

Lamont Books Standing Order

September 2013

Teacher Notes and Activities

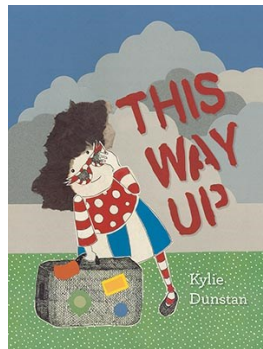
This Way Up

By Kylie Dunstan

ISBN 9781922081223

\$25.99

Grace's life has been turned upside down. Her family is moving countries again. Everything she owns is packed into a cardboard box and on its way 'home'. But home is not quite the place Grace had remembered. She has to find her way back to belonging, to feeling 'at home' in her new/old surroundings. For Grace, being reunited with her beloved grandparents is the turning point.



Themes:

- Home
- Dislocation
- Family
- Change

Discussion Points & Activities:

Before reading

- What does the cover suggest the story may be about?
- What can you tell about the main character from the front cover and title page?

After reading

- The opening line is "Grace was going home". Where do you think she had been? What clues do the illustrations on the following pages give you about where she may have been and how long she may have been away?
- In *This Way Up*, Grace has to cope with change. When was a time that you had to cope with change - e.g. moving house, moving school, new teacher etc? What were your feelings? What made the change easier?
- What were some of Grace's feelings?
- How does the author convey Grace's feelings?
- How do Grace's parents help her cope with the change?
- Why do you think the box becomes so important to Grace?
- Why do you think the doll with the red shiny dress, which has never been her favourite, suddenly becomes so precious?
- For Grace moving home involves discovering old toys and treasures and also reuniting with family. Which of these experiences helps her to adjust the most?
- If you were to go away from home for a long time what do you think you would miss the most? Can you classify these things in to objects, people and experiences? Which is most important to you?
- If you were leaving home for a long time, what might you take with you? Make a list of things you would take and things you would leave behind.
- In maths class, estimate how much space you would need for the items you want to take and then estimate how many boxes you would need.
- Look at Kylie's use of colour. Why are some characters just plain silhouettes?
- What effect do the coloured backgrounds have?
- Have a go at making your own paper collage drawings like Kylie has done. In the book, Kylie has used a mixture of drawings and paper to put together her illustrations. Experiment with this in your own illustrations.
- Collect some packing boxes and make cubby houses out of them.