

# Lamont Books Standing Order

October 2013

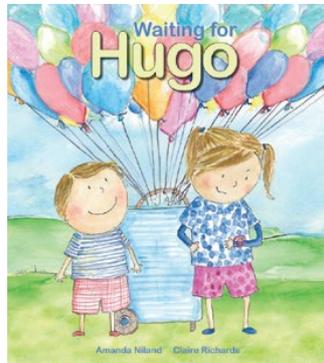
*Teacher Notes and Activities*

## Waiting For Hugo

By Amanda Niland & Illustrated by Claire Richards  
ISBN 9781922081216  
\$25.95

Picture Book of  
the Month

*Waiting for Hugo* is a book that explores notions of diversity and difference through a story suitable for 3 to 7 year olds. The central character is a young boy who has an obsessive interest which dominates his life and that of his family. This is a trait often present in children who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder. The story is narrated by Hugo's older sibling, who grapples with acceptance of her brother's eccentricity. Hugo's obsession and consequent skill with numbers brings rewards for him and his sister, so that the story ends positively, celebrating Hugo's unique abilities.



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

### Themes:

- Uniqueness
- Acceptance
- Individual interests

### Discussion Points & Activities:

#### Before Reading:

- Looking at the title and the illustration on the front cover, who do you think the children are?
- Do you like balloons? Do you have a favourite colour?

#### After Reading:

- Do you like to count things? What sorts of things do you enjoy counting?
- Do you have a favourite activity like Hugo does?
- Are there times in your life when you have to wait? How long did you have to wait for? How did you feel about this?
- Does anyone sometimes have to wait for you? When does this happen?

#### For teachers:

- You could document these discussions, for example by making lists of the different interests or activities which children enjoy. Children's drawings, writing or photos could be used to make books or classroom displays about the diverse range of interests or hobbies the children have. These can then be the focus of further discussion about ways in which we are all different and can learn about a range of things from each other.
- You may use 'show and tell' or 'news' time for children to share information or items that relate to their favourite activities. If some children have an interest which is unfamiliar to other children, you may be able to search for information or resources to focus some classroom explorations on a particular interest, so that children can share some of their favourite pastimes with their peers. Families' help can be useful with this.
- Children may like to draw pictures or write stories about their experiences of waiting. It may be relevant to find points of comparison in children's experiences. It may also be possible to look at the perspectives of others in those waiting situations (such as those who children have to wait for).