

= Don 't Forget the Bacon ! =

Don 't Forget the Bacon ! is a children 's book written and illustrated by Pat Hutchins . It was published by Bodley Head in 1976 . The story is about a little boy who tries to memorise a list of groceries his mother has asked him to buy . The book has been used as a teaching tool to instruct children about early learning concepts .

In an analysis of teaching tools for remedial readers , Maurice Saxby notes in the book *Books in the Life of a Child : Bridges to Literature & Learning* , " Hutchins 's Don 't Forget the Bacon has been one of my most successful texts . " Andrea Hillbrick 's *Tuning in with Task Cards* includes a teaching lesson structured around the boy 's shopping list from the story . The book *Foundation Blocks* suggests Don 't Forget the Bacon ! be used to teach children about the concept of miscommunication , and *Bilinguality and Literacy* lists the story among those used to help assist a bilingual child develop fluency in English .

Don 't Forget the Bacon ! was a success in England and the United States , and received positive reception from the American Library Association , and *The Washington Post* . The story was recommended in 2005 as part of a children 's reading challenge announced by the Education Minister for New South Wales , Australia , and included in suggested reading by *The Times* as part of the 2008 recognition of World Book Day .

= = Plot = =

The story is about a little boy who leaves his home with his dog to shop for food items for his mother , and attempts to remember the list of things she wanted him to buy . The original request from his mother is for " six farm eggs , a cake for tea , a pound of pears , and don 't forget the bacon . " Along with the dog , he is accompanied on his trip by a butterfly . In order to avoid forgetting items , the boy recites his mother 's list to himself . Throughout his trip to the store , the boy sees items along the way that play tricks with his memory , and items on his list one @-@ by @-@ one become substituted with other goods ? " six farm eggs " initially becomes " six fat legs " , then " six clothes pegs " . By the end of his trip , the boy has forgotten the initial items requested , and supplants them in his mind with " six clothes pegs , a rake for leaves , a pile of chairs , and don 't forget the bacon . " A merchant in a junk shop assists the boy in compiling this odd list . While travelling back to his home , he remembers the original items and corrects his mistakes . However , he still forgets to acquire bacon . The final panel depicts the child carrying a basket and a coin purse , taking his dog attached to a leash , en route , probably to purchase the bacon . [A]

= = Themes = =

In his work *Best Books for Beginning Readers* , Thomas G. Gunning places Don 't Forget the Bacon ! within the themes of utilising humor in the learning process with children . Don 't Forget the Bacon ! has been used as a learning tool for children in education , in order to teach them about various themes including miscommunication , responsibility , and the reliability of spoken language . In an analysis of teaching tools for remedial readers , Maurice Saxby notes in the book *Books in the Life of a Child : Bridges to Literature & Learning* , " Hutchins 's Don 't Forget the Bacon has been one of my most successful texts . " The book is utilised in author Andrea Hillbrick 's *Tuning in with Task Cards* as a teaching lesson : children are assigned to collect items from the initial and final versions of the shopping list from the boy in the story , and subsequently total the prices of the tabulated items . It is listed by Manjula Datta in the book *Bilinguality and Literacy : Principles and Practice* among stories to help assist a bilingual child develop fluency in the English language . Joy Palmer and Joanna C. Birch list the book in their work *Geography in the Early Years* as a recommendation for children among " *Story Books Suitable as Starting Points in Geography* " . In her book *Foundation Blocks : Personal , Social and Emotional Development* , Mavis Brown suggests the story be used to teach children about the theme of miscommunication . The story is used in a case study in education , which is cited in the book *Improving Teaching and Learning in the Core*

Curriculum by Kate Ashcroft and John Lee . Children were read the story , and then asked " about how and why spoken language is sometimes unreliable ? and its consequences . "

Books including Belair Early Years : Stories , Books as Bridges : Using Text to Connect Home and School Literacy and Learning , Funny Photo Alphabet : Teaching Guide , and What Is It About Me You Can 't Teach ? suggest the story be used to teach children about rhyming , repetition , and prediction . The story is suggested for use in curriculum to teach children about food , in books Humanics National Preschool Assessment Handbook , and The Complete Daily Curriculum for Early Childhood . Mildred R. Donoghue writes in Language Arts : Integrating Skills for Classroom Teaching that the story should be utilised in the course of primary education . In their work Success in Reading and Writing , authors Barbara J. Blackford , Helen Cappleman and Betty Cramer suggest the book be read aloud to children in kindergarten , and the teacher should subsequently quiz members of the class to see if they can recall items from the boy 's shopping list . Authors Diane Stirling , Linda McKay , Georgia Archibald and Shelley Berg recommend the story in their book Character Education Connections : For School , Home and Community , in order to teach children the character trait of responsibility : " A willingness to be accountable for your own actions without blaming others . "

= = Background = =

Pat Hutchins was born 18 June 1942 . A native of Yorkshire , she attended a local art school for three years on scholarship before studying illustration at the Leeds College of Art . Hutchins 's first children 's work , Rosie 's Walk , was named a 1968 ALA Notable Book , and her book The Wind Blew received the 1974 Kate Greenaway Medal . She lives in London and has written twenty @-@ five books and five novels .

= = Publication history = =

Don 't Forget the Bacon ! was published by Bodley Head in 1976 . It was published again in New York by Greenwillow Books in 1976 , and Puffin Books in 1976 and 1978 . An edition by imprint Picture Puffin was published in London in 1978 . Imperial Educational Resources produced a version of the story in 1980 , as a filmstrip geared for children in primary school . It was published by Live Oak Media in 2004 , and by Paw Prints in 2009 . Gallaudet University produced a DVD video edition aimed at youth versed in sign language .

= = Reception = =

Don 't Forget the Bacon ! became a successful book in both England and the United States ; Hutchins has become known for the work . Sharron L. McElmeel wrote in An Author a Month (for Nickels) , " This is an example of Hutchins 's more realistic drawings and of a reversible text . " A reversible text refers to a story which proceeds in the forward direction , and concludes with the protagonist returning to a development introduced at the story 's inception . The American Library Association gave Don 't Forget the Bacon ! favourable mention in its review of the book , " The picture book crowd (kindergarten through second grade) will adore Pat Hutchin 's story of a grocery list and a bad memory . " In an article for The Washington Post , associate professor and director of the reading clinic at Western Maryland College , Joan Coley , observed that the repetitive nature of the story is appealing to children .

Michele Landsberg , author of Reading for the Love of It : Best Books for Young Readers noted in an article for The Washington Post that Pat Hutchins is " best known " for her " witty picture books " , including Don 't Forget the Bacon ! . In 2005 , New South Wales , Australia Education Minister Carmel Tebutt announced Don 't Forget the Bacon ! had been included as part of " Premier 's Reading Challenge " , under the section , " The 2006 Challenge Book Lists : Years K @-@ 2 Challenge " . In 2008 , Elizabeth McFarlane of The Times included the book in a list of works recommended to encourage children 's reading skills for World Book Day .

= = Endnotes = =

^ [A] Secondary source references consulted to assist in summarising information for Plot section include Brodt 1987 , Elleman 1976 , and McElmeel 1990 .