

## FEEDING THE FIRES

### Teacher’s Guide

*Grades 7-12*

#### Subject Areas

- Language Arts
- Environmental Science
- Social Studies
- Indigenous Studies

#### Content Warning

Contains themes of:

- Environmental disaster
- Family loss
- Substance abuse (referenced)

#### Curriculum Connections

##### *1. Language Arts*

- Literary analysis
- Character development
- Multiple perspectives
- Symbolism and metaphor
- Genre study (eco-fantasy)

##### *2. Environmental Science*

- Fire ecology
- Climate change
- Forest management
- Ecosystem interactions
- Environmental activism

##### *3. Social Studies*

- Indigenous knowledge systems
- Contemporary environmental policy
- Social media and activism
- Cultural heritage
- Community response to disasters

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### 4. Indigenous Studies

- Traditional ecological knowledge
- Cultural identity
- Indigenous fire management
- Intergenerational trauma
- Cultural reconnection

### Pre-Reading Activities

#### 1. Background Knowledge

- Survey students about local wildfire knowledge
- Research Indigenous fire management practices
- Discuss current environmental activism
- Explore dragon mythology across cultures

#### 2. Key Vocabulary

- Ecological
- Fire suppression
- Indigenous
- Traditional knowledge
- Draconalia
- Fire break
- Ecosystem
- Heritage
- Activism

#### 3. Essential Questions

- How do humans impact natural systems?
- What role does traditional knowledge play in modern problems?
- How do personal and cultural identity intersect?
- What responsibilities do we have to the environment?

### Chapter-by-Chapter Teaching Guide

#### Chapters 1-3

*Focus: Introduction to dragons and setting*

Discussion Questions:

1. Why have the dragons returned to Earth?
2. How does the author establish mood?
3. What environmental issues are introduced?

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### Activities:

- Map the dragons’ locations
- Research real-world fire events
- Create character profiles

### *Chapters 4-6*

*Focus: Kyle’s introduction and family dynamics*

### Discussion Questions:

1. How does Kyle’s relationship with his brother affect him?
2. What symbolism appears in Mars’ introduction?
3. How does the author build tension?

### Activities:

- Compare/contrast Kyle and John
- Analyze dragon symbolism
- Write diary entries from Kyle’s perspective

### **Cross-Curricular Activities**

#### *Science: Fire Ecology Study*

- Research local fire history
- Study fire’s role in ecosystems
- Investigate climate change impacts

### Project Ideas:

- Create ecosystem models
- Design fire management plans
- Research local species affected by fires

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### *Social Studies: Indigenous Knowledge*

- Study local Indigenous history
- Research traditional practices
- Examine cultural preservation

#### Project Ideas:

- Interview community elders
- Create cultural heritage presentations
- Research local land management history

### *Language Arts: Creative Writing*

- Alternative perspectives
- Character development
- Environmental description

#### Project Ideas:

- Write additional dragon songs
- Create character backstories
- Develop environmental journalism pieces

## **Assessment Strategies**

### *1. Written Assignments*

- Character analysis essays
- Environmental impact reports
- Creative writing pieces
- Research papers

### *2. Project-Based Learning*

- Environmental campaign design
- Multimedia presentations
- Community action plans
- Digital storytelling

### *3. Group Activities*

- Debate environmental policies
- Create collaborative presentations
- Design awareness campaigns
- Develop community projects

## Differentiation Strategies

### 1. Reading Support

- Audio versions
- Guided reading questions
- Vocabulary previews
- Reading partnerships

### 2. Writing Support

- Writing frames
- Graphic organizers
- Peer editing
- Multiple formats

### 3. Content Access

- Visual aids
- Multimedia resources
- Simplified texts
- Translation support

## Resources

### 1. Websites

- Environmental organizations
- Indigenous resources
- Fire management agencies
- Youth activism groups

### 2. Books

- Related environmental texts
- Indigenous perspectives
- Youth activism guides
- Scientific resources

### 3. Multimedia

- Documentary suggestions
- Educational videos
- Online simulations
- Interactive resources

## Feeding The Fires – Teacher’s Guide

### Parent/Guardian Connection

#### *Communication*

- Reading schedule
- Discussion guides
- Activity involvement
- Resource sharing

#### *Support*

- Environmental discussions
- Cultural sensitivity
- Community connections
- Action opportunities

*Note: This guide can be modified based on class needs, time constraints, resource availability, local context, and current events.*