

## ***“Librarian’s Shelf” by Brad Hruska***

### Unexpected Friends & Finds...

I love to read; however, unlike most readers, I do not have a favorite author or genre. My way of finding entertaining reading materials is more random. I enjoy wandering the stacks and selecting texts that I find visually appealing. I then read the first few pages of each manuscript, putting the books I like in a pile and discarding the others. I then go back and review my selections, making my final decision. My way of picking out books may sound odd, but it works for me. Using this process, I have discovered some wonderfully amusing texts.

My recent finding is “Kenny & the Dragon” by Tony DiTerlizzi. In this book readers meet Kenny, a young hare who lives in a burrow with his parents on the east side of Shepard’s Hill. One evening, his father dashes in and insists that the family move immediately because a fierce dragon has taken up residence on the west side of the knoll.

Kenny, being the curious lad he is, wants to meet this savage beast; however, his mother is dead set against it. But Kenny’s father determines that if his son wants to meet this fire breathing foe, he should, because after all Kenny “ain’t no little bunny anymore.” So armed with a stew pot, a broom, and a garbage can lid, the little buck ventures towards the lair of the deadly creature.

When our brave hero emerges in front of the entrance of the cave, the yellow-eyed serpent awakens and casually says, “No throwing rocks...or poking me with sticks...and don’t waste your time pouring water on me to douse out my fire, cause that doesn’t work.” Kenny is taken aback by what he hears and stands at the threshold, contemplating his next move. The dragon then rises up and introduces himself as “Grahame-just like the cracker, except with an ‘e’ at the end.”

Grahame announces that he has no interest in battling and just wants to live in peace on Shepard’s Hill. After engaging in an evening of conversation about the true mannerisms of dragons, the two strangers depart as friends.

Over the next few weeks, Kenny visits Grahame and the two amuse themselves with talks about dinosaurs, various philosophies, and Shakespeare. Our young hare soon becomes very fond of Grahame and is amazed that such a “dangerous beast” could be a truly loyal friend.

Not wanting to bring turmoil to Grahame, Kenny decides to keep him a secret; however, one day Old Pops Possum sees the fire-breathing beast bathing in the nearby pond and informs the natives of the deadly creature that lurks high upon the hill.

To find out what happens to Grahame and to see if Kenny is able to save his chum, check out “Kenny & Dragon” by Tony DiTerlizzi. And remember, the next time you are in search of a great read, let your eyes do the picking. I guarantee that you will find a book that will appeal to all of your literary senses!