

Podcast: What If World

[Episode: 145: What if Fred had a pokemon?](#)

File Length: 00:16:46

Transcription by Keffy

[Rising harp scales followed by the What If World theme song.]

Lyrics: What if kittens played the glockenspiel? And what if unicorns were real? What if you could fly or travel back in time, we welcome you to What If World. What If World. This is What If World.

[Gentle bell music.]

Mr. Eric: Hey there, folks, and welcome back to What If World, the show where your questions and ideas inspire off-the-cuff stories. I'm Mr. Eric, your host, and today we're starting off with a question from patrons William and Sean.

William: Hi! I'm Will.

Sean: Hi! I'm Sean.

William: We're from Australia and—

Both: We like Pokemon! And we ask what if Fred the Dog had a pokemon?

William: Thank you and goodbye!

Sean: Goodbye!

Mr. Eric: Oh, Fred's gonna get a pet, today? That's awesome. And we're gonna add one write-in question from a listener named Raya. Raya's eight years old and she likes books, and she wrote us all the way from Singapore. And she asks what if a dragon crashed a party at your school?

We've got a lot of fun stuff to play around with so I want to get right—

Abacus: Right to your shout outs? To Abby who's seven years old.

Fred the Dog: Oh, yes, and to Abby's little sister, Alice, who's four years old.

Mr. Eric: Thank you for reminding me, Abacus and Fred. We've got to shout out Abby and Alice.

Fred the Dog: Oh no, but there's one more to Davin. Davin loves me, Fred the Dog, and my long tongue, and he loves listening to Sirens, but not like the sirens that go WHOO OO OO OO on the island, more like the sirens that go WEEEOO WEEEOO WEEEOO.

Mr. Eric: Oh, well, thank you for being so specific, Fred, and Davin. And thanks to Abby and Alice as well.

Now, let's find out what if Fred the Dog got a pokemon, and what if a dragon crashed a party at your school?

[Rising harp scale.]

Alabaster Zero: Fred the dog, we're ready to hear your demands, just release your hostages from the Observatory.

Mr. Eric: Alabaster Zero was speaking through a megaphone to Fred the Dog who was trapped inside the school along with everyone else who'd attended the holiday party.

Fred the Dog: Alabaster, these aren't hostages! We're stuck in here.

Alabaster Zero: Whatever you say, Fred. I just like sounding cool and official on this megahorn.

Fred the Dog: I think it's called a bullhorn.

Alabaster Zero: I've seen a bull's horn and it doesn't look anything like this. Now, please release your hugstages?

Fred the Dog: Wait, are you saying hostages or HUGstages?

Alabaster Zero: So you admit you're holding your hugstages hostage?

Fred the Dog: No! Why don't you listen?

Alabaster Zero: Well, isn't this your dragon that crashed this party and is now hugging the entire school?

Fred the Dog: Okay, well, it's sort of a long story. Can I explain it in a flashback?

Alabaster Zero: Can he explain it in a flashback?

Fair Elise: I guess so. That's more up to Mr. Eric, I suppose.

Howdy Pooch: Oh, I'd like to hear a flashback story. It's like travelin in time.

Alabaster Zero: Okay, yeah, me too. Me, too. Okay, we want to hear the story in a flashback.

Fred the Dog: Yeah, I know. You didn't take your finger off the bullhorn button.

Alabaster Zero: There should be like a bullphone manual.

Fred the Dog: No, it's not a bullphone or a megahorn. It's a megaphone or a bull... you know what, forget it. I'm just going to tell the story.

Alabaster Zero: Okay, yeah, tell the story, please?

Fred the Dog: What?

Alabaster Zero: Where's the button?

Fred the Dog: You gotta press the button!

Alabaster Zero: I'll find it.

Fair Elise: The button is literally right under your index finger.

Alabaster Zero: Like I'm supposed to know what finger that is.

Howdy Pooch: Oh, boy.

Fred the Dog: Okay, I'm just gonna go into the flashback now.

[Harp sounds for a flash back!]

It all started a few minutes ago at the Observatorium's holiday school party.

Abacus: Hello everyone, and welcome to the Observatorium's holiday school party.

Fred the Dog: It was Abacus P. Grumbler, the head professor of the Observatorium.

Abacus: I'm Abacus P. Grumbler, the head professor of the Observatorium.

Fred the Dog: And he didn't have to repeat everything that the narrator says.

Abacus: And he didn't have to repeat everything—oh, yes. I get it now.

Fred the Dog: Somehow, despite the fact that I'm president of What If World, I got stuck chaperoning, this school party.

Zack: Thanks, Fred, for coming to our party.

Fred the Dog: Said little Zack.

Zizi: You're like, the coolest dog at this party.

Fred the Dog: Said Zizi, and it was true. So I told her so. You know what, Zizi? I said. You're absolutely right. I am the coolest dog at this party. But not because I'm president, but because I got a brand new Snokeball from Mr. Eric for Ifmas.

Zack: Oh, wow. Do you know what Snokemon's inside?

