

The Further Adventures of
COLTALE THE DRAGON



Dear parents and carers,

Spending just 5 minutes a day reading to your child, will help them develop social and emotional skills and become confident, happy learners.

For more tips, book suggestions and fun activities, head to our social media pages (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) and look for the Coltale blue dragon on SqMileFamilies.

Happy reading!



COLTALE
is a very friendly dragon.
He has yellow horns, yellow spikes
and big blue and yellow wings
to fly around.

COLTALE
has big blue ears with
which to hear you.
Watch out!
He breathes fire.

Coltale at the North Pole

One morning, Coltale awoke feeling a little unwell. At home he sneezed. It made a funny sound. The noise was “Achoo!”

Coltale felt thirsty and hungry. He flew to “Peggy Penguin’s Shop” in the North Pole to get his favourite food - frozen fish fingers. However, Peggy didn’t have them.



“I didn’t know fish had fingers,” said Peggy. Instead, Peggy gave Coltale a fish frozen in a great block of ice.

“Can I eat it now?” asked Coltale.

“Wait for the ice to melt,” said Peggy.

Coltale couldn’t wait, opened his mouth to blow a flame at the frozen fish. But he sneezed, so extra flames came from his nose and the fish was completely burnt.

“That’s a bad cold,” said Peggy, “take this lemon and make yourself a hot drink.”

Coltale took the lemon, flew home, and made a hot lemon drink. It didn’t taste as nice as fish fingers, but it made him feel better.



Coltale's flying adventure

One breezy day Coltale noticed four balloons floating in the sky. The balloons were red, orange, blue and green. Coltale started to fly after the balloons, but the breeze blew the balloons just out of reach.

Coltale felt tired after chasing the balloons for miles. He took a rest in a fluffy white cloud. Bertie, a multi-coloured butterfly was also resting in the cloud.



Bertie told Coltale to stop chasing the balloons and “play the waiting game”. Coltale didn’t understand, so, Bertie looked at the balloons in the distance and said, “just wait.”

Sure enough, the wind blew the balloons towards the clouds. When they drifted closer Coltale grabbed the balloon strings in his hand and thanked Bertie for his help.

“Where are you taking the balloons?” asked Bertie.

“To my friend’s birthday party” said Coltale as he flew away.

