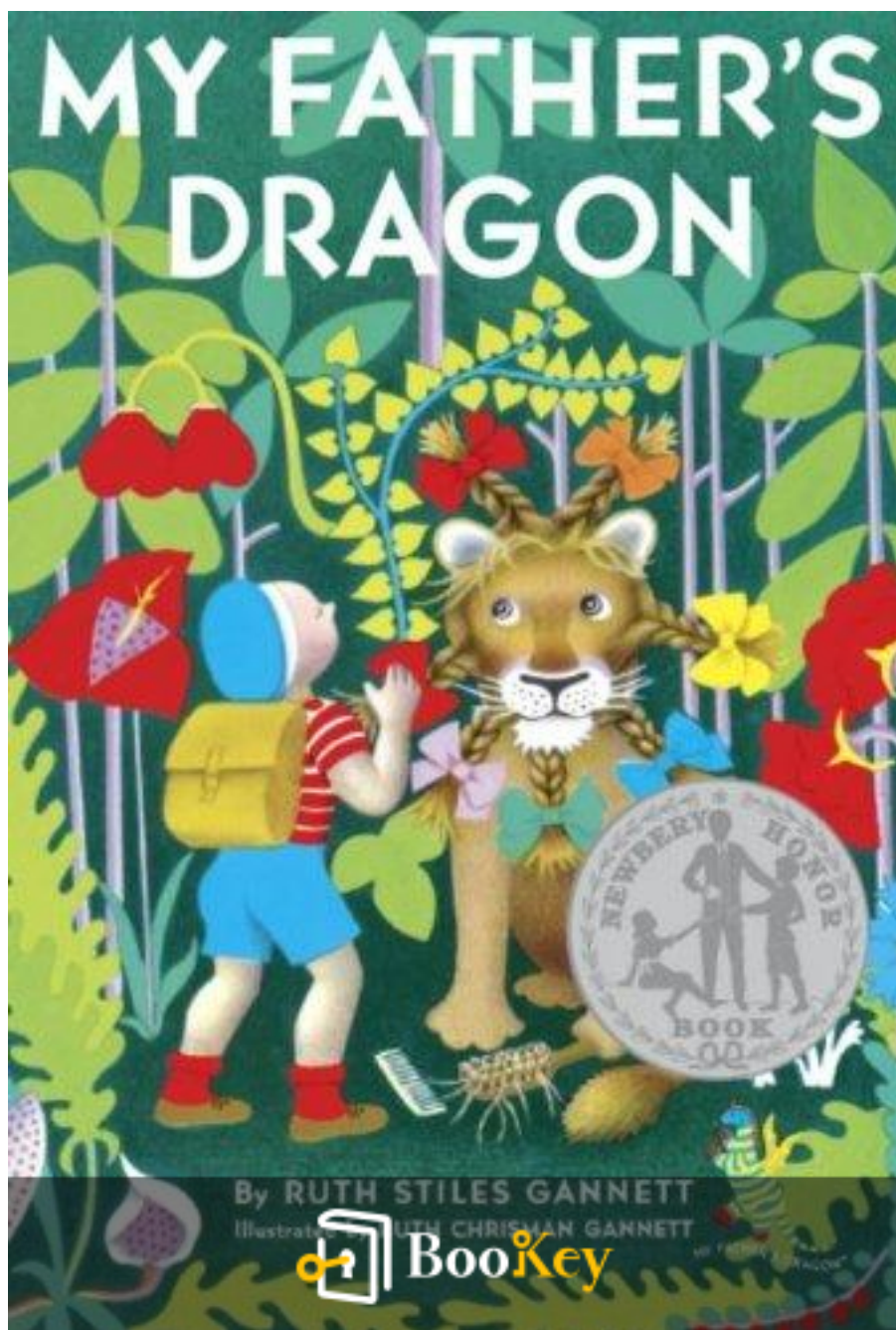


My Father's Dragon PDF (Limited Copy)

Ruth Stiles Gannett



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My Father's Dragon Summary

"A Quest of Friendship and Adventure in a Magical Land."

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About the book

Embark on a timeless adventure with "My Father's Dragon" by Ruth Stiles Gannett, where the power of imagination takes the helm in a tale of loyalty, courage, and unyielding friendship. Dive into the charming story of Elmer Elevator, a young boy fueled by tales of wonder, who sets out on an extraordinary quest to rescue a captive baby dragon from the clutches of Wild Island's fierce creatures. As Elmer dodges daunting challenges, encounters quirky characters, and navigates lush landscapes, readers are invited to journey alongside him, capturing the essence of youthful tenacity and the bonds that defy the odds. Overflowing with timeless themes and legendary escapades, this enchanting narrative promises to captivate the hearts of all ages, urging them to explore a world where bravery knows no boundaries and hope leads the way. Whether revisiting childhood memories or discovering it anew, "My Father's Dragon" is a mesmerizing invitation to rediscover the magic within the pages of a beloved classic.

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About the author

Ruth Stiles Gannett, an American writer born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1923, is best known for her timeless children's classic, "My Father's Dragon." A graduate of Vassar College, she ventured into the world of literature almost serendipitously, finding inspiration from her background in chemistry and the imaginative tales spun during her upbringing. Gannett's debut work, written in 1948 while she was just in her mid-twenties, encapsulates a whimsical journey of adventure and befriending the extraordinary, a theme that continues to captivate readers of all ages. Influenced by her rich familial heritage, with connections to the publishing world through her stepmother's family business, Gannett's work weaves together a unique blend of curiosity, exploration, and familial bonds, ensuring her stories maintain a cherished place in the world of children's literature.

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Chapter 1 Summary: 1. My Father Meets the Cat

In the first chapter, we are introduced to the protagonist's father as a young boy, who encounters a bedraggled alley cat on a rainy day. Moved by compassion, the boy invites the cat to his home, offering warmth and milk, surprising the grateful feline unused to such kindness. However, his mother, Elmer Elevator, disapproves, disdainful of stray animals, and refuses to provide for the cat, warning against feeding all the town's strays. Resolute in his empathy, the boy continues to secretly care for the cat, forming a clandestine bond, until he is caught, punished, and the cat is ousted.

Persistence guides the boy to reunite with the cat following their expulsion. During their park stroll, the boy shares his dream of flying, to which the cat intriguingly offers a path to flight that seems even more thrilling than an airplane. The cat unveils its adventure from a past spring when it traveled to the exotic Island of Tangerina, stopping at the port of Cranberry. It missed its departing vessel and, in waiting, explored Wild Island—an untamed, jungle-laden place connected to Tangerina but shunned by people due to its fearsome wildlife.

Compelled by curiosity, the cat crossed the rocky link to Wild Island, discovering not only an intriguing land but also something heartrending. This mystery sets the stage for an adventure, implying that the island holds a secret, potentially the key to fulfilling the boy's airborne aspirations. The



chapter closes with this hint of the magical and the promise of adventures to come.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Kindness and empathy can lead to remarkable adventures.

Critical Interpretation: By showing genuine care and compassion to the alley cat, you open doors to unexpected opportunities and transformative experiences. The boy's kindness didn't just nurture a friendship; it set the stage for remarkable adventures that lay ahead. Even in the face of disapproval, his empathy guided him to uncover a world of wonder, adventure, and possibility beyond what he could ever dream. This chapter reminds you that each act of kindness, though seemingly small, can ignite a journey filled with magic, adventure, and the fulfillment of dreams. Embrace compassion, even in the smallest gestures, and let it be your compass to uncover paths you've never imagined possible.



Chapter 2 Summary: 2. My Father Runs Away

In Chapter Two of the story titled "My Father Runs Away," a cat recounts to Elmer, the protagonist's father, a compelling tale about the unique wildlife and adverse conditions on Wild Island. The island is divided by a wide, muddy river that the lazy inhabitants dislike navigating around.

Traditionally, crocodiles could offer transport across, but they are too moody and unreliable, having little interest in helping the other animals.

The narrative takes a turn with the arrival of a baby dragon that had fallen from the sky, injured and unable to fly home. The animals, seeing a solution to their river-crossing woes, tie a rope around the dragon's neck, waiting for his wing to heal so they could employ him as a ferry service. Unfortunately, the dragon is exploited and mistreated by the animals, forced to work incessantly, and tethered with a robust, knotted rope. His only occasional companions are the crocodiles who sometimes greet him.

Elmer's curiosity piques at the mention of the dragon, who is described as bear-sized with colorful features. The cat reveals she befriended the dragon and promised to help him one day. Inspired by Elmer's interest in airplanes, the cat suggests that rescuing the dragon could result in a majestic ally who might offer rides in gratitude for his freedom.