Fred the Dog: What do you mean? I thought it's just a snowball that I can chew on forever because it doesn't melt.

Zizi: No, silly. If you squeeze it just right, the snowball turns into a Snokemon.

Fred the Dog: And then I get to chew on that?

Zack: Snokemons can be powerful warriors, especially when they evolve.

Fred the Dog: I could chew on a powerful warrior, sure. Show me how to press the button.

Zack: You have to have a human hand so you can squeeze all five sides of the snowball like this...

Fred the Dog: Oh, I see. So you're the one who pressed the Snokeball and make the Huggabee come out.

Zack: That hasn't happened yet, so how are you describing it.

Fred the Dog: And that's when Zack, not Fred the Dog, pressed the snokeball and it turned into a Huggabee and then Zizi came up and was like—

Zizi: Now I can use my wand to help it evolve into a Huggoda, a giant hugging dragon that'll hug the whole school. [Cackles]

Fred the Dog: Then it evolved into a big dragon that hugged the whole school. The end.
[Chimes]

And that's how it happened, so you see how it's just not my fault at all.

Alabaster Zero: I don't know, your story is really short and kind of one-sided.

Abacus: Oh, that's not how it went at all!

Alabaster Zero: Abacus P. Grumbler!

Abacus: Alabaster Zero!

Alabaster Zero: Why aren't we ever in stories together?

Abacus: I think it's because Mr. Eric mixes our names up too often.

Alabaster Zero: Well, that's just too bad, Alabaster, because I think we'd make a great team.

Abacus: Oh, You've got that right, Abacus. Hey, he's doing it again, you see?

[Record scratch.]

Mr. Eric: And so, Abacus, the professor, who's in the school with Fred. He started telling his version of the story.

[Chimes]

Abacus: I was hosting the fourth annual Ifmas Observatorium Party when Fred the Dog rode in like he owned the place.

Fred the Dog: Oh, hi, yeah, it's me, Fred the Dog. I don't know if you've heard of me, I'm president of What If World. So like, is there like a VIP area where I can chew my snokeball in peace?

Abacus: And then two of my trickier students, Zack and Zizi, ran up to Fred the Dog like the little sycophants that they are.

Zack: Oh, Fred! I'm your biggest fan!

Zizi: No, I'm your biggest fan!

Zack: Let me show you how to use that snokeball to summon a cute little...

Huggabee: Huggabee!

Fred the Dog: What did it say?

Zack: Oh, you got a Huggabee! They're really rare.

Zizi: It's basically the cutest thing in the whole InterWhat right now.

Fred the Dog: Oh, look, it's got those big green ears, and those even bigger eyes. Oh, and the little snowy white robes and...

Huggabee: Huggabee!

Fred the Dog: Oh, that's cold. Why's it hugging me?

Zack: That's like, it's power. Hugs are it's power.

Huggabee: HUUUGGABEEEEEE.

Fred the Dog: I didn't actually give you permission to hug me.

Huggabee: Huggabee?

Zizi: That's boring. Let me turn it into an even bigger Huggoda that can hug the whole school at the same time.

Fred the Dog: Sure, whatever. I don't care about the ramifications of my actions. Just go nuts.

Abacus: And that's how Fred the Dog, which help from that mischievous brother-sister duo ruined my holiday party.

[Chimes]

Zack: Uh-uh!

Zizi: That's not the whole story!

Mr. Eric: Zack and Zizi had pushed aside Abacus P. Grumbler and Fred the Dog, and now they were talking out of a little window that peaked out of a little gap where the giant Snokedragon had curled itself around the entire Observatorium in a hug that just kept getting... tighter.

Alabaster Zero: Ooh ooh ooh! Another flashback, yay!

Abacus: I don't really think we have time for another flashback.

Fred the Dog: Yes, the hugs from this giant dragon are damaging the structural integrity of this school.

Zack: But our version's really good.

Zizi: Yeah, because it's really true.

Mr. Eric: And as the giant dragon made out of green snow with big floppy ears squeezed itself tighter around the Observatorium in a neverending hug of doom, Zack and Zizi started telling their flashback.

[Chimes]

Abacus: Greetings everyone! I'm Promessy Calculator P. Grumpypants and this is the fourth annual something or other. I don't know. Who pays attention to these things?

Fred the Dog: Oh, hey, Zack and Zizi, can I chaperone this party? I don't get enough attention as president so I figured I could come here and mess up your night.

Zack: Oh, I don't know.

Zizi: Yeah, we just sort of wanted to have a nice, quiet, holiday party for a change.

Fred the Dog: Well, if you let me chaperone, you can play with my snokeball.

Zack: Oh, well, I'm very young and I don't really know better, so okay. Uh-oh, I accidentally activated the snokeball. It's just a cute little Huggabee, though.

Abacus: Children! Beware! That Huggabee is the cutest thing on the InterWhat right now and everyone's going to want to hug it!

Huggabee: Huggabee!

Fred the Dog: Oh, no. I want a bigger hug than this.

Huggabee: Huggabee?

