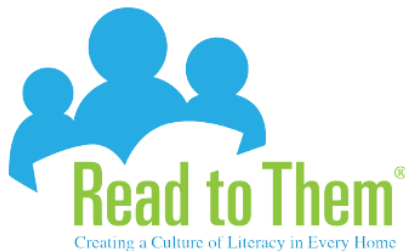


Family Fun Pack



The Water Horse
by Dick King-Smith



Read-Aloud Tips For Families

The Water Horse by Dick King-Smith



- ✓ **Make reading time a priority** – Sit down as a family and decide on a daily reading time, and then consider it an appointment that needs to be kept. Some families might find that right before bed is the best time, but early risers might enjoy reading at breakfast. For younger listeners, bath time can be great! Build it into your daily routine and soon you will find that everyone is ready and waiting to hear what comes next in the story.
- ✓ **Show emotion that matches the story** – All of the books from **Read to Them** capture a range of emotions over the course of the story. When reading aloud, mirroring the emotions felt by the characters will make the story more meaningful to your listener.
- ✓ **Vary your rhythm** – Have fun with the language in your book. During suspenseful sections, *slow down* and let the suspense build. During a particularly meaningful moment, *pause* and let the impact settle. During emotion-packed scenes, drop your voice to a *whisper*. When you are reading aloud, you are performing the story. Authors don't want their stories performed in monotone!
- ✓ **Don't be afraid to be silly** – Accents, funny voices, and sound effects are all great tools to use to make reading aloud more engaging. Character-specific voices or mannerisms also help listeners follow the dialogue. It might be a challenge, but it's worth the effort to make your story come alive.
- ✓ **Stay engaged with your listener throughout your reading time** – Stop from time to time to explain an unfamiliar vocabulary word, discuss an important point, or ask your child to make a prediction. You don't want to derail the story too much, but you do want to make reading together interactive.
- ✓ **Expect some fidgeting** – Listening during reading time does not have to be a stationary activity. Some listeners will sit still as stones with eyes and ears fixed on you, and that's great. But other listeners stay more engaged with something in their hands like a small toy, some crayons, or a stuffed animal. Some children might listen better if allowed to walk around the room, or even bounce on the bed a bit. Work together to find the way that works best for your child.

B

Use the [Connection Guide](#) to contact **Read to Them** and let us know you're reading *The Water Horse*!

Discuss your favorite scene.

Read a chapter out loud.

Act it out!
Pretend to be your favorite character and read a few of their lines in their voice.

Build a reading fort together!
bit.ly/readfort

I

Eat a meal or a snack- Angus style.

Research a plant that would do well if planted in your garden.

Have some tea together.

Share a meal involving seafood.

Search the cabinets for what you'd feed a Water Horse in a pinch.

N

Brainstorm a name for a Water Horse.

Visit a body of water.



Call or FaceTime a family loved one and read them your favorite chapter.

Listen to some Scottish music. Can you dance to it?

G

Make some chocolate chip cookies!

Find a quote in the book that's worth sharing. Put it on a poster, banner, or t-shirt.

Play charades!
Reenact a scene from the book without using words.

Try out one of the activities in the [Family Fun Packet](#).

Write a book review of *The Water Horse* for your teacher or school librarian.

O

Make bookmarks together!

Research 10 fun facts about Scotland.

Play hide and seek (on land).

Make a list of new words you discover while reading together and learn their definitions.

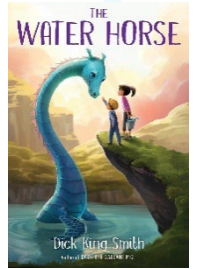
Share a picture of your family reading with [@readtothem](#).



Family Fun Cards

Pages 1-47

The Water Horse by Dick King-Smith



What do you know?

Where do Kirstie and Angus move the giant mermaid's purse when the bucket is too small?

What does the newly hatched creature's head look like?

How long is Crusoe's body when he isn't even one-day old yet?

What do you think?

At the beginning of the book, Kirstie decides to bring the strange beach find home. Would you have brought it home or left it at the beach? What do you think her mother will think when she discovers it came home? What would your parent/guardian say?

What can you do?

Yardcombing

"You never knew what you might find?" (p. 5)

The story of *The Water Horse* wouldn't be possible without Kirstie's thirst for exploration and the desire to find something interesting on the beach near their home. Whether your family lives by a body of water or not, there are interesting things to find everywhere! Take a walk as a family and search your yard or neighborhood for something that you find intriguing. This could be a flower, a rock, a lost piece of treasure, who knows! Try to find one object per family member and have fun exploring.

