

## AN INTERVIEW with Adam Rubin

Many students have read the books *Dragons Love Tacos* and *Dragons Love Tacos 2: The Sequel*. Kindergarten students at Strobridge Elementary in Castro Valley, CA put together a whole lot of questions for the author Adam Rubin and they loved these books so much, they went on to read more of Adam's books.



**Q: How did you make the book?**

**A:** I get this question a lot and I think some students are under the impression that I actually physically produce the books in my apartment ... I only write the words.

I use Google docs (just like a lot of students I know). After I'm finished writing, Dan draws the pictures and then all the digital files are sent to a factory in China where they print out the copies of the books for people to buy. The front and back cover are hard because there are thick pieces of cardboard hidden under the paper.

**Q: How did you think of the idea?**

**A:** When I was a kid, my dad had a little statue on his desk that looked like a dragon eating a taco. It made me think of the phrase "Dragons Love Tacos" which stuck in my head until I was an adult and it sounded like a good title for a picture book. I have the statue on my writing desk now.

**Q: Where were you when you wrote the story?**

**A:** I wrote *Dragons Love Tacos* at my kitchen table at night after work while I was working at an advertising agency in Chicago. I had a day job and wrote stories at night for the first seven years that I was an author.

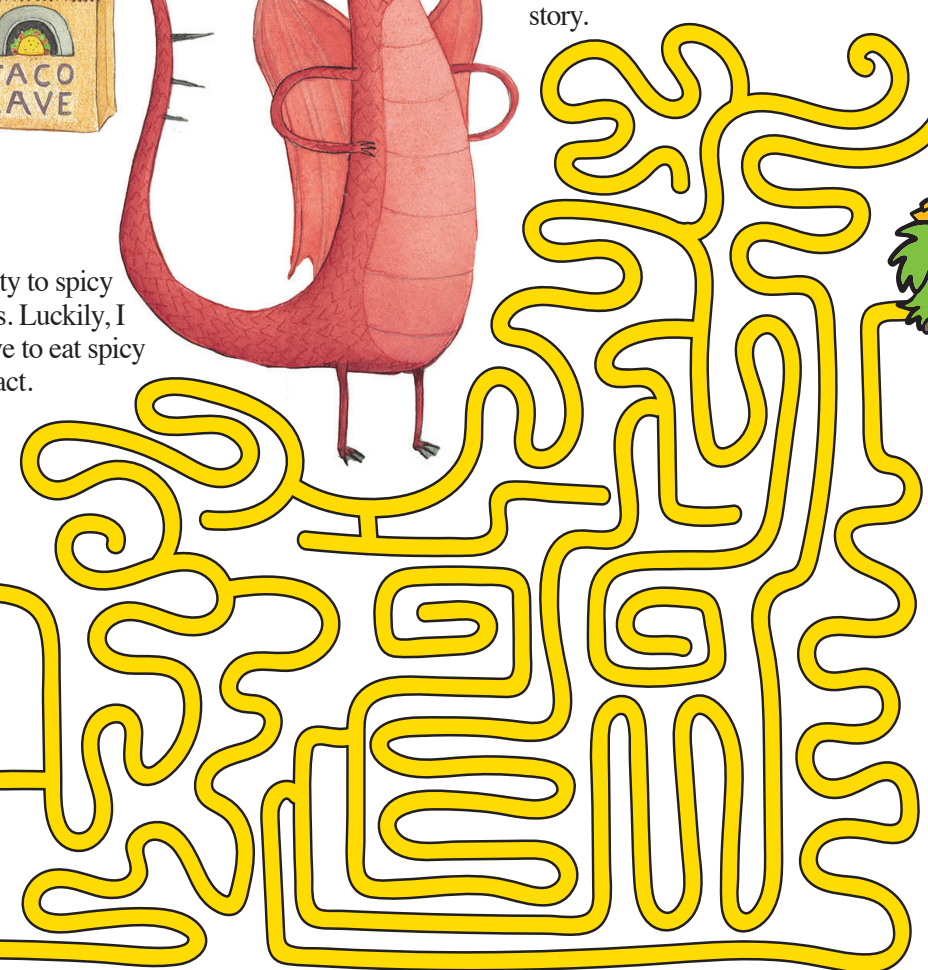
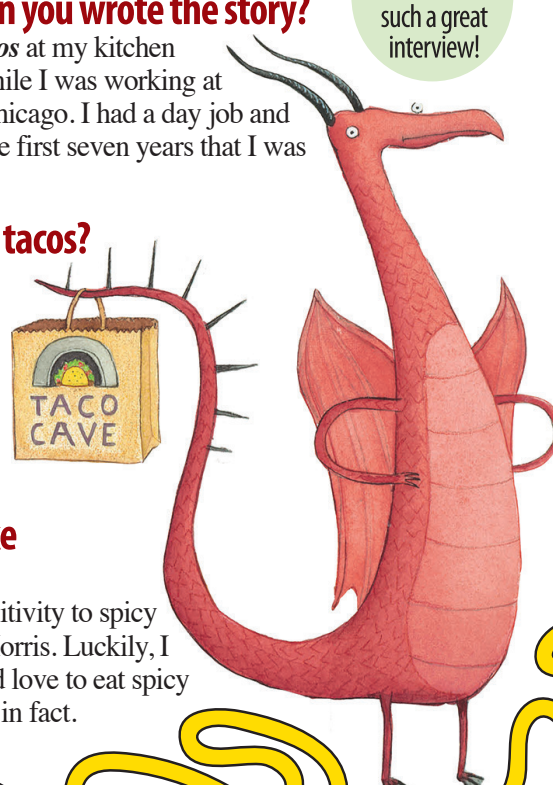
**Q: Why do dragons love tacos?**

**A:** Dragons love tacos for the same reasons I love tacos. Tacos are delicious, nutritious, fun to make and easy to eat. There are endless varieties. They are the perfect food!

