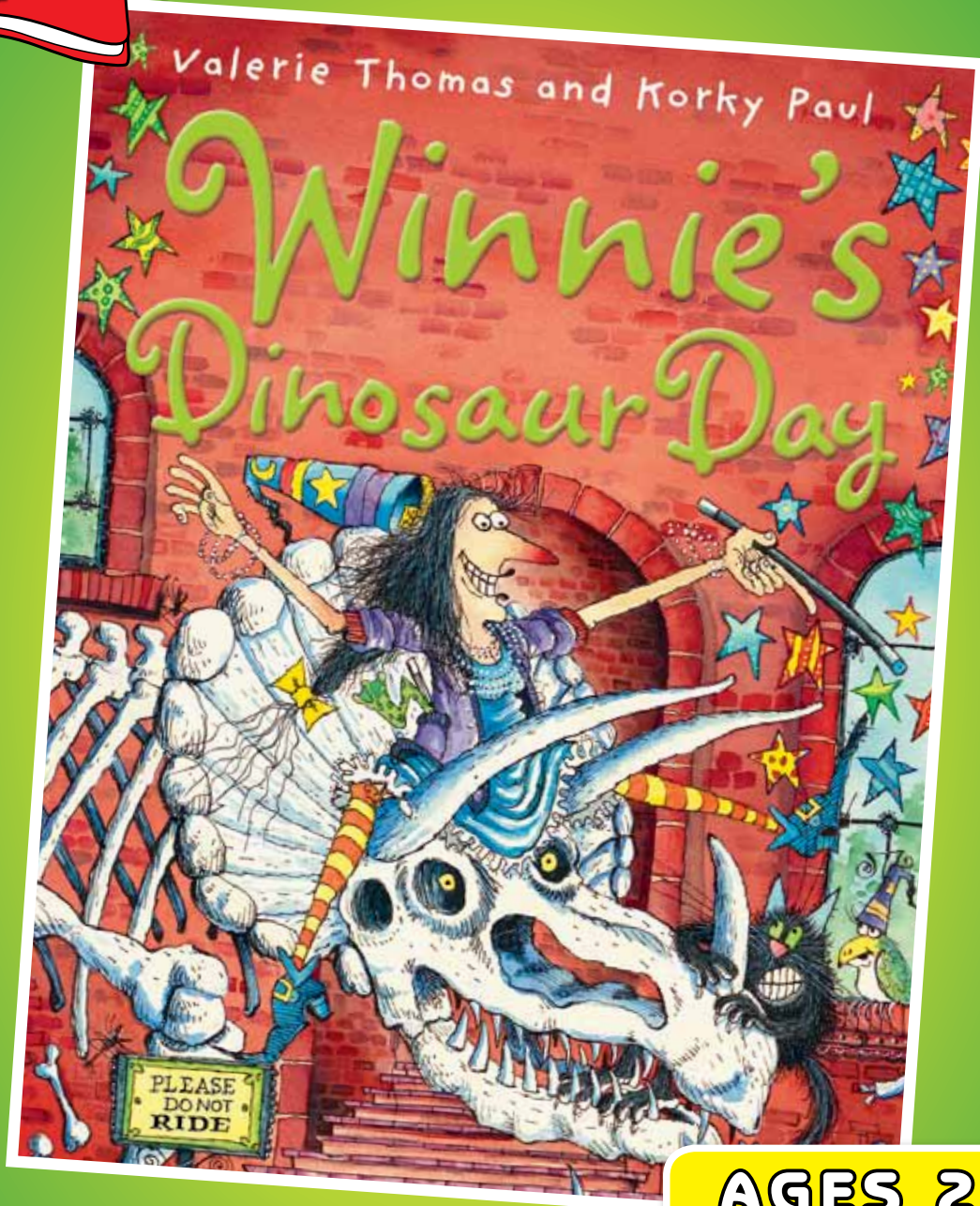


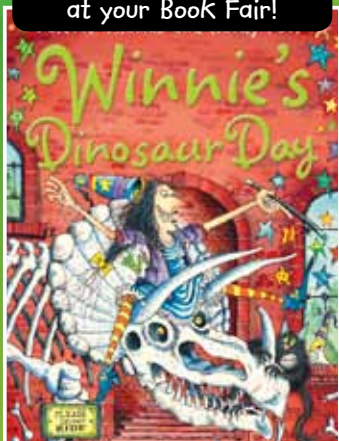
# Book Talk



AGES 2+

**Engage and inspire your  
pupils with a Book Talk!**

Look out for this book  
at your Book Fair!