Motivated by this idea, Elmer decides to run away from home, frustrated by



his mother's hostility towards the cat. He visits the docks to inquire about a ship going to the Island of Tangerina, near Wild Island, discovering a departure scheduled for the following week. Elmer and the cat secretly prepare for this journey, gathering supplies that include essentials like a compass, a jackknife, chewing gum, and twenty-five sandwiches for sustenance.

The evening before the ship sails, Elmer, aided by the cat, sneaks into the docks. The cat distracts the night watchman with peculiar noises, allowing Elmer to board the ship and hide among sacks of wheat in the hold. As morning arrives, the ship sets sail, setting in motion Elmer's adventurous quest to save the dragon.



Critical Thinking

Key Point: Taking Action Against Injustice

Critical Interpretation: When you witness someone or something being unjustly treated, as Elmer experienced through the dragon's plight, it can spark a noble desire to take action. This sense of empathy and responsibility pushes you beyond your comfort zone, urging you to stand up against malfeasance or unfair practices. Elmer's decision to embark on a rescue mission inspired by a tale of exploitation shows how powerful the human spirit can be when stirred by stories of injustice. The bravery to challenge the status quo and courage to pursue what is right, no matter how daunting the journey, can ignite real change. So, let this urge to advocate for fairness and freedom resonate with you, motivating you to take a stand whenever you encounter an unjust world.

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Chapter 3 Summary: 3. My Father Finds the Island

In Chapter Three, titled "My Father Finds the Island," our protagonist remains hidden in the hold of a ship for six days and nights, keenly aware that discovery would mean being sent back home. When he hears sailors mention the next stop, Cranberry, he ingeniously disguises himself as a sack of grain. He uses a rubber band and an empty grain bag labeled "Cranberry" to blend in with the cargo. Even though his improvisation is not perfect, it suffices when the sailors begin unloading the ship.

At one point, a sailor notices the unusual bag and mistakes it for a bag of dried corn on the cob, leading to a comic misunderstanding. Without further inspection, they dispatch the sack to Cranberry along with the wheat. The merchant, who ordered the grain, discovers the anomaly the next day but cannot identify the unusual package, as the protagonist has already escaped under the cover of night to rest on the beach.

He wakes up famished but fortunate, as he finds himself under a tree bursting with ripe tangerines. He realizes he's on the Island of Tangerina, where tangerine trees grow wildly. After filling his knapsack with thirty-one tangerines, he begins his quest to find Wild Island, a place renowned for danger and wild animals as warned by a local fisherman.

Undeterred by the fisherman's ominous tales, he continues his journey along



the coast. The next morning, he resumes his trek and finally spots a series of rocks leading out across the sea towards Wild Island. Recalling advice from his cat to approach the island at night to evade notice from wild animals, he waits for darkness to fall. Equipped with tangerines and his black rubber boots, he ventures onto the precarious rocks under a pitch-black sky.

The journey is fraught with challenges: the slippery, wave-battered rocks are difficult to traverse and at times require him to make daring leaps from one to another. The quiet is suddenly shattered as he inadvertently jumps onto the back of a sleeping whale nestled between rocks. The whale's loud snoring masks the sound of his footsteps, allowing him to continue his stealthy crossing.

After seven gruelling hours of navigating the treacherous rocks, the father reaches the final rock and steps foot onto Wild Island before dawn breaks, marking the start of his adventure on this mysterious and perilous island.

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Chapter 4: 4. My Father Finds the River

In Chapter Four, "My Father Finds the River," the protagonist navigates the dangerous and enigmatic jungle landscape just beyond a narrow beach. Determined to locate the river, which holds the key to finding a dragon tied along its banks, he formulates a plan. Assuming the river flows into the ocean, he believes he can track it by following the shoreline. Walking until dawn, he keeps a cautious distance from the Ocean Rocks, wary of potential daytime guards. Settling in a clump of tall grass, he removes his rubber boots and conserves his dwindling supply of tangerines, eating only three despite his hunger, as tangerines are scarce on the island.

After a daytime rest, he's awakened by a peculiar occurrence: a mouse muttering to itself as it brushes against his knapsack. Sensing that the mouse might alert others, he discreetly heads down the beach under the cover of night. Two unsettling encounters soon follow. He inadvertently sneezes near a mysterious voice, which mistakes him for a monkey. Quick-thinking, he plays along—pretending to carry a sick grandmother and later discovers he was speaking to tortoises.

Continuing his journey, he narrowly avoids venturing between two conversing wild boars. They discuss signs of an invasion, including tangerine peels found near a wahoo bush. Perplexed by these clues, the boars debate their significance but ultimately dismiss them. Learning from this, the



protagonist decides to save his tangerine peels to avoid further suspicion.

The chapter closes with him pressing onward through the night until he reaches the river at dawn, setting the stage for the challenges that lie ahead in his quest to find the dragon. This part of the story highlights the protagonist's resourcefulness and the perilous nature of his journey in the unfamiliar jungle.

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Chapter 5 Summary: 5. My Father Meets Some Tigers

In Chapter Five of the story, we find the protagonist's father navigating a treacherous jungle environment teeming with hidden dangers. The dense jungle, filled with muddy swamps and sticky ferns, presents formidable obstacles as he struggles to follow the riverbank. Battling through the thick undergrowth, he becomes increasingly aware of unsettling whispery noises, hinting at unseen creatures shadowing his every move.

The suspense intensifies as the father stumbles upon a clearing, only to find himself encircled by seven intimidating tigers, their green eyes glinting with hunger. These tigers, each taking turns to speak, confront him with accusations of trespassing and boast of their lethal reputation, suggesting that no explorer has ever left the island alive. Despite their menacing demeanor, the father remains composed, remembering the advice given by a helpful cat, and quickly formulates a clever escape plan.

Knowing the tigers' fondness for chewing gum—a rare treat on the island—he offers them pieces from his knapsack, claiming they can grow more gum if chewed long enough. Intrigued by this prospect, the tigers eagerly begin chewing and become engrossed in the prospect of cultivating their own supply of gum. This distraction provides the father with the perfect opportunity to slyly slip away, leaving the tigers preoccupied with their newfound pursuit.



Thus, the chapter encapsulates not only the father's resourcefulness and quick thinking in the face of danger but also highlights his adaptability in an unfamiliar and threatening environment.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resourcefulness in Adversity

Critical Interpretation: In Chapter Five, your father shows resourcefulness when faced with the daunting and immediate threat posed by the tigers. By maintaining composure and quickly crafting a plan to distract the ferocious creatures, he transforms a potentially dire confrontation into an opportunity for escape. This key point underscores the value of adaptability and quick thinking in overcoming challenges. During trying times in life, you can draw inspiration from his ability to think outside the box, converting obstacles into stepping stones using wit and resourcefulness. This mindset encourages you to adapt creatively and thrive even when circumstances seem overwhelming.



Chapter 6 Summary: 6. My Father Meets A Rhinoceros

In Chapter Six, titled "My Father Meets a Rhinoceros," the journey of my father, an adventurous young boy determined to rescue a dragon, continues as he navigates through a forest trail. This path, likely used by numerous animals, could potentially lead him to the dragon he's seeking. He advances carefully, keeping a wary eye out for any threats, knowing the jungle is full of surprises.

Unexpectedly, my father stumbles upon a conversation between two wild boars and a mouse. They are speculating about a mysterious situation involving a monkey and his grandmother, hinting at an ongoing invasion. They decide to investigate further, with one boar heading towards the dragon, while the other plans to double back and the mouse checks the Ocean Rocks.

To avoid detection, my father hides behind a mahogany tree, letting the boars pass. Aware that time is of the essence due to the boars' aggressive curiosity, my father swiftly moves along the trail. As he walks, he finds himself beside a brook and stops to quench his thirst. However, his moment of respite is cut short when he is hoisted into the air by a rhinoceros' tusk.

The rhinoceros, evidently upset, accuses my father of using his private weeping pool. This creature, distressed over the discoloration of its



once-gleaming tusk, reveals its sorrow. In a clever twist, my father offers the despondent rhinoceros a solution: a toothpaste and toothbrush from his pack, claiming they could restore its tusk to its former glory. Eager yet skeptical, the rhinoceros releases my father, eager to see the result.

Demonstrating on a small spot, my father manages to convince the rhinoceros of the efficacy of the toothpaste. The rhinoceros, delighted by the restored whiteness, takes over and begins to vigorously brush its tusk, absorbing all its attention in this newfound joy.

Taking advantage of this distraction, my father slips behind the occupied rhinoceros as one of the boars approaches, spurred by growing suspicion of an invasion. Observing the busy rhinoceros, the boar is visibly frustrated, unable to comprehend the peculiar occurrences—ranging from gum-chewing tigers to the rhinoceros' obsession—and leaves muttering about needing to get to the bottom of this unsettling invasion.

