



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Pre-school and early primary age
(ages 3+)

CONTENTS

1. Plot summary	1
2. About the author	2
3. Interview with the author	2
4. Pre-reading questions	3
5. Key study topics	3
6. Further reading	5
7. Worksheets	6

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, Visual Arts, Media Arts, Nature and Science
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and creative thinking, Visual literacy, Science understanding (biological sciences)

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To understand parts of speech and rhyming texts.
- To understand concepts such as shapes and objects.
- To discuss new vocabulary, respond to texts and share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts
- To retell familiar texts through performance, use of illustration or images

THEMES

- Identifying shapes and objects
- Problem-solving and cooperation
- Identifying emotions

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia Pty Ltd

PUBLICATION DETAILS

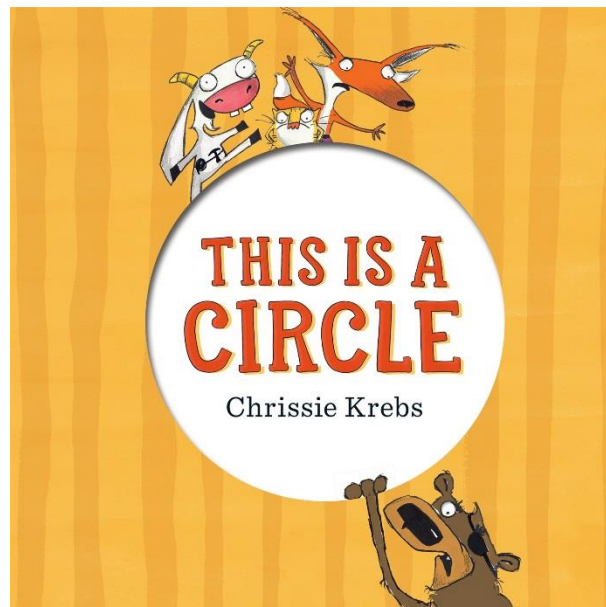
ISBN: 9780857988058 (hardback)

eISBN: 9780857988065

These notes may be reproduced free of charge for use and study within schools but they may not be reproduced (either in whole or in part) and offered for commercial sale.

Visit www.randomhouse.com.au/teachers for information on other Random House Australia teachers' resources and great books for the classroom, and to sign up for our Teachers' eNewsletter.

Copyright © Penguin Random House Australia Pty Ltd 2016



This Is a Circle Chrissie Krebs

PLOT SUMMARY

This picture book begins like any ordinary 'name the shape' book. But soon some strange animals appear and decide to play with the shapes and objects in increasingly silly and unexpected ways.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Chrissie Krebs is an author-illustrator who also teaches art and media at a secondary school in Melbourne's south-eastern suburbs. *This Is a Circle* is Chrissie's first picture book.

INTERVIEW WITH THE AUTHOR

1. How did you become an author and illustrator?

When I was six years old I knew I wanted to draw pictures and tell stories, and do it for a living when I grew up. My parents weren't too sure if it could be done – they wanted me to be a secretary or a flight attendant but I couldn't type with more than two fingers and I was afraid of flying. I became an art teacher but in my own time I would constantly draw and write stories. I then began to put my stories and pictures into competitions where I won some awards. This gave me the confidence to send some of my stories to publishing houses. After many years of sending off stories, Random House read my story and liked it and wanted to work with me in making my book.

2. What was your inspiration for creating *This Is a Circle*?

I love to rhyme and I was interested in books that helped young children learn about objects. But there is a very zany side of me that loves it when things go crazy and characters do ridiculous things. I tried to see if I could put all these things together to make a book, and I did! Phew!

3. Can you explain a little bit about how you created the illustrations?

I love drawing with pencils, so I always start that way. I draw my characters and scenes in pencil, then I paint in the colour using gouache

– which is like a strong watercolour. I add ink pen to create the outlines, then I scan it onto the computer and I make the colours brighter and tidy up any spots or splodges until I am happy with the artwork.

