



TEACHERS' NOTES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Preschool to lower primary
(Ages 3-6; preschool to kindergarten)

CONTENTS

1. Plot summary	1
2. About the author	2
3. Writing style	2
4. Pre-reading questions	2
5. Key study topics	2-3
6. Further reading	4
7. Worksheets	5-7
8. Order form	8
9. <i>Find-a-word</i> answers	9

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English, Creative Arts, Health and Physical Education
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and creative thinking, Ethical understanding, Personal and social capability
- **Other learning across the curriculum areas:** Difference and diversity

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- Learning how to effectively share information about diversity with others.
- Developing an understanding and appreciation of individual uniqueness.
- Embracing and celebrating differences and gifts in relationships.

THEMES

- Belonging and inclusion
- Body positivity
- The celebration of individuality
- Friendship and curiosity

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

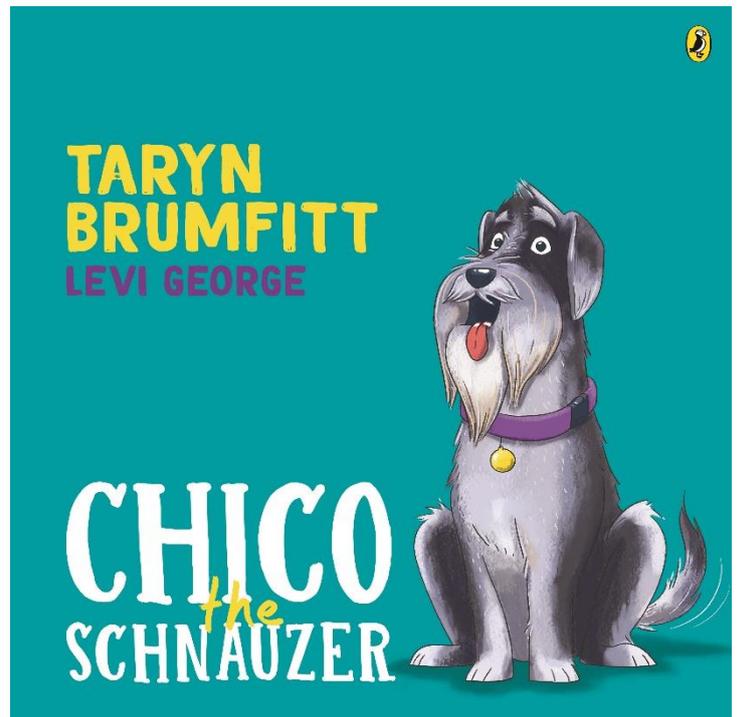
PUBLICATION DETAILS

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Chico the Schnauzer Taryn Brumitt and Levi George

PLOT SUMMARY

From Australian of the Year and founder of the Body Image Movement, Taryn Brumfitt, comes the delightful story of Chico the Schnauzer, a dog who learns to embrace all the wonderful things his unique body can do!

Chico the Schnauzer goes on the biggest playdate of his life, spending time with all his dog friends. There's Susie the Sausage Dog, Penelope the Poodle and Digby the Dalmatian, just to name a few. Chico is amazed to learn about all the things their bodies are good at. He may not be able to do all that they can, but Chico discovers all the incredible things his own body can do!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Taryn Brumfitt is an award-winning filmmaker, bestselling author and internationally sought-after keynote speaker. Recently named 2023 Australian of the Year, she is a fiercely passionate advocate for social change and her message has reached more than 200 million people around the world.

Taryn is the founder of the Body Image Movement, director of the inspiring documentaries *Embrace* and *Embrace Kids*, and author of four books. Her global crusade to help people embrace their bodies has seen her recognised by UN Women, Amy Poehler's Smart Girls and the Geena Davis Institute. Taryn has delivered more than 100 keynote addresses, and her talk at Google HQ in Silicon Valley was live-streamed to every Google office in the world.

In 2018, she was recognised in the Australian Financial Review 100 Women of Influence awards and received the SA Award for Excellence in Women's Leadership from Women and Leadership Australia. She was also crowned EY Entrepreneur of the Year, South Australia, and has been named among GE's highest-rated speakers.

With a powerful, universal message and unwavering commitment to her cause, Taryn Brumfitt is a true force to be reckoned with.