AGES 2+

Price	£5.99 / €7.40
Case	Welcome to Reading
Author	Valerie Thomas
Illustrator	Korky Paul
Publisher	Oxford University Press

## Using this book in your classroom

### Themes

A funny, magical adventure about **dinosaurs**, **art**, **doing your best** and **having fun taking part!**

### Summary

Winnie the Witch loves the big museum, and she's particularly keen on the dinosaur room. She'd love to see a real dinosaur one day! As for her cat, Wilbur, he's just glad that dinosaurs lived a long time ago, so he'll never have to meet one. Or will he...?

When the museum holds an art competition with a dinosaur theme, Winnie is desperate to win. But how can she do the best picture if she doesn't know what dinosaurs really looked like when they were alive? She and Wilbur go back to the time of the dinosaurs and spot a real live Triceratops who is the spitting image of the skeleton in the museum, so Winnie makes a brilliant portrait. They get back just in time for the judging, but it's not Winnie who wins – it's the dinosaur! Winnie is very brave about it, and invites the dinosaur back for tea. Unfortunately, the dinosaur isn't very keen on tea and cakes – he'd much rather eat all Winnie's flowers and trees. So Winnie waves her wand and shrinks the dinosaur so he's just the right size to be the perfect, lawn-mowing pet and an ideal playmate for Wilbur!

### Did you know?

- Korky Paul lives in Oxford, and the pictures of the museum in this book bear a strong resemblance to the real-life Oxford Natural History Museum!
- Korky began his illustrating career in Greece, and you can often find Greek words hidden in the pictures in his books.

## The Story Session

### 1. Introducing the book

- Show the front cover of the book to the children and encourage them to talk about the picture. What kind of person do they think Winnie the Witch is, judging by the picture? Do the children think she's enjoying riding on the dinosaur skeleton? Ask: "What about Wilbur, Winnie's cat? Do you think he's enjoying himself? What do you think he might be thinking?"
- Read the back cover blurb and encourage the children to predict what might happen in this story.

### 2. Reading the story

- Read the whole story aloud to the children. Read it through once from beginning to end so that they can enjoy the story uninterrupted, and then reread it, pausing to look at the pictures in more detail, and discuss the story.
- Ask: "Why do you think Winnie is so keen to see a real dinosaur? Why doesn't Wilbur want to? Which of them do you agree with?"
- Look carefully at all the dinosaur pictures that people have brought to the competition. Which ones do the children like best?
- Ask: "Do you think it was fair that the dinosaur won the competition? How would you have felt if you were Winnie? Do you think she did the right thing by making friends with the dinosaur and taking him home for tea?"
- At the end of the story, ask: "Do you think this is a happy ending for everyone?" Talk about why the dinosaur might enjoy living with Winnie and Wilbur (e.g. because there is lots of lovely grass to eat in the garden, and he can play with Wilbur!)

### 3. Follow-up

- Ask the children to create their own dinosaur picture or model – they could use the pictures in the book for ideas, or do some research in other books or websites. The BBC website features some beautiful pictures and film from the *Walking with Dinosaurs* TV shows: [www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Dinosaur](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/life/Dinosaur)
- Ask the children to imagine that Winnie and Wilbur decide to go back in time again, to take the dinosaur home to his own time. What adventures might they have? Talk about it together, and then ask children to act out their ideas in pairs or small groups. They could draw pictures to illustrate their ideas and write some simple captions.

## 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 at [bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk](mailto:bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk) or [bookfairs@scholastic.ie](mailto:bookfairs@scholastic.ie)