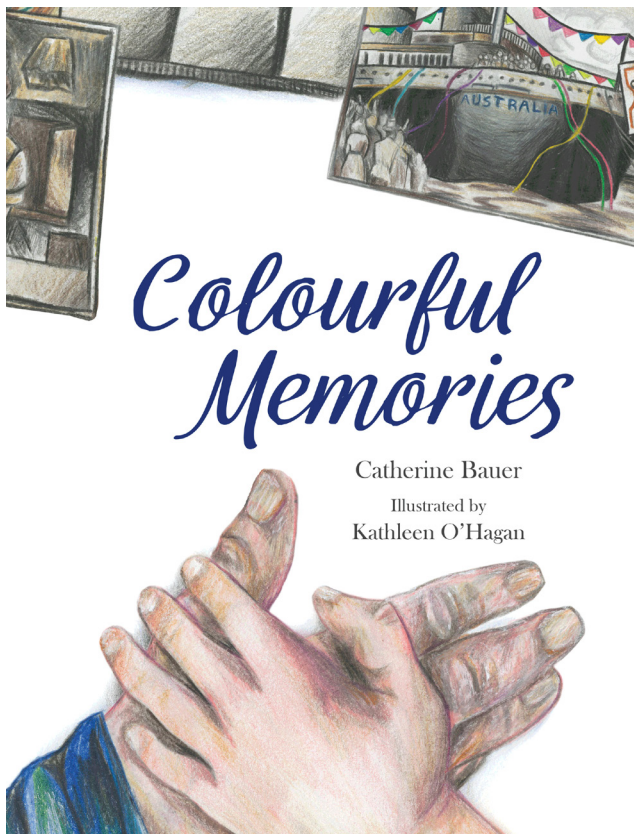




Wombat Books
Stories you'll want to share

Teacher's Notes



Colourful Memories

Catherine Bauer/ Kathleen O'Hagan

ISBN: 9781925563429

Recommended retail: \$16.99

Reading level: Age 5-8

Book Summary

When Charlie comes to visit Opa she looks through his old boxes and photographs. Opa tells Charlie about the colour she cannot see in the black-and-white pictures.

From yellow ribbons to green pine trees and blue over-sized jumpers, Charlie and Opa share his colourful memories.

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Reasons For Studying This Book

Colourful Memories is a heart-warming picture book that captures the enduring power of storytelling through images and language. Charlie is transfixed as her grandfather reveals moments from his life, his memory having been prompted by his treasured black-and-white photographs. The book covers themes about family, love, memories, the evolution of technology, history and a migrant's tale.

Major Themes

Sharing and Creating Memories

Prompted by black-and-white photographs, Opa shares his memories with Charlie. In this way, his experiences are transferred to her. Opa also shows Charlie the importance of continually creating new memories.

Family

The touching relationship between Charlie and her opa is at the heart of this story.

Love

Opa and Charlie's interaction highlights the importance of intergenerational relationships, particularly within families.

Technology

Throughout the story we see the development of technology as the images move from black and white to being vibrant and filled with colour. We also see technological development in the photographs with olden-day memories of steam trains, etc. Children can compare things from the past to modern-day things.

History

The text hints at the events of World War II Germany (including the Holocaust and bombings) without being overt. On a smaller scale, it illustrates how familial history can be passed down through stories and photographs.

Migration

Opa's journey to Australia reflects the roots of multiculturalism in Australia and the idea of migration.

About the Author:



South Australian-born Catherine Bauer is a journalist and writer who grew up in suburbs of Adelaide. A loud and proud bookworm, Catherine grew up reading the classics that lined her parents' well-stocked home library.

She wrote, illustrated and submitted her first picture book at the age of eight and received a gently worded rejection letter – thus igniting her love for writing and determination to one day see her creative work in print.

While she has written and published children's plays and has two picture books set for publication in 2018, Catherine lists her three sons as her life's greatest work.

Catherine aims for her stories to spark all or one of the following three reactions in readers: 'that's me'; 'I wish that was me' or 'I'm glad that's not me'.

Her parents were both great story tellers and among her favourites were the ones in which her father recounted wonderful stories about finding joy in small things, his enthralling adventures and often hardships of a childhood growing up in WWII Germany. This is what inspired *Colourful Memories*.

Catherine loves travel, but doesn't get enough time to indulge and fills a hunger to learn with private studies of history, most especially the period from the Middle Ages through to the Enlightenment.

