

Teacher Notes: Bailey Beats the Blah

By Karen Tyrrell illustrated by Aaron Pocock

Age Level: 4 – 8 years Word Count: 401 words

Discussion Ideas

Knowledge and Literal Understanding

- We all feel sad and down sometimes.
- Emotions and facial expressions reflect how we are feeling inside.
- How many characters are in the story? How are they related to each other?
- In what order are the characters introduced in the story?
- Where are the scenes set in Bailey Beats the Blah?

Inferential and Critical Thinking

- Why does Bailey feel so sad?
- Who tries to cheer him up? How do they do that?
- How does the author and illustrator show Bailey's and Fuzzy's feelings?
- Why do you think mum tells Bailey, that he must go to school?
- Is the rocket really being launched into space?
- How will Bailey and Tom's rocket be launched?

Literacy Skills

Word Building

- Word Endings – adding 'ed' *hated, trudged, slumped, stared, dragged, tumbled, slobbered, clutched, shoved, heaved, plonked, arrived ...* Ending rule – change y to i drop –buried,
- Adding ING: *chuckling, shaking*
- Vocabulary Rooms : *bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, classroom*
- Emotion Words : *sad, unhappy, relax, smiled,*
- Interest Words – body parts – *eyes, face, head, arms, legs, tummy, stomach, tail-fuzzy*
- High Frequency Words – *blah.*
- Onomatopoeia – *blah, bang, ha-ha-ha* (see Drama)

Grammar

- Naming Words – nouns – find the naming words in the story.
- Action Words – verbs – (see also Word Endings and Drama)

Comprehension

- Sequence order of events – cut and paste sentences. Activity sheet
- List how Bailey changed his BLAH into HA-HA-HA? Activity sheet
- List how you can change your BLAH into HA-HA-HA? Activity sheet

Writing

- Have you ever felt like BLAH? What did you do to feel better? Write a story about how you felt better again.
- Could this story have been about grown-ups? Re-write and illustrate the story with adults instead of Bailey.
- Acrostic Poem – B L A H

Bailey Beats the Blah

Literature

- Read non-fiction texts about feelings and emotions
- Compare other fiction texts e.g. *The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Anderson

Cross Curricular

Social Skills

- Discuss how to make and keep a friend
- **Group activity:** Children sit in a circle. One child (child 1) starts by saying "If I was feeling sad". The child next to them (child 2) offers a solution "you could ask someone for a hug". Then child 2 turns to the next child (child 3) in the circle and says "if I was feeling sad .." and child 3 offers a solution, and so on around the circle. This activity is fun and also generates options that children in the group may not have thought of.

Maths

- Dot to Dot – numbers 1 to 50 activity sheet
- 3D shapes: sphere, cylinder, cone, cube, pyramid, prism,

Science/Maths

- Make a rocket from a cylinder and a cone shape
- Draw a star using lines and points
- Draw a star using triangles

Science

- Make models of planets in the solar system

Craft

- Make stick puppets from the Bailey story. Activity sheets
- Create a rocket from cylinders & a cone shape
- Make a jigsaw puzzle. Activity sheet

Art

- Illustrate a scene from the text or from the 'people' story as outlined in *Writing*.
- Colour-in Bailey sheets using bright colours. Activity sheets

Drama

Pretend you are...

- Pulling a blanket over your head.
- Poking your tongue out in the mirror and saying BLAH
- Stamping out the BLAH!
- Turning your BLAH into HA-HA-HA

Present a Bailey Beats the Blah PLAY

- Act out the Bailey story using stick puppets
- Act out the play with 5 characters wearing costumes, Bailey, Fuzzy, Mum, Teacher and Tom

Show range of emotions using facial expressions and hand gestures ...
Sad, happy, angry, scared, excited, tired, guilty, proud, nervous, caring.