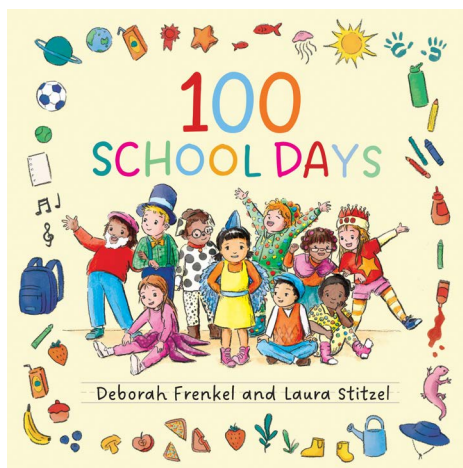


Teacher Notes

100 School Days

by Deborah Frenkel and Laura Stitzel

Teacher notes prepared by Bec Kavanagh.



Publication details

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Themes

- Change
- School
- Growing up
- Discovery
- Confidence

About the Book

When you start school, there are a lot of firsts. Your first friend! Your first excursion! Your first sports day! As the days go by, all those firsts add up ... and soon you've reached 100 days of school. And once you've reached this milestone, you know you can reach for absolutely anything.

Celebrate 100 days of school and look forward to an infinity of milestones to come!

About the Author and Illustrator

Deborah is a Sydney-born, Melbourne-based writer who lives in an extremely messy but happy house full of books and half-painted walls. When she's not writing for kids, she's usually copywriting for TV commercials, billboards, and the labels of shampoo bottles. If she wasn't a writer, she'd probably be an engineer, having spent her childhood (and some of her adulthood) making machines out of toilet rolls and string.

Laura Stitzel an author, illustrator and animator from Melbourne. Her work is a combination of watercolour, ink and painting. She has written and illustrated over 20 children's books. As a background artist and animator in Australia and Canada, Laura has worked on animated television shows for PBS, Disney, Warner Bros, Netflix, ABC and more.

Before Reading:

- What did you think school would be like before you started? How do you feel about it now?
- Look at the border illustrations on the book's cover – what activities or interests do they represent?
- 'You can reach for anything when you've reached 100 days' – discuss this quote from the back of the book. Do you agree? Why is 100 days of school such an achievement.

Comprehension questions

- How does the main character feel about school at the beginning? What makes this change?
- What happens on the 3rd day of school?
- What can you see in the illustrations that remind you of your own school?
- What do the students find on their roaming excursion?
- Make a list of the places the students go to on excursions.
- What do the students learn on their first 100 days?
- How do the students feel at the end of the book?

A _____
 B _____
 C _____
 B _____

- The book explores the various feelings that the first 100 days of school can cause. Make a list of all the feelings words used in the book. What other feelings words or **adjectives** can you come up with to describe how you felt during the first 100 days of school.

Literacy

- **Vocabulary:** make a list of any new words you encounter in the story. Look them up and write down the meaning in your own words. Try to practice using them at least three times throughout the week.
- **Rhyme** helps to bring rhythm to a story, and it can help us learn and remember words as well. In the book, the words that rhyme in each pair of lines are the final words – this is an **end rhyme**.
- A **rhyme scheme** uses letters to describe the pattern the rhymes follow – the book uses an ABCB rhyme scheme, which means that the second line rhymes with the fourth, but the first and third lines don't rhyme with each other. The first block of lines is:
 - The 1st day is a big one. (A)
 - Dad tries not to cry. (B)
 - Mum takes blurry photos. (C)
 - I feel strange and shy. (B)
- In this block, or stanza, the words that rhyme are 'cry' and 'shy'. Use the template in the next column to fill out another stanza from the book, and underline the rhyming words.

Final reflections

- Did the story feel true to you? Which parts of the book were similar to your experience and which were different?
- Who should read this book?
- How did the book make you feel? Discuss the book with other people in your class – who felt the same as you? Who felt differently and why?

Creative Activities

- Write a letter to your past self – what do you know now that you wish you'd known on your first day of school? What could you tell yourself that would make you feel less nervous about starting school?
- Draw a picture of the best thing you've learned or done in the first 100 days of school. What are you most looking forward to next?
- Plan a party to celebrate this milestone – what will you do? Who will you invite? Write an invitation for your celebration.
- Draw a timeline from day 1 of school to day 100. Mark all the most memorable things you've learned or done or seen during this time.