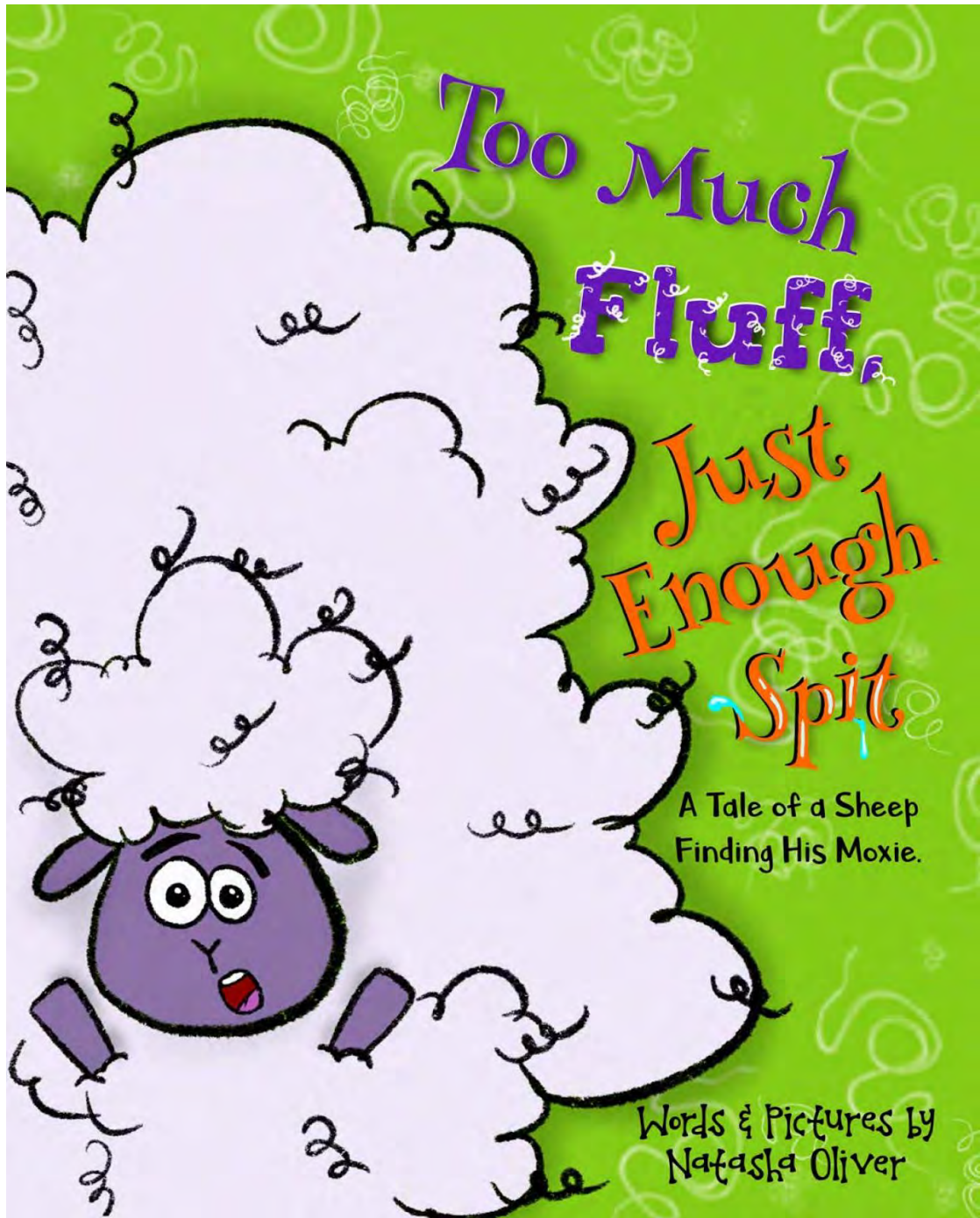


# TOO MUCH FLUFF, JUST ENOUGH SPIT

A teacher's guide created by Natasha Oliver

Based on the picture book

Written and illustrated by Natasha Oliver



## Natasha Oliver

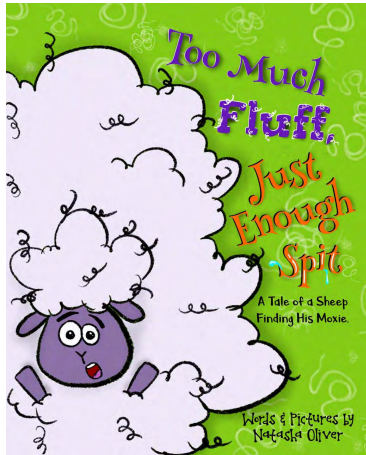
Author and Illustrator, *Too Much Fluff, Just Enough Spit*

Natasha Oliver has always loved to draw and create. Even when she went to college to major in math, her heart had her joining every art club she could find. After teaching high school math for several years, she realized that many of the kids still struggled with their basic facts. This led her to create her first math game. For her, it was the beginning of something amazing. Finally a way to combine her math and her art together. Now, having made over 125 math games, she is longing to expand the stories from her games into something more. She is ready to bring the small stories from her games to picture books and chapter books! Now kids can enjoy knowing more of the back story for some of the games they have been playing to learn their math! You can see more of her work at [www.fun4thebrain.com](http://www.fun4thebrain.com).

## Using this Guide

While *Too Much Fluff, Just Enough Spit* was written for students in kindergarten through third grade, it is possible that it could be used for all ages. It is assumed that teachers will adapt the different activities and conversations in this book to the needs of their students.

## Book Information



*Too Much Fluff, Just Enough Spit*

Age Range: 3 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 4

Published: Tashilex Publishing

Published: November 3, 2019

ISBN -13: 978-1734107814

