



Reflect and Respond

Your School is the BEST!

Author: Maggie Hutchings

Illustrator: Felicity Sala

Storyteller: Laurence Boxhall

Publisher: Affirm Press

Themes: School life, Stating School, Humour, Mindset

Year levels: Lower and Middle Primary



Discussion questions:

- From who's **point of view** is the story told?
- How would you describe the cockroach's attitude in the story? Consider how it approaches the different challenges and obstacles that it encounters.
- Compare what the cockroach is thinking with what is happening in the illustrations? What do you notice? For example, 'After she had a little rest we did art.' Is the teacher really having a rest? What is really happening?
- What are some of the different emotions that you observed in the story? How did Felicity Sala's illustrations help to show these?
- Do any of the activities shown in the story remind you of a time or activity that you've enjoyed at school?
- Why do you think the author has chosen a style of font that is in capital letters and different sizes?
- Why do you think the cockroach drew a picture of the boy with the rainbow colours?
- What part of the story made you laugh?

Story response ideas:

A. Read Maggie Hutchings's other story about a cockroach's adventure at a birthday party *Your Birthday Was the Best!* Use a **Venn Diagram** to help you compare the similarities and differences between the two stories. Think about the characters, their attitudes, the type of events that happen, as well as the language and punctuation used.

B. Use the **List** template to identify all of the **Personal Pronouns** used in the story. A Personal Pronoun is a word that is used instead of a person's name. For example: *I, you or they*.



Scan the QR code to view the story!





Story response ideas continued...

C. The cockroach in the story demonstrates a positive attitude towards the situations and obstacles it encounters. Think about whether this is a '**Growth**' or a '**Fixed**' mindset?

Use the template below to describe and draw an example of what a:

- growth mindset, and a;
- fixed mindset approach may look like in one of the following situations:
 - Sharing your work in front of the class
 - Playing a new game that you haven't played before
 - Working with a classmate that you haven't worked with before
 - Following tricky instructions to make something

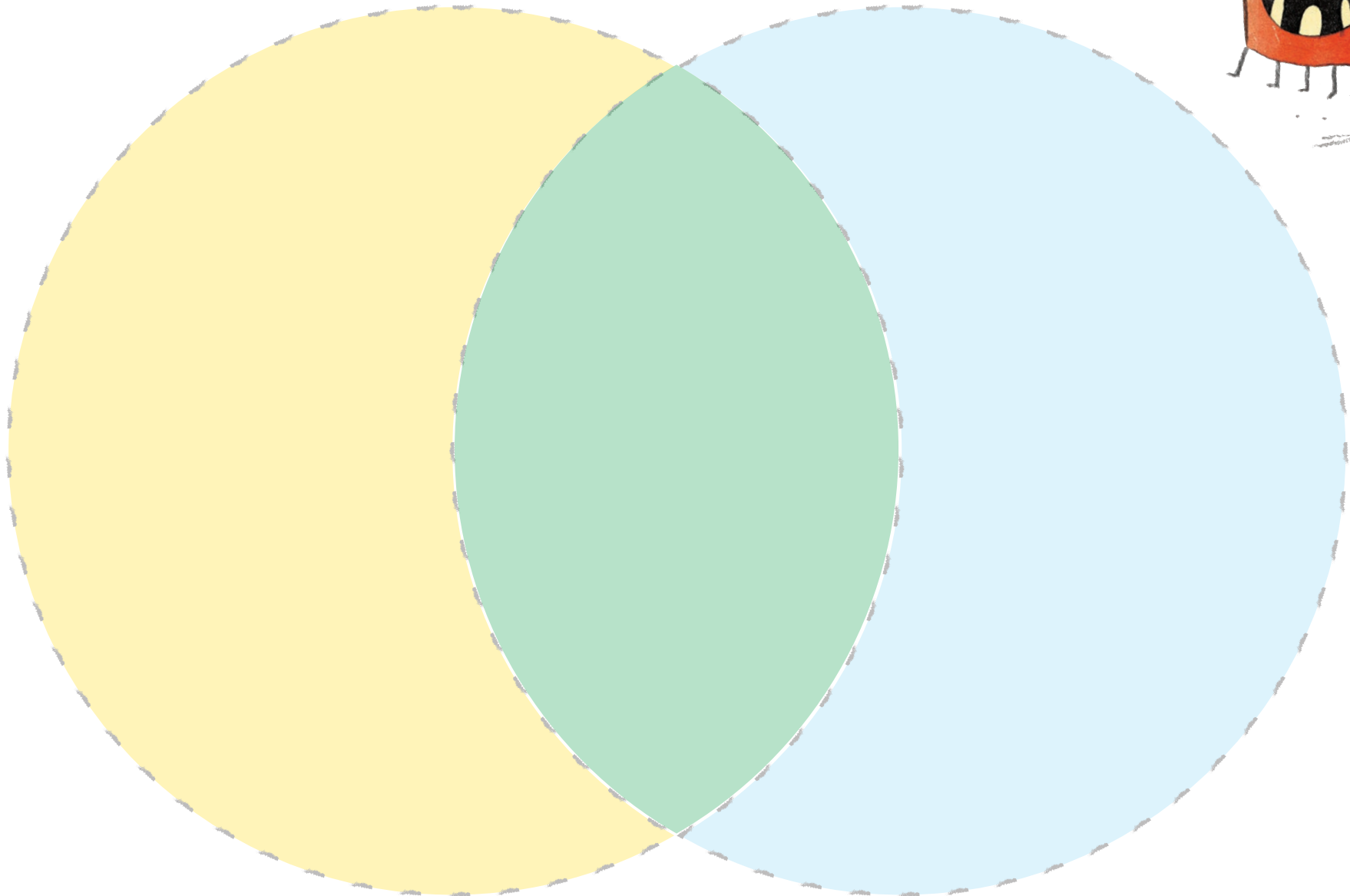
****Growth mindset:** believing in yourself and that you can learn new things, even when you make mistakes - as you can learn from these.*

