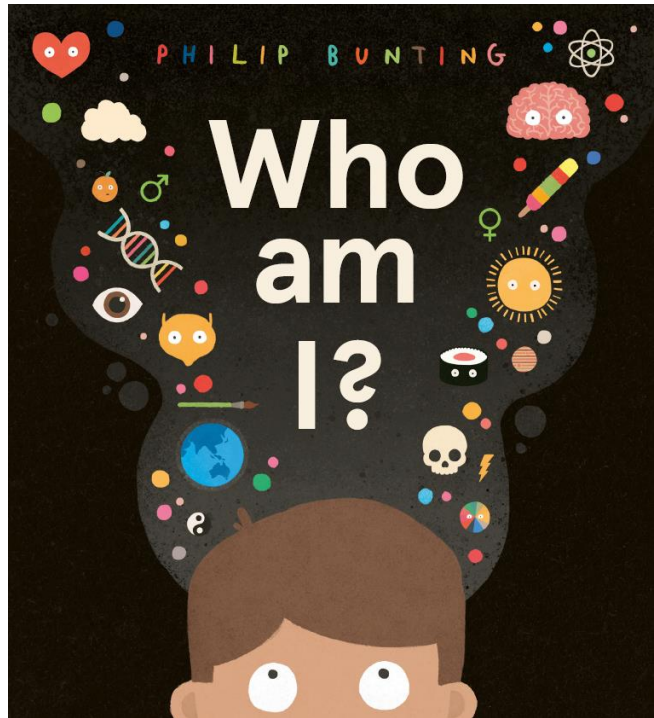


Who Am I?

Author/Illustrator
Philip Bunting



Synopsis

A delightful and accessible discussion around what exactly makes each of us ourselves, *Who Am I* explores all the various aspects of ourselves that contribute to our own unique identity. From our name, to our belongings, to our feelings, a huge variety of aspects are considered, explored in detail, and eventually discarded as being the source of our personal identity. The eternal question might remain unanswered, but a young reader will sure to gain a deeper understanding of just what it means, for them to be themselves.

About the Author/Illustrator

Philip Bunting is a designer, illustrator and creative director. During 10 years in the creative industries, he has seen his work published around the globe; and designed more magazines, websites, identities, books and apps than he could poke a stick at. Within a year, his titles have gained international attention and sales, with his debut title, *Mopoke* (2017) being listed for several upcoming awards, most recently being long listed for the 2018 ABIA's.

Themes

Self-identity, physiology, anatomy, possessions, emotions, self-determination.

Writing Style

Alternating between first and second person throughout, Bunting directly addresses his youthful readers, asking and answering questions for them and exploring the possible answers to the question we can all ask ourselves of *Who Am I?* The language is clear and easily comprehensible by the target age group, while the content is simplified to a level that is suitable for the very young while still being highly informative. Questions are asked, and answered, and the unknowable is treated with wonder and respect for what it means to be an individual consciousness in a vast universe.

Illustration Style

Created using a palette of muted and earthy primary and secondary tones, Bunting's artwork consists for the most part of full page spreads, with the majority of the spreads having the first page being predominantly text, while the second (facing) page is purely illustrative. Each illustration features a central figure, who is variously surrounded or enveloped in other objects, or even shown in cross-section or as a skeletal form. Each page has a different predominant shade for both background and foreground figures, and Bunting's artwork is composed of solid and blocky shapes with clear edges and minimal shading.

