

RED PAPER KITE

# TEACHER'S

Notes

The Lost Moustache



# THE LOST MOUSTACHE

## Synopsis

When Frankie finds a moustache in a theatre, she is completely baffled. Who loses a moustache?! Frankie launches an investigation, determined to return the moustache to its rightful owner.

Engaging, amusing and delightfully quirky, *The Lost Moustache* is a fun and beautifully illustrated story about a little girl's curiosity and playfulness. Set in a theatre, *The Lost Moustache* is a fun and quirky story that celebrates curiosity, imagination and the joy of dressing up in costumes.

## Themes

Creativity, imagination, curiosity, theatre, joy of dressing up, fun.

## Selling points

- A great story to use during Book Week and other dress-up based events.
- A fun story to inspire Father's Day activities.
- Provides an opportunity to talk about real stories versus made up stories.
- Introduces children to the wonderful world of theatre and imagination.
- Detailed, vibrant illustrations, including artwork inspired by famous artists.
- An opportunity to talk about various art forms – visual, theatre, dance.

## About the author: Vikki Conley

Vikki Conley is a professional writer who has worked with diverse communities in Africa, Asia and Australia for over 20 years. She is one of the most prolific emerging children's writers with seven picture books being released in the next two years. Vikki is an intrepid traveller, nature lover, and creative all-rounder.

Inspired by nature and her country/seagoing childhood, Vikki writes and shares stories that celebrate the spirit of wonder, adventure and freedom that she wished every child could enjoy. Her childhood was filled with adventure in the wilderness—riding her pony in the Australian bush, leaping from her family's wooden boat into the ocean, and seeing the world from the top of mountains.

Author VIKKI CONLEY  
Illustrator CATERINA METTI

ISBN

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44pp, HB,  
250mm x 250mm x 10mm

RRP AU\$26.99

AGE 5-7

Vikki also loves sharing wonderful stories for minds that wonder, as the creator and curator of the popular children's literature social media pages, Courageous Pages. In her spare time, Vikki does cartwheels with her two children and husband, and searches for platypus in the rivers near her home in Eltham, Victoria, Australia.

### **About the illustrator: Caterina Metti**

Caterina is a self-taught artist who studied science before deciding to pursue a career in illustration. She paints using gouache, but she also loves working with graphite. Her illustration style 'is a work in progress', and her work is inspired by street photographers and French artists.

When she is not illustrating, Caterina likes cooking, singing, reading and... drawing. She is interested in the little things of life.

Snoozette, her first picture book is being adapted for stage performance by the French Theatre in Perth, Australia. She lives near Florence, Italy.

### **Author's inspiration**

The Lost Moustache came to Vikki like a dream. She simply woke up one morning with the title in her head! Vikki's life-long love of costume play and dressing up, seemed an obvious choice for exploring this quirky title. Vikki studied theatre and drama through secondary school, and her passion for the stage and dramatic performance has always stayed with her. At school she performed in several plays. Among her close friends, Vikki has a reputation for hosting dress-up parties, and has a big dress-up box full of wigs, hats and wands—not just for her children to enjoy! Over the years, Vikki has dressed up as a teddy bear, an African princess, a lion, a goddess and Pocahontas.

### **Illustrator's inspiration**

When I read Vikki's manuscript I immediately thought of a Theater.

Vikki's work is brilliant, funny, and cute at the same time, I thought it could be a great show for children.

In the story children are all dressed up, and there is much misunderstanding happening and funny dialogues - all these ingredients are great in theater!

I also chose to set the story in a theater, because when I was a child was part of the school theater, I loved it and I created my best memories there, with my friends. There were good times growing up with art and school mates.

Frankie is such a sweet character, she's very shy but she has a great sense of responsibility. The entire book is an investigation to reveal the moustache mystery so I thought her stage costume should reflect this and I drew her as a little Sherlock.

## Educational topics

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This book encourages discussion about curiosity, imagination versus reality, an investigation and a sense of wonder.

### Discussion topics

Before reading:

- Look at the cover and read the title. What do you think The Lost Moustache is about?
- Encourage the students to notice the protagonist's clothing.
- What does this remind you of? (A detective?)
- What does this tell us about the story?
- What does the cover tell us about the setting of the story? (Theatre curtains.)
- How do you think someone could lose a moustache?! (Encourage children to brainstorm/get creative. Eg. What if someone shaved their face while they were sleeping?! Or a strong wind blew it off their face?)

