



Dragons! by Kyle Newburn & Donovan Bixley

Publisher: Scholastic NZ

RRP \$12.00

'Dragons!' (book 4 in the *Dragon Knight* series) will appeal to many with its semi-cartoon style, full-on action, and likable central character. It opens with illustrations of the series fourth birthday celebrations, when the dragon's fiery breath causes the birthday banner to go up in flames.

There are complex diagrams of the village and castle, illustrated introductions to the main characters, and Fact Pages such as *How to Drain Your Dragon*. These assist the reader who may not have read Books 1-3, and add to a storyline which challenges the reader with fun words, sometimes complex sentences, and an order that is not a simple chronological flow.

Merek is a kindly, thoughtful young trainee knight dragon with shape-shifting abilities. He is sympathetic towards the villagers under attack, the girl in disguise, and the hooded birds he meets in his falconry lesson. Readers will laugh as he confronts and solves seemingly unsolvable problems.

All the senses are described in ways the reader will enjoy – the sound of the cyclorg's cry, the stench of decaying bodies, the pain of talon's digging into flesh, the dripping blood ... and Donovan Bixley's black and white illustrations add so much to every page.

Reviewed by Chris Wright

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