4. What was your favourite picture book when you were younger?

My all-time favourite picture book was a Golden Book called *The Colour Kittens*. It was about two kittens who owned lots of paint tins and they began mixing colours together and then they fell asleep and had these amazing vivid dreams and adventures. I loved the book especially because of the dreams the kittens had and their night-time adventures. I love to imagine what animals get up to at night-time – it is such a magical time. I can imagine cats, foxes and owls all having little discos in the moonlight while I am tucked up in bed asleep. How cool would that be?

5. What was the most challenging part of creating *This Is a Circle*?

Drawing the animals with all kinds of different crazy expressions while still making them look like the same animal! Bear was looking happy on one page and then the next he has to look angry, but he still has to look like the same bear. That can be hard to do!

6. Do you have a favourite picture book or illustrator?

Dr Seuss of course! I love his craziness and his amazing characters and the bold simple colours he used for his stories. But I also love Oliver Jeffers, Leigh Hobbs, Jon Klassen, Gus Gordon and Maurice Sendak. I could go on...



PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Look at the front cover of the book. Read the title. What type of creatures appear on the cover? Do you notice anything unusual about how this cover has been put together? Do you think the book's title and its cover make a good match? What do you think the book could be about?
2. Read the blurb on 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 about what could be in the story?
3. Inside the cover and behind the title page is a bookplate page, with the words 'This book belongs to'. What is happening on this page? Do characters in books usually play with the way words are written in a book? What do you think this is telling you about the story?

KEY STUDY TOPICS

English

Questions

1. Were there any words in the book that you didn't know? Can you work out from the illustration what the word means?
2. *Worksheet 1* invites readers to name some extra shapes that don't appear in the story.
3. Did you notice that the story rhymed? Why do you think the author chose to tell the story in rhyming verse rather than in prose (non-rhyming writing)? Do you read books differently when they rhyme? *Worksheet 2* invites readers to find rhymes for four common words.
4. *Worksheet 3* asks readers to respond to the story and draw their favourite character.
5. *Worksheet 4* asks readers to identify feelings by matching illustrations of characters to words for different feelings.
6. Can you tell the difference between a noun, a verb and an adjective? See *Worksheet 5* for a wordcloud activity about nouns, verbs and adjectives.

Extension activity

Worksheet 7 invites readers to draw their own character who could fit into the story of *This Is a Circle*. Older students might like to devise a new character *and* write a rhyming verse for that character.

Nature and science

Questions

1. Name the four types of animals that you see in the book. As a class, see if you can think of five facts about each animal.
2. Have you seen all of these types of animal in real life? Where are you most likely to see each animal? (You could think of a country, or a type of place, such as in a home, in a zoo, in a wildlife park, on a farm, in a national park.)
3. Do you think the way the animals in the story behave is realistic? Can you think of two things each animal does that might be realistic, and two things each animal does that might not be realistic?
4. Imagine you were going to rewrite this story featuring only native Australian animals. Which four animals would you choose? Which Australian animal do you think would be most like the bear, the goat, the cat and the fox? (Hint: think about what personality you think the animals might have, not just how they look.)

Social skills and play

Questions

1. Do you think the animals in the story get along? Would you want to play with them? Why?
2. How do you think the animals could get down from the giant box? What kind of skills or items would they need to help them get down?

The arts and visual literacy

Questions

1. When you read the book, why do you think some words are made bigger than others?
1. *Worksheet 6* invites students to consider how illustrations can tell a story without words, and to create their own story for an illustration from the book that has ‘lost’ its words.
2. *Worksheet 7* shows development sketches for a character and invites readers to draw their own character who could fit into *This Is a Circle*.

FURTHER READING FROM RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



Ollie and the Wind
by Ronojoy Ghosh

Why this story? To think about problem-solving, cooperation, making friends, and discovering new ways to play.

Sometimes the best things appear out of thin air

The wind blows all day on Ollie's island. There aren't many people around, but there's lots of space to play.

One day the wind steals Ollie's hat. Then it darts away with his scarf. But is the wind just naughty, or is it trying to tell Ollie something?

Teachers' resources available.