WRITING STYLE

Taryn Brumfitt takes the joy of dogs and gives them friendship in order to highlight real issues in a fun and accessible way. Known for their expressive beard, big eyes and eyebrows, Taryn's own trusty pet schnauzer, Chico was the inspiration for the book. Chico and his dog friends, brought to life by Levi George's vibrant illustrations, are given fun rhythmic names, often using alliteration, like Digby the Dalmatian, Gary the Greyhound and Penelope the Poodle, helping to engage the reader and encourage them to interact with the story. The artistic treatment of onomatopoeic words such as, 'WOOF!' and 'YIP!' is another exciting way to engage readers with the different activities the dogs do throughout the story, each of which leads up to how Chico the Schnauzer responds to those activities and his attempts to do them himself. The combination of simple colourful artwork and positive language emphasises the idea of diversity that can open up class discussion about how we can best celebrate our differences.

Questions

1. If you were a dog, how would you describe yourself like Chico does on page 1? Ask the students to write a few, short descriptive sentences about themselves.
2. What are the four words on page 2 that start with 'ch'?
 - a) Can you think of four things that you love that start with the same letter?

Activities

3. An *onomatopoeia* is the big name for words that imitate a sound, like 'WOOF' or 'BANG!' See if you can think of three other words like this.
 - a) Can you put your words into a sentence? E.g. 'The book went BANG as it hit the floor.' Try writing the special word in big capital letters and then colour them in.
4. Think of your favourite animal, give them a special name and try to draw them. What unique sounds do you think they make?

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. As a class, look at the front cover of the book and read the title together. What are the visual characteristics of the dog on the front cover?
2. Can you think of any names you would give to your friends because of something that makes them special? e.g. 'Super Soccer Sebastian.'
 - a) Do you think those names define who they are? Or are there other unique things about them?

KEY STUDY TOPICS

Being confident in your abilities and appreciating who you are

Questions

1. Discuss and brainstorm with the class what words come to mind when they hear *confidence*.
 - a) Ask the students what they think it means to be/feel confident.
 - b) In what situations have they shown confidence?
2. How do you think Chico is being confident on pages 10-11?
 - a) What about pages 14-15?
3. Read this quote from The Embrace Hub aloud: 'You are the person you will spend the most time with – it's important that you talk to, and treat yourself with kindness!' (theembracehub.com, 2023). Discuss with the class what they think it means.

Activities

4. On pages 16-17, Chico understands holding onto the back of a boat is more fun for him than swimming, like his friend, Ginger the Golden Retriever. This is a way Chico is being confident in his abilities and valuing who he is. Ask the students to get into groups of three and



- act out some things they are good at together. These can then be role-played at the front of the class, or simply in their separate groups.
5. Teach your class Taryn Brumfitt's special kids' song, 'Embrace Your Body' (Download at Embrace Song or play the animated music video, Embrace Music Video.) Have the class make up a dance.
 2. Read this quote by Taryn Brumfitt aloud: 'Dogs come in all different shapes and sizes... we don't say to a sausage dog, "You should look like a cattle dog", or we don't say to the bulldog, "You should look like a chihuahua". We just accept them as they are. And we love them for all of their uniqueness' (thecurb.com, 2022).
 - a) Why do you believe accepting all your classmates as they are is beneficial for the school community?

Learning how to celebrate, respect and share differences in relationships

Questions

1. All of Chico's dog friends are so different, as you can see on pages 4-5. Discuss what's special about their appearances. Pay attention to their ears, noses, fur, colour, height etc.
2. On page 7, Susie the Sausage Dog invites Chico to join a chasing game, which he decides to do, even though it's not one of his strengths. Do you think it's important to encourage yourself and your friends to try different activities that they may not think they're good at? Why do you think this is important?
3. Ask students to think about the difference between teachers and students. How can we respect each other?

Activities

4. 'As Chico walks home from the biggest playdate of his life, he thinks of all the things his friends can do with their amazing bodies ...' (page 20). On their tables, ask students to anonymously pick a classmate and list different positive things about them, i.e. hair/eye colour, if they're good at a certain subject, what kind of school bag they have.
 - a) Get them to swap lists with the classmates on their table and guess who their student is.
5. Think of the people in your life who you love. e.g. mum, dad, siblings, cousins, school friends.
 - a) Think of one person and design a simple card, letting them know how thankful you are for them.