Finn has hair that is *too curly*, too frizzy, and **too big**. His friends try to help him find ways to control it, but nothing works.

His dream of winning a ribbon seemed *impossible*.

***Magnus strutted by with his ribbon from the fair.***

***Finn knew he wanted one, but what about his hair?***

***Magnus chortled and said,***

***"You want a ribbon too?"***

***You are too fluffy and too fuzzy.***

***No ribbons for you."***

Can a new friend remind Finn that there is *so much more* to him than his hair and help him find his **moxie**? Enjoy this fun story that reminds each of us that the things that should bring us **confidence** are often *not on the outside*.

# Table of Contents

## English Language Arts (ELA)

Reading Comprehension	5
Critical Thinking	6
Writing Activities	
Kip's Point of View	6
Smiggles Point of View	6
Sheela's Backstory	6
Moxie Worksheet	6
Language Activities	
Show, Don't Tell	7

<b>Drama</b>	7
--------------	---

<b>Art</b>	7
------------	---

<b>Math</b>	8
-------------	---

<b>Growth Mindset Focus</b>	8
-----------------------------	---

## Worksheets/ Handouts/ Activities

Moxie Worksheet	9
Draw Finn	10
What's Stuck in Finn's Hair	11
Rory Style	12
Find the Real Finn	13
Logic Problem	14

## Reading Comprehension

### Before reading *Too Much Fluff, Just Enough Spit*:

- Looking at the cover illustration, describe what you see.
- Can you guess what emotions Finn, the sheep, might be feeling in that picture?
- Can you guess what the story might be about from the cover?
- What strange things can you find in Finn's hair on the back cover?
- *A Tale of a Sheep Finding his Moxie*. Can anyone tell me what moxie is? If no one knows at this point, ask again throughout the book so they can start to understand moxie and confidence.