***Fixed mindset:** thinking that you can't learn new things and seeing mistakes as failures.*



VENN DIAGRAM

NAME



LIST TEMPLATE

NAME _____



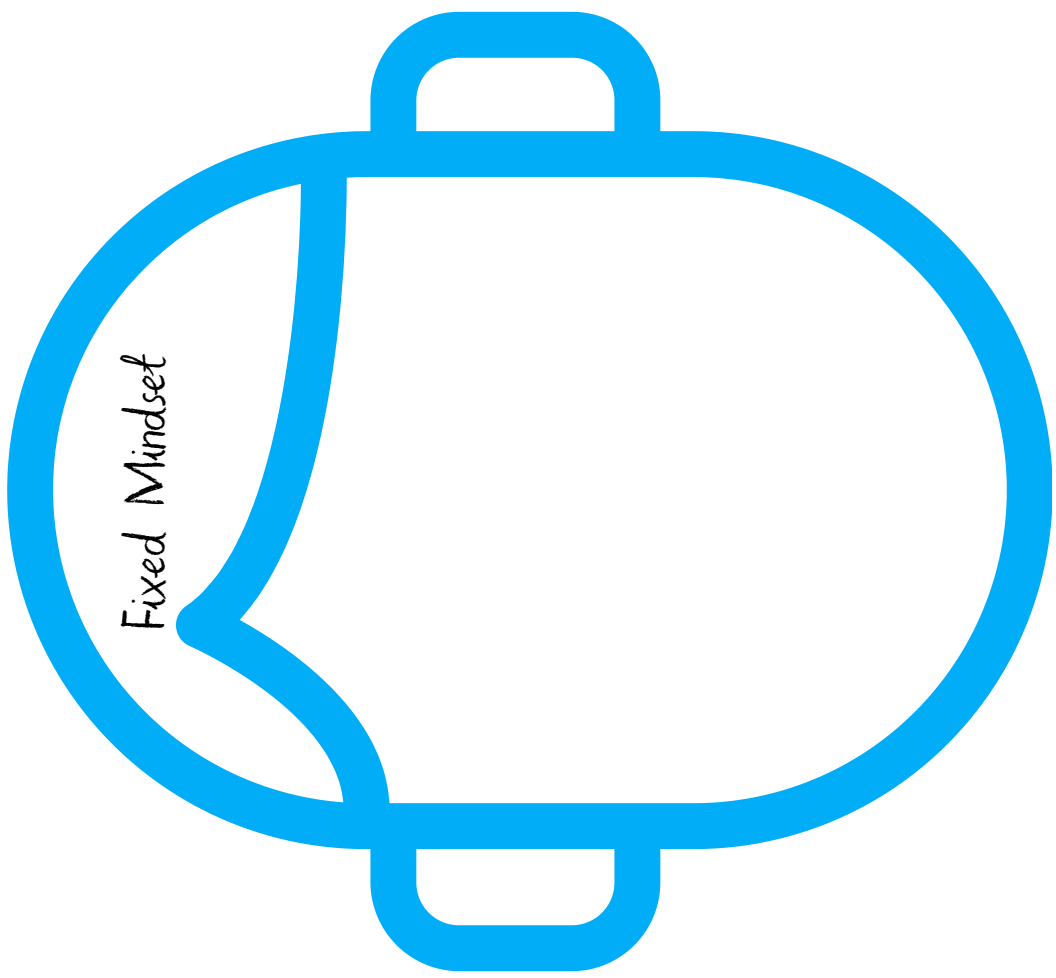
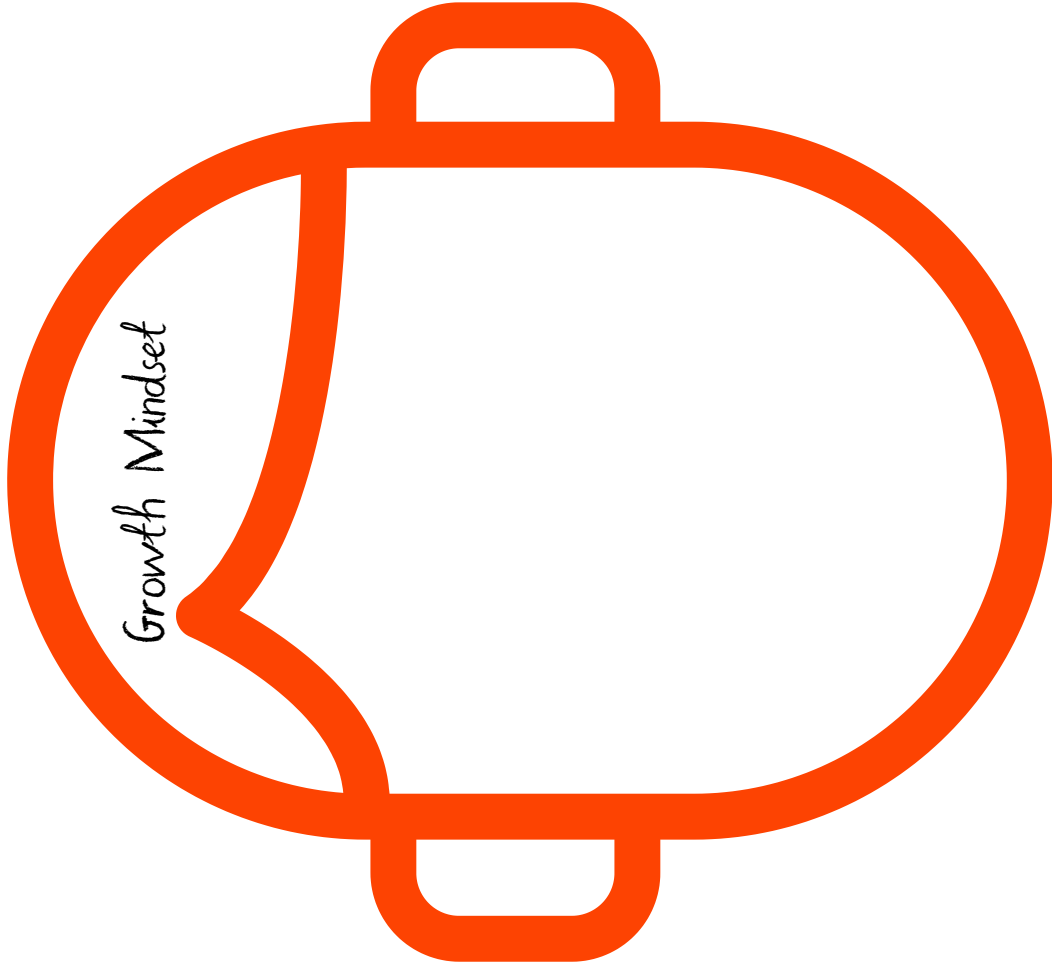
LIST



A large writing area consisting of ten horizontal rows. Each row is defined by a top dashed line and a bottom dashed line, with a solid line in between. The colors of the dashed lines alternate by row: blue, green, yellow, orange, blue, green, yellow, orange, blue, and green.



Growth vs Fixed Mindset





Student Task Sheet

Print this page for your students to use during Literacy Rotations

Today, you will be viewing and listening to:

Your School is the BEST!

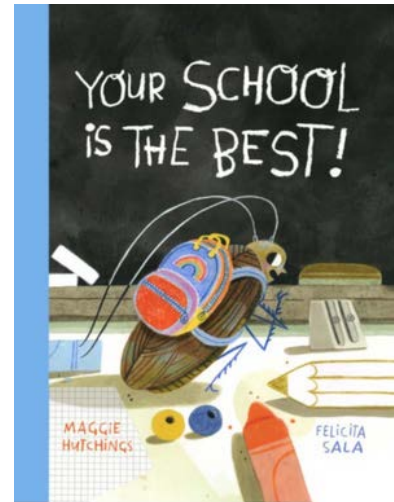
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Learning tasks:

After viewing the story, choose one of the following 3 activities to complete.

a. Character Profile: Choose either the cockroach or the boy from the story to describe using the Character Profile template. Think about their:

- personality traits
- physical features
- and what their strengths and weaknesses might be.

b. Letter writing: Write a letter from the perspective of:

- the cockroach to the boy, about coming to school

or

- the boy to the cockroach, about coming to school

c. Creative writing: In Maggie Hutchings book 'Your Birthday was the BEST!', the cockroach has an adventure at a birthday party.

