

Pear of Hope

By Wenda Shurety & Illustrated by Deb Hudson

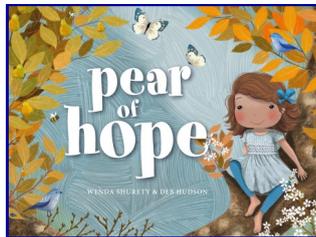
Publisher: EK Books / Exisle Publishing

ISBN 9781925820867 SCIS: 5358365

\$24.99

Anna loves the old pear tree that lives at the bottom of the garden. When she becomes seriously ill, her relationship with the tree provides comfort and peace on her journey, particularly when she plants a seed from one of the tree's pears.

Pear of Hope is the story of a little girl with cancer and her tale of recovery. This is intertwined with the growth of a pear tree, which symbolises the enigmatic concept of hope. Told through sensitive words and gentle, beautiful illustrations, the story will comfort and inspire any children who are struggling to feel positive, whatever journey they may be on.



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

Themes:

- Hope
- Bravery
- Adventure
- Illness
- Symbolism
- Nature

Discussion Questions:

Before Reading:

- Look at the cover of *Pear of Hope*. What do you see? What does it make you wonder about?
- Why do you think the title is *Pear of Hope*? What does it mean to have hope? Why do you think the author has chosen a pear for her story of hope?
- Explain the term 'symbolism', and that in some cultures the pear tree is a symbol of hope (see the final pages of the book for more information).
- What do you think the story is about? What kind of hardships might the girl have to overcome? How might she be feeling?
- Think of a time when you went through something difficult and needed to have hope. How did you feel? What was the outcome?

During Reading:

- Do you have your own secret hideout? What makes it special?
- What do you think has happened to Anna? Why did the tree change as well?
- What is starting to happen to both Anna and the new pear tree as time goes on?
- Discuss what is happening in the final, birthday spread.

After Reading:

- What did you learn about Anna and the pear tree?
- How were they the same? How were they different?
- How has the author used 'symbolism' in the story? What are the main ideas that have been represented?
- How did the pear tree help Anna to get better? Why is it important that she held on to hope?
- How do you think this story would help other people who are going through hard situations?
- Can you still be friends with someone if their looks change? Do you think Anna's friends treated her differently when her hair changed or when she stayed in bed? What is something kind you could do for a sick friend?
- What do you like about the illustrations? What kinds of things did you notice about the changes in the pictures? How do the illustrations make you feel? Point out the spreads that show how the colours, tones and textures used help to represent certain moods.
- What words and phrases have been used by the author to represent the emotions and Anna's changing health?
- What are some of the activities or ideas in the story that are good for your brain's health?
- Why is nature important, and what are some ways we can care for our environment?
- The book explains the symbolism of the pear tree according to different cultures around the world. Which aspects did you find interesting? What would you like to learn more about? Choose one and research it further.