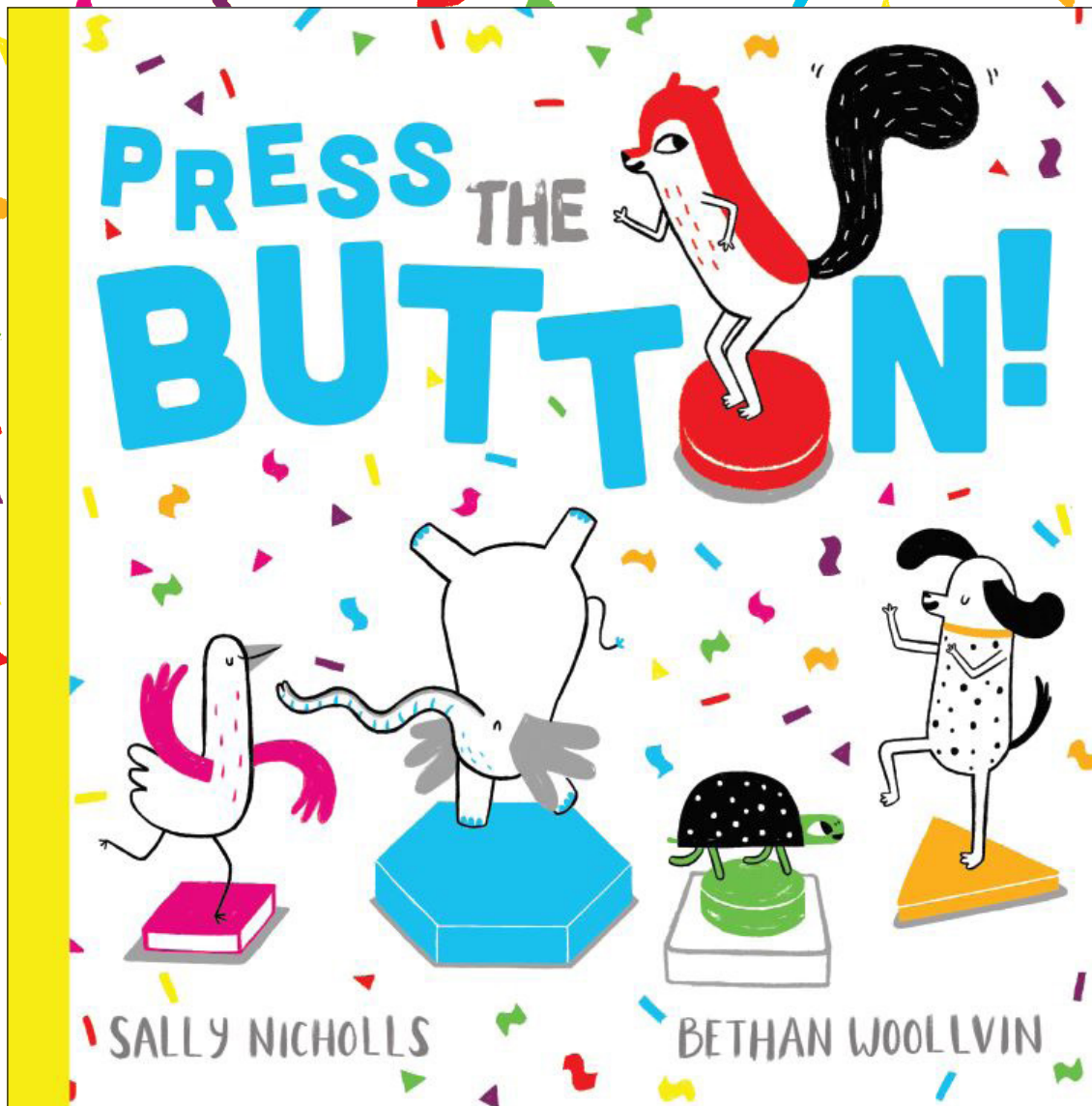


TEACHERS NOTES

PRESS THE BUTTON!



By Sally Nicholls, illustrated by Bethan Woollvin

THEMES

- Exploration
- Togetherness
- Timing
- Play

SUITABLE FOR

Age 2-6: Pre-school to Prep

DESCRIPTION

It's a book full of buttons. What do they do? There's only one way to find out: press them all!

