

BLACK SUN TEACHING NOTES

Written by Tang Tang
Illustrated by Nia Gould
Published by Little Steps Publishing
www.littlestepspublishing.co.uk
www.littlesteps.com.au



SYNOPSIS

Little dung beetle loves nothing more than pushing dung balls. When he accidentally enters the great dung ball competition, he wins and is crowned 'Black Sun'. However, when he can't smell the dung any more and his legs become stiff, can he keep the Black Sun title? And does it matter if he doesn't? A story about celebrating YOU and following your heart.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tang Tang is a bestselling children's author in China, as well as a guest professor at Zhejiang Normal University. With a unique storytelling style, full of rich imagination, Tang Tang has won the National Outstanding Children's Literature Award three times, which is the most important award in Chinese children's literature. One of the winning titles, *Aqua Pixie Kakasha*, was published by Little Steps. Tang Tang loves travelling and, best of all, writing fairytales.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Nia is a designer and illustrator from Devon in the UK. She lives with her partner, little girl and gang of three cats (although if she had her own way there would be more.) Graduating in 2008 from Falmouth University with a first-class degree in Graphic Design, she worked for 10 years in the arts industry. During this time she set up her own business – illustrating and creating cards, print, pins and stationery with a focus on art history and cats. This passion and drive to do what she loves has since allowed her to become a full-time illustrator working both for herself and as a freelancer for many clients. Nia illustrates digitally and draws inspiration from art history, the natural world and her love of animals. Experimenting with an array of textures and techniques, she creates fun and magical illustrations on a variety of subject matters.

EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Black Sun is a humorous story about a little dung beetle doing what he loves best – pushing dung balls. This book focuses on identifying and pursuing passions and following your heart.

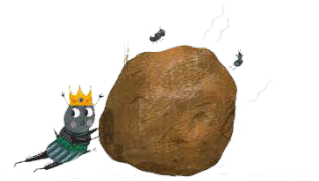


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DISCUSSION TOPICS

Read the book together, asking questions throughout.

