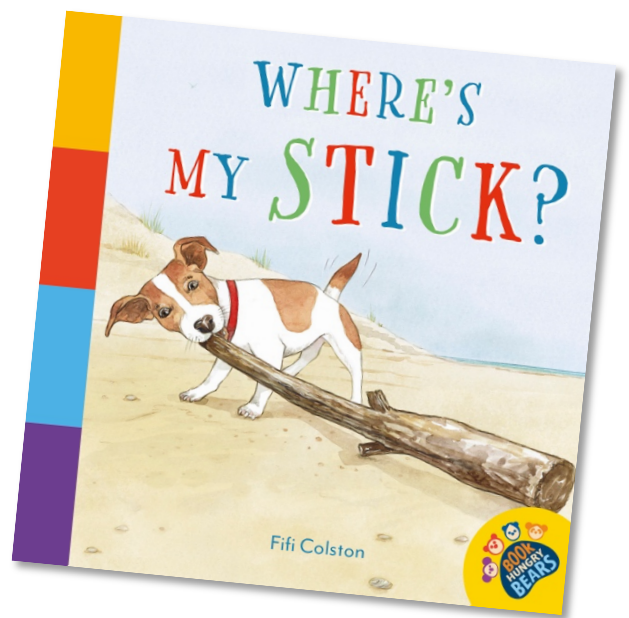


## TEACHING NOTES: WHERE'S MY STICK?

Written and illustrated by Fifi Colston  
Published by Little Steps Publishing



### SYNOPSIS

Perseverance can be an overlooked quality. Learning from failure and refusing to give up are the key to success for the young puppy in this story. In the end, the puppy's determination and resilience are rewarded in a rather surprising way.



### ABOUT THE SERIES

The NEW Book Hungry Bears book collection features topical and imaginative stories used in The Book Hungry Bears TV show. From acceptance of diversity to blended families, this delightful series brings together compelling narrative to engage children in their emotional journey as they make sense of the world around them. These bears LOVE picture books and especially love reading them with each other. Sharing their delight and engagement with the books, they ask each other questions, point to the illustrations and get caught up in the story.

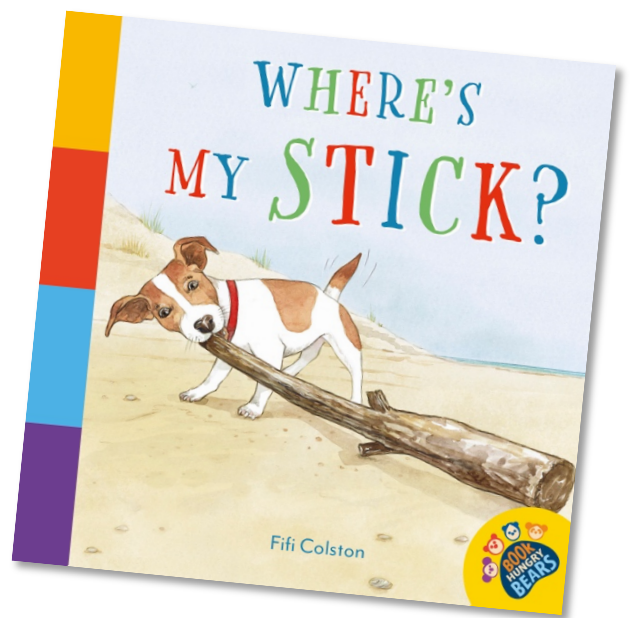
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Fifi Colston is an illustrator, writer and costume and props maker, based in Wellington, New Zealand. She works from her sunny home studio, where she looks out over houses and trees towards the sea with her spoilt ginger cat, Griffin. Fifi has been writing, drawing and making things ever since she can remember and feels happiest when she has a pencil, scissors or a glue gun in her hand. Her training was in Visual Communications Design, majoring in illustration, and she has illustrated more than 50 picture books for trade and education. Fifi also has an MA in Creative Writing and is an award-winning junior fiction novelist and non-fiction author. Fifi was the 2019 Otago University College of Education Children's Writer in Residence, and this was where the two Book Hungry Bears titles, *Where's My Stick?* and *The Last Crayon* were created.



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### EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

*Where's My Stick?* is a powerful story about a young puppy who refuses to give up when his sticks keep disappearing. Perseverance and learning from failure are the key to success for the young puppy in this story. In the end the puppy's determination is rewarded in a rather surprising way. Key themes are resilience and friendship.

### DISCUSSION TOPICS

Read the book together, asking questions throughout.

1. Look at the cover of the book together. What do you think the story might be about?
2. What keeps happening to Maxie's sticks? After reading about the first two disappearances, what do you think Maxie should do?
3. Have you ever seen a dog bury a stick?
4. Why is the turtle and why are the snails not reliable?
5. Did Maxie find her stick in the end? Talk about determination and resilience with the class. You can mention growth mindset here, too. Talk about instances where people have learnt by their mistakes, where they haven't given up, etc.
6. What did the children think of the book? If they liked it, why did they like it? What was their favourite part?



