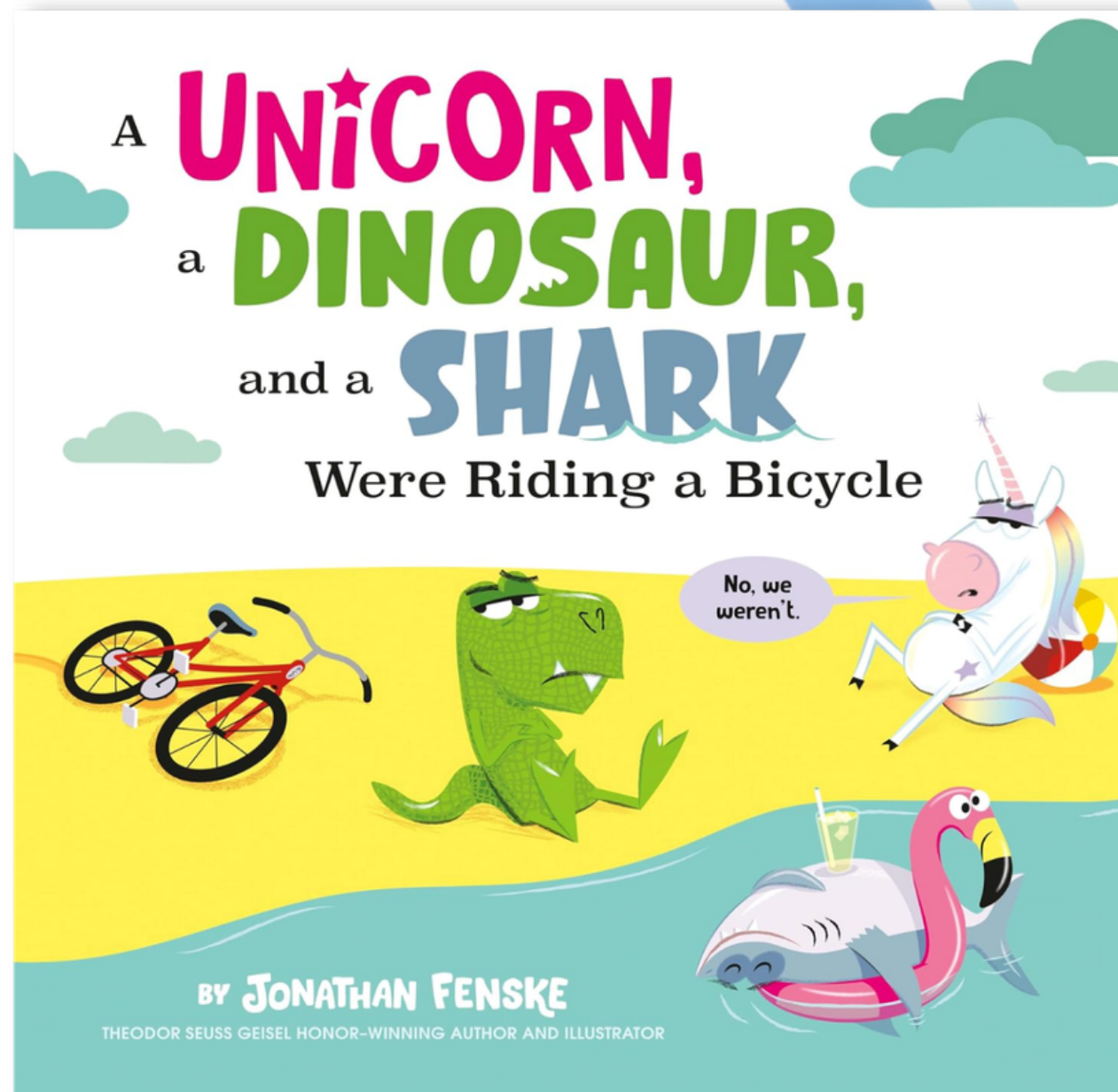


FAMILY BOOK CONNECTIONS

BOOK BRIDGES



A Unicorn, a Dinosaur, and a Shark were Riding a Bicycle

Author & Illustrator: Jonathan Fenske

Activities Created by Washburn
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Summary of the Story

A Unicorn, a Dinosaur, and a Shark were riding a bicycle. But were they really? As you read this book, you'll find out that the unicorn, the dinosaur, and the shark have different feelings about riding a bicycle, and what they would much rather hear about. Dive into this story to see what happens when characters in the story don't enjoy the one being written about them!