Throughout this chapter, my father's quick thinking and resourcefulness help him navigate the challenges of the jungle and its unpredictable inhabitants, bringing him one step closer to his ultimate goal of rescuing the dragon.



Chapter 7 Summary: 7. My Father Meets A Lion

In Chapter Seven of "My Father's Dragon," Elmer Elevator encounters an unexpected obstacle on his journey—a distressed lion. After parting ways with a busy rhinoceros and continuing along a trail, Elmer hears an alarming roar. Investigating the commotion, he discovers a lion in a clearing, frustrated and clawing at his mane, which is tangled with blackberry twigs. The lion's exasperation is compounded by the fear of his mother's disapproval, as she is visiting later that day, and she detests messy manes.

Aware of the lion's worsening mood and potential danger, Elmer attempts to quietly evade him by sneaking through the underbrush. However, as fate would have it, the lion notices Elmer before he can make his escape. The lion threatens to eat Elmer, claiming he is both upset and hungry.

Quick-thinking Elmer engages the lion in conversation, asking for the reason behind his agitation. Elmer seizes the opportunity to propose a solution to the lion's unruly mane. He suggests that with his grooming supplies—a comb, brush, and colorful hair ribbons—he can transform the lion's appearance, thus averting the dreaded parental judgment.

Reluctantly intrigued, the lion agrees, and Elmer demonstrates his grooming technique on the lion's forelock, employing brushes, combs, and finally braiding and tying it with a ribbon. The lion becomes visibly happier with



the results and eagerly continues grooming on his own, becoming so absorbed in improving his appearance that he no longer pays attention to Elmer.

Taking advantage of the lion's distraction, Elmer quietly resumes his journey, leaving behind a contented lion, no longer a threat, thanks to Elmer's resourcefulness and gentle diplomacy.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resourcefulness in unexpected situations

Critical Interpretation: Imagine yourself in a tricky situation, much like Elmer faced with the lion. Here, in a moment of danger and uncertainty, Elmer demonstrates incredible resourcefulness—a quality that can immensely enrich your life. Whether you're confronted with a challenge at work, an unforeseen personal dilemma, or simply a hectic day, think like Elmer; use your creative thinking and problem-solving abilities to turn potential threats into opportunities. By staying calm, engaging with the situation, and thinking on your feet, you can transform obstacles into successes, just as Elmer managed to turn a potentially life-threatening encounter into a moment of mutual satisfaction and safety for both parties. This embrace of ingenuity not only resolves immediate concerns, but also showcases the power of using simple tools and communication to overcome complex issues, motivating you to trust in your ability to navigate the unpredictable nature of life.



Chapter 8: 8. My Father Meets A Gorilla

In Chapter Eight, "My Father Meets a Gorilla," we follow the adventurous journey of Elmer Elevator, who is on a mission to rescue a captive dragon. His travels take him through a jungle filled with peculiar animals and unexpected challenges. While trying to conserve his limited supply of tangerines, Elmer overhears a conversation between two boars discussing the unusual behavior of the jungle animals. Troubled by what he hears, Elmer knows time is pressing, especially with the lion's mane adorned with hair ribbons—a sight bound to upset the boars.

Elmer comes upon a crossroads, contemplating his next move. As he navigates through the paths, he hides from a majestic lioness, the mother of the lion whose mane has been decorated. Her presence signifies that Elmer is nearing the dragon he seeks, though the journey is more arduous than expected. Arriving at the river's bank late in the afternoon, he discovers no sign of the dragon, leading him to deduce it had crossed to the other bank.

Just as Elmer sits to strategize, a large gorilla unexpectedly confronts him, demanding to know who he is and what he's carrying in his knapsack. The gorilla counts aggressively, threatening to harm Elmer as he usually does to the dragon, which underscores the danger Elmer faces. As the gorilla is distracted by a flea infestation, he summons a troupe of monkeys—Rosie, Rhoda, Rachel, Ruthie, Ruby, and Roberta—to help him. The gorilla's



annoyance offers Elmer a chance to diffuse the situation.

Cleverly, Elmer offers magnifying glasses from his knapsack to the monkeys, improving their ability to see the fleas. The monkeys' fascination with the glasses and subsequent growing crowd creates chaos and distraction. In the commotion, the gorilla forgets his threat, allowing Elmer to escape unscathed. This encounter highlights Elmer's quick thinking and resourcefulness, vital traits for navigating the many perils he encounters on his quest.

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Chapter 9 Summary: 9. My Father Makes A Bridge

In Chapter Nine, titled "My Father Makes a Bridge," the protagonist is trying to solve the dilemma of crossing a river to reach and rescue a young dragon, which has been cruelly tethered by a rope to the top of a flagpole. This rope is controlled on either side of the river by a gorilla, forcing the dragon to fly back and forth. A sign instructs people to "SUMMON DRAGON" by using the crank, but this device serves only as a means of torture for the dragon, making the protagonist increasingly empathetic toward its plight.

Initially, the protagonist considers climbing the pole to traverse the rope hand over hand, a daunting and risky prospect given the threat of the gorilla and the mysterious, unfriendly entities potentially lurking in the muddy waters below. Just as he girds himself for the difficult climb, he is interrupted by a splash and a serene, albeit sinister, invitation from a crocodile seeking a sweet snack.

Leveraging the crocodile's desire for sweets, the protagonist cleverly offers him and his fellow crocodiles lollipops, ensuring that the treats remain dry by securing them to the bank with rubber bands. Seizing the opportunity to use the crocodiles as a makeshift bridge, he proposes fastening a lollipop to each crocodile's tail, effectively persuading them to form a line across the river. This formation allows him to cross on their backs, thereby solving the immediate challenge of traversing the river and advancing toward his goal of



rescuing the dragon.

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Chapter 10 Summary: 10. My Father Finds the Dragon

In the climactic Chapter Ten of "My Father's Dragon," our protagonist, an adventurous young boy on a quest to rescue a captive dragon, faces his final challenge on Wild Island. The chapter begins with the boy cleverly crossing a river on the backs of crocodiles, using lollipops to persuade them to form a bridge. While he is mid-crossing, a cacophony of angry jungle animals, led by two wild boars, realizes they have been tricked. They stampede toward the river, intent on stopping the boy whom they believe to be an invader aiming to rescue the dragon.

As the boy reaches the other side of the river, the dragon reveals himself, elated and anxious for the boy's help. With time running short, the boy uses a jackknife to cut the dragon's bonds while the entire menagerie of angry animals attempts to cross the river via the crocodile bridge.

In an unexpected turn, the crocodiles, notorious for their moodiness and appetite, grow restless. They abandon their positions as a bridge, preferring to drift downriver, inadvertently carrying the jungle animals away on their backs. This hilarious and chaotic scene leaves the animals yelling and struggling as they float downstream.

With the distraction working in their favor, the protagonist successfully frees the dragon. In a moment of exuberant relief, they share a laugh at the

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absurdity of the situation. Once the dragon calms down, the boy climbs onto its back, and together, they take to the skies.

Their escape is triumphant. Flying off to start their journey home, they set their sights on the beach shores of Tangerina, leaving behind Wild Island and its bewildered inhabitants. As they soar above the ocean, the dragon hears the distant cry of the animals demanding their dragon back, but both the boy and the dragon are resolute in their decision never to return.

With this thrilling and joyful conclusion, the chapter not only underscores the theme of courage and cleverness triumphing over adversity but also ends the tale on a note of laughter and freedom. The bond between the boy and the dragon hints at the beginning of a lasting friendship as they leave behind their daring adventure.



Chapter 11 Summary: 1. Tangerina

Chapter One: Tangerina

In the twilight sky, nine-year-old Elmer Elevator soared away from Wild Island on the back of a gentle baby dragon he had just rescued from the clutches of cruel island animals. Elmer had embarked on this daring adventure after a wise old alley cat informed him about the dragon's plight. The poor creature had become a prisoner after a fall from the clouds, resulting in injuries and captivity by the island's ferocious inhabitants. Driven by empathy and the allure of flying, Elmer set off on a brave mission to free the dragon.

With Elmer's successful rescue, the dragon expressed his heartfelt gratitude, acknowledging Elmer's courage and kindness. In response, Elmer modestly appreciated the thrilling experience of flying on the dragon's back. To reciprocate, the dragon offered Elmer a trip anywhere he wished. Although Elmer yearned to explore the world, he realized the necessity to return home, having been away for ten days.

Agreeing to rest on Tangerina Island for the night, they prepared to journey back to Elmer's home the following day. They landed on the beach, where Elmer marveled at the dragon's striking blue and yellow stripes, red horn



and eyes, long tail, and golden wings. However, hunger soon struck the dragon.