### After reading, ask the students questions to aid in further comprehension.

- How did Finn feel when he saw Magnus's ribbon?
- Why do you think Finn had concerns about his hair?
- Looking at Finn's face, does he look like he is ready to win a ribbon? Why or why not?
- Do you think the hairstyle Nolan gave Finn would help him win a ribbon? Why or why not?
- Why wouldn't the hairstyle that Fitz gave Finn win a ribbon?
- Can you draw your own character with fancy or groovy hair?
- Why does Finn's hair go BOING?
- Did you know most alpacas only spit if they are irritated or threatened? Sheela however, has turned it into her job with Marlie.
- Could Marlie have fixed Finn's hair without help from Sheela?
- How is Finn polite and kind even when he doesn't like the hairstyles?
- When on the truck, why did Finn feel happy and quite peppy? What was one way he might have been different from the other sheep? (answer: covered in spit)
- Do you like to blend in with everyone else or stand out? Why?
- What items got stuck in Finn's hair during the trip to the fair?
- How do you think Finn was feeling when he arrived at the fair with his hair big again?
- Why was Rory hiding behind the barn?
- Why did Rory and Finn just sit there instead of enjoying the fair?
- Can you tell me what moxie is? Where can we find our moxie?
- Practice standing up tall and straight and saying why you have moxie.

- Why did Rory have moxie even with a burnt pie?
- Where did Finn find his moxie? What gave Finn his moxie?
- Do you think Finn will have a bad hair day again? If so, how will he handle it?

## **Critical and Creative Thinking**

What do you think the message of the story is?

For what did Magnus win his ribbon?

Why does Nolan like to wear a top hat?

What new things could Finn try, knowing that he can keep his moxie even if he fails?

What do you think happened on Finn's next trip to the fair?

## **Writing Activities**

### **Kip's Point of View**

Kip is the name of the friendly quail stuck in Finn's hair. Write the story from his point of view.

What was it like to be stuck in Finn's hair. What did Kip think of his new friends, Finn and Rory?

Did he decide to "stick" around? :)

### **Smiggles Point of View**

Smiggles is there throughout the book on every page. Imagine what he sees and tell the story

through his eyes. What does he think of all the funny hairstyles at the beginning of the story?

Does he sneak a taste of the burnt pie?

### **Sheela's Backstory**

Sheela used to spit at a lot of people but now only spits when she is helping Marlie with people's hair. Write her story and how and why she made this change.

### **Moxie Worksheet (attached)**

Moxie is the self confidence you get when you do something great or when you are proud of yourself. After discussing how, when your hair isn't right, or you fail at something, you can feel very sad and often doubt yourself, fill in this worksheet. Have the students look at Rory and Finn and what had gone wrong, but also fill in the positive things they both had inside of them. Then have them write down things that have gone wrong with their days that made

them sad or feel like they weren't good enough. Filling in the moxie column next, they will start to see that even when they fail, they can be proud of themselves for who they are.

## Language Activities

### Show, Don't Tell

When writing a story, it is important to show the reader how the character is feeling instead of simply telling them. This lets the reader figure out on their own what the character is feeling and to feel it with them. Throughout the book, Finn goes through many different feelings. How do you know what he is feeling?

Some examples of telling are:

- Lexi was mad.
- Billy was scared.
- Thomas was excited.

These same examples but showing:

- Lexi stomped into the room with her fists clenched.
- Billy closed his eyes and his knees were shaking.
- Thomas was jumping up and down and could not stay in his seat.

Sometimes when writing, it can be helpful to act out certain parts of the story. Act out the following ideas and then write down how that would show instead of tell the emotion.

- Finn felt disappointed about his fluffed out hair.
- Rory was sad as pulled out his burnt pie.
- Magnus was very proud of his new ribbon.

