

Skipping to
SAMMY'S
BEAT

Coral Vass
& Blithe Fielden

TEACHING NOTES

SYNOPSIS

Sammy loves to splash in puddles, dangle from trees, look for ladybirds and skip and dance down the path to her very own beat.

TAP, DA-DUM, TAP, TAP, DA-DUM!

But when Sammy turns five, she feels silly wearing her tutu and gumboots and so she stops dancing altogether.

Eventually, Sammy can't hear her beat any more – the very beat that makes her special. How does Sammy find her beat again?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Coral Vass is an award-winning Australian children's author. With a background in media, Coral has always delighted in telling stories and has been writing books for 15 years. Her first book with New Frontier Publishing, *Please Handle with Care* (illustrated by Tull Suwannakit), was selected as a CBCA Notable Book in 2023. Her other titles include best-selling *Goodnight Possum* and 2019 CBCA Book of the Year Eve Pownall winner, *Sorry Day* (illustrated by Dub Leffler). She loves to visit schools, often running writing workshops and inspiring young people with a love for literature. Coral is an ambassador for Reading Out of Poverty and is passionate about giving all children an equal opportunity to read. You can find her on Facebook @coralvassauthor, Instagram @coralvass, X @coral_vass and on her website www.coralvass.com

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Blithe is an illustrator from the UK but is now based in Brisbane, Australia. Inspired by the beauty of nature, animals and the environment, Blithe loves to create playful illustrations, depicting the world through the eyes of children. Since graduating from Leeds Arts University with a BA in Illustration in 2021, Blithe has worked alongside several small businesses and clients, showcasing her illustrations to a range of audiences. You can contact Blithe via Instagram @blithe_illustrations

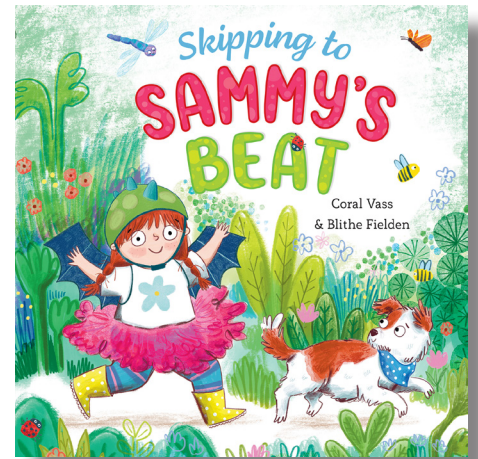
EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.' – Henry David Thoreau

'Today you are you. That is truer than true. There is no one alive that is you-er than you.' – Dr. Seuss

Skipping to Sammy's Beat is a delightful story by an award-winning author about being yourself, singing to your own tune and skipping to your own beat.

Confidence and friendship are key themes, and the book provides an excellent starting point for discussions about following your own path in life.



Written by
Coral Vass

Illustrated by
Blithe Fielden

Published by
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DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before, during and after reading the book

1. Introduce *Skipping to Sammy's Beat* to the children and ask them what they think the story might be about.
2. What does Sammy like to wear and do?
3. Ask the children what they like to wear and what they like to do?
4. What happens when Sammy turns five? Why does Sammy feel silly in her tutu? What does she do?
5. What happens when Sammy dances down the path? Has anything happened like this to you?
6. What happens to Sammy's beat? What does it mean when we say 'Sammy's beat'?
7. What does Sammy's find in the water? What does she do? How does this give Sammy her confidence back?
8. After reading the book, ask them what did they think of the story? Which was their favourite part and why?



EXTENSION DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

1. What does it mean to dance to the beat of our own drum?

Imagine everyone in the world has their own invisible drum. Our drum plays a rhythm that's only ours. It's made from the things we love, the ideas we dream up, and the way our heart feels when we do something that makes us happy.

But sometimes, when we spend too much time looking at what others are doing, we stop listening to our own drum.

We start to think:

'Maybe I'm not pretty enough.'

'Maybe I'm not smart enough.'

'Maybe I'm not fast enough.'

'Maybe I'm not enough.'

And suddenly, our drumbeat gets quiet.

Even if we feel a little lost or unsure of ourselves, our drum is still playing. It never stops. Sometimes, we just need a quiet moment to hear it again.

We might hear it when we do something creative, like drawing, building, or dancing.

Or when we help someone and feel proud.

Or when we laugh with a friend or get excited about something new.

That's our own beat.

How to Listen to Your Drum? *Write a list of the things that make you feel excited or happy.*

2. DIY Tin Can Drum

Transform empty tin cans into drums by covering one end with a piece of balloon or fabric and securing it with a rubber band. Children can decorate the cans with paint or stickers before using them to create different rhythms and beats.

