



## Dinotrux

*Chris Gall*

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**Dinotrux** Chris Gall

**The original, rip-roaring mash-up of dinosaurs and trucks that inspired the Netflix TV series!**

Millions of years ago, DINOTRUX ruled the earth! These mighty part-truck, part-dino demolition dynamos rumbled, plowed and bulldozed their way through the centuries. In this toddler-friendly adventure, Chris Gall guides readers on a safari through the wild world of these mechanical monsters of prehistoric times, from the nosy Craneosaurus and the mega-hungry Garbageadon to the big bully of the jungle, Tyrannosaurus Trux!

Look out for a fold-out surprise at the end! And when you're done, check out the next books in the Dinotrux series, *Revenge of the Dinotrux* and *Dinotrux Dig the Beach*.

## Dinotrux Details

Date : Published June 1st 2009 by Little, Brown Books for Young Readers

ISBN : 9780316027779

Author : Chris Gall

Format : Hardcover 32 pages

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## From Reader Review **Dinotrux** for online ebook

### chbyoungreaders Changing Hands Bookstore Kids Team says

Dinotrux breaks the mold by bringing together kids' two favorite themes: dinosaurs and trucks! Ever wonder what trucks and cars were really like billions of years ago? They weren't as nice as they are today. Chris Gall once again amazes with his attention to detail as he guides kids through the evolution of Dinotrux!

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### Betsy says

Once in a while a picture book author will mix dinosaurs in with another popular genre. The logic behind this is clear. If dinos sell and trains sell, why not write something like All Aboard the Dinotrain? As a result, dinosaurs have been mixed together with everything from bedtime stories (How do Dinosaurs Say Goodnight) to ballet (T. Rex at Swan Lake). One mixed-pair that hasn't really happened before, as far as I know, is trucks and dinosaurs. I can just see various authors pondering the possibilities. Would the dinosaurs drive the trucks? Would the trucks be designed with different dinosaurs painted onto them? But where's the story? I mean the only way dinosaurs could really be combined with trucks would be if they were . . . were . . . were actually physically COMBINED with them! Trust author/illustrator Chris Gall to make that final leap in logic. His *Dinotrux* strikes a slightly younger chord than his previous picture book outings (Dear Fish and There's Nothing to Do on Mars), but kids and parents of all ages will take pleasure in the sheer amount of thought and creativity the man had to work up to come up with names like Dumploducus or Rollodon.

They were here long ago. When the world was a vast wild place, dinotrux ruled. They are the ancestors of the gentle benign trucks we know today, and their ways were harsh and strange. If a caveman wasn't running for his life from the dangerous (and incredibly fast) Semisaur then he was trying to avoid a Cementosaurus's smelly leavings. It was the world of the Craneosaurus, the Blacktopadon, and the ever terrible Tyrannosaurus Trux. Of course that was before the great flash of light and terrible storm. Dinotrux rusted and sank into the mud, while a few managed to escape southward into warmer climates. Since that time they have domesticated, and the remains of the old Dinotrux are dug up at the oddest of times. Now only one things is certain. Dinotrux are always on the job. "And they never, EVER quit!"

The trux themselves are rather clever. Gall has figured out the logistics between combining the reptilian with the industrial. He has considered such details as how a Craneosaurus or a Garbageadon would eat. And I don't think any adult who sees the two-page spread of brown Deliveradons asleep in a lazy pile won't instantly think of UPS and late deliveries. Gall clearly studied up on both dinos and actual trucks to get the right feel for his mechanical monstrosities.

There's a lot of repetition in the pictures as well. The three primary cavepeople who appear in the past are reimagined as contemporary humans when we see one of the final shots in the book. The endpapers too show some nice differences between now and then. On one page you will see trucks as normal, dull, standard entities, sitting without much flair or show. On the opposite page those trucks appear once again, only now in their newly dinotruxed state. Kids will have quite a bit of fun matching one truck to another and then, presumably, finding the dino-like similarities in trucks in the real world.