Elmer offered tangerines, the abundant fruit of the island, but the dragon found their taste unpleasant. In a humorous twist, the dragon discovered he liked the tangerine peels instead. They feasted on nineteen tangerines, with Elmer eating the fruit and the dragon enjoying the peels. As the chilly night descended, the dragon wrapped his tail around Elmer, providing warmth as they drifted off to sleep.

The morning sun brought new energy and reflections on freedom for the dragon. Amidst breakfast tangerines, Elmer mentioned his home in Nevergreen City. Surprisingly, neither he nor the dragon knew the way back. Recalling the path he had taken with the guidance of a boat, Elmer sought help from a seasoned seagull basking by the water.

The wise old gull knew the way to Nevergreen City, revealing the direction—west northwest—which Elmer jotted down using his compass. Though the gull hinted at a great distance, Elmer was determined, reminded of the special occasion of his father's upcoming birthday. Somewhat anxious but hopeful, the dragon expressed concern about the journey, while Elmer reassured them both.

As the dragon warmed his wings, Elmer filled his knapsack with sixty-nine



tangerines and other essentials from the rescue mission, like lollipops and a compass. Ready for departure, Elmer climbed onto the dragon, took a final glance at the sweeping waves and sandy shores of Tangerina, and braced for the adventure ahead, returning home against the vast ocean backdrop.

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Chapter 12: 2. Storm

In Chapter Two, titled "Storm," Elmer and his dragon embark on a journey, flying high above the ocean's endless waves. The tranquil morning flight takes a worrying turn by late afternoon when they decide to rest on a rock. As they consume tangerines, they notice the sky darkening, hinting at an impending storm. Elmer and the dragon, realizing the danger of staying on the rock, opt to fly on, hoping to outrun the storm.

As they ascend, rain begins to fall, and a sudden ferocious wind pushes them off course. Amidst thunder and heavy rain, the dragon struggles with his now heavy, rain-soaked wings. Elmer, concerned, checks their direction and finds they are being blown the wrong way. The storm's power overwhelms them, driving the dragon toward the turbulent sea, despite his valiant attempts to fight the wind.

Exhausted, the dragon tells Elmer he can no longer continue, sinking lower in altitude until, unexpectedly, they feel soft sand beneath them. Though initially apprehensive, they realize that they have landed on a submerged sand bar and must wait out the storm. Despite the precarious situation, the dragon suggests they rest, assuring Elmer he can sleep standing up.

Waking later to find the water rising to the dragon's belly, the dragon, feeling chilled and uncomfortable, agrees to Elmer's suggestion of a pink lollipop to



lift his spirits until they can figure out their next steps. As they sit savoring the lollipops, the storm finally begins to abate, transitioning into a thick fog. Elmer discerns that they are on a sand bar, not far from land. As the tide ebbs and the water recedes, anticipation builds for the fog to clear.

By morning, the water has retreated enough to uncover the sand bar entirely. As daylight emerges, revealing a clearer sky and the promise of land nearby, they eagerly await to see exactly where their storm-tossed journey has delivered them.

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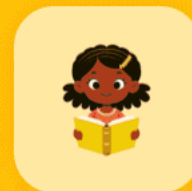
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Chapter 13 Summary: 3. The Sand Bar

In this chapter, Elmer and the baby dragon find themselves stranded on a sand bar after enduring a treacherous storm. The dense fog obscures their view, but Elmer suddenly spots a small, green island nearby. Despite the hopeful sight, the dragon is too stiff and sore to move, having spent the entire night standing in the chilling, soaking water.

Elmer tries to comfort the dragon, reassuring him that it was indeed a fierce storm and that the dragon's inexperience and the long exposure to cold water are the reasons for his current stiffness. To cheer him up, Elmer offers him another lollipop. As the tide threatens to rise again, Elmer decides to help the dragon become more mobile. He climbs onto the dragon's neck to give it a stretch, eventually enabling the dragon to see the island for himself.

With some effort, Elmer manages to help loosen the dragon's limbs. As the sun begins to warm and dry the dragon, they manage to set off for the island. Elmer, wearing his rubber boots, leads the way across the sand bar, while the dragon complains about the ocean as he hobbles along.

Upon reaching the island, they are greeted by a pebbly beach and a cliff draped in cooling green vines. Hungry and tired, they sit to eat some tangerines Elmer has in his knapsack. Only partially satisfied, the dragon admits to Elmer that he is still terribly hungry and thirsty.



Seeing the dragon's plight, Elmer volunteers to explore the island on his own to find more sustenance. Leaving the dragon to rest in the shade, he sets off down a little path, ready to uncover the mysteries and possibly helpful resources the island might hold.

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Chapter 14 Summary: 4. The Island

In Chapter Four, titled "The Island," Elmer ventures onto an unfamiliar island, where nature's untouched beauty and hints of human intervention reflect the island's mysterious past. As he navigates through the terrain, climbing a difficult path and discovering an old log ladder, Elmer concludes that someone once inhabited the island, given the orderly rows of pine trees and an ancient apple orchard.

Elmer, driven by his concern for his friend, the baby dragon, searches desperately for food and water. He discovers a refreshing brook and an old wooden bucket, reinforcing the idea that the island was once cultivated. Despite not finding any signs of current inhabitants, Elmer persists, knowing he has to help the dragon.

Collecting skunk cabbages and filling the bucket with water, Elmer rushes back to the cliff, where the weary dragon awaits. The scene is one of urgency and empathy, with Elmer improvising to help his dragon friend. He pours the water from above, and the dragon eagerly drinks, catching the cabbages as Elmer throws them down, a scene that brings joy to both of them.

After eating, the dragon, though weak, manages to fly up the cliff to join Elmer. Elmer's hopefulness is tinged with the reality of their



predicament—he had eagerly wished to find a community or a means to return home. Despite no evident solution in sight, the camaraderie and determination between Elmer and the dragon assure them that their journey will continue, with a promise of eventually finding their way home.

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Chapter 15 Summary: 5. Flute, the Canary

In Chapter Five of the story, titled "Flute, the Canary," Elmer and the dragon find themselves resting atop a cliff after landing unexpectedly on an island, thanks to a storm interrupting their flight. As they take in the view, they are suddenly addressed by a tiny voice, which startles Elmer. The voice turns out to belong to Flute, a whimsical canary with unique black markings, whom Elmer had released from a cage three years earlier during an unguarded moment at home. Flute explains that he flew to this island, known as Feather Island, where only escaped canaries live.

This island, inhabited solely by canaries, was once briefly settled by humans. The canaries have since taken over, with the current ruler being King Can XI, a monarch plagued by an unusual ailment known as the "island disease": a bout of incurable curiosity. This disorder dates back to the island's first settlers, King Can I and Queen Can I, who were left behind when the humans departed. Over time, this curiosity became a disease that afflicted each subsequent king, all of whom died of it.

Flute recounts the island's history, noting the isolation and subsequent curiosity that has plagued generations of canary kings. This tale piques the interest of Elmer, who ponders the possibility of curing the island of its malady by alleviating King Can XI's curiosity. As the conversation unfolds, the dragon's attention is diverted by the smell of skunk cabbage, leading him



to sate himself with the island's provision.

With a potential solution in mind, Elmer proposes to visit King Can XI to help cure the curiosity, potentially freeing the entire island from its affliction. Encouraged by the idea, Flute offers to guide Elmer to the king's abode in the forest's largest tree. Meanwhile, the dragon remains engaged in his feast, leaving Elmer and Flute to embark on their new mission.

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Chapter 16: 6. King Can XI

In Chapter Six of the story, we find Elmer and his friend Flute, a bird, venturing into the forest to meet King Can XI, a large, fluffy canary who reigns over the birds on the island. Flute has just arrived with Elmer, whom he introduces as an old friend who freed him from captivity in Nevergreen City. Despite the King's initial reluctance to receive visitors due to not feeling well, the Queen Canary, after recognizing Flute, agrees to arrange the meeting.

Elmer soon meets King Can XI, who, much to Elmer's initial surprise, appears quite ordinary for a royal bird, albeit slightly larger and fluffier. King Can XI acknowledges Elmer's presence on the island and hints at the pervasive curiosity affecting the community, possibly linked to a longstanding family secret. Elmer offers his help, provided the King reveals what plagues his curiosity, intending this as a means to potentially cure the curiosity spreading among the birds.

Caught between his need for relief and the burden of revealing an ancient family secret, King Can XI first hesitates but eventually agrees to discuss it with Elmer privately. The King, struggling with tradition and secrecy, decides to confide in Elmer, but only under the cover of dusk. Elmer promises confidentiality and leaves with Flute, who is clearly eager to see an end to the island's curiosity plague.

