

Teacher's Notes



Super Power

Written and illustrated by Philip Bunting

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

RECOMMENDED FOR

4+ -aged readers (grades 2-3)

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- Learning areas: Humanities and Social Sciences
- Science
- General capabilities:
 - ACHASS1036
 - ACHASS1039
 - ACHASS1040
 - ACSSU032
 - ACSHE035

THEMES

- Renewable energy
- Climate change
- Electricity
- Fossil fuels
- Environmental awareness
- Individual action

SYNOPSIS

Following on from his hugely successful titles, *Your Planet Needs You*, and *Me, Microbes and I*, Philip Bunting turns his humour and passion to energy – where it comes from, why we need it, and why certain kinds are better for the planet than others.

In his trademark style, Bunting credits the intelligence of children – presenting complex facts in ways that even the youngest might engage with. The future of our planet is something that matters to all children right now, and *Super Power* will help embolden children as they start asking questions about why, and how about the future.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

Philip Bunting is an author and illustrator, with a soft spot for creating picture books for sleep-deprived, time-poor, raising-encrusted parents (and their children).

Philip's work deliberately encourages playful interaction between the reader and child, allowing his books to create a platform for genuine intergenerational engagement and fun. He believes that the more fun the child has during their early reading experiences, the more likely they will be to return to books, improve their emergent literacy skills, and later find joy in reading and learning.

Philip's books have been translated into multiple languages and published in over 25 countries around the world. Since his first book was published in 2017, Philip has received multiple accolades, including Honours from the Children's Book Council of Australia, and making the list for the Kate Greenaway Medal in 2018.

Philip grew up in the England's Lake District and now lives with his young family in the hills behind Noosa.

THEMES

Bunting explores themes that will hold a great deal of significance to young readers such as the state of the environment, where energy comes from, and why the kind of energy we make and use matters to the future of the planet. Readers will feel empowered to ask their own questions and letting them brainstorm all the questions they have about renewable energy, climate change, how we use power, and what we can do on a personal level to save energy will be a good starting place to tackle these themes. Bunting's work invites empowerment and self-direction, so allowing readers to engage with the information in the book at first in their own way will give them a sense of ownership over the knowledge.

WRITING STYLE

Philip Bunting has a way of presenting information that is straightforward and relevant without being dumbed down. He uses occasional humour and personification to breathe life into more complex topics, and interrupts his own paragraphs with the kinds of questions kids might be having as they read – huh? What *is* it? This gives readers permission to ask questions (or make fart jokes) as they learn, acknowledging that it doesn't make them any less capable of understanding.

Bunting also uses dialogue to bring certain aspects of the topic to life as characters – 'so long!' say the electrons, as they jump from one atom to the next.

COMPREHENSION

- Where does energy come from?
- What do we do with it?
- Why are some kinds of energy 'bad' (and what kinds are worse than others)?



- Why should we invest in renewable energy?
- What's the worry with nuclear fission?
- What kind of energy can we get from seaweed and corn?

WRITING EXERCISE

Where does energy come from? Philip Bunting uses storytelling techniques (like characters and dialogue) to make facts easier to understand and more interesting. Choose a day in the life of an energy particle and write about what happens from morning to night.

ILLUSTRATION STYLE

Bunting has a fun, animated illustration style, with cartoon elements (like eyes on lightbulbs) that readers will feel comfortable and familiar with.

The use of infographics means that a lot of information can be included, but readers can engage with it at their level, and illustrations assist with comprehension of the facts and assist memory. Invite readers to look at the pictures first – which pictures catch their attention? How does the picture relate to the accompanying fact – does it represent the information, or add something extra to it?

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Draw your favourite kind of energy from the book. Design a superhero to go along with this super power. What would their outfit be? How would their power work? Make a short comic strip of your superhero using their superpower to save the planet.
- An infographic uses imagery and charts, with a small amount of text, to help people to understand a complicated topic. Come up with your own infographic to show one way that your actions at home reduce our impact on the planet.
- What kind of renewable energy are you most interested in? Choose one that you're curious about and research it in more depth. Give a short presentation to your class explaining what you've learned. Which energy would win in a fight and why?
- Change starts at home. Look around your home or school and make a list of ways you could use more renewable energy. Are there any easy swaps you could do right now? Make a poster to encourage others around you to change their behaviour too – make it as eye catching as possible!

RELATED READING

*Your Planet Needs You
Me, Microbes and I*

