

White Mountain Kids Created A Dragon in 1989

By Carol Sletten

Something extraordinary happened during a Summer Reading session at Larson Memorial Library in Lakeside twenty years ago. The children made up their own wonderful story, instead of having one read to them by an adult. I was the guest “writing teacher” that day. But it was the youngsters who truly created *Lindsay the White Mountain Dragon*. They made up the entire tale after having their imaginations sparked with a few simple questions. I asked, “Do you want your story to be about a whale, or a cowboy, or a fairy queen, or a dragon, or a horse, or a chicken, or.....?”

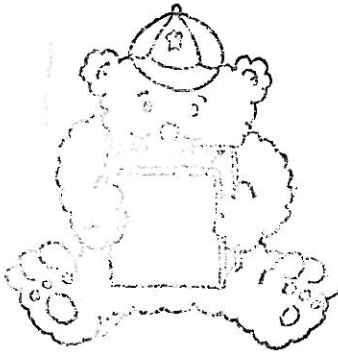
“A dragon, a dragon!” someone shouted. The others wholeheartedly agreed.

“OK,” I said. Is your dragon going to be good, or is it going to be a scary, mean old monster? After they discussed it and decided it should definitely not be scary and mean, a tiny girl piped up to say it should be a mama dragon. And so it went. The characters and plot emerged from their active young minds. These children, some of them pre-readers, effortlessly added the kind of imaginative and unique details that accomplished adult authors might envy.

After twenty years it still tickles me to read *Lindsay the White Mountain Dragon* and see the cover illustration created by one of the young authors. When I showed the story to Jessica Grey, our current librarian, she was charmed. We’d both like to know what those talented people are doing now, and perhaps host a 1989 Story Hour Authors’ Reunion at the library.

Here are names of the young authors who signed the story: Britney, Janell Lee, Kenny, Jennie Wolfe, Cindy James, Kriss, Katiey, Jenny, Tara, Stephanie, Russell, Michelle, Angio, and Jonna Edwards. The children’s Librarian was Sallie Woolfenden.

If you helped write *Lindsay the White Mountain Dragon*, please contact Jessica Grey at Larson Memorial Library, or email me through my website: www.OakHillStudio.com.



July 6, 1989

Dear Carol,

Thanks ever so much for your time and talent shared with our Summer Reading Kids. They really enjoyed creating the story and working with you.

We really appreciate you too!

Thanks again and again,

Sallie Woolfenden

Sallie Woolfenden
Childrens Librarian
Larson Public Library

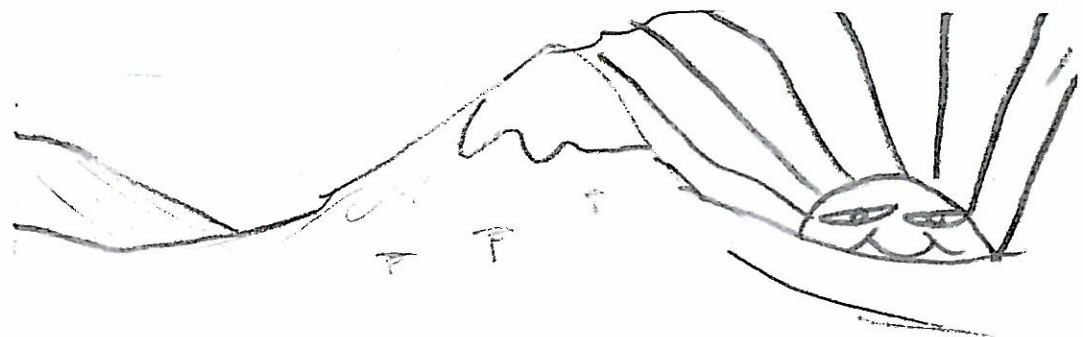
Lindsay the White Mountain Dragon

Very few people know there is still a dragon that lives in the White Mountains. They don't know that because she is invisible, she only comes out at night.

She's beautiful, her body is a shimmering green and her wings are covered with feathers of shiny white, bright red and green like her body. She breathes fire but not because she's mean, that's just the way she was born. She's a happy dragon because she lives in a beautiful cave with her three baby dragons. Her name is Lindsey and she's as big as a house and she has lots of work to do to take care of her babies. They are too little to fly yet, so Lindsey has to fly out every night to gather apples because that's what dragons eat. She stores them in her cave for the winter when she can't get them from the trees. She really likes kids but she is afraid they will hurt her little babies. She's too busy to play with them when she has to work so hard to take care of her dragon babies.

One day two boys found her cave. She blew out her fire and they thought lightening was coming. They got so scared that they started to cry so Lindsey felt bad and gave them each an apple. The boys went home and got their wagons and gathered apples from all the trees in Pinetop, Lakeside and Show Low and cut them into pieces and dried them on their roofs and took them to Lindsey so she could feed her babies in the winter. And they were happy ever after. Sometimes you can see Todd and Jared riding through the sky just before a thunderstorm, riding on Lindsey's back, looking for apple trees.

Britny
Garnell Lee
Kenny
Michelle
Angie
James
Cindy
Jenna
Tara
Stephanie
Russell
Jonah
Edward's
Kris



7/20/01