

Frank and Bert

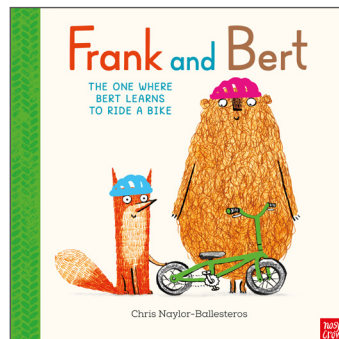
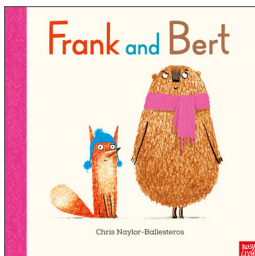
THE ONE WHERE BERT LEARNS TO RIDE A BIKE

TEACHING NOTES

Introduction

Join Frank and Bert for a new adventure! **Frank and Bert: The One Where Bert Learns to Ride a Bike** is the incredible second story starring the hilarious duo. Created by the author-illustrator of *The Suitcase*, **Chris Naylor-Ballesteros**, this bright picture book series about friendship is bound to get little readers giggling!

Also available:



Bert is CERTAIN he can ride his bike as well as Frank, but he is very wobbly! And even when they BOTH try riding Frank's bike . . . it still goes very wrong! Will the best friends make it all the way down from the big hill? Of course! All they need is a little bit of confidence and trust in each other!

Hardback: 978 1 83994 200 6

Paperback: 978 1 83994 850 3

"A sweet, comic picture book about a bear who wobbles on a bike, his fox friend, Frank and the fact that you can do anything if your best friend is right behind you."

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Using these notes

The discussion notes and activities included are designed to help children explore the story of Frank and Bert and focuses on activities around friendship, emotions and empathy.



Chris Naylor-Ballesteros studied Illustration and Graphic Design at Bradford College of Art. In 2000, he moved to France where, amongst other things, he was an English teacher before working in newspaper layout and design. When his children were small he realised he loved the picture books he read to them, sometimes even more than his children did – the Picture Book Bug had truly bitten. Chris has since written and illustrated several books and is currently thinking about the next one, probably with a cuppa in hand at home near Limoges.

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Before you read the book

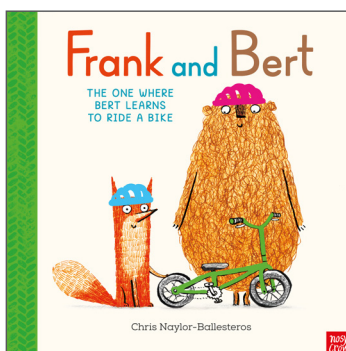
Before reading *Frank and Bert* with your students, look at the cover together and discuss the following:

- What sort of story do they think this is going to be? Happy? Sad? Funny?
- Read out the subtitle 'The One Where Bert Learns to Ride a Bike' and look at the characters on the front cover. Can they guess what might happen in the story?

Discussion Questions

Read through the book and discuss these questions together as you go through.

- What happens when Bert learns to ride his bike?
- Why is learning something new difficult sometimes?
- What is Frank's first idea to help Bert ride his bike?
- Why is Bert annoyed with Frank when the plan goes wrong?
- What does Frank do to make it up to his friend after breaking his promise?
- How does Bert help Frank when he is tired?
- What happens at the end of the story?
- How did the book make you feel? Did you have a favourite part of the story?



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Activity: Our Friendship Code

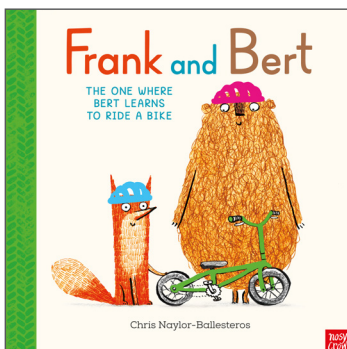
Frank and Bert are best friends. Can they think about moments in the book that show what being a good friend means?

In small groups, write a list of what makes someone a good friend and what is important to them in a friendship. For example, they are caring or they are a good listener. Think about how you should treat your friends and how you like to be treated.

A GOOD FRIEND IS . . .

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

Once the groups have written their five ideas, together as a class, share your ideas about what makes a good friend and compile your very own classroom Friendship Code with contributions from everyone. You could then display your shared Friendship Code in the classroom.



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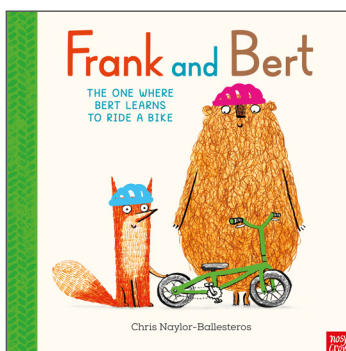
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Activity: Helping Others

Frank and Bert love to ride their bikes together. Frank helps Bert to gain confidence riding his bike, and Bert helps Frank to get home when he is tired. This game will give children the experience of being the 'helper' and the 'learner' and explore trust and patience as a team.

