

Eldest
Christopher Paolini
Alfred A. Knopf 2005

After successfully evading an Urgals ambush, Eragon is adopted into the Ingeitum clan and sent to finish his training so he can further help the Varden in their struggle against the Empire.

About the Author

Christopher Paolini (born November 17, 1983) is the author of the *Inheritance* trilogy.

Paolini was born in Southern California, and currently lives in Paradise Valley, Montana. Homeschooled for his entire life, he graduated from high school at the age of 15 through an accredited correspondence course. Following graduation, he started work on what would become the novel *Eragon* and its sequel, set in Alagaesia. At the age of nineteen, he became a *New York Times* bestselling author.

In 2002, *Eragon* was published privately by his parents. To promote the book, Paolini toured over 135 schools and libraries, discussing reading and writing, dressed in “a dorky medieval costume of red shirt, billowy black pants, lace-up boots, and a jaunty black cap.”

During one of his promotional tours, he gave a speech at the school of the stepson of Carl Hiaasen. Hiaasen enjoyed the book so much he told his publisher, Knopf, about it. An offer was made by Knopf for *Eragon* and the rest of the *Inheritance* trilogy. After another round of editing, the second edition of *Eragon* was published in August 2003. The second book of the trilogy, *Eldest*, was published in 2005.

With regard to his prose, Paolini has said, “In my writing, I strive for a lyrical beauty somewhere between Tolkein at his best and Seamus Heaney’s translation of Beowulf.”

{From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia}

Activities

Dragon crafts:

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/chindragonhard.html>

The head of this dragon is made of a folded paper plate. The four-foot long body made of painted crepe paper will sway and twist as the puppet is carried overhead.

<http://www.kidsdomain.com/craft/chdragoneasy.html>

The same dragon as above, but made easier by providing a pattern for the head.
(This same pattern would made a good mask!)

<http://www.thebestkidsbooksite.com/printcraft.cfm?CraftID=256>

Draw and color a dragon and a breath of fire. Paste the flame to a craft stick, cut a slit by the dragon’s mouth, and blow fire by sliding the tab back and forth!

There is a template provided on the site, but it looks kind of young for grades 3-6.
Kids might enjoy drawing their own dragons instead.

<http://www.kckpl.lib.ks.us/YS/crafts/dragon.htm>

This is a pretty simple but cool stick puppet made of a paper plate and construction paper.
A pattern for the dragon's face is provided.

<http://www.newton.mec.edu/Angier/DimSum/Shoebox%20Dragon%20Lesson.html>

This is a group project. Each child makes a part of the dragon out of a shoebox that is worn on his/her head. When they line up and move around the room, the result is similar to the long elaborate dragons seen in parades.

More, More, More

Websites:

Homepage for the *Inheritance* trilogy

www.alagaesia.com

Book discussion

www.randomhouse.com/teachers/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=0375826688&view=rg