

## FULL FLIGHT THRILLS AND SPILLS: Dinosaur Rampage

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### About the Author

Craig Allen started writing for fun six years ago in his spare time. He works at St Cuthbert's Catholic High School in the North East of England. "Being surrounded by students of a variety of ages and personalities gives me the inspiration needed to write good stories."

He has also written *Camp Terror* for Badger.

### Genre

*Dinosaur Rampage* is an action adventure with a supernatural element.

### Summary

Kaitlin and Jack go to visit an exhibition of dinosaur skeletons at the local museum. A lightning strike brings the bones to life. Jack and Kaitlin run into their science teacher, Mr Turner. Kaitlin's dog, Bronte, chases the skeletons back to the museum, where Mr Turner coordinates another lightning strike to reverse the process that brought the skeletons to life.

### Book Introduction

- What predictions can you make about the book from the cover?
- Discuss the genres. Can children think of any other books/films that would fit 'action adventure with a supernatural element'?
- Comment on the style of illustrations. (For example, the two dinosaur skeletons are recognisable as T-Rex and a stegosaurus.)

### New vocabulary

In addition to the vocabulary provided on page 4, here are some technical words and phrases in the order they appear in the story:

- P9 tyrannosaurus-rex – carnivorous dinosaur
- P12 stegosaurus – vegetarian dinosaur
- P14 vanished – suddenly disappeared
- P16 razor – very sharp blade

## Group work

### Discussion points

- Plot: why would a bolt of lightning be an almost realistic catalyst? [*Vast amounts of electrical energy; it's been used in fiction before 'Frankenstein', 'Back to the Future'*]
- Plot holes: does it matter that according to the story Mr Turner was walking in the woods in the rain; that Bronte was walking alone; that a dog wouldn't run away from giant skeletons; that the skeletons just happened to run towards the museum; that Mr Turner has a pair of gloves to hand/doesn't get killed by the lightning? Are there any others that you've noticed?
- Discuss the concept of 'suspension of disbelief'. Why is it important when reading books with supernatural elements?

### Pair work

- It is not explained in the book why lightning brought the dinosaurs to life. Come up with *one theory* of what might have happened? For example: an ancient curse / a mad scientist / the museum is built over a magnetic interference zone / sun spots.
- **Write a speech by Mr Turner explaining what has happened.**

### Individual work

- Come up with three suitable and alternative titles for this book.
- **Come up with an alliterative and / or punning title.**

## Y4, Strand 7

*Deduce characters' reasons for behaviour from their actions.*

- Why is Jack annoyed at being up so early?
- What does it say about Kaitlin that a) she's up so early, b) she wants to be the first person in town to see the exhibition, and c) the relationship between Jack and Kaitlin?
- What does it say about their personalities that Kaitlin wants to chase the dinosaur skeletons and that Jack doesn't?
- Why does Mr Turner let Kaitlin take charge?

### Using the CD

Write thought bubbles for the characters on page 23.

*Or*

Rewrite chapter 4 from Bronte's point of view.

## Copymasters

### A: Author's Viewpoint

Children answer questions about the author and the book.

**What might happen if the author's friend, Steve Turner, didn't like the way he was portrayed in the book? What might he say - or do?**

### B: Mr Turner's Letter

Children are asked to write a letter from Mr Turner to a scientific journal explaining the phenomena.

**Write a reply from the journal: either, thanking Mr Turner for his valuable contribution to science; or, telling him he's crazy! But in a polite way.**

## Extension 1 (literacy)

- Imagine that Bronte had managed to keep one bone, a toe bone, perhaps, and that this bone was not hit by lightning a second time. Give three things that might happen next.
- Turn the three points into a new story.

## Extension 2 (cross curricular)

- List three similarities and three differences between this story and the film 'Night at the Museum'  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Night\\_at\\_the\\_Museum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Night_at_the_Museum)
- Read about the original book 'Frankenstein'.  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frankenstein> What three facts from this website surprised you the most?

