



Wombat Books
Stories you'll want to share

Teachers' Notes



Faithfulness

Kirrily Lowe / Henry Smith & Bronwyn Houston

ISBN: 9781761110467

Recommended retail: \$29.99

Reading level: Ages 4-8 Picture Book

Book Summary

'Faithfulness' is a child's picture book depicting the story of a child who is told by God in a dream to build a castle, and despite the obstacles of wind, rain, doubters and bullies, comes together with friends in strength, resilience and determination to fulfill the dream, and builds a beautiful castle on solid rock.

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Reasons For Studying This Book

In contrast to a society where children are constantly given the opportunity for instant gratification, this book implants the principles of sticking to ideas and plans even when they are difficult and take time and effort. It teaches children that despite facing obstacles, they have the strength to face adversity, particular when they work together, to overcome difficulties and fulfil their ideas, plans and dreams.

Themes

Faithfulness	Commitment	Resilience	Perserverance	Teamwork
Bullying	Diversity	Overcoming adversity	trusting	God's calling

About the Author:



Kirrily Lowe is a mum, author and pastor from Sydney, Australia. Kirrily began her career as a lawyer, before becoming a pastor, and then in 2010 publishing her first 2 children's books – “Love” & “Joy” in The Invisible Tree Series. Kirrily is passionate about children discovering timeless values in a fun and relatable way. The Invisible Tree Series is her first series of Children's Books.

About the Illustrator



Henry Smith is the co-founder and creative director from TASTE CREATIVE. His work ranges from beautifully crafted claymation film and hand drawn animation to stunning illustration and design. All of the illustrations in this book are created from found, recycled & hand-made papers. Henry is passionate about inspiring kids to create with whatever material they find around them.



Bronwyn Houston is descended from the Nyiyaparli and Yindjibarndi people of the Wana clan in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. Bronwyn was born and bred in Broome and draws her inspiration from the natural world she knows and loves.

Author Interview



What was your inspiration in writing Faithfulness?

Faithfulness draws its inspiration from the character quality needed to persevere in any great endeavour. It is a quality not often celebrated and held in high esteem, yet necessary in completing tasks, dreams and projects.

Where did the idea of the story come from?

From my own life, and the stories of others who have had to persevere in the dream that is in their hearts. I have learnt that persevering with dreams in our heart can be challenging and there are many times that we want to give up, but the quality of faithfulness helps us to keep going, and also grows in our hearts as we persevere.

Do you identify with some of the challenges Pearl had in building her castle?

Yes, there are times in my life where people have not believed in the work that I am doing or the dream I have in my heart. At times like this, I have had to learn to not listen to voices of criticism or discouragement, but rather focus on the work in front of me and keep going.

Can you tell us a little about the main character Pearl?

When Henry (one of the illustrators) and I began to discuss the story, Henry suggested an indigenous girl from the Broome region as the main character. I jumped at this suggestion, as the celebration of diversity and finding unity in diversity is something we can all focus on building. Henry had recently visited Broome, and the stunning scenery and colours of this region were the perfect inspiration for this story.

Why did you use 2 illustrators in “Faithfulness”?

Due to the fact that Pearl is indigenous, we felt it was important to work with an indigenous artist to bring to life this character and story. Bronwyn Houston has been a wonderful addition to The Invisible Tree Books.

Teaching Points and Activities

This book may be used in whole class, small group or independent learning activities in schools.

Please note, the following suggestions and activities are suited to a variety of year levels spanning Foundation to Year 6 primary aged children. Some activities may be applicable to early secondary school students, as well. Where possible, Australian Curriculum goal codes have been included which address Foundation to Year 2 curriculum learning outcomes and apply directly to the targeted audience intended for this book, (3 – 6 years).

Key Curriculum Areas

Foundation year

ACELA1429, ACELA1430, ACELA1432, ACELA1433, ACELA1434, ACELA1435, ACELA1786, ACELA1439, ACELA1440, ACELA1818, ACELT1575, ACELT1783, ACELT1578, ACELT1785, ACELY1646, ACELY1648, ACELY1650

Year 1

ACELA1444, ACELA1787, ACELA1447, ACELA1448, ACELA1449, ACELA1451, ACELA1452, ACELA1453, ACELA1459, ACELT1581, ACELT1582, ACELT1854, ACELT1585, ACELY1655, ACELY1660

Year 2

ACELA1460, ACELA1462, ACELA1463, ACELA1464, ACELA1465, ACELA1467, ACELA1469, ACELA1823, ACELA1825, ACELT1587, ACELT1591, ACELT1592, ACELT1593, ACELY1668, ACELY1670