The Great Garden Mystery
by Renée Trembl

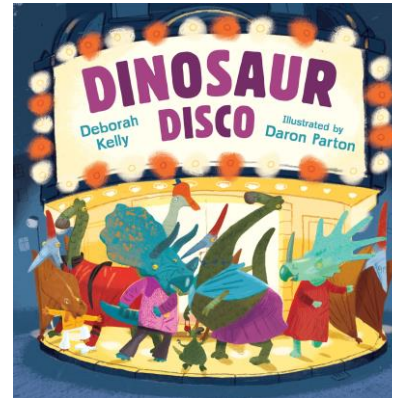
Why this story? To solve a mystery and learn about Australian animals.

Someone is stealing the beetroots, who could that somebody be? Join us in the garden and we'll unravel this mystery.

A mix of clever Australian animals examine the evidence, but can this cluey cast catch the thief before they strike again?

This beautifully illustrated picture book is perfect for reading aloud and features a cast of Australian and other animals that will delight both young and older readers.

Teachers' resources available.



Dinosaur Disco
by Deborah Kelly and Daron Parton

Why this story? To read a story in rhyme and learn about different kinds of dinosaurs – and different kinds of dancing!

Stomp your feet and the Dinosaur Disco!

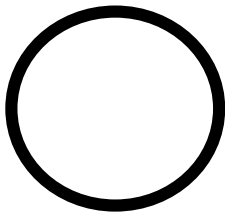
Everyone is dancing at the disco. But then . . .
The music stops.
The ground shakes.
An intruder has sneaked into the disco. But is he looking for a dance . . . or his dinner?

Twist your hips, not your tongue! Dinosaur Disco includes a pronunciation guide and fun dino facts.

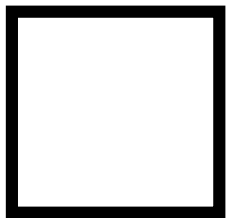


WORKSHEET 1: Shapes

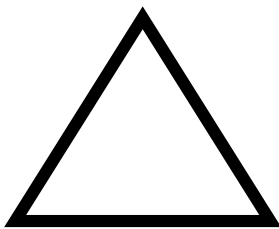
Can you name all the shapes below? The first two appear in the story and are named for you.



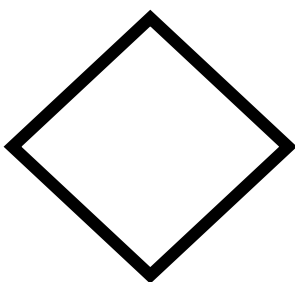
circle



square









WORKSHEET 2: Rhyming text

Writing rhyming text can be tricky. Can you think of three or more rhymes for the words below?

Example: *Fox* rhymes with *box, locks, socks, pox, shocks*

Dog rhymes with:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Cow rhymes with:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Red rhymes with:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Blue rhymes with:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

