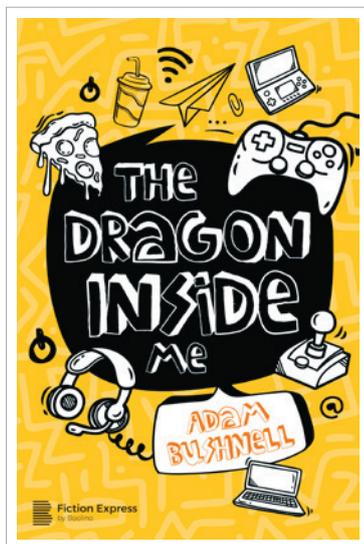


Activities



LEVEL 1

The Dragon Inside Me

by Adam Bushnell

Genre Human interest

Values Friendship, self-esteem, confidence, healthy habits, initiative

Chapter 1. School's Out!

School's out for the holidays, and George is very excited to get home and start gaming! Mum isn't too impressed with his new way of life, but he'll get up tomorrow, right?

Skills addressed



Language and literacy



Digital skills and behaviour



Critical thinking and resilience



Maths, science and technology skills



Cultural awareness and understanding



Personal, social and health awareness and citizenship



Organisation and evaluation skills

CONTENTS

You can tick off the activities that you are working on in class.



READ

Reading lab



Obtain and interpret information within the text

- Guided reading notes
- Reading comprehension



WRITE

Writing workshop



Develop the art of creative writing

- Inspire words
- Noun phrases
- Full stops and question marks



TALK

Space for debate



Reflect and construct your opinion, individually and working in a group

- Discuss the options
- Discussion activity



EXPLORE

Creative studio



Dig deeper into the content in a fun way, using different methods of research

- Design your perfect bedroom

ANSWERS

Exercise answers and suggestions for the teacher

**READ**

Reading lab

Guided reading notes

Here you can find some tips to help you in your reading sessions.

1

Watch Adam Bushnell's video introduction to *The Dragon Inside Me* on the Fiction Express website. Look at the cover. What do you think this story is going to be about? Read the first section. What does George plan to do during the summer holidays? (play computer games and eat pizza)

2

What does the word *mumbled* tell us? (George is not particularly interested in talking to Ajay; he is already thinking about his game.) George says that his first night of the holidays was his *best night ever*. Do you think it is okay to play a game for a long time on the first day of the holidays?

3

Read the next section. Which phrases tell you that George is not thinking about anything other than gaming? (*drifted into evening, didn't really notice, curtains stayed closed, stayed in my pyjamas*) Why do you think George's mother isn't stopping him playing his game? (She's working.)

4

Read to *My hair was a rat's nest*. Why is there an apostrophe before the s? (to show the nest belongs to the rat) Why has the mood changed? (He is losing his game; he is feels irritated; he can't sleep and he looks ill.) Why can't George sleep? (He's not getting any exercise; he's spending too long on screen.)

5

What other signs are there that all is not well? (He is ignoring his friend's messages, he isn't brushing his hair, he does not seem to be enjoying playing.) At what point do you think that George's gaming became a problem? The first night, or after a few days? Read to the end of the chapter.

6

What does the dragon look like? How is it like George? (It looks like him, it wears matching pyjamas, it has messy hair, it has bags under its eyes.) Which phrase suggests that it is evil in some way? (sharp, yellow teeth) What does it want George to do? (keep playing the computer game)



READ

Reading lab

Name:

Reading comprehension

Answer the following questions about the chapter and explain your answers.

1 Why is George pleased that it is the school holidays?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

2 Why isn't George enthusiastic about meeting up with Ajay in the holidays?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

3 How do you know that George hasn't been out of the house?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....



READ

Reading lab

Name:

4 Why does George stop enjoying his game?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

5 Name three things that you think George could do to feel better.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

6 Do you think the dragon will be friendly or not? Why?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

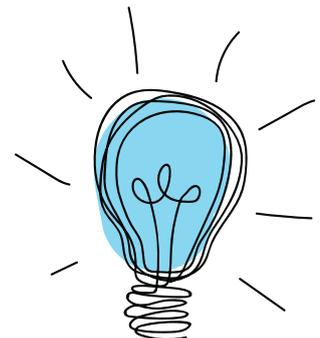
**WRITE**

Writing workshop

Name:

Inspire words

Find these words in the story. Look at how they are used. Make up a sentence for each word.

