

# Lamont Books Standing Order

February 2014

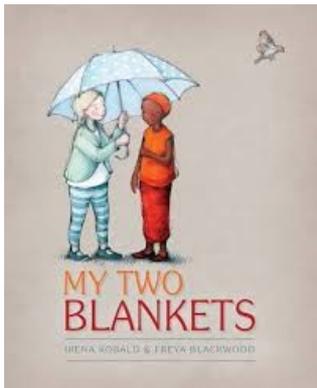
*Teacher Notes and Activities*

## **My Two Blankets**

By Irena Kobald & Illustrated by Freya Blackwood  
ISBN 9781921714764  
\$24.95

**Picture Book of  
the Month**

As time goes on, Cartwheel begins to weave a 'new' blanket, one of friendship and a renewed sense of belonging. It is different from the old blanket, but it is eventually just as warm and familiar.



Teacher notes have been taken from those prepared by the publishers, Hardie Grant Egmont.

### Themes:

- Friendship
- Belonging
- Cultural change

### Discussion Points and Activities:

Ask the children to investigate their life and discover if they know anyone who is new to an environment. It may be a friend or a relative who has recently arrived in Australia, or perhaps started a new job or even a classmate who has just moved schools. Ask them:

- How they first felt when they arrived in the foreign environment.
- What did they miss most? What was really strange? Were there different ways of doing things in this new environment?
- If they were arriving from another country, how did English sound to them?
- If relevant, how did they feel when they had to be around where everyone speaking a different language?
- When they couldn't understand what was being said on TV/Radio?
- When they couldn't understand ads or billboards?
- When they were given or offered strange food which looked or tasted weird or maybe even awful?
- Did they have a special food which made them feel 'at home'?
- How did they feel when people laughed at them when they made mistakes?
- What did they do if they felt homesick, but knew that they had to stay?
- How did they make their first friends?

The illustrator shows Cartwheel learning new words with use of pictures. Ask the class to describe what they did on the weekend using only pictures. They should think about every word they would use to describe their experience and create a picture to illustrate what they want to say. They should then present their picture sentences to the class to see if their peers can understand what they are saying. After they have presented their sentences, ask the students to explain why they chose certain pictures to represent particular words.