When Maxie came back, her pile of sand had gone. She didn't know where to dig to find her buried stick.

## RESILIENCE CARDS

Maxie doesn't give up when his sticks keep disappearing – he shows resilience. In the end, he gets rewarded by not only finding his stick, but also making lots of new friends. Resilience is the ability to mentally and emotionally cope with a crisis. It's about not giving up and about bouncing back from challenges and failure. Cut out these resilience cards for yourself and your friends.



Every failure makes me stronger.



I don't give up.

Today is going to be a great day.



I have courage and confidence.



I can make my dreams and goals  
come true.



I see opportunities in problems  
and not problems in opportunities.



I believe in myself, as well as  
others.



Today, I will walk through my  
fears.



If I fall, I will get back up again.



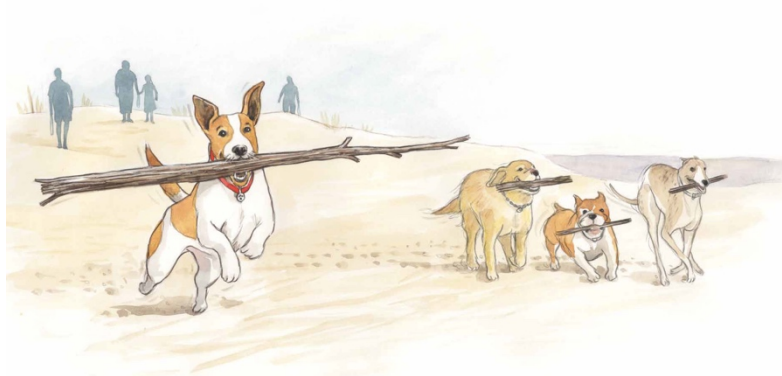
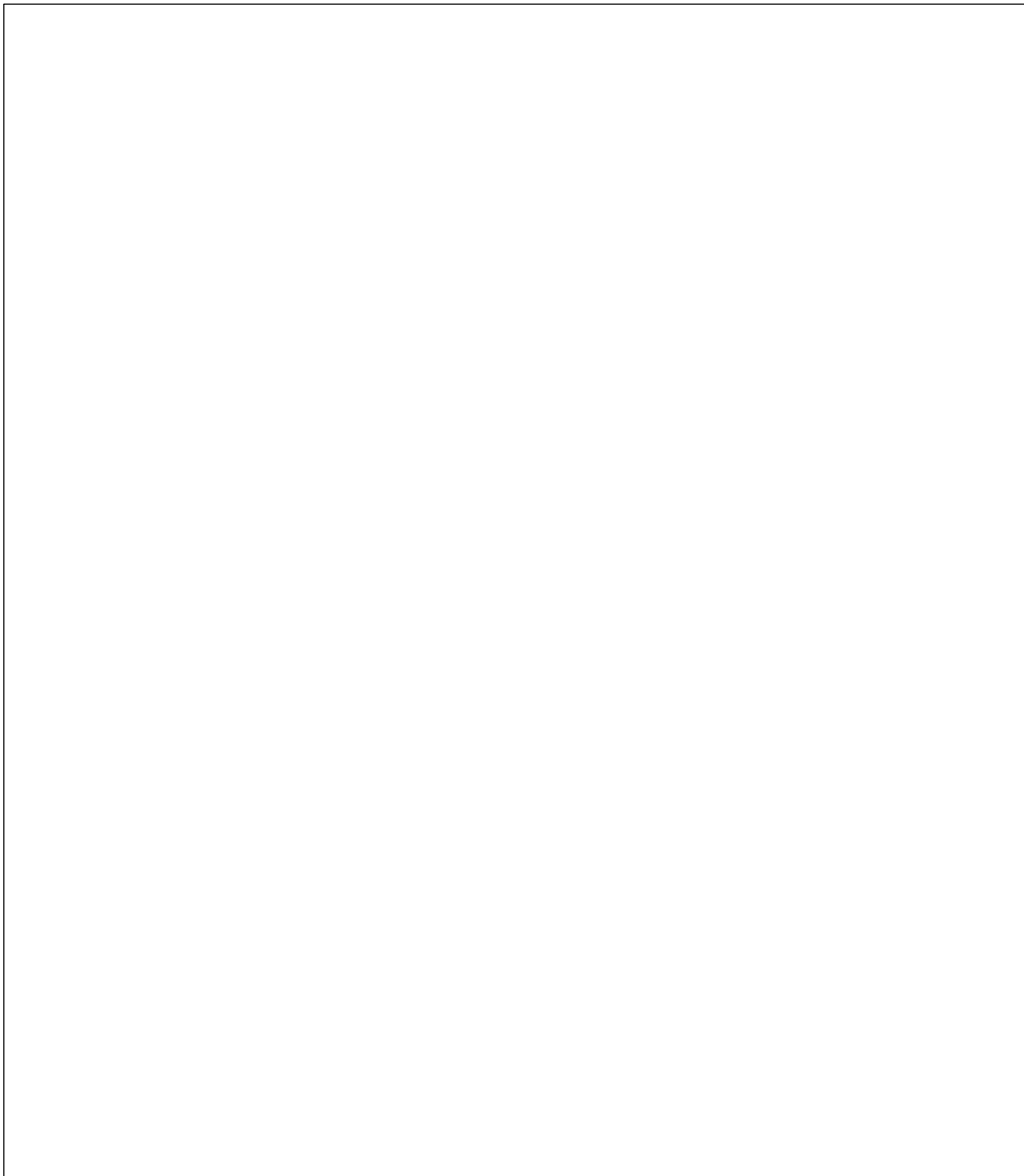
I am resilient.