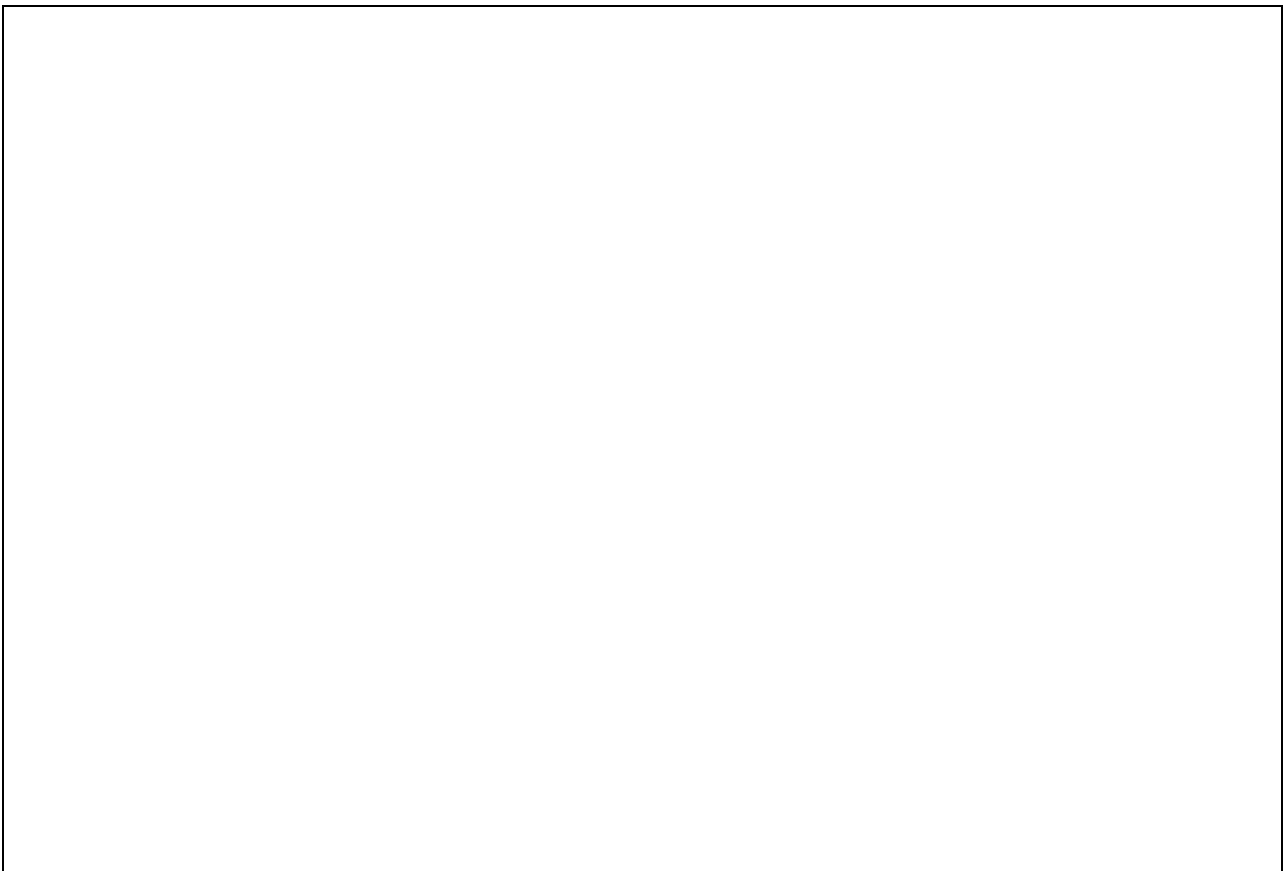


WORKSHEET 3: Response to the book

Can you say what this book is about in a single sentence?

This book is about

Draw your favourite character in the book or the part of the story you liked best.

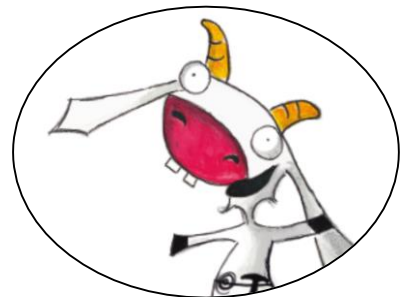


I like this book because



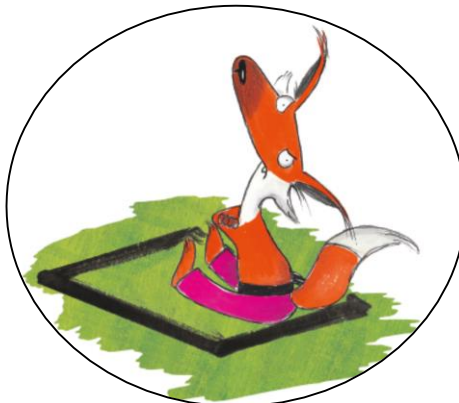
WORKSHEET 4: Identifying feelings

This page has six illustrations of characters from the book, and six words that describe how the characters feel in different parts of the book. Match the illustration to the feeling. Some illustrations may match more than one word.



happy worried surprised

angry sulky cheeky



WORKSHEET 5: Parts of speech wordcloud

Below are some words found in *This Is a Circle*. Can you sort them into nouns, verbs and adjectives? You could write the words into three lists, one each for nouns, verbs and adjectives. Or take a red, a blue and a green pencil: draw a red circle around the nouns, a blue circle around the verbs and a green circle around the adjectives. Remember:

Nouns are things, people or places, for example ‘fox’

Verbs are doing words, such as ‘climbs’

Adjectives describe things, such as ‘silly’.

