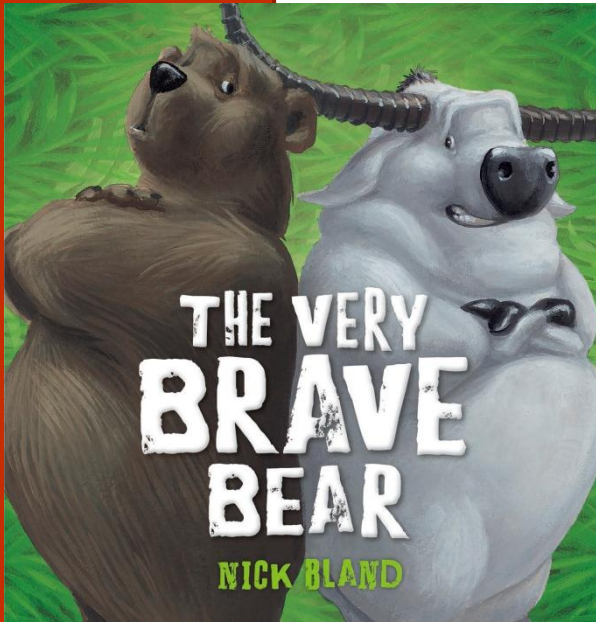


# THE VERY BRAVE BEAR

NICK BLAND



The Very Cranky Bear is back, and this time, he's facing Boris Buffalo in a battle of bravery! Who's the bravest when it comes to rolling down hills or climbing very tall trees? The competition is close, until they find themselves facing something quite surprising. Will Bear and Boris Buffalo win their bravery contest ... or will they flee straight back through the jungle?

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## TEACHER NOTES

- Look at the front cover of *The Very Brave Bear*, taking note of the expressions on Bear and Boris Buffalo's faces. What does Bear's facial expression suggest he is feeling? What is it about his facial expression that makes you think so? What about Boris Buffalo? How does Nick Bland's cover illustration suggest what the book is about before you even open the book?
- Bear and Boris Buffalo live in the Jingle Jangle Jungle. These are 'alliterative' words. Alliteration is when a group of words all start with the same letter. What effect do you think the alliteration in *The Very Brave Bear* has? Does it make the words more fun to hear out loud? Write your own alliterative sentence using your name as one of the words. How many words can you pull into one alliterative sentence?
- This book is about bravery. Consider some of these questions about bravery:
  - Are the things the Bear and Boris Buffalo do 'brave' in your opinion? Why/why not?
  - What sorts of things do you think are brave?
  - What makes a person brave?

- Is it brave to do something daring when you're not afraid at all? Or is it brave when you do something that you're afraid of?
- On some of the pages (eg pp 4-6), the words travel over to the next page. Why do you think this is? Read the book aloud as a class. What effect does having to turn over the page to read the last line or word of a stanza have on your experience of the story?
- Something in the cave gives a great big scary 'ROAAAAR!' and frightens Bear and Boris Buffalo! What do you think is in the cave? How do you feel when you find out who is inside the cave? Do you think this is how Bear and Boris Buffalo feel as well?
- How do you think tiny Froggy makes such a great big scary noise? As a class, talk about echoes. How do echoes work? How might an echo in a great big cave make Froggy's roar sound so big and scary? Practice your own great big scary ROAAAARS!
- Some of the words in **The Very Brave Bear** are written differently to the others. Why do you think this is? When you read the story out loud, how do you read the words that are emphasised in this way? Is this different to the way you read the other words? Go through the book, making note of which words are emphasised. Why do you think these particular words are emphasised?