



Watch This! A book about making shapes

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Title: Watch This!
Author: Jane Godwin
Artist: Beci Orpin
Photographer: Hilary Walker
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PLOT

*Can you make a circle with your arms?
Or a triangle with your fingers?
If we work together, we can make a rectangle, or even a pyramid.
We can make lots and lots of shapes – just watch this!*

A bold and playful celebration of movement, energy, pattern, colour and shape!

THEMES

- * Shapes
- * Colours
- * Pattern
- * Physical activity
- * Teamwork

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Before you read the book, what do you think the story will be about?
- How do you feel after reading the book?
- There are twelve kids in this book – can you read all of their names and come up with some stories about them? Do they go to school together? How old are they? Can you spot a kid who looks like you?
- Sometimes the kids need to work together to make a shape. Discuss a time when you had to use teamwork to achieve something.
- Can you count how many different shapes are in this book?

Teaching Notes



AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

Jane Godwin is an Australian children's book publisher, and also the highly acclaimed author of over twenty books for children, across all styles and ages.



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Beci Orpin is a triple threat in the shape of an internationally adored and respected illustrator, designer and artist.

ACTIVITIES

Paper craft

Make small shapes from paper – draw or trace shapes onto coloured paper and cut them out to decorate your classroom or glue onto a big sheet of paper to make a collage.

Make big shapes from cardboard – take some old boxes or big bits of cardboard and cut out some big shapes, and paint patterns on them like Beci did for the book.

You will need: paint, scissors, glue, stanley knife (and someone big to supervise)

Chalk shapes

Draw giant shapes with chalk on the footpath!

Can you make squares, triangles and stars? What about drawing some made-up shapes of your own?

You will need: coloured chalk and a large patch of concrete.

Photoshoot

Gather friends or classmates together to recreate scenes from the book

Make the shapes and poses just like the *Watch This!* kids. You could make a little triangle with your fingers or a big square with a friend.

Ask a friend, or your teacher, to take photos of your shapes, just like Hilary.

You could even print the photos out to make your very own book about shapes!

Watch This! tunnel ball

Turn to the page that says: 'Eddie can make a semi-circle with only her self.' She is in a bridge pose that looks like half a circle.

Get four or more friends to lie down next to each other, shoulder to shoulder, in a line. How bendy are your classmates?

Everyone lifts themselves into a bridge pose, just like Eddie.

See, they make a kind of tunnel!

Have a person at one end of the tunnel roll a ball underneath everybody to a person at the other end.

INSPIRATION FOR THE BOOK

I've always been fascinated by colour, shape and the visual world. I've sometimes seen kids in schools making shapes using their bodies, and it always looks like a fun and inventive way to explore not only the idea of shapes themselves but one's own physicality and sense of being in the physical world. It's a way of seeing shapes in a different way.

Teaching Notes



PHOTOGRAPHER BIOGRAPHY

Hilary is a Melbourne based photographer working in Brunswick East.

I wanted to create a book that was very playful – a kind of celebration of movement, kinetic energy, pattern and colour. It's about children using their bodies to make sense of shapes. To me, it's not really a 'first shapes' book for a toddler, more for a young child who can recognise shapes, and might enjoy taking this further and exploring the fact that shapes are all around us. It's about recognising the shapes in more of an abstract context, more analysing and generalising fundamental shapes.

By developing an awareness of the designs and shapes that bodies can make as well as where their bodies are in space, children gain an awareness of others and the world around them. I want the book to encourage children's confidence in their bodies and what they can do, and to encourage them to try making these shapes – with others and on their own. Also to encourage an understanding of how abstract shapes fit into our lives.

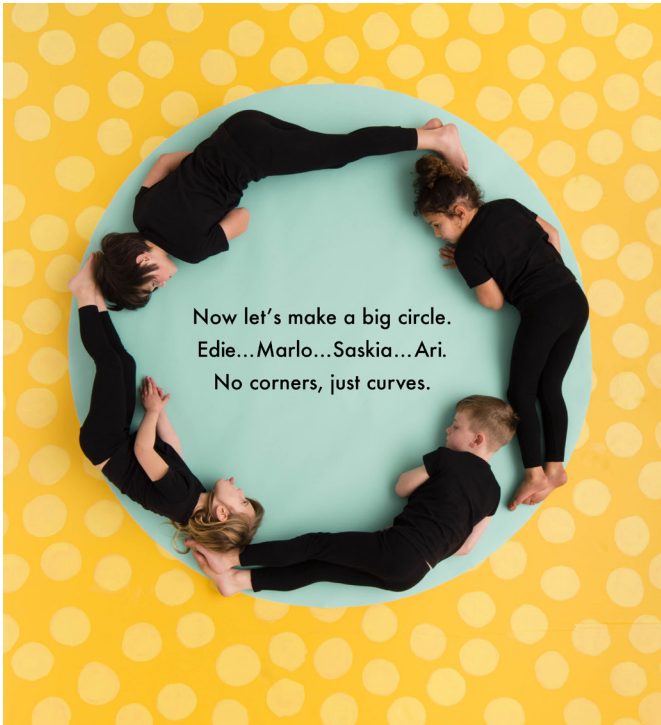
–Jane Godwin



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