



Teacher Notes

The Book Star

by Bec Nanayakkara and Joanna Bartel

Publication details

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Reader ages: 4-8 years

Themes

- Self-Confidence
- Peer-Pressure
- Space/STEM
- Book Week/Literacy

About the Book

Grace owns thirty-seven books about space, and she has read them all. So when Grace's teacher announces the class Book Party, Grace has lots of space-themed costume ideas!

But Grace's friends say that space is ugly and boring and weird ...

Will Grace follow her heart for Book Week?

A stunning story about finding what makes you happy and staying true to yourself.

About the Author and Illustrator

Bec Nanayakkara lives in the New England region of New South Wales with her husband and five children. She writes picture books that engage and inspire young readers and she believes that a good story can help to solve any kind of problem.

Joanna Bartel is a designer and illustrator with experience in Arts education, design, teaching and creative marketing. She particularly loves character design and creating imaginative and playful images to engage children and enhance imaginative learning.

Before Reading:

- The title of the book is *The Book Star*. What do you think the story might be about?
- Look at the cover of the book – what clues does it give about the book?
- Read the blurb on the back cover of the book.
 - Who is the main character in the book?
 - What problem/difficult situation does the main character face?
 - Where and when does the story take place?

Comprehension questions

- In the first pages, what word and picture clues tell you that Grace loves space?
- When Grace's teacher announces the Book Week party, how does Grace feel?
- Grace has many costume ideas. Can you list them all?
- After school, Grace tells her family about her dilemma. The word 'dilemma' means difficult situation or problem. What was Grace's dilemma?
- When you have a problem, it can help to talk to someone who you know and trust. How did talking to her family help Grace?
- 'Space is the greatest place!' is a repeated phrase in the story. What does this phrase tell you about Grace? How and when does this phrase help Grace?
- What was Grace's costume for Book Week?
- The word 'star' can mean more than one meaning. What does it mean to be a star in this book?
- What did Grace's friends think about her costume? How do you know?
- Were Grace's friends kind and considerate about her Book Week costume ideas? Explain why you said yes or no.
- Have you ever dressed up for Book Week? What did your costume look like? How did you feel about your costume?

Literacy

- **Vocabulary:** make a list of any new words you encounter in the story. Look them up and write down the meaning. Try to practice using them at least three times throughout the week.
- **Repetition** – writers sometimes use repeated phrases or images to emphasise words, phrases or images in a story. In *The Book Star*, the writer uses the phrase 'No way, Grace. Don't be space!' each time Grace shares her costume ideas with her friends. Why do you think the writer has chosen to repeat this exact phrase? How does it make you feel? What else could they have written instead? How would this have changed your feelings? Can you find any other words, images or ideas that are repeated in the story?
- When we talk about who is telling the story, we're talking about the **point of view**. First person point of view uses I/me/we to tell the story, while second person point of view uses you and third person point of view uses him/her/they.
 - Which point of view does the writer of this story use?
 - Why do you think they've chosen that point of view?
 - How would the story be different if they had used first person point of view instead?

Final reflections

- How did the story make you feel? Did you like it?
- How would you explain this book to someone who hasn't read it before?
- Talk about the ending. Was it a happy ending? Why/why not? Discuss your responses with anyone who feels differently about it to you.
- During the story, what do you think Grace learned? How do you think Grace might handle peer pressure in the future?

Creative Activities

Design a Dress-Up

- During Book Week most of us dress up as characters from fiction books. Grace dressed up as something from a non-fiction book. If you had to choose a non-fiction book for your Book Week costume, what would it be? Draw a picture of what your costume might look like.

Name the Emotion

- Throughout the book, Grace had many different feelings. Look at the illustrations in the book. For each illustration write down a word that describes how Grace is feeling.