

IF YOU HAPPEN TO HAVE A  
**DINOSAUR**

*Linda Bailey & Colin Jack*

**ACTIVITY GUIDE**



## ABOUT THE BOOK

If you happen to have a dinosaur lying around your living room, and you don't know what to do with it . . . why don't you use it as a can opener? It will make a terrific nutcracker, too! There are oodles of uses for a dinosaur—from a fine umbrella to an excellent kite and a dandy pillow, not to mention a reliable burglar alarm and the perfect excuse to forget your homework. This delightfully absurd exploration of the domestic uses of dinosaurs—and the things dinos just aren't good for at all—is guaranteed to tickle funny bones and spark imaginations. If you read carefully, you'll learn how to make your dinosaur last a very long time.

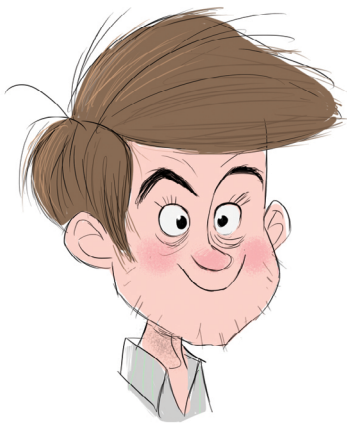


## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Linda Bailey** is the author of more than two dozen books for children, including the acclaimed *Stanley's Party* and, most recently, *Toads on Toast*, also illustrated by Colin Jack. She is the recipient of numerous awards across North America, such as the California Young Reader Medal, the Georgia Children's Book Award and the Ontario Blue Spruce and Silver Birch Awards. Born in Winnipeg, Linda has traveled around the world, and so have her books. She now lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, where, if she happened to have a dinosaur, she would use it as a footstool while she wrote.



© Illustration by Colin Jack



© Illustration by Colin Jack

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

**Colin Jack** is the enormously talented illustrator of a number of books for children, including the *Galaxy Zack* series and *1 Zany Zoo*. He also works as a story artist and character designer at DreamWorks, and has been involved in productions such as *Hotel Transylvania*, *Grossology* and *Ed, Edd n Eddy*. Born in Vancouver, Colin currently resides in Redwood City, California, with his wife and two sons, one of whom gave him the idea of a dinosaur as an umbrella, a drawing that served as Linda's inspiration for this book.

# ACTIVITIES

## BEFORE READING

What if there was a dinosaur, just lying around in our classroom, doing nothing. Can you think of some ways it could help us? Can you think of some ways it *wouldn't* be helpful?

## THE GOOD AND THE BAD

After reading the book aloud, make a list as a class of everything that would be helpful and not-so-helpful about having a dinosaur as outlined in the story. Write the list on a t-chart. Work together to add five items to each side of the chart. What might other family members, neighbors and people in the community think?

## ALL SEASON DINOSAUR

The author writes “... a dinosaur is handy any season of the year.” Discuss how a dinosaur might be helpful in each of the four seasons. Students can draw or paint a picture of a dinosaur participating in a favorite activity in that season.

## MAYBE YOU COULD . . .

In a Mix-Pair-Share activity, ask students to circulate around the classroom and talk to partners about what they could do if they found a porcupine, a penguin, a saber-tooth, a sasquatch, a dodo or a camel lying around their living room.

## WHAT COULD YOU DO WITH A KANGAROO?

Revisit the last page of the story. In small groups or as a whole class, brainstorm ideas about what it would be like to have a kangaroo lying around your living room. In partners or small groups, create various tableaux depicting these ideas. Create a class book, one page per student or pair of students.

## LINKS

<http://www.lindabaileybooks.com/>

<http://colinjack.tumblr.com/>









Draw some of the oodles of things you can do with a dinosaur.  
The possibilities are amazing!



Draw some of the things a dinosaur is just not good for at all.



SHOW HOW A DINOSAUR CAN BE HANDY IN ANY SEASON OF THE YEAR

WINTER    SPRING  
FALL        SUMMER





Unscramble the words at the bottom of the page to make a sentence.  
Write the unscrambled sentence on the line below and illustrate it.

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windows.	tall	A	will	your
	dinosaur		wash	

# WORD SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the words from the story.



sidoranu

\_\_\_\_\_

croppon

\_\_\_\_\_

rrluabg

\_\_\_\_\_

emlulbar

\_\_\_\_\_

nposowl

\_\_\_\_\_



# DRAW YOUR OWN DINOSAUR

My dinosaur's name is \_\_\_\_\_.

My dinosaur has \_\_\_\_\_ legs and \_\_\_\_\_ teeth.

My dinosaur can \_\_\_\_\_.

My dinosaur should not \_\_\_\_\_.

My dinosaur likes to eat \_\_\_\_\_.

My dinosaur is called \_\_\_\_\_.



What if you had an octopus, penguin, porcupine, saber-tooth, sasquatch, dodo, camel or kangaroo lying around your living room?



Choose an animal and write down what might happen.

If you happen to have a \_\_\_\_\_,  
you can \_\_\_\_\_.

If you happen to have a \_\_\_\_\_,  
you can \_\_\_\_\_.

If you happen to have a \_\_\_\_\_,  
you can \_\_\_\_\_.