



# Resource Guide | for Educators and Audiences

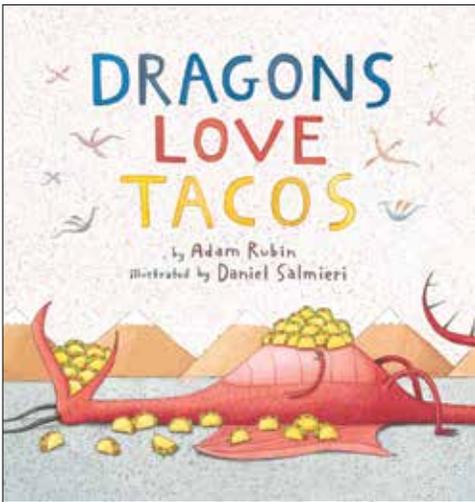
We include information about our production along with creative activities to make connections both before and after the show. For educators, all activities are aligned to the Common Core Standards and North Carolina Essential Standards. Look for the symbol below throughout the guide.



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1.1: Recall the basic parts of a story, such as characters, setting, and events.

## Mainstage production

Recommended for ages 4 and older



By Ernie Nolan

Based on the book by Adam Rubin with illustrations by Daniel Salmieri

Published by Penguin Group

Produced by special arrangement with Plays for Young Audiences

### Director

Melissa Ohlman-Roberge

### Choreographer

Camerin Allgood McKinnon

## Themes explored

traditions, new friends,  
likes and dislikes

## Summary of *Dragons Love Tacos*

Dragons love tacos. They love chicken tacos, beef tacos, great big tacos, and teeny tiny tacos. So, if you want to lure a bunch of dragons to your party, you should definitely serve tacos. Buckets and buckets of tacos. Unfortunately, where there are tacos, there is also salsa. And if a dragon accidentally eats spicy salsa . . . oh, boy. You're in red-hot trouble. This story is the unforgettable tale of new friends and the perfect snack.

## Audience expectations

You may wish to have a discussion with your students about their role as an audience member. Live theatre only exists when an audience is present; their energy and responses directly affect the actors in performance.

Younger audiences should know watching live theatre isn't like watching more familiar forms of entertainment: there is no pause or rewind button, there are no commercials for bathroom breaks, and they can't turn up the volume if someone else is talking. Encourage your students to listen and watch the play intently, so they may laugh and cheer for their favorite characters when it is appropriate. At the end of the play, your applause is an opportunity to thank the actors for their performance. Here are some other guidelines to remember as well:

- Respect others audience members. Stay seated and keep your hands to yourself.
- Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during the performance.
- Photography and recording of the performance is prohibited by copyright law.
- We do not permit food and drinks in the theatre.



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.CU.2: Understand the traditions, roles, and conventions of theatre as an art form. NCES-TheaArts.3.TA.CU.2.1: Illustrate theatre etiquette appropriate to the performance situation.

## The BIG QUESTIONS about the show

1. These dragons LOVE tacos! What are some of your favorite foods and why do you like them?
2. As much as the dragons love tacos, they hate spicy salsa! What happens to the dragons when they eat spicy salsa? What should you do with the spicy salsa if dragons are around?
3. The dragons in the story love to have parties, particularly taco parties. Have you ever planned a party? If you could plan your own party, what would you make sure you have to eat? What foods do you not like and would want to make sure aren't on the list?



CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.(K-5).2: Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media. NCES-TheaArts.2.TA.A.1.2: Analyze the relationships between events, characters, and settings.

## About the author



Adam Rubin is the #1 New York Times best-selling author of ten critically-acclaimed picture books, including the *Those Darn Squirrels* trilogy, *Dragons Love Tacos*, *Dragons Love Tacos 2: The Sequel*, *Secret Pizza Party*, *Robo-Sauce* and *El Chupacabras* (which was short-listed for the

2018 Texas Blue Bonnet award).

He spent ten years working as a creative director in the advertising industry before leaving his day job to write full-time. In between writing projects, he designs and collects optical illusions, puzzles and games. His favorite color is blue, his favorite food is fried chicken, and his favorite animal is the otter. Adam currently lives in Barcelona, Spain.

Photo: © Vanessa Lauren

## Other books by Adam Rubin

[Dragons Love Tacos 2: The Sequel](#)

[High Five](#)

[El Chupacabras](#)

[Robo-Sauce](#)

[Secret Pizza Party](#)

## THEATRE CORNER

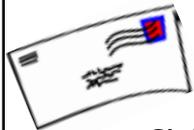
Every play Children's Theatre of Charlotte produces is created by a talented team of designers, technicians, actors and a director. As a class, discuss what you experienced when you saw the performance.

1. Name three things you noticed about the set. Did the set help tell the story? What sort of set would you have designed?
2. What did you like about the costumes? Did the costumes help tell the story? What sort of costumes would you have designed?
3. What role did lighting play in telling the story? How did the lights enhance what you were seeing?
4. Talk about the actors. Were there moments you were so caught up in the story you forgot you were watching a play?
5. Were there any actors who played more than one character? What are some ways you can be the same person but play different characters?



NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.A.1: Analyze literary texts and performances. NCES-TheaArts.(K-5).TA.AE.1.2: Understand how costumes [and technical elements] enhance dramatic play.

For more activities and content surrounding this show, [click here](#) to access Children's Theatre of Charlotte's Pinterest boards.



## Write to Us!

Children's Theatre of Charlotte  
300 E. Seventh St.  
Charlotte, N.C. 28202



CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.(K-5).1: Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

## Recommended Reading

If you enjoyed the show, check out these books at your local Charlotte Mecklenburg library branch. Check availability at [cmlibrary.org](http://cmlibrary.org).

*Dragons Eat Noodles on Tuesdays* by Jon Stahl

*Unicorn Thinks He's Pretty Great* by Bob Shea

*Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs* by Mo Willems

*Llama Destroys the World* by Jonathan Stutzman