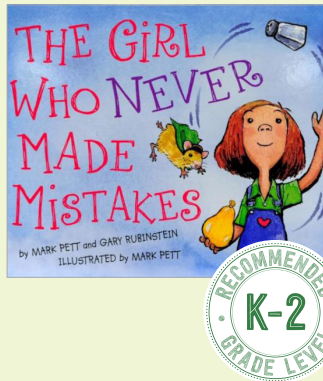


# The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes

by Mark Pett and Gary Rubinstein and illustrated by Mark Pett

## Themes

Mindset  
Do Your Best  
Never Give Up  
Determination  
Perfectionist  
Learn from Mistakes



Beatrice has *never* made a mistake. She never forgets to feed her hamster, she never wears mismatched socks and she never forgets her homework. After her “almost mistake,” Beatrice is worried about messing up and making a mistake at the school talent show. This heartwarming story will help any perfectionist in your class understand the importance of learning from mistakes and having fun in the process.

**Note to teachers:** If your students are not familiar with Growth Mindset vs. Fixed Mindset, we encourage you to first use NED’s How to Grow a Brain introductory lesson to build background.

### Key Vocabulary

**Juggling:** to keep options in motion in the air by tossing and catching them  
**Mistake:** an incorrect action or thought  
**Wobbled:** to move or tip from side to side, unbalanced  
**Auditorium:** large room for performances  
**Stunned:** shocked or surprised. Frozen in position  
**Giggle:** silly, lighthearted little laugh  
**Chuckle:** soft laugh, often held back a little  
**Polka dot:** pattern of small spots  
**Plaid:** pattern of different size stripes that cross each other

### Tricky Phrasing

**Proper feet:** the correct ones - right shoe on right foot, left shoe on left foot  
**Fans:** admirers (not air movers)  
**Auditorium was packed:** all the seats in the room had people sitting in them  
**Didn’t miss a beat:** just kept going and didn’t stop  
**Kablooie:** fun sound word, onomatopoeia.  
**Pepper rained down:** flakes of pepper fell down and looked like black rain  
**Roar with laughter:** loud sound caused by people laughing together

## Before Reading: Discussion Starters

- What is a mistake?**  
To understand or do something wrong, not correct, something happens not the way you wanted it to.
- How do you feel when you make a mistake?**
- What mistakes have you made today?**  
Consider sharing a mistake that you made today so students can feel safe to share their mistakes.
- Do you know anyone who has never made a mistake? Would it be easy to never make a mistake?**
- When could it be good to make a mistake?**  
Encourage kids to talk about times that maybe they learned something from their mistakes or laughed after a mistake. NED calls this using your “GO Brain.”

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## After Reading: Discussion Starters

1. **What happens each day when Beatrice leaves her home? Why?**  
*Her fans greet her. They ask if she remembered to do everything. Since she was perfect - and not many people are - they treated her like a rock star with a talent far better than others.*
2. **What happened when Beatrice almost made her first mistake on the cooking team?**  
*Her legs slipped out from under her and the eggs went flying.*  
**What would have happened if she DID make a mistake and didn't catch the eggs?**  
*They would have fallen and broken. She would have had to clean up and get 4 more eggs.*
3. **How did Beatrice react when Millie made a mistake and dropped a piece of rhubarb?**  
**How was she like NED?** *Beatrice told Millie not to mention it, not to worry-it was no big deal. She wasn't upset, she didn't make fun of her even though she made a mistake. Beatrice was like NED - an encourager of others who make mistakes.*
4. **What did Beatrice do after she almost made a mistake? Is this a fixed mindset or growth mindset? What could she have done differently to have a growth mindset?**  
*She couldn't stop thinking about what almost happened. She didn't join her friends skating, didn't eat, didn't smile. She had a fixed mindset. A growth mindset would let her say "mistakes aren't bad-they are part of learning. I will keep trying and see what I can learn next time."*
5. **Beatrice felt her stomach jumping around inside her before the talent show. What does that mean? Have you ever felt like that?**  
*She was nervous - felt like butterflies, tummy upset. Encourage students to share stories.*
7. **What mistake did Beatrice make in the talent show? She grabbed the pepper shaker instead of the salt and it made Humbert the hamster sneeze. The sneeze startled him and he popped the water balloon which dumped everything on top of Beatrice's head. How did Beatrice feel when she made her first mistake? At first she froze (stood very still). She almost cried and wanted to run off the stage. How did her feelings change? When she saw the soaked hamster, she giggled, then chuckled and then laughed.**
8. **How did the audience react to Beatrice's mistake during the talent show? If NED were in the audience, how would he have reacted?**  
*At first, the crowd was stunned - sat silently and stared. They couldn't believe that she made a mistake. That was not very encouraging, but when the crowd heard Beatrice giggle - they giggled too! NED would have encouraged Beatrice from the beginning.*
9. **Why did Beatrice sleep better than she ever had the night after the talent show?**  
*She was no longer stressed about having to be perfect all the time - she had made her first mistake and realized it was okay.*
10. **Why were there no fans outside her house at the end of the story?**  
*Beatrice was no longer the ONLY girl who had never made a mistake. Everyone makes mistakes.*
11. **What did Beatrice do after she realized that she wasn't the girl who never made a mistake? She wore different socks, put PB&J on the outside of bread, made messes, skated and fell. Why could she do those things now? She laughed as she took new chances and tried new things because she didn't have to worry about never making a mistake.**

## Writing Prompts

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PRINTABLE  
**Trace Sheet**

**Describe a mistake** you've made and what you have learned because you never gave up.

For beginner writers, use the printable tracing and color sheet with the message "Do your best and your best will get better" to remind them of NED.

