

TeachingLive | The Dragon's Den | Week 7 | Steve Smallman

Monday 22nd November 2021 3:45pm

What the children need: a writing journal, writing equipment and tablet per pupil or in pairs/threes and a screen at the front of the class that everyone can see.

Oral Game –modeled by the team and then played in pairs orally – inventing types of dragons and what they like to do:

- The storm dragon creates thunderstorms.
- The water dragon swims up rivers as well as in the sea and has watery scales.
- The frost dragon likes to ski and sledge, sliding on its back which is polished.
- The Manchester ridgeback dragon can often be seen hiding on the tops of tall buildings.
- The cloud dragon is a friend to all birds.
- The icicle dragon lives in the north where it is snowy all year round and is very afraid of the sun as its scales are made of ice.
- The fridge dragon is very small. It likes to sleep in fridges where it steals bits of cheese, and nibbles on leftover pizza slices.
- The mouse dragon is the tiniest dragon known to mankind. It lives under the floorboards and is a dull grey. However, its fiery sneezes can chase off cats and dogs.

Guest slot – This week we chat with Steve Smallman, a writer and illustrator who has published over 90 books! Steve will be talking about illustration and modeling drawing for us during the session.

Steve Smallman

Steve Smallman lives in Staffordshire with his wife, two dogs and two cats. He has four children and eight grandchildren! Steve has been illustrating children's books for 40 years and writing his own stories for about 18. He also teaches illustration workshops in schools, including mural-painting.



Steve is the author of *Poo in the Zoo*, *Smelly Peter the Great Pea Eater* (Winner of the Sheffield Children's Book Award 2009) *Cock-a-Doodle-Poo* (Winner of the Sheffield Children's Book Award 2019) and *The Lamb Who Came for Dinner* (Shortlisted for the Red House Children's Book Award and read by Meatloaf on CITV's Bookaboo). When he's not working, Steve enjoys films, television, gardening and juggling grandchildren!

Steve Smallman on Steve Smallman:

I started working as an illustrator when I was in my final year at Art College and now, 40 years later I still haven't got a proper

job! I've illustrated literally hundreds of books, predominantly in educational publishing.

I've worked in children's television, specifically in character development and most notably in the 'Raggy Doll' series in the mid to late 1980's. I have also done a certain amount of licensed work, illustrating characters such as Postman Pat, Bill and Ben and Sesame Street.

I've been described as an 'Animal Artist', not I hasten to add because I'm wild and hairy but because I love to draw animals and especially like to give them human expressions and characteristics.

I've been writing children's books for about 18 years and have had over 90 published with more in development. I've got 4 great children and although they're all



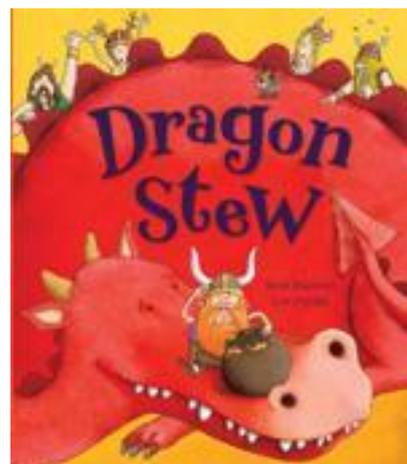
adults now, my memories of them growing up inspire and inform my writing, as do my wonderful, delightful and exhausting grandchildren.

I don't usually write for adults (I'm not very good at being a grown up). As well as illustrating and writing books Steve also creates murals in schools.