After reading:

- Were you surprised that the moustache turned out to be an eyebrow? Why, why not?
- If you had been given the opportunity to illustrate this book, what are some things you might have done differently? Are there any other characters you would have liked to see?
- Can you come up with an alternative ending to the story? Who else might the moustache have belonged to?
- What kind of play do you think is being put on? Get creative and think of your own.
- Ask the children what they would do/think if they found a moustache. How many characters does Frankie approach in the hunt for the owner of the moustache?
- Which is your favourite character? Why?
- How would you describe the style of artwork in the book? What effect does this have on the reader?

## Additional activities

### The Arts

#### Visual literacy

- How would you describe the art in the book? What is its style? Is it realistic? Abstract? Cartoon-like? Do you know of any other books that use this style?
- Do you think that colours help to create a mood for the story?
- Do you like the texture of the illustrations?
- Who knows what a storyboard is?
- The artist painted the illustrations with gouache? Do you know what this is? (Thick opaque watercolor paint). What do you like to use when you do art?
- If you were offered the opportunity to illustrate this book, what would you have done differently and why?
- What is your favourite color and why?
  
- Draw your own moustache—be creative! Choose your own colour, shape, texture. Cut it out and see how it looks on you and your friends. Use craft accessories like pipe cleaners, fluff, feathers, cotton balls, wigs etc
  
- Draw a picture of your bedroom, living room or classroom, and hide a secret moustache somewhere in the picture.
  
- Draw a plain face on the whiteboard or on a sheet of paper (no eyebrows, facial hair, head hair etc). Give each student a print-out of the template of a moustache and have them cut it out. Encourage the children to place their moustache on the face, to make the face look completely different! (Stick some on its head to make hair, some on the face to make a beard, sideburns, eyebrows etc).
  
- Create a play based on the book. Encourage children to use costumes and props.
  
- Create your own moustache. Using the designs listed on worksheets 3 & 4, make a moustache on a stick! You can add other accessories such as a hat.
- Greeting card activity: using the template provided, create a fun greeting card.

## Language

### Writing

- Find and list synonyms for moustache and other words relating to facial hair. [Worksheet 5]
- Describe the feeling of a moustache, or beard. (fluffly, prickly ...)
- Write what happens next in the story. [Worksheet 6]
  
- Count how many characters Frankie meets during her investigation
- Find and write about the different types of characters she meets. [Worksheet 5]
- Write a book review! [Worksheet 7]

### History/early primary Humanities and Social Science

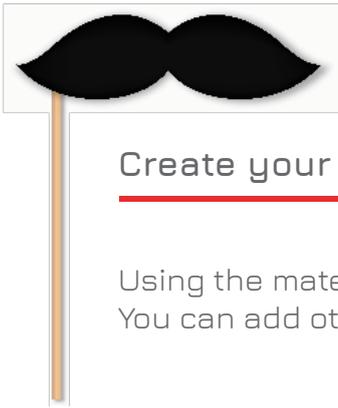
- Facial hair goes in and out of fashion, just like everything else! Look at how the moustache has changed over time and note all the different styles for thin, thick, short, bushy or curly moustaches.
- Which one is your favourite?
  
- Research famous movie characters or book characters that have featured moustaches.
  
- Role play. With your new moustache (Arts activity), assume the identity of a famous character or a new character.  
Who are you? Why? What is special about the new you?

## Card activity

Create a fun card.

Create a moustache.

Then, using one of the templates [worksheets 1 & 2], make greeting card by sticking your creation to the card! Choose from our option or invent your own caption.



### Create your own Moustache on a stick!

Using the material listed on the worksheet 3 & 4 , make a moustache on a stick!  
You can add other accessories such as a hat or glasses!

#### What you will need

Moustache template [tip: print it on thicker, sturdier paper].

Glue

Bamboo skewer or paper straw to hold the moustache

#### How to

Draw your own moustache or print and cut out the one on the template.

Once you have cut out your moustache, add to it. You can use glitter, feathers, cotton.  
Personalise it by drawing or painting on it.

Once it is finished, glue it on a bamboo stick/paper straw.

Try it! Assume your new personality! Who are you?