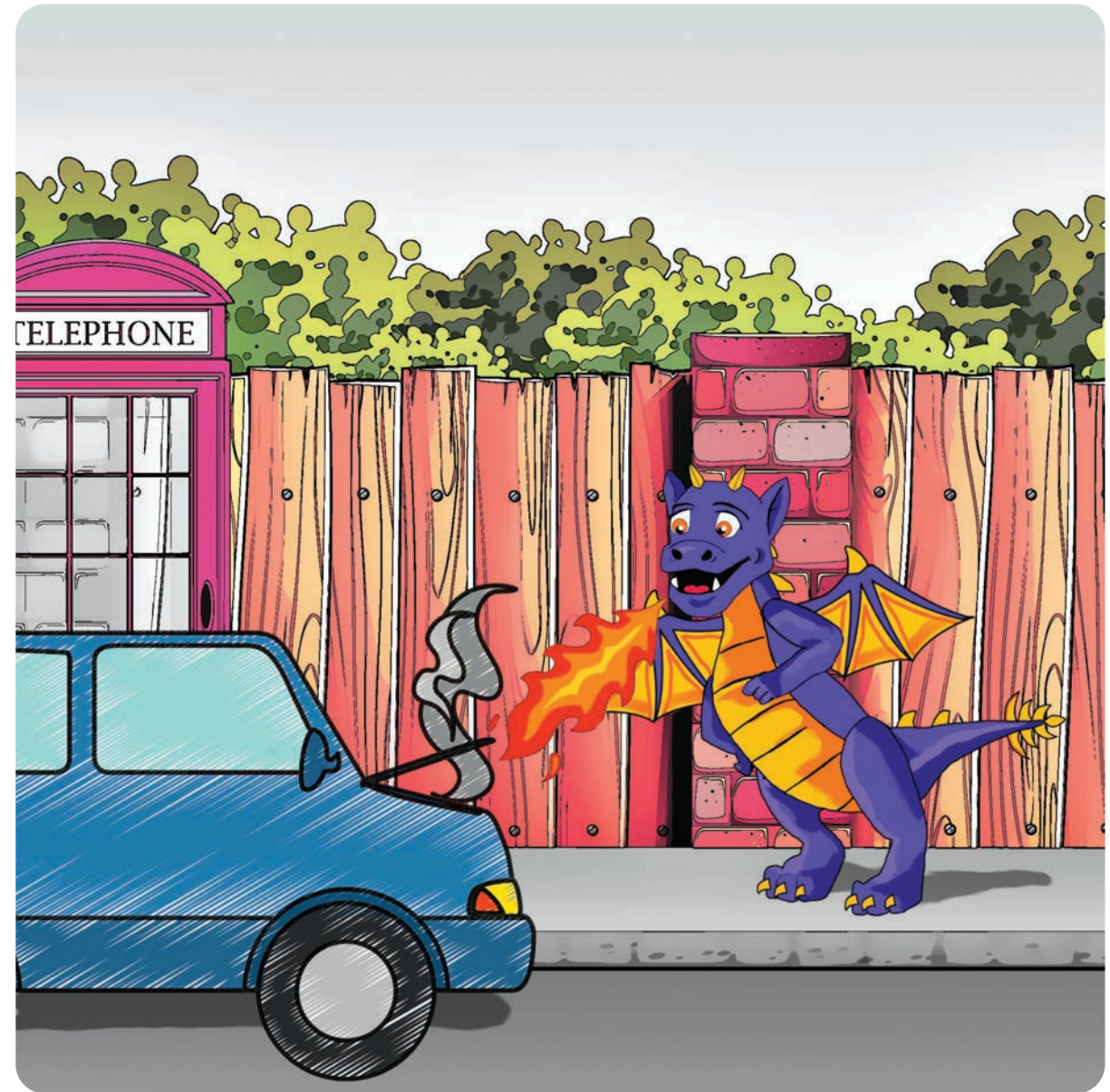


Coltale's Fire

One frosty morning Coltale saw a man trying to fix his car.

"It's so cold my engine won't start," said the man.

Coltale blew fire onto the engine, but it was too much, and firefighters arrived to put out the flames. Afterwards the Fireman told Coltale, "don't be so helpful!"



Later Coltale went to a party.

“Please light the candles on the birthday cake, Coltale?” the children asked.

Coltale blew flames, but again it was too much fire. Neville the Camel ran in and blew out the flames. Afterwards Neville told Coltale, “don’t be so helpful”.

The next day, Coltale went to Grandma’s cottage. Grandma couldn’t make Coltale’s favourite drink as she couldn’t blow fire. Again, Coltale wanted to help, and this time carefully blew a small flame onto the logs in the fireplace.

“Don’t ever stop being so helpful” she said, and Coltale felt great as he drank his hot chocolate.



Coltale meets an alien

One afternoon Coltale went out to get a lovely cup of hot chocolate. In the shop queue he saw a strange looking purple creature. It was an alien with a square body, only one eye and two teeth. He was wearing multi-coloured wellington boots. How strange!

“I’m Gilbar,” said the alien, “I’ve come here from the planet Dilious for the best Babycinno on Earth.”

“I’ve never tasted a Babycinno,” said Coltale.



Gilbar ordered two Babyccinos, drank one in a single gulp and offered the other to Coltale.

“It’s nice frothy milk,” said Coltale after taking a sip, “but it’s missing something.”

He poured some of his own drink into a saucer for Gilbar to try.

“Ummm!” said Gilbar, “What’s this delicious added ingredient?”

“Chocolate,” answered Coltale, “it’s nice hot or cold”

“Thank you for introducing me to chocolate,” said Gilbar as he immediately went to order two more cups for himself and Coltale.



Coltale scores the winning goal

Coltale loves football, but when he kicks the ball hard, the claws on his feet burst the ball. So, the London City United coach, kept picking Coltale as a substitute for the team.

“It’s costing the team too much money,” explained Mr Tate.



When Coltale's team made it to the cup final, Coltale started again as a substitute. With no goals scored and 5 minutes left, Mr Tate told Coltale to go onto the pitch.

"What about bursting the ball?" asked Coltale.
"Go win the cup!" Mr Tate replied.

The ball dropped in front of Coltale, and he hit it as hard as he could, scrunching up his toes to protect the ball. It flew past the goalkeeper and through the net as well!

London City United had won the cup, but as the team celebrated, Mr Tate was thinking about how football nets cost even more to replace than footballs.



Coltale goes to the museum

Coltale was excited to go to the museum and he didn't know what to expect when he went inside.

"Let me show you around Coltale," said Mr. Morris who runs the museum.

He showed Coltale around many rooms filled with interesting artefacts and exhibits.

Then Coltale went into the Dinosaur Room, where there were many huge specimens on display. As Coltale gazed at the dinosaurs he realised that they looked a lot like him.



“You are probably related to them,” said Mr Morris.

Then Coltale saw something shiny under the feet of one of the dinosaurs. It was a gold coin which looked very old. He showed Mr Morris the coin and he told Coltale it was very valuable.