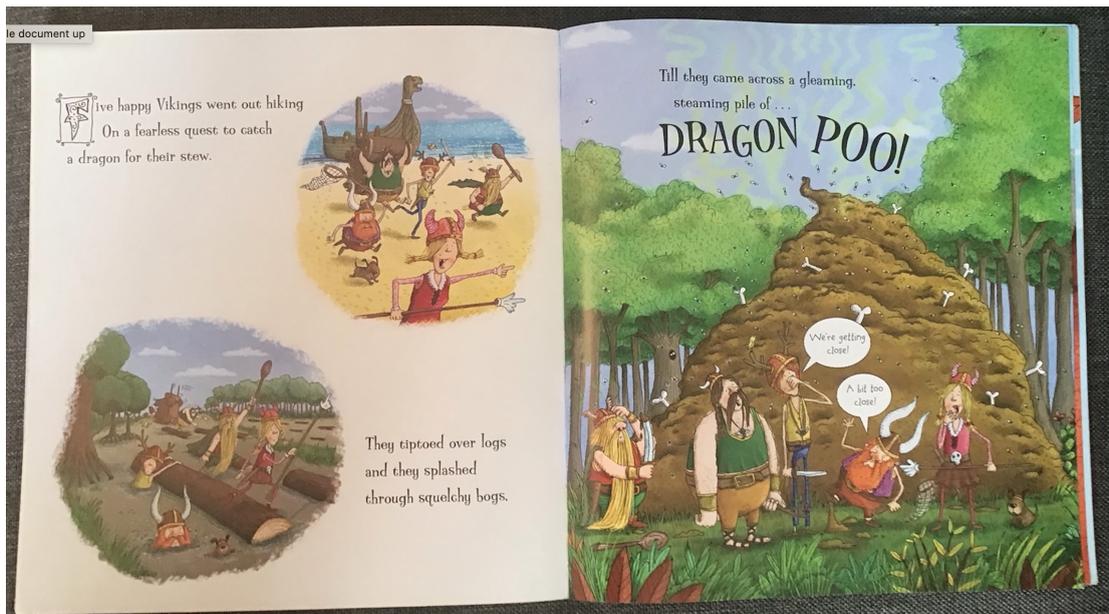
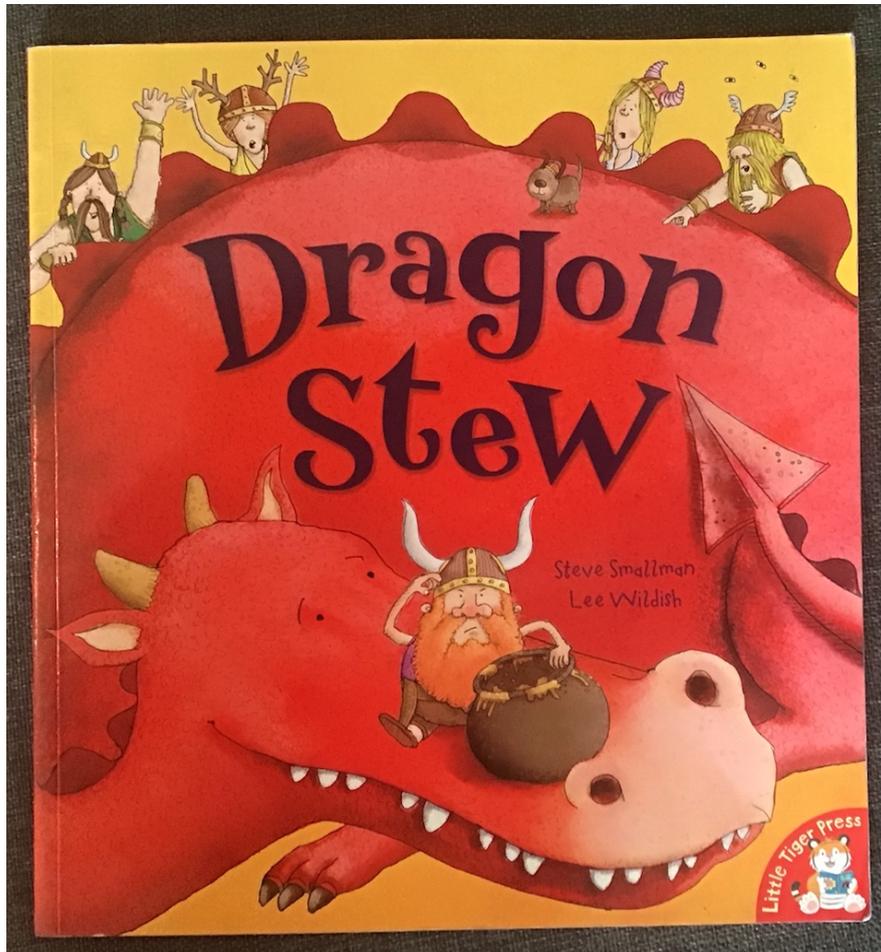