Read Alouds

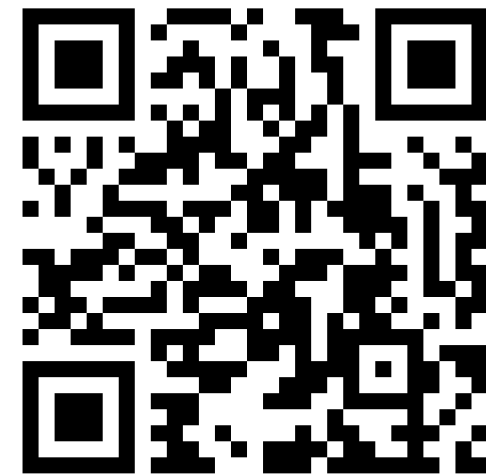


[English Youtube](#)
[Read-Aloud](#)

About the Author

The author and illustrator, Jonathan Fenske, is a popular children's book author with several awards for his work, including several books winning the Junior Library Guild Gold Award and, recently, the Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor Book. Fenske has created numerous children's books with a unique sense of creativity and humor that draws children towards his literature.

Learn More



[Jonathan Fenske](#)

Questions to Ask Before, During, and After Reading

Talking about a story before, during, and after reading helps children think deeply, make connections, and build a love of reading.

*The narrator is the character telling the story or recounting the events that happened. In this story, the kitty cat is the narrator.



Before Reading

- Look at the characters' faces. Do you think they're excited to ride a bicycle? Why?
- What do you think these characters might have in common with each other? (e.g., physical similarities)



During Reading

- Why do you think these characters are upset about riding a bicycle?
- Do you think it's fair for them to say 'no'? Why?
- Can you think of an activity that a unicorn, a dinosaur, and a shark can all do together?



After Reading

- Who was the narrator? What was their goal or job in the book?
- How did the unicorn, dinosaur, and shark feel about the narrator? Explain why they felt this way.

Extending the Book with Additional Reading

For this activity, you'll need access to the internet, a public library, a bookstore, etc.

Dive deeper into other works by Jonathan Fenske, including his characters: The Unicorn, The Dinosaur, and The Shark. He has other fun, interactive characters that your child will be able to recognize and relate to when reading this original story.

Explore More

- Look for other Jonathan Fenske books.
- Notice which characters you recognize.
- Talk about what makes his stories funny and interactive.

Watch Another Read-Aloud



[Click here for a video of another Unicorn, Dinosaur, and Shark book.](#)



Extending the Book with Writing

For this activity, this story speaks to how these characters would have liked to read and write their own story. For your child's writing prompt, talk about how they are a character in their own story, just as the unicorn, dinosaur, and shark were.



Writing Prompt

- What's something you would do as a character in your own story?
- What would your character be doing or saying that relates to you as a person?

After they have written their story, have them read it to a friend or a family member. Celebrate being an author!



Extending this Book with Math

For this activity, you will need some sheets of paper cut into circles. As you read the book, a bike is one of the most common items in the story.



Try This Math Activity

1. Fold one of the paper circles into equal sections and label each section with the corresponding fraction.
2. For example, if you fold the circle in half, you will have two $\frac{1}{2}$ parts of the circle.
3. Fold other circles into more sections if your child has a stronger understanding of fractions.
4. Go over the fold lines with a dark marker so the lines look like the spokes of a bicycle wheel.