Understanding your wider contribution to a healthy society

Questions

1. What do you think it means to be "healthy"? Get an initial consensus from the class first, then ask them to think about things like, having good friends, being kind to yourself when things go wrong, reaching out when you're feeling down, etc.
 - a) Discuss some ways they might try to be healthy, if they're comfortable sharing.

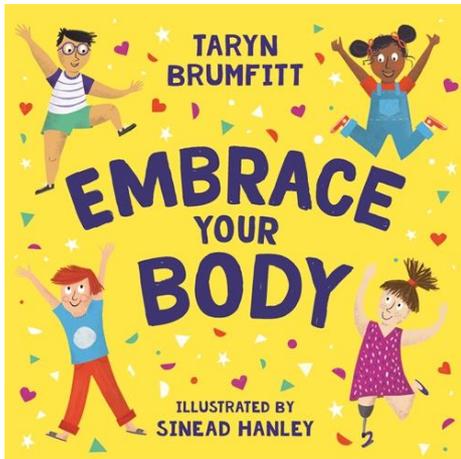
Activities

Evenly split the students into the below groups and look at the different interactions Chico has with his dog friends. How do you think Chico is helping his friends with his own gifts?

- Susie the Sausage Dog (pages 8-9)
- Gary the Greyhound (pages 10-11)
- Banjo the Border Collie (pages 12-13)
- Penelope the Poodle (pages 14-15)
- Ginger the Golden Retriever (pages 16-17)
- Digby the Dalmatian (page 18-19)



FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



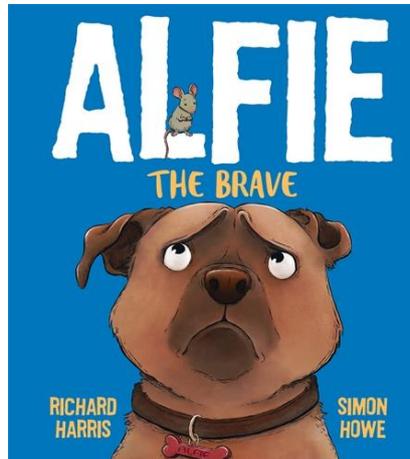
Embrace Your Body
by Taryn Brumfitt and
Sinead Hanley

Based on the #1 hit children's song, this picture book encourages everyone to love who they are, inside and out.

Taryn Brumfitt is the fiercely passionate thought leader behind the Body Image Movement and director of *Embrace the documentary*. She is determined to inspire everyBODY to celebrate their body, regardless of size, colour, ethnicity, gender or ability.

This book is a joyous celebration, much like *All the Ways to Be Smart*. It contains an important message but conveys it in a positive, welcoming and inclusive manner.

Teachers' notes available.

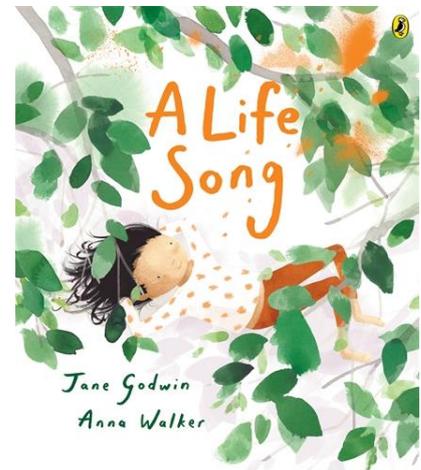


Alfie the Brave
by Richard Harris and
Simon Howe

A charming picture book about how bravery doesn't always come naturally, from Dr Richard 'Harry' Harris, a key member of the international cave-diving group who rescued the Wild Boar soccer team in Thailand. Illustrated by the talented Simon Howe, who perfectly captures the emotional ups and downs of the adorable and expressive Alfie.

This picture book by Dr Richard Harris features Richard's own dog, Alfie, a Staffordshire bull terrier, but more importantly it shares the message to children that he wanted to convey after his experiences in the Thai Cave Rescue and as *Australian of the Year* in 2019 about how bravery or courage doesn't always come naturally.

Teachers' notes available.



A Life Song
by Jane Godwin and
Anna Walker

From the award-winning team that created classics such as *Don't Forget*, *All Through the Year*, *Tilly* and *Starting School*, comes an exquisite, universal and captivating picture book that carries us through a child's life journey on the magical metaphor of song.

