

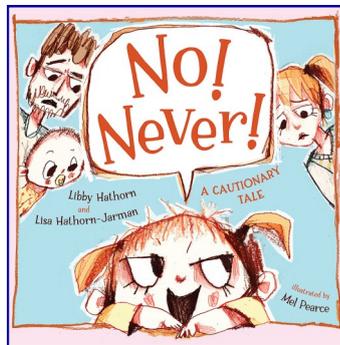
No! Never!

By Libby Hathorn and Lisa Hathorn-Jarman & Illustrated by Mel Pearce

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There was a child, The sweetest ever, Until she learned these words: 'NO! NEVER!' Georgie is a sweet little girl who always makes her parents happy... until she discovers one powerful phrase: No! Never! It suddenly becomes her answer to every request, from tidying up her toys to going to bed. Her parents are at their wits end, but what happens when they decide to try saying No! Never! themselves? A lovely, lively look at the Terrible Twos (or Threes, or Fours, or Fives...) from mother-daughter team Libby Hathorn and Lisa Hathorn-Jarman, with debut illustrator Mel Pearce. Perfect for any parent dealing with tantrums, defiant behaviour or communication issues.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Parenting, Power and Obedience
- Feelings of Independence and Self-Expression

Discussion Questions and Activities:

- Georgie's family's daily routines are upset when she becomes defiant and refuses to participate in anything her parents suggest. Make a list of the things she is asked to do. Are there any other things you do with your parents which might have been included in this list? Add another series of questions to the text.
- Does anyone in your family act like Georgie does? Do they have a favourite saying, like 'No! Never!?'
- Georgie's parents respond to her repeated 'No! Never!' with the same words, by declining Georgie's requests to play with friends or to enjoy the new book her daddy brings home. How else could a parent have responded?
- This story is about communication and power. Georgie is striving to make her feelings heard. And, for a brief time, she assumes power. But the normal order of things is restored when her parents take control again and she is able to enjoy family life with them once more. Why is Georgie so happy now that she is their 'sweetest ever' again?
- Even though Georgie learns that it's more fun to do what her parents ask her, there is also an underlying message here that sometimes we need to stand up for ourselves, so that our own needs aren't forgotten. Can being naughty actually be useful sometimes? Is a 'tantrum' simply a child's way of being noticed?
- What other ways do children express their independence apart from being uncooperative, like Georgie is?
- The cover of a book is an important part of its message. Discuss what this cover suggests about the contents of the book. Then design your own cover for this book.
- Creating characters entails studying facial expressions and 'body language'. How would you describe Georgie's body language? Or her parents'?
- Create another interaction between Georgie and her parents in which she responds 'No! Never!' and draw a picture to go with it. Create a gallery of these images.
- Test your students' comprehension by asking them questions about the written and visual text (worksheet attached).

WORKSHEET 2. COMPREHENSION

1. How is Georgie described on the opening page?
2. What does Georgie wear?
3. Who asks Georgie to play in the park?
4. What was the title of the new book Daddy shows to Georgie?
5. What does neighbour Mehmet bring to play with Georgie?
6. On page 16 we see Georgie taking something from someone. What is it?
7. On the same page she resists when her mother tries to help her with two things. What are they?
8. On the same page she ignores someone who tries to say hello. Who is that?
9. What is daddy holding in the final frame in the book?
10. What does Georgie like at the end of the story?

Answers: **1.** 'The sweetest ever'. **2.** A pinafore top over a t-shirt and shorts. **3.** Her best friend. **4.** *The Magic Feather*. **5.** His puppy. **6.** She takes a toy rabbit from the baby. **7.** Sitting on the toilet and being strapped into her car seat. **8.** An elderly lady on a walking stick. **9.** A picnic basket. **10.** 'The smiling sound'.