Year 3

ACELA1480, ACELA1481, ACELA1482, ACELA1483, ACELT1594, ACELT1599, ACELT1600, ACELT1791, ACELY1678, ACELY1680

Year 4

ACELA1491, ACELA1492, ACELA1493, ACELA1494, ACELA1495, ACELA1496, ACELT1605, ACELT1606, ACELY1690

Year 5

ACELA1504, ACELA1505, ACELA1506, ACELA1508, ACELA1512, ACELT1608, ACELT1611, ACELY1698, ACELY1699, ACELY1701, ACELT1703

Year 6

ACELA1518, ACELA1521, ACELT1613, ACELT1614, ACELT1617, ACELY1711

General Capabilities

- Literacy
- Intercultural Understanding
- Personal and Social Capability
- Critical and Creative Thinking

Cross-Curricular Priorities

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures and Histories

Questions

1. What type of text is 'Faithfulness'?
2. What do you think the purpose is of the story? How is this shown in the text in the words and pictures?
3. Are there matching word sounds? How do rhyming words emphasise certain meanings?
4. Are there words that describe emotions? How do these emotions change throughout the story?
5. Can you identify words with capital letters? What do these words indicate? How do people, places and things (nouns) in this story help us understand what is being told to us?
6. What words have letters that do not sound out how we read them? Are there matching words with these letter combinations? What other letter combinations have similar sounds?
7. How is this text entertaining? What parts of the texts make it so?
8. How are words used to describe different characters in this book?
9. Can you identify rhyming patterns in this book?
10. How are commas used to join ideas in sentences?
11. How is this book similar to other books you have read?
12. Who is the audience of this book?

Questions

13. How can meaning in the book be showed through the pictures? Are there connections between the pictures and the words in this book?
14. What type of words and pictures show characters using teamwork?
15. What types of words and pictures show characters being resilient and faithful?
16. How do language features (for example: rhyming), emphasise these behaviours?
17. How can you use identified language and pictures in your own writing to show your understanding of faithfulness in your own life and others lives?
18. How are Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander cultures represented in language and picture in this book?
19. If we are to represent our own stories, what type of cultural words and pictures would we use to direct the audience to our contexts?
20. How is being faithful represented? Is it positive or negative? How is this shown in language and picture in the text?
21. How is this book similar to other books you have read?

Classroom Activities

Year 2 - making meaning through pictures and words



1. What emotion words are used on this page?
2. Are certain words coloured or in CAPITALS? Name them below.
3. Do they make you focus on that emotion more? Why do you think that is?
4. Can you find examples of these emotions in the picture? Circle them with coloured pencil.
5. Does the picture combined with the emotional word help make the emotion stand out to you more? Do you think the author did this on purpose?

Creative Activity: Imagine you are an author of a picture book, and you are writing your own story. Pick one of the emotions you identified here or another emotion of your choice, and think of a time when you felt like this. You can write ONE or TWO sentences describing what happened, and how that made you feel. Like in this book, match the emotion you are describing with a drawing to EMPHASISE to the reader how you are feeling!

Example: I went to the shops with my parents on Saturday. I was happy because they bought me an ice cream.

Classroom Activities

Year 4 - Faithfulness

Class Discussion

1. What were the obstacles that could have blocked the main character's dream of building a castle?
2. Did they let those obstacles stop them from fulfilling the dream and vision of building a castle?
3. What does this have to do with the title of the book and the word 'faithfulness'? What are other words that are similar to 'faithfulness' that can be applied to the narrative of this story?

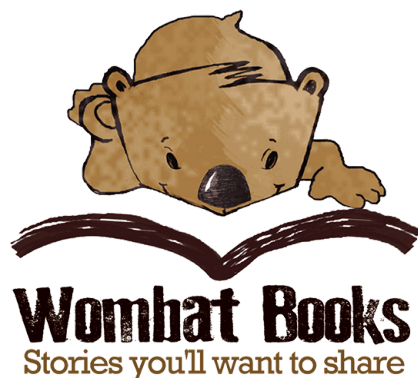
Group Discussion

What are examples of faithfulness, resilience or overcoming adversity in your life? Share with your table group! Here are some examples...

- Continuing to play a sports game even when you aren't winning
- Doing something you said you were going to do - like cleaning your room even when you don't feel like it.
- Standing up to bullies
- Getting back on your bicycle after falling off!

Group Activity: Act it out!

In your groups, pick one of the scenarios of faithfulness, resilience or overcoming adversity that you discussed and make a short play on it to present to the class.



Kirrily Lowe is available for author talks and workshops. Contact Wombat Books for more information.

Faithfulness Teachers' Notes can be used in schools (independent learning, small groups, and whole classes); at home with caregivers; and as part of mental health support programs facilitated by counsellors, psychologists, children's charities, etc.

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