

Be More Bernard

Author: Simon Philip

Illustrator: Kate Hindley

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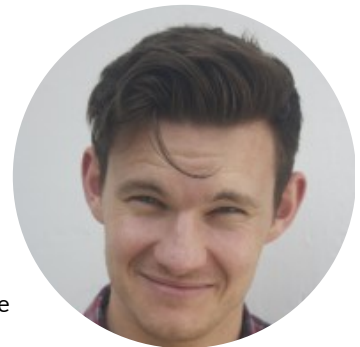
Synopsis

Bernard has decided that he's not going to be like all the other bunnies any more. He's not going to hop when everyone else hops, or bounce when they bounce. And while others might dream of carrots, Bernard's dreams are altogether more...disco!

He starts small, but when he finally gets to groove with grace and jive with joy at Bertie and Brenda's Bunny Ball, Bernard shows the world that being yourself is the very best thing a bunny can be.

Author Bio

Simon was born in Chichester in 1988 and has lived there ever since, although he occasionally leaves to buy milk. After gaining a 1st class degree in History at Exeter University, he immediately put his skills to good use working as a barman at a local pub. He soon grew tired of the owner calling him Andy, and so, naturally, decided to become a primary school teacher. Teaching rekindled his love of children's literature, particularly picture books, so much so that he had a go at writing his own. Deciding he was better at writing stories for children than he would ever be at teaching them, he made a swift exit from education to live the cliché of the writer who works in a bar. He hopes that one day he'll be able to give up writing stories and become a barman full-time.



Simon's first picture book *You Must Bring a Hat* won the 2016 Sainsbury's Children's Book of the Year. His third, *I Really Want the Cake*, was shortlisted for the 2018 Waterstones Children's Book Prize.

<https://simon-philip.com/>

Illustrator Bio

Kate Hindley is an exciting talent in the world of picture books, and is renowned for her deliciously detailed illustrations, and lively characterization. After studying at the Falmouth School of Art, she has gone on to illustrate a number of picture books including *How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth*, *Worst in Show* and *They Came from Planet Zabalooloo!*, as well as fiction titles for older children such as the *Naughtiest Girl* series written by Enid Blyton.

Kate lives in Birmingham, not far from the chocolate factory.

<https://katehindley.com/>



Curriculum Links

English

Foundation ACELT1575

Year 1 ACELT1582

Health and Physical Education

Foundation ACPPS005

Year 1 ACPPS019

The Arts - Dance

Foundation to Year 2 ACADAM001

Explore, improvise and organise ideas to make dance sequences using the elements of dance.

Exploring movement possibilities in response to a stimulus, such as imagery, music and shared stories.

Themes

- Diversity
- Acceptance
- Individuality
- Difference

Pre Reading

Look at the front cover of the book.

Read the title together.

Look at the other names on the book. What are they there for?

What do the author and illustrator do?

Identify the author and the illustrator.

Sometimes it is not clear which person is the author and which person is the illustrator.

Inside the book, opposite the title page, is the imprint page.

This page tells you more about the publisher, but it also identified the author and the illustrator.

- What do you think the story will be about?
- Read the blurb at the back of the book.
- What do you feel about it?
- What kind of things are you now expecting to see inside the book?
- What questions do you have?

Health and Physical Education - Individuality

Bernard looks like the other rabbits on the outside, but on the inside he feels different. He tells lies to the other rabbits so that they think he is just like them.

How does that make Bernard feel?

Being true to himself is a bit scary because he is not sure how the other rabbits will react, but how does being himself make Bernard feel?

Talk about how other people's behaviour towards you, can determine how you feel in a situation.

English

This book uses great descriptive language to describe Bernard's dancing.

When Bernard is dancing he uses words like:

- Twirled
- Sashayed
- Swaggered
- Peacocked
- Hustled
- Grooved
- Jived

Ask the class if they can think of any other words you could use to describe types of dancing?

Examples to get you started:

- Wiggled
- Shook
- Pranced

The Arts - Dance

ACADAM001

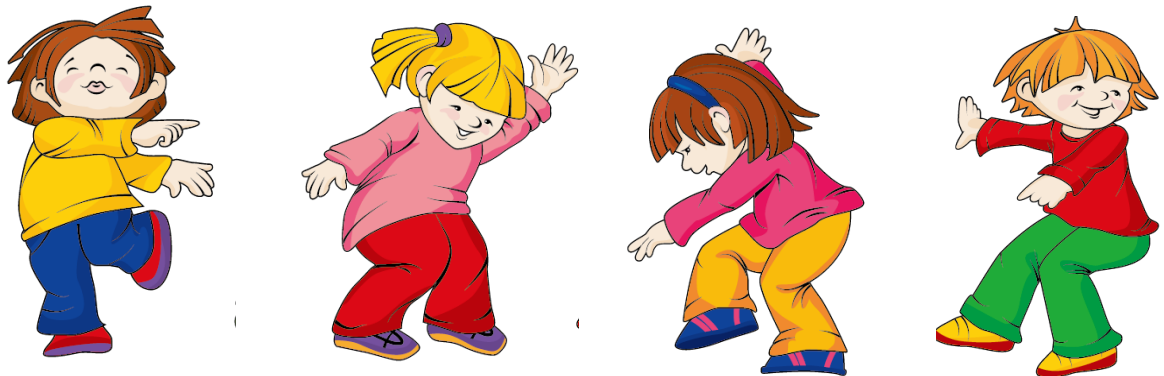
- Explore, improvise and organise ideas to make dance sequences using the elements of dance.
- Exploring movement possibilities in response to a stimulus, such as imagery, music and shared stories.

Collate a variety of musical pieces.

In a large space, play the pieces of music and encourage the students to move their bodies like Bernard.

Use the words from the story and your list above as prompts.

Using each piece of music to demonstrate a different type of movement.



Year 1 - Biological Science

ACSSU211

Living things live in different places where their needs are met
 Recognising that different living things live in different places

In the books we can see where the rabbits live – underground.

This is a story, so do you really think that the rabbits would have beds underground?
 Tables and chairs?

What other animals live underground?

Why do you think that animals might live underground?

Other picture books that show animals living underground

- Mrs Mole I'm Home - Jarvis
- Up Down Around – Katherine Ayers
- Meerkat Splash – Aurora Parker
- Yucky Worms – Vivienne French