“Thank you for finding this, Coltale, you can have free membership for life,” said Mr Morris.

Coltale was so happy he could return to the museum to see his old relatives.



Coltale goes running

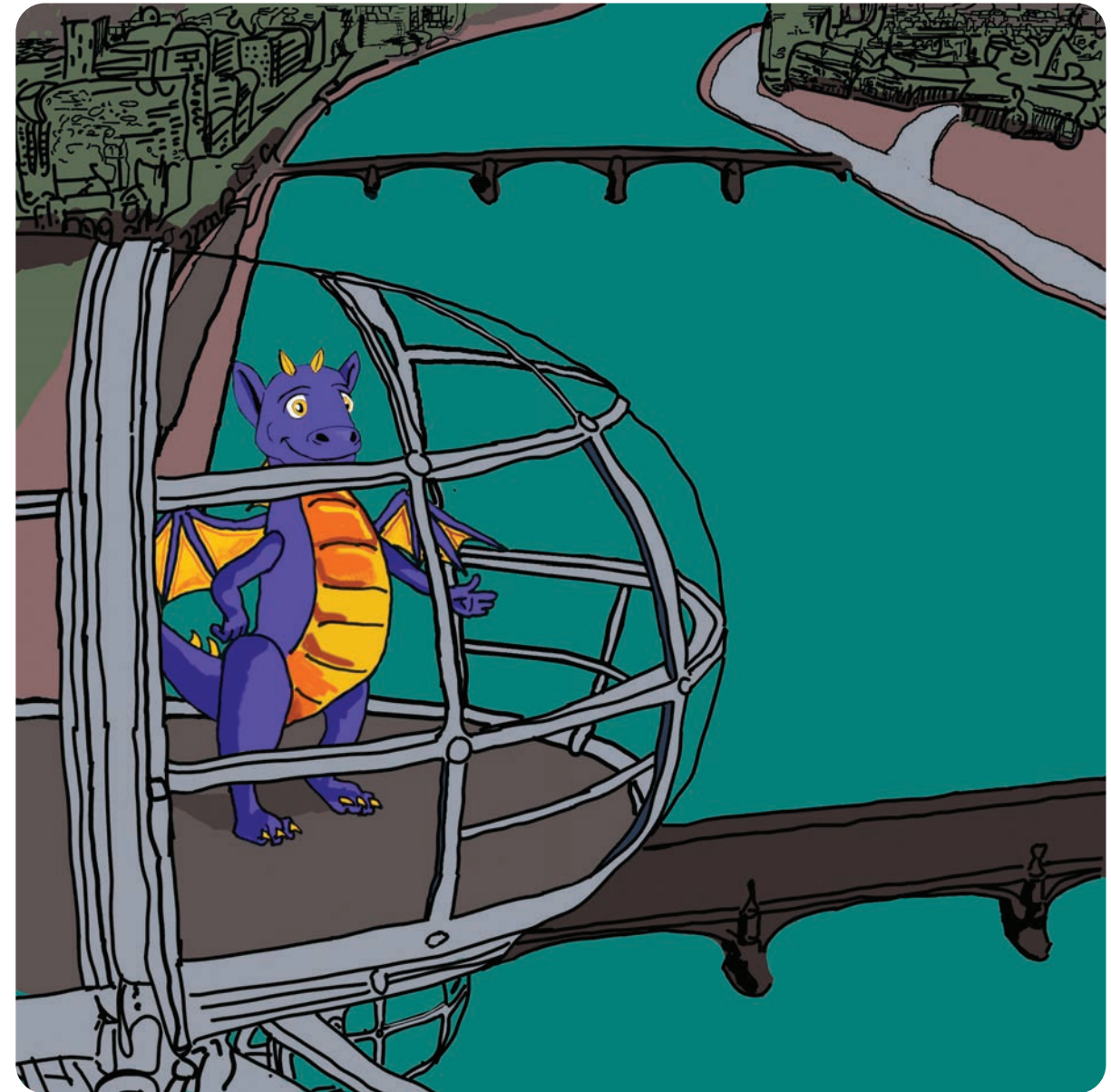
One day Coltale went for a run as he loves being active. As he crossed the bridge the people of South London started to wave and shout hello to Coltale. Everyone was so friendly as he ran, that Coltale imagined he was part of the annual London Marathon, where the crowds cheer on the runners.



Then Coltale saw what looked like a massive, big bicycle wheel on the riverside. Coltale stopped and saw it was called the London Eye. He climbed into a pod and the view was amazing as it went higher.

“I can see my house from here,” thought Coltale.

When the pod revolved back to the ground Coltale wanted to go around again. Until he remembered he still had to run back home.



