



Trickshot Harri *the Cheetah World Beater*

Educator Notes



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Recommended for: ages 4-7 (lower primary)
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Plot Summary

Trickshot Harri the Cheetah World Beater is the sequel to *Luna Roo the Kangaroo Baller*. Roar for Trickshot Harri as he learns that scoring the most goals isn't everything – it's teamwork that makes the dream work!

Trickshot Harri is the best player on the pitch – and he knows it! The fans chant his name, the spotlight chases his every move and he's certain he can take down the Safari Stars all by himself. But, when victory starts to slip through his paws, Harri needs to listen to his dad's wise words: to be a true champion, you must come together as a team.

Themes

- Soccer
- Resilience
- Teamwork
- Action
- Sport

Rich and interesting words: masterpiece, formidable (fur-midable), swagger, wildebeest, thundering, mischievous, isolated, stampede

Key Curriculum Learning Areas

Early Years Learning Framework:

Learning Outcome 1. Children have a strong sense of identity

Throughout the story, Harri listens to his father (a trusted adult), reflects on his actions, and considers the consequences for his team. This can be used as an example for children to model care, empathy and respect to others, as well as encourage teamwork and collaboration.

Learning Outcome 3. Children are connected with and contribute to their world

Soccer is one of the most popular sports worldwide. Books like *Trickshot Harri* offer an opportunity for children to learn more about the soccer community, whilst developing a sense of connectedness through learning specific terminology and rules of the game.

Australian Curriculum

Learning Area: English

Foundation



<p>Language: Language for interacting with others</p>	<p>Explore different ways of using language to express preferences, likes and dislikes (AC9EFLA02)</p>
<p>Language: Phonic and word knowledge</p>	<p>Recognise and generate rhyming words, alliteration patterns, syllables and sounds (phonemes) in spoken words (phonological awareness) (AC9EFLY09)</p>
<p>Literacy: Examining literature</p>	<p>Recognise different types of literary texts and identify features including events, characters, and beginnings and endings (AC9EFLY03)</p>

Year 1

<p>Literature: Engaging with and responding to literature</p>	<p>Discuss literary texts and share responses by making connections with students' own experiences (AC9E1LE02)</p>
<p>Literacy: Interacting with others</p>	<p>Use interaction skills including turn-taking, speaking clearly, using active listening behaviours and responding to the contributions of others, and contributing ideas and questions (AC9E1LY02)</p>

Conversation Starters

- “The front cover is very bright and colourful. What can you see on the cover?”
- “This book is called *Trickshot Harri, the Cheetah World Beater*. Do you know what a trick shot is?” Take time to discuss the term **‘trick shot’** – a highly skilled, seemingly impossible manoeuvre in sports or games, designed to impress.
- Make a prediction. What do you think the story is about?
- There are quite a few soccer references and terms used throughout this story. Familiarise yourself with these terms below so you can be prepared to introduce them when reading:
 - **FC** – football club
 - **Defender** – an outfield player whose primary role is to stop attacks and prevent the opposing team from scoring
 - **Mid-table** – a football team in a safe position halfway between the top and bottom clubs in a football league
 - **Nutmegs** – a skilful move where a player passes the ball between an opponent’s legs to retain possession, bypass a defender, or create a scoring opportunity
 - **Dink** – a delicate, high-arching shot or pass created by chipping under the ball with sharp, backspin contact to lift it over defenders or a rushing goalkeeper
 - **Marker** – a defender responsible for closely tracking and restricting a specific opposing player to prevent them from receiving the ball or creating scoring opportunities
 - **Park the bus** – a defensive soccer strategy where a team drops very deep into a low block, placing nearly all players behind the ball to protect a lead or avoid defeat

For more soccer references and terms, see the Educator Notes for *Luna Roo*.

While Reading

- “*I’m the best in my team...by a country mile!*” You may like to discuss this phrase (a country mile) and how it refers not to a set distance, but is a figurative phrase commonly used to describe a very long way.
- “*Such poise and such elegance*” – Take a moment to talk about how when you have practiced a skill a lot (such as soccer, gymnastics or music), you can make it look easy to others. Discuss what ‘poise’ and ‘elegance’ mean with children. You can use videos of professional soccer players, gymnasts or ballet dancers to demonstrate.
- There are plenty of examples of rhyme throughout this story. Point this out to children as you read. Stop at these points to see if children will fill the gaps with a word that rhymes.
- Encourage children to join in with words that emphasise movement or sound, such as “*crash*” or “*goal.*”



After Reading

- The teams are made up of various African animals. Discuss with children which animals they would pick on their own team and why – this opens up opportunity for discussions about animal attributes (wildebeest are huge and powerful, cheetahs are fast, etc). It also presents an opportunity to discuss diversity in general, and is applicable to the diversity of human athletic attributes on any team.
- Have a discussion about the order of events that unfolded to support comprehension and narrative retell.
- Harri's dad needs to remind him: "*there's no I in TEAM.*" Take a moment to explain this common phrase, especially with younger children who may not have heard it before. It may be helpful to demonstrate this phrase through comparing solo activities to team activities – for example, individual artwork vs. creating a group mural.
- Highlight the value of teamwork – you may like to explore teamwork through team-based games, creating a collaborative artwork like a mural, learning a group dance together, or singing a choir song together.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSIONS

- Trying a new sport can be daunting for children who have never played it before. Reading a story like this can help to introduce the sport before trying it as an activity. Depending on the children's age, you may like to start with some simple foot-eye coordination exercises, like kicking a ball to each other. This helps with children's developing spatial awareness.
- Check out the activity sheets on our website: littlebookpress.com.au
- You may like to explore various football events such as the Men's World Cup, the Women's World Cup, and teams around the world that play against one another.

About the Authors

Adam Jackson has worked in football for nearly 20 years, starting his career at Manchester United then moving to Australia to work in sports publishing. He is currently the Head of Marketing at global sports broadcaster beIN SPORTS.

Adrian Lloyd is a Football Association qualified coach. He has coached children in the United States for 2 years, as well as coached at Fulham FC in London. Adrian has also spent the last 20 years working in publishing, marketing and digital advertising.

About the Illustrator

Jake A. Minton is an illustrator and graphic novelist living in Melbourne with his cat. After being shortlisted for the Little Hare Illustration Prize in 2020, he has gone on to create CBCA recognised picture books *There's No Such Book* and *Two Turtles*. Jake is also the illustrator of the bestselling graphic novel *Inked* and the popular junior-fiction series *Zombie Diaries*. In 2025, he was awarded first prize in the Established Illustrator category of the SCBWI Australian Picture Book Illustrator Award.