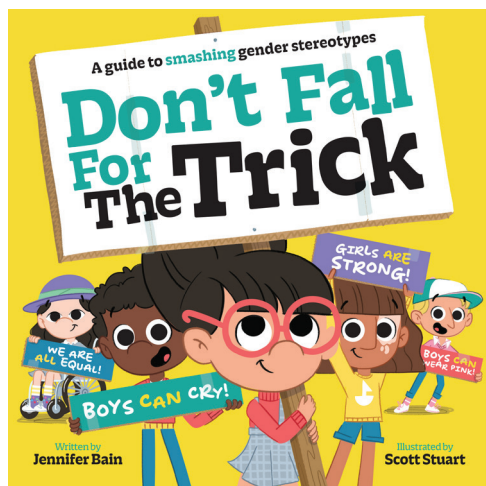




Teacher Notes

Don't Fall For The Trick

by Jennifer Bain and illustrated by Scott Stuart

Teacher notes prepared by Bec Kavanagh.

Publication details

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Themes

- Gender stereotypes
- Unconscious bias
- Patriarchy
- Critical thinking

About the Book

Have you ever heard something that doesn't sound true? Something that you know for a fact is false? It feels like a trick, doesn't it?

Every day, we come across many tricks that keep the world from being a truly equal place. This book helps kids and their grown-ups to learn the tricks that are holding us all back so that together we can smash gender stereotypes and create positive change.

About the Author

Jennifer Bain has been writing stories since she was very small. She has always wanted to write picture books to help children feel comfortable in the world, but she got distracted by becoming an accountant, a mum, and then a primary school teacher. She now lives on the Central Coast NSW and finally has the time to follow her dream of creating positive stories to help children navigate the world.

About the Illustrator

Scott Stuart is a bestselling children's book creator who is committed to making content that empowers kids. His books have appeared on numerous bestseller lists, as well as being shortlisted for ABIA and CBCA awards. His empowering messages around acceptance and diversity have been seen over 100 million times on his highly-engaged social media communities. Scott lives in Melbourne with his wife and son and loves to write stories that empower kids.

Before Reading

- Have you ever heard someone say that a particular thing is for girls or for boys? How did it make you feel?
- Consider the title of the book. What do you think is meant by 'The Trick'? Brainstorm a list of different types of tricks. Why do people play tricks? Compare this list to the trick in the book.

Comprehension questions

- What are some of the things that people say that feel like a trick? Why do you think they say them?
- What assumption does the teacher make about people who wear pink socks?
- What are some of the ways that we can look out for the trick? What can we do when we see the trick in action?
- What kind of world does the trick stop us from creating?
- In your own words, what is the patriarchy? What are some of the things that the patriarchy makes people believe?
- What is Pa surprised to discover?
- How does Gran try to trick Pa?
- The trick can pressure people into dressing a particular way – have you been tricked like this before?
- Does the trick mean that we shouldn't wear pink if we're a girl or like sports if we're a boy?

Literacy

- **Expressions: Literal and implied**
 - When something is **literal**, the meaning of a word or phrase is the same as the thing that it's describing.
 - When something is **implied**, it is suggested but not expressed directly.
 - For example, when someone says 'Big boys don't cry', the trick or assumption that boys don't cry is expressed **literally**.
 - But when the teacher asks for some 'big, strong boys to help him move the tables and chairs', the assumption that boys are strong and girls aren't is **implied**.
 - Can you find other examples from the book?

Literacy cont.

Definitions

- This book introduces a lot of words and concepts that you might not be familiar with. Using a dictionary, write the meaning of the following words into column 2 of the table. In column 3, write an example to demonstrate your understanding.

Word	Definiton	Example
Patriarchy		
Oppression		
Equality		
Unconscious bias		
Gender stereotypes		

Final reflections

- The patriarchy is one thing that stops us from creating a more equal world, but there are other forms of oppression that get in the way of equality to. What are they? Can the techniques mentioned in the book be used to fight other forms of oppression?
- Who would you give this book to and why?
- Write down three new words or ideas that you've learned in the book that you'd like to know more about.

Creative activities

- Make a list of the tricks mentioned in the book. Now come up with an example for each of something that you've seen or done or read about that disproves the lie. Eg. 'Girls can't climb trees' / Yesterday my friend, Meg, climbed a huge tree in the playground.
- On the last page of the book there's an image of two walls of toys – one wall clearly shows toys that are often sold as 'girls toys' and one contains toys typically sold as 'boys toys'. Go to the toy shop and find a toy that looks as if it's been branded specifically for a boy or for a girl. What is it about the packaging that makes you think this? Redesign the package to make it clear that the toy is for everyone.

Creative activities cont.

- Draw a picture of yourself in your favourite outfit, doing your favourite activity. Share your pictures with the rest of the class. Do any of these pictures expose any tricks?
- One of the goals of the book is to help create a more equal world. What do you think this world looks like? Write a story, or draw a picture set in a future where people are equal. What needs to change for us to make this world a reality?