Family Fun Cards

Pages 48-96

The Water Horse by Dick King-Smith



What do you know?

How are they planning to transport Crusoe to the unfrozen lochan?

Once he reaches the lochan, what does Crusoe's head and neck look like as he swims away?

Which Loch is Crusoe moved to?

What do you think?

So, it turns out that the family released Crusoe into Loch Ness. Have you heard of the Loch Ness Monster? Were you surprised to learn that this book was the story of that monster?

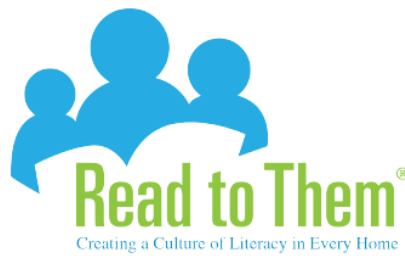
What can you do?

Water, Please!

"So happy was he to be in this wonderful new watery world." (p. 95)

Throughout the book, Crusoe moves from one body of water to the next, until he finally lands in Loch Ness. With each new home, he finds joy and gratitude for the expanse of water. Whether it be a bubble bath, a water balloon fight, or a day at the pool, lake, beach, or river, take some time to really connect with water. Imagine the bliss that Crusoe feels as he enters Loch Ness. Be present and enjoy the fun, just like Crusoe!

Family Fun Cards Answer Key



The Water Horse by Dick King-Smith



Pages 1-47

Where do Kirstie and Angus move the giant mermaid's purse when the bucket is too small?

The bathtub

What does the newly hatched creature's head look like?

A horse's head

How long is Crusoe's body when he isn't even one-day old yet?

Nine inches

Pages 48-96

How are they planning to transport Crusoe to the unfrozen lochan?

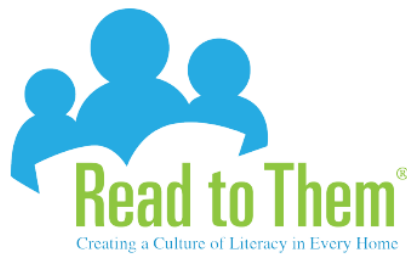
In Grumble's wheelbarrow.

Once he reaches the lochan, what does Crusoe's head and neck look like as he swims away?

A periscope

Which Loch is Crusoe moved to?

Loch Ness



Connection Guide

The Water Horse by Dick King-Smith



Connect with Read to Them

Hashtags: [#ReadtoThem](#), [#1School1Book](#) or [#1District1Book](#)

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, & Pinterest: [@readtothem](#)

Email: programs@readtothem.org

Website: www.readtothem.org

Connect with the publisher, Yearling Classic – an imprint of Random House Kids

Facebook: [@penguinkidsbooks](#)

Instagram & Twitter: [@penguinkids](#)

Website: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/childrens/>



Next Book Connections

The Water Horse by Dick King-Smith



Other books written by Dick King-Smith:

- *Babe: The Gallant Pig*
- *The Mouse Family Robinson*
- *The Twin Giants*
- *The Clever Duck*
- *Funny Frank*
- *Harriet's Hare*
- *A Mouse Called Wolf*
- *The Invisible Dog*

Picture books with similar themes:

- *The Loch Ness Monster* – Helen Lester
- *The Mysterious Tadpole* – Steven Kellogg
- *Raising Dragons* – Jerdine Nolen
- *Jackalope* – Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel
- *Lula and the Sea Monster* – Alex Latimer
- *The Sea Serpent and Me* – Dashka Slater
- *Off to See the Sea* – Nikki Grimes

Novels with similar themes:

- The *Zoey and Sassafras* series – Asia Citro
- The *Stella Díaz* series – Angela Dominguez
- The *Unicorn Rescue Society* series – Adam Gidwitz
- *The Sasquatch Escape* – Suzanne Selfors
- The *Dragons in a Bag* series – Zetta Elliott
- *Olga and the Smelly Thing from Nowhere* – Elise Gravel
- *The Enormous Egg* – Oliver Butterworth
- *Kenny and the Dragon* – Tony DiTerlizzi
- *Willodeen* – Katherine Applegate
- *The Unicorn in the Barn* – Jacqueline K. Ogburn
- *The Last of the Really Great Whangdoodles* – Julie Andrews Edwards
- The *Malamander* series – Thomas Taylor
- *The Lion of Lark-Hayes Manor* – Aubrey Hartman
- *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* – Grace Lin
- *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky* – Kwame Mbalia
- The *Nic Blake and the Remarkables* series – Angie Thomas