



## *The Dragon Scales* by Sarah Albee

### Literature Connection: Measurement

Materials: Balance scale, book, materials for measurement including: two peas, apple, bag of gold and bag of cotton, handout.

#### Essential Questions:

Why would I use a balance scale to find out which item is heavier?

What strategy did I use to help me find my answer?

Is a bigger object always the heaviest? Why or why not?

#### Procedure:

1. Read the book, *The Dragon Scales* by Sarah Albee.
2. As students are presented with each question posed to the dragon during the competition, have them predict which item will be heavier.
3. Have a student place both items on the balance scale and find which item is heavier. (Review with students how the balance scale shows which item is heavier? Lighter?)
4. Before going on to the third question posed to the dragon ask the students, "Why do you think the Dragon has been incorrect in his early predictions?"
5. Read remainder of the book and discuss with students how the size of an object may not be a good measure of its mass.
6. Review essential questions with the students.
7. Extension: How students measure the mass of each of the objects and construct a data table.