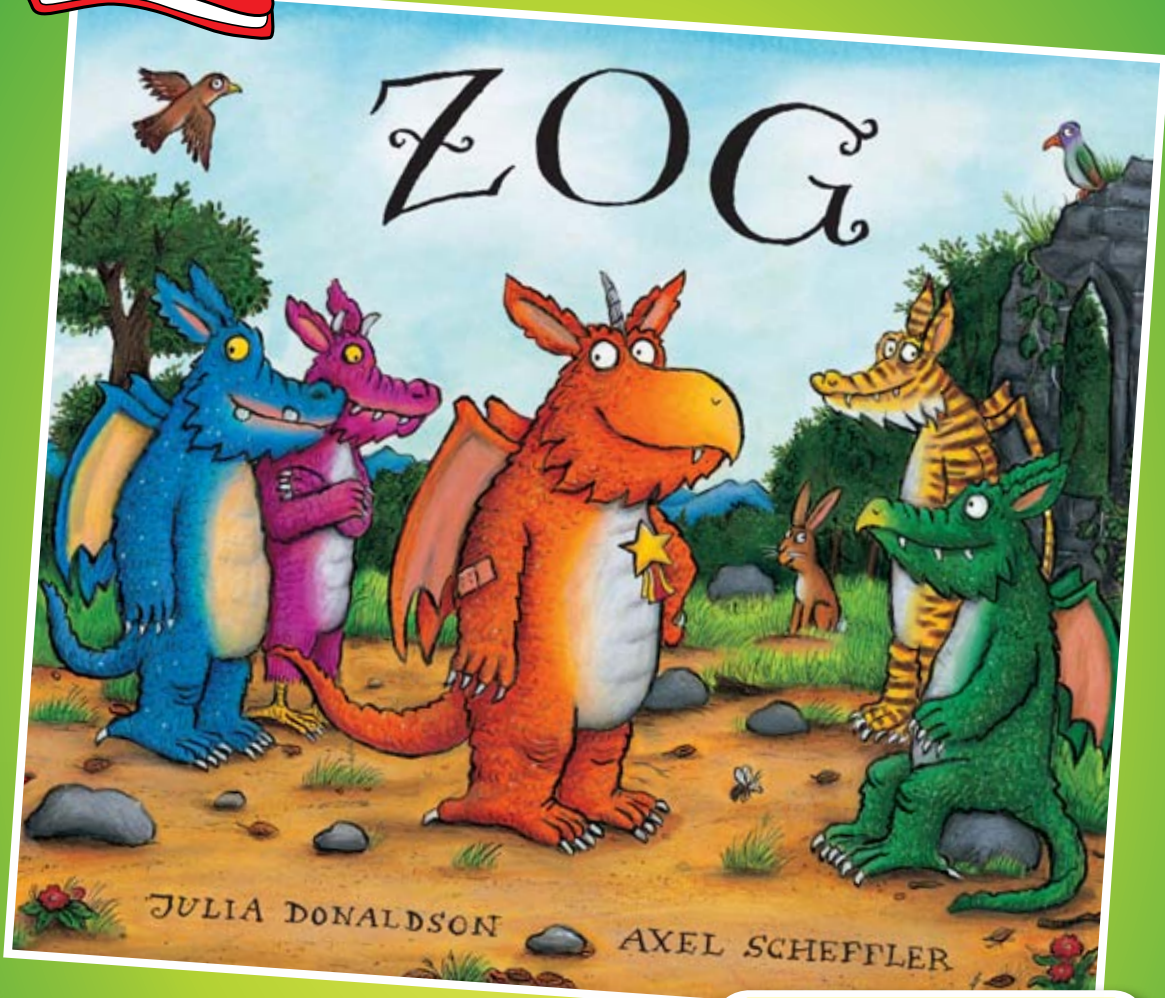




SCHOLASTIC

Book Talk



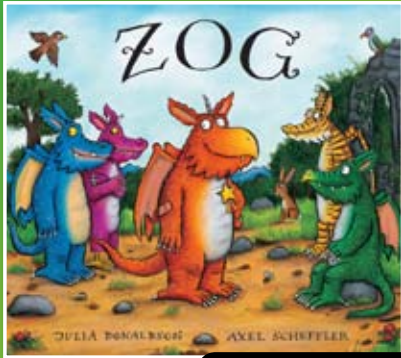
AGES 2+

Engage and inspire your pupils with a Book Talk!

