

Lamont Books Standing Order

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Teacher Notes and Activities

Chasing Shadows

By Corinne Fenton & illustrated by Hannah Sommerville

Publisher: Ford Street

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\$26.95

Corinne Fenton joins first-time illustrator Hannah Sommerville on an epic journey of discovery. Everyone feels sad sometimes, but when sadness lingers, shadows appear. Some of us, even children, chase shadows. Will a wriggly, mischievous surprise help Beth chase her shadows away?



Given the sensitive nature of this book, it is probably best suited to upper primary school students.

Themes:

- Sadness
- The power of animals
- Opening up
- Acceptance over time

Discussion Points:

- Before reading the story, what do you think the book could be about?
- Did your thoughts change after you read it? If so, how?
- Beth seems to be very sad. Do we know why she is feeling so unhappy?
- Everyone feels sad sometimes in their life, and this is a normal reaction to many things. As a class, discuss what events in life can lead to feeling this way.
- What are some practical things that can make you feel happier?
- When you feel sad, what and/or who helps to make you feel better and helps you understand your feelings?
- The dad in the story just wanted his little girl to be happy again. Why do you think he thought a puppy would help her?
- What impact did Patches have on Beth?
- Did she accept him at first? Why do you think she reacted this way when she first got him? Did her reaction when Patches got sick surprise you?
- Do you have a pet? If so, how does your pet make you feel?
- What can pets teach us?

Activities:

- Animals, especially dogs, are used in all aspects of life to help people. Research one area where they are used, for example seeing eye dogs, sniffer dogs, companion dogs etc. Include in your research the special characteristics that the animal has to have to undertake their role, what training is involved and how the animal helps people.