Can you think of another setting for a story involving the cockroach and the boy? Use this template to help get your story started:



Scan the QR code to
view the story!



CHARACTER PROFILE



NAME



PHYSICAL FEATURES

CHARACTER'S NAME

PERSONALITY TRAITS

LIKES

DISLIKES



Date

Dear

From





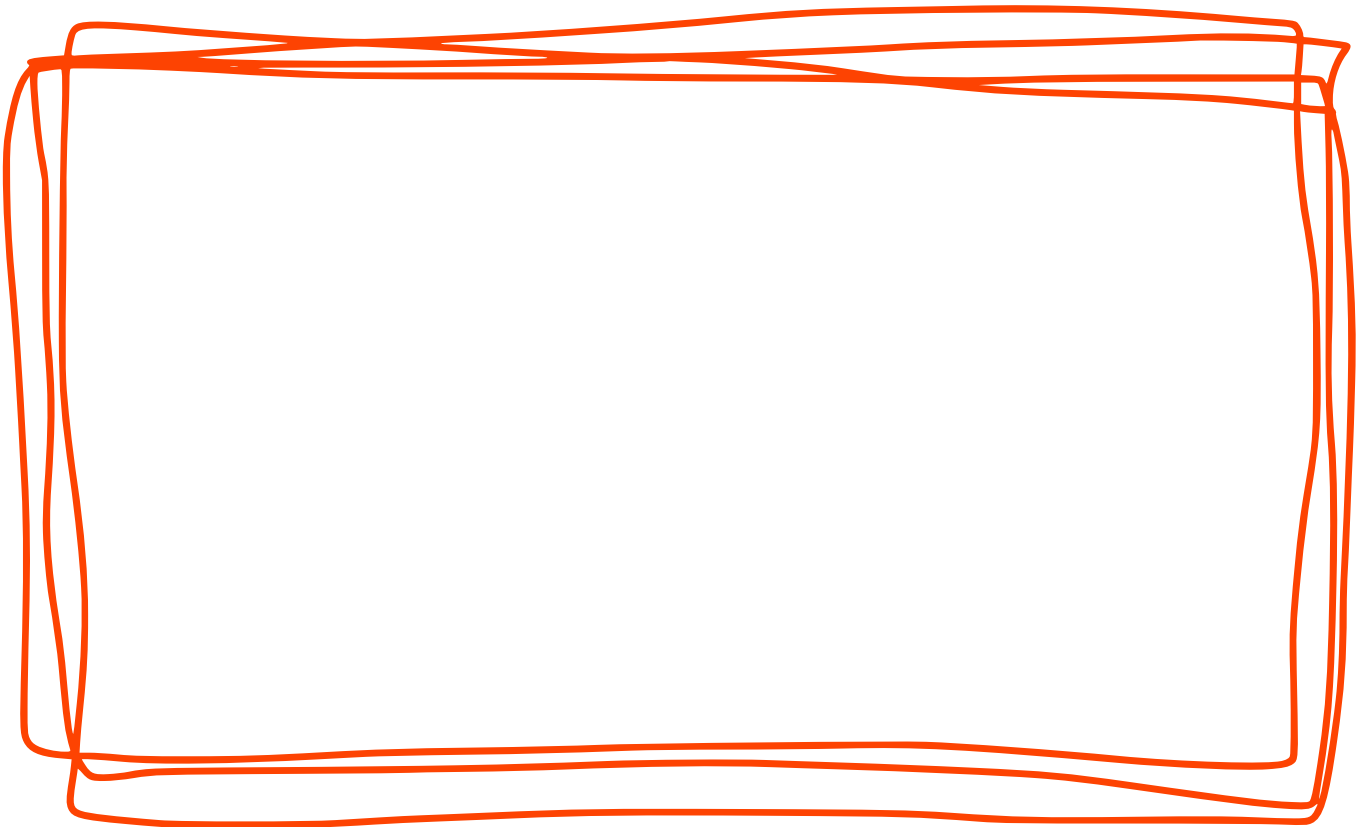
Your _____
was the best!

Your _____ was the best!
Write your setting here

Everyone thinks so.

But ...

Describe what goes wrong for the cockroach. What was he thinking?



Draw a picture of your setting and characters

