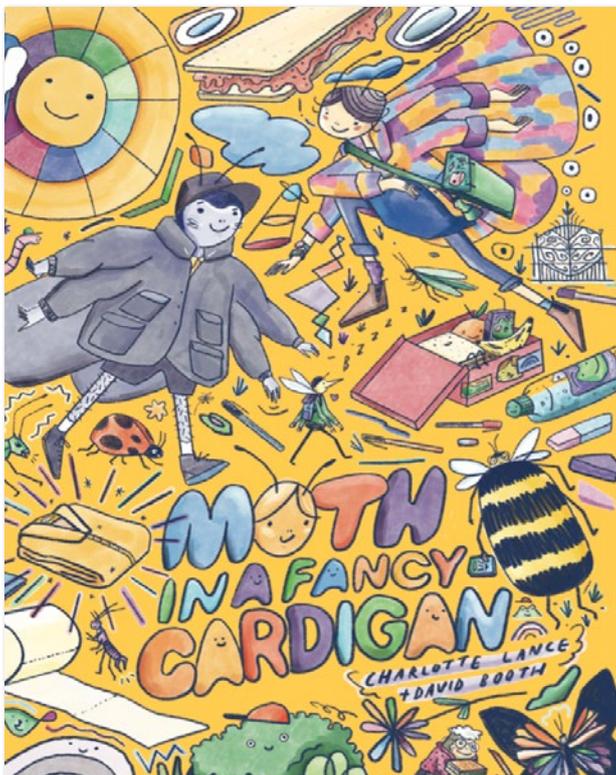


Teachers' notes for Moth in a Fancy Cardigan



ABOUT THE BOOK

SYNOPSIS

If a butterfly is just a moth in a fancy cardigan, then perhaps we should always expect more than what we see.

This is the story of Gary Grey Moth who desperately wants to be seen and Florence Butterfly who has had enough of being noticed. What would happen if they swapped cardigans and could be the bug they each always wanted to be?

A humorous, insightful story of identity and coming-of-age, told from the unlikely but utterly relatable perspectives of a moth and a butterfly.

THEMES

- Expectations
- Identity
- Self-esteem
- Independence
- Free will

AUTHOR

Charlotte Lance is a Melbourne-based author/illustrator who loves creating stories within stories. As the mother of three wild boys she often draws on her everyday life for inspiration and hilarity.

She also has the uncanny knack of creating scenes that truly come to life. This is her debut novel.

ILLUSTRATOR

David Booth, also known as Ghost Patrol, was born in Tasmania and now lives in Melbourne, where he has gained an international following for his artwork. This is his debut children's book.

Title:	Moth in a Fancy Cardigan
Author/Illustrator:	Charlotte Lance David Booth
ISBN:	9780645069624

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FOR THE CLASSROOM

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- *Moth in a Fancy Cardigan* is told from the perspective of two characters who each have a very different viewpoint – what does the world look like from Gary's perspective and how does it differ from Florence's perspective?
- What does the fancy cardigan represent for Gary? Why would he be willing to risk so much to wear it?
- Why would Florence want to give up her fancy cardigan? Would you give it up, if you were Florence?
- Are there any items in your life which carry meaning like the cardigan does? (Hint: perhaps a musical item, a sports jersey or pair of glasses.)
- If Gary and Florence were two of your friends from school, how would you describe them and what kind of activities would they enjoy? Choose some lines in the book that really highlight their personalities.
- Both Florence and Gary experience conflict with their parents – what is the emotional source of this conflict? Why do their families want them to wear their pre-assigned clothing?
- This story explores the power of other people's expectations and the way they shape us. Can you think of a time when your family or friends have wanted you to be something other than yourself?
- How does the illustrator's limited colour scheme reflect the emotional storyline? Choose your favourite image from the book and discuss how it embodies the character's experience of the world in that moment. (Hint: think about the colours, the character's facial expressions and posture, and what is happening in the background.)

ACTIVITIES

- Imagine yourself in the same world as *Moth in a Fancy Cardigan* and draw yourself as a bug – what kind would you be and how does it reflect your personality? (Consider comparing these with others at your table – can you guess who is who?)
- Are there any expectations from others that you carry with you every day? Can you draw an item of clothing (perhaps it's a sports jersey, colourful jumper or drab suit) that might represent those expectations?
- While considering this item, write a series of lists: What does it feel like to wear this item? Who expects you to wear it? What would it feel like to take it off?
- Imagine that you are Gary and write a letter to your friends and family explaining why you are unhappy, and why you want to wear something other than your grey coat and scarf.