Coltale goes to the park

One day Coltale went to the park and saw his friend Freddie. Coltale sat on the swing and was soon swinging higher and faster than his friend.

“Weeeee!” screamed Coltale.

“Be careful, my Mum says you can have too much fun,” warned Freddie.

Then Coltale climbed to the top of the slide.

“Weeeee!” shouted Coltale as he repeatedly slid down to the ground. He even went down on his back, headfirst!

“Be careful,” again Freddie warned.



Then Coltale climbed onto the roundabout, Freddie gave it a push and it spun slowly.

“Faster!” begged Coltale.

So, Freddie gave the roundabout a big push.

“Weeeee!” said Coltale.

But as the world spun around him, Coltale began to feel ill and asked Freddie to stop the roundabout. It took a moment for Coltale to feel better.

“Your Mum is right,” said Coltale, “you can have too much fun.”



Coltale the builder

One day Coltale went to visit his friend. Freddie has multi-coloured toy bricks and Coltale loves building things.

“Hi Coltale,” said Freddie and Coltale looked up to see his friend’s face peering over a balcony.

“Take the lift to flat 4,” Freddie said.

Coltale doesn’t like lifts as sometimes they are not big enough for his wings. So, Coltale picked up ice lolly sticks, pieces of wood and string lying near the entrance and started to build a ladder to climb up to Freddie’s balcony.



“What are you doing?” Freddie shouted down.
“Testing my new ladder,” said Coltale.
He placed his foot on the first rung of his ladder and it went straight through the lolly sticks. Then Coltale had another idea and flew up to Freddie’s balcony.

Soon they were happily playing with building bricks and Coltale made a house with steps leading up to the top windows.



Coltale goes to school

Coltale thinks the best part of the school day is when the teacher reads a story. Coltale loves hearing stories and tales. Coltale wondered what story the teacher would tell today.

Coltale liked stories about superheroes, fairy tales and adventures with lots of pictures. If today's story was good Coltale would ask the teacher if he could a take copy of the book home.



When the teacher took out the book to read Coltale had a shock when he saw a picture of someone familiar on the cover. It was his own face!

“Today children,” said the teacher, “I’m going to read this book about Coltale’s adventures”.

Coltale felt a bit embarrassed but also proud as the teacher started reading and the children laughed at the stories. Coltale decided to ask the teacher for a copy of his book to take home with him in his bag.



Did you spot?

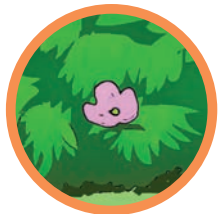
Look back through the book and see if you can find all these things!



A lamp post



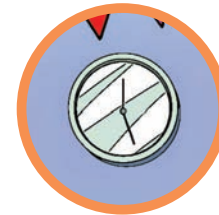
A football



A pink flower



A coin



A clock



A wellington boot



A butterfly



A North Pole sign

What else can you spot?

Talk Together, Learn Together: Coltale's Top Tips

Did you know...

...on average, a child between 18 months and 2 years learns eight new words a day

Try and have a special time, sharing stories with your child each day. Find somewhere quiet, away from noise, TV and mobile phones and cuddle up. Your child can hear you better when it is quiet. This will help them to become a good listener and a good talker.

5 minutes sharing a story every day can make a real difference to your child's vocabulary. Why not make sound effects and funny faces as you read? It will help the story come to life.

Encourage your child to choose their own book for you to read. This will help them develop a love of reading.

Point to characters in the book and name them. Then wait for your child to respond.

Don't hesitate to read the same book again and again. Familiar books are comforting and this will help your child to understand how stories work.

If you read a new word your child might not know, explain in simple words what it means.

Read stories in your home language. This will help your child's brain to grow.

Take your child's dummy out when they are talking. Dummies get in the way and stop them talking clearly.

Play "talking tennis" with your child. Say something to them and then give them lots of time to respond. It helps to count to 10 in your head before speaking again. This is how they learn to take turns.

Talk to your child as much as possible. Talk when you are playing or doing everyday things like shopping, having a bath, nappy changing or eating. It doesn't matter if you say the same things over and over again, this is how they learn.



Inspired by the stories of the children from the City of London.

With thanks to children and families from the City Child and Family Centre, Smithfield House Nursery, Hatching Dragons Nursery, City Child Nursery, Barbican Playgroup and the Aldgate School.

Illustrated by Paul Ricketts

Don't forget to visit your local library where you can borrow books for free and take part in rhyme and story times.

Barbican Children's Library

Barbican Centre
London EC2Y 8DS

Shoe Lane Library

Hill House, 1 Little New Street
London EC4A 3JR

Artizan Street Library

Library & Community Centre
1 Artizan St, London E1 7AF