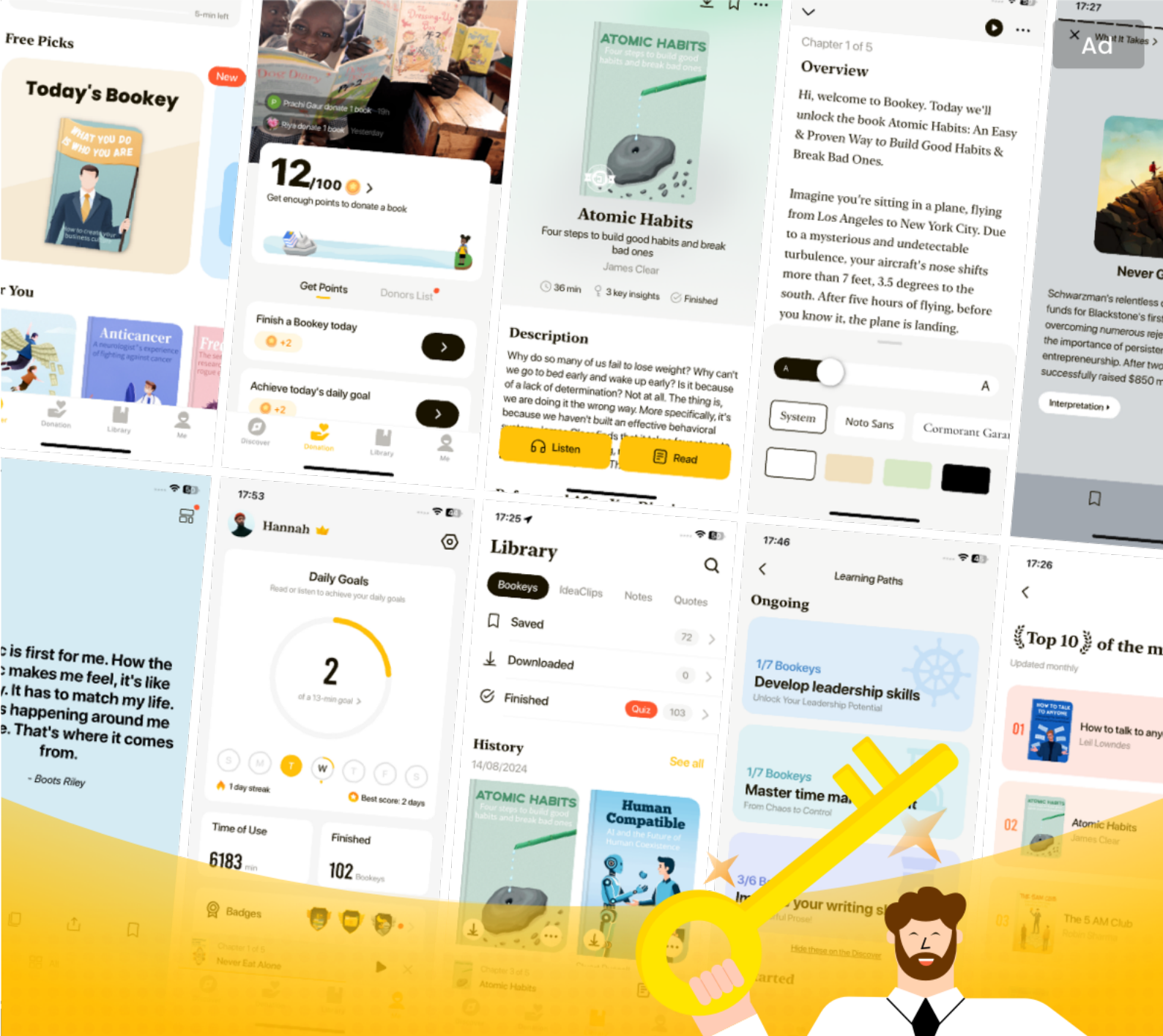


While waiting for sundown, Elmer returns to his dragon friend, who is lounging contentedly beside a pool, with his appetite sated by skunk cabbages and ostrich ferns. Elmer shares the news that the King's secret, a mystery that has kept the birds in a state of endless curiosity, will finally be divulged. Flute, excited by the prospect of resolution, spreads the word across the island while Elmer and the dragon rest. As the day progresses towards evening, they prepare to return for the King's clandestine confession.

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Chapter 17 Summary: 7. The Secret

In Chapter Seven, titled "The Secret," Elmer is awakened by Flute, who enthusiastically announces it's time to meet the King as the sun sets over the meadow. Still groggy from sleep, Elmer briefly forgets his surroundings but quickly dons his knapsack. The baby dragon, who Elmer rescued two days prior, expresses a desire to accompany them, despite not being invited, which Flute quickly points out. Elmer decides they should all go together to see the King.

They find the King anxiously waiting at the foot of a tall tree, displaying nervous energy by hopping around and pecking at imaginary mosquitoes. Upon seeing the dragon, the King initially expresses disdain, feeling intimidated. However, after some persuasion from Flute and a bit of contemplation, the King relents, allowing the dragon to stay.

The King, King Can XI, shares a secret that has been weighing on him: a treasure is believed to be buried near where they stand. He nervously confides that he thinks it's buried under the tree in an iron chest, although he lacks the means to confirm it without help. Elmer, Flute, and the dragon are intrigued and eager to uncover the mystery. The King identifies this tree as the right one, noting its larger size compared to the others, as it was the only original tree when settlers ventured into the area. The settlers planted the surrounding pines and apple orchard for resources, intending to return, but



they never did, leaving the potential treasure buried.

To assist in their endeavor, the King reveals the location of a rusty old shovel left by the settlers. Though deteriorated with age, the shovel is their only tool. With the aid of a rhyme from the King to guide them, Elmer starts digging, measured by "Four shovel lengths from the trunk of the pine, making the rock the guide for the line." As Elmer digs diligently, the dragon helps while Flute, the King, and the Queen observe the painstakingly deepening hole.

Nightfall envelops the forest, but the moonlight provides just enough illumination through the tall trees for the excavation to continue. For hours they persist until Elmer's shovel finally strikes something with a metallic clang—the presumed chest. Their excitement peaks, yet they are momentarily thwarted by the moon slipping behind clouds, shrouding their discovery in darkness. Exhausted, they drift to sleep while awaiting the return of the moonlight.



Chapter 18 Summary: 8. Treasure

In Chapter Eight, titled "Treasure," early morning antics of Flute, the canary, awaken everyone, including Elmer, a young adventurer, and his dragon friend. When they gather under a tree, they are astonished to discover a treasure chest, which seems significant yet difficult to retrieve.

The King, characterized as King Can XI, looks to Elmer for a solution. The young boy, in turn, signals to the dragon, who attempts, albeit with some difficulty, to pull the chest from the ground using his tail. After much effort and encouragement, the determined dragon manages to lift the chest, winning the admiration of the onlooking canaries.

However, the chest is securely locked. That's when King Can XI steps in with a revelation: the key to this ancestral treasure is in his possession, hidden in his nest. The King retrieves this key himself, highlighting the weight of history and secrecy tied to the treasure. Elmer unlocks the chest to find a variety of items, leading the birds to excitement as the prospect of gold—a symbol of wealth and status—emerges.

As excitement spreads, King Can XI generously decides to share the newfound wealth, reflecting a spirit of gratitude and community. He gifts three bags of gold to Elmer, a remarkable and enriching gesture, and awards a gold watch and chain to the dragon, a significant token of appreciation.



Elmer places this around the dragon's neck with care.

The mood shifts to celebration as they ponder their first ever feast. Elmer suggests tangerines, a novel delicacy for the birds. He prepares a vibrant meal for everyone, including a unique spread of skunk cabbages and ostrich ferns for the dragon. The feast is full of discovery and enjoyment, fostering unity among the group. Elmer's harmonica—the sterling silver one from the treasure—lends a melodic backdrop as everyone dances joyfully, including the King himself, who joins in on a pewter plate.

The chapter concludes on a high note with the celebration winding down as the characters, exhausted from dance and joy, fall asleep under the great tall tree. This closing highlights the themes of camaraderie, gratitude, and harmony between the characters, who've overcome a dilemma and bonded over shared prosperity.

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Chapter 19 Summary: 9. Farewell

In Chapter Nine, titled "Farewell," Elmer realizes it's time for him to head back home, as he remembers that it might be his father's birthday. Over breakfast, he and the dragon discuss their next steps before leaving Feather Island. The mention of "treasure" refers to the various items, including bags of seed and silverware, they've collected during their stay. Elmer suggests they organize these items, and the King agrees. He insists on keeping some gold for himself and Elmer, and the Queen desires at least one silver spoon. Elmer efficiently packs the treasure, deciding to keep a few pieces of gold and a silver harmonica for himself.

