



Dinosaur Pie
By Jen Wallace
illustrated by Alan O'Rourke

About the book

Rory is having a weird week. A really weird week.

He has been turned into a ridiculous, small, feathered dinosaur. Pretty awkward.

He can't use a human toilet. He can't hold a video game controller in his dino claws. His breath smells really bad. And his new carnivore body can't stop craving sausages.

Rory finally gets his friends to take his embarrassing situation seriously, and together they embark on Operation Make Rory Human Again. But some people don't want them to find out the truth.

Will Rory be stuck in dino-mode forever?

About Jen Wallace

Jen writes stories and poetry, for both children and grown ups. She loves to write neurodivergent characters so people like her can see themselves in books. She lives by the sea with her family and their cats, goats, chickens and rabbit. Jen has wanted to be a writer since she was very small, although she also wanted to be a superhero, a firefighter and the President of Ireland.

About Alan O'Rourke

Alan is tall. Very tall.

He writes and illustrates children's books. But that is a work in progress.

The tallness is permanent. Hopefully.

Alan lives with his family beside the sea in the northeast of Ireland.

Find out more and subscribe at www.spoiltchild.com

Activities and explorations for classes and groups

You can pick and adapt these activities as suits or if you'd prefer a structure for a class or session, take one activity from each group below.

Quick and fun activities and icebreakers

- What other transformative pies or foodstuff can you think up? Like Kraken crumble or jellyfish jelly. *Either as a full group activity, smaller groups or pairs.*
- Oleg calls Rory a chicken-gecko mashup. What are the funniest mashup animals you can think of? Can you draw any of them? *As a variation everybody folds a page in half and draws the top half of a creature on the top half of their page then passes the paper to their left so everyone now has a different piece of paper. Then everyone draws the bottom half of their original creature on the bottom of that page.*
- Rory gets turned into a dinosaur. What would you hate to be turned into? What would you love to be turned into? *Group discussion*
- Draw yourself as a dinosaur.
- Draw your pet (or any other animal) as a dinosaur.

Exploring facts and fiction

- This book is fiction. What does that mean? Discussion.
- Daria knows lots of facts. What facts do you know? What interesting facts do your classmates know? *As a variation, everyone writes a fact or interesting thing and they all get stuck on a board titled Interesting Stuff We Know.*

- Jebey, Rory's neighbour, talks about conspiracy theories? How do you fact check information you come across? Group discussion on the differences between fact, fiction and opinion.

Writing projects

- How do you think you would feel if you woke up transformed into a small, feathered dinosaur? What would your family think? What would your friends say? Could you make this idea into a story or poem?

As a variation: Turn this idea into a comic strip or group performance.

- Could you write the chapter *Chip Robbing Thugs* from Oleg's point of view? Or Daria's? Would they see things differently? Describe things differently? What would they think is important?
- In the book there is an "Everyone is so Absolutely Awesome" song. What do you think the words would be? Write it as a group activity.

Colour in Alan's artwork

















