

Lamont Books Standing Order

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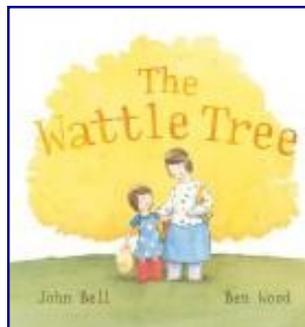
Teacher Notes and Activities

The Wattle Tree

By John Bell & Illustrated by Ben Wood
ISBN 9780734412911
\$28.99

This is the story of Molly, a little girl who helps not only herself but her mother come to terms with the loss of Gran through connecting with the wattle tree at the bottom of the garden.

Set over the course of several months, Molly makes repeated trips to the wattle tree. At first, her visits are to escape the sadness in the house as Mum is locked inside her own grief. Gradually, Molly draws strength from her visits and ultimately invites Mum to share in the experience so they can keep memories of Gran alive.



This book deals beautifully with the loss of a loved one. How far you explore this topic will obviously depend on the age/circumstances of your class.

Themes:

- Appreciating loved ones
- Remembering
- Grief and loss

Discussion Points

- Molly and her Grandma did special things together. Do you have a special family member who you like doing things with? Who? Why are they special? What things do you do together?
- Molly was sad about losing her Grandma. Were her feelings what you would expect in this situation?
- How did she start to recover from her loss?
- Why is it important to have good memories of people who have passed away and celebrate what they meant to you?
- As a class, come up with a list of ways that you can celebrate the life of someone and keep their memories alive.
- Molly wasn't the only one grieving. How did she help her Mum deal with the situation also?
- Why was the wattle tree so important to Molly? How did it remind her of Grandma? What was significant about the day that she visited the tree?

Activities:

- Think of a person that you love. Write them a letter telling them why they are so important to you and what things you love doing with them.
- Baking biscuits and scones was something Molly and her Grandma did together. Choose a selection of treats to make and have a baking day at school.