

Old MacDonald Had a Dragon

By Ken Baker



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Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O! And on that farm he had...a dragon? The animals aren't happy that there's a dragon on the farm. But Old MacDonald likes his dragon...until it starts swallowing up the animals! Can Old MacDonald save his farm before it's too late? Find out in this silly adaptation of the popular song. Christopher Santoro's brilliant artwork combines with Ken Baker's fun text for a story sure to tickle kids' funny bones.



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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

The farmer who starts singing the old familiar song has a dragon. At the mention of the giant beast, the traditional barnyard residents start complaining. The cow is first, "I've got a beef with you." She threatens to leave if the dragon stays and is swallowed up by the fire-breathing creature. The pig, the sheep, and the dog meet the same fate. Up to this point, the farmer has defended his new addition, but losing the dog makes him confront the dragon, and he is also swallowed. Inside the beast's stomach, the farmer and all the animals start a rousing chorus of "E-I-E-I-Os," and they are all ejected. "Terrible tummy ache', howled the dragon." He takes off and leaves the farmer, the animals, and the song back in its standard form. There is a lot of clever wordplay here. After the dragon swallows the sheep, he quips, "Marvelous mutton." The digitally created illustrations feature expressive faces and plenty of action. The background is light blue in all the scenes, but the pictures and the characters are varied in size throughout the story, which makes the journey fun. Children are sure to enjoy this amusing twist on the classic song.—School Library Journal

Review

"Old MacDonald had a farm, E-I-E-I-O." That's the beginning of the traditional verse in which farm animals are introduced, one by one. But when Farmer MacDonald acquires a dragon, all the farm animals are alarmed and disappear, one by one. Utah author Ken Baker gives a new twist to an old nonsense song with a sudden conclusion that will assuredly bring giggles and demands to "read it again!" The clever script is laced with puns, such as the cow having a "beef" with Old MacDonald, who retorts that the animal is "bull-headed." Reading aloud is a must to catch the delicious alliterations in which the "dragon wilted its wings and waddled away," or "With a lick of its lips and a flash of fire, it flapped its wings and flew away...." Flashy, bold, digitally rendered cartoon-like artwork captures the humor and carries the story through a fresh new version that will delight young listeners who may want to sing and act out the whole adventure.

--Marilou Sorensen *Deseret News*, October 6, 2012

About the Author

Ken Baker is also the author of *Cow Can't Sleep*, illustrated by Steve Gray, and *Brave Little Monster*, illustrated by Geoffrey Hayes. Ken grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and now lives in Utah with his family. He enjoys attending writers' workshops and conferences and presenting his books at schools. Learn more: www.kenbakerbooks.com

Christopher Santoro has illustrated more than thirty children's books, including a number of picture books written by Dom DeLuise. Christopher's work has been honored by the Society of Illustrators, the American Institute of Graphic Arts, the American Library Association, and *The New Yorker*. His most recent book is *Grandpappy Snippy Snappies* by Lynn Plourde. He lives in Key West, Florida.

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