

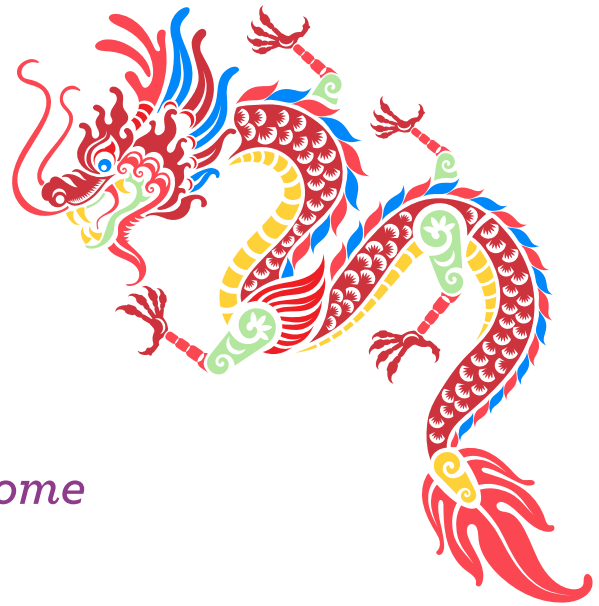
Drawn Together

by Minh Lê,

Illustrated by Dan Santat

Ideas for enjoying the book at home

Created by Pam Spycher



About the Book:

This is a beautifully told and illustrated story of a boy and his grandfather who struggle to communicate, and this leads to confusion, frustration, and silence. But when they sit down to draw together, magic happens. They discover they share a love of art and storytelling, and they work together to build an imaginary world even words can't describe.

Young children who have a hard time communicating with grandparents or other relatives across divides of language, culture, and age differences will be inspired to find creative ways to bond. They'll also delight in the vibrant artwork and the way much of the story is told through the illustrations.

You can watch the author, Minh Lê, talk about the book and read it aloud on PBS Books Storytime at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9o_4YUF-vw

Jump into Joyful Reading!

Invite your child to share their thinking and ask questions as you enjoy the book together. The main thing is to have fun and enjoy one another's company as you read together. Here are some things you can say and do to create a joyful reading experience for your child.



Before Reading:

- What do you notice about the cover?
- What do you think about the title?
- What do you think we will discover in this book?



While Reading:

- What do you notice in the picture?
- What do you think about what we just read?
- What are you curious about now?



After Reading:







- What did you think about the book?
- How did it make you feel?
- What was your favorite part?
- What do you think the author wanted us to learn from this story?

Turn the page over for creative expression ideas!



Creative Expression Activities

After you read the book, unleash your imagination and creativity! Use the ideas below to choose your own adventure. What other ideas did the book inspire your amazing mind to think of?

 <h2>Creative Writing</h2>	 <h2>Visual and Digital Arts</h2>	 <h2>Kindness and Community</h2>
<p>In this story, the boy and his Grandpa create a new world together, one with imaginary creatures where they are like superheroes. Can you work with a grandparent or an older relative, neighbor, or family friend to write and illustrate a story about an imaginary world? Here are some things to think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does your world look, sound, and feel like? • What are you, the superheroes, doing? • What dangers do you encounter? • How do you help each other to overcome challenges? 	<p>Much of this story is told with pictures, and there are many pages with no words at all. There are lots of ways to tell stories with no words. Now it's time for you to try!</p> <p>Draw or paint a picture, take a photo, or make a collage that tells a story. You might have the story in mind before you start creating, the story might emerge as you're creating, or the story might come to you when you're done.</p> <p>When your artwork is ready to share, find someone to tell your story to. You can even ask someone older to write down the words of your story as you tell it so you have it saved for later.</p>	<p>Do you have a grandparent or other family member you have a hard time communicating with? Can you find a creative way to tell them how much you love them? Here are some ideas you can try out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write a letter telling them about yourself, and ask them to write you a letter. • Ask them to tell you about what their life was like when they were a child. • Ask them to take a nature walk with you, and take turns pointing out things you notice or are curious about. • Ask them if they can teach you how to cook one of their favorite dishes.
 <h2>Mindfulness and Self-Awareness</h2>	 <h2>Music and Movement</h2>	 <h2>Pretend Play</h2>
<p>Sometimes when things are challenging, you can feel frustrated. When this happens, it helps to take some deep breaths and focus on being calm. Ask an adult to help you practice calming your mind and body using these steps:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sit in a comfortable position. 2. Close your eyes or "soften your gaze" by looking down past your nose. 3. Breathe in through your nose slowly, and fill your belly up like a balloon. Breathe out through your mouth slowly, and empty the balloon. 4. Ask an adult to say, "I breathe in and calm my mind. I breathe out and calm my body" as you are breathing. 	<p>In the story, the boy and his Grandpa create an imaginary world where they are superheroes. They work together to battle a creature that's keeping them apart. Now it's your turn to move like a superhero!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask an adult to put on some music that will help you get into a superhero mood. 2. Show with your body how it would look if YOU battled an imaginary creature. 3. Keep doing this as long as you can, and pay attention to what it feels like in your body to be a superhero like the boy and his Grandpa. 	<p>Find a friend or family member, and pretend you are on an adventure in an imaginary world. You can do this inside or outside. Take turns adding new things to your world and doing new things in it. Here are some ideas to spark your imagination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you see or hear in your imaginary world? • Where are you going? • What or who do you encounter? • Are there mountains to climb? • Are there rivers to cross? • Is there danger on your adventure?