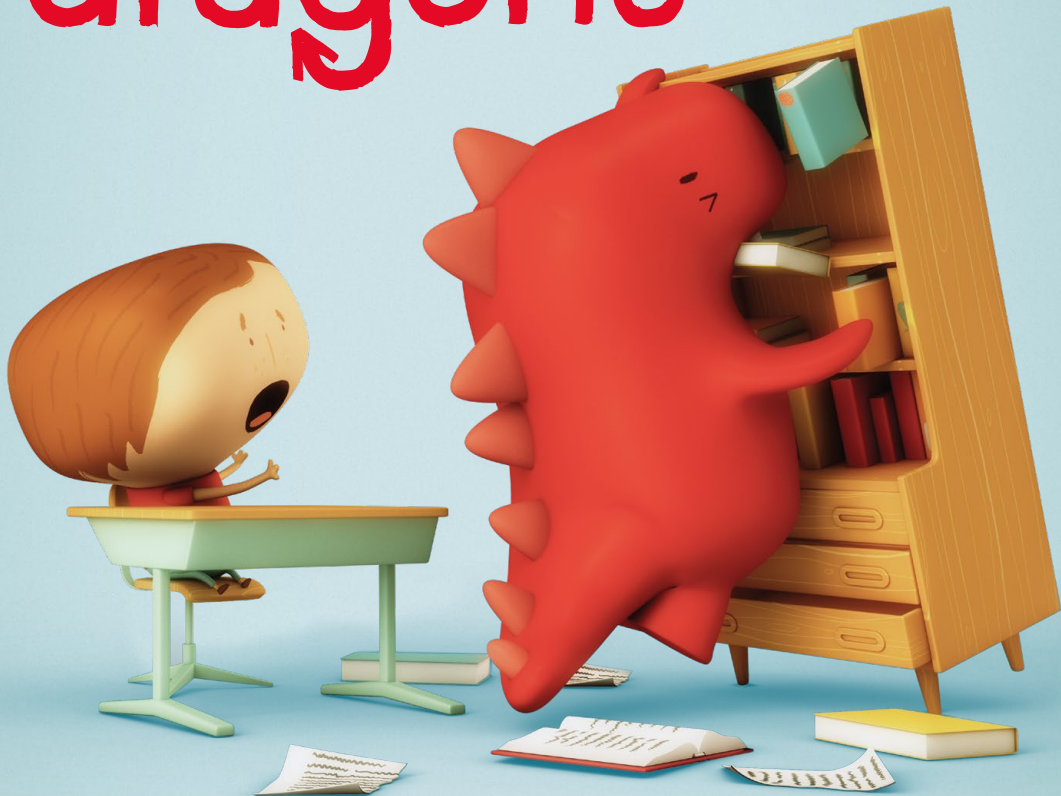


# the trouble with dragons



by Conrad Robson & Ben Kaberry



Once there was a boy and one day he woke to find a dragon in his bed. He didn't know where the dragon came from, how it got there, or why it was following him everywhere. All he knew was it was causing all sorts of trouble...

The Trouble With Dragons is a story about fitting in, falling out and finding that some things aren't always quite as troublesome as they first seem.

For children learning to manage their dragon.

It began one Tuesday morning when Olly woke to an unusual sight. A dragon in his bed! His name, he said, was **Red**.

Now, the trouble with dragons is they don't really like getting up. Which can be a problem if there's one sitting on top of you when you have to go to school.

On this particular morning, this was the odd and rather troublesome situation in which Olly found himself.



Olly later found that it wasn't just getting up that dragons didn't like.



Nor brushing his teeth.



