



THE GIRL WHO NEVER MADE MISTAKES

AUTHOR: MARK PETT AND GARY RUBINSTEIN

ILLUSTRATOR: MARK PETT

See a video of the book read aloud here: [The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes](#)

**** REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! ****

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

Beatrice Bottomwell has NEVER (not once!) made a mistake...

Meet Beatrice Bottomwell: a nine-year-old girl who has never (not once!) made a mistake. She never forgets her math homework, she never wears mismatched socks, and she ALWAYS wins the yearly talent show at school. In fact, Beatrice holds the record of perfection in her hometown, where she is known as The Girl Who Never Makes Mistakes. Life for Beatrice is sailing along pretty smoothly until she does the unthinkable, she makes her first mistake. And in a very public way! [amazon.com](#)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Writer and illustrator Mark Pett has practiced his craft in Philadelphia, Prague, Cambridge, New York City, and the Mississippi Delta. In addition to illustrating several books, Mark is the coauthor and illustrator of *The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes* and the creator of the syndicated comic strips *Mr. Lowe* and *Lucky Cow*. His most recent books are *The Boy and the Airplane* and *The Girl and the Bicycle* (Simon & Schuster). He lives in Salt Lake City.

Gary Rubinstein is a high school teacher living in New York City. He has written two guidebooks for new teachers, four math review books, and co-authored this children's book.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Mark Pett. See above.

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- Have you ever made a mistake? Thumbs up if yes, thumbs down if no. What was it? (Have a few students share) How did that make you feel?
- Show the cover and ask: "What do you notice about this cover?"

THE GIRL WHO NEVER MADE MISTAKES

TOPICS & THEMES:

- It's ok not to be perfect!
- We all make mistakes!

Tips for every book!

POWER PHRASES:

I WONDER...

I NOTICE...

TELL ME MORE...

DIGGING DEEPER:

"Tell me more, why do you think that?"

"How do you know that?"

"Why do you think they feel like that?"

"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"

- Can you make a prediction about what happens in this book?
- *Show the back cover.* Look at this picture! What do you think Beatrice is doing? What do you think this has to do with the title of the book?
- What questions do you have about this story?

DURING THE STORY

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.

- P. 3 How does Beatrice’s morning compare to the way you start your morning?
- P. 5 I wonder why the pictures of the crowd are in one color? I wonder if there is a real crowd there? What do you think?
- P.9. Oh no! Beatrice tripped! What do you predict is going to happen!
- P. 12. Why do you think Beatrice won’t go ice skating with her friends?
- P. 24. What would you have done if this happened to you? Were you surprised that Beatrice reacts this way? What are some other ways she could have reacted? Why do you think she laughed?
- P. 26. I wonder why Beatrice was sleeping so well — even after she made a mistake?
- What happened that changed her thinking?

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.

- What changed about Beatrice from the start of the book to the end of the book?
- What is the message the authors had for us in writing this book?
- Is it ok to make mistakes?!
- How can we feel better when we make a mistake?

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- P. 15. Beatrice’s stomach is jumping around inside her! What do you think she feels that? When is a time you have felt that way?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- P. 23. Turn to your neighbor and talk about what you think Beatrice is going to do next? Have students share their thoughts back with the whole group.

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- Conduct a picture walk through the book, pausing to have them notice details about the illustrations!
- P. 4-5. How does the illustrator use color to give a message about what is happening on these pages? Why does Beatrice think everyone is paying attention to Her?
- P.7 Brother Carl definitely made mistakes. Are you more like Carl or Beatrice? What makes you say That?
- P.18-19 What do you think Beatrice put in the salt shaker? Why did Humbert sneeze?
- P. 24. Revisit Beatrice’s reaction. Talk about other ways she could have responded. What can you do when you make a mistake?
(At this time, model what messages that the students could give themselves or others if they make a mistake.)
- Why is it important that people call her Beatrice now and not the girl who never made mistakes?
- How has Beatrice changed by the end of the book? Why do you think this change happened? Do you think she was happy about this change? Why or why not?
- Do you think we learn from mistakes? How?

Suggested Optional Activity:

- Pass out paper and crayons.
- Draw a picture of a time you made a mistake and what you did.
- Share with the group. Explain your picture. Describe what you did.
- Is there something you would do differently next time you make a mistake?

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

Brainstorm messages to give a friend when they make a mistake.

Pretend your friend made a mistake when they were drawing a picture of a lion. They are very upset. Write two sentences about what you could say to them to help them. Illustrate your advise with a picture of you and your friend!

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

As a group brainstorm messages that help us to learn and grow from mistakes.

Give students a piece of construction paper and colored markers. Have them choose one of the statements to create a decorative poster sign for their room to remind them to look at mistakes in a positive way. Write the words across the paper and decorate however they want.

DEVELOPING A **GROWTH MINDSET**



INSTEAD OF.....	TRY THINKING....
I'm not good at this	What am I missing?
I give up	I'll use a different strategy
It's good enough	Is this really my best work?
I can't make this any better	I can always improve
This is too hard	This may take some time
I made a mistake	Mistakes help me to learn
I just can't do this	I am going to train my brain
I'll never be that smart	I will learn how to do this
Plan A didn't work	There's always Plan B
My friend can do it	I will learn from them