

## Your School is the BEST!

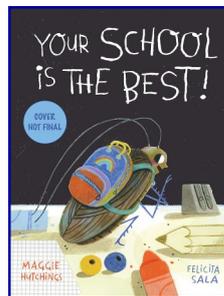
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Everyone's favourite cockroach is back, and this time he's going to school! From show-and-tell to arts and crafts, this little stowaway can't wait to try it at all ... and maybe even become the teacher's pet! Charming, hilarious and just a tiny bit disgusting, this is a back to school tale with a twist from the all-star team behind *Your Birthday Was the BEST!*



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

### Themes:

- Humour
- Having a positive attitude
- A day at school

### Discussion Questions and Activities:

- Who is the main character of this book?
- At the start of the book, we see children in a classroom. Can you describe some of the things that the children are doing in their classroom? Which child looks like they're paying the most attention to the teacher?
- On pages 8 and 9, we see the cockroach participating in all the activities that the little boy is doing. Is the cockroach having fun? What kinds of things are they doing? Did any of this make you laugh?
- On page 11, the cockroach does a dance on the teacher's head. Look at the cockroach's face: how might they be feeling? Now look at the teacher. How do you think she feels about this?
- Twice in this story, the cockroach says 'You cried. Everyone did!' Why do you think everyone cried? What else are they doing while they're crying? Does the cockroach view crying as a bad thing?
- On pages 18 and 19, the cockroach says the teacher is having 'a little rest'. Is the teacher really resting? If not, then what is happening? Why has this happened?
- Describe what the little boy is drawing on pages 20 and 21. Why is he drawing this? Read the words on these pages again. Does the cockroach know what this drawing shows?
- Why did the cockroach eat the crayons?
- On pages 26 and 27, the cockroach has just made 'rainbow paint'. Is this really 'paint'? Why is it rainbow-coloured?
- On pages 28 and 29, the children and teacher are looking at the artwork that the cockroach has created. The cockroach thinks they are proud. Have a look at the children and describe the emotions they might be feeling in this moment. What is the teacher feeling? Can you guess what might happen next?
- Compare the classroom on pages 30 and 31 to the classroom on pages 2 and 3. Are the children having more fun or less fun at the end of the book compared to at the start?

### *Questions to ask when we've finished reading*

- How did the story make you feel?
- What was your favourite picture in the book? Why?
- Which part of the book did you find the funniest? Why?
- If a family of cockroaches were in your classroom, how would you react? How would your friends and teacher respond?

*Complete the Activities on the attached sheet.*

## Activity: What happened next? Write a story about it!

Using this book as inspiration, write a short story about what happened next for the cockroach characters. Does the cockroach family stay at school but find another classroom to try out? Do they go to the park to play with the kids after school? Do they join in at after-school care club? Maybe they go to the shops to get an after-school snack? Perhaps you can think of something else that they might do, too!

Whatever the cockroaches end up doing in your story, make sure that you write a beginning, middle and end. And you can write as many jokes in there as you like!

You can write from the cockroach's perspective, just like in this book, which means you will need to use words like 'I' and 'me'. Or you can describe the cockroaches using words like, 'he', 'she', or 'they'. The main cockroach does not have a name in this book; perhaps you can think of a name for this character in your story?

## Activity: Create an insect character

With the permission of an adult, take a walk outside to see if you can spot any interesting bugs. If you can't go outdoors, then have a think about an insect, like an ant or a butterfly. Once you have a bug in mind, think about it as a character in a book. Think of a name for your insect character and the things that your character might like to do and say. Be as absurd as you like! And if you love the sound of your new character, why not draw them or write a story about them? Here are some tips to get you started ...

**NAME:**

**LIKES:**

**DISLIKES:**

**FAVOURITE FOOD:**

**FAVOURITE SAYING:**

**BEST FRIEND:**

## Activity: This drawing is the BEST!

Follow the cockroach's example and draw or paint your best friend (or family member, or sibling, or anyone you like!) using rainbow-coloured pencils, crayons or pens. You can draw them in the space below and give the drawing as a gift if you like!

**DEAR** \_\_\_\_\_

**I THINK YOU'RE THE BEST!  
FROM** \_\_\_\_\_