

# Lamont Books Standing Order

September 2014

*Teacher Notes and Activities*

## **A House Of Her Own**

**By Jenny Hughes & Illustrated by Jonathan Bentley**

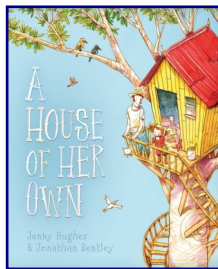
**Publisher: Little Hare Books**

**ISBN 9781742974620**

**\$24.95**

**Picture Book of  
the Month**

Audrey is bigger than she was yesterday. Now she needs a bigger house. So she tells her dad to build her one. At the top of a tree. It is an ideal house. It has a bathtub for snorkelling, a place to drink tea, and somewhere to hide the dirty cups. The house is perfect in every way. Except for one thing ... This is a gently humorous story that explores the clash between a quest for independence and the longing for security. Emerging author Jenny Hughes is once again paired with internationally acclaimed illustrator Jonathan Bentley to create a picture book of outstanding warmth, sensitivity and insight.



These teacher notes are based on those prepared by the publisher, Little Hare Books.

### Themes:

- Independence
- Security
- Family

### Discussion Points and Activities:

- Depending on what is going on around them, people behave differently at different times. How does Audrey's behaviour change between the beginning of the story and the end? How might noticing this change help you understand people better?
- What are Audrey's feelings when her dad finishes the tree-house and leaves her behind? What sorts of things in the text help to tell you what her feelings are?
- Certain things are important to Audrey and she tells her dad exactly how she wants her tree-house to be. Write a list of things that are important to you and that you would like to have in your perfect tree-house. Alternatively, get students to draw their perfect tree-house.
- Most stories tell us something about life. What lesson about life does Audrey learn in this book? How does her dad help her to learn this lesson?
- Go back through the first few pages and try and figure out what would live in each of the places that Audrey's dad suggests she live in. For example, ask your class 'what would live in the chicken pen?' and 'what would you find in the shed?'. Get them to write down or discuss the many things that could be found in those places.
- Discuss with your class why children grow. You could get them to create their own height chart with measurements and illustrations. You might get your class to ask their parents if they have a height chart. This could be an opportunity to start a class growth chart using the charts that each child has made and brought in.
- Ask the children to list things they think they are getting too big for, and things that are getting too small for them. Maybe their favourite jumper?
- Create a class story map of *A House of Her Own*. Invite a group of students to colour the story map while others work together to create a stick puppet of each character and house in the story. Keep the map and puppets in the class library.
- Ask your students to illustrate a timeline of what Audrey 'needs' in her new house. For example, first she 'will need a staircase'. Invite the children to draw a staircase with a banister, then next to it, draw the bathtub Audrey wants.