

A whimsical illustration featuring a green, long-nosed creature with large eyes and a small orange nose. The creature is wearing a black and white striped leg and is emerging from a brown paper bag. To its right is a brown bowl containing two goldfish. The scene is set against a background of a window with a grid pattern, a green plant with white flowers on the left, and a small bouquet of white flowers on the right.

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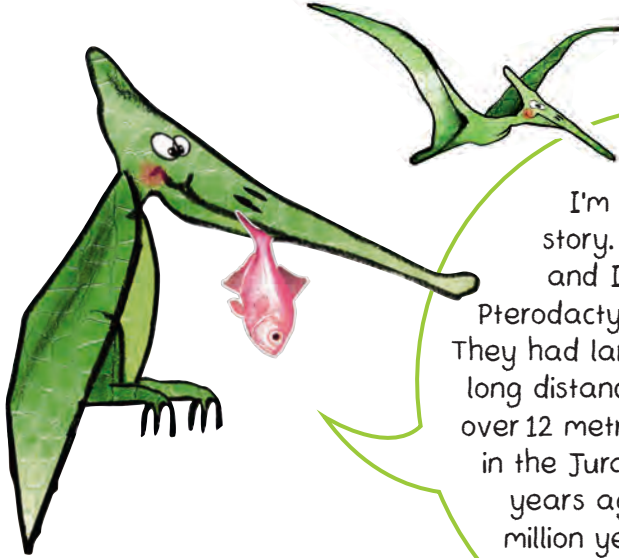
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Before Reading

Meet Dacty



Hello,
I'm the hero of the story. My name's Dacty and I'm a pterodactyl. Pterodactyls were flying reptiles. They had large wings and they flew long distances. Some had wings of over 12 metres in length. They lived in the Jurassic period, 150 million years ago. They died out 65 million years ago. They were carnivores and they ate meat and fish.

1 Answer the questions.

- a What were pterodactyls?
- b When did they live?
- c When did they die out?
- d What did they eat?

2 In pairs, look quickly at the pictures in the book. Discuss and answer the questions.

- a The story is called 'The Surprise'. What do you think the surprise is?
- b Why is Dacty a hero? What do you think he does?

3 Match the characters from the story with the descriptions.

a



b



c



d




- 1 Hello, I'm Aunt Elizabeth. I've got curly red hair and I wear glasses. I work in a museum and I like travelling. Some people think that I'm strange. What do you think?
- 2 Hello. My name's Eric. I've got short grey hair and I'm wearing a mask. People don't like me. Can you guess why? Yes, I'm a thief.
- 3 Hi! My name's Roger. I've got short blond hair. When I'm not at school, I usually wear jeans. I've got a sister called Helen and a very unusual pet.
- 4 Hello, I'm Mrs Phillips. I've got long dark brown hair. Today, I'm wearing a green necklace and green earrings. I live with my husband, my two children and a flying reptile called Dactyl!

4 Write a short description of this character in the story.

5 Who do you think he is?





 It's Saturday evening. Mr and Mrs Phillips and their children, Roger and Helen, are playing cards in the living room. Suddenly the telephone rings in the hall. Mr Phillips gets up and answers it. When he comes back he is smiling.

'That was your Aunt Elizabeth. She's back from Greenland. She's coming to see us tomorrow morning. And she's got a surprise for you two.'

'A surprise for us! What is it?' Roger and Helen shout.
'I don't know,' says their dad. 'She says that it's a secret. And now it's time for bed.'
'Come on, Dad, one more game.'
'Oh, okay. Then straight to bed!'

GLOSSARY

- **she's back:** she is home
- **suddenly:** quickly, when you don't expect it
- **surprise:** something you are not expecting

The next morning the doorbell rings. Roger and Helen run to open the door. It's Aunt Elizabeth, and she's got a big metal box. She hugs the children. Then she opens the box very carefully. It's full of small pieces of ice. She puts her hand into the ice and she slowly takes out a big egg. 'This egg is from an ice cave in Greenland. It's very special. Now I need your help.'

'What do you want us to do?' ask the children.

'I want to see what happens when we put the egg in a warm place. There is no heating in my office at the museum during the summer,' says Aunt Elizabeth. 'I thought I could leave it here.'

'Yippee! An experiment!' shout the children.

They get a cardboard box and put the egg inside. Then they put the box next to the radiator in the kitchen.



GLOSSARY

- **hugs:** puts her arms around in a friendly way
- **museum:** place with lots of very old and precious objects
- **radiator:** heater, usually fixed to a wall (see page 11)

Aunt Elizabeth comes to check the egg every day but nothing happens. Then, one day while the children are having their breakfast they hear a noise.

‘Look at the egg!’ shouts Helen. ‘Something’s happening. It’s cracking.’

Slowly a long beak appears. ‘It’s a bird,’ says Roger.