About the Illustrator



Kathleen is a Brisbane-based, emerging artist and illustrator. Some of her biggest adventures include painting the walls of a rural Fijian school, exhibiting her work in institutions such as the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art and the Mosman Art Gallery, and graduating high school. Ultimately, it is her inescapable desire to learn and create that just keeps propelling her forward.

You can find out more at www.kathleenohaganart.com.

Questions and Reflections

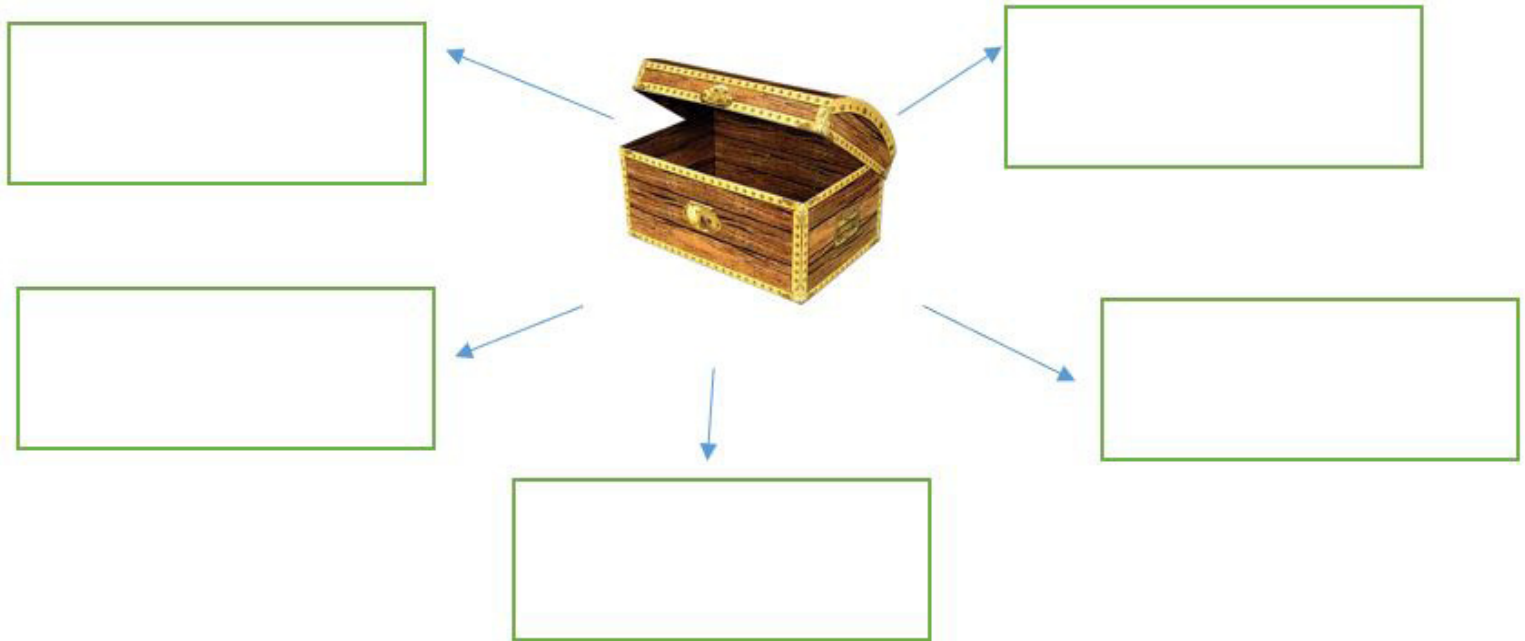
Have the teacher read the book out in class, making sure everyone can see the illustrations. Alternatively, students can take turns at reading each page aloud.

