

That's What Wings Are For

By Patrick Guest & Illustrated by Danielle Germain

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Picture Book of
the Month

There are three things that all respectable dragons need: strong wings for flying, strong lungs for breathing fire and strong, shiny scales ... But Bluey the dragon has none of these. Even so, Bluey has other abilities, some of them truly wonderful ... if only he can work out what they are!



Teacher notes have been amended from those supplied by the Publishers, Little Hare.

Themes:

- Sense of belonging
- Confidence
- Individuality & differences
- Health & Wellness
- Hope
- Friendship

Discussion Points

- The author sometimes uses lists to make a point about an aspect of the story. On page 4 the author gives a list of three attributes all 'respectable' dragons need (strong wings, strong breath, strong scales). He then lists Bluey's three main attributes (weak wings, weak breath, no scales at all). The first list is **repeated**, but it is repeated as a list of **opposites**. Why do you think the author has used this form of description for Bluey?
- Look at the animal and fantasy characters illustrated on pages 28 and 29. What sort of list would you write for each one of the fantasy characters in the book, and what sort of list would you write for its 'respectable' equivalent? (The respectable versions don't appear in this book, so you will have to use your imagination!)
- *That's What Wings Are For* tells how Bluey discovers what his floppy wings are for — giving warm furry hugs! What do you think is the author's message in the story?
- The illustrator uses lots of repeated patterns in her pictures, including patterns to show wind and air and water. Create your own picture of a mountain by the sea on a windy day, and use repeated patterns to show the light movements of the air, the watery turbulence of the waves, and the steadiness of the mountain.

Activities:

- Write the list of what qualities a strong dragon needs on a board, go through it with your class and ask them to add anything else they think a dragon may need to be strong.
- Briefly discuss strengths and weaknesses and why they think it's important for everyone to have different strengths and weaknesses.
- Then list out some things that you think your students are good at whilst discussing why they are good at these things.
- Ask your class to undertake a research project about bearded dragons. Have your class present each project, writing down all the important and key figures and facts about bearded dragons and create a poster with pictures and facts to display in your classroom.
- Discuss with your students the similarities between Bluey the dragon and the boy at the end of the book. Is there another meaning to the similarities?
- Have your class draw what they think would resemble 'the most hugable dragon in the world', then have them explain why they thought this.
- Ask your class to write about a time when they felt different to their peers and how they found out what they were good at.