

# How do Dinosaurs Go To School?

by Jane Yolen & Mark Teague

Large text, over-sized illustrations and a few rhymes make these giant creatures a joy in the classroom.



## Read

### Before:

Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow that with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *Who can tell me something about dinosaurs?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings. Set the stage for listening by asking an "I wonder" statement based on the cover illustration.

- I wonder if this mouse likes to write?

### During:

Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in every day conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

### Rare Words in *How do Dinosaurs Go to School*

- car pool: a group of associated people sharing the use of their cars
- stomp: to walk making a lot of noise
- fuss: a complaint over something insignificant
- roushhouse: to behave or treat somebody in a rough way
- interrupt: to disturb somebody
- plunked: dropped heavily or suddenly
- fidget: to move around in a restless or uneasy manner
- tease: make fun of somebody
- carefully: taking reasonable care to avoid risks
- projects: a task that requires a large amount of time, effort, and planning to complete
- bullies: an aggressive person who intimidates or mistreats weaker people
- tidies: to make something neat and orderly
- leaps: jumps forcefully

### After:

Discuss the story. Ask questions...

- Do you think the dinosaur is having fun riding on top of the car?
- Why do you suppose the dinosaur was late for the bus? Have any of you ever been late for the bus?
- Do you think the little girl is mad at the dinosaur for interrupting show-and tell? How can you tell?
- Do you think a dinosaur tooth is larger than a human tooth?
- Do you think the dinosaur is a very good drum player? Why do you say so?
- Which dinosaur is your favorite? Why?
- Would you want to go to school with a dinosaur? Why or why not?

## Dinosaur Puppet Show

Learn the names of various dinosaurs and some characteristic of each during this activity that introduces one theory of how dinosaurs became extinct.

### Materials:

Laminated pictures of dinosaurs that are mounted on a paint stirring stick (or other stick). You can use pictures from the bulletin board set, commonly seen in teacher's stores.

Silk plants i.e.: "ferns"

A classroom table

Green tablecloth (or other green fabric)

A tape, tape recorder, and player

Large pieces of black construction paper

### Description:

Teachers pre-record on a cassette tape a story which introduces the dinosaur's environment (place your plants on the set). Introduce each dinosaur puppet with some feature characteristics such as; plant or meat eater, protection against predators, etc. Place each dinosaur in turn, on the set.

Mention the theory of a meteor hitting the earth (lower a rock), causing ash to float in the air and block the sun (set up black construction paper all along the set). Mention that this killed off the plant life (take away the ferns), which in turn killed the plant eaters (remove plant eaters) and eventually the meat eaters (remove from the set). Dinosaurs became extinct.

Perform the play as per the tape, adding/deleting pieces as necessary. The tape can be as elaborate or simple as appropriate for your class. After the play, review the facts addressed in the play.

Source: [www.preschoolrainbow.org/dinosaur.htm](http://www.preschoolrainbow.org/dinosaur.htm)