

# **Dragon Up!**

Updated 11/14/19

A Theater for Young Audiences play by Maggie Lou Rader  
With a focus on Social/Emotional Learning

Original cast and swing actors were Andrew Ian Adams, Rae Buchanan, and Esther  
Cunningham

## ACTOR 1

Oro

## ACTOR 2

Meetra  
Daddy Dragon  
Ogre  
Witch  
Troll

INTRO:

ACTOR 1:

Hello everyone! Welcome! My name is (*Actor's Name*):

ACTOR 2:

And I'm (*Actor's Name*).

ACTOR 1:

And we're here with Know Theatre of Cincinnati, where we offer Creatively Compassionate shows to empower the youth of our community (that's all of you)! We want to thank (*venue*) and say this program was made possible in part by a grant from the Louis and Melba Schott Foundation, Fifth Third Bank Trustee and the Dater Foundation.

ACTOR 2:

Who are they?

ACTOR 1:

Really nice people. So let's give them a huge round of applause. We're excited to get the play started, but we have a few things to cover before we do.

ACTOR 2:

There are lots of characters in this play; however, how many actors do you see on stage? Two! So, we're going to be using some "Theatrical Magic" to help set the scene, make sounds, and make the story come to life. And you're going to help!

ACTOR 1:

You may see me make this motion, (*ACTOR 1 raises one arm and points the other into the audience*) which means, I need you to make the sound effects of what I'm describing. And when I do this (*she's safe motion*) that means to become suddenly silent. Let's practice! The dogs barked all across town. The kittens mewed with all their might! Well done!

ACTOR 2:

You will see us make this motion. That means we're going to do the wave. And I'll be the conductor. So when I walk in front of you, put your hands in the air! Now wave them around like you just don't care! Let's try that too shall we? Awesome!

ACTOR 1:

I'll be playing the character Oro, and he's a dragon with a lot to learn. During the play, you'll hear us talk about how to resolve conflict and handle emotions responsibly. See if you can notice and remember what skills Oro and Meetra use throughout the play to do just that and we'll talk about them after the show.

ACTOR 2:

Alright! I think we're ready to start the show! Are you ready to see the show? I said are you ready to see the play?

ACTOR 1:

Please put your hands together for *Dragon Up!*

*ACTORS go backstage. The show begins!*

ORO:

Why did you do that?

MEETRA:

Do what?

ORO:

Put me on the spot!

MEETRA:

It was kind of a life or death situation. I didn't think-

ORO:

Exactly! You didn't think!

MEETRA:

Excuse you, I DID think. And instead of being so dragon-headed, you should be thanking me, I saved us both and the treasure with my musk!

ORO:

Saved us? Yeah right. You just made it stink in here!

MEETRA:

Oro, settle down! Try to name your feelings again; it helped last time.

ORO:

Fine! I feel like... I feel like...

MEETRA:

Oro; name your feels, name your feels-

ORO:

FREEZE! Actually, I don't want to tell this part of the story yet. Will you leave for a while?

MEETRA:

Gladly! Dragon-headed Oro here can't decide if he wants to get fussy or narrate a story.

*(MEETRA walks off)*

ORO:

*(To audience)* This is not what it looks like. She pushed my buttons and- she *knows* that I'm- Oh nevermind; I don't want to talk about it, okay?

You're probably wondering how I got here. To be honest... so am I. It all started when my dad said-

*(DADDY DRAGON enters)*

DADDY DRAGON:

Now listen here son, do you know what day it is?

ORO:

Woah! No! We've got to go back further than that.

*(DADDY DRAGON "rewinds" backstage, muttering his lines high pitched as if being re-wound)*

ORO:

It started when I was just a young'un. No bigger than a newt. My dad said-

DADDY DRAGON:

No, no, no, son! Dragons breathe fire! And if you don't breathe fire, burn down forests, and interrupt smaller creatures just because you can, well you're nothing more than a weak little lizard.

