

Tricky's Bad Day

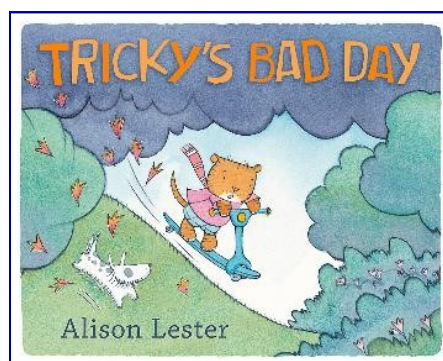
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Poor Tricky! Nothing is going right for him. Milk spills, pyjama buttons won't work, his little sister wrecks their game, and when he tries to help out, everything gets worse. Tricky's having a very bad day! Then Dad has an idea. Outside it's wild, but there's a lot to explore... From Australia's favourite picture-book creator comes a warm and funny story about the very recognisable mess, muddle and love that is the life of a young family - and the freedom of an outside adventure.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Moods and emotions
- Family dynamics
- Wildness
- The power of nature

Discussion Questions & Activities:

- Tricky's day goes wrong right from the beginning. Discuss this as a class – have you ever had a day that feels bad from the very start?
- Discuss what you think caused Tricky's bad mood, and make a list of all the potential reasons. Do you think there was just one thing? Does Tricky have a good reason to be in a mood? Do you think you need a reason to feel bad?
- Go through the text and find all the words about feelings – like angry, cross and cranky. What do these words tell you about the book? Do the kinds of words change through the book? Have you ever had a bad day, like Tricky? What kind of words would you use to describe how it made you feel?
- Tricky's family is made up of Mum, Dad, Tricky, Matilda, Frankie and their dog. Who makes up your family? Draw a picture of them, and don't forget to include yourself!
- In Tricky's family, Mum goes off to work in the morning while Dad stays home with Tricky and his sisters. What happens in your family? Can you describe a typical day in your house? Draw a series of pictures to show exactly what a normal day would look like.
- For Tricky, running around and playing seems to make a difference to his mood. Does that work for you? Why, or why not? Draw a picture of your favourite thing to do if you are having a bad day.
- Tricky loves splashing in puddles and going with his Dad to their favourite trees. Where is your special outside place? Draw a picture and describe it to the class. How does it make you feel to visit this place?
- As a class, go outside and talk about all the things you can see, smell, hear and feel. Are there any animals nearby? Is it windy or still? Overcast or sunny? How does being outside make you feel?
- Do you prefer being outside or inside? Think about how much time you spend outside each day – does it make a difference to your mood?
- What is your favourite season? Do you like the wild, wet days like Tricky, or do you prefer clear, sunny days? Does the weather ever change how you feel? Why?