

Lamont Books Standing Order

June 2013

Teacher Notes and Activities

Scarlett and the Scratchy Moon

By Chris McKimmie
ISBN 9781743315156
\$29.99

A unique and beautiful picture book about a child's love for her pet dogs from the one and only Chris McKimmie.

I can't sleep. The moon is moving again. It's so quiet outside ever since Holly and Sparky died.

Chris McKimmie's words and pictures gently and honestly evoke the experience of loss and new life.



Teacher Notes have been taken from those produced by the publisher, Allen & Unwin. A full version will be available at their website www.allenandunwin.com

Themes:

- Loss and Grief
- New Life / Renewal and Growth
- Imagination
- Family and Family Pets

Discussion Points & Activities:

- Scarlett's family has lost two beloved pets. We don't know how or why, but Scarlett's grief is tangible in the evocative words and pictures which accompany the suggestive paintings. Discuss the loss of a pet with your students.
- Often favourite toys offer comfort in times of loss. Scarlett has Daddy Neema, Mummy Neema, and Baby Neema to keep her company. Invite students to discuss what their favourite toy means to them.
- Memories are one way we hold onto those we've lost. There is a framed picture of Holly and Sparky on page 15. How else do we record memories of those we've lost?
- Have you ever experienced a renewal or a new life? It might be that you have moved house and then begun a new life somewhere else. Or a new baby or a new pet in your house might have changed things, too. Invite students to express how they felt about such change and renewal.
- The book is very much focused in one child in her own world; a world made up of real and imagined things. What do the pictures tell you about Scarlett's world?
- Describe your bedroom, and draw a picture of the things in it which are special to you. Draw and paint them as you see them, not necessarily how they 'really' are.
- The book paints a picture of family life in both the endpapers and the visual text. Study the pictures of the breakfast table. What does this tell you about this family?
- Invite your students to describe what it feels like not to be able to sleep. Encourage them to use expressions such as 'the moon is moving again. It's scratching the sky'. How would you describe the moon or the sun? Come up with a creative description.
- In the final scene the family are making a train out of cardboard boxes. Have fun doing this with your class. Decorate the train with images from the book.