ORO:

I'm not a weak little lizard, Dad, just because I don't want to breathe fire.

DADDY DRAGON:

That's how it works son. Breathe fire and be a dragon, or don't and be a little lizard. Oh no, are you going to cry about it? Come on... Only little lizards cry. Stiffen those scales! No tears! Just dragon up, son!

ORO:

What am I supposed to do? I do get sad. Even though I do have feelings, and sometimes they get hurt, dragons aren't supposed to *show* their feelings to.. Well, anyone. So... I stiffen my scales. Stop my tears. And I dragon up. Sometimes it's so hard I feel like I might... Like I might... I don't want to talk about it, okay? Let's fast forward a bit, back to where we were.

DADDY DRAGON:

Now listen here son, do you know what day it is?

ORO:

It's my birthday, Dad.

DADDY DRAGON:

That's right! It's your-

DADDY DRAGON AND ORO:

Twelfth birthday.

DADDY DRAGON:

And you know what that means!

ORO:

I know... But do I have to Dad?

DADDY DRAGON:

Of course! It's your twelfth birthday, such a special time for every young dragon, because like every other dragon when he turns twelve, it's your turn to guard the Great Dragon Treasure!

ORO:

But Dad, creatures come from all over to try and take it. Will I have to... hurt them?

DADDY DRAGON:

You know the Dragon motto:

"Ours is not to whine and moan..."

*(ORO doesn't want to participate, DADDY DRAGON persists)*

"Ours is not to whine and moan..."

DADDY DRAGON AND ORO:

"Ours is but to burn their bones!"

DADDY DRAGON:

Thaaaaat's right! So, guard the Great Dragon Treasure for one whole year, breathe fire at any creature who tries to take it, and next year, you'll be a real, brave, tough, fire breathing dragon.

ORO:

Okay Dad.

DADDY DRAGON:

And son?

ORO:

Yes Dad?

DADDY DRAGON:

I'm proud- Well, I'm proud of-

ORO:

Yes?

DADDY DRAGON:

I'm proud... to be a dragon! Aren't you?

ORO:

I guess...

DADDY DRAGON:

Good luck son. Today, you're just an overgrown lizard. In a year, you'll be a real fire-breathing dragon!

ORO:

"A real dragon," he says. I don't exactly know why I have to breathe fire, hurt others, and protect treasure in order to be a "real" dragon, but it just seems a bit... limiting, doesn't it? Let's fast forward again because my first month guarding the treasure was... not important. Well, I packed nothing but junk food. Cookies, cheetos, moose track ice cream, and I had some REALLY stinky gas and the cave smelled REALLY bad... Sorry. Like I said, not important. Six weeks in to guarding the treasure, an Ogre came to steal it.

OGRE:

You tasty! Treasure shiny!

ORO:

But it's a well known fact that Ogres are allergic to Dragon farts...

OGRE:

You... ACHOO!!! You... SHOO-EEE!!! You... you stink! Pain! Nose burns!!! ACHOO!!! BLEGH!!! ACHOO!!! WHAT DID YOU EAT??? ACHOO!!!

ORO:

That was easy, and no fire breathing necessary! But I did change to a more balanced diet. I am twelve now, after all. Six months in, my stomach settled, and I had an encounter with a witch...

WITCH:

Teeheehee! I'll get you my pretty, and your little bog too!

ORO:

Bog? I grew up in a moat, not a bog.

WITCH:

Oooh! Fancy!

ORO:

But it's also a well known fact that witches aren't known for their brains... Hey... I heard a house just fell on your sister!

WITCH:

BETSY! NOOOOO!!!!

ORO:

See what I mean? She doesn't even have a sister named Betsy, just a brother named Steve who sells insurance. Still no fire breathing needed! Nine months in, in walked a vicious, terrifying, greedy little Troll!

TROLL:

...Hey.

ORO:

Hey there Troll. Aren't you going to try to give me some gruff and try to take the Great Dragon Treasure?