## Drama

Finn's friends had many different personalities. Using these characters, act out their life on the farm:

- Magnus the arrogant rooster
- Nolan the sheep with fancy flair
- Fitz the groovy rocker sheepdog
- Brix the excited baby sheep
- Marlie the no-nonsense hairdresser
- Sheela the skilled spitter
- Rory the fun loving boy
- Kip the quiet but curious quail

## Art

Draw what could have gotten stuck in Finn's hair (attached)

Learn how to draw Finn (attached)

Draw what happens when Marlie uses alpaca spit with Rory's hair (attached)

## Math

Farmyard Dash

- <https://www.fun4thebrain.com/toomuchfluff/>
- Join Finn and his friends, choose his racing style, and review your math facts while racing across the farm!

Find the Real Finn (attached)

Logic Problem (attached)

## Growth Mindset Focus

Encouraging students to view each failure as a tool for growth is important. Throughout this book I have tried to have students learn that they can maintain their confidence despite setbacks, and keep trying with their heads held high. Working through some of these questions can help the idea become more concrete.

- Finn was quite insecure about his hair from the beginning of this book. Do you have things about you that you don't like?
- Rory knew how to make pies but on this particular day, he burnt his pie and was not able to win a ribbon at the fair. Have you ever had days like that? A day when, even though you knew how to do something right, it didn't work?
- When something like that happens, and you start to feel sad or upset, how long do you stay that way?
- The Moxie Worksheet gives students a place to write down things that have gone wrong and also the things inside of them that bring them confidence.
- Rory tells of his issues with his hair (something he has had since he was little) and burning his pie (something he could control). What are some problems that you have that are something you were born with versus something that just went wrong recently?
- How does Rory get his moxie back? Where does he find his moxie?
- Knowing what you like about yourself can make you feel more confident and brave. What can you do with your moxie, your confidence? List 5 things you can do if you are brave and believe in yourself.
- Do you think Finn will try to win a ribbon again?



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## WHERE IS THE MOXIE?

Moxie is the self confidence you get when you do something great or when you are proud of yourself. Through *Too Much Fluff, Just Enough Spit* we learned about Rory and Finn, their troubles, and how they found their moxie again. Fill in the form below and then try to figure when you felt the same way and where you can find your moxie.