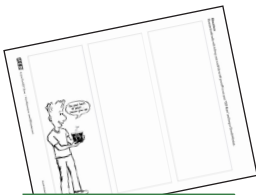
## Activities

**Choose your own mindset mission:** Write your own story with a character who faces a challenge. Write two different endings – one where the main character has a "Brain Freeze" and the other a "GO Brain".



PRINTABLE  
**Story Planning  
Graphic Organizer**

**Self-Talk Bookmark** Make yourself a bookmark and list three positive things you can tell yourself that will help you never give up by using your "GO Brain".

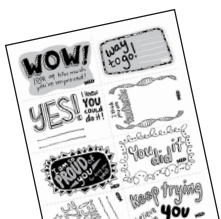


PRINTABLE  
**Bookmarks**

## Home Connection

### Notes of Encouragement from Parents to Kids

Make this printable available for parents in your newsletter or website, or handout at parent conferences. Encourage parents to give to children at home or in their lunches.



PRINTABLE  
**Encouragement  
Notes**

Inspire your class!  
Grab this printable  
**GROWTH MINDSET POSTER**  
[MindsetMission.com/Teachers](http://MindsetMission.com/Teachers)



## For more info...

Accelerated Reading Quiz:  
147343

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Trace the letters below. Draw a picture of yourself with NED



# Story Plan

Title

Characters

Setting

**Opening**

*Introduce character and set the scene*

**Event/Build-up**

*Build up to problem*

**Problem**

*Describe the situation and feelings*

**Solution A**

*"GO Brain"*

**Solution B**

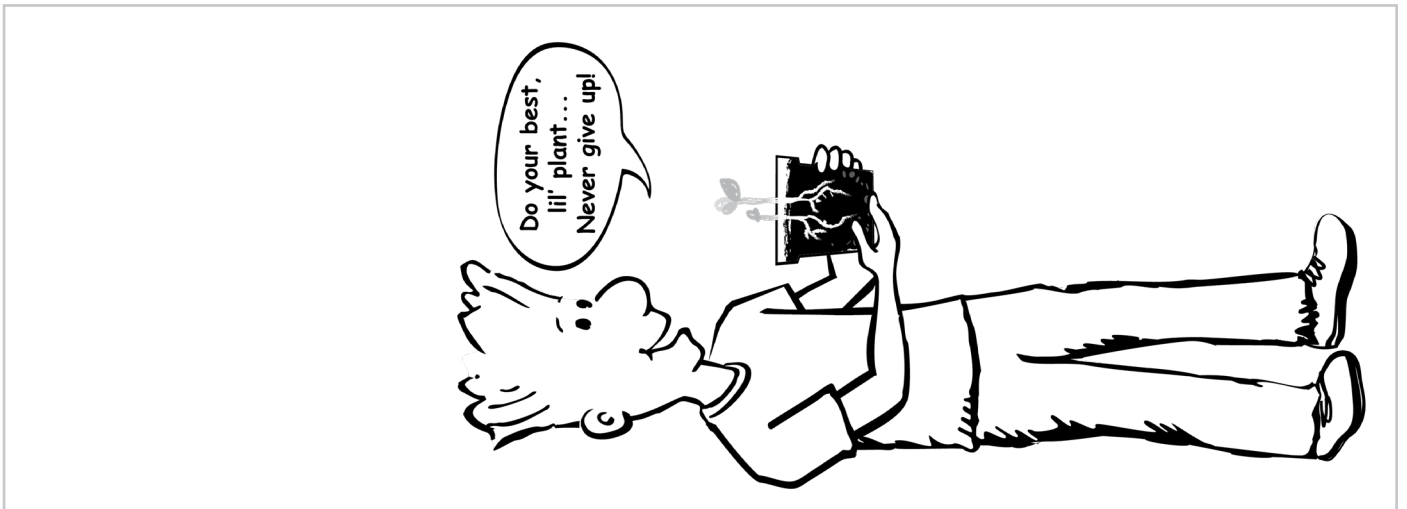
*"Brain Freeze"*

The End



## Directions

Illustrate bookmarks with 3 things you could do to tell yourself to use your “GO Brain” and keep a Growth Mindset.



**WOW!**

look at how much  
you've improved!

NED



**YES!**

I knew  
**YOU**  
could  
do it!

