

Thimble

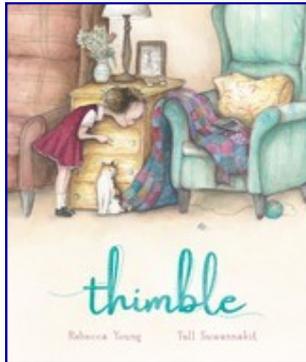
By Rebecca Young & Illustrated by Tull Suwannakit

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When her grandmothers time comes, Mabel finds something left behind. A beautiful story about how a tiny thimble and an unfinished blanket can help mend a heart.



Themes:

- Death & Grief
- Love & Family
- Memories
- Hope

Discussion Questions:

This book deals with the death of a grandparent in a beautiful and gentle manner, and shows that people can deal with grief in different ways. *Thimble* can lead to many classroom discussions around this sensitive topic.

- When you first look at the cover and the title, what do you think the story will be about?
- Do you know what a 'thimble' is?
- Have you ever seen anyone use one? If so, who was it and what did they do with it?
- Why do you think Mabel put the thimble in her pocket?
- What significance do you think that the thimble had for her?
- Why do you think Mabel pretended she was busy when Miss Agnes tried to talk to her? Do you think that she just wanted some time to think and reflect about her Grandma?
- As a class, discuss some other ways that people might try and deal with their grief in a situation like this?
- Can you relate to how Mabel was feeling?
- 'I kept finding things I wanted to show Grandma'. What does this tell you about the relationship that Mabel had with her Grandma?
- How did the thimble become Mabel's link to her Grandma?
- Do you have, or have had, a close bond with an older relative like Mabel did with her Grandma?
- What makes or made your relationship so important to you?
- How would you describe what Mabel did in finishing the blanket?
- How did her Mum feel about it?
- What do you think her Grandad will think when he wakes up and finds the finished blanket over him?
- Do you think that this will help him deal with his feelings of loss and sadness? Discuss.
- Discuss what impact the use of colour, or lack of it, has on the overall feel of this story.

Activities:

- Draw a picture, or bring a photo in, of a special family item that holds significance in your family. Write or present to the class why this item is special to you. You may like to draw the pictures on small squares and turn them into a wall display in the shape of a blanket, featuring all the things that are special to the class.