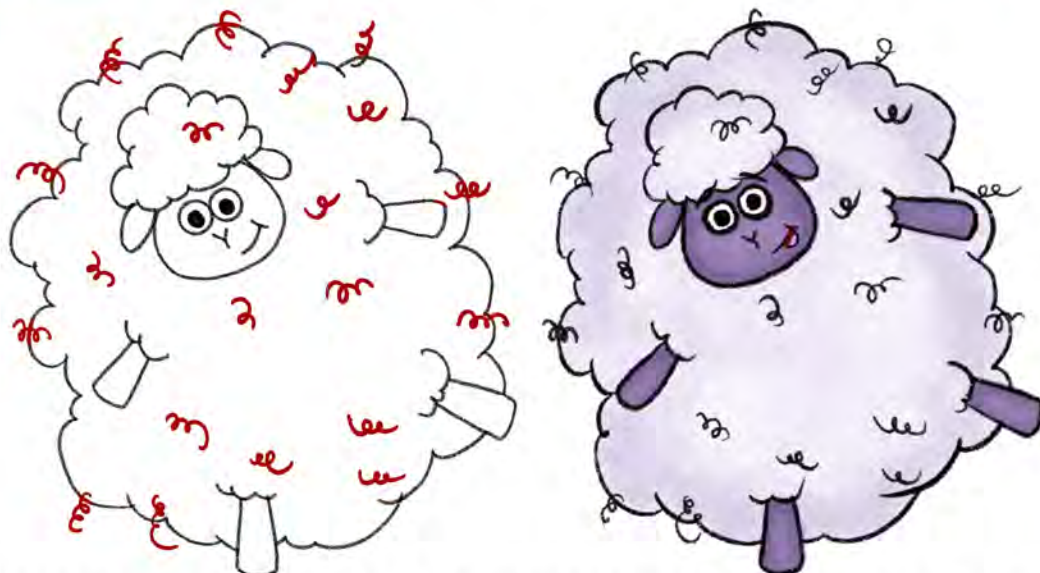
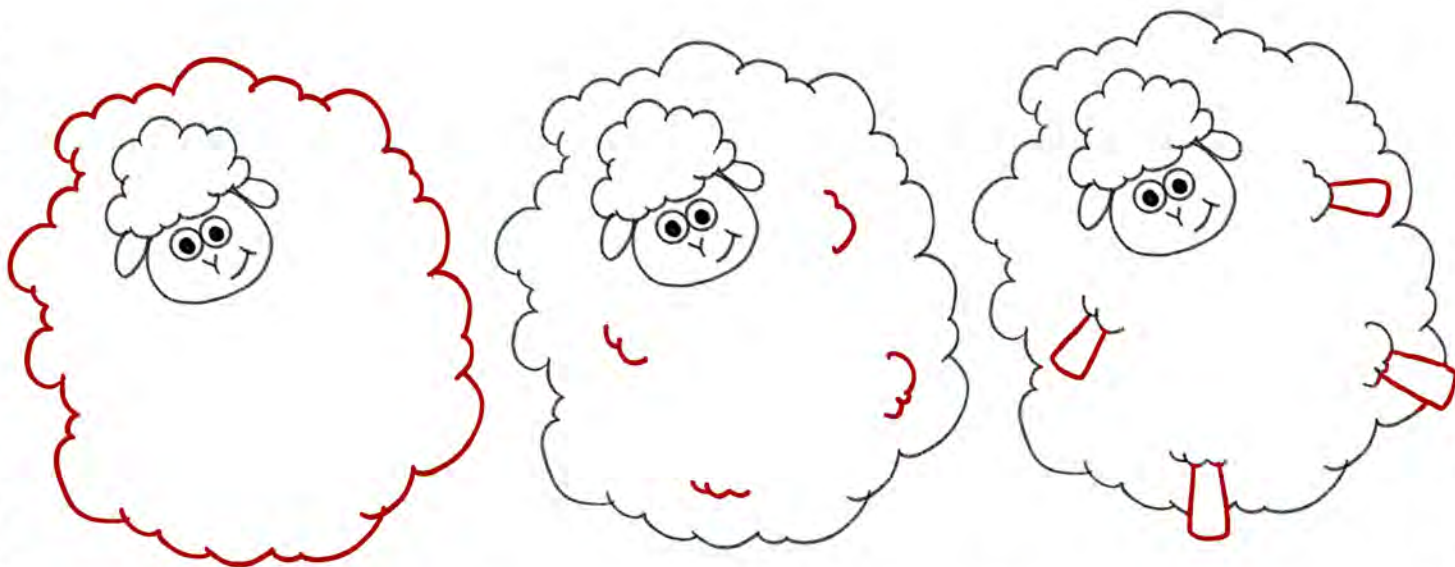
What was Finn's goal?	Why did Finn lose his moxie?	Where did Finn find his moxie?

What was Rory's goal?	Why did Rory lose his moxie?	Where did Rory find his moxie?

What were you hoping to happen in your day?	Why did you lose your moxie?	Where can you find your moxie now?

Always remember that no matter what happens, you can be happy with who you are inside, and keep your moxie and confidence.

# How to Draw Finn





Draw what could be stuck in Finn's hair.

What style does Rory get with alpaca spit?





# Which Finn is the real Finn?

Circle the real Finn.

The real Finn has:

4 leaves

5 branches

2 beach balls

1 soda can

3 drink cups



# Farmyard Birthday Party

Finn, Sheela, Brix, and Marlie all have the same birthday, but are different ages.

They are 3, 8, 11, and 14.

Can you figure out how old each animal is?



Finn

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Sheela

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Brix

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Marlie

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Marlie is the oldest of the friends.
2. Sheela has been alive for an odd number of years.
3. Brix is three years old.
4. Finn is five years older than Brix.