



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Preschool to lower primary
(ages 3–6; preschool to K)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, Visual Arts
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and creative thinking, Phonics and Word Knowledge, Personal and social capability, Visual literacy

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To respond to text and share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in the text.
- To use the text as a springboard for general discussion and exploration of major themes.

THEMES

- Family
- Food
- Imaginative play
- Craft
- Alphabet

PREPARED BY

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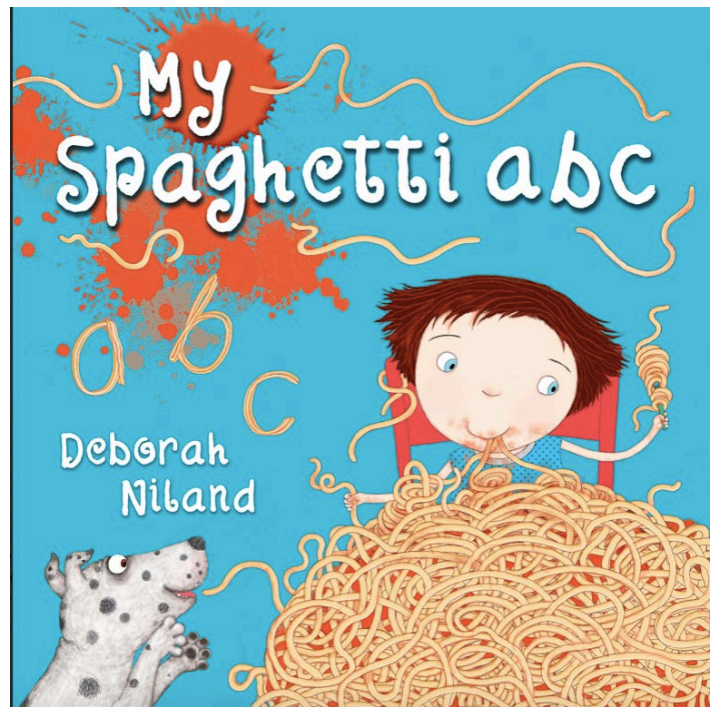
PUBLICATION DETAILS

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My Spaghetti abc

Deborah Niland

PLOT SUMMARY

A delicious rhyming picture book that celebrates the delight of eating messy spaghetti, from award-winning author and illustrator Deborah Niland. Follow our heroine as she explores all the different things that she can make with spaghetti, from spaghetti glasses and a giraffe to an amazing spaghetti cake and alphabet.

(Includes special fold-out spaghetti alphabet pages.)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

Deborah Niland has been drawing and painting all her life. She has painted for art exhibitions and galleries, and illustrated for newspapers and magazines. Most of all, she has built a successful career illustrating children's books. Some well-known and popular titles include *Mulga Bill's Bicycle*, *When The Wind Changed* and *There's a Hippopotamus On Our Roof Eating Cake* and *Chatterbox*.

Deborah now enjoys writing and illustrating her own stories. She has had great success with *Annie's Chair*. This picture book, first published in 2005, has won many awards, including the 2006 Children's Book of the Year-Early Childhood, and several Children's Choice awards. *Annie to the Rescue*, a follow-up tale of the intrepid little girl, was published in 2007.

Now that her own children have grown up, Deborah has enjoyed spending time widening her knowledge of different illustration techniques, both traditional and digital. Other interests include doodling, fine art painting, photography, and playing with the grandchildren.

Deborah says:

This story was inspired by how most children love spaghetti and aren't worried by how messy it is to eat. She hopes children would relate to the funny creations and imagine some of their own. She wanted the messy splattered artwork to capture the chaos of the riotous, family-oriented spaghetti mealtimes!

ACTIVITIES

Classroom/shared reading

1. Read *My Spaghetti abc* together as a class.
2. Ask students to identify their favourite part/s of the story.
3. Discuss the different spaghetti creations – the glasses, the giraffe, monster and cake etc. What are the favourite ones? Are there some other spaghetti creations they can find in the illustrations that aren't mentioned in the story?

IDENTIFYING KEY THEMES

Food and Family

1. Discuss with the class which country spaghetti comes from originally. Where is it eaten today? What other spaghetti-like foods are there that they might also eat at home?
2. Identify all the different members of the family in the story (including pets!) who are eating spaghetti together.
3. Take a class poll on who likes spaghetti and how often they might eat spaghetti at home as a family meal. Is it a favourite meal in their family? Do members of their extended family come for dinner: sometimes/ often/ special occasions?
4. Discuss what are the meals that are favourites in the students' families. Draw a large 'table' with circles for plates and write the names of the meals on the plates and the student name. Colour the ones that are the same to see which are the most common.

Craft

1. Ask the class to draw what they would most like to make out of spaghetti?
2. Give students some yellow or white lengths of wool (spaghetti length) or string, glue and disposable paper plates to make their own spaghetti creations on.
3. If you have access to a pasta-making machine, a fun class activity could be to make fresh spaghetti together.

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Rhyme

1. Read the first few sentences in the story and discuss what you notice about the reading. Identify which are the words that rhyme. Say just the rhyming words out loud. Where are the rhyming words usually found in the sentence?
2. Create a list of the rhyming words. Look at the pairs of words and compare word endings to identify which are spelt the same and which are different even though they make the same sound. Brainstorm other rhyming words with the class to add to the list.
3. Work together to create a new rhyming verse about spaghetti.



Aphabet

1. Look at the spaghetti alphabet together and talk about the pictures, say the matching words and identify which belong to which letters.
2. Ask students to find the spaghetti letter that their name begins with. Use this activity as an opportunity to talk about the difference between the upper case and lower case letters.
3. Sing the alphabet song together using the fold out spaghetti abc poster as a prompt as you sing.
4. Go back through the book and choose some of your favourite spaghetti creations then look at the spaghetti alphabet poster and match the letter that each one starts with ie. monster+ Mm.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Author study:
 - Deborah Niland has written and/or illustrated many picture books. Find another picture book from her in your library to read.
 - Describe Deborah Niland's illustrations; the way she draws people and animals. Is it serious? Funny? Can you see some fun patterns?
 - Can you find the finished garment that the grandmother has been knitting at the table somewhere in the book?
2. Design a new pasta shape:

Bring in some different shapes of pasta to show the class (spirals, bow ties, risoni etc). In groups, talk about:

 - the different shapes. How many are there? Do you know of others?
 - What are some fun new pasta shapes you could have?
 - Vote on the group's choice for a new pasta design and discuss why it was chosen.
 - Present your new pasta idea to the rest of the class.

ADDITIONAL READING

- *Annie's Chair* by Deborah Niland
- *There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake* by Hazel Edwards, illustrated by Deborah Niland
- *It's Bedtime, William* by Deborah Niland
- *Chatterbox* by Margaret Wild, illustrated by Deborah Niland
- *Animalia* by Graeme Base
- *ABC Pasta* by Juana Medina Rosas
- *Mr McGee and the Big Bag of Bread* by Pamela Allen
- *Brown Bread and Honey* by Pamela Allen
- *I'm a Dirty Dinosaur*, by Janeen Brian and Ann James

WEBSITES TO EXPLORE FURTHER

- <https://www.deborah-niland.com.au/>



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
My Spaghetti abc	Deborah Niland	9781760897253	Pre-K	\$19.99		
Annie's Chair	Deborah Niland	9780143501985	Pre-K	\$14.99		
Animalia	Graeme Base	9780140541120	Pre-K	\$19.99		
Mr McGee and the Big Bag of Bread	Pamela Allen	9780143501411	Pre-K	\$14.99		
TOTAL						

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