

Lamont Books Standing Order

April 2014

Teacher Notes and Activities

The Duck and The Darklings

By Glenda Millard & Illustrated by Stephen Michael King

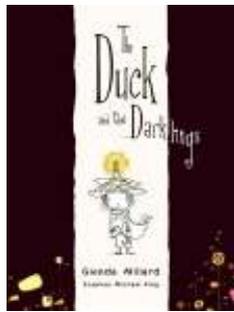
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\$24.99

Grandpapa's eyes shine when he remembers the beauty of the world, long-ago. Peterboy wants to find something wonderful to bring the light to Grandpapa's eyes and keep it there. What he finds is a duck, wounded and broken, and Grandpapa mends her from top to tail; quack, waddle and wing!

The Duck and the Darklings is a triumphant story, for children and adults, about the coming of hope in dark days, the warmth of friendship and the splendour of a new dawn.



This book can be used on many levels, depending on the age of your students.

Themes:

- Hope
- Friendship
- Memories
- Environment

Discussion Points and Activities:

- When you look at the front cover and title of the book, what do you think the story might be about? After you have read it, have your thoughts changed?
- Glenda Millard has a wonderful way with words. When reading the story, are there any that you haven't heard of? If so, which ones?
- Are all of her words 'real' words? If you think they aren't look them up in a dictionary, along with the meaning of any words that you hadn't heard of.
- Have the children analyse the following: *'Dark was a sorry place; a broken and battered place. It had been that way for so long that sunups and sundowns, yesterdays and tomorrows and almost everything in them had been disremembered by each and by all... except Grandpapa.'* What does it mean?
- Why did the older people not want to venture out? What do you think might have happened to the world? Why were the 'Darkling' children the only ones who went out to the finding fields?
- What does finding Idaduck mean to Peterboy and Grandpapa? How does she change their lives?
- How have light and colour been used in the illustrations to convey what is happening?
- Stephen Michael King has a very unique drawing style. Draw your favourite scene from the book, in a similar style.
- At the end of the book, the world has healed and the light appears. Do you think that this was the first time the world was light? Or do you think the older people were too scared to venture out in the light because they were scared of seeing what had happened to the world? If so, why do you think that they might have felt this way? What do you think might have happened to the world? Are there any clues in the story?
- Time had soothed the world's wounds. Can you think of other things that time might help to heal?
- Darkness and light are common metaphors used in stories. Is darkness being used a metaphor in this story? If so, what do you think it could be a metaphor for?