

Lamont Books Standing Order

February 2014

Teacher Notes and Activities

Jack's Bugle

By Krista Bell & Illustrated by Belinda Elliott

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\$25.95

When Aidan Jackson, known as "Jack", leaves his parents' farm to fight overseas in World War I, he is excited by the promise of travel, adventure and new friends. Although Jack's bugle is brought home from the war by his best friend, it lies idle for years and years. Will the bugle ever be played again? JACK'S BUGLE is a celebration of the music, optimism, mateship and the ultimate peace, that were part of "the war to end all wars".



Teacher notes have been taken from those prepared by the publisher, Windy Hollow Books.

Themes:

- War
- Mateship

Discussion Points and Activities:

Before Reading

- What does the cover suggest to you about the subject matter and historical setting of this book?

After Reading

- What are some of the main themes that come through in this book?
- What did you already know about the First World War?
- Has this changed any of your assumptions?
- Which themes in the book are related to the war and which are universal?
- Imagine you are Spencer Harrington as an old man. How might you retell your experiences of the war?
- Consider this description from the book of the battlefield ...
Confusion.
Noise, bullets,
Sand, rocks, smoke,
Death. Confusion. . .
- How else might you describe the confusion of the battlefield?
- Using the word confusion and the simple structure of single words that Krista has used here, write your own description of confusion in another setting - e.g. on a sports field or lost in a shopping centre.
- The illustrator has used watercolour. Can you experiment with watercolour using only a few colours, to create a sense of place and time?
- On the last page the illustrator has drawn an interpretation of the types of recruitment posters that appeared during the First World War encouraging young men to enlist. Do some research into other recruitment posters of the time and then come up with one of your own.
- What mediums are used to encourage people to enlist these days?
- Find out a little more about the history of the bugle in war.