FUN  
ACTIVITY!

# DRAWING FUN

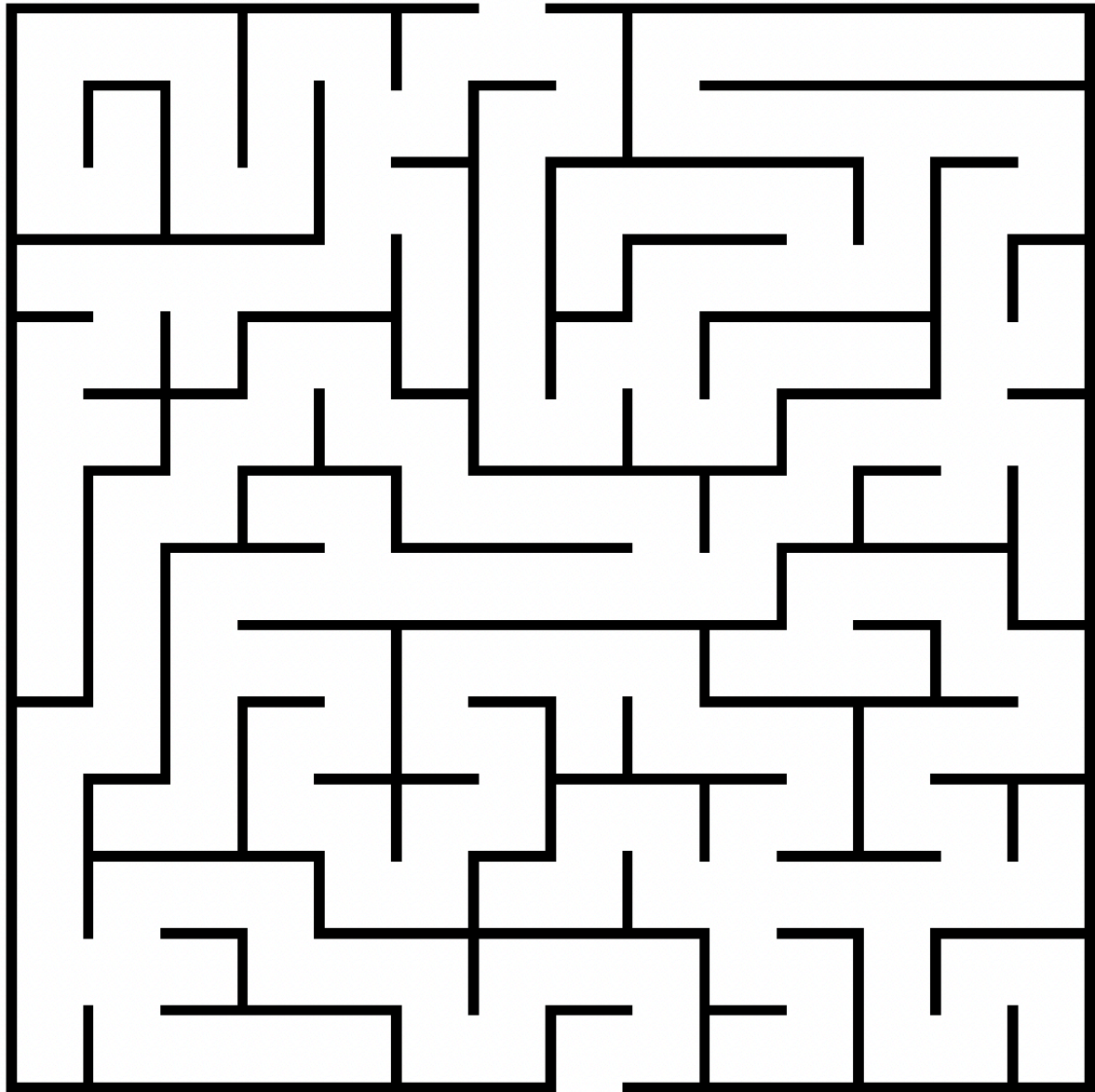
Draw a picture of Maxie with his new friends.



FUN  
ACTIVITY!

# A-MAZE-ING MAXIE

Help Maxie find his stick!



FUN  
ACTIVITY!

# MAZE SOLUTION

