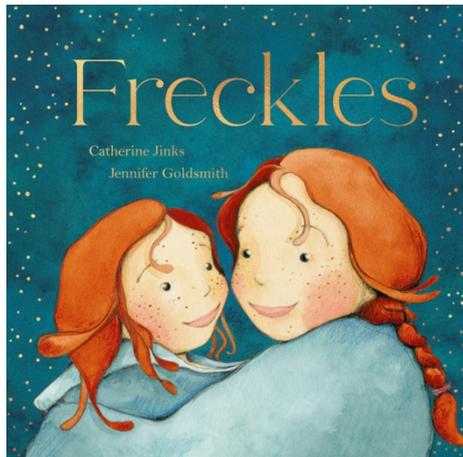


## Teacher's Notes



### *Freckles*

Written by Catherine Jinks

Illustrated by Jennifer Goldsmith

Teacher's Notes by Bec Kavanagh

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### LEARNING OUTCOMES

#### RECOMMENDED FOR

3+ aged readers (grades prep - 2)

#### KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- Learning areas: English
- General capabilities:
  - ACELA1429
  - ACELA1439
  - ACELT1581

### THEMES

- Confidence
- Difference
- Bodies
- Rhyme
- Body positivity

### SYNOPSIS

What is something about yourself that makes you different from everybody else? In *Freckles*, Catherine Jinks celebrates the beauty of freckles, and finds joy in the little things that make us unique.

The character in the story has a hundred and twenty freckles scattered all over her body. They're just like the spots on her Dalmatian and her mum (who has the best freckles of all). Her freckles are like constellations and make her stand out in a crowd.

*Freckles* is about self-love and being confident in our bodies.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

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**Catherine Jinks** was born in Brisbane, Australia in 1963. She grew up in Papua New Guinea and later studied medieval history at the University of Sydney. After working for several years in a bank, she married Peter Dockrill, a Canadian journalist, and lived for a short time in Nova Scotia, Canada. She is now a full-time writer, residing in the Blue Mountains of New South Wales with Peter and their daughter Hannah. Catherine is a four-time winner of the Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year award, and has also won a Victorian Premier's Literature Award, the Adelaide Festival Award for Literature, the Ena Noel Award for Children's Literature and an Aurealis Award for Science Fiction. In 2001 she was presented with a Centenary Medal for her contribution to Australian Children's Literature.

**Jennifer Goldsmith** is an illustrator living in Orange, NSW. She was shortlisted for the Little Hare Illustration Prize 2020.

## THEMES

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How often are we encouraged to really talk about the parts of our bodies we like without any shame? Catherine Jinks uses freckles to speak to broader themes about self-confidence and body acceptance. The character in the book is unapologetically proud of her freckles, which invites readers to celebrate and share parts of themselves that make them unique.

Although the story is specific to bodies, it could be the beginning of conversations about pride and confidence, and ways we can encourage people to feel good about themselves.

## WRITING STYLE

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Catherine Jinks writes in a gentle ABCB rhyme structure. The language of the book supports the theme – consider the very first line of the story – my **fabulous** freckles. Why do you think the writer has used the word 'fabulous' here? What other adjectives could she have used? Discuss the way that adjectives can reveal a character's feelings.

## COMPREHENSION

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- How many freckles does the main character have in the story?
- What does she compare her freckles to?
- What kind of weather makes her freckles come out?
- What does she do to her freckles when she wants them to stand out even more?
- Underline the words that rhyme on each page.
- Look at the class photo – what are some of the other things that make people unique?
- What's something that makes you unique?
- Are you surprised by this character's confidence? How does it feel when you're teased about the things that make you unique? What kinds of things could you say to someone to help boost their confidence?



## WRITING EXERCISE

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Choose your favourite body part and write a short description of it. Come up with a list of adjectives that show how you feel about it and write a short paragraph that compares it to something else the way the character in the story compares her freckles to constellations or a Dalmatian.

## ILLUSTRATION STYLE

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The illustrations are sunny and joyous, reinforcing the celebratory themes of the story. Rather than focussing on faces and freckles, the illustrations capture themes of confidence and celebrating individuality. The main character is shown in a number of scenes doing things that make her happy – playing, dancing, gardening, swimming. These scenes also remind the reader that body confidence comes from doing things we love rather than the way we look.

## CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

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1. The rhyming structure of the book is ABCB, where the end of the second and fourth lines rhyme. Use this same rhyme structure to write a short verse about something you love doing.
2. Draw a picture that shows you doing something that makes you feel confident and happy in your body.
3. The main character compares her freckles to constellations of stars, and the spots on her Dalmatian. What else could you compare freckles to?
4. How would you describe what this story is about? Write a short blurb for the book that you would use to recommend the book to another reader.

## RELATED READING

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*Jetty Jumping* by Andrea Rowe

*Minty Mae Gray and the Strangely Good Day* by Fifi Box