3. Using different patterns and colours draw:

Sammy's Beat

Charli's Beat

Rory's Beat

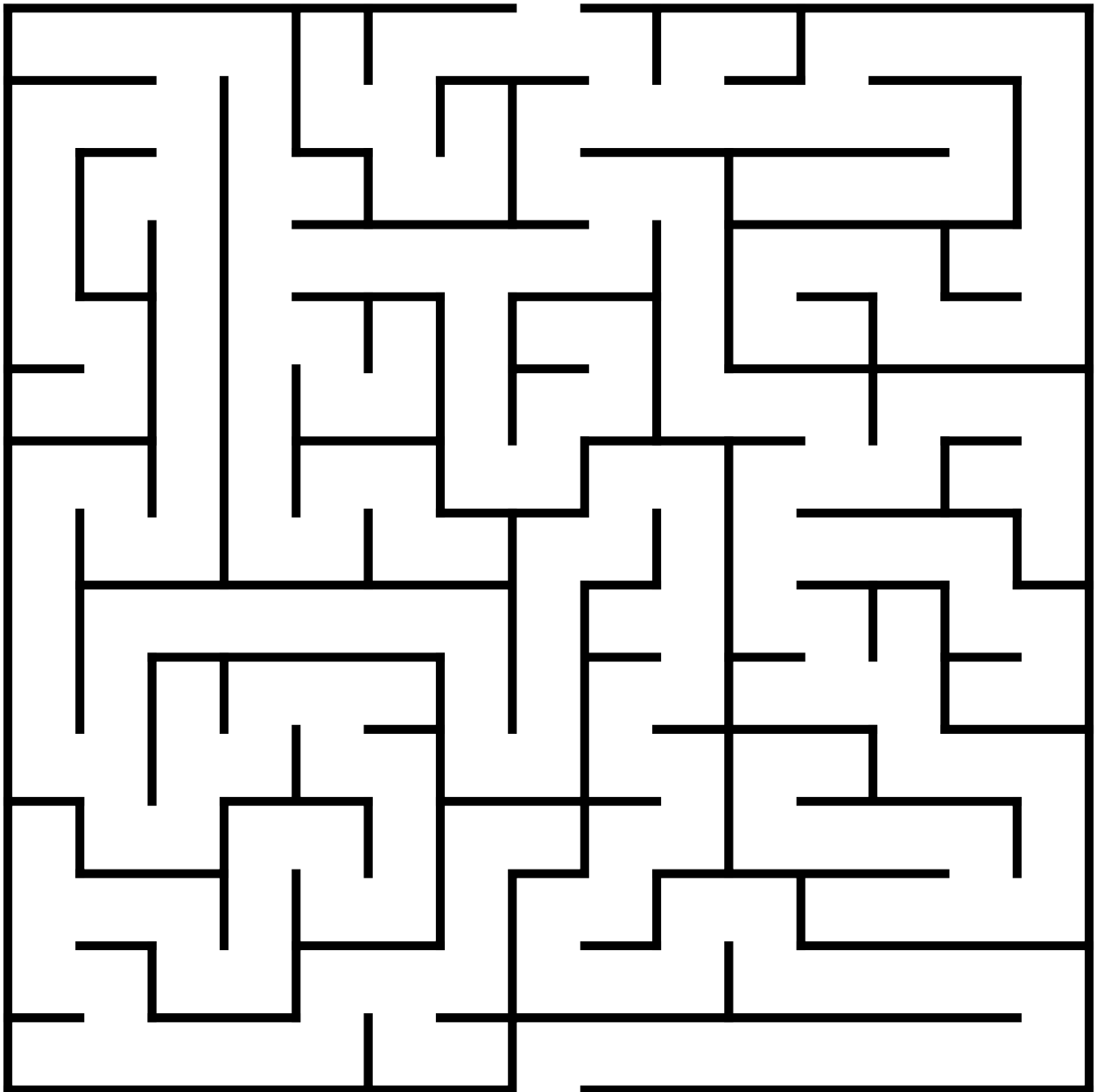
Bella's Beat



A-MAZE-ING SAMMY

Can you help Sammy find the dragonfly?

15 by 15 orthogonal maze



WORDSEARCH

Find all the words below in the Skipping to Sammy's Beat wordsearch.

Name:

Class:

Date:

word search

SKIPPING TO SAMMY'S BEAT

T S D R I B Y D A L
Y E T S K I P A N I
L L M O P P L G L S
F G L L O L N R A G
N N T A E B A M A N
O A H B E H M S T I
G D E C C Y E U H W
A I N A C R S K G T
R A A N R O E A I A
D U T U T R A U Y B



BATWINGS
BEAT
BELLA
BIKEHELMET
CHARLI

DANCE
DANGLE
DRAGONFLY
GUMBOOTS
LADYBIRDS

RORY
SAMMY
SKIP
SPLASH
TUTU

word search



www.edu-games.org



Answer Sheet
word search

SKIPPING TO SAMMY'S BEAT

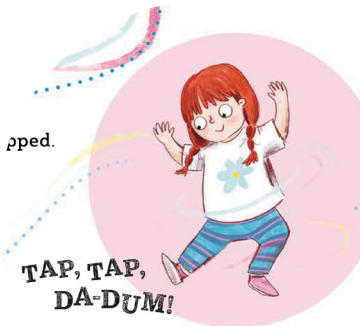
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A I N A C R S K G T
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D U T U T R A U Y B



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DRAWING ACTIVITY

Have a go at drawing all the fun activities that you do with your friends.





Please share your work with us
@newfrontierpublishinguk