**Red** didn't like showers either.

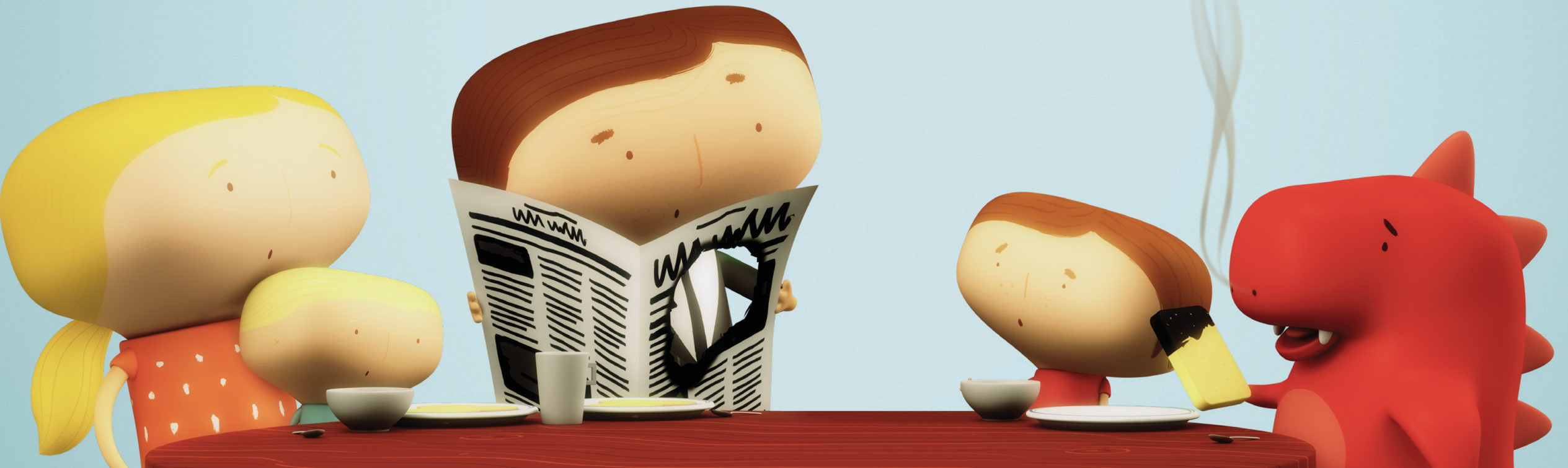


And he wasn't the best at getting dressed!

**Oh dear!**

One thing **Red** did like about mornings, though, was toast.  
So, when Olly went downstairs for breakfast,  
**Red** thought it would be a good idea to make some.

Of all the good ideas had by dragons,  
this was not one of them.



All the fuss had made Olly late for school.



"Maybe if I had a sports car,  
I could ride to school in that,"  
he thought.



"Or a big balloon."



"Or a boat!"

