

Lamont Books Standing Order

July 2013

Teacher Notes and Activities

Owl

By Anna Pignataro
ISBN 9781922081162
\$25.95

Deep in a snowy forest Owl and Frida live happily together. Each night they look out their little window at the moon and wonder what lies beyond the snow. Then one midwinter day Owl starts to change, his dreams begin to fill with magic and nothing is ever the same again.



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

Themes:

- Love
- Loyalty

Discussion Points and Activities:

- Before reading the book, look at the cover. What does the cover suggest the book may be about? Can you tell from the cover, where the book may be set?
- Why do you think the author has used the symbol of an owl?
- What do you think the owl represents to Frida? What do you think the woman they meet represents?
- Why do you think Owl has to go away? Why do you think Frida closes the cottage window?
- The morning Owl leaves, the window is open once again. Why do you think Frida has allowed this? Why do you think Owl returns home? Why is Frida cold and quiet when Owl returns?
- Owls mean different things depending on culture and mythology. Can you find some of the different things that people have thought the owl represents?
- How might the story be different if it was told in the first person from Frida's point of view?
- Imagine Frida was writing a diary. What would some of her entries be? Write an entry about her feelings when Owl left.
- Write an adventure that Owl had whilst he was away. You can use the illustrations as inspiration.
- Imagine Owl was sending letters back to Frida. What might one of his letters say?
- Why do you think Anna Pignataro has chosen a white Owl for her story?
- Why do you think Frida's dress is covered in images?
- What do the illustrations of the snow globes represent?
- Look at different ways owls are drawn by artists and illustrators. How do the artists or illustrators depict them, for example as wise, thoughtful, all seeing?
- Create your own owl picture or model. What will you emphasise in your owl?