

Dragons are the stuff of dreams. They spark our imagination with their power and majesty, and we wonder what it would be like if we discovered one nestled among the reeds, or perched on a branch, or soaring through the mist.

So we are delighted that dragons are the theme of this summer's reading program for children. We have no doubt that "Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds" will appeal to anyone who enjoys fantasy, adventure, and imagination. And just to make sure that we reach the broadest audience possible, we've thrown in unicorns, magic, princesses, fairies, and even Harry Potter.

There are three basic parts to the summer reading program at all Deschutes Public Libraries. The first part is the reading. Any child, from birth through age 11, who completes three hours of reading or listening to books and fills out a purple dragon coupon, receives a free book of their choice from hundreds of different titles available at the

libraries. Each additional red coupon qualifies the child for the weekly prize drawing of a puppet and an accompanying book.

Choices include a gryphon, a Pegasus, unicorn hats, and of course, several different dragons.

The second part of the program are the special events, "Dreams 'n Dares." We have Arthur Atsma, magician, performing at each of the branch libraries June 28 and June 29. He is

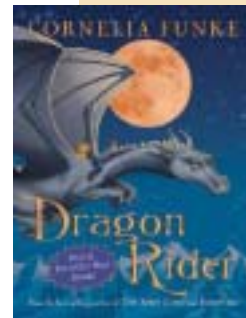
hilarious and inspiring, encouraging his audience to read in order to learn anything they want to know, including magic.

The Traveling Lantern Theatre will be performing "Sword in the Stone" at the libraries on July 5 and 6. This highly interactive program involves two actors, many costume changes, and lots of audience participation.

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Is there any creature that creates more of a sense of wonder and awe than a dragon? Think of the memorable dragons we know and love through children's literature:

The Dragon Rider by



Cornelius Funke, is a new epic novel for readers who like thick books, about a silver dragon, a brownie, and an orphan boy on a quest.

The Reluctant Dragon,

created by Kenneth Grahame, who also happens to be the author of my all-time most favorite book, *Wind in the Willows*. This ageless story, illustrated by the creator of Winnie the Pooh, Ernest H. Shepard, tells of a boy who knows that the dragon in the cave is neither fierce nor frightening, but how can he convince St. George, the dragon killer?

Falcon's Egg by Luli Gray tells of Falcon who prides herself on being a very responsible girl, but who learns she must turn to others for help when she finds a very unusual egg in the park.