I think this might mark the first time I've ever seen a cheeky publication page. Sometimes a book's design will incorporate its serial number in an amusing fashion, but this was the very first time I looked to see what

the illustrations were made of only to read, “The text was set in Cafeteria Black, and the display type is hand-lettered. The artwork for this book was created using bearskins and stone knives.” Below those words you can see a caveman carving the Little, Brown and Company logo into the side of a boulder. If we can assume that Mr. Gall hasn’t changed his style any then it this book could be a mix of engravings, paint, and ink. It’s hard to know, though. At the very least the pictures in *Dinotrux* are filled with movement, action, and shifting perspectives. There’s a black, almost dusty fog that lies over the prints, giving this prehistoric world the feeling that it’s engulfed in truck-tastic soot and smoke. Believable.

The text is also rhythmic and bouncy. You can’t help but like a sentence that says “they shed their teeth and their toenails and their misbehaving ways.” Interestingly Gall has chosen to pepper his pictures with exclamations by the routinely fleeing cavepeople. Some of these work better than others, suggesting that they were a last minute additions. For example, while the Caveman saying “Yuck” when trapped in dinotrux muck makes sense, the next page shows two cavepeople cooking a fish with hugely worried looks on their faces. The text below them reads, “Let’s have a barbecue!” which is a doggone cheery thing to see under two such worried souls.

Craziest argument you’re going to hear when this book is looked at? It’s twofold. I suspect that some parents will believe that this book will twist their young children’s minds, causing them to think that dinotrux really used to exist millions of years ago. And maybe that’ll be true for the odd child here and there. Fun fact: They’ll get over it. Seriously. Kids are savvy critters, and a lot of them are going to accept this book for what it is: fun. Besides, do kids read Babar and then assume that all elephants wear spats? I don’t think so. The second objection whipping about in the future? I can actually hear someone saying that this book promotes the mistaken belief that dinosaurs and cavemen existed at the same time. It’s patently ridiculous since there are *no* dinosaurs even in the book. Zippo, zero, zilch. I mean, these are probably going to be the same parents who let their kids watch *The Flintstones*, and isn’t THAT just a hotbed of historically accurate fact finding? So if you’ve objections on either counts here, lay them to rest. I can’t acknowledge either.

As strange as it sounds, this book may act as a perfect complement to Jon Scieszka’s Truck Town series. In both cases the artists working on the books had to figure out the logistics involved in adding eyeballs and personalities to welded bits of steel and rubber. And *Dinotrux* is perfect for that kid who wants trucks and dinosaurs just a little more dangerous than usual. It’s not the usual dino-laden title out there, a fact that will definitely serve *Dinotrux* well in the future. Fine, frightening, fun, fantastic fare.

Ages 4-8.

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### **Scott Roark says**

One of my sons favorite books. Makes trucks look like dinosaurs. Gives them funny names like Deliveradons and Firesaurus. Great book for students who love either trucks or dinosaurs. Teachers could have students that are artistic draw other similar type of translations. Would be interesting to see what female students could develop.

This book could be used for male students who are reserved or shy in class (hopefully allow them to talk about a passion of theirs).

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### **Dennis E. says**

This book was eye catching and interesting to read ! Vibrant and fun at the same time . I give it a 4.0

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### **Cathy says**

Millions of years ago, DINOTRUX ruled the earth! These mighty part-truck, part-dino creatures rumbled, plowed and bulldozed their way through the centuries, demolishing anything in their path.

I was not too impressed with it. I thought the pictures would interest young boys, but the story was above their heads and convoluted - the pictures had to be explained.

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### **Justin says**

This is a must read, multiple times a day for my son. He loves the Dinotrux. Almost as much as Cars.

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### **Melanie says**

Did you know that dump trucks used to be Dumploducus' and they were litter bugs? And garbage truck used to be Garbageadon's and they ate everything!

This is the story of heavy duty trucks and how they began as Dinotrux. When a terrible storm hit and wiped out the sun, the Dinotrux became very sick and sank into the mud. But the smart Dinostrux went south looking for better weather. Over time they evolved into the useful creatures we have now.

This will be a favorite of dino and truck lovers alike. Great for storytime.

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### **Meghan says**

A good fit for fans of *I'm Dirty!* and *I'm Bad!*.

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### **Scope says**

The Scene: A packed courtroom.

Judge: We will now hear closing arguments in the case of Young Readers vs. Dinotrux. Mr. Scope Notes, representing Young Readers, will be first.

Scope Notes: Thank you your Honor. Members of the jury, I trust that when you review the facts of this case,

you will find that *Dinotrux* by Chris Gall (Dear Fish, There's Nothing to Do on Mars) is so appealing to children, especially boys, that it constitutes an infringement on free will. Children will want to read this book. The premise that hybrid dinosaur/trucks used to rule the earth ignites curiosity, while the brief, expressive text all but demands repeat reading.

