

A Feather On A Wing

By Maria Speyer

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A timely celebration of togetherness in the form of a comforting bedtime story with breathtaking illustrations.

'Close your eyes now and remember you are part of everything.'

When a little girl feels lonely in the dark, her sister takes her on a dreamy journey to imagine ways they can be part of something bigger - as waves in the water, as raindrops in a shower or as feathers on a wing.

Part adventure, part lullaby, this comforting story reminds us that we are not alone.



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

Themes:

- Bedtime Stories
- Adventure
- Belonging
- Lullabies
- Comfort

Discussion Notes:

- Before reading, use the cover and title of the book to discuss what it may be about. What might 'a feather on a wing' mean?
- The story begins with a quiet voice: 'Are you there? It's so lonely in the dark!' Although these are the only words uttered by the little girl, it is evident through the illustrations what she is thinking. Use the visual clues to discuss how she responds to her sister's words of wisdom.
- The text tells us that we 'are part of everything'. Explain what you think this means.
- On the 'daisy chain' page opening, how do we know the little sister trusts her older sister?
- Who are the other children in the 'treetop' page opening? What else do you see in this tree? Why are these things there? What does this tell us about belonging?
- What is the significance of the tree being 'big and old'? How does this page opening explore the importance of others in our lives? Who else might be behind the tree?
- What advice would you give someone who is feeling alone or afraid?
- Compare the little girl on the first page opening to the end of the book. How has she grown? What has helped her to do so?
- Have you ever shared a room with a sibling? What are the positives of sharing? If you have never shared a room, what do you think would be the advantages of sharing?
- Have you ever felt afraid of the dark, or of something else? How did you manage these feelings? Share in a reflection.
- What can you learn from the older sister about courage and the value of togetherness?

Activities:

- Using feathers, create a classroom display of a set of wings. Have students decorate a feather to represent themselves.
- Create a daisy chain for the classroom. Ask class members to write affirmations on the petals of each students' daisy.
- Consider doing some mindful colouring using the colours of *A Feather on a Wing*. A version of the big tree could be adapted for this purpose.
- On a small notecard, write a message to yourself to remind you that you are never alone.