Discussion and Activities

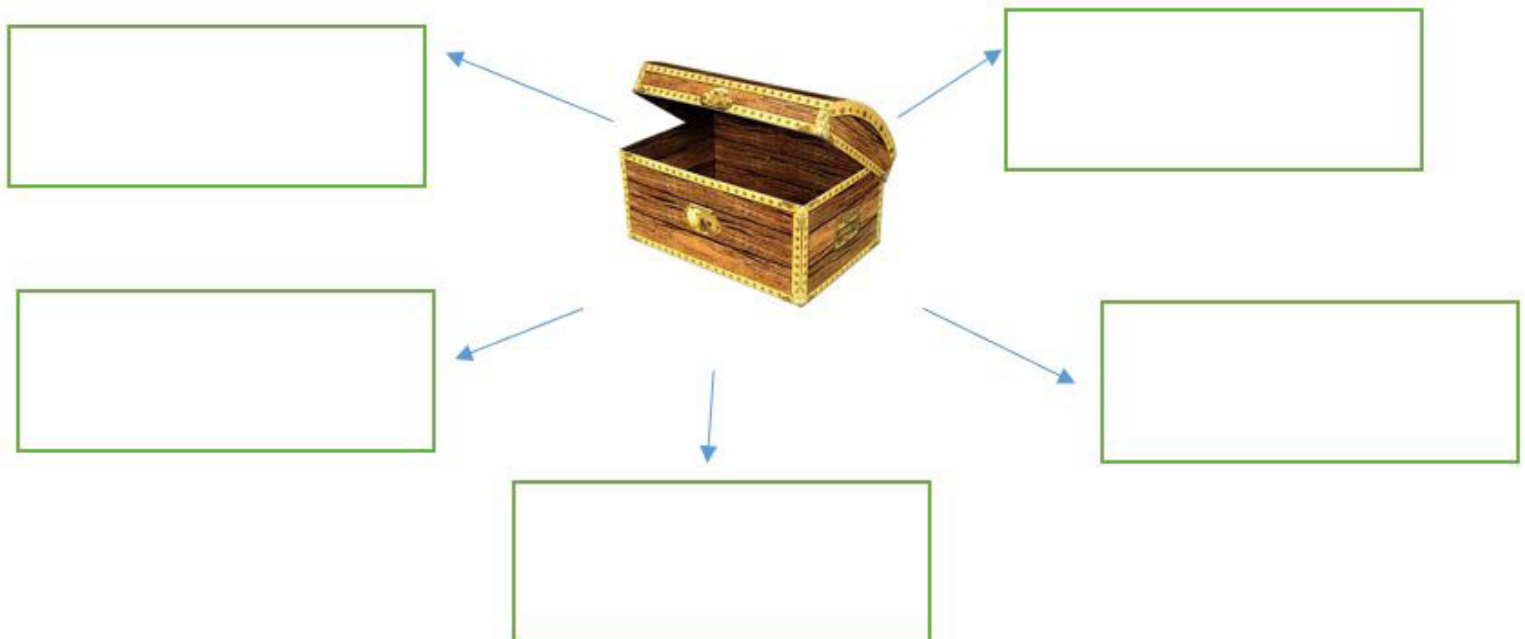
1. How would you feel if you had to leave Australia and start a new life in another country?
2. Charlie calls her grandfather "Opa", which means grandfather in German. What do you call your grandparents? Use this as a tool to discuss the diverse cultural backgrounds in the classroom.
3. Were you or your parents/grandparents/great-grandparents born in Australia or somewhere else? If so:
 - Do you know why they left their home country?
 - How did they travel here?
 - When did they travel here? What was Australia like then?
 - Do you know much about the country they came from? i.e. cultural traditions
4. Have you ever been shown old photographs from when your parents or grandparents were kids? Do you enjoy hearing stories about their past?
5. Do you have family traditions? What are they? Use this as a tool to discuss different cultural traditions.
6. What cultural traditions does Australia have? Why are they significant to Australians? I.e. ANZAC Day
7. Interview your grandparents or someone their age about their life, particularly about their childhood.
 - Pick your favourite story. Write down a recount of it to share with the class.
 - Consider how their childhood was different to yours? How was it the same?
 - Bring a photo from their past to share with the class. Why did you choose this photo?
8. Opa migrated to Australia when he was a boy. Ask students to research what migration is. When were there big migrations to Australia? Why?
9. Ask students to think about the benefits of migration. Create a list to share with the class.
10. Choose a photograph from your childhood that has a memory attached to it. Now imagine that you are telling your grandchild about it. Write a letter to them about your memory and why the photo reminds you of it.
11. Sometimes we don't have a camera ready to capture colourful moments in our lives. Pick a memory of yours and draw a picture of it. What colours would you use to capture how you felt in that moment?

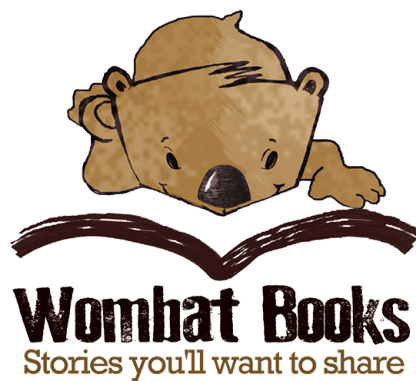
Classroom Worksheet

Opa has a small collection of different memories that he treasures. Can you remember them?



Think about your own life and the special memories you've made. If you were going to share some of your special treasures and memories with others, what would they be? (They might include photographs, paintings, pictures or stories)





Colourful Memories Teacher's 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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