TROLL:

*(shrugs)* Eh. Seems like a lot of work... And these days, I try to keep my trolling to internet comment boards.

ORO:

*(gasp)* You're toll TollTroll45?!

*(TROLL shrugs)*

ORO:

Then... do you mind just going home and leaving the treasure here?

TROLL:

Uh... sure. *(sniffs)* This cave smells like dragon farts. Yelp review, two stars.

ORO:

...That was easy. A bit degrading, but you get the idea. I'd guarded the Great Dragon Treasure for nearly an entire year, reading Dr. Seuss, crocheting an impressive amount of Granny Squares, and practicing my Fortnite dance moves. There was only one week, seven days, 168 hours of guarding left! And that's when...

MEETRA:  
Hello.

ORO:  
That's when a little rodent-

MEETRA:  
I'm Meetra. What's your name?

ORO:  
A rodent with massive amounts of unearned confidence found her way-

MEETRA:  
*Hey!* You got wax in your ears? I said, "hello."

ORO:  
Excuse me, I'm narrating. What are you exactly?

MEETRA:  
I'm Meetra, the bravest knight in the land! Super obvs... Psh!

ORO:  
No, what *are* you exactly? A mouse? A rat?

MEETRA:  
I'm a muskrat. Also Obvs.

ORO:  
But... Muskrats can't be knights.

MEETRA:  
That's what you think!

ORO:  
They have webbed feet.

MEETRA:  
Semi-webbed, thank you very much.

ORO:  
No one makes a sword and armor that small.



MEETRA:

It's custom!

ORO:

Muskrats are too cowardly to be knights.

MEETRA:

*That's* a stereotype.

ORO:

Oh. Okay.

MEETRA:

We're actually super aggressive when it comes to defending our homes. Plus, I've got this amazing sword that I forged and made myself. Spread the word.

ORO:

Thank you for the Muskrat education-

MEETRA:

Yooooou're welcome!

ORO:

But if you're a knight, I'm guessing you want to take this treasure from me.

MEETRA:

Cooooorrect! So if you'll hand it over, I'm just going to take this home to-

ORO:

That's cute. However, if you're going to take this treasure, I've got to breathe fire at you.

MEETRA:

...That's a real downer. Why are you going to try to breathe fire at me?

ORO:

Um...I don't need to TRY. I could totally do it without even trying. I'm a dragon. That's what we do.

MEETRA:

Well I'm a knight, and we kick dragon butt. That's what WE do!

ORO:

But you're just a weak little muskrat.

MEETRA:

That's a STEREOTYPE!

ORO:

I could obliterate you into a pile of ash in seconds!

MEETRA:

...Show me.

ORO:

What?

MEETRA:

I don't think you have it in you.

ORO:

I can do it.

MEETRA:

Prove it. Show me.

ORO:

If I showed you, you'd burn up.

MEETRA:

I'll risk it. Show me.

ORO:

I would but, I don't want to use all my fire on something as small as you.

MEETRA:

You're not even using the treasure and I need it for-

ORO:

Freeze! In that moment-

MEETRA:

Excuse me, did you just interrupt a smaller creature just because you could? That was super rude.

ORO:

I need to narrate the next event.

MEETRA:

Still. Interrupting smaller creatures just because you can, rude.

ORO:

Will you just freeze in a theatrical fashion so I can tell them the next thing that happened?

MEETRA:

Ugh. Fine. *(Freezes)*

ORO:

In that moment, while I was arguing with the super annoying Muskrat Knight, someone came in and stole the Great Dragon Treasure!

*(Teacher/Librarian/Principal comes onstage and takes the treasure far away from the stage)*

MEETRA:

You're not even using the treasure and I need it for-

ORO:

WAIT! Where did the treasure go?

MEETRA:

It was just right here!

ORO:

Only one creature I know is sneaky enough to pull off a stunt like this!

