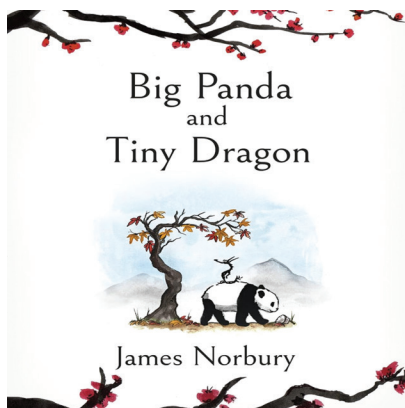


## BOOK REVIEW

### *Big Panda and Tiny Dragon*

Priyanka Koch\*

Hitesh Sharma\*\*



**Author** : James Norbury  
**Illustrator** : James Norbury  
**Age Group** : 8–12 years  
**Price** : ₹ 649  
**Publisher** : Mandala Publishing  
**Year of Publication:** 2020

Illustrated books are an excellent means to introduce children to the concept of the printed word. One such book that can be utilised by

teachers working with children in the foundational years is *Big Panda and Tiny Dragon*. The central idea of the book is that companionship with the right people is essential to achieving success in life. Associating with those whose principles, values and life goals align with one's own, motivates one to work towards becoming the best version of oneself. Every day turns into a celebration when surrounded by people who inspire us to make the most of every moment.

*Big Panda and Tiny Dragon* is an illustrated storybook by James Norbury. The book's cover, featuring a charming illustration, is likely to attract young readers. It describes the various activities of Big Panda and Tiny Dragon as the seasons change. The story is filled with engaging dialogues, such as—

“Which is more important?” asked Big Panda.

“The journey”, said Tiny Dragon.

---

\* PhD Scholar, Department of Education, Tezpur University

\*\*Assistant Professor, Department of Education, Tezpur University

Coupled with brilliant illustrations, the book is extremely engaging. Teachers can use it to discuss specific themes, such as nature, with students. The story addresses themes of getting lost and finding strength, surviving difficult times and the importance of hope and survival. It also speaks about letting go and appreciating fleeting moments. Through its narrative, the book helps readers find purpose and meaning, teaching patience and resilience.

James Norbury, an acclaimed writer and artist, crafts a narrative that includes the changing seasons—spring, summer, autumn, and winter. This aspect of the book can assist children in remembering the names of different seasons and help them to relate with their daily experiences. The book can be made more contextually relevant by focusing on the activities specific to the children's region.

School administrators and teachers should carefully select books for young readers. The cover should be appealing, and the illustrations should be ample. But it is also crucial that the text is large and bold enough to attract children. Catchy titles and captivating illustrations are the key features. Norbury's book is enriched with lovely illustrations and the front cover beautifully depicts the Big Panda and Tiny Dragon.

The book begins with two images of Big Panda and Tiny Dragon. Teachers can use these pages to pose questions to children, such as, "What do you think Big Panda might be doing?" "Why are they sitting at the

top of the cliff?" "What do you think they are talking about?" "Would you like to explore the journey of Big Panda and Tiny Dragon?" The pages are infused with life lessons, making it suitable for readers of all ages, particularly those seeking solace and resilience.

Both parents and teachers can use *Big Panda and Tiny Dragon* to instil good values in children. It is important for children to understand that even without knowing where it will lead, taking initiative in life is essential. They should understand that failure is not something to be upset or regretful about but it is a part of the process. Memorable lines from the book can be used to teach various qualities and values, such as—

*"Be brave."*

*"You never know what a first meeting might lead to."*

*"A new day and a new beginning,"* said Tiny Dragon. *"What shall we do with it?"*

At the foundational stage, a teacher's role is to help children understand the world around them. One of the goals of NIPUN Bharat is to develop effective communicators. *Big Panda and Tiny Dragon* emphasises nature and provides numerous references for inspiration. The book also helps foster bonding between parents and children and aids in understanding the essence of life.

The companionship of *Big Panda and Tiny Dragon* embodies friendship,

love, and hope, teaching readers to find joy in fleeting moments. It illustrates how present actions lead to future decisions. The book can be used by teachers, parents, or any primary caregiver involved in raising a child. Pedagogically, teachers can ask questions about the seasons to help children understand their experiences, such as, “What do you

like to do in the spring season?” and “What changes do you see in leaves during the autumn season?” *Big Panda and Tiny Dragon* presents the wonderful journey of Big Panda and Tiny Dragon, exploring their adventures and concluding that despite uncertainties, life becomes a beautiful journey when shared with a friend and soulmate.