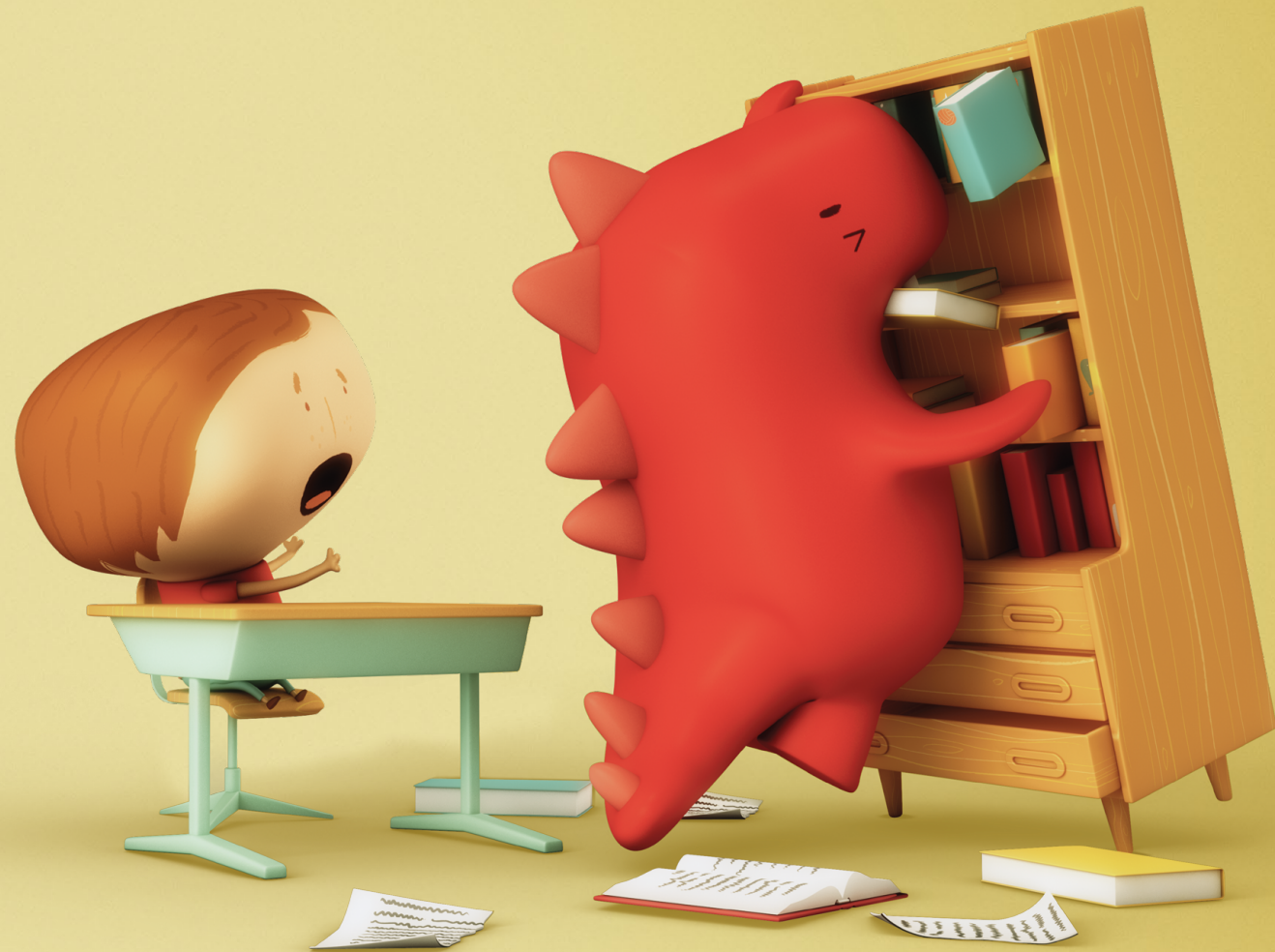


The trouble was, of course, that Olly couldn't drive. Nor fly a balloon.  
And he couldn't find his oars. So, instead, he had to walk...



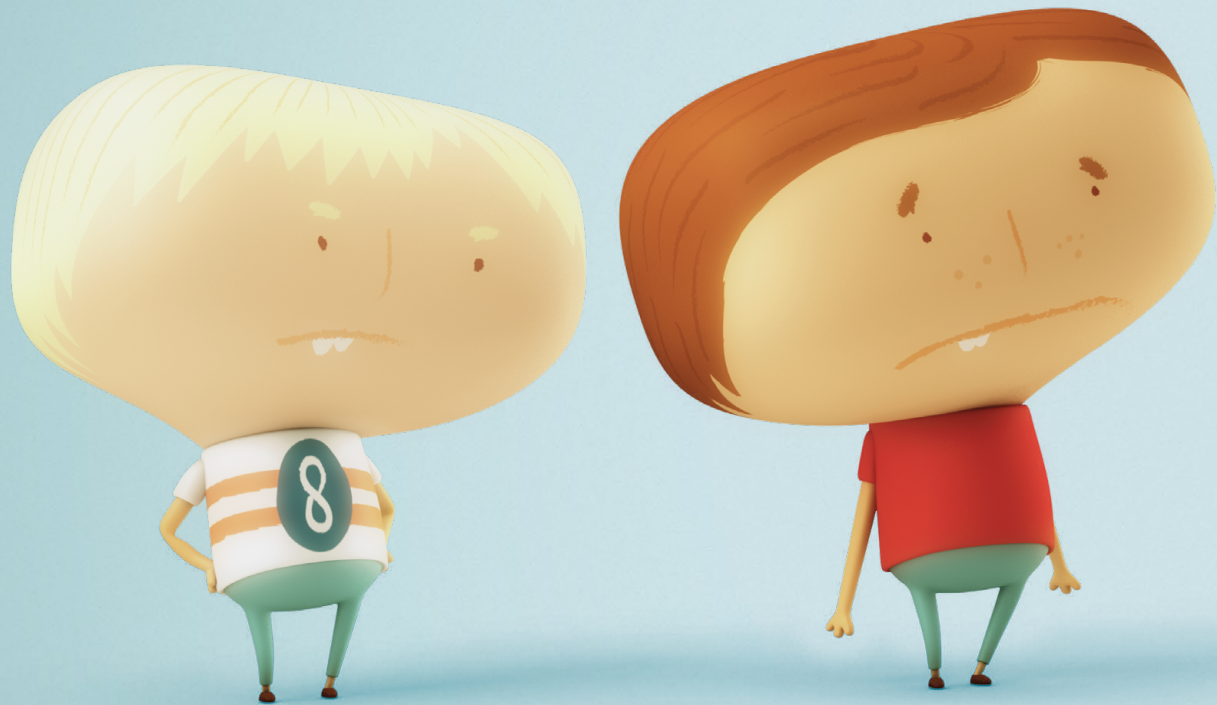
...which meant **Red** was able to follow him.  
Uh-oh! This could be trouble!

