

Jacaranda Snow

By Catherine Greer & Illustrated by Helen Magisson

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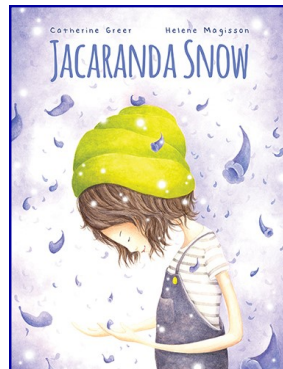
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'We're so lucky,' said Gran. 'We've just enough for two.'

Jess and Gran have always made the best of everything. When there's not much for dinner, they cook oodles of noodles. When there's no cake for birthdays, they toast marshmallows on the stove.

When it snows in the mountains, Jess longs to go. But there's no extra money for a holiday this year. So Jess finds a way to see the most amazing snow of all.

Jacaranda Snow is about one family that lives with less money but plenty of love and optimism.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Resilience
- Optimism
- The seasonal cycle of jacaranda trees
- Australian culture
- Childhood poverty
- Hope
- Family
- Imagination

Discussion Questions:

- The teacher can start by introducing optimism and growth mindset. Being positive opens up our brains and gets them thinking. If we focus on what we can do, or dream about good things that could happen, our brains are ready to help us find ways to make things work out for us. If we ask ourselves, "How can I make this work?" then our brains love to give us good ideas.
- Do you know where your feelings come from? This is how it works: 1. Your thoughts create your feelings. 2. Your feelings create your actions. 3. Your actions create your results. The best place to start is with happy thoughts. This is what Jess does. We call this optimism.
- How is Jess's family different from your family? How is her family the same as yours?
- What is Jess's dream? How does she make it come true? Do you have a special dream and would you like to share it? Do you have some ideas about how you could make it come true?
- Do you think it's possible to make good things happen in your life? (Remember how your brain works: thoughts create feelings, feelings create actions, actions create results!)
- Letter Writing: Do you remember a time when something really good happened to you? Write a letter to a friend about what happened and why it made you so happy.
- Acrostic Poem: Write an acrostic poem for Jacaranda Snow. Only use words that are positive to you. i.e. J could be for Jellybeans.
- Gratitude list: Write a list of all the things in our lives that make us happy and make us feel good. Your list can be crazy or silly or important. Make your list as long as you can! Some examples might be: Your parents, eating lollies, your favourite pillow, how it feels to run barefoot on grass.
- Make paper snowflakes like Jess does in Jacaranda Snow.