

In The Shadow of an Elephant

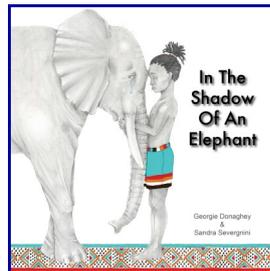
By Georgie Donaghey & Illustrated by Sandra Severgnini

Publisher: Little Pink Dog Books

ISBN 9780648256311 SCIS: 1911247

\$24.95

In the Shadow of an Elephant explores the relationship between an orphaned elephant and a small African boy. It touches on poaching, friendship, loss, trust and life coming full circle.



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

Themes:

- Relationships
- Loss
- Animal conservation
- Elephants

Discussion Questions:

- What do you think 'In the Shadow of an Elephant' will be about? How is the book cover helping you?
- How is the setting described to us? How do the illustrations support the setting of this story?
- This story has two dramatic events that not only change the direction of the story but also affect how we feel towards the story. What are these events and why are they part of storytelling? Draw a plot line for this story to show the climax in this type of narrative. Why do we need these types of events in stories when they are upsetting?
- How has Georgie Donaghey used different language to describe how: Lualani feels when she can't find her mother? Lualani feels when she is happy in the fields? Jabari and Lualani look after each other? Have students write down words and sentences they think answer these questions.
- How has the illustrator, Sandra Severgnini, represented feelings through the different colours throughout the story? Why has Sandra only coloured in some of the illustrations? Explore why there is no colour for the sky or earth on some pages. What is this adding to the story?
- *Questions to explain:* What did Lualani and Jabari teach each other? How did Lualani help Jabari when his father died?
- *Questions to evaluate:* Why was Lualani happy to trust Jabari and his father? Why is life full of happiness and sadness? Relate this to the story.
- *Big thinking questions:* What sorts of feelings would Jabari have towards the grasslands as an old man? Why? Why did the herd scatter at the start of the story? What sorts of things might cause this to happen? Why?
- *Friendship:* This story is told in past tense. It is a story told about Lualani and Jabari's life together. After reading the book, draw a timeline of the development of this friendship.
- *Questions to explore further:* Do you think they would have been friends if this event had not occurred? How did their friendship become stronger? Who are your friends? How do they help and support you? Write down or draw a memory of a time you made a new friend. Explore through writing and drawing how you met them and the fun things you did together.
- *Loss:* At the beginning of the book we meet Mamma only to see her taken away from Lualani. How did Lualani react when she couldn't find her? How do you think she would have continued to live without her mother if Jabari and Pappa had not come along? Jabari loses Pappa and then Lualani. How did he react when they passed away?
- *Study of elephants:* As part of a science unit of work, students in your class could explore elephants. Here are some possible areas to explore - Different types of elephants - Compare and contrast the different types of elephants in the world - The life cycle of both types of elephants - Where they live - How they live - How humans interact with them now and in the past - Elephants in the news - Explore famous elephants and why they are well known - Explore elephants in the news for the wrong reasons.