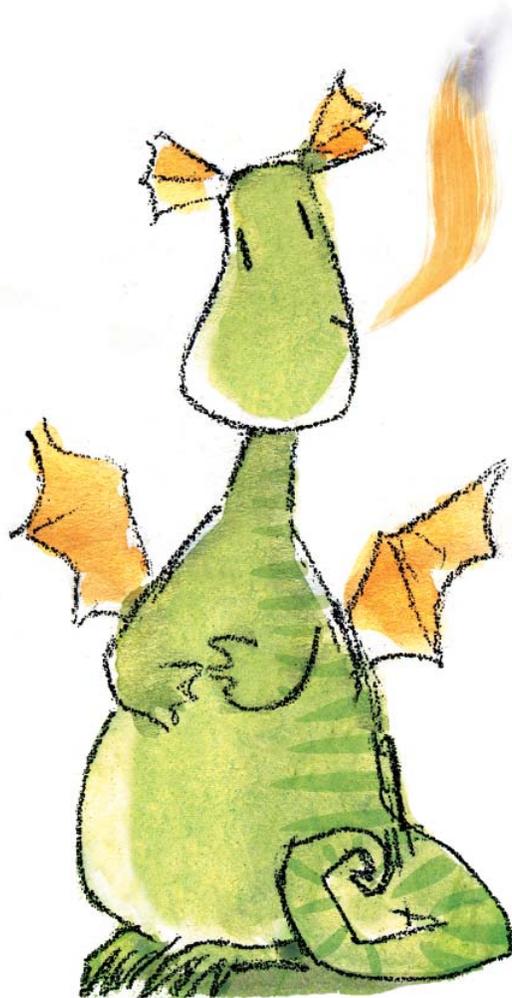


# SPARK



## Teacher's Guide

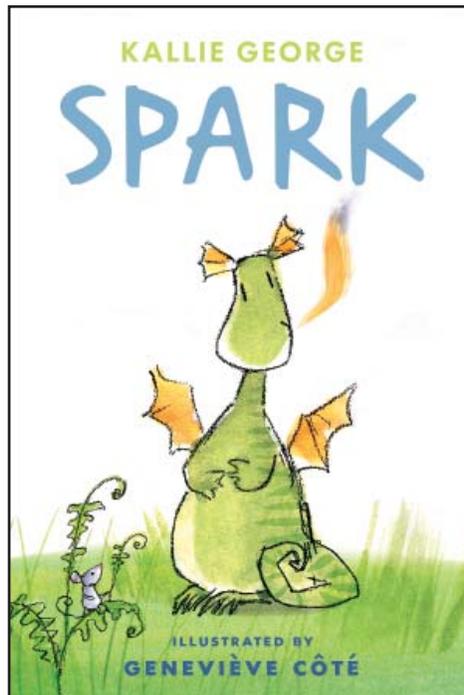


## The Story

Spark is a little dragon with a big problem. He can't control his fiery breath. Even practicing doesn't help. Will Spark ever be able to tame his flame? The first book in an early reader series about baby magic animals, Spark is a gentle reminder that there is a perfect time for everything.

## About this Guide

This guide is intended to help teachers enrich the learning experience of their students, after reading Spark.



Written by Kallie George  
Illustrated by Geneviève Côté  
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## Book Talk: Questions for thoughtful discussion

- 1) Why is Spark given his name? How does Spark's name describe his personality? Does YOUR name describe your personality?
- 2) Why do you think Spark wants to tame his flame? What might happen if he never learns?
- 3) Which is your favorite lesson that Mama and Papa give to Spark to help him tame his flame? Why is it your favorite? Make up one more lesson that they might give him.
- 4) Have you ever had trouble learning something? Describe the situation. Did it make you feel frustrated, or angry, or like Spark, sad? Did you finally accomplish learning it? If so how, and how did that feel?
- 5) In the end, Spark must give himself time in order to master his flame. Waiting for something can take a lot of patience! Are you a patient person, or not? Describe a time when YOU had to wait for something.
- 6) Why does Spark want to leave the candles burning? Do you think this is silly, or does he have a good reason to? Explain.



## Activities for creative nourishment

### Make a Dragon Snout

Spark's snout is problematic! It always snorts fire. Make your own dragon's snout that blows flames and then read the book and every time Spark's fire "whooshes" you can blow fire too!

What you'll need:

- Green paper cup
- Red, yellow and orange tissue paper
- Scissors
- Tape
- Tiny black pom-poms

Directions:

Cut a small hole in the bottom of the cup. Cut several thin streamers from the tissue paper (about a hand's length). Tape the ends inside the cup around the small hole. Add the two pom-poms for nostrils. Blow into the other end of the cup to make the dragon breath fire!



## Tiny Tails Two

Write the second *Tiny Tails* book. Instead of this one being about Spark, make up a story based on one of Spark's friends. There is a little phoenix, unicorn, troll and griffin (and, if you look carefully, you can find a little sea serpent on the end pages!). Choose your favorite. What is the name of this magical creature? Does he or she have a problem like Spark?

## Design a Party Invitation

Pick a magical creature you'd like to be and create an invitation to his or her birthday party. It could be a fairy, a mermaid, a unicorn, or anything that captures your imagination! What kind of party would it be? Where? When (night, day)? What time (good clock practice for little ones)? Also, think of any special instructions, such as "do not breathe fire" or "bring your wands?" Use the attached template.





## Create a Hilarious “How To” Book

In order to help Spark, Mama and Papa get a book called “How To Tame Flames.” Create your own “How To” guide to help a magical creature with a problem. For example: “How to make Giant Food” or “How to Clean Your Mermaid Tail” or “How to Exercise Fairy Horses.” Use the attached template.





# HOW TO

Handwriting practice area with horizontal lines and a large empty rectangular box for drawing or illustration.



### About the author

Kallie George is an editor and author who loves toasting marshmallows (but not drying dishes). She lives in Vancouver, BC, near the sea.

### About the illustrator

Geneviève Côté is an award-winning illustrator who enjoys working with a variety of talented authors and sometimes writes stories of her own. She lives in Montréal, Québec, and thinks dragons are much harder to spot in a crowd.

