

That Christmas Feeling

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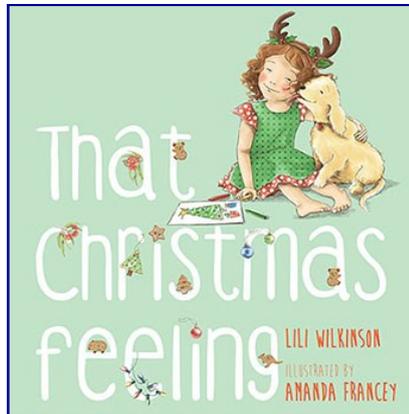
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Dottie is waiting for the Christmas feeling to arrive - that fizzy, excited feeling, where everything is a bit magical. But this year, Dottie, her brother, Jem, and their dog, Shortbread, are staying with Grandma and Grandpa. Grandma and Grandpa are trying hard, but Christmas just isn't the same...

A gorgeous, heart-warming story about misplacing the Christmas spirit, and finding it again.



Themes:

- Family
- Christmas
- Siblings
- Grandparents
- New baby

Discussion Questions:

- 'That Christmas Feeling' - What does this saying mean to you?
- What is it about Christmas that makes it a special time of year?
- Do you eagerly await 'That Christmas Feeling', just like Dottie was?
- Why were things different at Christmas time this year for Dottie and Jem?
- Do you think it was different for Grandma and Grandpa to have children around them on Christmas Eve?
- What were some of the things that Dottie and Jem normally did with their Mum and Dad at Christmas time? Do you do these things with your family?
- As a class, come up with a list of Christmas songs that you think Dottie and her family might have sung when they went to the park.
- How did Jem try and help Dottie feel better? Do you think this is a sign of a caring, older brother?
- If you have a younger sibling, how did you feel when they were born?
- Why do you think Dottie said 'It feels *exactly* like Christmas' after she got to hold her new baby sister, Holly? What Christmas significance does the new baby's name have?

Activities:

- Draw your own Christmas tree like the one Grandma suggested that Dottie and Jem draw.
- Create your own special Christmas tree decoration that you can hang on your Christmas tree this year.
- Make your own set of reindeer antlers, like the ones that Dad gave to Dottie when they returned home.