

Lamont Books Standing Order

April 2012

Teacher Notes and Activities

Lone Pine

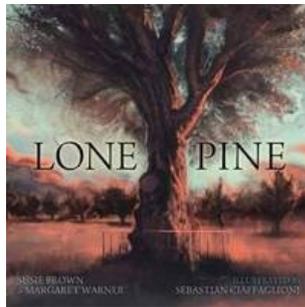
By Susie Brown & Margaret Warner, Illustrated by Sebastian Ciaffaglione

ISBN 9781921541346

\$24.95

Based on the true story of a mother's loss and a hope that grows from the barren waste of war to a living memorial in two Australian cities, *Lone Pine* is a beautiful, sparse and hopeful introduction to the themes of war, loss and memorial for readers young and old.

The striking illustrations bring out exactly the right tone in the text, giving the words movement and causing their sounds (be it silence or gunfire) to echo through the pages. It is a true collaboration between artist and writer(s) as they bring to life this incredibly personal tale that stems from one of the many battles that make up Australia's history.



Teacher Notes taken from those produced by Bec Kavanagh and provided by the publisher. A full version is available at their website www.hardiegrant.com.au/egmont. Just follow the link to resources.

Themes:

- War
- Family
- True Stories
- Australian History

Discussion Points and Activities:

- Why do you think the authors have included the dates at the beginning of some of the pages? What does this tell you about the story?
- How is colour used on each of the pages?
- What moods do the colours of the illustrations evoke as you read the book?
- Does this influence how you feel as you read the book?
- What words on the first page stand out because of the illustrations? Why do you think this?
- Who are the characters mentioned in the book? How are they all connected to this particular story? Can you connect them all to a particular person or object?
- How does the image of the lone tree and the pine cone reappear throughout the story? List all the places that you see the tree or the pine cone in the book (as well as the places that it is mentioned).
- What does this image mean to each of the characters?
- How are the three saplings like the three brothers?
- How do you feel when you discover that the story is real? Does it make you think differently about the book that you have just read?
- Talk about moods in class. How do you know when a person is in a particular type of mood?
- How can you tell what kind of mood the authors and illustrator are trying to show in the book?
- Which elements of the illustrations indicated mood – think about things like colour, lines, shading, features and light.
- In groups or individually research the battle of Lone Pine or the story of the three brothers. Present your findings to the class in a creative format such as a diary, a poem, a letter home, a photograph album, then discuss:
 - o Why do we use personal stories to describe things like war?
 - o Does it change the way we see these events?
 - o What parts of your piece are real and which have you embellished or made up?
 - o Where has this happened in the book?
 - o Why is it just as necessary to *imagine* parts of a story as it is to read about the facts in the news?