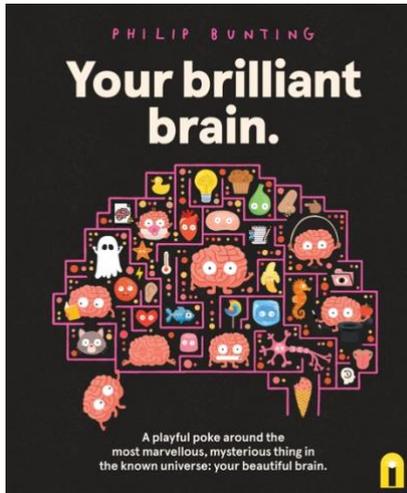


Teacher's Notes



Your Brilliant Brain

Written and Illustrated by Philip Bunting

Teacher's Notes by Bec Kavanagh

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

RECOMMENDED FOR

6+ aged readers (grades prep - 2)

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- Learning areas: English
- General capabilities:
 - AC9E2LA08
 - AC9EFLY03
 - AC9E1LY01
 - AC9E2LY01

THEMES

- Science
- Curiosity
- Bodies
- Senses
- What makes you unique
- How we learn
- Memory

SYNOPSIS

Have you ever wondered how your body knows how to breathe, or why sad movies or cutting onions make some people cry? Philip Bunting's easy to understand book, *Your Brilliant Brain*, explores the way our brilliant brain works to keep track of all of the information surging through our body each day.

Starting with the physical brain, Bunting explains the different parts of the brain – what they look like and what they do. From there we learn why sleep is so important, how our brains help us to make memories, or process information via our senses, or experience emotions.

Bunting's trademark infographics make the complex pathways of our brain easy to understand. Readers will come out with a newfound appreciation for their body's supercomputer and a healthy curiosity for understanding how things work.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

Philip Bunting is an author and illustrator, with a soft spot for creating picture books for sleep-deprived, time-poor, raisin-encrusted parents (and their children). Philip's work deliberately encourages playful interaction between the reader and child, allowing his books to create a platform for genuine intergenerational engagement and fun. He believes that the more fun the child has during their early reading experiences, the more likely they will be to return to books, improve their emergent literacy skills, and later find joy in reading and learning.

Philip's books have been translated into multiple languages and published in more than 25 countries around the world. Since his first book was published in 2017, Philip has received multiple accolades, including Honours from the Children's Book Council of Australia, and making the list for the Kate Greenaway Medal in 2018.

Philip grew up in the England's Lake District and now lives with his young family in the hills behind Noosa.

THEMES

Bodies

Understanding how our bodies work is the first step in making sure that we're able to take care of them. And the brain is at the centre of it all. *Your Brilliant Brain* helps us to consider the relationship between the brain and ALL the other parts of our body. Use this book to start mapping out the parts of the brain and their different functions.

Individuality

As we start to understand the different parts of the brain we can begin to map out the things that make us unique. Compare your emotions, facial expressions, knowledge, reactions to spicy foods with your friends – all of the things that make us different start in the brain!

Health

You know what they say, 'Healthy mind, healthy body.' But what steps do we need to take to keep our mind healthy? Some of the content in Bunting's book will be useful to start discussions about overall health, and the things that we can do to keep our brains in good shape.

WRITING STYLE

Philip Bunting's writing invites curiosity. He uses questions to engage the reader and personification to turn the parts of the brain into characters that readers can relate to. **Personification** is when writers give human characteristics to non-human things (like the parts of your brain). Personification is one way that Bunting helps us to remember the parts of the brain – after all, it's much easier to remember someone's name than science terminology! Some examples of personification in the book include giving the brain parts names, facial expressions and dialogue. Can you find any other examples?



COMPREHENSION

- What are the main parts of the brain? Come up with a way to remember what they're called and what they do.
- What food does the brain stem look like? What's its function?
- How many hemispheres does the brain have?
- How do neurons pass along information?
- What makes the brain pink?
- Which part of the brain converts short term memories to long term memories?
- Where do feelings come from?
- What are some of the things that happen in our brain while we're asleep?
- What are the four steps in an average sleep cycle?
- What are some of the ways the book tells you to take care of your brain? Which of these have you done recently?

WRITING EXERCISE

Why is fear such an important emotion?

Write about a time that you've felt afraid and see if you can work out what your brain was trying to tell you. You could also draw this as a comic!

ILLUSTRATION STYLE

An **infographic** is a type of illustration that allows us to easily (and quickly!) understand a topic. This is particularly useful when we're talking about something as complex as a brain. Infographics might use charts, graphs, maps, icons and images to help make a topic easy to understand.

Discuss the way that Philip Bunting uses infographics to convey information in the book. What kind of images does he use, and what information do they reveal? Make a list of the information you learn from the text and the information you learn from the images.

You can practise using an infographic by doing the following very basic experiment – ask everyone in your class what they ate for breakfast, then figure out a way to show what you learn through images. You might draw something that represents hot breakfasts vs cold, or people who had something with milk, people who ate fruit, or people who ate eggs. Or you might learn something different about your classmates!

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Draw a picture of your brain and make a list of what each of the parts are for. Colour it in and give it a personality – after all, your brain isn't quite like anyone else's!



2. Explore the illustration on the introduction pages of the book – it's a collage of images that show some of the things a brain does. Make a collage for your brain, trying to include an example for each of the brain's functions.
3. Create a map or infographic that shows what happens in the brain when we take a bite of an apple.
4. Make a poster that shares some of the ways people can look after their brain. Make sure it clearly displays the information and is eye-catching so that people stop and read it!
5. Make a list of all of the new words you learn while reading the book and try to use them at home.

RELATED READING

Me, Microbes & I

By Philip Bunting

A Really Short Journey Through the Body

By Bill Bryson

Your Brain is a Lump of Goo

By Idan Ben-Barak

Some Brains: A Book Celebrating Neurodiversity

By Nelly Thomas

