

Lamont Books Standing Order

May 2012

Teacher Notes and Activities

A Boy Like Me

By Libby Hathorn & Illustrated by Bruce Whatley

ISBN 9780733325670

\$24.99

'Peace can be found and touched and heard.

I know I'll always find you, brave and welcome bird ...'

Fragile and sometimes fleeting, peace can be sought and found in all of us. *A Boy Like Me* is a beautiful and inspiring story about finding peace no matter who, or where, we are.

Libby Hathorn is the celebrated author of more than fifty children's books, some of which have been translated, as well as adapted for opera, stage and screen. Bruce Whatley is one of Australia's best-loved and most talented children's book illustrators. Both Libby and Bruce have won numerous awards for their work.



Themes:

- Peace
- Love
- Inner strength

Discussion Points:

- Look at the cover of the book. How do you feel? What do you think the story will be about? What clues does the illustrator give us?
- Peace can mean many different things to different people. Discuss with the class the concept of 'peace' and what it means to them.
- Why is 'peace' important in our lives?
- What symbols do we associate with 'peace'. As a class, compile a list.
- The boy in the story was surprised that he had lost 'peace'. Have you ever felt this way? Discuss as a class other situations where people might find themselves feeling like that. What could they do in these circumstances to find 'peace' again?
- "Peace was in my baby sister, our heads together, playing". This is one example of how the boy found 'peace'. How do you find 'peace' in your life? Is there one special thing you do that makes you feel good about things in your life? Is there one special person who helps you feel secure, happy and at peace?
- What impact do the illustrations and use of shadows and colour have in this story? How do you think the feel of the story would change if they were not drawn like this? Explain

Activities:

- Thinking about what 'peace' means to you, write your own short poem about it. Illustrate it in the same format as Bruce Whatley.
- Choose one picture and re-create it. In your own words, describe what is happening in the scene.