sails drives bear
stars cat fluffy ball mad
sees stuck goat boat
down fox frightens circle
climbs scarf red silly box
big puffs wild white
wears sing chases dance
low square



WORKSHEET 5: Parts of speech wordcloud (continued)

Verbs

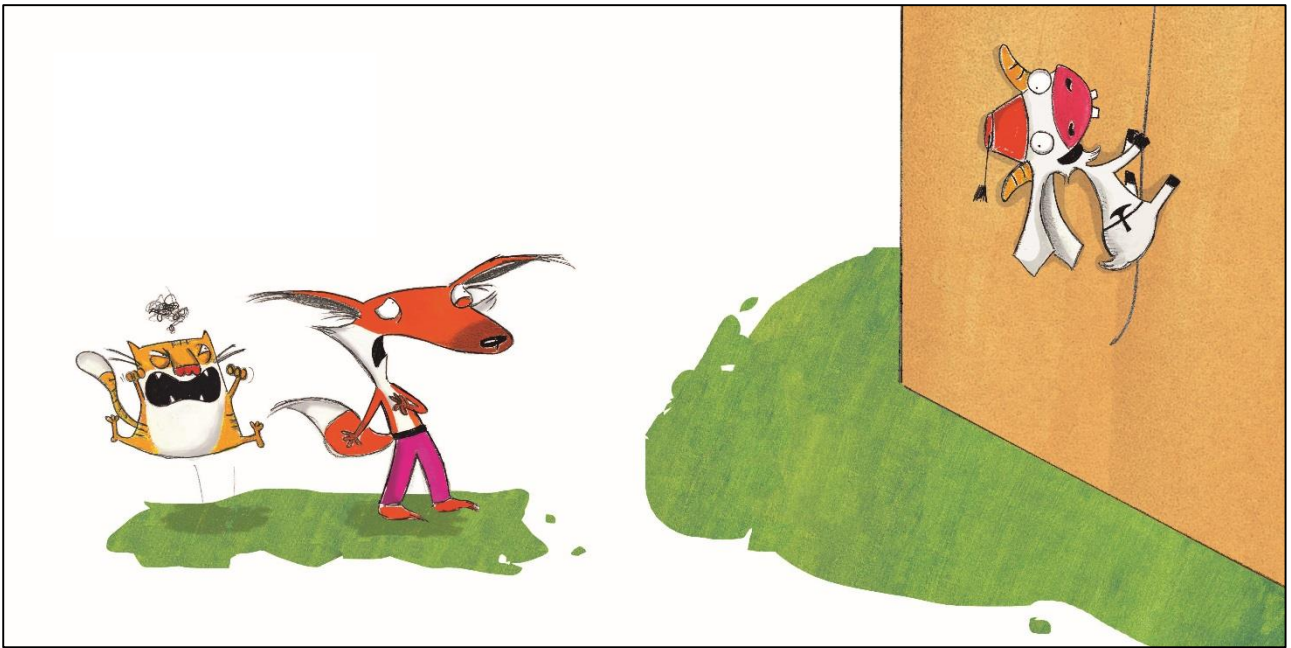
Nouns

Adjectives



WORKSHEET 6: Wordless storytelling

This illustration has lost its words. Without looking inside the book, what do you think the illustration says about the three characters? What are they doing and what do they feel about one another? Try coming up with your own words to go with this illustration. You can make your version as different from the book as you like, but it needs to fit with what you see in the illustration.