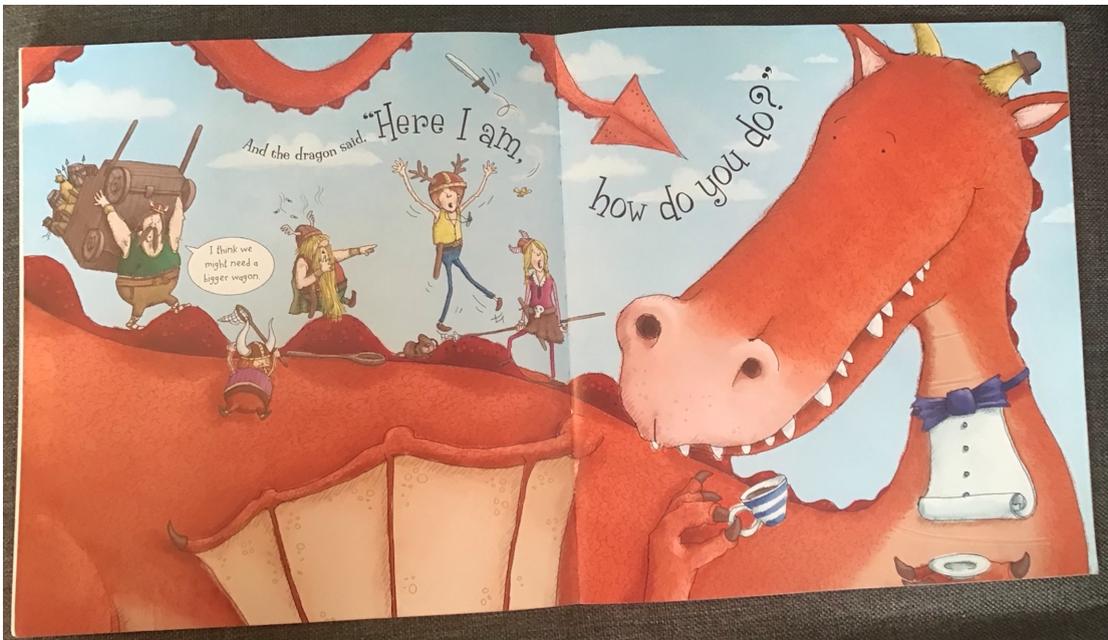
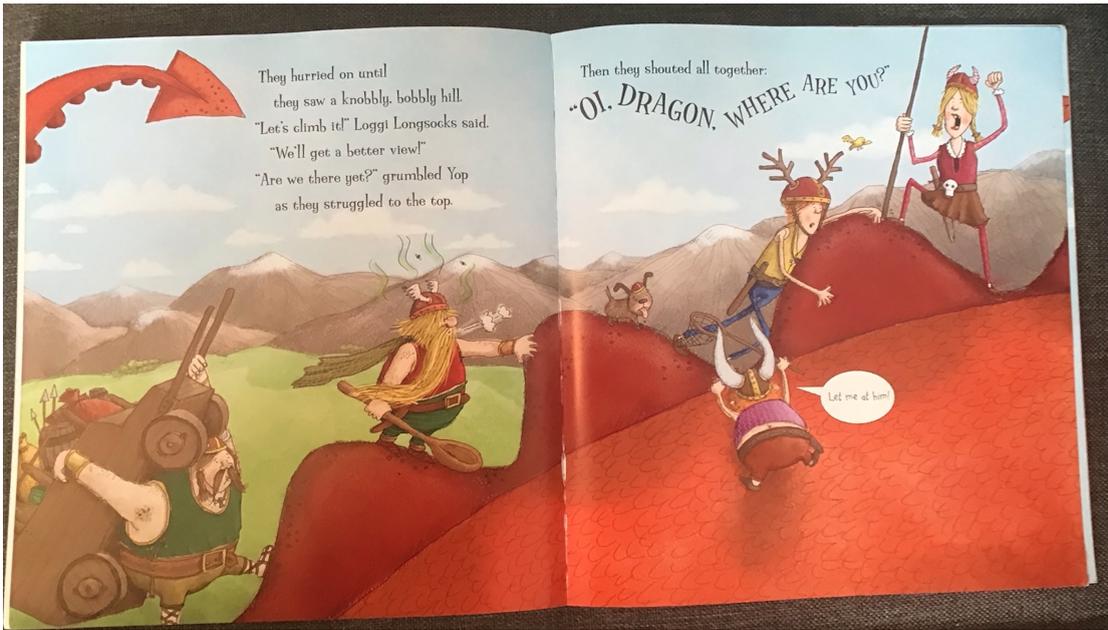
Padlet – Children write a response to the section of the book that Steve will share with us. The reading will be from ‘Dragon Stew’. They can ask Stephen questions and comment:

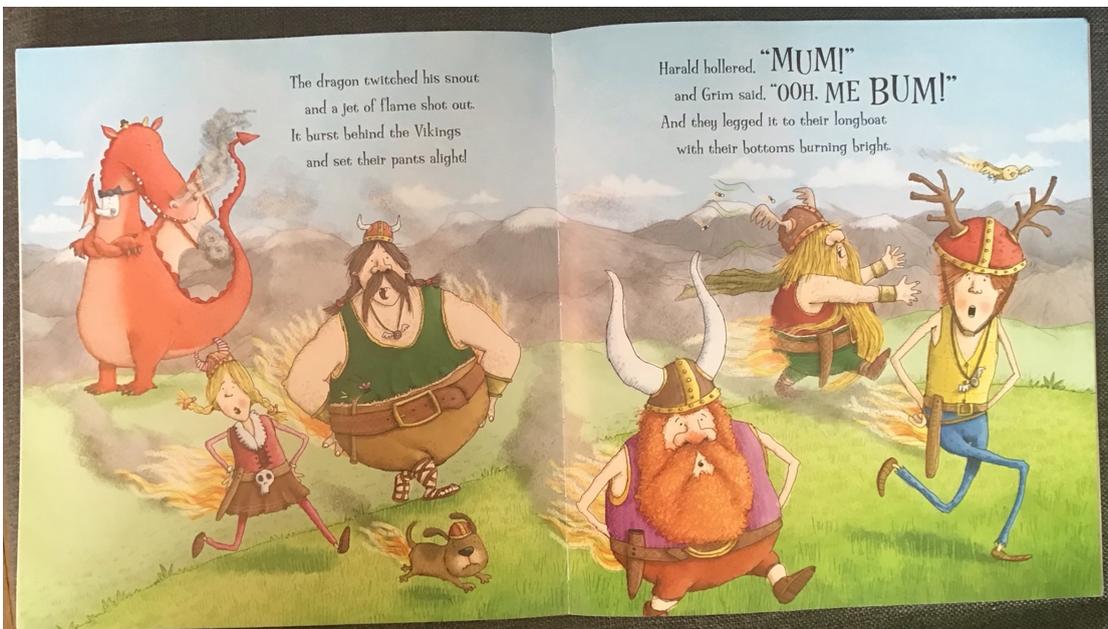
- **questions** – for the artist/ author
- **likes** – illustrations, images, ideas
- **puzzles** – things that seem a mystery
- **connections** – links with other books
- **memories** – has anything ever happened like this
- **feelings** – what it made you feel
- **patterns** – how does the illustration help the effect
- **techniques** – drawing or colours
- **most memorable** – which part really worked and why

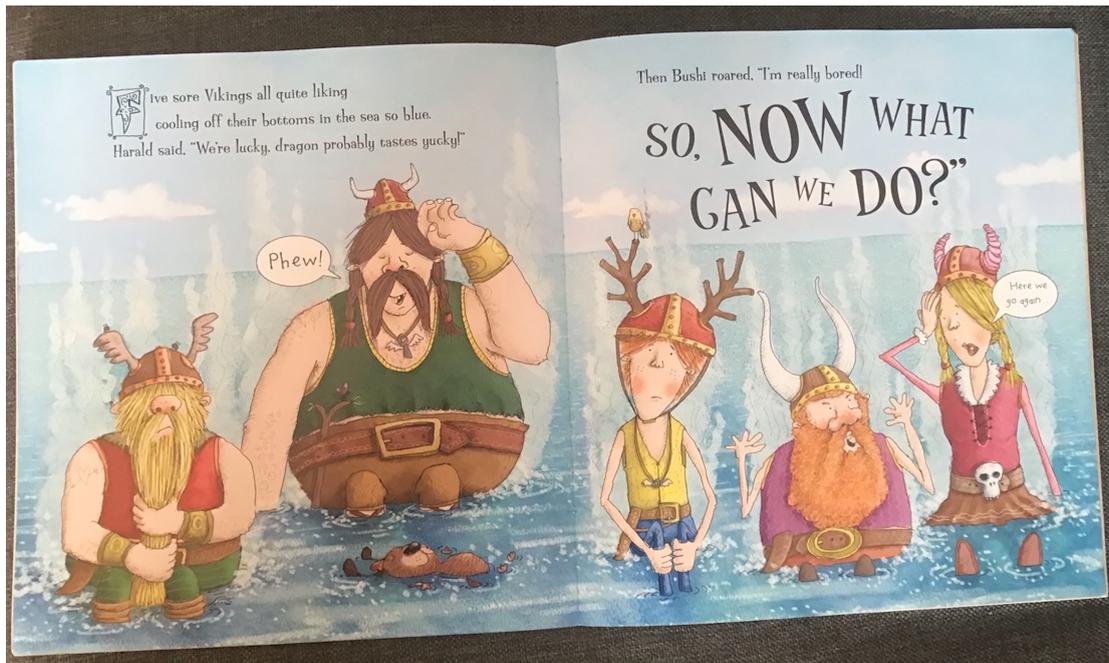


Steve will read from the following pages: These will be on the site for the children to follow during the reading.









Jotcast activity – Steve will talk the children through how he uses illustrations to help him plan and develop his writing. The treat for us is that Steve will draw LIVE for us and create our very own Dragon. Children will use the Jotcast to directly respond to the questions Steve asks and for ideas whilst he is drawing the dragon. He will use the children's ideas from the Jotcast in the LIVE drawing.

Gallery Challenge - Draw and label your own dragon using some of the hints and tips learned from Steve!
The finished picture drawn LIVE in the session will be placed on the site for the children to see by the end of the session.

Blogging Activity – The big challenge – write a story or part of a story to accompany Steve's drawing of the Dragon. Other ideas could be a character description of the Dragon. A description of the habitat this Dragon is from. Any ideas inspired by the drawing will be welcomed onto the blog.

Audio Challenge – record and perform your piece of writing.
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