Worksheet 1

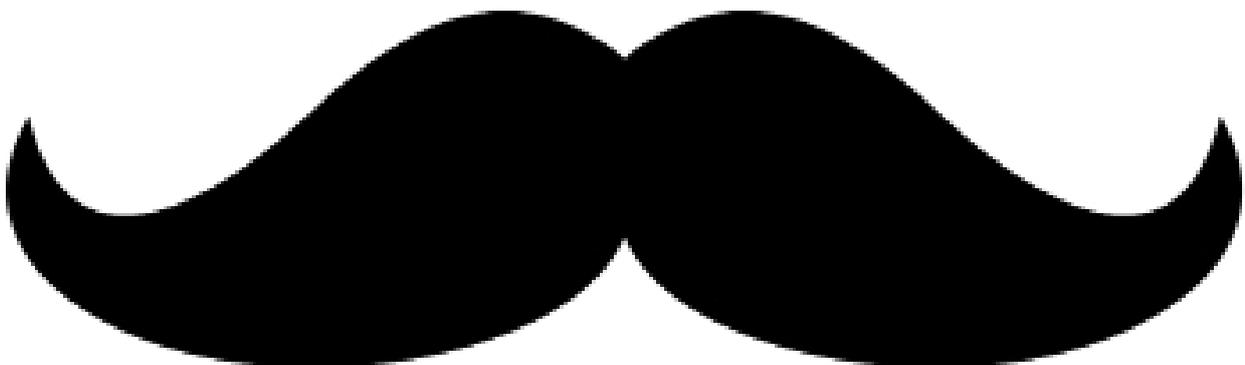
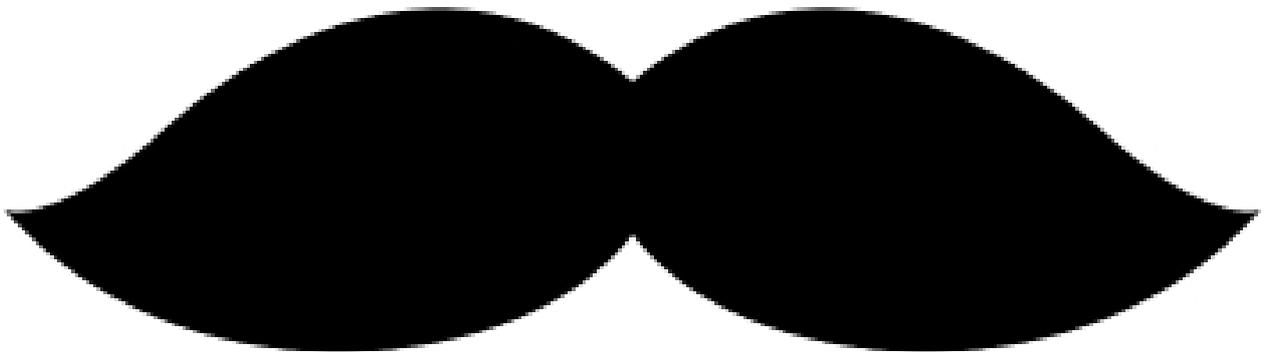
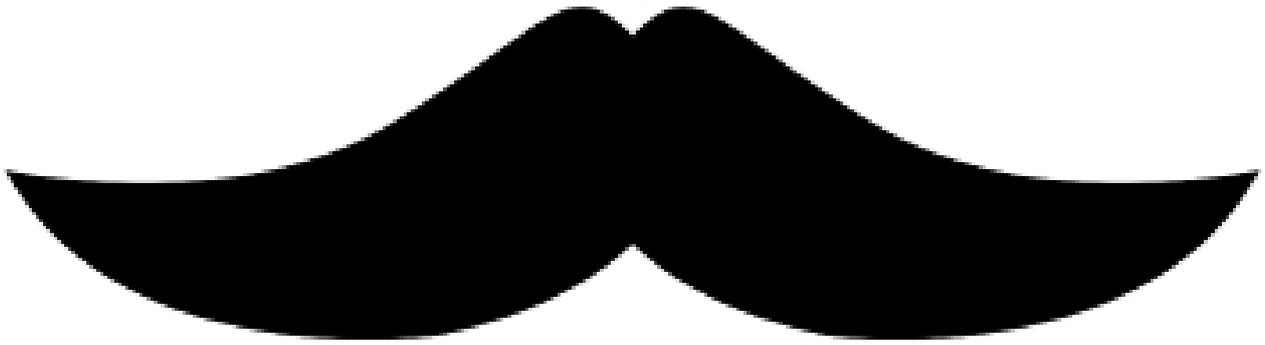
HAVE A  
MO-MENTOUS  
DAY!



Worksheet 2

HAVE A  
FAN-STASH-TIC  
DAY!



