

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.

Coloring sheets for teens:

<http://www.coloring.ws/t.asp?b=m&t=http://www.coloring.ws/fantasy/dragons/4.gif>

<http://www.coloring.ws/t.asp?b=m&t=http://www.coloring.ws/fantasy/dragons/24.gif>

<http://www.coloring.ws/t.asp?b=m&t=http://www.coloring.ws/fantasy/dragons/10.gif>

<http://www.coloring.ws/t.asp?b=m&t=http://www.coloring.ws/fantasy/dragons/3.gif>

Dragon drawing contest – have the teens draw their best dragons or what they think Saphira looks like to them. Display in the Teen area.

Dragon Eggs –

<http://www.trystancraft.com/martha/projects/dragoneggs.html>

Dragon Eggs

Collect large plastic Easter eggs, or the egg-shaped containers in which nylons are sometimes packaged. Paint each one with fleck-stone paint to create an enchanting, mysterious look. While the paint dries, follow the recipe below to make “flubber.” This gooey substance will represent the fluid inside the egg that oozes out when the dragon hatches.

To make flubber, follow the instructions below:

1. Mix 2 cups of white Elmer's Glue™ in a large container with 1-1/2 cups of warm water. Add drops of food coloring for added fun (optional).
2. In a second container, mix 1-1/3 cups warm water with 3 teaspoons of Borax™.
3. Combine the two mixtures into one bowl and stir. The resulting mixture will become gelatinous.
4. Mix well, pouring off any excess water. Keep in an airtight container until you're ready to put the dragon eggs together.

After the paint has dried, put a dragon figurine inside each egg container, and fill the egg with flubber.

Give the children their dragon eggs when they arrive, and instruct them to keep them warm until they're ready to hatch. When the children can't wait any longer, let them hatch open their dragon eggs to see what's inside!

Swords:

Have a fencing demonstration.

Create a sword with intricate designs and a family coat of arms.

More, More, More

Websites:

Homepage for the *Inheritance* trilogy

www.alagaesia.com

Author Profile from Teen Reads.Com

<http://www.teenreads.com/authors/au-paolini-christopher.asp>