At school, Olly was finding it hard to concentrate because **Red** was distracting him. The trouble was, **Red** didn't find books very exciting. He much preferred juggling them to reading them.



But this made Olly's teacher very cross.





Olly was having trouble playing with friends, too.  
**Red** was always showing up to spoil their games.

And when Olly's class was painting, **Red** thought it would be fun to join in. But he was so excited he ended up spilling paint everywhere! Olly got in so much trouble that his teacher called his Dad to take him home.



Olly was very upset about getting in so much trouble.  
And it was all **Red's** fault!

But what Olly didn't know was that **Red** didn't mean  
to cause him trouble. He just found it hard to do the things  
that other children do. Because he was a dragon.

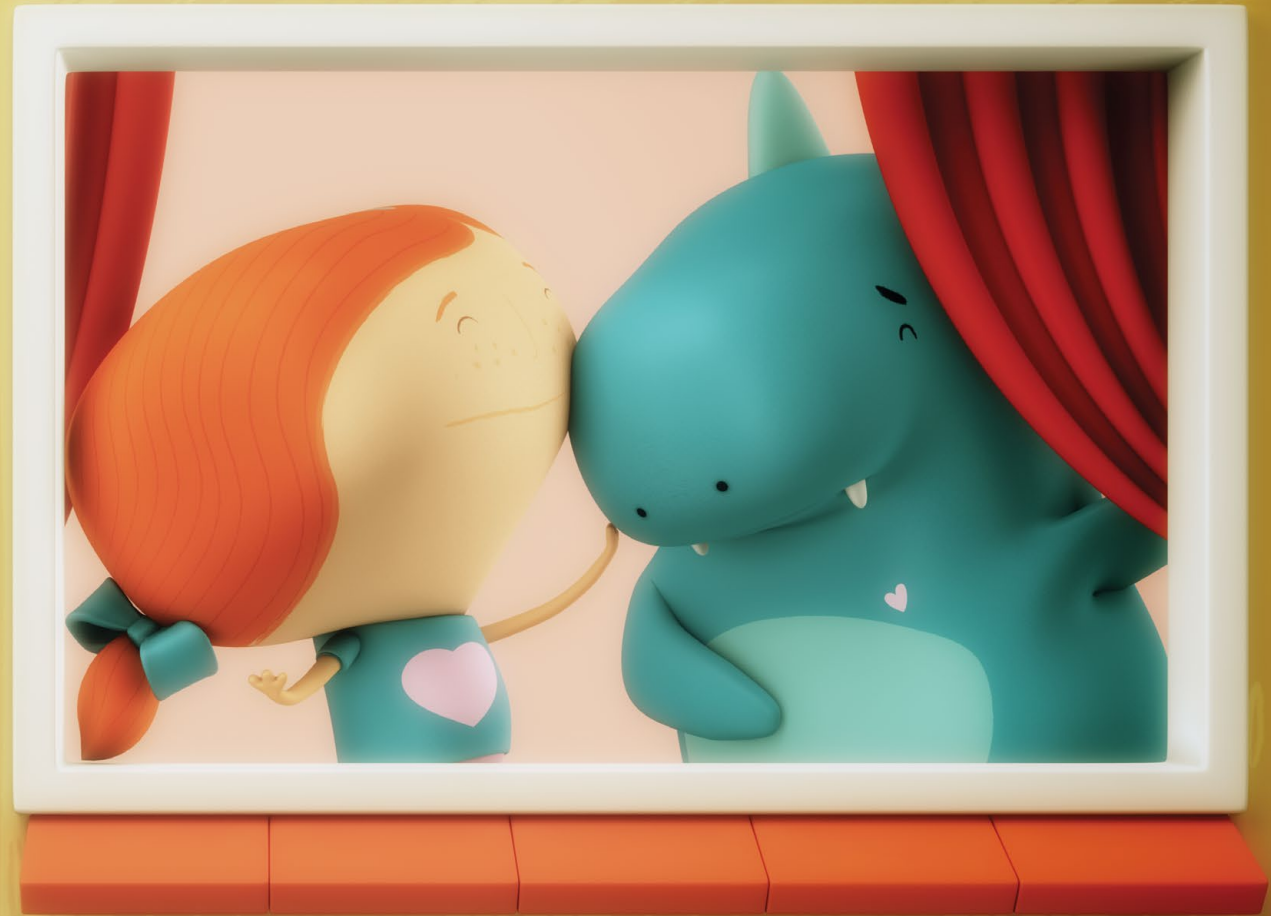


All of a sudden, Olly saw his friend, Eva, at her window.