They decide not to completely bury the treasure chest to leave it safe from robbers, despite the King's emotional farewell to his riches. The dragon helps in placing the chest back into its hiding spot, while Elmer packs his belongings for the journey. Elmer thanks the canaries for their hospitality and promises to keep the secret of Feather Island safe.

Flute, a canary, bids farewell, riding on Elmer's shoulder as they make their way to the cliff. Remembering Flute's time being cared for by his mother, Elmer feels a tug of gratitude. In a final act of kindness, Elmer gives Flute some chewing gum and rubber bands from his bag, items Flute cherishes, happy to store them with the gold piece, valuing visible treasures.



Flute provides Elmer and the dragon directions back to Nevergreen City. As Elmer mounts the dragon, he energetically waves goodbye to Flute and the residents of Feather Island, marking a sentimental yet hopeful end to his adventure there.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Emotional Farewell

Critical Interpretation: In the chapter, just as Elmer prepares to leave Feather Island, there's a profound moment where the King bids a heartfelt farewell to his hidden riches. This emotional exchange highlights the intrinsic value of sentimental attachments over material wealth. It serves as a reminder that true treasure lies not in physical possessions but in the relationships we nurture and the memories we create. In your own life, let this moment inspire you to cherish the people and experiences that bring genuine joy and meaning, remembering always that the greatest wealth is found in heartfelt connections.

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Chapter 20: 10. Elmer Flies Home

In Chapter Ten of "My Father's Dragon," titled "Elmer Flies Home," the story concludes with Elmer and the dragon making their way back to Elmer's home. The dragon, now free from captivity, is mindful of remaining unseen to avoid being captured again. Elmer, observing their shadow dancing over the ocean waves, guides the dragon toward Popsicornia's coast.

As they travel along the coast, they identify landmarks like Firefly Lighthouse and continue past the quaint Village of Fruitoria and the Town of Custard, finally reaching the outskirts of Evergreen City. Upon spotting Evergreen Park across from his home, Elmer instructs the dragon to land on a nearby wharf, aiming to avoid detection in the twilight.

Once safely on the ground, both express their gratitude and sadness over parting ways. As a token of appreciation for Elmer's bravery and friendship, the dragon gifts him a gold watch and chain, which Elmer plans to give to his mother. In exchange, the dragon happily accepts four pink lollipops that Elmer had leftover.

Their farewell is interrupted by the sounds of approaching watchmen, prompting the dragon to take off swiftly into the night, just as the men arrive and discover the lollipop wrappers left behind. Meanwhile, Elmer stealthily follows them but soon dashes through Evergreen Park to reach home.



Elmer dramatically announces his return to his relieved parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elevator, calling out birthday wishes amidst joyful tears. They embrace him, anxiously inquiring about his whereabouts over the last two weeks. Elmer only hints at his adventurous mission.

Inside, Elmer is surprised to find the old alley cat, now seemingly part of the family, despite Mrs. Elevator's previous dislike of cats. Elmer shares a secretive exchange with the cat, confirming the successful rescue mission.

Elmer presents his father with birthday gifts of gold bags and serenades with a sterling silver harmonica before gifting the gold watch to his mother. When his parents press for details on how he acquired such treasures, Elmer playfully insists it's a secret he must keep.

The chapter and book conclude with this whimsical homecoming, reinforcing themes of adventure, bravery, and the imaginative journey undertaken by young Elmer.

The book "My Father's Dragon" was written by Ruth Stiles Gannett, who found success immediately following her graduation from Vassar College in 1944. The book's illustrations were done by Ruth Chrisman Gannett, Ruth Stiles Gannett's stepmother, who was an accomplished illustrator and collaborated on this enchanting tale. The legacy of this charming narrative



continues through Elmer's courageous adventures.

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Chapter 21 Summary: 1. The Hiding Place

Chapter One: THE HIDING PLACE

In this opening chapter, we are introduced to a happy baby dragon embarking on a journey to reunite with his family in the great high mountains of Blueland. This dragon, adorned with striking blue-and-yellow stripes and majestic gold-colored wings, departs from Nevergreen City, traversing over Popsicornia and setting his sights on the Awful Desert that surrounds his home.

Aware of his conspicuous appearance and considerable size — comparable to a buffalo — the dragon knows he must avoid being seen. As the night transitions into dawn, he considers finding a hiding place to rest. Surveying the landscape below, he notices a series of green meadows, fields, and streams intersected by rural roads, ideal places to seek cover. His hope is to find a bridge big enough to shelter him.

His first attempt reveals a road built over the brook with a culvert that's far too small to conceal his large frame. Undeterred, he quickly moves on to a second crossing, encountering the same problem. The dragon's anxiety grows as nearby farm sounds signal the awakening of the human world.



Finally, he discovers a third crossing with a culvert spacious enough to fit a baby dragon. Relieved, he crawls inside, gratefully soaking his feet in the cool stream while anxiously pondering if he has been seen by anyone nearby. Indulging in the wild skunk cabbages and marsh marigolds growing just outside his hiding spot, the dragon feels a sense of safety. His fears momentarily appeased and body cooled, he succumbs to sleep and awaits whatever the next leg of his journey holds.

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Chapter 22 Summary: 2. Mr. and Mrs. Wagonwheel

In Chapter Two, we are introduced to Mr. and Mrs. Wagonwheel, residents of a yellow farmhouse. One early morning, Mr. Wagonwheel spots something unusual—a creature he describes as a "large blue monster" galloping past. Determined to investigate, he decides to look into the matter after tending to his farm duties. Mrs. Wagonwheel, distressed by the thought of a monster so close to home, becomes flustered, leading to breakfast mishaps such as offering raw eggs for consumption.

Mr. Wagonwheel names the creature the "Blue Demon" and, armed with a rifle, rope, and raincoat, sets off on a quest to capture it despite the onset of rain that erases any trace of footprints the creature might have left. Mrs. Wagonwheel is worried about his endeavor but resigns herself to tears as he leaves.

Unbeknownst to Mr. Wagonwheel, the so-called Blue Demon is actually a baby dragon, seeking refuge in a culvert by the roadside. The local cows discover the dragon, who shares that he's trying to return to his homeland in the great high mountains of Blueland. Fearing capture and a life in a zoo or circus, the young dragon uses the culvert as a hiding place.

As Mr. Wagonwheel scours the area, the cows protectively gather around the culvert's entrance. Mr. Wagonwheel, mistaking the cows' calm demeanor for



a lack of nearby danger, misjudges the dragon's location and continues his noisy search elsewhere. The cows, acting as unlikely allies, assure the dragon that they will alert him when it's safe to emerge.

The day passes with the cows offering company and guidance to the dragon. Near nightfall, upon hearing Mr. Wagonwheel's return, they advise the dragon to leave immediately, as they predict he might continue his search at night with a flashlight. Following the cows' advice, the dragon departs, flying far from the yellow farmhouse and any immediate threat. Meanwhile, Mr. Wagonwheel persists with his hunt, oblivious to the dragon's escape, leaving Mrs. Wagonwheel to cope with her nerves alone in bed.

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Chapter 23 Summary: 3. The Men on the Slope

In Chapter Three, titled "The Men on the Slope," we delve into a pivotal moment in the story, which follows a baby dragon as he embarks on a nighttime flight to warn his family of impending danger. The story is set against the backdrop of a mystical landscape, where the dragon moves swiftly through the air, aided by cool winds. The crescent moon casts a gentle glow over Seaweed Bay, and key geographical landmarks like Due East Lookout and the daunting Spiky Mountain Range guide the dragon's path. His ultimate goal is the Blueland Mountains, nestled within the perilous Awful Desert. This desert is notorious for its harsh sandstorms and lack of water, making it nearly impassable and preserving Blueland as a secretive realm for dragons.

On this clear night, the absence of the usual sandstorms troubles the dragon, considering the possibility that humans might finally breach the desert's defenses and uncover the secret of his family's existence. As he approaches Blueland, the dragon spots a campfire on the rocky mountain slope, illuminating figures of four or five men gathered around it.

Choosing stealth over confrontation, the dragon lands quietly and eavesdrops on the men's conversation. They are part of an expedition traversing the desert, hoping to gain fame and fortune by uncovering the mysteries of Blueland. One man shares exciting news about discovering a



massive lake at the mountain's core, surrounded by the very streams that make human travel so challenging. However, their most astonishing discovery is not the water but evidence of living dragons—fifteen in total.