A musical journey from the time a child's life song first begins, through all its modulations, adding new verses and extra voices through the years, until it becomes their own unique composition – and one that is ultimately a part of the beautiful, grand and glistening score of the world.

Teachers' notes available.



CHICO'S FIND-A-WORD

Find the 10 words below and circle them

L Z T K V Y A H P T
K J F T B B W P T A
F H C B O D Y Q S L
R E H W O O F R P K
I A I G N R T J E H
E L C D H G F C C T
N T O V A S K X I Q
D H U D U G I P A T
L O V E O G N N L H
T O S Q G G D J H Y

Special

Friend

Health

Kind

Chico

Body

Woof

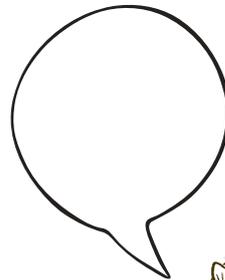
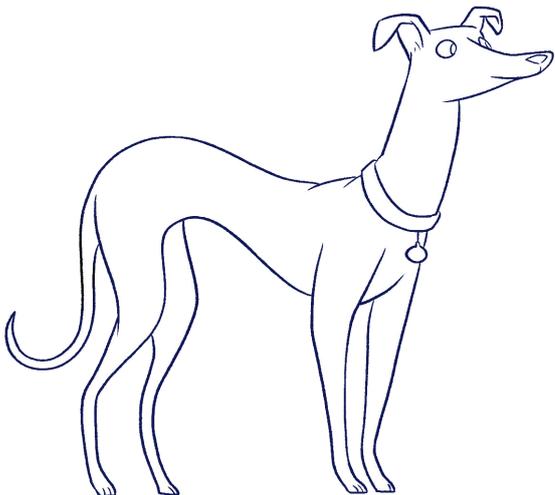
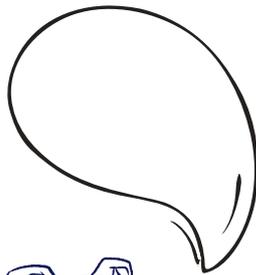
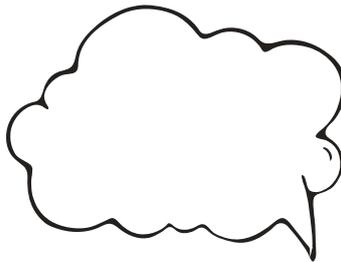
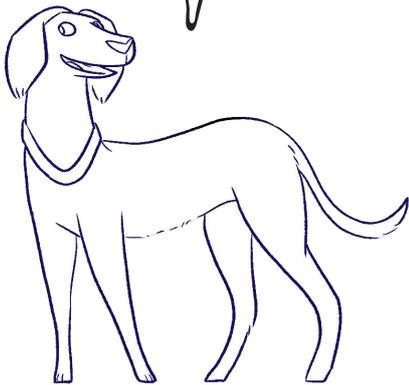
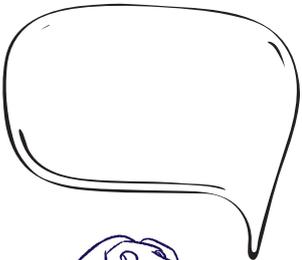
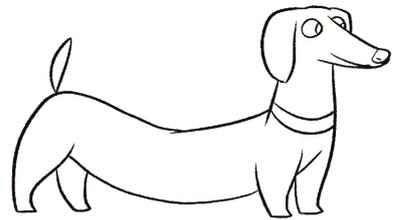
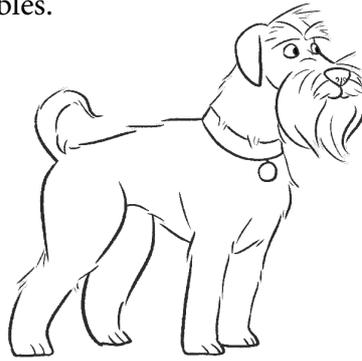
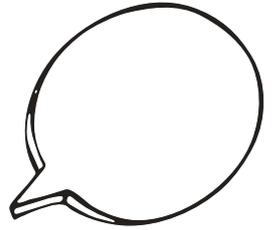
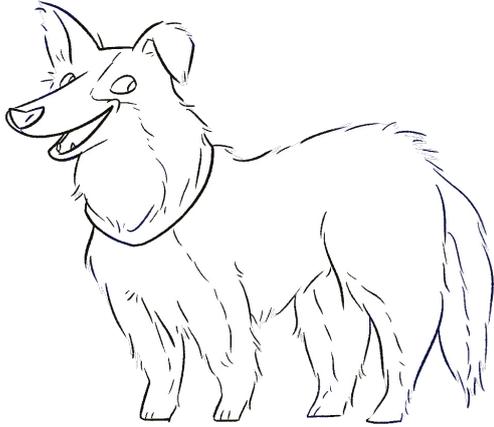
Love