A fun and interactive book for infants learning colours and language.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sally Nicholls grew up in Stockton-on-Tees, and after school, travelled the world, working for a period at a Red Cross hospital in Japan. Sally's first novel, *Ways to Live Forever*, won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and she has been shortlisted for the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize and the Costa Children's Book Award. She lives in Oxford.

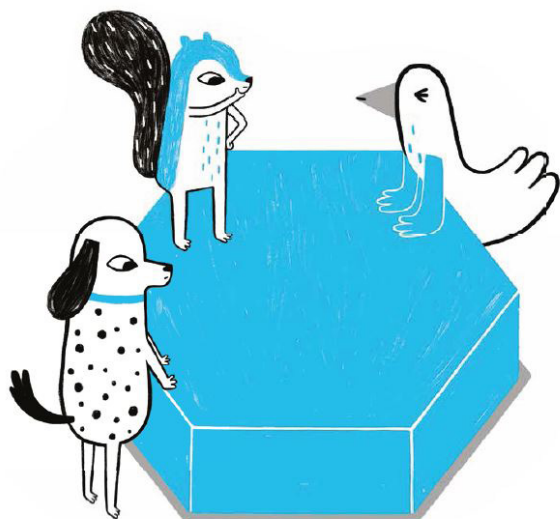
ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Bethan Woollvin is the author and illustrator of Macmillan Childrens Book Prize winning *Little Red*, which was chosen as one of The New York Times Best Illustrated Children's Books 2016. She graduated with a first class honours degree in Illustration at Cambridge School of Art, and she now lives in Sheffield.

THEMES

EXPLORATION

Press the Button! has a spirit of adventure and exploration, gently encouraging kids to discover the world around them. It invites curiosity and interaction with the physical elements of their world.



TOGETHERNESS

As the animals of *Press the Button!* explore their space, they do so with a sense of community that not only includes one another, but also the reader. By pressing buttons alongside the characters, the reader becomes a part of the adventure. The nature of this story and its interactivity make it perfect to read in small groups, further encouraging the development of relationships and echoing the teamwork and togetherness shown by the characters.

TIMING

As the characters explore the different buttons in their world, they discover a mixture of noisy, quiet, active and passive adventures, culminating in a sleep time button. This instills within the reader that there is a time for play, a time to be quiet, a time to shout and a time to hug, and that sometimes you don't get to control when those things happen. It mirrors the structured life of a child back to them in a way that is both comforting and fun.

PLAY

There is a strong sense of play within *Press the Button!* that extends to the reader. It celebrates the joy and wonder of playtime, and invites the reader, whether adult or child, to get involved in the fun! It's a gentle introduction to the form of a story, using play to change up the conventions of a typical picture book and to encourage children to think about the way they engage with the world and with reading.



ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION POINTS

- Before you start reading, have a look at the cover of this book and read the blurb on the back. Discuss as a class what you think this story might be about. Also take a moment to discuss what it is about a book that makes you want to read it. Is it the cover? The description? Are you interested in this book based on these details?
- So you probably decided that this book is about buttons! What kind of buttons do you think it might feature? What is it about the cover that makes you think that?



- There are lots of colours in this book. What is your favourite colour? Why? What do you think a button that colour would do?
- There are also lots of different buttons in this book! What kind of button would you like to invent? Make one out of cardboard, and press it in front of the class. What does it make you do? Act it out for everyone!
- The characters in *Press the Button!* spend a lot of time exploring their world and finding exciting new things to do (or press!). What do you do when you want to go exploring? Where do you go? What kind of adventures do you have? Draw a picture of your favourite adventure, and make sure you show the things you found there.



- What makes *Press the Button!* different to a regular picture book? Do you like getting involved in the story? Does it make you feel like you are part of the story too?
- The characters in *Press the Button!* have a really fun time together. Who do you have fun with? Draw a picture of your friends having fun as a group.
- Sometimes the characters in this book are a bit silly, sometimes they are noisy, sometimes they are cuddly and sometimes they are sleepy. What kind of things do you do and feel over the course of a day? Are you noisy in the mornings? Cuddly in the afternoon? Do you always feel sleepy when it is time for bed? Discuss what it is like to have set things to do in a day, and how that makes you feel.