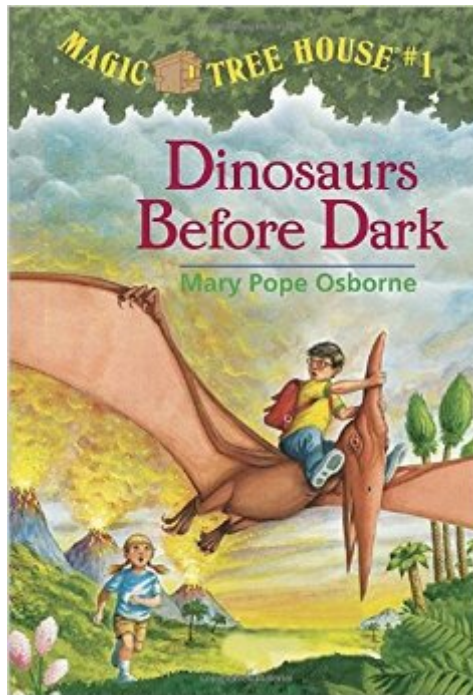


The book was found

# Dinosaurs Before Dark (Magic Tree House, No. 1)



## Synopsis

Jack and Annie's very first fantasy adventure in the bestselling middle-grade series "the Magic Tree House! Where did the tree house come from? Before Jack and Annie can find out, the mysterious tree house whisks them to the prehistoric past. Now they have to figure out how to get home. Can they do it before dark . . . or will they become a dinosaur's dinner? Visit the Magic Tree House website! [MagicTreeHouse.com](http://MagicTreeHouse.com)

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 240L (What's this?)

Series: Magic Tree House (Book 1)

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: Random House Books for Young Readers; #1 edition (July 28, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679824111

ISBN-13: 978-0679824114

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.2 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (395 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,044 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in [Books > Children's Books > Animals > Dinosaurs](#) #7 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Chapter Books](#) #28 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Beginner Readers](#)

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

My name is George. I am eight years old, and I am in 3rd grade. The title is Dinosaur Before Dark and the author's name is Mary Pope Osborne. Jack and Annie went to the Magic Tree House. So Jack and Annie saw a lot of books. Jack picked up one book and put it in his backpack. When Annie and Jack came out they saw a dinosaur from a long time ago. They saw a Pteranodon flying around the Magic Tree House. Annie and Jack took a flight from the Pteranodon. Jack and Annie went to the past where dinosaurs lived. The dinosaurs that Jack and Annie saw were Pteranodon, Triceratops, duck-billed dinosaur, and Tyrannosaurus Rex. When they saw the Tyrannosaurus Rex, he tried to eat them. I liked this book because they went back in time to explore where the dinosaur lives. Yes I

will recommend to other children to read this book to the 3rd graders. I give this story 5 stars. END

This book was recommended as a good read for our 8 year old who does not enjoy reading. We found this to be an interesting book that reads fast and keeps you hanging onto each word wondering what will happen next. All four of our children enjoyed this book (ages 4 1/2,6,8,and 12). We had to go out and get several other Magic Treehouse books. We can't wait to see where Annie and Jack go next.

I bought this book for my 4 year old who is wild about dinosaurs. He loves being read to and needed something a little more advanced than picture books. This book was a great start because the subject matter was something he was interested in, he could easily comprehend what was being read, and it could be finished in one sitting. There were enough pictures in the book to maintain his interest. After reading this book, we have embarked on a new Magic Tree House adventure a day. My son looks forward to this time so much. Thank goodness the books are at the library! The books can be read by a parent in about a 30 minute sitting. I recorded Dinosaurs Before Dark on tape for my son to listen to any time since it is his favorite of the series so far. Also to extend the reading activity at home, we created a Cretaceous period dinosaur diorama. My son loves acting out the story with his own dinosaurs...

These are the books that finally got my 8 year son, who'd been very unwilling to read by himself, into reading. He likes the different settings for each book (dinosaurs, pirates, wild west) and that they're fast paced. To an adult, the books are too simplistic, but they're just right for the new reader who's looking for adventure/action stories with a little bit of mystery tossed in for good measure.

My five year old son loved this book so much that after I finished reading it to him, he carried the book around with him for days. The story line catches the young person's attention quickly, and holds the attention from chapter to chapter. The suspense about what will happen to Jack in the dinosaur chase is just enough fear to keep the attention, but not so much that they want you to stop reading. When we finished one chapter he wanted to go straight to the next chapter. He was asking any grown up, even his big brother to read to him. If you have a child who you need to peek their interest in reading, this is a great book to start with.

I thought my son was ready to try reading on his own and picked this book more or less at random.

He read it in one sitting and asked for more. I bought him the second and third books in the series and he read them in the same day. I bought the rest of the series and had to ration them out one book a day or he would have read them all at once. Now he's a regular littlebook worm and turns off the TV and puts away his toys every time I give him a new book.

I bought this book originally for a 7 year old, but then my 4 year who was just getting into reading picked it up and started reading it. After that the 10 started reading it! There was a big battle over who got to read the book. I ended up buying the whole series. They read them on the way to school, on the way home, whenever there was time to pick up the book. All 3 kids loved it! I recommend this book, and series highly!

I ordered a few books of this series for my six-year-old son. I won't be ordering any more. I'm placing my review on this book, because this one was the worst of the three we bought. There is potential in the concept of two children returning to various bygone eras, and experiencing them first hand. The character of Jack, if further developed, could be a good role model for kids interested in science, history, and research. But the character of Annie doesn't work at all. I think she is intended to be a foil for Jack's more serious, contemplative personality, but if she had been portrayed as smarter this would have worked better. The plots in this series are surprisingly dull. My son halfheartedly suffered through the first read-through of each of the books we bought, but he doesn't want to read them again. We then checked out "Dinosaur Habitat" by Helen V. Griffith from the library, and he asked to read that book at least fifty times. Osborne underestimates the intelligence of her audience. On occasion, the stories seem to telescope into Annie's eye view, and a lot of ink that could have been devoted to the various interesting aspects of dinosaurs was instead devoted to their relative "niceness". My most serious objection, however, is the bad grammar. Do not believe the notion that your kids need their sentences cut into pieces in order to read them! Beginning readers pay a lot of attention to structure. A well written, grammatically correct sentence is filled with structural cues which help new readers decipher unfamiliar words. "Dinosaurs Before Dark" contains so many errors, I consider it worse than useless as a teaching aid. I don't enjoy writing negative reviews, but I want to warn other parents who might be attracted to this series as I was.\* We did enjoy the illustrations by Sal Murdocca, and only wish they had been in color.

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