Dinotrux Lawyer: Objection! That's his personal opinion, your Honor.

Judge: Overruled. He's making some good points here. Proceed.

Scope Notes: Even without the illustrations, this story would be a crowd pleaser - with them it's a crime. Gall's motion-filled artwork will pull readers in from page one. Sporting his signature crosshatching and rich colors, children will not, I repeat, will not be able to look away.

The conclusion is also a winner. The idea that some dinotrux survived extinction and evolved into the trucks that roam the earth today just brings it all home. Kids who read this book will certainly look at bulldozers, dump trucks, and cement mixers in a new light. The fact that they are turning this book into a movie only supports my argument.

In closing, I urge you, members of the jury, to find in favor of young readers everywhere and declare *Dinotrux* criminally appealing.

Judge: Thank you, Mr. Scope Notes, the attorney representing *Dinotrux* may now make closing arguments.

Dinotrux Lawyer: Thank you. It is clear that this book will be clamored-for among children. It is also clear that it will be enjoyed immensely. Since I can't deny any of the claims presented against my client, I would like to move that parents, teachers, bookstores, and libraries be allowed to add the book to their collections so that young readers can decide for themselves.

Judge: This is unprecedented. Mr. Scope Notes, are you willing to comply with this request?

Scope Notes: I will comply.

Judge: I hereby declare this trial adjourned.

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### **Amianne Bailey says**

1st Grade Read-Aloud: Fiction or nonfiction. Just a fun book that the boys especially loved.

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### **Kimberly says**

I give this book a 3 star rating.

This book is about all the dinotrux that use to rule the world. There are all different types of dinotrux that are based off of cars everyone knows. This makes it very relatable for the student reading. I especially think that male readers will like this book because they love this kind of stuff. This also ties in a little science too.

### Ways to use in the classroom

- 1) Have the students come up with their own dinotrx
  - 2) Research different types of dinosaurs
  - 3) Have students learn about the beginning of time
  - 4) Have students try to draw the dinotrx that are in the book.
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### **Kate says**

Yeah, this was fun the the first couple of times we read it, but Sam's insistence to read this and the sequel every day for the past 4 weeks is starting to wear on me. I do enjoy the potty humor, though.

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### **Rebecca says**

"The artwork for this book was created using bearskins and stone knives." --publication page. LOL! So, does combining two of little boys' favorite topics into one make for an even better book? Could be. Fans of dinos, trucks, or even Transformers will enjoy this one. I got a kick out of the idea that the Dinotrux "shed their teeth, their toenails, and their misbehaving ways," and evolved into the demure trucks of today.

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### **Elizabeth says**

While there is little to no substance to this story, I think it is adorable and I know a few little boys who would have been very into this story growing up. It is no surprise that there is a toy line today built off of the characters in this book. It's a gold-mine of an idea for a young male audience. Take two of a little boys favorite things and put them together; it sounds like instant success to me.

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### **Pam ?Because Someone Must Be a Thorn? Tee says**

#### **Dinosaurs... Trucks... What's Not to Love!**

This is a cute book that young children who like dinosaurs and mechanical things (cars, trucks, trains) are going to love. Dinotrux , you see, are critters that are part dinosaur and part mobile equipment, and Chris Gall's premise is that millions of years ago Dinotrux ruled the earth, giving cave people something to think about.

The text is on the 2nd Grade level, and generally an easy read except for the amalgamated names. Here's a sample:

Look! High in the branches...  
Craneosaurus!  
He was always sticking his nose  
where it didn't belong.

Crack, Munch.

Look out, birds, it's time for lunch.

By far though the best part of the book is Gall's wonderful artwork. His pallet is colorful and rich, and Gall's creatures are friendly with just the right hint of fierceness.

Kids will enjoy the likes of Dumploducus and, of course, the fearsome Trannosaurus Trux. They'll also like the foldout at the end of the book which shows how the raucous wild Dinotrx gradually became the domesticated species we all know and love

With it's glossy pages and attractive cover, I can easily see giving Dinotrx as a birthday gift to someone in the 5-and-under crowd. (Older children will like perusing the book, but for them I recommend it as a Library Find.)

Pam T~

mom and reviewer for BooksForKids-reviews

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