

Lamont Books Standing Order

August 2012

Teacher Notes and Activities

Ten Tiny Things

By Meg McKinlay and Kyle Hughes-Odgers
ISBN 9781921888946
\$24.99

*It was a red thing. It was a sparkly thing.
It was a tiny, tiny thing*

Tessa and Zachary have a machine that is swift and splendiferous. Every day it carries them from here to there and back again in cool calm comfort. But one morning, the machine breaks down. Tessa and Zachary are forced to venture into the world beyond its metal walls – a place of secret somethings and hidden happenings.



Teacher Notes taken from those supplied by the publishers, Fremantle Press. A full version is available at www.freemantlepress.com.au.

Themes:

- Living mindfully
- Nature
- Learning through the senses
- Nature versus the built environment
- Sustainability

Discussion Points:

- This book lends itself beautifully to discussions about car travel and other choices that can be made for getting to and from school. Using the story as a base, the discussion could lead on to other journeys that are made by car, and different options for transport that could be used.
- The author says the main theme of the book is that of living slowly and mindfully, engaging with your surroundings in a conscious way and emphasising the journey over the destination. This story can be used as a reminder to adults to slow down the pace of life, and to rediscover the simple beauty of living. Expand on this idea during discussions with the students.

Activities:

- Visit an outdoor play space. Encourage children to safely explore their natural environment and to find ten tiny things of their own. Children could find:
 - ◇ Leaves of different shapes, colours and sizes; berries and seed pods; shells; driftwood; pieces of wood or bark; flowers
- Once the ten tiny things have been collected, they can be used for various purposes, including:
 - ◇ Organising into categories based on shape, colour, texture or size
 - ◇ Graphing and recording data about the item
 - ◇ Making up a story
 - ◇ Using as part of a collage or diorama
 - ◇ Mastering simple addition and subtraction equations using real objects.