Abacus: Well, in theory, it could give a bigger hug if Zizi were to cast a spell on it to evolve it into a Huggoda.

Zizi: A giant hug dragon? Isn't that irresponsible?

Zack: Yeah, wouldn't it hug the whole school? Even if the school didn't want a hug?

Fred the Dog: I don't care! As president of What If World, I command you, Zizi, to make this into a giant cute cuddly old dragon that hugs us forever.

Zizi: Well, if you say so.

Huggoda: Huggoda.

[Chimes]

Alabaster Zero: Oh, Fred and Abacus, how dare you trick these kids into—

Abacus: Oh, you're not pressing the button again!

Alabaster Zero: I am pressing the button!

Fair Elise: I think you're holding the bullhorn backwards.

Alabaster Zero: I am not holding the—oh. I was holding the bullhorn backwards.

Fred the Dog: Yeah, okay. Now that the school is half collapsed, do you think you could do something to save us all from this giant floppy green eared old dragon that's hugging the whole school to squish it?

Alabaster Zero: Huggoda, you gotta be a good Snokemon and turn back into a snokeball.

Fair Elise: Yes. You cannot hug people without their permission. Maybe give them a high five or a fistbump.

Howdy Pooch: Or, maybe just a friendly wave. Maybe they don't like being touched at all.

Huggoda: Huggoda.

Alabaster Zero: No, I really don't think we have time for another flashback.

Fred the Dog: No, it's okay. We should hear Huggoda's version of the story.

Zack: It's only fair.

Abacus: But my school is still getting squished.

Zizi: Maybe if Huggoda stopped hugging us first and then—
[Chimes]

Zizi: All right, whatever.

Abacus: Huggoda Huggoda Huggoda.

Fred the Dog: Oda-Huggoda Huggoda da da Huggoda.

Zack: Huggoda huug.

Huggoda: Huggoda.

Zizi: Oda oda da da hugga?

Huggoda: Huggoda.

Abacus: Oh, Huggoda.

Fred the Dog: Oda-hug.

Zack: Huggo go hoda.

Zizi: Da hugga go.

Huggoda: Da hugg.
[Chimes]

Abacus: Well, that was pointless.

Fred the Dog: Huggoda only speaks like three syllables.

Zack: Yeah, that was bologna! Huggoda's trying to blame us for not saying that we didn't want a hug.

Zizi: Yeah, Huggoda! It's on you to ask permission for a hug and it's not on us to give us.

Huggoda: Huggoodaaa...

Mr. Eric: And the giant snowy green and white dragon unfurled itself, letting go of the Observatorium and all the over-hugged individuals inside.

Huggoda: Huggoo...

Zack: We accept your apology.

Zizi: As long as you remember to ask for a hug next time.

Abacus: Wait, you children actually understood that?

Fred the Dog: They say it takes the mind of a child to understand the language of nature.

Alabaster Zero: [Crying] That was beautiful. The snow dragon apologized for crashing the party and learned a valuable lesson about boundaries and asking permission.

Fair Elise: Alabaster, you understood that?

Abacus: Makes total sense to me.

Fred the Dog: Well, hey, there's still an hour and forty-five minutes left of this party because really that sort of happened right away.

Abacus: And in the future, I won't complain about famous chaperones.

Fred the Dog: And I won't bring toys to parties.

Zack: And I won't turn those toys into magical hug monsters.

Zizi: Oh, that was just normal What If World hijinks. The real lesson is that you don't ever owe someone a hug.

Fair Elise: Yes, a hug is a shared expression of joy.

Alabaster Zero: And if one person doesn't feel like a hug or a high five, or even a fist bump, you gotta respect those feelings or you're going straight to the slammer.

Howdy Pooch: Maybe not straight to the slammer, but it sure might not help you make friends.

Abacus: Howdy Pooch, Fair Elise, Alabaster, why are you three here?

Zack: Well, it's our Ifmas dance party.

Zizi: And I think we could use a few more chaperones.

Abacus: Oh, fine. I suppose I have to rebuild the school again, anyway.

Huggoda: Huggoda?

Zizi: Oh, I'll have a hug.

Zack: Oh, no thanks. I want to go dance.

Alabaster Zero: Oh, are we group-hugging?

Fair Elise: Well, you can, but I'll just stay over here.

Howdy Pooch: Oh, I want a hug!

Abacus: Can I get a hug later after I rebuild the school?

Alabaster Zero: You gotta press the button, Alabaster.

Abacus: It's Abacus! You're Alabaster!

Alabaster Zero: Then how'd you end up with my megahorn.

Abacus: I don't know.

Mr. Eric: The end.

[Falling harp scale.]

Mr. Eric: All right Raya, Sean, and William, I hope you enjoyed your story. I'd like to thank Karen O'Keeffe, my co-creator, Craig Martinson for our theme song, and all you kids at home who know it's okay to say no thanks to a hug. There are a million ways to say hello, goodbye, thank you, I love you, so find what's comfortable for you.

And until we meet again, keep wondering.

[What If World theme plays.]

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