

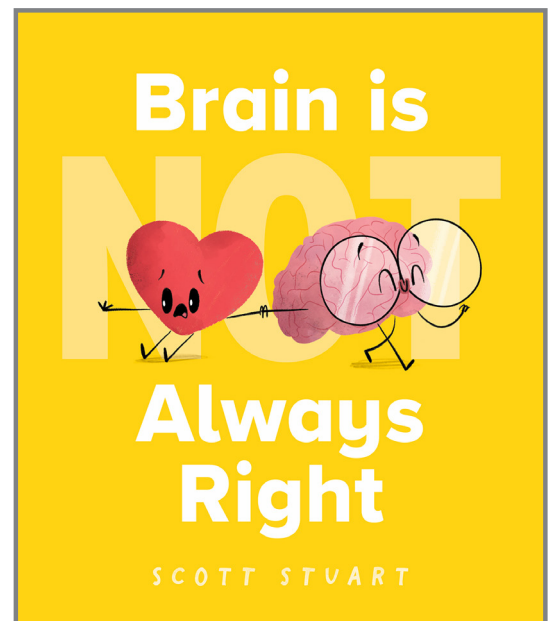
Brain is (Not) Always Right

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

*Heart loves puppies, and chocolate, and rollercoasters, and dancing along to music.
Brain likes lists, and broccoli, and safety rails, and wearing sensible clothing.*

But, most of all, Brain likes being right. Always.

A thoughtful and heart-warming story about being true to yourself, by bestselling picture-book creator, Scott Stuart.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Scott Stuart is a bestselling children's book author who is committed to creating content that empowers young kids. Scott's stories, positive messages and uplifting online presence has gained him over 300K followers and more than 9 million likes on TikTok.

His 2020 picture book *My Shadow Is Pink* was nominated for CBCA Picture Book of the Year and shortlisted for ABIA Children's Book of the Year.

STUDY NOTES

BEFORE READING

- 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 cover?
 - What do you think this book might be about?
 - What do you think the title of this book means?
 - Look at the way the title has been written—what does this tell us about the meaning of the title?
 - Can you think of an example of your brain not being right about something?
 - Read the dedication on the back cover of the book. Does this help you understand the title?
- In the story, Heart and Brain like very different things. What different things do your heart and brain like? Can you think of anything that they both like? What about something that they both hate? On two pieces of A4 paper, create a multi panel picture for your heart and your brain, sharing the different things they like. Look at the opening pages of the story, and use them as inspiration to help you with your layout, captioning, and artwork.
- Who do you think is more in control of your behaviour and decisions, your heart or your brain? Do you think that this

varies between people and situations? Why/why not? In small groups discuss these differences, and talk about which of you tend to follow your heart more, and which of you tend to follow your brain more—and whether or not all of you actually follow both at different times and in different ways.

- In the story, we see what can happen when Brain gets to control ALL the decisions, and it turns out sadly for both Brain and Heart. But when Heart and Brain work together things go a lot better. Can you think of one decision that you have made in your life that was fully controlled by your heart? What is one decision you have made that was fully controlled by your brain? How did things turn out for you in the end?
- Think of one decision that you have made that didn't end too well (eating too many lollies, jumping from too high a place, making fart jokes in front of your grandma, etc). Was this decision inspired by your heart or your brain? What do you think might have been a better decision to make in the circumstances?
- Create a short story about yourself, and what your life would look like if you allowed Brain to control every aspect of it. Illustrate your story using the artwork in the book as inspiration, and caption your artwork with a quote from your story.
- What happens when you eat too much ice-cream too fast? Create a funny ice-cream themed safety poster that warns of the dangers of brain-freeze and ice-cream headaches.
- Heart and Brain eventually start to learn how to play the trumpet. What instrument does your Heart think it would be amazing to learn how to play, and why? Write a short description of what your chosen instrument is, what it sounds like, and how it feels to listen to music with it playing.
- Go to a concert and listen to a brass band or orchestra playing. Alternatively, find a video online of a brass, jazz, or concert band performing, and watch it as a class. Individually write a reflection piece about how listening to the music affected you. Include whether or not you enjoyed the experience, what you found challenging, and what you would like to learn more about in relation to music in the future.
- If you have a school band, ask the trumpet players if they can visit your class and give a demonstration of what someone learning the trumpet sounds like.
- In the story Brain has a lot of negative self-talk that manages to discourage both Brain and Heart and keep them from taking risks because of fear. In small groups talk about the things we say to ourselves that keep us safe, but also keep us from experiences which we might enjoy. What are some things we can say to ourselves to encourage us to follow our heart when our brain is bombarding us with negative self-talk? Make a list of inspirational and encouraging phrases we can say to ourselves and others when we are held back from attempting our goals by fear.
- Create an artwork featuring your own personal heart, and surround your picture with inspirational phrases designed to encourage your heart to stay strong and keep caring.
- In small groups or pairs, create a board game designed around the characters of Heart and Brain where following one or the other at different times can hold you back or propel you forwards.