

Q & A with Christopher Paolini

Fun Facts About Dragons!

Why didn't Saphira hatch for Eragon as soon as he held her egg?

Saphira knew immediately that she would hatch for Eragon, but she was wary that it might be some elaborate trick by Galbatorix to fool her into hatching for him. During her eighty years of captivity, he had tried numerous schemes to force her out. Also, Saphira was somewhat aware of the trauma surrounding Arya's capture, so she was very cautious and wanted to make sure that it was safe for her to appear.

Can two dragons come from one egg?

Yes, it is entirely possible, just as two chicks can emerge from one egg that has two yokes. It's not common with dragons, but it has happened.

Tell me about young dragons!

1. Along with having teeth and claws, even very young dragons can fly, which makes them far less vulnerable to predation than most animals. After just a month, not even the largest raptor would dare attack one.
2. Dragons don't have opposable thumbs, but they *can* grasp things with their claws. This means that a young dragon could ride on the back of a larger one.
3. Even hatchlings can communicate telepathically, so adults have no difficulty conveying meaning and intention to them, and can easily move them around or convince them to hide or flee.

If gems can hold energy and dragon scales glimmer like gemstones, can dragon scales hold energy?

To a degree. They're not actually gemstones, although they look like it. They're more akin to certain kinds of ceramic.

Where did Saphira get the energy to create Brom's tomb?

Well, she didn't create it from nothing; she rearranged the molecules of sandstone that were already there. She couldn't have told you how she did it, yet her innate magical powers made the transformation happen.

Why does Saphira see the world differently?

I based Saphira's sight on how I see. I am somewhat colorblind: purples look blue, reds are muted, and some greens look brown—or so I am told. Yet how I perceive the world is normal to me. As with Saphira, the world is awash with a blue tint, and strong blues really pop out.

Why did you make your dragons telepathic?

Because I wanted them to be as smart or smarter than any human, but I didn't want them talking with their lips. That just seemed silly. So, telepathy it was. But Saphira follows certain rules of etiquette with her mindspeak; it's impolite to touch another's mind without permission.

Will a dragon die when his or her Rider dies?

Despite what Brom says in *Eragon*, a dragon bound to a Rider does not necessarily die when their partner loses his or her life. Brom was speaking in broad terms when he gave Eragon this information. Generally, neither Rider nor dragon lasted long—or sanely—after the death of the other, but it sometimes happened. Brom is an example of one such case. Although even rarer, a few dragons survived the death of their Riders.

Are your dragons cold-blooded reptiles?

Although never stated explicitly in the series, my dragons are warm-blooded, as shown by their activity levels and the fact that their blood steams when exposed to air (even on a hot summer day).

Does Saphira have a forked tongue?

I never mentioned whether my dragons have forked tongues, and indeed, never pictured them that way. Instead, I imagine their tongues are covered with rough barbs, like a cat's, to help them strip meat off bones—though the barbs tend to lie flat when the tongue rests on the floor of the mouth.

What would you do if Saphira suddenly appeared outside your house?

My first concern would be that she understood that I was a friend . . . I wouldn't want her to eat me! Next I would hope that she had arrived fully fed. Finding her meals would be a problem. The cattle and sheep ranchers where I live wouldn't appreciate having a dragon swoop down on their animals. They have enough trouble with wolves!