Dog

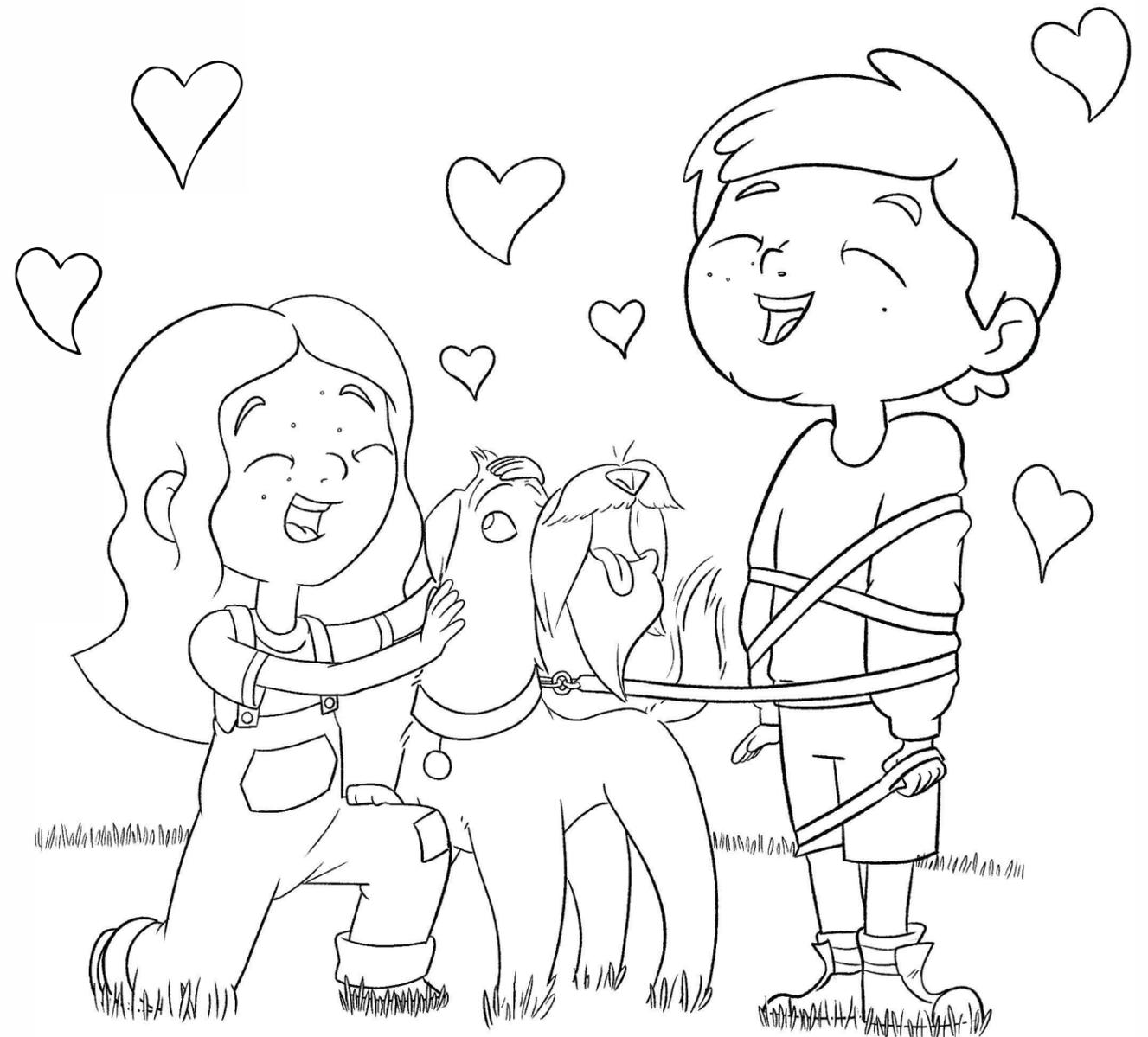
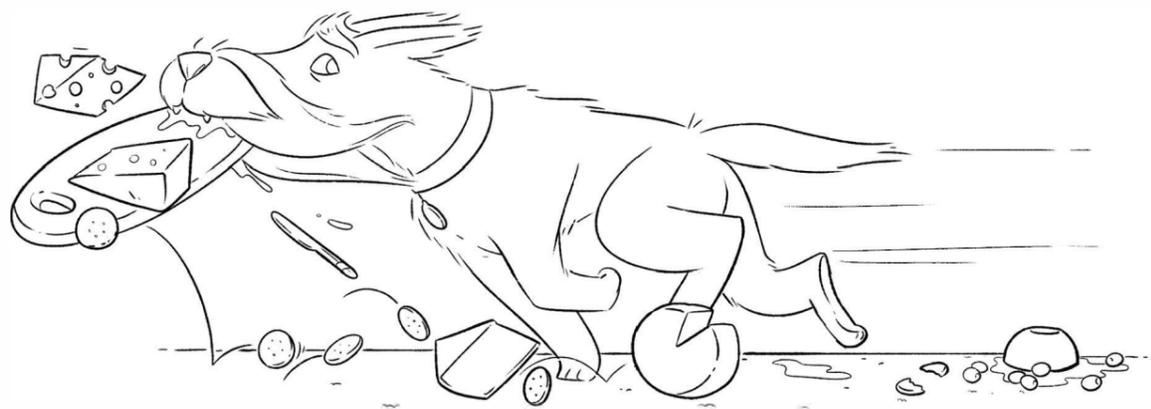
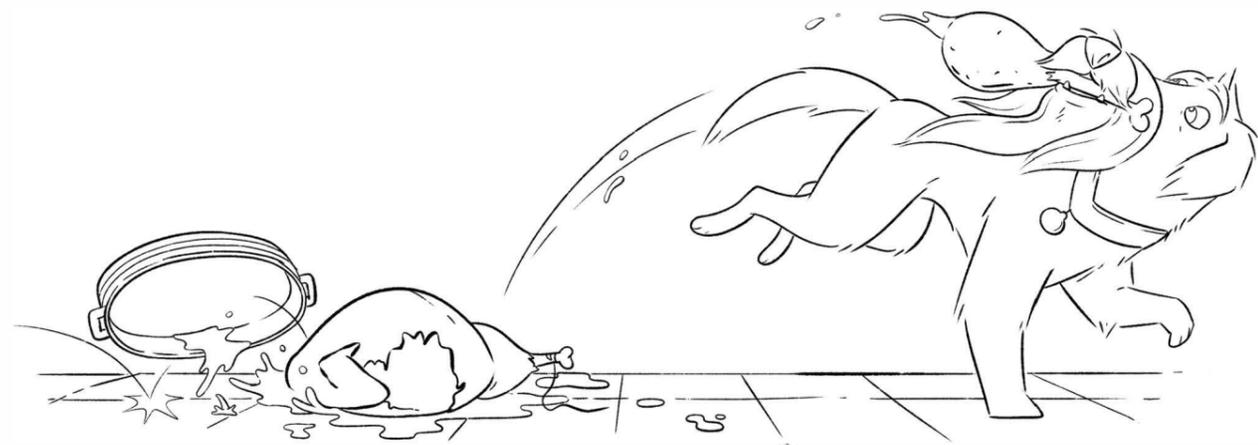
Talk



Colour in Chico and friends.
Write what sound they'd make
in the speech bubbles.



Colour in these cute pictures!



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
<i>Chico the Schnauzer</i>	Taryn Brumitt and Levi George	9781761343988	Preschool-K	\$19.99		
<i>Embrace Your Body</i>	Taryn Brumfitt and Sinead Hanley	9781760895983	Preschool-K	\$19.99		
<i>Alfie the Brave</i>	Richard Harris and Simon Howe	9781761041358	Preschool-K	\$19.99		
<i>A Life Song</i>	Jane Godwin and Anna Walker	9781761047640	Preschool-K	\$24.99		
TOTAL						

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ANSWERS



Special

Friend

Health

Kind

Chico

Body

Woof

Love

Dog

Talk