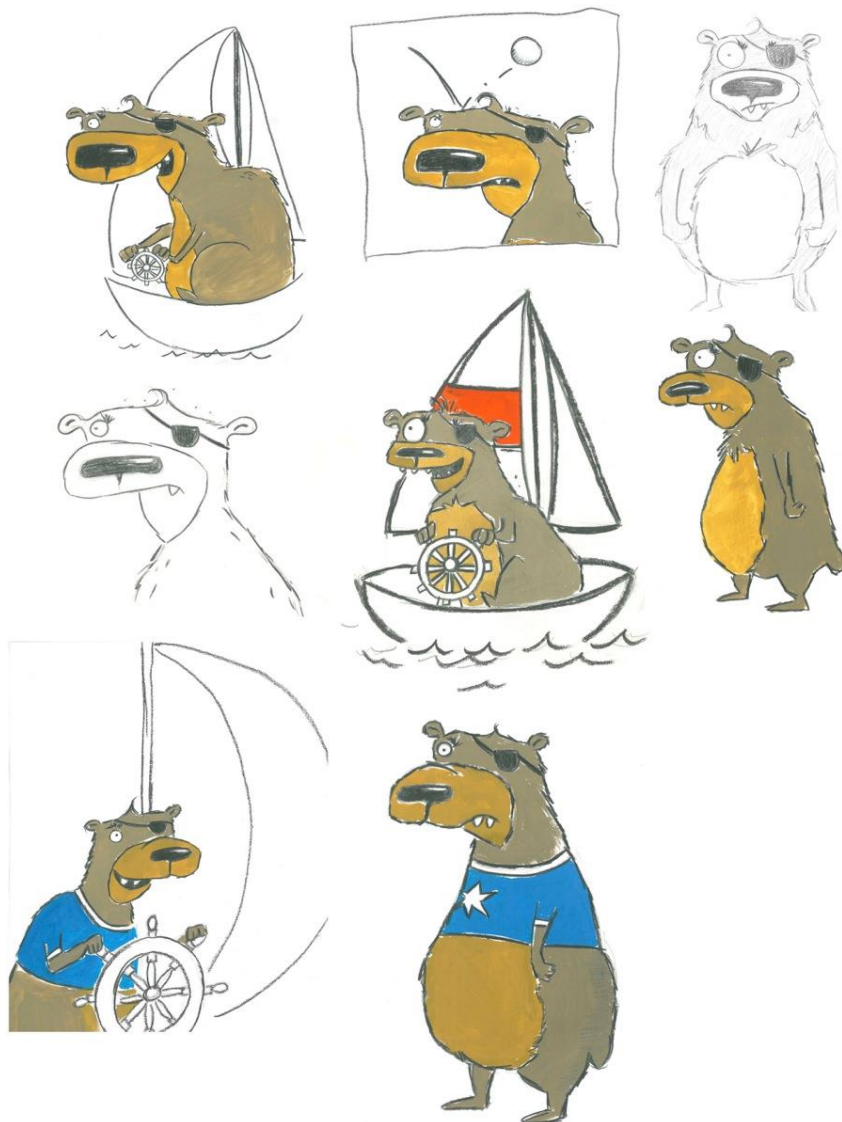


My story for this page:



WORKSHEET 7: Creating a character

Have you ever started to draw or write something and then decided you didn't like it? Don't worry if you have – it isn't a waste of time. Trying out lots of ideas helps you make your final drawing or story even better. Artists often make lots of quick, simple sketches to help them decide exactly how they would like a character to look. Below are some sketches Chrissie made of the bear from *This Is a Circle* – he wears different clothes in some and his face looks different in others.



Try creating your own animal character who could join *This Is a Circle*. What kind of animal would it be? What colour would it be? Would it wear clothes or carry a prop? What personality would it have – and how would you show that in the illustration?

Extension activity: Can you write a rhyming verse in the style of *This Is a Circle* using your new character?



WORKSHEET 7: Creating a character (continued)

My character

My verse



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QUANTITY	TOTAL
<i>This Is a Circle</i>	Chrissie Krebs	9780857988058	Pre-K–1	24.99		
<i>Ollie and the Wind</i>	Ronojoy Ghosh	9780857988485	Pre-K–1	24.99		
<i>The Great Garden Mystery</i>	Renee Treml	9780857984166	Pre-K–1	19.99		
<i>Dinosaur Disco</i>	Kelly and Parton	9780857981363	Pre-K–1	24.99		
TOTAL						

PLEASE NOTE THAT PRICES ARE RECOMMENDED RETAIL ONLY AND MAY HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE TIME OF PRINTING. PRICES ARE GST INCLUSIVE.

NAME: _____ SCHOOL: _____ ADDRESS: _____ STATE: _____ POSTCODE: _____ TEL: _____ EMAIL: _____ ACCOUNT NO.: _____ PURCHASE ORDER NO.: _____ _____	PLEASE SEND ORDER FORMS TO YOUR LOCAL EDUCATION SUPPLIER.
---	---

