



***Did You Take the  
B from  
My \_ook?***  
**By Beck and Matt Stanton**

**Book Summary:**

For the Grown-Ups:  
OK. Two things you need to know. Firstly, your favourite thing in the whole world is the letter B. And secondly, you're about to sneeze and all the B's are going to be blown out of the book. So until you can get your favourite letter back, you're about to sound really, really silly ... And the kids will love it!

**Curriculum Areas and Key Learning Outcomes:**

English, Visual Arts, Mathematics

**Appropriate Ages:** 4+

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Notes by: Nadia McCallum

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## **ABOUT THE BOOK**

Be prepared to have fun and make your children laugh. The letter 'b' has gone missing and it's causing all sorts of problems!

This is the second book that Beck and Matt Stanton have produced together. Their unique illustration style gives the book a fun element as they use simple illustrations with digital colouring to effectively convey what is happening in the text. The story is also simple, but allows for the exploration of story structure awareness, spelling conventions and the effective use of illustrations.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

Beck Stanton is a bestselling author, a primary school teacher and the creative director/owner of [mybabymoments.com.au](http://mybabymoments.com.au). She has worked extensively with children throughout her teaching career and in roles that include before and after school care centre director, a nanny and youth and children's worker.

Matt Stanton is a bestselling children's author and illustrator, and an award-winning book designer. He publishes a much-loved series of children's books with co-creator Tim Miller, including *There Is a Monster Under My Bed Who Farts*, *The Pirate Who Had to Pee* and *Dinosaur Dump*.

Together, Matt and Beck publish the 'Books that Drive Kids Crazy' series, which includes the bestselling title *This Is a Ball*.

Beck and Matt live by the beach in Sydney with their two children, Bonnie and Boston.

[www.mattstanton.net](http://www.mattstanton.net)

## AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL CURRICULUM

### ENGLISH

(ACELA1429) (ACELA1430) (ACELA1433) (ACELA1437) (ACELA1439) (ACELA1440)  
(ACELA1438) (ACELA1818) (ACELA1820) (ACELT1575) (ACELT1577) (ACELT1785)  
(ACELY1646) (ACELY1649) (ACELY1651)

### MATHEMATICS

(ACMSP011)

### VISUAL ART

(ACAVAM107) (ACAVAM108)

## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAM

**Concepts:** change, connection

### **Transdisciplinary Skills:**

Social Skills – group decision making;

Research – collecting data, recording data, interpreting data;

Thinking Skills – comprehension, analysis;

Communication Skills – listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing.

## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

### BEFORE READING

Look at the cover. What do you think the book is about?

How do you think the 'b' might have disappeared?

Why do books have illustrations? What is their purpose? (e.g. to help us make sense of the text, to entertain, to give further meaning to the text)

### WHILE READING

What helps us know what the word should be, even though the first letter is missing?

### AFTER READING

#### MATHEMATICS

Put each letter of the alphabet on the wall. Make a list of everyone's favourite things and organise them under the letters of the alphabet. Are there some that people have in common? Do some words start with the same letter? Which letter has the most 'favourite things'?

#### READING

What do you notice about the position of the text on the page? Does it change? (Pay attention to when the 'b' is lost)

Has the author and illustrator used any other techniques to show 'change' in the book?

Take turns reading the book. Pay careful attention to the words where you can add expression. How do we know which words to add expression to, in order to make our story telling more interesting?

### **CREATIVE WRITING**

Before you read the book, you thought about all the different ways the letter 'b' might have disappeared. Use one of those reasons, or the reason given in the book, and jointly construct a newspaper report explaining the situation and what is being done to find the letter 'b'.

As a class, jointly construct a story using a similar story format to the book. Which letter will you choose to be lost? Perhaps choose the most popular letter from the class survey of favourite things.

The book was based around the letter 'b', but what if it was based around a colour? Instead of losing the letter 'b', you lose your favourite colour. Choose a colour, for example the colour green, and imagine that the colour green has gone missing. Why might it have disappeared? What would lose its colour, if we no longer had the colour green? How might we go about getting the colour green back?

### **VOCABULARY AND SPELLING**

#### ETYMOLOGY

The 'b' is gone from the book... but where does the word 'book' come from? Book is of Germanic origin: Old English *boc*: meaning book, writing, written document. It has cognates with German *Buch* meaning book and *Buche* meaning beech. These come from the idea that it was beechwood tablets on which runes were inscribed. Runes being the letters which were used to write various Germanic languages, before the adoption of the Latin alphabet.

## RHYME

The 'b' in bed is also missing. This time, let's focus on the end of the word, the 'ed' sound. What other words have that same sound? (led, fed, etc) Are they all spelt using 'ed'? (Use phonological awareness to identify other words with the same sound but different spelling, e.g. head and said)

## **ANALYSING THE TEXT/STRUCTURE**

Jointly construct a table showing what is the same between the way this story is constructed and the way other stories are constructed, and what is different, e.g. same: writing is left to right, top to bottom, sentences start with a capital letter and end in a full stop; different: the smaller text to indicate a response to something the person listening to the story might say.

Do you think the story is funny? What makes it funny? Discuss the different techniques the authors have used to create humour in the story.

## **VISUAL ART/TECHNOLOGY**

Examine the illustration techniques used in the book. Very few colours are used (the book is in fact printed with [Pantone inks](#), as opposed to standard four-colour (CMYK) process). Use a program, such as Microsoft paint, to create similar pictures of your favourite things. You could use a variety of techniques from the illustrations as inspiration, such as;

- using the colours the book uses;
- using colour to divide the page into two, with text on one half and the illustration on the other;
- using black to outline the pictures, in a similar way to graphic novels.

### **MAKING CONNECTIONS**

In the book, the narrator lists many of their favourite things. What other books or songs do you know which are based around 'favourite things'? (Think about the song 'My Favourite Things' originally from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *The Sound of Music*) Why might we write stories about and create artworks of our favourite things?

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF THESE NOTES**

Nadia McCallum completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Psychology and Sociology, before going on to complete a Masters of Teaching which she finished with Honours. She has taught in the Catholic, Government and Independent school systems at a Primary School level. Nadia has a special interest in the explicit teaching of thinking skills in order to develop critical thinkers who actively explore, engage with and learn about the world around them and themselves. Nadia works as an education consultant advising schools and speaking at conferences on curriculum differentiation and assessment.