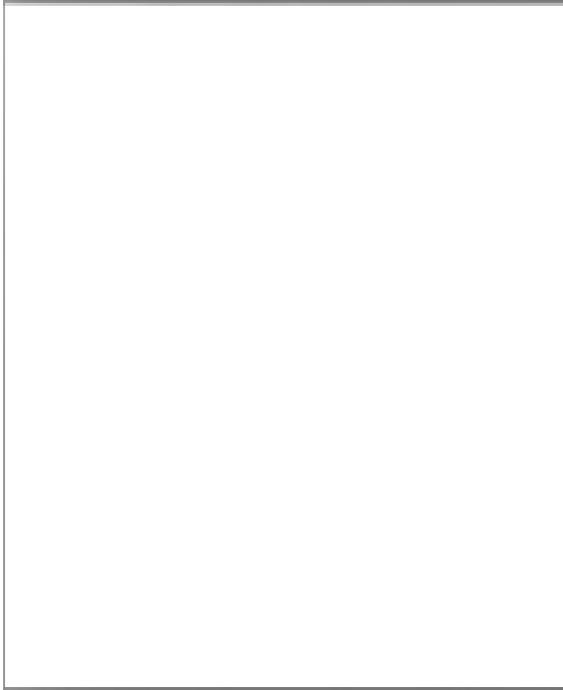




# Worksheet 5

## Vocabulary

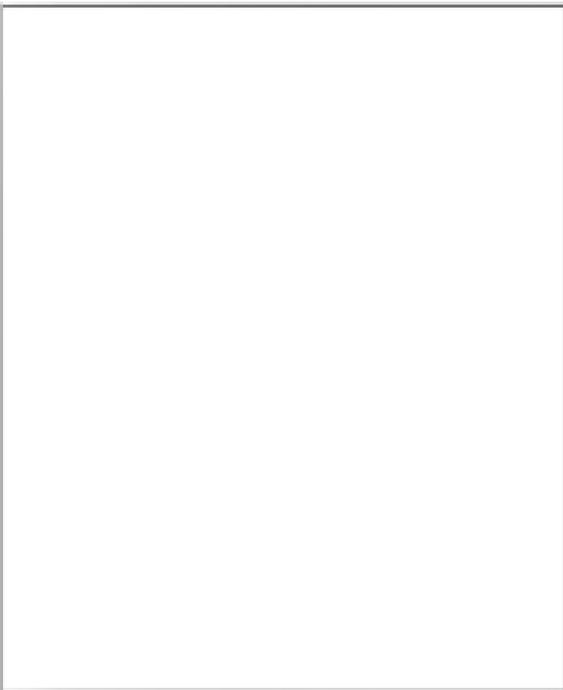
Find and list other words that mean  
moustache (or which related to facial hair)



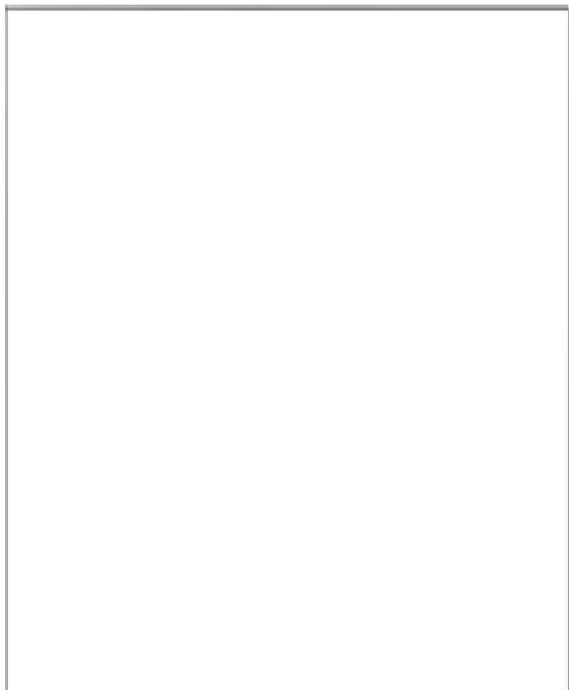
Describe how a moustache  
(or a beard) feels



