

Lucy and Copper

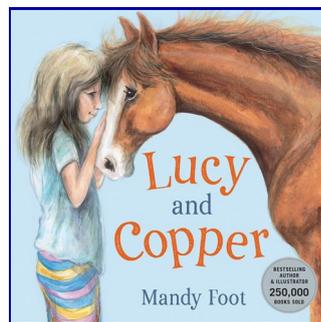
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Smudge has been Lucy's best friend since she was little. But these days, Lucy is too big to ride her beloved pony. Lucy is sure no one can replace Smudge, even when Pa brings home a new horse called Copper. Can Lucy grow to love Copper just as much? A story that will warm the heart of every animal lover, from the bestselling author-illustrator of *Joey & Riley* and *The Wheels on the Bus*.



Themes:

- Horses
- Acceptance
- Grief
- Growing up
- Farm life

Discussion Questions:

During Reading:

- After reading the first page, ask your students how they would describe Lucy's reaction when she met her new pony and just said 'No thanks'.
- Why do they think Lucy said this? What do they think a normal reaction might be to getting a new pony?
- Can the students predict where the story might be headed, when there are many memories mentioned that start with 'Not so long ago...'?
- How important was Smudge in Lucy's life?
- Do you think you would feel sad like Lucy did when she couldn't ride Smudge anymore?
- Part of growing up is accepting that things in our life have to change. What other examples are there in life when something important to you has changed? Write down an example and, if you are willing, share it with the class.
- Can you recall some of the things that Lucy and Smudge did together?
- If you have a pet, what makes them special to you? What are some of the things that you do together?
- Why did Lucy's attitude towards Copper change?
- Lucy said that she didn't need Copper, and her Pa said 'But Lucy, maybe he needs you'. Do you think this made Lucy think about Copper differently? Discuss this as a class.

Activities:

- Living life on a farm is very different to living in the city. Make a list of some things that might be different between farm life and city life. Draw a 'farm' scene and also a 'city' scene, and highlight what you think would be the best parts of both scenes.
- Smudge and Copper were very different horses. Research different types of horses and what their special characteristics are. Find a picture of your favourite of type of horse, and write three dot points listing some of the special characteristics that you found in your research.