

## Book Talk

### Fun with Neem *The Half-Boy*

Read the story together with your child. Then talk about it together. There is a lot to talk about.

“What do you like best in this story? Why?”

Ask your child again each time you read it. His answers may change.

You can also ask:

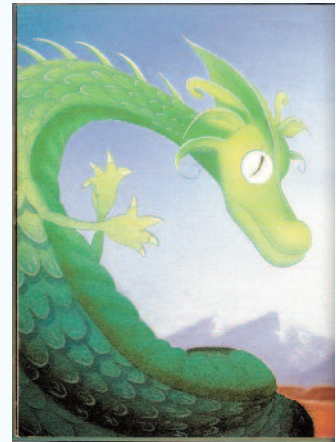
“The queen forgets to eat the whole apple. Why is this important?”

“What is important for you to remember? Did you ever forget something important? What happened?”

“Neem faces a scary dragon. How do you think he feels? Have you ever faced something scary? What happened?”

“At first Neem thinks he must drive away the dragon to get the special medicine. Why doesn't he?”

“Do you think Neem is clever? Why or why not? Do you think the dragon is clever – why or why not?”



Questions like these have no wrong answers! They help your children think about the story in their own way. They can help children enjoy sharing their ideas. They can teach children how to talk about books.

More to explore...

“Neem becomes a whole boy. Do you think he learns something too? What do you think he learns?”

“Do you think the ending is a good one? Why or why not?”

Your child may ask you to read the story many times. Go ahead. You may both find something new each time.



## Other Fun Activities

**Retell the Story** with your child. It helps him remember it. If he learns the story by heart, its lessons will come to mind and help him for a long, long time. You can use some or all of these activities to help tell the story:

◆ Use pictures in the book. ◆ Help your child draw pictures from the story. ◆ Tape them low on the wall so he can see them. ◆ Make a paper bag puppet for each character—or make stick puppets with cardboard and sticks. For directions, please visit: <http://www.iceeducation.org/teachingProjects.html>

Make a simple drawing of a boy. Ask your child to decorate it. Help him fold it in half.

In time, you and your child may retell the story without pictures or puppets.

**Let's Pretend** Act out the story. You and your children can take turns playing the fairies, the dragon, Neem, the Queen, and other people in the book.

### Play Picture Memory

1. Cut heavy white paper into 10 cards of the same size.
2. Let your child pick five things from the book. Then draw each one twice. For example: 2 apples, 2 fairies, 2 dragons, 2 half-boys, 2 Queens.
3. Print the name of what you draw below each picture. Then mix up the cards and put them face down.
4. Let your child turn over two cards. If they don't match, turn them face down again.
5. Now it's your turn to try. See how many pairs you can find together.

If this is too difficult, begin with fewer pairs of cards and add more as your child gets better at it. You can add even more pairs later too.

## In your home and out in the World

At times your child may disagree with others or have problems with them. You can remind her of this story. "How do Neem and the Dragon solve their problems? How do they settle their differences? Do you like what they did? Why or why not? Can this help you with your problem? Why or why not?"

**Letter Hunt** Neem starts with an "N". Help your child find other words that start with "N". You can look in the book. You can look at labels on boxes and cans. You can look at street names or signs on stores.

**Visit Your Library** Your child may want to read other stories about dragons and fairies. You can find them at the library. After you read one with your child, you can talk about it and compare it to Neem the Half-Boy. "How are the stories the same? How are they different?"



For more about Hoopoe Books, visit: [www.hoopoekids.com](http://www.hoopoekids.com)

For more activities and to learn about ICE, visit: [www.iceeducation.org](http://www.iceeducation.org)