

# HOW DO DINOSAURS EAT THEIR FOOD?

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by Jane Yolen and Mark Teague

Themes: Behavior, Dinosaurs, Humor, Table Manners

Grade Level: PreK-2

Lexile®: 490L; Guided Reading Level: I

### SUMMARY

From Jane Yolen and Mark Teague, creators of *How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?* comes another fanciful, rhyming tale of dinosaurs and their table manners. Do dinosaurs show atrocious table manners, such as bubbling their milk and putting beans up their noses? Or are they dainty and polite? Does their size affect how they act at the dinner table? Students will laugh at the dinosaurs' goofy, familiar antics as they enjoy their daily meals, often shocking and angering the adults around them. Students will also make connections (good or bad!) with their own behavior at mealtimes.

### OBJECTIVES

- Students will make text-to-self connections.
- Students will establish rules for good table manners.

### BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Discuss good and bad table manners with students. On a T-chart, list the table manners that students consider good and bad. After the chart has answers on both sides, discuss with students why certain behaviors are acceptable at the table, and others are not. Make a list of events or occasions where it is important to show good table manners. Tell the students that in the program they are going to see, dinosaurs display certain table manners and it is up to them to determine whether or not their behavior is acceptable.

Elicit students' background knowledge about dinosaurs.

Guiding questions:

- What are dinosaurs?
- Do dinosaurs still live on the earth today?
- How were dinosaurs different from other animals?
- What did dinosaurs eat?
- How do people know about dinosaurs?

Record students' answers. Tell them that the program they are about to see is an imaginary idea about what dinosaurs would be like if they lived in our world today.

### AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Help students make text-to-self connections. Guiding questions:

- Were there any dinosaurs in the program that acted like you when you are at the table? Which one(s)?
- What did they do to make you think of yourself?
- How do you behave at the table? Do you do any of the same things that the dinosaurs did? Do you do anything different?
- Were any of the adults in the program like adults that you know? How?
- Do you think that the program was trying to teach you anything? What?

Students can take their ideas of good and bad table manners from the Before Viewing Activity and write a Table Manners Guide. This should be a shared writing activity, with the teacher directing and guiding the organization and wording of the book. Remind students of behaviors that the dinosaurs showed in the program. Encourage them to incorporate some of the ideas from the program into their own book. Culminate the book with a "dinner party." Arrange the desks or tables so that groups of children can sit together. Lay out place

settings for each student as if for dinner. Serve food and remind students to adhere to the table manners that they established in their book.

Create a Dinosaur Memory card game. Find pictures of the dinosaurs featured in the program and create matching cards for each. Laminate the set and teach children the rules of Memory if they don't know them.

Students can make drawings of dinosaurs engaging in human activities. Encourage students to represent the huge size of the dinosaurs in relation to human-sized objects. Help students to write a caption for their pictures and display them in the classroom.

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*How Do Dinosaurs Say Good Night?* by Jane Yolen, ill. By Mark Teague

*Stanley and the Dinosaurs*, by Syd Hoff

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