

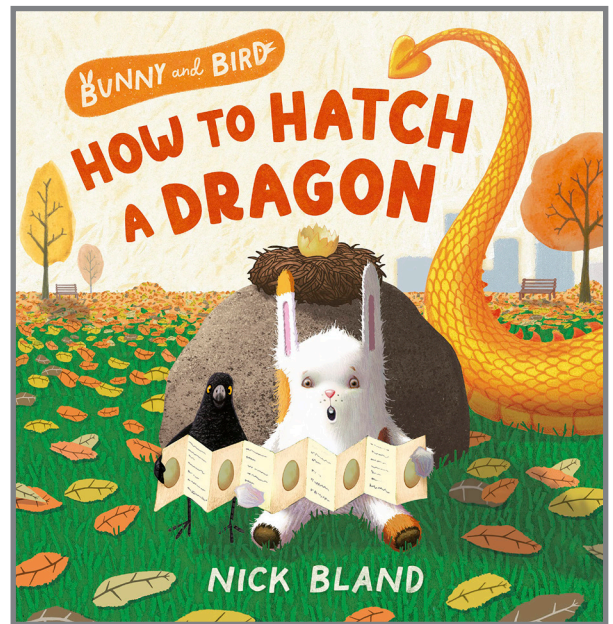
# How to Hatch a Dragon (Bunny and Bird #1)

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR  
**NICK BLAND**

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Bunny and Bird are best friends. When Bunny buys Bird a present, Bird is surprised to receive an egg. But it's no ordinary egg. It's a dragon's egg.

While the egg hatches, the two friends learn that if the dragon is blue, it will make a fantastic pet. But if it's yellow, they're in trouble . . .

## ABOUT THE CREATOR

Nick Bland is one of Australia's bestselling authors and illustrators. Born on a farm in Victoria's Yarra Valley, his creativity bloomed when he moved to the bush at the age of six. He loved to draw and write, but didn't know how to bring those two loves together until he got a job at a bookshop. He spent the next couple of years reading every picture book that hit the shelves and began discovering his style as a storyteller and illustrator. Nick's books include the hugely popular The Very Cranky Bear series, *The Runaway Hug* (with Freya Blackwood) and *The Wrong Book*, and his award-winning creations have been published around the world. He lives in tropical Darwin, where he works full time as an author and illustrator.

## STUDY NOTES

- On the front cover we can see Bunny and Bird, but can you see another creature?
- Read the blurb on the back. With the information from the blurb, and what you have noticed on the front cover, what do you think might happen in the book?
- On the cover and throughout the book, there are three colours that are used the most, what are they?
  - When the grass and the leaves are these colours, what time of year is it?
  - Why are the leaves on the ground?
  - As a class, read or listen to this article <<https://www.kidsnews.com.au/explainers/why-do-leaves-change-colour-and-fall-in-autumn/news-story/ac5be19122c59244979c506a81d7de4a>> on KidsNews about why leaves change colour and fall. Answer the following questions after reading/listening to the article:
    - What are two reasons why trees lose their leaves in autumn?
    - What makes leaves look green?
    - Are eucalypts deciduous or evergreen?
    - Where do *Nothofagus cunninghamii*, *gunnii* and *moorei* live and what are they?
    - How many leaves does a tree have?

- On spread 7, the framing and positioning of the illustration changes; we go from seeing Bunny and Bird front on (they are looking at the reader) to seeing them side on.
  - Why do you think the creator, Nick Bland, has made this change?
  - Nick Bland has included a shadow from the dragon. What does this indicate?
  - Why can we no longer see all of the dragon?
- On spread 13, the scene takes up both pages. Bunny and Bird look quite small, while all of the dragon can no longer be seen on the page. What does this tell us about the size of the dragon?
  - The left side of the spread looks quite different to the right side of the spread, how are they different? Do you think this might explain why Bunny and Bird haven't noticed what's happened behind them?
- After you have read the book together, can you identify:
  - When things start to go wrong for Bunny and Bird (even if they don't realise it!)?
  - What is the clue that something is about to happen?
  - What does the dragon feel about the instructions that Bunny and Bird are reading out? How do you know this?
  - What time of day is on the last spread? Which techniques are being used to show this?