

Bandits

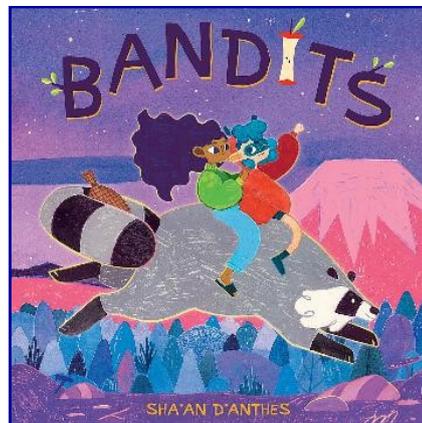
By Sha'an d'Anthes

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Fern lives in a colourless, lifeless city and has only ever seen trees as pictures in her books. Fern is told that the bandits who come in the middle of the night to steal from the city dwellers are bad guys, but when she follows them back to their home she discovers a land of colour, life, friendship and a future she believes in. BANDITS is the second picture book from Sydney-based artist Sha'an d'Anthes, whose career has seen her travel, show and sell her work all over the world.



Themes:

- Friendship
- Diversity
- Environment

Discussion Questions and Activities:

- Look at the front cover and describe what you see. What do you think this book will be about?
- Why do you think that it is so vibrant? How many colours have been used on the cover?
- 'Once upon an ordered city' - what do you think this means? How does the image on this page contrast to the front cover?
- How would you describe the world that Fern lived in?
- What did Fern like to read about? What did she find in books about the 'old times'?
- Do you think people really liked the way that were living now?
- Do you think that maybe they did not know life any other way? Discuss this is as a class.
- Why do you think that they lived in a world without trees and animals?
- What was Fern's reaction when she saw the forest?
- Were Fig and Bo really Bandits? Discuss.
- How did they 'heal the forest'?
- What clue was there in how the title was written to what might play an integral part to the story?
- Do you think that this is a cautionary tale about the environment and the impact that people have on it?
- Fern found friendship and a new life, as well as the delights of the forest, when she discovered the Bandits. How important was finding friendship to her?
- Discuss the importance of friendship as a class and how friends can help and teach each other.

Activities:

- Create a diorama of a forest scene from the story.
- Make your own 'bandit' masks.