

TEACHING NOTES: ONE BIRD BAND

Written by Sacha Cotter
Illustrated by Paul Morgan
Published by Little Steps Publishing



SYNOPSIS

A delightful and eccentric story about one bird's readiness to share with others. The concept of 'selfless gifting' is told with a playful, quirky humour that makes the simple message fresh and easy to discuss with young readers.

ABOUT THE SERIES

The NEW Book Hungry Bears book collection features topical and imaginative stories used in The Book Hungry Bears TV show. From acceptance of diversity to blended families, this delightful series brings together compelling narrative to engage children in their emotional journey as they make sense of the world around them. These bears LOVE picture books and especially love reading them with each other. Sharing their delight and engagement with the books, they ask each other questions, point to the illustrations and get caught up in the story.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sacha Cotter is an award-winning children's writer based in Wellington, New Zealand. She is the author of picture books *Keys (When Daddy Tucks me in)*, *The Marble Maker* and the 2019 New Zealand Margaret Mahy Book of the Year, *The Bomb (Cannonball)* – all originally published by HIUA and illustrated by her partner in both books and life, Josh Morgan. Sacha is also involved in writing and creating children's television. She has written for *The Kiddets*, *The Book Hungry Bears* and helped to create and develop *Extreme Cake Sports* for HEIHEI on TVNZ.

Sacha loves lots of things, including stop motion animation, daydreaming, biscuits, books, dancing, curly dogs, space noodles and woolly mammoths named Stanley.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Award-winning illustrator Josh Morgan (Te Aitanga-a-Mahaki, Rongowhakaata, Te Whanu-a-Kai) lives in Wellington with the author Sacha Cotter, their family and a vast hoard of picture books. Josh grew up in the mighty Manawatū, spending his school days drawing silly things in the back of his exercise books.

He now works as a graphic designer and illustrator creating pictures for books, TV and animation. He still draws silly things as an adult too, but mostly on bills and meeting notes.



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EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

One Bird Band is a delightful story about a musical bird who gives away his instruments to make sad animals feel better. The concept of 'selfless gifting' is told with a simple, quirky humour that makes the simple message fresh and easy to discuss with young readers. When he realises that he has no instruments left for himself, it soon becomes clear exactly what he has got – lots of friends and an opportunity to be part a band. Key themes include kindness, friendship and positivity, and a celebration of music. The rhyme and onomatopoeia throughout the story make for fun and lively reading.

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 do you think 'one bird band' means? Can you name all the instruments on the first spread?
3. Why do you think the bird gives away his instruments? Talk about the concept of 'selfless gifting' and being kind.
4. The bird shows empathy towards his friends and wants them to feel better when they are sad. How do you feel when you see someone is sad? What do you do to make them feel better?
5. Why does the bird suddenly feel sad? What's happened?
6. How does the bird feel at the end of the story? What happened?
7. Discuss the onomatopoeia in the text. Can you think of other onomatopoeic words for other instruments or musical sounds? Tweet, ping, zoom and so on.
8. Ask if they think that *One Bird Band* is a good title for the book. What other titles can they think of?
9. What did the children think of the book? If they liked it, why did they like it? What was their favourite part?



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the six differences between the two pictures?

