

Rodney Forgets It!

AUTHOR

MICHAEL GERARD BAUER

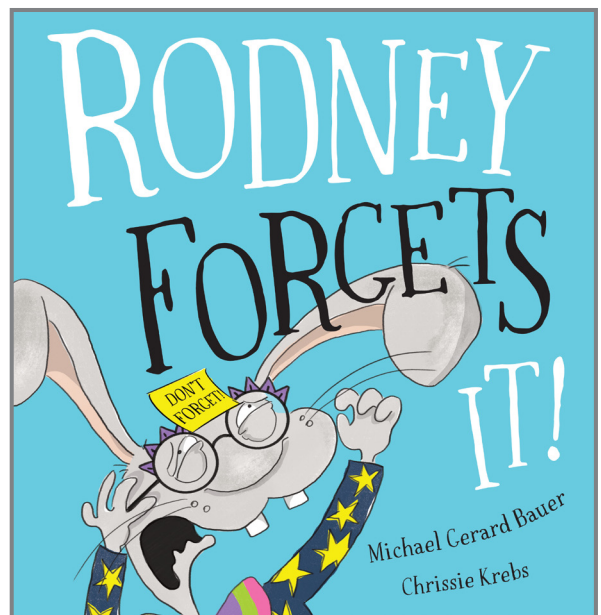
ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Rodney had a habit of forgetting this and that. Like where he left his coffee cup, his wallet or his hat. So will he remember that he's invited to the Party of the Year!?

From the creators of the CBCA Award-winning *Rodney Loses It!* comes another comically chaotic tale ... of never forgetting what is most important.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Gerard Bauer is a multi-award-winning author of books for children. His first novel, *The Running Man*, won the 2005 CBCA Book of the Year for Older Readers. *Don't Call Me Ishmael* won the 2008 SA Festival Award for Literature; the 2007 Children's Peace Prize; the Children's Book Council of Australia Junior Judges Award in 2007. His debut picture book *Rodney Loses It!* won the 2018 CBCA Book of the Year Award, Early Childhood, and more recently, *The Things That Will Not Stand* won the prestigious Prime Minister's Literary Award, 2019. Michael lives in Brisbane.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Chrissie Krebs is an author and illustrator who teaches art and media in Melbourne. She is also the illustrator of the multi-award-winning picture book *Rodney Loses It!*, written by Michael Gerard Bauer.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the story, as a class, discuss the book cover and title. Some things to include in your discussion could be:
 - What can you see happening on the front cover of the book?
 - Who do you think Rodney might be?
 - What does 'Forgets It' mean?
 - What do you think could happen in this story?
 - What can you see happening on the back cover of the book?
 - Does looking at the picture on the back of the book change what you predicted could happen in this story? Why/why not, and in what way?
 - Read the blurb on the back cover—how does reading this make you feel about the book?

- Are you looking forward to finding out what will happen to Rodney in this story? Why/why not?
- In the story, Rodney forgets 'where he left his coffee cup, his wallet, or his hat'. What are some of the things that you frequently forget? As a class, talk about all the things that you often forget, and make a class list of them. Go through your list and sort the different forgotten things into different categories. You could choose 'events', 'actions', 'objects' and 'locations' for your categories, or think of some of your own that you feel are more appropriate. Can you see any patterns in the types of things most commonly forgotten?
- How do you think Rodney's fish felt about being offered cat food for dinner?
- What are some of the reasons why someone might forget they don't have a cat and buy cat food instead of fish food?
- Do you think it is very likely that someone would forget what type of pet they have? Why/why not?
- Draw a picture of Rodney's fish being offered fish food for dinner, and try to show how the fish might feel about being fed a tasty and appropriate meal instead.
- How would you feel if you went to a party and discovered that it was being thrown for you? Write a short story in the first person featuring either yourself or a fictional character who is surprised by a party being thrown in their honour.
- The people in Rodney's town throw him a party to say thank you for all that he has done for everyone. It is important to thank others for their help and support, but you can't always throw a party to do so. What are some other things you can do or say to say thank you to someone for being a good friend?
 - When would it be more appropriate to choose one of these rather than throwing a party, and when would throwing a party be the more appropriate choice?
 - Individually or in small groups create a poster showcasing a variety of different ways to thank people, that reminds people of the importance of showing gratitude for others' help.
- What could Rodney's friends have done to help him remember what he had to do and when?
- Do you think it would have been better for everyone to help Rodney manage his difficulty remembering instead of throwing him a party? Why/why not? As a class, hold a debate on the topic.
- Rodney uses a whole packet of sticky notes to remind himself of what he has to do and when—but still nearly forgets. What are some things that you can do in your life to help you remember important things you have to do?
- Individually, choose what you think is the absolute best method to remind yourself of an important upcoming event, and create an artwork showing someone using this method.
 - What are some of the ways that your parent or carer helps themselves remember appointments, school permission notes and other things that need to be done at a specific time?
 - Perform an anonymous class survey collecting different ways that students' families help themselves remember appointments and events. Create a whole-class graph of the results of your survey. Write a brief description of what your class found, and what the graph shows. As a class, discuss what the most and least popular methods are, and why you think they are commonly used or not.
- Rodney covers his house in colourful square sticky-note reminders. Cut several pieces of coloured paper into small squares, and use these squares to create a multi-coloured collage inspired by the book. You can use your squares to create a picture, an abstract design or a pattern. Try to glue your squares to the page without any gaps between them, and if you want you can even write decorative notes or messages on several of them.
- Create a short poem about forgetting where you have put things.
- When Rodney forgets where his hat is, he doesn't get to play. Can you find the sign in the illustrations that tells us this? In small groups, create a poster reminding people to remember their hats so that unlike Rodney they can play outside safely in the sun.
- What do you think would be the best place to put a sticky note in your classroom to help everyone remember something? Why do you think this would be the best place? As a class, discuss what makes somewhere a good place for sticky note reminders and what makes somewhere a less useful place.