TEACHER NOTES

- 1) Before reading the story, as a class look closely at the cover and title, and discuss what you can learn about the story from it. Some things to include in your discussion might be:
 - What does the picture on the cover show?
 - What is the title?
 - Who do you think might be asking the question in the title?
 - What might be the answer to the title question?
 - What do you think could happen in this book?
- 2) Create a stripy multi-coloured background artwork of your own, inspired by the end pages of the book. You can use strips of coloured paper, paints, or even crayons to colour your page. Use your stripy artwork as the background for a collage, to wrap a present, or to cover an exercise book!
- 3) Look carefully at the page where it asks *Am I where I'm from?* Using this picture as inspiration, make a poster about where you are from and all the things that you feel are important to the place. Draw a picture of yourself in the middle of the page, and then draw smaller pictures of all the aspects of your home that are important to you, or that you think represent your home, around yourself. You can choose to draw or paint this poster, or even create a collage using pictures printed from the internet, or cut from a magazine. Some categories of things to think about including might be: foods; hobbies; scenery; flags; emblems; sports; landmarks; wildlife; flowers, trees, and other plants; industries and businesses; climate; tourist attractions; and events.
- 4) Make a three layer paper doll using the illustrations in the story as inspiration. Fold a piece of A4 paper into thirds, and draw an outline of a person on it. Be sure to fold it so the folds run parallel to the short edge of the A4 page! Carefully cut around the paper doll outline to make three identical figures. On the first paper doll draw a skeleton like the one in the story. On the second paper doll draw the internal organs, using the picture in the story as a guideline, and on the last paper doll draw a person. Carefully place your dolls one on top of each other, placing the skeleton on the bottom and the person on the top. Attach the dolls together at one edge using a small piece of folded over sticky tape, to form a three layer paper doll booklet whose insides are progressively revealed each time you lift one up.
- 5) What do you think are the most important things about you, that make you yourself? Write a short paragraph describing who you are, and the things that are important to your self-identity, and why you value them.
- 6) The person thinking in the story, has a lot of different thoughts. What are some things that you like to think about? Create a crossword featuring some of your favourite things to spend time thinking about. (e.g. if you really like reading, you could have one of the questions be 'something you read', and the

answer be 'books', or if you like playing soccer you could have 'a ball game played with the feet' be a clue.)

- 7) In the story it asks *Am I my feelings?* Make a list of at least five different words that you can think of that describe feelings. See if you can reach the challenge level and think of as many as 20! Choose one of the words from your list and create an artwork that you feel best illustrates this feeling. You can create an abstract artwork, a comic strip, or even a sculpture if you wish! Write a short descriptive paragraph sharing what the feeling is, why you chose it, and in what way you feel your artwork represents this feeling.
- 8) You are not your name, but your name is important to you! Create an acrostic poem about yourself. Write your name vertically down the side of the page, so that each line of the poem starts with a letter in your name. For example, if your name is 'Amy' the first line of the poem will start with an 'A', the second line with 'M' and the third with 'Y'.
- 9) You are not your stuff, but we all have some special possessions that are important to us. Choose two or three objects that are important to you, and that you feel tell people something about who you are. Write a brief illustrated description of each item. Share in your description for each item: What it is, where you got it/who gave it to you, and why it is important to you.
- 10) You might not be your muscles, but they are definitely useful to have! Research the basics of human musculature, and draw a diagram showing the names and locations of at least 5 different muscles or muscle groups. Choose one of these muscles and write a short explanatory piece about it. Include in your explanation: The name of the muscle; where the muscle is; what tendons, ligaments and bones are connected or affected by it; what parts of the body the muscle helps to move; what would happen if you didn't have this muscle; and an exercise that will strengthen this muscle.
- 11) You aren't your senses, but they help you find out about the world around you. Research human senses, and see if you can find answers to the following questions:
 - How many senses do people have?
 - What are the names of the different senses?
 - What are our sensory organs?
 - What are the limitations of at least two senses? (Hint: think about the words *ultrasonic* and *infrared* and whether we can sense these things)
 - Do animals have different senses from us, and if so in what way do they differ?
- 12) You aren't your senses, but you use your senses every day. Create a multi-sensory artwork that incorporates as many sensory elements as you can manage. For example you might wish to create a textured collage that has wind chimes attached, or you could bake a beautifully decorated cake with choc chips in the icing that looks and smells delicious, and feels soft and crunchy to eat at the same time.
- 13) Create an artwork that you feel expresses something important about who you are. Caption your artwork with a brief description of what you feel it is expressing and why this is important to you and your self-identity.