List and describe all the characters  
Frankie meets

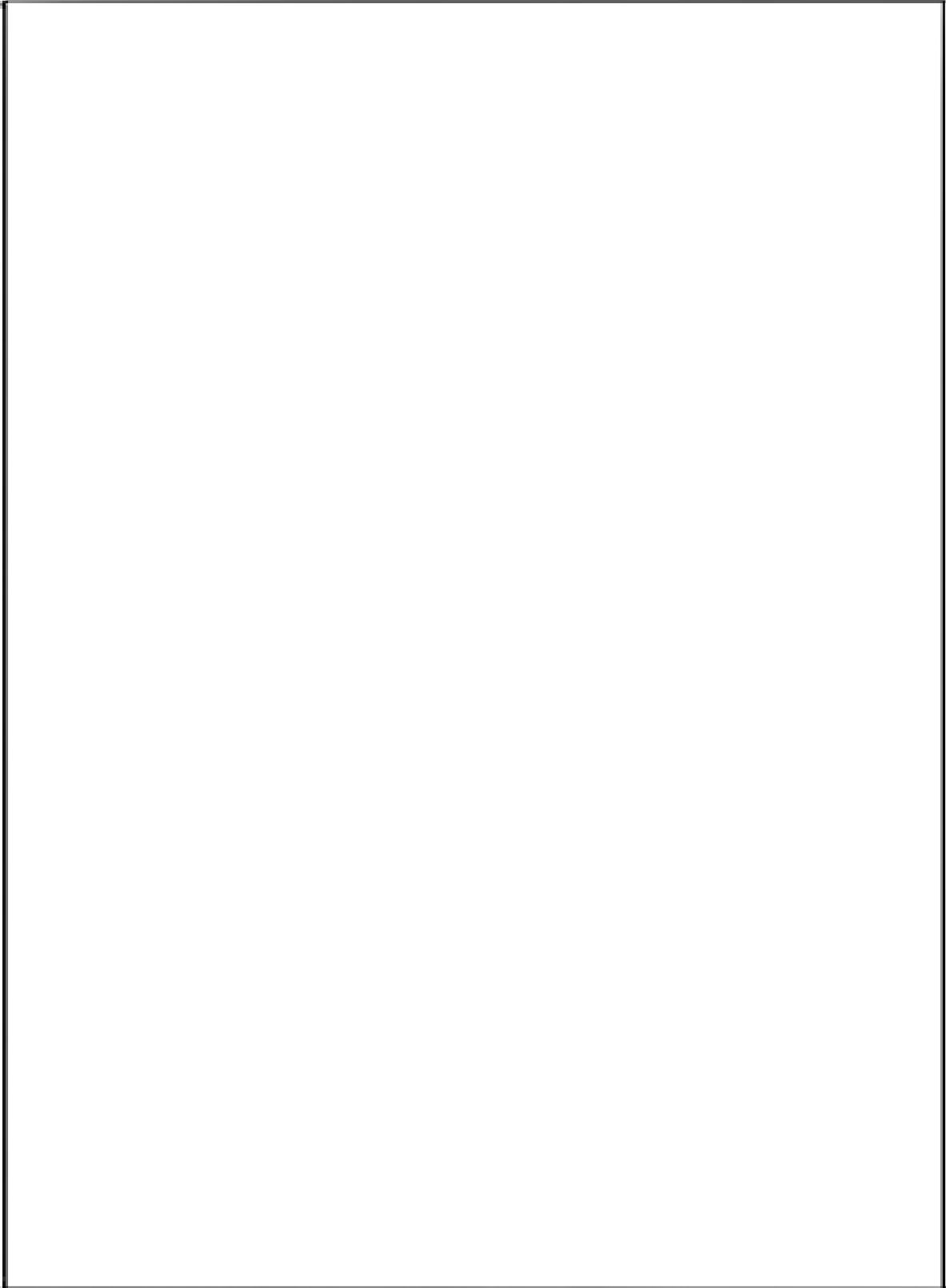


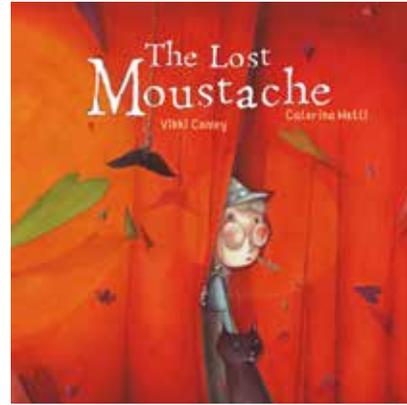
List all the verbs (doing words) that describe  
what Frankie does at each time or place



## Worksheet 6

Write what happens next in the story





# BOOK REVIEW

Title .....

THE MAIN CHARACTER is .....

THE STORY IS SET .....

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE STORY

Did you like the story? Give it a score.