ORO AND MEETRA:

The dreaded, sneaky, way overqualified, TEACHER MONSTER!!

ORO:

My dad is going to kill me! This wouldn't have happened if you weren't distracting me!

MEETRA:

Me? Distracting you? You were distracting me with your dragon-headedness!

ORO:

Was not!

MEETRA:

Was so!

ORO:

WAS NOT!

MEETRA:

WAS SO!

ORO:

You better watch out or I'll... I'll...

MEETRA:

Stop! Collaborate and listen. Let's de-escalate this situation, because I think we have some conflict here.

ORO:

What's conflict? Did I step in it?

MEETRA:

It's when you clash, or have a disagreement. So, you're mad at me for distracting you, and I'm mad at you for being dragon-headed, right?

ORO:

Right. Sounds like a real big conflict we've got here.

MEETRA:

However, we both want to find the Great Dragon Treasure.

ORO:

Right again.

MEETRA:

Okay. So even though we're experiencing conflict (because you're wrong and dragon-headed)-

ORO:

MEETRA!

MEETRA:

Beside the point! We've got to work together to resolve this conflict, don't we?

ORO:

As much as I hate to say it, right.

MEETRA:

Well, Grandma Maura Muskrat always said, When you're going getting along with someone, look for the good in them." I guess dragons aren't totally useless. I mean, you can fly, right?

ORO:

Yup! And I guess Muskrats have some skills...

MEETRA:

We sure do! We can hold our breath underwater for 20 minutes, swim frontwards and backwards, and have super musk powers!

ORO:

Super musk powers?

MEETRA:

To ward off intruders.

ORO:

So you're good at stinking?

MEETRA:

Oh yeah! I'm the best at stinking. And, I probably was a bit distracting. Sorry.

ORO:

And... I guess I can be a bit dragon-headed. Sorry.

MEETRA:

Partners?

ORO:

Partners.

MEETRA:

Did we just resolve our conflict?

ORO:

I think so!

*(THEY shake hands)*

ORO:

And so Meetra and I began the dangerous journey to bring back the Great Dragon Treasure from the lair of the Dreaded Teacher Monster! We travelled along for two days before we encountered-

MEETRA:

Oh no! That's the biggest canyon I've ever seen!

ORO:

And this canyon wasn't just any canyon. At the bottom, was a corn field full of beautiful ripe ears of corn. However, just as Meetra and I began to fly across the canyon, the sun shone bright, beautiful, and very, very hot. The corn began to pop wildly, strongly, buttery-ly! What does popcorn sound like?

MEETRA:

Oh no! The popcorn is going crazy!

ORO:

The corn popped so wildly that it nearly knocked us out of the sky. However, beat and buttered, we landed on the other side, just in time for the popcorn to stop popping.

MEETRA:

That was a close one!

ORO:

Oww!

MEETRA:

Are you okay?

ORO:

Oh no, the popcorn popped holes in my wings!

MEETRA:

Does it hurt?

ORO:

Owwwowowwoww!

MEETRA:

Let's bandage it up, but you probably can't fly until it heals.

ORO:

Okay, no need to go into that. I handled it very bravely and nobly. OWWWW!!!

MEETRA:

Stop screaming, I haven't even touched you yet!

ORO:

Like I said, very bravely. Let's skip forward. The next big thing that happened was right before we got to the monster's lair, we came to a-

MEETRA:

SUUUPER DUUUUUPER WIDE RIVER!

ORO:

And when she says super duper, she means the superest, duperest, widest river we've ever seen. This is terrible! We've come all this way to get within sight of the monster's lair, and we can't cross this river!

MEETRA:

We'll figure something out. You could fly us across again, but-

ORO:

The popcorn popped holes in to my wings, remember?

MEETRA:

That's what I was going to say before you interrupted me.

ORO:

I didn't interrupt you! You didn't remember about my wings!

MEETRA:

I *DID* remember. Are you upset?

