

Lest We Forget

By Kerry Brown

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Timed for the centenary of the Gallipoli landing, this powerful story about a boy and his grandfather will help even the very young understand the significance of ANZAC Day. My granddad says there are two types of days: those you want to remember and those you want to forget ... A young boy visits his granddad and thinks about the important days in his life: his first day of school, playing soccer with his team, the day his baby sister was born. Yet through the illustrations the reader sees a parallel story of the grandfather's experiences at war: wearing his brand-new soldier's uniform, with his fellow diggers in the field, looking at a photo of the baby he's never met.



Teacher notes are an edited version of those supplied by the publisher, Harper Collins

Themes:

- Significant events - Celebration and commemoration
- Days of remembrance – ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day
- Connections and relationships
- Past and present; Young and old;
Emotional memory; Age and wisdom

Discussion Points & Activities:

Before reading the text ask students to examine the cover of the book:

- The title is *Lest We Forget*. Brainstorm what this means. What event/s do we do we associate with this phrase?
- What do you notice about the picture on the cover?
- Who might the people be? What are they wearing? Where are they? What are the flowers in the picture?
- *100 Years of ANZAC* - What does ANZAC stand for? Notice the dates 2014 -2018. Introduce the word **centenary** and discuss why it is relevant?

After Reading:

- What days did the little boy like to remember? What was important about these days? What feelings might he have experienced on those days?
- What days did he like to forget? How might he have felt on those days?
- Sometimes we remember days that make us sad or upset. Which of the days in the book might the little boy continue to remember as he grows older?
- How do we find out about the grandfather's past? Why was there no text with these pictures?
- Look at the illustrations used for the boy's life. What features do you notice? Look at the illustrations used for the grandfather's experiences. What features do you notice?
- Introduce the class to the words celebrate and commemorate. What do they understand about these words?
- Towards the end of *Lest We Forget* there are illustrations depicting a slouch hat, a bugle and a poppy. These have become symbols of remembrance. Find other symbols of remembrance and write a sentence to explain their meaning. Identify other symbols of war/remembrance in the illustrations of the book.
- Think of an important occasion in your life (either one to commemorate or celebrate) and create a collage of your own personal symbols that relate to that memory.
- Create two class murals using images that depict meaning for celebration and commemoration. Images may come from newspapers, magazines, photographs, postcards or the internet. Encourage students to find images that depict emotions, expressions, decoration, symbols, food, and place.