Realizing the men have his entire family trapped in a cave, the baby dragon understands the dire situation. His family, consisting of six sisters, seven brothers, and their gigantic mother and father, was caught off guard and rushed inside the cave upon the humans' arrival. The men express their excitement at the potential fame and wealth these exotic creatures could bring, with zoos lining up for a chance to display them.

Filled with urgency and despair, the baby dragon remains hidden behind the rocks, pondering how to rescue his family and bewildered by their inability to escape before being discovered. This chapter sets the stage for an impending rescue mission, highlighting themes of family, secrecy, and the clash between human ambition and the natural world of the dragons.



Chapter 24: 4. In the Cave

In Chapter Four, titled "In the Cave," we follow the dragon Boris as he urgently navigates a rugged mountainside to rescue his family. The chapter opens with Boris worriedly observing the men camping nearby, unknowingly blocking the main entrance to his family's cave with a net. Boris recalls a hidden tunnel he and his younger sisters used to escape when they were smaller. Although uncertain if he can still fit, he races against the rising sun across the picturesque alpine landscape of BlueLand, adorned with wildflowers and snapdragons, to reach this tunnel.

Upon arriving, Boris discovers that the tunnel entrance is obstructed by overgrown roots and dirt. He carefully clears the debris, mindful of being noticed by the men. Once inside, he crawls through the twisting, narrow passage with difficulty but becomes stuck near the larger cave area. Despite this, he manages to alert his family to his presence.

Boris communicates with his family through the tunnel wall and reassures them, particularly his mother and sister Eustacia, of his plan to rescue them. He warns them to steer clear of the main entrance where the men lurk, as their intentions are unknown. Boris mentions a friend, Elmer, who may assist them, and promises to investigate further.

After reversing through the tunnel, Boris eavesdrops on the men's



conversation, learning that some are hesitant to enter the cave themselves. The men's plan involves leaving a guard unit while others scout potential additional exits and study the terrain. Fearing capture, Boris decides to seek help from Elmer.

After concealing the tunnel entrance with snapdragon roots to avoid detection, Boris stealthily departs, taking flight through the mountain peaks. He reflects on the serene beauty of the lake and meadows below before embarking on his mission to secure aid from his friend Elmer, confident that his swift return will be key to his family's rescue.

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Chapter 25 Summary: 5. Back to Nevergreen City

Chapter Five: Back to Nevergreen City

The dragon soared high above a vast desert, navigating the hot winds and blazing sun. His mission was critical: to locate his friend Elmer and plan the rescue of his trapped family, all while ensuring he wasn't spotted by any humans below. His sharp eyes scanned the sands, but he encountered no one during his journey across the hostile expanse.

As the dragon flew over the imposing Spiky Mountain Range, his need for rest and refreshment became overwhelming. Spotting a mountain brook, he descended rapidly, drinking deeply from the cool, flowing water. Careful to keep his shimmering gold wings dry, he settled in the stream to recuperate. In this peaceful respite, he dreamed of reuniting with Elmer and executing their daring rescue. Despite brief anxiety upon hearing children's voices nearby, they quickly dissipated, allowing him to refocus on the lengthy flight ahead to Nevergreen City.

Propelled by determination, the dragon took flight once more, darting above Seaweed City as night began to fall. His presence went largely unnoticed, save for a little boy named Chester, who, much to his frustration, was dismissed by his mother when he exclaimed about the dragon in the sky.



Little did they know, this was the beginning of an adventure that would soon become infamous as the "dragon affair."

As the dragon zipped across Seaweed Bay, past landmarks like Mr. Wagonwheel's farm and the serpentine brook, he realized he was nearing his destination. Flickering memories of Elmer's home across from Evergreen Park guided his path, though uncertainty lingered about finding him after so long.

Continuing southward along the coast of Popsicornia, the dragon was abruptly enveloped in a dazzling beam of light, emanating from a ship's searchlight below. The unexpected spotlight momentarily disoriented him, sending him into frantic maneuvers to escape detection. Men aboard the vessel shouted, puzzled by the shadowy figure aloft, yet unable to accurately identify or pursue him.

Miraculously evading the searchlight's probing gaze, the dragon pressed on into comforting darkness, heart racing from the close encounter. As dawn's gentle hues touched the horizon, the familiar sights of Nevergreen City beckoned. Relief washed over him at the view of the harbor, lighthouse, and the unmistakable expanse of Evergreen Park. Finally, he descended quietly amidst the trees, unseen and unperturbed, ready to reconnect with Elmer and set their plan into motion.



Chapter 26 Summary: 6. Elmer to the Rescue

In Chapter Six, titled "Elmer to the Rescue," we dive into the exciting weekend adventures of Elmer in the enchanting Nevergreen City. As dawn breaks on a Saturday, Elmer is jolted awake by a cold, damp kiss and an urgent voice urging him to get up. It is the alley cat, Elmer's wise guide from previous adventures, who informs him that the baby dragon, whom they had rescued earlier, has flown back into the city park and appears to be in trouble.

This development sets the stage for an immediate yet stealthy mission. Elmer quickly gets dressed and, accompanied by the alley cat, quietly exits his house. They head towards Evergreen Park, each taking different paths to locate the dragon. As Elmer scans the possible hiding spots, his curiosity is piqued by a steam shovel stationed at a construction site for a planned amusement center. To his amazement, the shovel moves slightly, revealing the dragon's presence.

Reunited, Elmer embraces the teary dragon, who confesses his desperate predicament: his family is in trouble, and he needs Elmer's help. The alley cat reassures the dragon that he can rest safely until nighttime since no work will occur on the site that Saturday. The trio spends the morning devising a rescue plan.



Elmer returns home for lunch, maintaining a semblance of normalcy to avoid arousing his mother's suspicions about his morning activities. After lunch, he resourcefully collects items crucial for their plan: an array of whistles, horns, a cap pistol, chocolate bars, Fig Newtons, string, and a flashlight, all packed into his father's knapsack. His mother questions his absence throughout the day, but Elmer's half-truth about observing the amusement center construction suffices for the moment.

As night approaches, Elmer discreetly slips out with his prepared knapsack, heading back to execute their plan. He meets the old alley cat one last time, expressing his gratitude and regret that the cat cannot accompany them on this flight due to age constraints. With a final farewell, Elmer climbs onto the dragon's back, and together they soar into the night sky, initiating a new chapter in their adventurous saga.

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Chapter 27 Summary: 7. The Dragons of Blueland

In Chapter Seven, titled "The Dragons of Blueland," Elmer and his dragon companion continue their journey northward across the coast of a fictional region called Popsicornia. During their flight, they engage in an enlightening conversation about the dragon's family. The dragon describes its diverse and colorful family, emphasizing that while they all share gold-colored wings and red feet and horns, each member has unique color patterns—ranging from blue and yellow stripes to polka dots and a speckled appearance like a bird's egg. This vibrant diversity among family members is likened to an "Easter parade."

The conversation shifts to the dragon family's lifestyle. The father encourages regular physical exercises such as somersaults and leapfrog, emphasizing fitness as an important family tradition. During the summer, each dragon has a designated part of Blueland to care for, reflecting a strong familial bond and responsibility. The dragon fondly mentions its own area, the marshy region near a lakeside, nurturing a particular affection for marsh marigolds and skunk cabbages.

Elmer inquires about their activities during the winter. The dragon reveals that despite the cold, they maintain their exercise routine. Winter, however, is special for indoor activities, as the family gathers in their cave to listen to their father's stories about the dangerous knights from history—men who



once hunted dragons, forcing them to seek refuge in Blueland. These stories highlight the misunderstanding between humans and dragons, contrasting the fierce reputation of dragons with their inherently gentle nature.

As Elmer listens, he reflects on the tales of knights he's read, agreeing with the dragon's assertion that the knights fabricated stories of dragon ferocity to enhance their glory. The dragon expresses concern over potential human interference in Blueland, emphasizing the urgency of their return. Elmer, filled with determination and excitement, reassures the dragon that they will save its family, anticipating the adventure that awaits as they speed through the night towards the mountainous haven of Blueland.

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Chapter 28: 8. To Spiky Mountain Range

In Chapter Eight, Elmer and the dragon are on a quest to reach the Spiky Mountain Range. Elmer, trying to stay awake, nibbles on a chocolate bar while questioning their next resting spot. The dragon aims to avoid Mr. Wagonwheel, who had previously spotted the dragon and spread tales in Seaweed City about seeing a "Blue Demon." Suddenly, a beam from a searchlight disrupts their flight as it catches the dragon's golden wings. It emanates from a ship below, whose crew begins to speculate about the sight of a dragon carrying what seems to be a boy. However, as the moon hides behind clouds, Elmer and the dragon dodge the searchlight, managing to evade detection.

