

What to Say When You Don't Know What to Say

AUTHOR

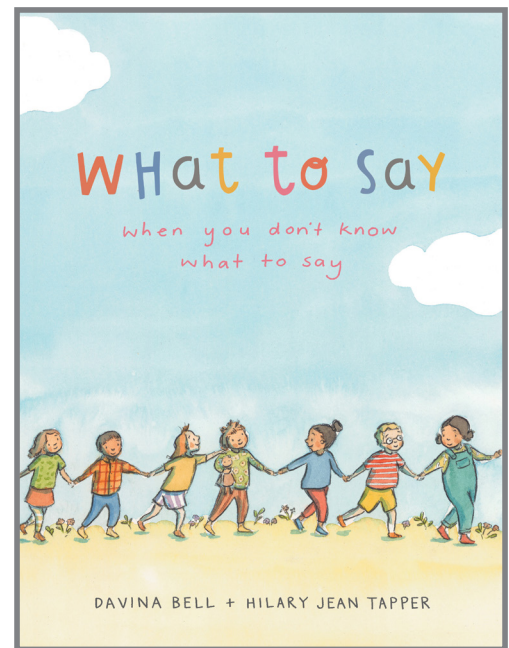
DAVINA BELL

ILLUSTRATOR

HILARY JEAN TAPPER

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SYNOPSIS

Im not brave enough today. Maybe next time.

You're hurting my feelings right now.

Want to join in?

A warm and whimsical guide to negotiating life's little moments and big emotions with empathy, kindness and words from the heart. From award-winning and much-loved author Davina Bell and exciting new illustrator, Hilary Jean Tapper.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Davina Bell is a children's book editor and a writer for young people of many ages. Her picture books include *All the Ways To Be Smart*, *All of the Factors of Why I Love Tractors* and *Under the Love Umbrella*. Her debut young adult novel, *The End of the World is Bigger than Love*, won the 2021 CBCA Book of the Year for Older Readers and the NSW Premier's Literary Awards' Ethel Turner Prize for Young People's Literature. For more information, visit www.davinabell.com.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Hilary Jean Tapper is a New Zealand based illustrator, creative arts therapist and doll maker. She has drawn, painted and aspired to illustrate for picture books since she was a child. Hilary's grandfather, Garth Tapper, was a New Zealand painter and inspired her from her earliest years to pursue the arts. She works with watercolour, ink and pencil, and loves to draw children and nature. You can find out about Hilary and her work at www.hilaryjeantapper.com, or Facebook and Instagram @hilaryjeantapper.

STUDY NOTES

- In each image in this text a child responds to a challenge described in one sentence. Select any image and invite students to explain what it means to them; does the image remind them of something that they have experienced?
- Some of the emotions explored are fear, guilt, loss, being different, pain, uncertainty, embarrassment, negotiation, needing help, being made to feel uncomfortable, abandonment, shyness, bravery. Discuss any of these feelings and how you can deal with them.
- Discuss the various situations explored in this text which provoke these feelings, eg. leaving your home, starting at a

new school, losing a loved one, drawing on a wall (and then feeling guilty), having a sleepover, having someone ruin a project such as building a sandcastle. Invite students to suggest how they might deal with such situations. Then invite them to suggest situations that they have found challenging.

- Invite students to discuss how and when they disagree with family members or friends and how best to deal with misunderstandings or challenges.
- 'You can cry. I don't mind.' (p 7) Discuss the narrative person employed in this text, which is a combination of first person and second person.
- Invite students to discuss an incident they've experienced describing their feelings in response to the incident. (Use the texts in this book as a model.)
- The cover of a book is an important part of its message. This depicts a line of children holding hands in a delightful pastel-coloured image. The vast blue sky behind them offers a sense of freedom as does the depiction of what seems to be a rural scene. Invite students to discuss what the scene suggests to them.
- The front endpaper depicts a group of children eating ice-cream cones, observing another boy whose ice-cream has fallen onto the ground. The back endpaper has the children gathered around him in comfort. Draw your own problem or accident like this and then an image resolving the problem.
- The title page depicts a child in pyjamas clutching a favourite doll, looking very uncertain or nervous. Do you have a favourite toy which gives you comfort when you're frightened or feeling alone?
- The format of the book is square. How does the layout of the storyboard and the format and design of the book influence your reading of it?
- Creating characters entails studying facial expressions and body language. Each child in this text clearly reveals their state of mind in both face and body. Describe the feelings of any child depicted in this book.
- The colours used in this book are pretty pastels. Do the colours influence your feelings when reading this text?
- Encourage students to draw a self-portrait of themselves. Then discuss what the expression on the face they've drawn suggests about their feelings at present.
- Write a sentence using any of the words below:
 - Fear
 - Bravery
 - Help
 - Forgive
 - Scared
 - Angry
 - Sad
 - Wish