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# Once Upon A Dragon: Stranger Safety For Kids (and Dragons)



## Synopsis

After a thump-bumping ride on a slide, a little girl and her dragon friend find themselves inside a fairy-tale book. The stories are familiar, and there's lots of silly fun as the dragon is transformed into fairy-tale characters. But danger lurks in the form of strangers -- including the hungry wolf from "Little Red Riding Hood" and Snow White's evil stepmother. And it's up to the girl to keep an eye on the dragon, who walks alone through deep dark woods and takes treats from people he doesn't know. Little by little, the girl teaches her irrepressible friend to be careful about strangers. The winning combination of fairy-tale adventure and concrete safety information -- including the Dragon's Stranger Safety Rhyme and the checklist of rules at the end of the book -- provide the perfect starting point for discussions with children about stranger safety.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 820L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Kids Can Press (March 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1442059060

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ASIN: 1553379691

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 0.2 x 10.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #155,594 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Health > Safety](#) #362 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Dragons](#) #6957 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals](#)

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

Kindergarten-Grade 3 — In this breezy rhyming text, a little girl and her dragon friend enter a fairy-tale world and meet up with villains such as the big bad wolf, the queen from Snow White, and the fox from The Gingerbread Boy. In each instance, the stranger attempts to entice the girl and her friend to go somewhere with them, or to eat something. While the dragon sometimes wants to give in, the child is always adamant, such as when the queen attempts to give it an apple.

Dragon! –/You don't know it's safe; it could make you quite sick./Don't fall for that evil Queen's horrible trick. The book also shows children how seemingly helpful strangers, like the footmen from Cinderella, shouldn't be trusted if they don't know them. The illustrations depicting the different fairy-tale characters help move the text along and allow younger readers to identify the stories. This is a solid addition to most collections, and a wonderful title to include in a safety kit or bibliography.

–Lisa Gangemi Kropp, Middle Country Public Library, Centereach, NY

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PreS-Gr. 2. Dealing with strangers is the topic of this Canadian picture book created by the writer and the illustrator of *No Dragons for Tea: Fire Safety for Kids (and Dragons)* (1999). A wild ride down a twisty slide propels a girl and her pal (a dragon) into a land of fairy tales. There the dragon, whose dress and appearance magically change as it portrays various characters (Red Riding Hood, the Gingerbread Man, Cinderella), falls for one storybook ruse after another. The girl protects her foolhardy green friend from pitfalls such as taking advice from a wolf, accepting candy offered at the gingerbread house, and getting into a stranger's carriage. Children familiar with the original tales will enjoy identifying the old favorites referenced here. The final pages advise parents on how to discuss "stranger safety" with children. As in the earlier book, rhymed couplets carry the story along nicely, while colorful illustrations offer action and occasional bits of humor at the hapless dragon's expense.

Carolyn Phelan

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Perfect for our sensitive 3 year old. It has all the messages without being scary. We had gotten the Bernstein Bears one but felt that it was better for older kids. It's fun to read too.

My kid is overly friendly with strangers and in this day and age it scares me as a parent. I purchased this book, hoping it would help with the stranger danger concept without totally scaring her. It is a super cute story about a dragon and a boy who get lost in the dragon's book and each page brings new dangers that they face and what you should do. My child loves this book. We've probably read it about 25 times since we received it.

This is a great book for teaching stranger danger to young students. The students were able to make the connection with all of the fairy tale stories and how the characters were in danger as they

met strangers. I have used this book for a couple of years for teaching health class to Kindergarten and 1st grades. It is a fun and effective way to help students understand the rules of safety from strangers.

This book is so wonderful. We are planning on buying some more of this series! Great rhymes and very cute illustrations! I especially like it that it wasn't written in a manner that would scare children (like I have seen in some other "stranger" books).

Did not enjoy the story. Wish I would have checked it out from library first. Will be going into garage sale for .50

My children are age 2.5 and 5.5 and this book is appropriate for both of them. It achieves the right balance of not too scary but teaching about strangers. I do agree it's not totally clear how the kids identify the safe stranger at the end but I think that is an easy way to lead into a conversation with your own children. The book is also fun to read and not too verbose so holds kid's attention well.

This book is PERFECT for dealing with a potentially scary topic with preschoolers and elementary children. It puts 'stranger safety' principles in fairy tale settings, keeps kids engaged with the storyline and provides an easy transition for parents to open a discussion with their children. We LOVE it because it deals with, not only the obvious stranger safety issues, but the not-so-obvious 'feeling' kids might get when they aren't quite sure about a situation - and it emphasizes that the 'not-so-sure' feeling is ok and they need to trust it. Have recommended this book widely and our library just purchased it as well. Try the other 'Dragon Safety' books too. They are good, but this one is the best!

This whole series is great for kids. They love the stories, as do their parents, and they teach great lessons in a memorable way. I have bought them for all of my grandchildren.

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