



The Book That Never Ends

(Books That Drive Kids Crazy, Book 5)

By Beck & Matt Stanton

Book Summary

For the Grown-Ups:

They say all good things come to an end ... but don't hold your breath!

You and the kids are about to zigzag your way through this book. Your choices will take you who-knows-where.

There's a legend that some people once found the end, but we're not convinced.

Oh, you think you can? Well, you're welcome to try.

And the kids will love it!

From the mind-boggling brains behind *This Is a Ball*, *Did You Take the B from My _ook?*, *The Red Book* and *Wait!* comes a brand-new crowd-pleaser!

Key Learning Outcomes

- ACELA1448
- ACELA1453
- ACELA1437
- ACELA1821
- ACELY1660
- ACELT1578
- ACELY1664
- ACELY1670

Themes

- storytelling (narrative structure)
- endings
- choice
- decision making
- interpreting & understanding images

Recommended Ages: 4+

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CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

This book is a trick! Isn't it?

- The first page of the book asks a series of questions. Read these questions as a class — does everybody agree on the answers? Do you think the author is trying to trick you yet? Read the next page together. Do you still trust the author?
- Have a conversation about who an author is and what they do. Is everything you read in a book true? How do you decide if you can trust the author? Do you think this book is fiction or non-fiction? Why?

Story maps

- You might have learnt that you read a book from start to finish, and that the story goes in this order. This isn't always true though — some books are meant to be read from back to front, and some (like this one) are meant to be read from start to middle to end and all the way back again! Spend some time in the library as a class. Can you find examples of other stories that don't read from start to finish? Do you like being able to read this book in any order? Why/why not?
- Create a story map: choose your own pathway through the story and draw a map to represent your path. Swap your story map with the person next to you. Can you work out the choices they made from the pictures they drew? Did they make the same choices as you or different ones? Talk about the different experiences you had reading the book. What did you both like and dislike about choosing your own path through the story?
- How might you use a story map to write your own story?

Narrative techniques

- Books like this use the word 'you' instead of 'I' or 'they' to talk to the reader, directly. This is called a second person narrative. What other books can you find that use this technique? Rewrite a page from your favourite book replacing the word 'I' with the word 'you'. How does this change the story?

Creative writing

- Create your own choose your own adventure story as a class. Write the numbers 1 to 10 in the top right hand corner of 10 sheets of paper. Next to each number write a sentence starting with 'you' and finish it with something you can do. Cut the sentences into strips, so that you have one number and one sentence per strip of paper. Below each sentence give the reader two choices that lead them to another strip of paper. These should start either with the words 'if you' and give options that lead them back to other pages in your book. (e.g. if you turn left at the road go to page five, if you turn right, go to page 3).

- Staple your book together and draw illustrations for each page. Share your choose your own adventure story with another group in the school.

Alternate endings

- Read the book a couple of times, making different choices each time. Does the ending stay the same?
- What would happen if each pathway led you to a different ending? Should stories be allowed to have alternate endings?
- Rewrite the last page of your favourite book so that it ends differently. Read your alternate ending to the rest of the class, telling them why you chose to end the story the way you did.

ABOUT THE CREATORS

Beck Stanton is the acclaimed co-creator of the bestselling picture books *This Is a Ball*, *Did You Take the B from My _ook?*, *The Red Book* and *Wait!* Before her career in children's books, Beck worked as a primary school teacher.

Matt Stanton is a bestselling children's author and illustrator, with more than half a million books sold. He is the co-creator of several bestselling picture books, including the mega-hits *There Is a Monster Under My Bed Who Farts* and *This Is a Ball*. He launched his much-anticipated middle-grade series, *Funny Kid*, around the world in 2017. The first book in the series, *Funny Kid for President*, debuted as the #1 Australian kids' book, and *Funny Kid* is fast winning legions of fans around the world.

They live in Sydney with their three young children.