

Mr Huff

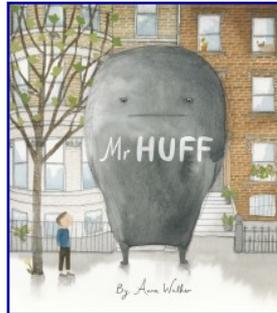
By Anna Walker
Publisher: Viking/Penguin
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\$24.99

**Picture Book of
the Month**

Award-winning and much-loved author and illustrator Anna Walker gives us a gentle, poignant, affirming and wise picture book sure to delight all ages. Mr. Huff is a story about the clouds and the sunshine in each of our lives.

Bill is having a bad day.

Mr Huff is following him around and making everything seem difficult. Bill tries to get rid of him, but Mr Huff just gets bigger and bigger! Then they both stop, and a surprising thing happens . . .



Themes:

- Dealing with emotions
- Embracing feelings
- Having a bad day
- Seeing the good things

Discussion Points:

- How did Bill's day start out? Why do think it started out this way? Do you think it had something to do with the weather that Bill saw out his window?
- What are some of the things that happened to Bill in the morning to make him have a bad feeling about the day? Do these things sometimes happen to you? How do you react when things don't go the way you plan?
- How did Mr Huff appear? Why do you think he is called 'Mr Huff'?
- Describe what Mr Huff looks like. Why do you think that Anna Walker has drawn him this way?
- 'Was it possible to hear a sigh in your imagination?' Discuss this sentence.
- Bill thought about talking to someone about Mr Huff. How did Bill feel about talking to someone? Do you think that talking about our feelings is a good thing? Explain.
- What happened when Bill let go and starting crying and he saw his reflection in Mr Huff's tears? Was this the turning point in his day? Why?
- How did things change for Bill after this? What happened to Mr Huff?

Activities:

- Create your own 'Mr Huff'. You may like to use cotton wool that you can have fun dying to create the colour that you wish.

Further teacher notes will also be available from the publisher at www.penguin.com.au