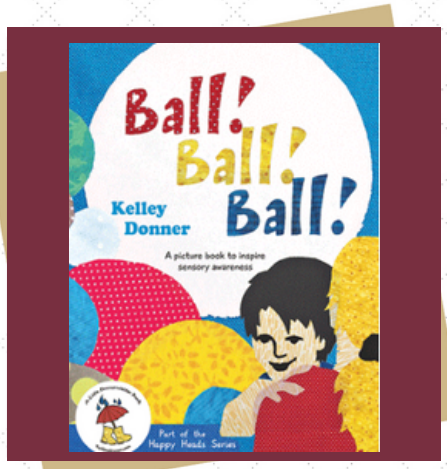


BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

Ball! Ball! Ball! by Kelley Donner

Book Summary

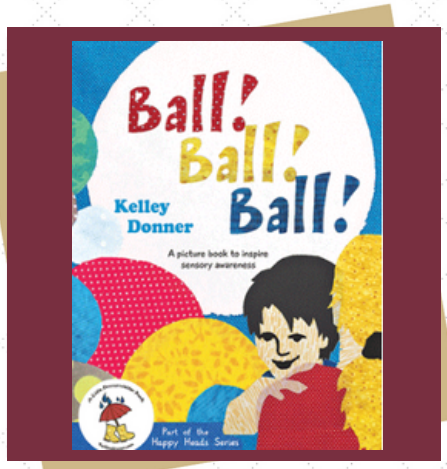
Tom is captivated by the word "ball." Although he only speaks a few words, he spots them everywhere and exclaims excitedly, "Ball! Ball! Ball!" Go with Tom on this engaging exploration as he identifies various objects similar to balls—ranging from small and solid, to those that pop or are squishy and see life from the perspective of a young boy with autism.

Before Reading the Story

- Look at the cover and title. What do you think this book will be about?
- Flip through the pages and focus on the pictures. Discuss what you see happening, the characters' emotions, and the setting.
- Can you find objects that resemble a ball in your home or classroom?
- What kind of balls do you think you will see in this book?

Target Vocabulary

- **bounce**: move up and down after hitting something
- **imagined**: to think of something in your mind that is not happening for real
- **wondered**: curious or thinking about something you didn't know
- **carefully**: doing something slowly and paying attention so you don't make a mistake or get hurt
- **"drew him a bubble bath"**: to fill a bathtub with water



BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

During the Story

- Read the book aloud with the pictures facing your child.
- Make predictions about the story based on the pictures.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Have your child repeat the words that they do not know.
- Relate the details in the story to events and experiences in your everyday life.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child understand what's being read.

After Reading the Story

- Have your child re-read the book in their own words using the illustrations.
- Look around your house or classroom. Find items that are round and resemble a ball. How are they like balls? Can you roll them? Bounce them? Throw them? How are they different from a ball?
- Gather several balls of different sizes and shapes. Test how the balls move on different surfaces like carpet, tile, or grass. Discuss your findings.

Example Questions to Ask

- "Ball! Ball! ___"
- How do balls make Tom feel?
- How is a lamp like a ball? How is it different? Why do you have to be careful with a lamp?
- Peas are round like a ball. Can you think of other foods that are round like a ball?
- How does Tom feel when he doesn't see the toy he wanted?
- How does Tom show his mom he is thankful for playing with the ball?
- Tom's favorite toy was a ball. Tell me all about your favorite toy.