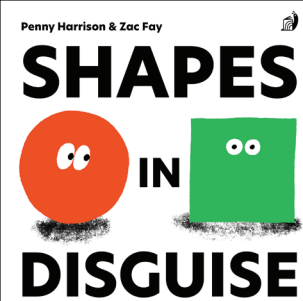




Shapes in Disguise

Educator Notes



Written by Penny Harrison
Illustrated by Zac Fay

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Recommended for ages: 0-5
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Plot Summary

Watch Circle twirl into a snail and Square become a robot in this delightfully unexpected adventure, perfect for curious minds and shared giggles.

Shapes in Disguise invites little ones to spot simple shapes in the world around them. With catchy rhyme and imaginative fun, toddlers will delight in keeping a keen eye out for shapes – they're everywhere!

Themes

- Shapes
- Imagination
- Noticing and observation
- Friendship

Rich and interesting words: juicy, yawn, hanky, twirl, tick-tocks, cheesy

Key Curriculum Learning Areas

Early Years Learning Framework:

Learning Outcome 2 – Children are connected with and contribute to their world

The everyday objects mentioned throughout are easy for children to relate back to their own understanding of the world. When children have context and meaning for the world around them, it supports their vocabulary growth and general language skills.

Learning Outcome 4 – Children are confident and involved learners

An overarching concept of *Shapes in Disguise* is transferring knowledge from one setting to another – in this case, noticing shapes in everyday objects and scenarios. These observational skills allow children to transfer and adapt what they have learned from one context to another.

Australian Curriculum

Learning Area: English

Foundation

Language: Language for interacting with others	Explore different ways of using language to express preferences, likes and dislikes. (AC9EFLA02)
Language: Language for expressing and developing ideas	Explore the contribution of image and words to meaning in stories and informative text. (AC9EFLE07)
Literacy: Phonic and word knowledge	Recognise and generate rhyming words, alliteration patterns, syllables and sounds (phonemes) in spoken words (phonological awareness). (AC9EFLY09)
Literacy: Examining literature	Recognise different types of literary texts and identify features including events, characters, and beginnings and endings. (AC9EFLE03)

Learning Area: Mathematics

Foundation

Space	Sort, name and create familiar shapes; recognise and describe familiar shapes within objects in the environment, giving reasons. (AC9MFSP01)
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Conversation Starters

Before Reading

- This book is called *Shapes in Disguise*. What shapes can you see on the cover?
- Ask children to make predictions about what they think this book is about. Does the front and back cover give us any clues as to what the book is about?
- Young children may not know what the word 'disguise' means. Take a quick moment to explain that 'disguise' is something someone wears to hide their true appearance, like a costume or a mask. Giving children meaning for words allows them to make connections and comprehend the overall story.
- 'I wonder how the shapes will be in disguise,' – using 'I wonder' statements invites a response and allows opportunities for back-and-forth interactions with children.

While Reading

- *I'm your mouth when you yawn. Your eyes open wide.* These 'action' shapes invite children to copy the actions. This type of engagement encourages children to see themselves as readers and involve themselves in the story.
- *I'm a hanky, don't cry.* Young children may not be familiar with the concept of a handkerchief. Take time to explain this to children so they can add this word to their vocabulary. It helps to have a real-life hanky for them to see and feel, as tactile experiences can help solidify new words.
- The illustrations often provide context for the text. With older children, you may like to pause to let them fill in the word by looking at the illustration first.

After Reading

- Allow children to practice their narrative retell skills. What are some things that the shapes turned into throughout the book?
- This story gives a fresh perspective on the shapes that occur in everyday objects. Ask children what other shapes they can see. Perhaps their table is a circle or a rectangle? What shape are the wheels on their toy truck? Go on a 'shape hunt' around your room to see what shapes you can identify.
- The book mainly explores circle and square. You may like to introduce new shapes to readers and look out for occurrences of other shapes in everyday life.
- Use a tactile experience to reinforce children's learning about shapes. You may like to ask which 'shapes in disguise' they can make themselves. Can they make a circle with their arms? What other shapes can they make with their hands or fingers?

Further Activities and Discussions

You may like to make your own shapes in disguise using some coloured paper. Cut out some basic shapes and have fun exploring different perspectives. Allow room for discussion with open-ended questions: 'What shall we turn our shapes into next?'. This sort of open-ended play allows children to use their imagination and creativity.

It's never too early to introduce children to famous art! You may like to create your own shapes-based drawings or paintings inspired by abstract pieces by Piet Mondrian, or a shapes collage inspired by Henri Matisse's collages.

Check out the activities on our website: <https://littlebookpress.com.au/pages/activity-times>

About the Author

Penny Harrison is an Australian children's author who also runs creative arts, nature craft and writing workshops for children from preschool to Grade 6. Her picture books include the CBCA Early Childhood Notables *The Little Things* and *Me & My Boots*, as well as the bestselling *Extraordinary*. In addition to writing for children, Penny is a lifestyle writer and content creator. Her work has appeared in publications including *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *Herald Sun Home Magazine*, *House of Wellness* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

About the Illustrator

Zac Fay is an illustrator based in Melbourne, Australia. His work is imaginative, bold, colourful and above all, fun. He loves collaborating with individuals and groups from around the globe, that share a common vision for bold and playful illustrations created through an alternative way of looking at both the ordinary and the complicated. His illustrative work, including the creation and development of characters, patterns and worlds, appeal to a wide demographic of clients working in advertising, lifestyle, health, education, textiles and branding. *Shapes in Disguise* is his first children's book.

