



Have You Seen My Dragon?

by Steve Light

This book is different! This is a not-so-simple counting book set in the midst of elaborate illustrations and an imaginative story line. The beautiful book jacket will draw you into this intriguing creation. The story is set in New York City on a lovely summer day. A young boy is searching for his dragon. As the boy wanders through the city, you'll see the dragon "hiding" in plain sight in each full-spread illustration. You'll, also, see objects to count ranging from one dragon to twenty red lanterns in Chinatown. (Not your traditional food, toys, and critters.) In each pen and ink illustration you'll find familiar and not-so-familiar NYC elements. Don't miss the endpapers showing an overview of the journey the little boy takes to find his dragon.

Steve Light has done illustrations for corporations such as AT&T and Sony Films. He has designed buttons purchased by the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum. (From the museum's website: "The Cooper Hewitt is the only museum in the nation devoted exclusively to historic and contemporary design.") Mr. Light has, also, taught art to small children. And, Viola! Now, we have this very lovely book. Says Mr. Light, "When I visited New York City as a kid, my father would tell me that the steam coming from the manhole covers was a dragon's breath – which made me want to live there!"

The Practickle approach will morph slightly to match the style of this book. During the First Reading, you'll count the objects and look for the dragon. You'll come up with your own questions as you study the intricate illustrations. Questions that occurred to my grandchildren were: "Is the dragon real? Is the boy really looking for his dragon?" During the Second Reading and Analysis, you'll read the sparse text. A sentence of text accompanies each illustration. You'll use the text to explicitly answer or to infer an Answer to your **Questions During Reading** (a Reading Comprehension Best Practice). You'll be creating your own story line as the boy travels through the city.

After sharing this book with your child, you'll see why *Have You Seen My Dragon?* is winning numerous accolades, such as: New York Public Library 100 Books for Reading and Sharing and Parents Magazine Best 10 Children's Books.