“What’s wrong, Oliver?” she asked.

Olly told her about all the trouble he was having with his dragon. He thought Eva would be surprised about **Red**.

But she wasn’t. In fact, Eva had a bit of a surprise for him...





.....BLUE!

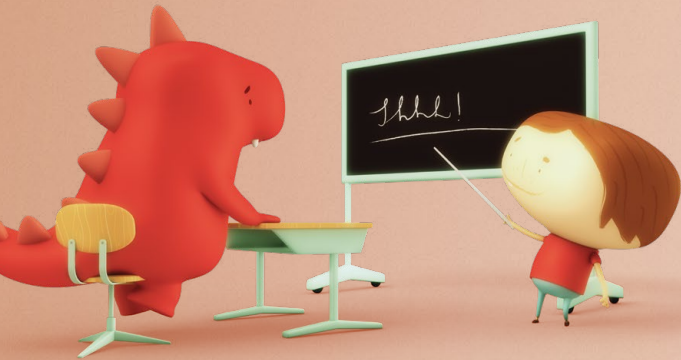
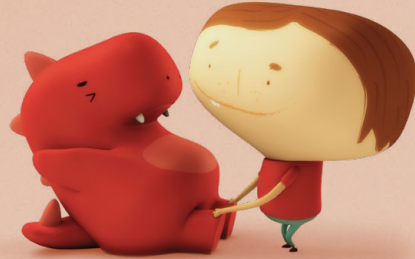
That night, Olly and Eva stayed up past bedtime talking about their dragons. Eva explained how dragons could be good friends, if you train them. So Olly decided that's what he'd do!

He was glad he told Eva about his dragon.  
He thanked her very much before falling asleep.

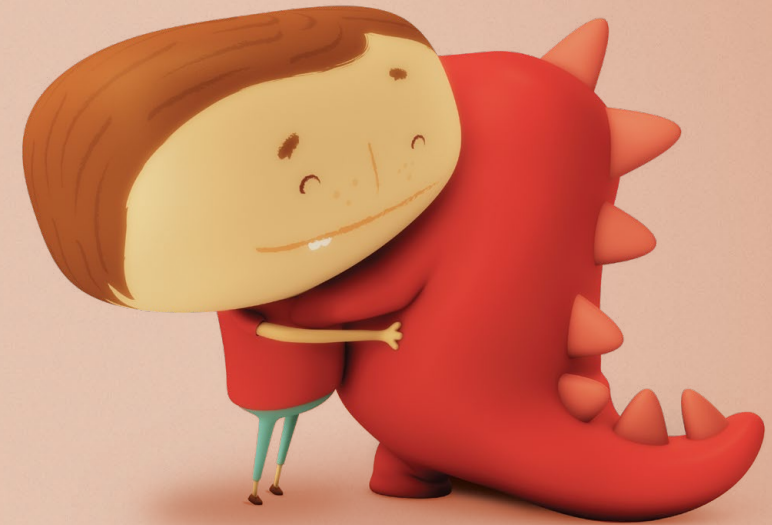


The next day, Olly and **Red** got up very early.

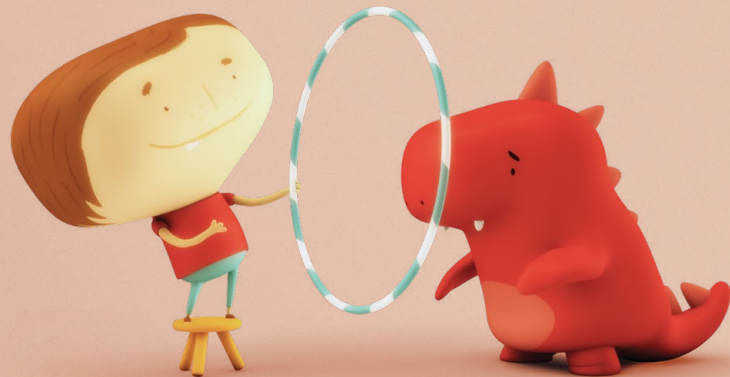
With lots of help, **Red** learnt how to behave at breakfast.



And why it's good to pay attention in class.



And how playing games should be fun for everyone.



Until finally, even though **Red** didn't always get it right, Olly thought...





...maybe dragons don't have  
to be so troublesome after all!





Initiated and funded by **Shire**  
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Item Code: C-ANPROM/UK/1440 Date of Preparation: July 2018