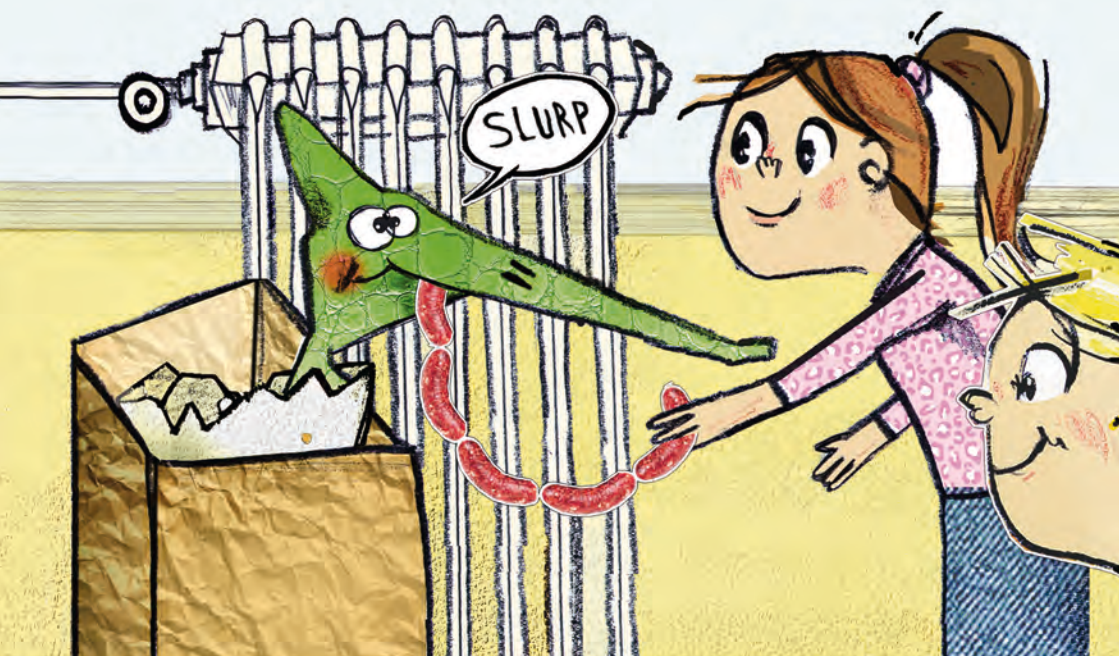
‘No, it isn’t,’ answers Helen. ‘It hasn’t got any feathers.’

‘Of course it’s a bird, stupid. Baby birds haven’t got feathers.’

The animal opens its beak.

‘Let’s give it a sausage,’ says Roger.

Helen gives a sausage to the animal. The animal is very hungry. It eats five sausages, two cooked tomatoes and six pieces of toast.



- **beak:** hard pointed part of a bird’s mouth
- **toast:** grilled bread
- **cracking:** breaking

A month later the family are having dinner.
'That thing's growing very fast,' says Mum.
'And it's always very hungry,' answers Helen. 'Roger thinks that it's a bird, but I don't think so. It still hasn't got any feathers.'
'What does Aunt Elizabeth say?' asks Mum.
'I don't know, she's away on another trip' and she isn't coming back for a few weeks.'
'Let's check what it is,' Dad says and gets up.

At that moment the animal spreads its wings, flies over to the table and grabs Dad's fish. The children laugh. Mum is not so happy. 'Get off the table!' she shouts.
Dad goes to his computer.
'Hey, come and look! I know what it is! It's a pterodactyl.'
'A pterodactyl?' shout the children.
'Yes, they lived a long, long time ago. They're a type of dinosaur. Pterodactyls can fly.'
'Yes, we know that, dad.' say the children and laugh.
Dad sits down at the table. 'Where's my fish?' he asks.
'Look at Dacty, Dad. He's got it' Helen says.
'Now he's got a name,' says Mum. 'Dacty sounds nice. It suits him.'

GLOSSARY



- **grabs:** takes quickly
- **it suits him:** it is right for him
- **spreads:** opens wide
- **trip:** journey



YUMMY!

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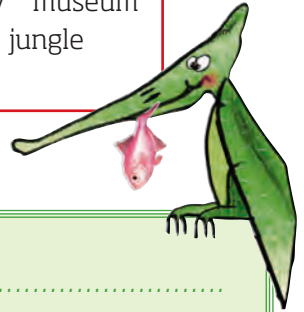
After Reading

- 1   Talk about Dacty. Ask and answer questions about Dacty using the words below.

Has Dacty got any feathers?

No, he hasn't.

feathers beak wing bandage fly museum
warm weather see in the dark jungle
sausages cold weather



- 2 Now fill in the fact file about Dacty.

Name: *Dacty*

Type of Animal:

Description:

.....

.....

Food:

Likes:

Dislikes:

Abilities:

- 3 Write a fact file for your pet or an animal you like.