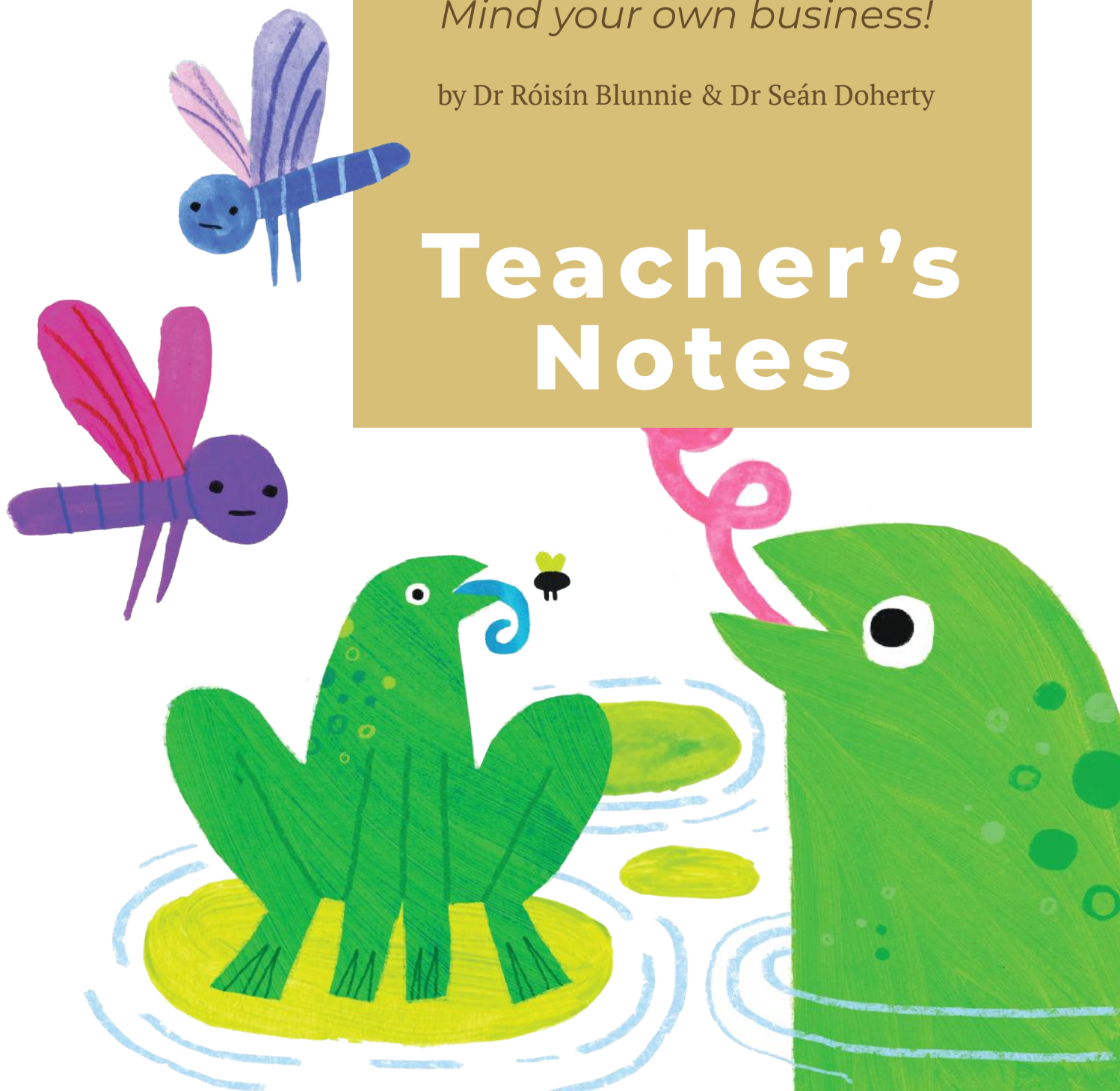


Ná bac le mac an bhacaigh
is ní bhacfaidh mac
an bhacaigh leat!
Mind your own business!

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Teacher's Notes



in partnership with

Ná bac le mac an bhacaigh is ní bhacfaidh mac an bhacaigh leat!

'Ná bac le mac an bhacaigh is ní bhacfaidh mac an bhacaigh leat' is a tongue twister. It means 'mind your own business!' or 'don't mind other people's business and they won't mind yours!'

Suggested teaching steps

Step 1

Before learning the new song, have fun with tongue twisters that the class already knows, or learn a new one. Here are some examples:

- She sells sea shells on the seashore
- If a dog chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose?
- Seacht sicín ina seasamh sa sneachta lá seaca
- Rug Liam Rua ar luch ramhar liath
- A proper copper coffee pot
- Mix a box of biscuits with a boxed biscuit mixer
- Around the rugged rocks the ragged rascals ran
- Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,
A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked,
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,
Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?



Step 2

Discussion:

What makes a good tongue twister? Find the repeating sounds in the tongue twisters that you explore with the class.

If you like, create your own tongue twisters.

Step 3

Watch the Introduction Video with the class to learn the tongue twister 'ná bac le mac an bhacaigh is ní bhacfaidh mac an bhacaigh leat', and to practise saying it together carefully so that everyone is ready to learn the song.

The Song

The song starts slowly, and then speeds up bit-by-bit, to see how fast we can go while still pronouncing the words successfully. In music, there is a special word for 'speed'. This word is 'tempo'. So, this song begins with a slow tempo, and bit-by-bit the tempo becomes faster. It finishes with an extremely fast tempo.

The song consists of one short melody, which repeats over and over, getting faster and faster:



Ná bac le mac an bhac-aigh is ní bhac-faidh mac an bhac-aigh leat.

Notice the shape of the melody: all of the notes move up or down by step, except for one leap, at the start of the phrase, between 'Ná' and 'bac'. Here, the melody leaps from C up to F (soh to doh in the key of F major).

Here is the melody with tonic solfa:

s d r m f m r d t d r m r m f s

In the music score and in the song video, you can see the following words above the music. These are the tempo markings. They tell us how fast or slow to sing. Like 'tempo', these words are Italian.

- Andante** - slow
- Allegretto** - quite fast
- Allegro** - fast
- Presto** - very fast
- Prestissimo** - extremely fast

Step 4

Watch the Song Video to learn the song together with the class.

In the song, everybody sings the melody together in unison, and then, close to the end (at 2.21 in the video), you can sing in canon if you like. This means that instead of singing all at the same time, the class can divide into 4 parts, with each group singing the exact same melody but starting at different times:



Presto
ff

1 Ná bac le mac ... Ná

2 Ná bac le mac ...

3 Ná bac le mac ...

4 Ná bac le mac ...



Finally, after a dramatic pause, the piece ends with the melody one final time, all together.

Step 5

Colour in the colouring page for this song.

Design a new poster to represent this tongue twister, other tongue twisters, or new tongue twisters composed by the class.

Ná bac
le mac
an bhacaigh
is nū
bhacfaidh
mac an
bhacaigh
leat!