ORO:

NO I'M NOT UPSET!

MEETRA:

It's okay if you are. Hey river, can you take a chill pill? It's okay if you are. This is an upsetting situation. But it feels like you're starting to take your frustration out on me, which is NOT okay. And on top of that, it isn't going to help get us cross this river.

ORO:

I said I'm not upset.

MEETRA:

What are you then?

ORO:

... maybe a little anxious.

MEETRA:

Okay!

ORO:

And pretty worried.

MEETRA:

Great!

ORO:

And maybe even a little embarrassed.

MEETRA:

That's really great Oro! When I'm upset, it helps me to name my feelings. They feel easier to deal with that way. You know? Name your feels name your feels. When you have some conflict, together we'll resolve it. Oro name your feels.

MEETRA AND ORO:

Name your feels name your feels. When you have some conflict, together we'll resolve it, Oro name your feels.

ORO:

You're right! Now that I've named them, I see they're about crossing the river, not about you. I'm sorry I took out my... upsetness on you.

MEETRA:

Thanks! That's a much less dragon-headed response.

ORO:

So what should we do?

MEETRA:

Let's identify the problem. We need to cross this river, right?

ORO:

Right.

MEETRA:

We could fly again, but your wings are injured, so that's a no go.

ORO:

And if we can't fly *over* it, we've got to go *through* it. And I think I know a REALLY great swimmer who can help us do just that!

MEETRA:

Awesome! Who's that?

ORO:



Meetra...

MEETRA:

No doi! I'm a muskrat!

ORO:

You sure are!

MEETRA:

Which means I'm a great swimmer!

ORO:

So it would seem!

MEETRA:

How could I have forgotten?

ORO:

You know Meetra, I'm starting to think you see the best in everyone, but yourself.

MEETRA:

That's crazy Oro. I just got wrapped up in this river talk. Alright river; chill pill has worn off! Hop on my back, I'll swim us across!

*(MEETRA jumps in the water, and carries the puppets across the water, then grabs the teacher to be brought up on stage after ORO's narration)*

ORO:

And that's exactly what she did. Even though I'm a huge dragon, Meetra was strong enough to swim across the river with me on her back. Meetra is so strong, but not just physically. She's so good at problem solving and believing the best in others. However, I was confused why Meetra didn't think about how amazing of a swimmer she was in that moment...

MEETRA:

Here we are! The lair of the dreaded, sneaky, way overqualified, TEACHER MONSTER.

ORO:

She was right, there stood the dreaded, hunch backed, smelly, sleep deprived, teacher monster. Summer vacation wasn't enough for them and it showed.

TEACHER MONSTER:

How dare you track me down... AND ON MY LUNCH BREAK!

MEETRA:

We're here to get that treasure from you monster! You had no right to take it in the first place!

TEACHER MONSTER:

And what are you, exactly?

MEETRA:

I'm Meetra. A muskrat, the greatest knight in the land, and your biggest nightmare.

TEACHER MONSTER:

Muskrats can't be knights; they're too cowardly.

MEETRA:

THAT'S A STEREOTYPE! And plus, my best friend Oro is here, and he's a dragon. He and I are taking you DOWN!

ORO:

I'm your best friend?

MEETRA:

No doi! Now Oro, breathe your fire, I'll guard the door!

ORO:

Wait? You want me to breathe fire?

MEETRA:

Yeah! Breathe fire! You're a dragon! Turn them into a pile of ashes!

ORO:

But Meetra, about that-

MEETRA:

*Now* Oro! Look how scary they are!

ORO:

Meetra, you don't understand-

MEETRA:

ORO! Fire now! Listen to that monster's HEINOUS laughter!

ORO:

I can't!

MEETRA:

Fine!

*(MEETRA turns and releases her musk)*

ORO:

And that's the moment Meetra turned and released her stinky musk. I mean *stinky* musk. Like sweaty gym socks ate refried beans and didn't shower for a week musk. It stunk bad. I mean bad. So bad that-

MEETRA:

I think they get the point!

ORO:

So bad that the dreaded teacher monster skulked back to the depths of their lair for fresh air. I should have felt happy but-

MEETRA:

Woo hoo!!! It worked! But what happened to you back there?

ORO:

Why did you do that?

MEETRA:

Do what? Stink them out with my musk?

ORO:

No! Put me on the spot to breathe fire. I wasn't ready.

MEETRA:

Oro, it was kind of a life or death situation and you're a dragon, I didn't think-

ORO:

Exactly! You didn't think!

MEETRA:

Excuse you, I DID think. And instead of being dragon-headed, you should be thanking me, I saved us both *and* the treasure, no thanks to you!

ORO:

Saved us? Yeah right. You just made it stink in here!

MEETRA:

Oro, settle down! Try to name your feelings again; it helped last time.

ORO:

Fine! I feel like... I feel like...

*(ORO breathes fire and burns up MEETRA's sword)*

MEETRA:

You burnt up my sword...

ORO:

Yeah! I sure did! By breathing fire. Isn't that what you wanted?

MEETRA:

I thought we were friends, Oro.

ORO:

We were never friends, Meetra, we both just wanted the same treasure!

MEETRA:

Well, you can have it. Keep the treasure, Oro. I don't need it anymore.

*(MEETRA leaves)*

ORO:

So that's how I got here. I told you she pushed my buttons! Well, now that annoying little muskrat is gone, I've breathed fire like a real dragon, and I'm here with the Great Dragon Treasure, which I'll now return to my cave, just in time to make my dad proud, which is exactly what I needed to do all along. I've got everything I wanted!

So why don't I feel good? In fact I feel terrible. Why is that? What do you think?

You're right. I wasn't very nice to Meetra. And now I feel sad, bad. Actually, I feel ashamed. Have any of you ever felt ashamed of how you behaved toward your friends? If I were Meetra, what would I want a dragon-headed, fire-breathing, former friend such as myself to do? What would you want your friend to say to you if they hurt your feelings?

You're right, I should apologize. Oh no! But I didn't just hurt her feelings, I burnt up her sword! I lied and said she wasn't my friend. I have so much to be sorry for. And sometimes, when you've done something really bad, saying, "I'm sorry," is really hard, isn't it?

It may be hard to apologize, but it's more important to let her know I'm sorry and try to fix it. And you've got to start somewhere, right? Meeeeeeeeetraaaaaaa!

*(ORO exits and we see MEETRA, she's obviously still upset. She's looking at her burt sword)*

MEETRA:

Who needs friends? NOT ME! I'm fine by myself. I should be used to it by now. I don't fit in with the muskrats, why would I fit in with a dragon? It's fine. Really! Lots of creatures don't have friends. Skunks, porcupines, congressmen. It's fine. It's fine. I'm fine! I'll just stay here in my swamp... all alone... treasure-less... sword-less... friend-less..... All by myseeelf... Don't want to be... all by myyyself.... In a swamp...

ORO:

MEETRA! I'm so glad I found you!

MEETRA:

Oro, I have nothing to say to you.

ORO:

That's valid. To be honest, if I were you, I wouldn't have anything to say to me either. But is it okay if I say something to you?

*(MEETRA takes a moment, then nods)*

ORO:

I'm so sorry because I behaved really terribly to you. I let you down when you needed me. I'm sorry I didn't tell you I didn't know how to breathe fire. I wasn't honest with you and it almost got us killed.

MEETRA:

No doi.

ORO:

I'm sorry I burned up your sword. You're the best and bravest knight I've ever known, and it's terrible that I destroyed something you loved. It's not your custom made sword, but I hope you like it.

*(ORO gives MEETRA a new sword)*

And most importantly, I'm sorry I said you weren't my friend. The truth is, you're my friend. You're my best friend. You're the best friend I've ever had. You're amazing! I mean, you saved us with your bravery... and your stink. Your super stink. I mean wow- I mean, hey now, you're a stink star! Get your musk on! Go spray! Hey-

MEETRA:

We get the picture.

ORO:

Right. I behaved badly because was embarrassed that I didn't know how to breathe fire. I felt small, and I took it out on you instead of naming and dealing with my emotions, being honest, and telling you the truth. I'm so sorry. I'd understand if you didn't want to be my friend anymore, but I hope you do. Because I think you're a great friend, muskrat, and knight and you push me to be the best dragon possible. And if you like, you can have the treasure.

MEETRA:

Thank you for apologizing, but I don't need the treasure anymore, Oro.

ORO:

Why not?

MEETRA:

Because only knights need treasure. And I'm not a knight.

ORO:

Says who?

MEETRA:

Muskrats have webbed feet.

ORO:

Semi-webbed.

MEETRA:

I destroyed my armor.

ORO:

You can make more!

MEETRA:

Because muskrats are too cowardly to be knights.

ORO:

*That's a stereotype.*

MEETRA:

Everyone was right. When I left my Muskrat Village, all the other muskrats said I'd never be a knight. They laughed at me. I thought, if I could just bring back the Great Dragon Treasure, that would show them. What's more knightly than bringing home a dragon treasure?

ORO:

Are you kidding? You defeated the dreaded Teacher Monster! You swam a giant dragon across a river on your back! You taught me to be less dragon-headed by naming and expressing my emotions responsibly. What could be more knightly than that?

MEETRA:

I don't know...

ORO:

The only thing unknighly about you, is that other, dragon-headed people in your life have told you that you're not as great as you really are. And you've started to believe them.

MEETRA:

You think so?

ORO:

I know so.

MEETRA:

Then what are we waiting for? We've got to get that treasure back to your cave before your dad finds out it's gone!

ORO:

Why don't we take it to Muskrat Village so they see how knightly you really are.

MEETRA:

Hmm... I want to take the treasure back to your home-

ORO:

And I want to take it to yours.

MEETRA:

You know what we've got?

ORO:

I think it may be a conflict.

MEETRA:

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

ORO:

I just may be...

MEETRA:

And so, Oro and I went back to Muskrat Village-

ORO:

And she showed them how she'd tamed the great fire-breathing dragon!

MEETRA:

Stay! Sit! Roll over! Good dragon.

ORO:

And she was hailed the greatest knight the village had ever known.

MEETRA:

Which was great, but I also told all of the Muskrat Village-

ORO:

I was so proud of her because-

MEETRA:

Oro, did you just interrupt a smaller creature just because you could?

ORO:

Sorry! I was just really excited. But this is your part of the story.

MEETRA:

Residents of Muskrat Village. The whole time I was growing up, I wanted to be a knight, you told me I was silly for my dreams of knighthood. That muskrats couldn't be knights. That I should cower and musk instead of learning to sword fight. The saddest thing is, I almost believed you. But luckily, I believed in myself. And I found friends that believed in me too. I AM a knight. I hope this encourages muskrats everywhere to dream big! Be kind! And know you can be anything you want to be!

ORO:

So things turned out pretty well in the end! The teacher monster was just incredibly misunderstood and was only trying to steal the treasure to buy school supplies for their classroom. Meetra and I went back to Dragonland, and instead of letting the treasure sit in a cave for all time-

MEETRA:

With stinky dragon farts.

ORO:

Or muskrat musk.

ORO AND MEETRA:

Not important.



ORO:

Not important. I convinced the dragons to spend the treasure to start a school: The Academy of Chivalry and Emotional Expression for all Creatures, Tall and Small. Folks from all over the world came to learn how to be chivalrous knights from... you guessed it!

MEETRA:

Alright! En garde! Advance! Retreat! Name your emotion! De-escalate the situation! Find your common ground!

ORO:

And I learned how to control my fire-breathing. Sometimes, it really comes in handy.

MEETRA:

Anyone up for s'mores?

ORO:

And I've learned how to breathe so much more than fire when I'm angry!

MEETRA:

He's learned how to breathe tears when he's sad.

ORO:

Baaah!!! And know that's okay.

MEETRA:

He breathes wiggles when he's excited!

ORO:

TEEHEHEHEHEEE!

MEETRA:

He breathes quadratic equations when he feels smart.

ORO:

$Ax^2 + Bx + C = 0$  I'm so smart!

MEETRA:

He breathes Mozart symphonies when he feels artistic.

ORO:

*(Hums Mozart symphony)*

MEETRA:

He feels bravery when he feels scared.

ORO:

And love when I feel safe with my friends. Like you! And you! And you!

DADDY DRAGON:

Oro?

ORO:

Yes Dad?

DADDY DRAGON:

You didn't guard the Great Dragon Treasure like I asked.

ORO:

No, Dad, I didn't.

DADDY DRAGON:

Instead, you spent the treasure to start a school allowing smaller creatures from all over the world to come invade Dragonland and study.

ORO:

That I did.

DADDY DRAGON:

You didn't do a single thing I asked you to do to grow up to be a real tough dragon, did you?

ORO:

I didn't.

DADDY DRAGON:

Do you know what I have to say to you?

ORO:

I'm scared to hear...

DADDY DRAGON:

I'm so incredibly proud of you.

ORO:

Wait, you are?

DADDY DRAGON:

I am. I've been taking classes at the new school, and I've learned a lot. It was wrong of me to tell you that you had to be tough and breathe fire to be a real dragon. You were never a little lizard. You never needed to stiffen your scales. You've taught me more about being a real dragon than I ever knew possible. I couldn't be prouder of you son.

*(DADDY DRAGON breathes hugs)*

ORO:

Are you breathing hugs, Dad?

DADDY DRAGON:

I think I am!

ORO:

Thanks Dad. I'm proud of you too.

DADDY DRAGON:

Thanks son. Now can you teach me to breathe an A on Meeetra's final exam?

ORO:

Sorry, gotta study like everyone else, Dad.

DADDY DRAGON:

Worth a shot!

ORO:

I'm so thankful you all came with us on this adventure. I know I learned a lot about handling my emotions. Just remember, you don't have to stiffen your scales to be a real dragon. Instead, when you feel overwhelmed, see if you can name your emotions. As a wise knight once said-

MEETRA:

When I'm upset, I try to name my feelings. They feel easier to deal with that way.

ORO:

And instead of pushing those feelings down deep inside, see if you can find a healthy way to express them.

MEETRA:

Sing a song!

ORO:

Tell a friend!

MEETRA:

Save the world!

ORO:

That goes without saying. And be kind to your friends. They'll be the ones who believe in you-

MEETRA:

Even when you don't believe in yourself.

ORO:

And no need to Dragon Up, just be you. Because you, are enough.

ORO AND MEETRA:

Hey now! You're a stink star,  
Get your musk on.  
Go spray!

Hey now, you're my best friend,  
In the whole world.  
Let's play!

All that

THE END

GUIDED DISCUSSION:

Ask what SKILLS you saw Meetra and Oro use to resolve conflict? Handle emotions responsibly?

Oro learns much more than how to resolve conflict in this story. He also learns how his actions affect others, and he has to apologize to a friend whose feelings he hurts. If I pushed my friend and tried to apologize by saying, "I'M SORRY! GET OVER IT!" Is that a very good apology? No. However, if I say, "I pushed you because I was in a hurry. That wasn't okay and I'll try to be less rushed in the future. But today, I'm really sorry I pushed you. Are you hurt? Can I help you get a bandaid?" Is that a better apology? Why?

## DISCUSSION GUIDE PROMPTS

Emotion Chart

How to resolve conflict

How to build an apology

Ask questions to draw students attention to how their behavior is affecting those around them.