Repeat this process for different characters in the book. Then, have your child write details about the characters in the book on the spokes of the "hwels."

Extending the Book with Science



For this activity, you will need a whiteboard, a large sheet of poster paper, or even chalk on the sidewalk. This book features a wide variety of animals, some of which are completely mythical.

Hands-On Activity

1



Make three large circles that overlap like a three-way Venn diagram.

2



Label each circle with an animal's name.

3

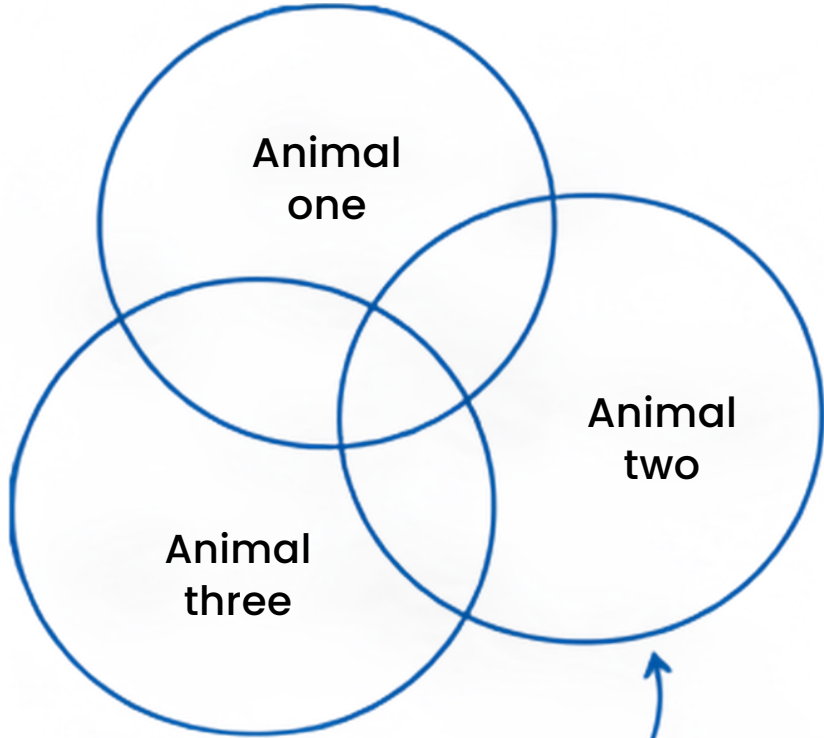


Brainstorm and discuss how each animal is different or similar.

4



Record your ideas in the circles, using the overlapping sections for ways the animals have commonalities.



For example, a dinosaur and a shark have really sharp teeth, but the unicorn does not.



Look closely, compare, and learn!



Extending the Book with Social Studies

For this activity, you will need paper, a pencil, or markers. This book features characters with diverse backgrounds. As you go into the book, you discover that some characters didn't quite get along and often disagree about things.

Have a discussion with your child about how the characters could get along fairly. What rules would help them live together happily? What are some rules or laws that could benefit all of the animals in the story?

1



Talk about ways the characters could get along fairly.

2



Decide what rules would help them live together happily.

3



Brainstorm rules or laws that could benefit all of the animals in the story.

4



Make a poster with the rules you created together.



Discuss Together

Children can write independently, or families can help with the writing.

Poster Ideas

- Take turns
- Use kind words
- Listen to each other



Extending the Book with Art

For this activity, you will need paper, pencils, and crayons or markers. Invite your child to imagine a new story scene for the unicorn, dinosaur, and shark.

1

Talk about an activity the unicorn, dinosaur, and shark might all enjoy together.

2

Draw the unicorn, dinosaur, and shark in a new scene.

3

Add details, speech bubbles, or a background that shows each character's personality.

4

Color the picture and give the new story a title.



Imagine a new adventure together through art!



LITERACY
BRIDGES