

## **Joe and the Stars**

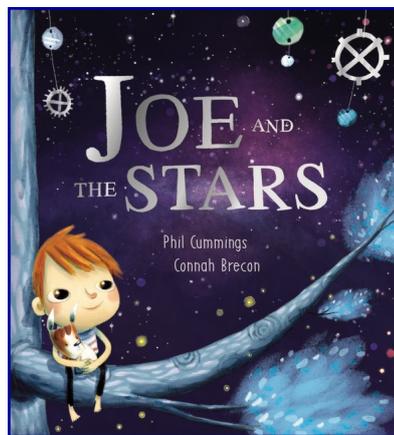
By Phil Cummings & Illustrated by Connah Brecon

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In the red dust, where the sky is wide, Joe loves watching the stars. He marvels at their mystery and wonder. But when his family moves to the city... the stars are hard to see. Will Joe find a way to make them shine again? A twinkling tale of resilience, family and friendship.



### **Themes:**

- Home
- Families
- Friendship
- Resilience
- New Beginnings

### **Discussion Questions and Activities:**

- Just by reading the first page of the story, where do you think Joe lived? What clues are there in the words, but also in the pictures?
- What was Joe's favourite thing to do when he sat in the tree?
- Why was the tree so special to Joe?
- Do you have a special place that reminds you of someone special in your life?
- 'Just because you can't see them, doesn't mean they aren't there'. Joe's Grandpa said this about the stars. As a class, discuss this concept in the context of stars, and expand the conversation to other times where this saying can apply.
- When and how did Joe's life change? How do the illustrations reflect the mood around this?
- How did Joe try to make his new city home more like his old country one?
- Have you ever had to move somewhere different? How did this make you feel?
- When Joe couldn't find a star and decided to make his own, what does this tell us about Joe's character?
- Why do you think it was so important to Joe to see stars? What did they symbolise in Joe's life?
- Why was Joe surprised to see what he saw in the courtyard?
- Do you think finding new friends will help Joe settle into his new life in the city?
- What do you know about stars? Discuss this as a class. You might like to do some further research and present your findings on a poster.
- Make your own special wind chime out of tin and twine, just like Joe and his Grandpa made, that can be hung at school or at home. You may also like to make some stars that you can hang around your wind chime, to create your very own galaxy.