thought, “Really?” Preparing for disappointment, I didn’t get my hopes up. But this book was a pleasant surprise.

Jack Prelutsky has produced a lively and clever collection of poems that entertain and engage. The detailed double page illustrations by Peter Sis complement the poems wonderfully. The illustrated dragons include tiny dragons, pet dragons, mechanical dragons, lonely dragons, and invisible dragons. Prelutsky uses a wide vocabulary with some words that aren’t familiar to children, but the meaning comes across clearly, and the poems and illustrations contain lots of places for further discussion with children.

The world of dragons can be inspiring for children and this book can spark their imaginations. I have used this book often in my classroom for poetry study, as inspiration for bookmaking projects, and for role play. The class often eagerly asks to hear more poems after listening to the first one or two. A colleague gifted this book to a young relative and it received similar approval. If you think your child may be put off by receiving or hearing a book of poetry- don’t be. This book could open the door for them to poetry and to dragons of their own imagination.

The Dragons are Singing Tonight is a sweet read-aloud book for young children, and an enjoyable book for independent readers ages 8 and beyond.

You can find it at Bruce’s Brower in uptown Athol.