

Lamont Books Standing Order

September 2013

Teacher Notes and Activities

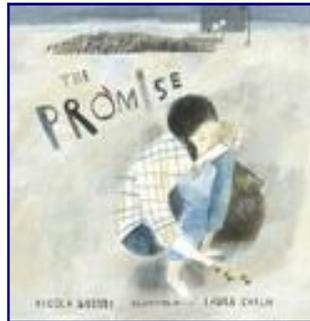
The Promise

By Nicola Davies

ISBN 9781406337280

\$27.95

On a mean street in a mean city, a thief tries to snatch an old woman's bag. But she finds she can't have it without promising something in return - to "plant them all". When it turns out the bag is full of acorns, the young thief embarks on a journey that changes her own life and the lives of others for generations to come. Inspired by the belief that a relationship with nature is essential to every human being, and that now, more than ever, we need to renew that relationship, *The Promise* is the story of a magical discovery that will touch the heart and imagination of every reader, young and old. With poignant simplicity, honesty and lyricism, Nicola Davies evokes a powerful vision of a world where people and nature live in harmony. Laura Carlin's delicate illustrations capture a young girl's journey from a harsh, urban reality to the beauty and vitality of a changed world.



Themes:

- Promises
- Change
- Hope
- Nature

Discussion Points:

- By looking at the cover, what do you think the story is about?
- After reading it, was it what you expected? Explain.
- Promises are things that we all make. What is the most important promise that you have ever made?
- This story is very visual. How does colour affect the mood of the story?
- 'I held a forest in my arms, and my heart was changed.' As a class, discuss this sentence.
- How did one small thing, the acorns, change the girl so much?
- Have you ever had one event in your life that has altered how you think and behave? If so, what and how did it change you?
- 'I forgot the money. And for the first time in my life I felt lucky, rich beyond my wildest dreams.' Why do you think the girl felt this way?
- How did the growth that occurred after the acorns were planted change the streets and the people who lived there?
- What long lasting impact will this have on the environment?

Activities:

- Laura Carlin's illustrations are very unique. Re-create one of the illustrations, in a similar format to hers.
- There is a beautiful illustration of a tree and coloured bird in the book. As a class, make your own tree and coloured birds to sit on the branches.