annoying**blunt****drifted****ignored****mumbled****offered**



WRITE

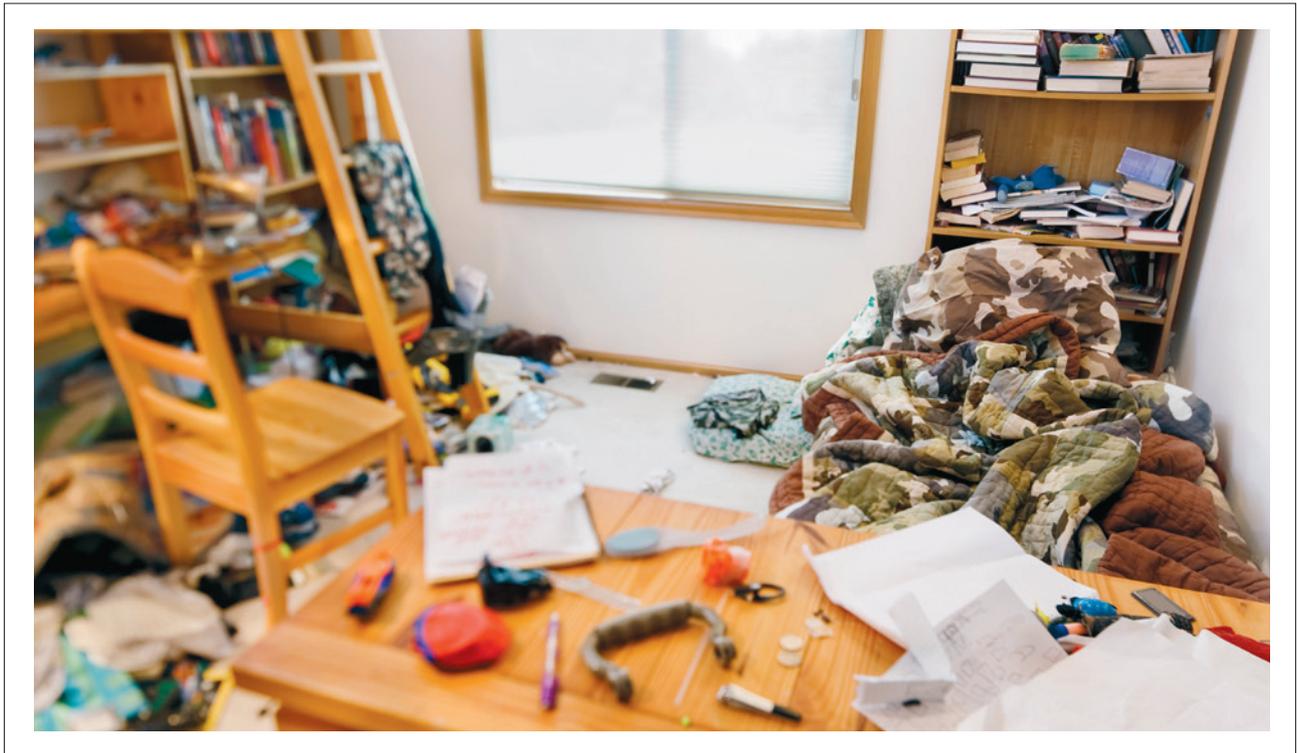
Writing workshop

Name:

Noun phrases

George spends nearly all his time inside his bedroom. Do you think it is tidy or messy?

Write five noun phrases to describe what you can see (or imagine) in the picture of a messy room below, for example, dusty, old books.



.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**WRITE**

Writing workshop

Name:

Full stops and question marks

Rewrite the sentences, correcting the mistakes by adding full stops and / or question marks.

1

"Can we meet up in the holidays" asked Ajay

.....

.....

2

I couldn't wait to get home

.....

.....

3

"Do you want a hot chocolate" Mum called up the stairs

.....

.....

4

I picked up the controller from the floor

.....

.....

5

What time was that I had no idea

.....

.....



Name:

Discuss the options

Discuss which of the three options you find most interesting to continue the story and why. Here's a reminder of the options and some key points for each one:

What should George do?

A

Become friends with the dragon and give it a name

Do you think the dragon is real or part of George's imagination? Or perhaps it is something else? Do you think George could become friends with it? It looks like him and enjoys playing games!

B

Try to get rid of the dragon

How do you think George could get rid of the dragon? Could he tempt it outside with some pizza or pretend it is part of a game? And how do you think it got into his bedroom in the first place?

C

Tell his mum and try to convince her the dragon is real

George's mum hasn't been in the story very much so far and seems to be working all the time. Do you think she will listen to George? Do you think she will be able to see the dragon?

Discussion activity

In pairs or a small group, share your thoughts about George's bedroom, and whether or not he keeps it tidy.

Do you have the same impressions of George's bedroom? Do you think we will visit other settings as the story continues, or will George stay in his room?

Talk about your own bedroom. Do you think it is important to keep it tidy, or do you prefer it messy? Why?





Name:

.....

Design your perfect bedroom

Use the space below to design your own perfect bedroom. Be as imaginative as you like! Would you have a swimming pool in it? Arcade games? A library of your favourite books? Draw a plan of your perfect room and label all the different things you have included.

ANSWERS

Document for the teacher

Reading comprehension (pp. 4–5)

For example:

1. He wants to be able to do exactly what he wants to do – which is computer gaming, eating pizza and not leaving his room.
2. He just wants to play his game.
3. He is still in his pyjamas.
4. He starts to lose.
5. George could go to sleep at the proper time, have a shower and wash his hair, go outside and exercise, meet up with Ajay, make sure he's eating healthily.
6. He might be friendly – he looks like George and gives George a friendly smile; he might be unfriendly – he has sharp yellow teeth and seems to want George to keep doing what is making him ill.

Full stops and question marks (p. 8)

- 1 “Can we meet up in the holidays?” asked Ajay.
2. I couldn't wait to get home.
3. “Do you want a hot chocolate?” Mum called up the stairs.
4. I picked up the controller from the floor.
5. *What time was that?* I had no idea.