Image A



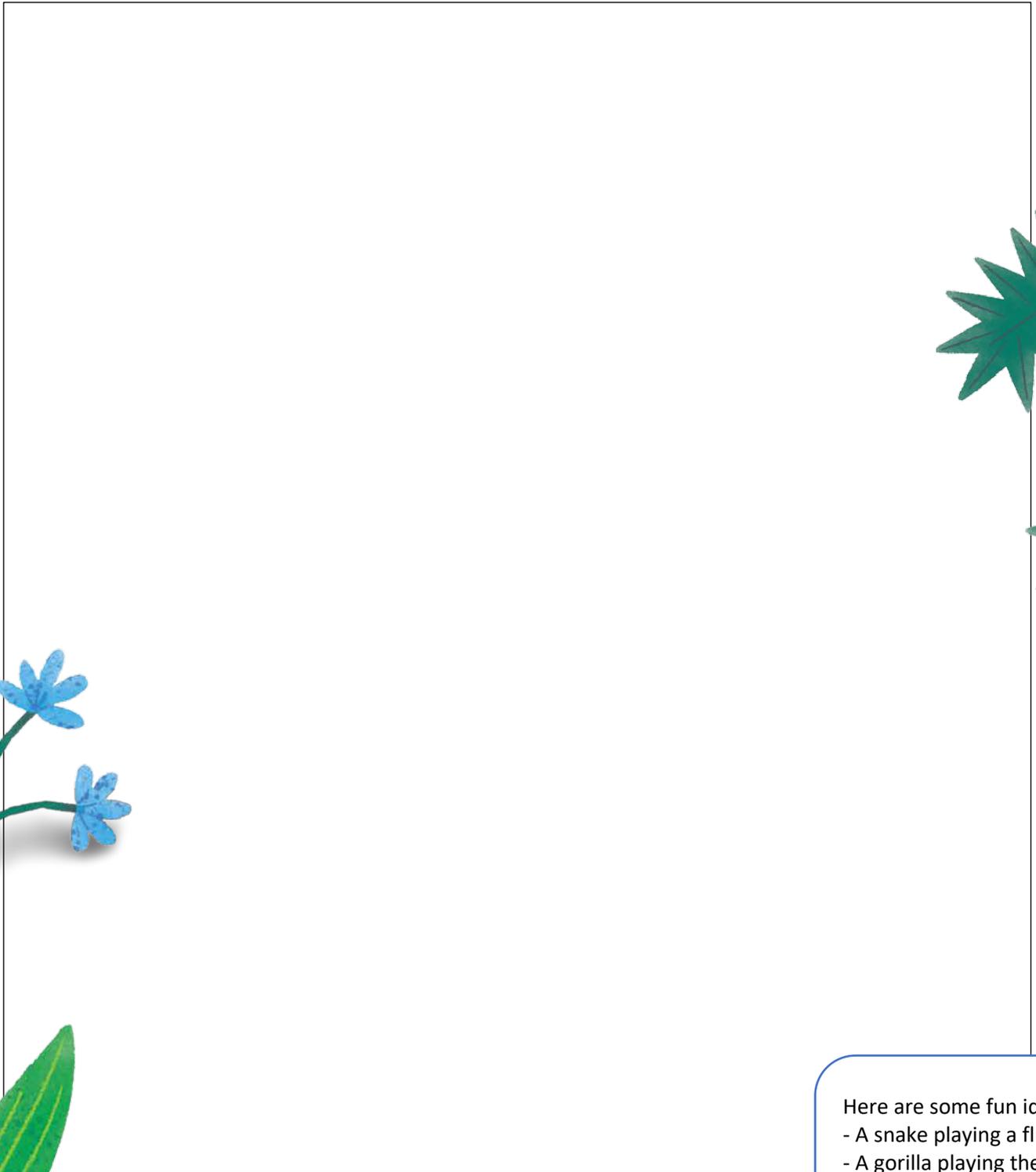
Image B



In Image B: The crocodile's banjo is pink, The tiger's drum is green, the toucan's beak is orange, the giraffe's instrument is missing, the crocodile isn't poking his tongue out and the blue musical note is missing.

DRAWING FUN

Have a go at drawing a different animal to the ones in the story, with a different musical instrument.



Here are some fun ideas:

- A snake playing a flute
- A gorilla playing the piano
- A penguin playing the electric guitar!



KINDNESS FLOWERS

'If you can be anything – BE KIND.'

Think about some of the ways that you can be kind especially when somebody is feeling sad. Write your ideas in the flowers below, then decorate and colour the flowers, too. Cut them out and put them on your wall or somewhere you can see them. If you want to make a whole garden of flowers, photocopy this page a few times before you start writing on the flowers.