Despite being frightened, Elmer reassures the dragon that they will remain undiscovered, as their destination and mission—rescuing the dragon's family—remain unknown to their pursuers. As dawn breaks, they travel over Seaweed Bay and Due East Lookout, finally landing exhausted in the forests of the Spiky Mountain Range. Elmer consumes his chocolates and some Fig Newtons, drinks from a stream, and joins the dragon in much-needed rest.

Meanwhile, Mr. Wagonwheel, who is adamant about having seen the dragon, plans to report this sighting to the authorities. Despite his wife's initial protests, he sets off early in the morning to alert the Seaweed City police. As he journeys, he witnesses Elmer and the dragon flying across the



morning sky, reaffirming his tale of the Blue Demon with a rider. By the time Mr. Wagonwheel reaches the police, Elmer and the dragon are already hidden safely, leaving the townspeople to debate the reality of his claims.

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Chapter 29 Summary: 9. Blueland

In Chapter Nine, titled "Blueland," Elmer Elevator and his dragon companion, whom we now know as Boris, are resting until late afternoon before setting off for Blueland. They are strategically waiting for darkness to conceal their approach and avoid detection. As the sun begins to set, Elmer and Boris make their way across the harsh Awful Desert, where the heat and dryness create a challenging environment. Boris is particularly anxious about the possibility of facing men right away and hopes for a diversion like a sandstorm to keep them at bay.

As they reach the dry, rocky outskirts of Blueland, the setting sun casts a glow over the beautiful meadows. Elmer is taken by the sight of Blueland's scenic beauty with its verdant meadows and lake reflecting the pink sky. As night falls, Boris becomes excited upon spotting the men outside the dragon family's cave, still stationed there with a net. This indicates that they might not be too late to save Boris's family.

In preparation for their rescue mission, Elmer uses his resourcefulness to tie a whistle and horn to strings for Boris, ensuring they won't be lost during their plan to distract the men. Boris reveals his full name and the surprisingly lengthy list of names of his siblings, showcasing familial bonds that add depth to his character.



Elmer ventures into a hidden tunnel that leads to the dragon's cave. Using his flashlight, he makes his way through the damp corridors until he reaches the trapped dragon family. He introduces himself as Boris's friend, and the family welcomes him into their midst, clearly desperate and weak from lack of food. In a kind gesture, Elmer shares his remaining chocolate bars with them, offering a small but much-needed source of energy. He outlines his plan to rescue them, demonstrating his leadership and compassion.

After equipping the dragons with horns and whistles on strings for the upcoming operation, Elmer assesses the net that imprisons the family. Despite the men's proximity, Elmer can see that the situation will require discretion and hope for success. With the plan in place, Elmer returns to Boris, ready to execute their rescue mission, underscoring the tension and anticipation of the chapter.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Resourcefulness in Challenging Situations

Critical Interpretation: In this chapter, Elmer's resourcefulness shines as he creatively tackles the challenge of rescuing Boris and his family. Despite the daunting circumstances and looming dangers, he remains calm and methodical, fashioning whistles and horns on strings to ensure they won't lose these crucial distractions. His ability to think on his feet and devise a clever plan becomes a pivotal asset in their mission. Similarly, in our lives, cultivating resourcefulness can empower us to face difficulties with confidence and innovation. This key lesson reminds us that when confronted with obstacles, creative thinking and a prepared mind can transform seemingly insurmountable challenges into opportunities for success.

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Chapter 30 Summary: 10. Escape

In Chapter Ten titled "Escape," the protagonist, Elmer, orchestrates a daring rescue mission to free a group of captive dragons. The chapter is set at night, which adds an element of stealth and tension to their escape plan.

Elmer is in a hidden spot beneath a snapdragon bush, whispering to Boris, a dragon who is his ally in this venture. They discuss their strategy; Elmer asks Boris to create a diversion using a horn and whistle, and he confirms that humans present are named Frank and Albert. The men are tasked with guarding the dragons, but Elmer aims to outsmart them by causing a distraction.

Elmer returns to a large cave where fifteen dragons anxiously await their opportunity to escape. He instructs them to wait for Boris's signal—a loud commotion with his horn and whistle—to make their move. Elmer's heart is pounding as he positions himself closer to a net that entraps the dragons, a barrier held down by large boulders.

With the guards settling in for the night, Elmer cleverly uses a cap pistol to simulate gunfire and shouts out in a distressed voice, feigning capture to draw the guards' attention. Panic ensues among the men, and they begin removing the boulders that anchor the net, thinking they are saving someone from harm.



Seizing this moment of chaos, Elmer fires his cap pistol twice more, signaling Boris to commence his distraction. Boris obediently blares his whistle and horn, creating a cacophony that ripples across the meadow and lake, stirred further by the dragons joining in with their noise-making devices.

The auditory chaos sends the guards into disarray, allowing Elmer to shout "Boris!"—the signal for the dragons to charge. The dragons surge forth, slipping through the now freed opening in the net, extinguishing the campfire beneath them, and taking to the sky, disappearing into the night's darkness with their whistles echoing behind them.

The men, scattered and confused by the unexpected turn of events, find themselves in comical disarray—some sprawled across the meadow and others sitting soaked in the lake—all left to wonder, "What happened?" as they grapple with the bewildering escape of the dragons. This chapter is a crucial turning point highlighting Elmer's quick thinking and the triumph of teamwork and cunning over brute force.



Chapter 31 Summary: 11. “The Dragon Affair”

Chapter Eleven: "THE DRAGON AFFAIR"

In the climactic conclusion of Elmer's adventure, he and Boris the dragon make a swift escape from the echoing mountains, jubilant over their victory. Elmer, exhilarated and breathless, reflects on the excitement of his journey as he reaches for his snacks. Boris, the dragon whose freedom Elmer courageously fought for, expresses his deep gratitude. Although Elmer insists it was all in good fun, he realizes that he must now return to Seaweed City promptly to catch the train home.

As they soar through the desert night, the air grows heavy with the scent of sand—a storm is approaching. Elmer sees this as a hopeful sign: the storm might drive away the men who pursued Boris, ensuring that the dragons in Blueland are left in peace. Their flight continues over the jagged peaks of the Spiky Mountain Range, and they manage to reach Seaweed City by midnight.

To avoid being spotted, Boris suggests dropping Elmer atop the Seaweed City Monument. Elmer agrees, and as they say their goodbyes, Elmer muses on how he wishes he had met Boris's family, who remain hidden in mystery. Promising to share the tale with their mutual friend, the old alley cat, Elmer



parts from Boris with a heartfelt farewell.

Elmer, armed with a final box of Fig Newtons for his journey, descends from the monument. He heads to the train station, where the ticket agent is skeptical of a young boy traveling alone at night. Elmer nonchalantly purchases a ticket to Nevergreen City, determined to return home swiftly.

Once on the train, he manages to avoid suspicion from the conductor by confidently stating he is returning home, not running away. Elmer sleeps soundly until they reach Nevergreen City, where he quietly rejoins his mother, indulging in a hearty meal while she expresses concern over his haggard appearance.

The following morning brings a surprising revelation as the "dragon affair" becomes headline news. Nevergreen City buzzes with reports of a remarkable escape in Blueland, where a group of dragons—long thought extinct—had been spotted. Legendary sightings by brave explorers in turbulent sandstorms are recounted, confirming the existence of these mythical creatures. Accounts of a mysterious flying beast, perceived by both seafarers and locals—some even claiming to have seen a boy with it—fuel the fervor. Mr. Elevator, Elmer's father, stumbles across this astonishing news and questions Elmer's involvement due to his recent unorthodox excursions.



Feigning surprise and disbelief, Elmer cleverly deflects his father's suspicions, suggesting the newspaper story is nothing more than fanciful fiction. Thus, the chapter closes with a humorous exchange, marking the end of Elmer's extraordinary escapade in a world of dragons and remarkable friendships.

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Critical Thinking

Key Point: Unexpected friendships can lead to personal growth and extraordinary adventures.

Critical Interpretation: As you dive into the final chapter of Elmer's remarkable journey with Boris, the dragon, you're reminded of the unexpected friendships that can arise in the most peculiar situations. In embracing an adventure that pushed him beyond the familiar, Elmer uncovered a camaraderie with Boris, a bond strengthened by shared experiences and mutual respect. This association not only aids Boris's liberation but also fuels Elmer's personal development, reflecting the notion that stepping beyond comfort zones and embracing the unknown can lead to profound growth and thrilling adventures. Such friendships, akin to bonding with a mythical creature, teach us the value of taking risks, fostering open-mindedness, and the rewards of curiosity and courage. It nudges you to recognize the potential for extraordinary journeys in life's uncharted territories, where improbable alliances spark life-enriching stories.