- Ideally set this activity up on grass outside in an enclosed area, such as a playing field. Make sure you supervise this activity closely! This game is best played in smaller groups.
- Set up a squiggly path using cones or markers. You could include some card as a 'river' as well, or an item that children have to pick up along the way. Make your obstacle course as interesting as you like, but not too hard!
- Put children into pairs – one person will be Bert and the other person will be Frank. First up, Bert will be blindfolded and it is Frank's job to direct them through the obstacle course by giving instructions only - e.g. two steps forward, one step left.
- Then the pair can switch over so it will be Frank's turn to be guided through the obstacle course by Bert.
- Once the pairs have finished the course, ask them how they found the game. How did they feel during the game and what helped them the most? What did they learn about the other person?



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Activity: Reading Emotions

Explain how the illustrations can add more information to the story and tell us how Frank and Bert are feeling. Print out the faces below. In small groups, can the children describe how Frank and Bert are feeling in each picture? Decide on one word together as a group and write it in the box. You could also find more examples from the book.

How are Frank and Bert feeling?



Bert is feeling ...

.....



Bert is feeling ...

.....



Bert is feeling ...

.....



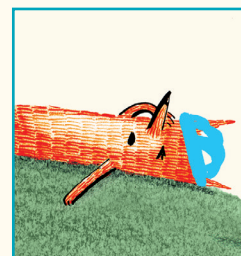
Frank is feeling ...

.....



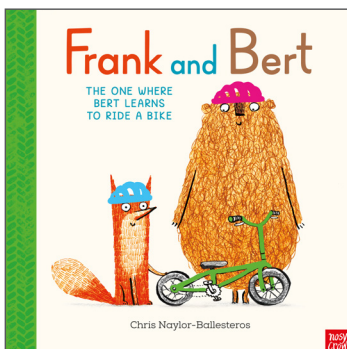
Frank is feeling ...

.....



Frank is feeling ...

.....



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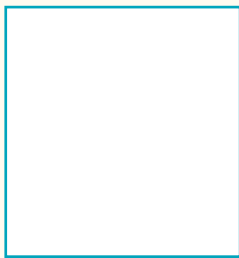
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Activity: Reading Emotions (continued)

In the boxes below, ask the class to draw what they think each emotion would look like on someone's face.

Once the children have drawn the emotion, can they write what situation might make them feel that way by completing the sentences underneath?

How are you feeling?



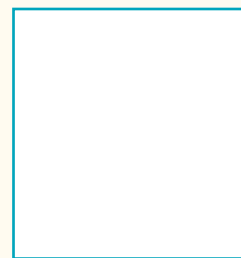
I'm bored when ...

.....



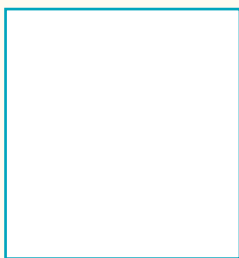
I'm happy when ...

.....



I'm worried when ...

.....



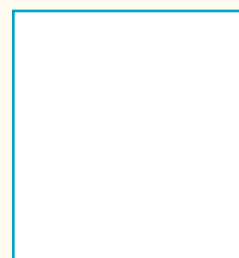
I'm angry when ...

.....



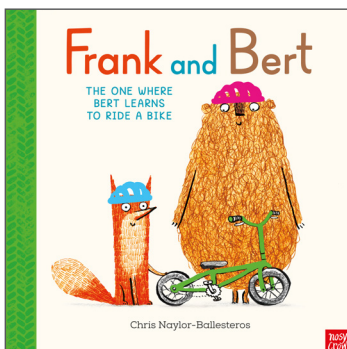
I'm excited when ...

.....



I'm tired when ...

.....



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Activity: The Story Continues

Frank and Bert love spending time together. Can you think of what other adventures the friends might have?

- Think up a daily activity – it could be playing a game or a hobby, eating or cooking a meal, going to school, for example. That activity can be the base of your Frank and Bert story, for example: *Frank and Bert Bake a Cake!*
- Introduce Frank and Bert and their next adventure, then think up a problem for them both to face. For example, maybe one of them adds a wrong ingredient to the cake or they lose the recipe. Begin your story with this prompt:

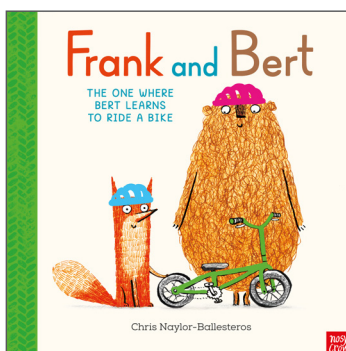
Hello. I'm Frank.

This is me and my best friend, Bert.

We love to.....

But there's one little problem.

- Think about what goes wrong and how the friends can resolve the situation together!
- Once you've made your plan, write and/or draw your Frank and Bert story using the comic strip boxes on the sheet provided. Share your story with the rest of the class!



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MY FRANK AND BERT STORY

1

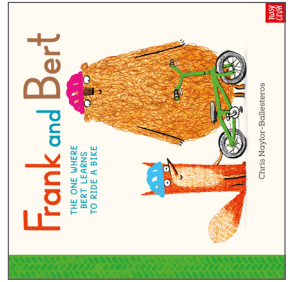
2

3

4

5

6



Frank and Bert are best friends!
Can you think of a new adventure for them?

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