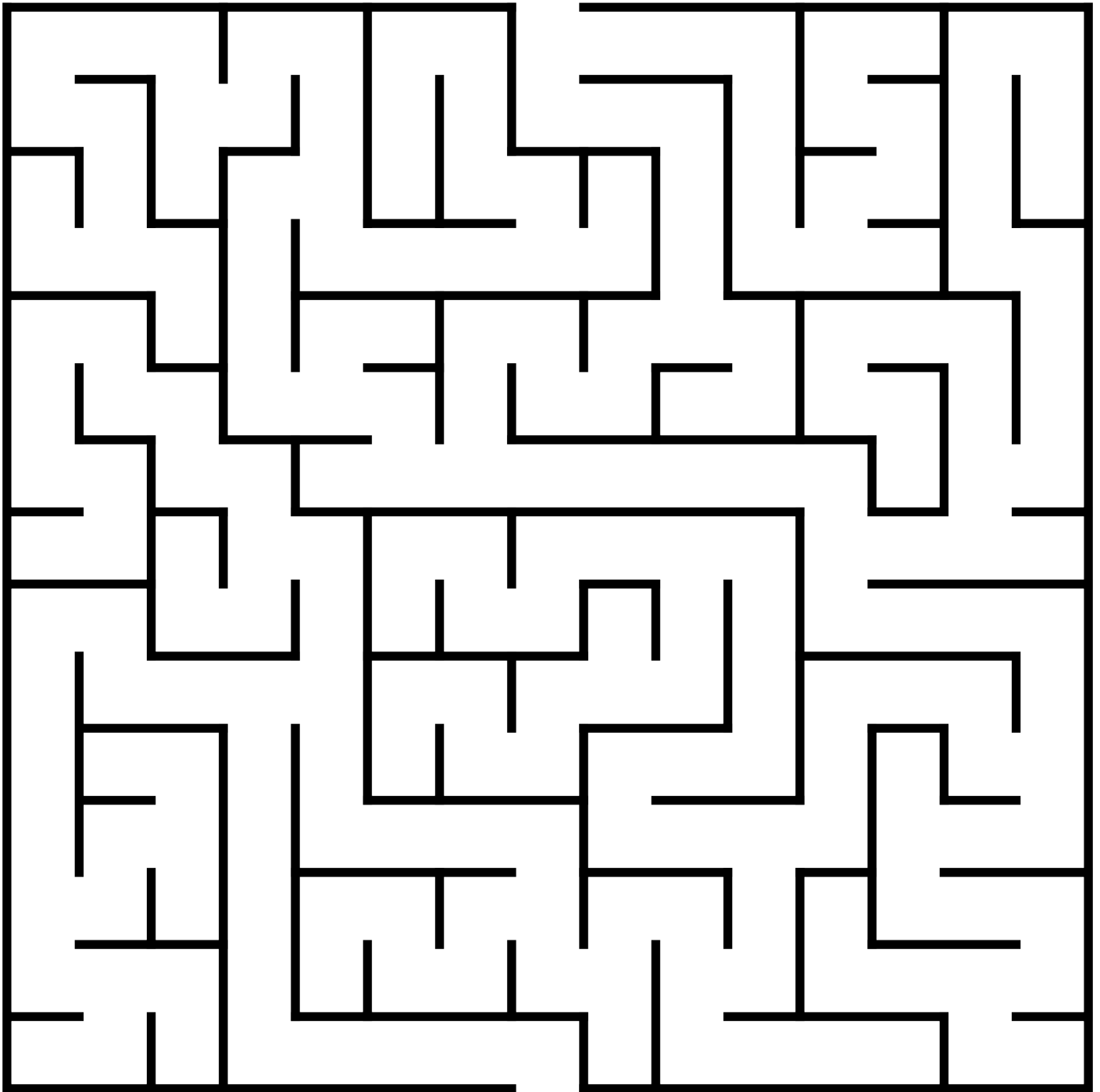


1. Look at the cover of the book together. What do you think the story might be about?
2. What does the little dung beetle love doing?
3. What happens at the dung ball competition?
4. Who is Black Sun? What does the 'sun' part mean?
5. How does the little dung beetle become the new Black Sun?
6. After a while, things start to go wrong. What happens?
7. Why does the little dung beetle continue to push dung balls after he's given up his Black Sun title?
8. Ask the children if there's anything that they are passionate about? Does it matter when they compete if they win or lose? How do they feel when they love doing something?
9. What did the children think of the book? If they liked it, why did they like it? What was their favourite part?



A-MAZE-ING DUNG BEETLE

Help the little dung beetle find his pile of dung balls.



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WRITE A POEM

Write an acrostic poem using the words, BLACK SUN. An acrostic poem is a poem in which the first letter of each line spells out a word. You could write about all the things that you love doing.

B

L

A

C

K

S

U

N



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BLACK SUN WORDSEARCH

Find all the words below in the *Black Sun* wordsearch.

word search

BLACK SUN

C M S P O T E H N N C
S A O C S U L K S O S
E L T O I O C J M I Y
R N L T N A H P E L E
A C H A L L E N G E K
N U Y B B T O W L T N
L H D R I I G T S O O
O I A T S G E D N N M
S O I S E E G D U J T
O O A H B E N T S N T
N P T S E U M W F I G

BALLS
BEETLE
BLACK
CHALLENGE

COMPETITION
DUNG
ELEPHANT
JUDGE

MONKEYS
MOON
PASSION
SUN



word search

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BLACK SUN WORDSEARCH

Solution to the *Black Sun* wordsearch

word search

BLACK SUN

C M S P O T E H N N C
S A O C S U L K S O S
E L T O I O C J M I Y
R N L T N A H P E L E
A C H A L L E N G E K
N U Y B B T O W L T N
L H D R I I G T S O O
O I A T S G E D N N M
S O I S E E G D U J T
O O A H B E N T S N T
N P T S E U M W F I G

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