Illustrations © 2010 Axel Scheffler from Zog by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler, published by Alison Green Books, an imprint of Scholastic Ltd.



AGES 2+



Look out for me at
your Book Fair!

Price	£5.99
Case	Welcome to Reading
Author	Julia Donaldson
Illustrator	Axel Scheffler
Publisher	Alison Green Books

Using this book in your classroom

Themes

A funny, rhyming story which touches on themes of **perseverance** and **following your dreams**.

Summary

Poor Zog! He's the biggest dragon in the school, and the keenest – but he is very accident-prone. Every year, the dragons learn a new skill – from flying and roaring to breathing fire – and every year, Zog ends up with a bumped head, a sore throat or a burnt wing. Fortunately, whenever he has an accident, he meets a kind girl who patches him up and sends him on his way again...

One year, the dragons have to learn how to capture a princess. Zog doesn't have much luck – until the kind girl reveals that she is in fact Princess Pearl, and volunteers to be captured! Zog takes her back to the dragon school, where she has plenty of work to do caring for the dragons when they accidentally injure themselves. Everything is peaceful until the following year, when the new skill to be learnt is fighting knights! Zog bravely takes on Sir Gadabout, and it looks as though the two of them might injure each other, until Princess Pearl persuades them to stop. She explains that she wants to be a doctor – whereupon Sir Gadabout exclaims that he does, too! Everything ends happily when Zog suggests that he could be their flying ambulance, and the two would-be doctors take off on his back, ready to begin their medical career.

Did you know?

- In his most recent books with Julia Donaldson, Axel Scheffler always hides a picture of the Gruffalo. Look closely at the pictures of Sir Gadabout's horse...

The Story Session

1. Introducing the book

- Start by asking the children what they know about dragons. Have they read any other books with dragons in? Say: "Do you think dragons are always fierce and scary?"
- Explain that this story is about a dragon school. Ask: "What kinds of things do you think dragons would learn at school?" Talk about dragon skills such as flying, breathing fire etc. Do the children think dragons might need to learn how to do these things?

2. Reading the story

- Read the whole story aloud to the children, and enjoy the rhythm and rhyme together. You could pause sometimes before a rhyming word and encourage the children to see if they can guess what the word is.
- Read the story again, pausing to talk about what is happening and share the children's responses. For example, which part of the story do they think is funniest, and why? Do they feel sorry for Zog when he keeps having accidents? Do they think that Princess Pearl and Sir Gadabout will enjoy being doctors?
- At the end of the story, ask: "Do you think this is a good ending? Will Zog make a good flying ambulance? What about Sir Gadabout's horse? Do you think he will be happy as the dragons' pet?"

3. Follow-up

- What kinds of adventures do the children think Zog, Pearl and Sir Gadabout will have together after the end of the story? You could make up a new episode of the story together as a class, or children could act out their own ideas in small groups.
- Encourage the children to make models or paint pictures of Zog and his dragon friends. Arrange the children's artworks into a 'dragon school' display.
- Ask: "What do you think would happen if Zog came to our school? What might go wrong? What would he be good at?" Together, make up a shared story about a dragon coming to your school.

YOU TELL US

- Did you use these notes to have a Book Talk in class?
- Were they helpful?
- Are there any changes you'd like to see to make them more useful?

We're always happy to hear your comments, so please email us!
Please email: bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk