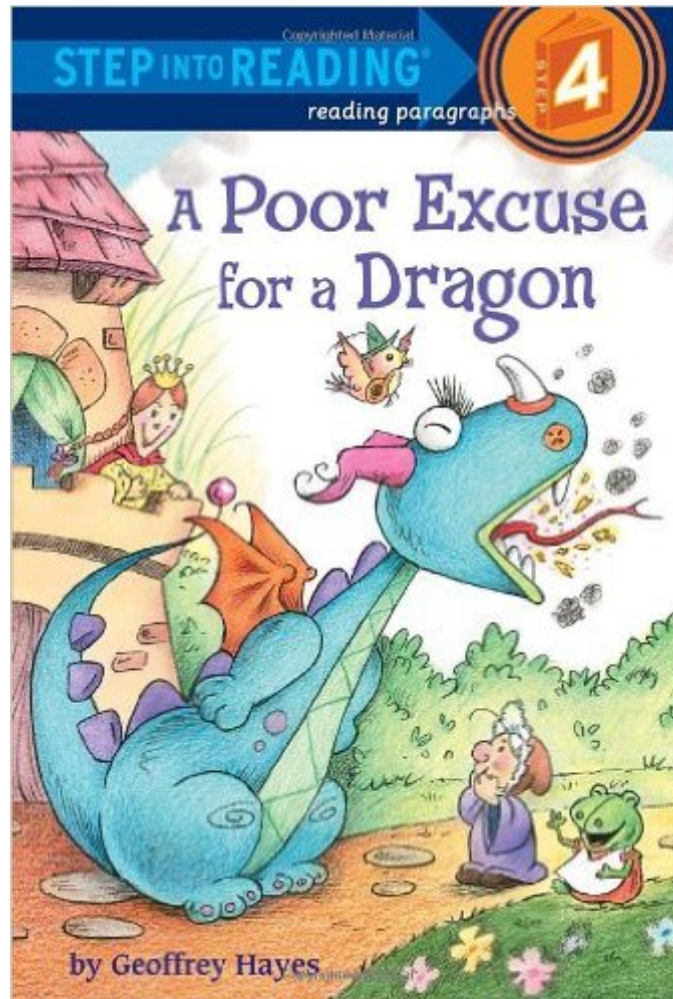


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# A Poor Excuse For A Dragon (Step Into Reading)



## Synopsis

"Punchy dialogue and compact sentences should make this a read-aloud delight." Publishers Weekly "Part-slapstick, part-fairy tale, the gently humorous plot has enough twists and turns to keep newly independent readers engaged." School Library Journal Fred the dragon has a list of tasks he must complete in order to be a successful dragon—none of which comes naturally. But he's determined to make #5 "eat people" work. Before you can say "pass the salt" he's gobbled up three people even though he doesn't have the stomach for it. Luckily a local shepherd, with the help of a giant and a witch, knows how to cure what ails him and get those pesky people out of his belly. It's happily-ever-after for everyone in ways you'd never expect. Geisel award-winning author/illustrator Geoffrey Hayes is a stepped reader maestro. The common threads between his wildly popular Uncle Tooth and Otto SIRs and the more recent Benny and Penny series (Toon Books) are clear and constant. The art is adorable, the characters are bursting with personality, and the stories are humorously subversive. From marauding pirates to misbehaving mice to a dragon who swallows people whole (and then continues to communicate with them in his belly!), Geoffrey always hits that sweet spot for the stepped reader audience—easy to decode, illustrative tales that tickle the funnybone.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 470L (What's this?)

Series: Step into Reading

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers (August 23, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0375868674

ISBN-13: 978-0375868672

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.2 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (49 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #7,725 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Intermediate Readers](#) #37 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Dragons](#) #224 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Beginner Readers](#)

Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

## Customer Reviews

I bought this book after returning the copy we had checked out from the local library. My 3-year-old daughter kept asking me to read it to her so I had to get it. I actually don't like the story very much. I find Fred to be a selfish character. In the end, he does say sorry but it doesn't seem very sincere. It feels like he gets rewarded for his poor behavior. But it is a fun read with opportunity to do different voices to entertain your child. When I come across stories like this one, I just use it as an opportunity to talk about what the character did wrong and how his behavior and treatment of others could be better. I also didn't like the bit about sheep and mint sauce since we don't eat animals.

Here a review by my son, 7 years old, 2nd grade: "I think the moral of the story is that even as a dragon you should not bully others, and that you don't have to listen to others all the time because they might not be always right." We both found this book funny and entertaining.

I bought this for my son who is seven and loves books. It was quite funny, a little modernized with some crude humor, but fine in my opinion for my seven year old. He thought it was hilarious and we read it over and over quite a few nights before bed. Highly recommend for kids who love silly books and like the independence of being able to read on their own.

I love these series. But most important that my son does. I got 40+ books and he loves to read them (usually it is not that easy to make him read). I got mix of 2-3-4 levels for the second grader, second level is too easy, but it creates some fun and he reads them with pleasure. Love it, I would recommend it.

A pretty good book but could be scary for smaller children (spoiler alert: the dragon eats some of the other characters). Also, I'm not sure about the illustrations, the princess looks awful whereas the other characters look cute.

My daughter who is an avid reader loved this book, she is 7 and above her reading level and so this was an easy read for her. It's a good break from her chapter books, short and sweet with a tickle part.

Bought this for my daughter who struggles with reading. The good news is, she read it! The bad news is, she didn't love it. Now I have a kindle book she never wants to read again (sigh). She's done pretty well with the Ivy and Bean series.

Fred the dragon leaves home to find his own way in the world. His attempts at being a scary dragon fall a little short. This charming story features longer sentences for children who are reading on their own. The fairy tale characters have an exciting adventure, but the plot is simple enough for young readers to follow. The illustrations are adorable, bursting with colors and stuffed animal-like characters you will want to hug. I definitely recommend this book for young independent readers.

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