Sandcastle
By Philip Bunting
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$24.99

Rae and Grandad set out to build a sandcastle at the beach.

They make a tall tower. They raise great ramparts. They dig a deep moat. They even find a dragon. But will it be enough to hold the tide?

_Sandcastle_ is a beautiful exploration of the ebb and flow of life and is for anyone who has ever pondered the big questions about our place in the universe.

**Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.**

**Discussion Questions:**
Show the cover of _Sandcastle_ to your students and ask them:
- Where do you think this story might be set?
- What is it about the cover that makes you think that?
- Who might the people be and what are they doing?
- Make a list of things you need to make a really good sandcastle.
- What is your favourite thing to do when you go to the beach?
- Do you think this is going to be a happy or sad story? What makes you think that?

Now read the story to your class and when finished, start a discussion with the following questions:
- Explain in your own words what you think Grandpa meant when he said, ‘The sandcastle may be gone, but everything that made it is still here, and always will be.’
- Why do you think that Rae decided to build another, even better, sandcastle after Grandpa said that?
- What are the thousands of dots on the endpapers of the book (the very first and last pages of the book)? The author mentions ‘particles from the enormous universe’ at the end of the story. Imagine these dots were on a darker background. What might they be now? Hint: we see them at night, in the sky.
- Did you feel happy that Rae got to build a bigger and better sandcastle, or sad that the first one was washed away?
- What did you like about the story?
- What didn’t you like about it?
- How would you describe the book to your best friend (who hadn’t read it yet)?

**Activities:**
- Draw or paint your own version of your ‘imagined’ endpapers on dark paper.
- Design and build what you think is the perfect ‘sandcastle’. Use a variety of materials and display these all around your class.