**Q: Why don't dragons like spicy salsa?**

Dragons have a special sensitivity to spicy foods, just like my Uncle Morris. Luckily, I have a stronger stomach and love to eat spicy salsa. The spicier the better, in fact.

Thank you to Adam Rubin for such a great interview!



**Q: Why does smoke come out of the dragon noses?**

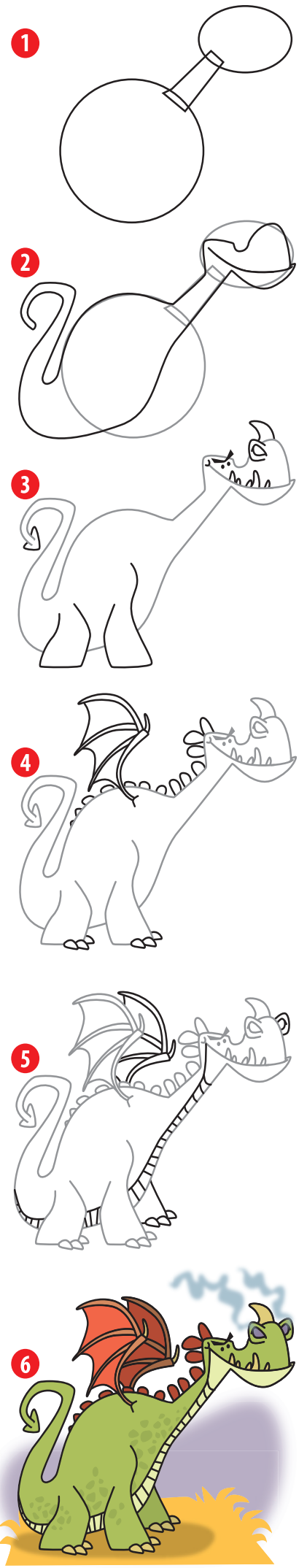
Dragons are known to breathe fire. The smoke is a warning sign of the impending inferno. Kind of like a burp from Uncle Morris.

**Q: When did you start writing stories?**

I always liked writing stories, ever since I was a little kid. When you're a kid, people tell you what to do all the time: what to eat, what to wear, when to go to bed ... But when you write a story, you can do anything you want. You can stay up 'til 4:00 in the morning, you can eat a thousand pizzas, you can fly to the moon on a magical rhinoceros. That's what I love about writing. Anything you can imagine, you can bring it to life in a story.



**Extra! Extra!**  
**What a Character**  
Select a character in a comic strip. Write three things that describe how this character looks. Then write three things about the personality of this character.  
**Standards Link:** Writing Applications: Students write phrases that describe concepts.



**Kid Scoop Puzzler**

Two of these dragons are different from all the others. Can you find them?

**Double Double Word Search**

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?

C	A	D	O	O	F	D	A	A	I
M	H	W	R	I	T	E	U	N	R
U	B	I	R	A	I	N	T	E	E
H	B	E	C	A	S	E	H	V	K
S	N	O	G	A	R	D	O	E	O
T	S	S	O	V	G	L	R	S	M
O	T	O	I	K	R	O	I	E	S
R	S	E	I	T	E	I	R	A	V
Y	W	O	N	R	E	F	N	I	S

**Standards Link:** Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

**KID SCOOP'S MISSION**

**Children are born curious.**  
From their earliest days, sensory exploration brings delight and wonder. New discoveries expand their minds. When they unlock the joy of reading, their world widens further.  
**Magic happens.**

**Kid Scoop** opens the doors of discovery for elementary school children by providing interactive, engaging and relevant age-appropriate materials designed to awaken the magic of reading at school, at home, and throughout their lives.

For more information about our literacy non-profit, visit [kidscoopnews.org](http://kidscoopnews.org)

**Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS**

**This week's word: PHYSICALLY**  
The adverb **physically** means relating to the body not the mind.

Painting the mural was **physically** hard work.

Try to use the word **physically** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

**FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY**

**Headline Helpers**  
Select five headlines from the newspaper. Then rewrite them by using **synonyms** for the nouns and verbs. Synonyms are words that means the same thing as another word (For example, **good** = great, excellent, awesome).  
**Standards Link:** Vocabulary: Use strategies of the writing process to write a variety of sentences.

**What sounds do you hear when dragons eat spicy salsa?**

**ANSWER:** Fire alarms!

**Write On! Reading Rocks**

**"I love to read because..."**  
Explain why and what you enjoy reading.