



Finch

Author: Penny Matthews

Published by Walker Books

ISBN: 9781760650759

Synopsis:

This coming-of-age novel for middle-grade readers is about accepting and celebrating differences.

Audrey is used to not fitting in. She knows she's different – even her little sister calls her “Nerd Girl”. When her family moves to the country to live on a vineyard property, Audrey makes a secret friend: a boy, Finch, who seems to understand her as nobody else can. But there's something mysterious about Finch. Who is he, really?

Author Bio:

Penny Matthews is a freelance writer and editor based in Adelaide. She has written YA and junior novels, chapter books for beginning readers, and picture books for all age groups. Her picture books include *Pudding and Chips* (a CBCA Notable Book in 2005), *Little Red Bear* (shortlisted for the Queensland Premier's Literary Awards in 2004) and *A Year On Our Farm*, which was the CBCA's 2003 Book of the Year (Early Childhood) and a CBCA Honour Book in the Picture Book of the Year category. In 2010 *Something About Water* was joint winner of the Wilderness Society's Environment Award for Children's Literature. *A Girl Like Me*, her first young adult novel, was also a 2010 CBCA Notable Book and won the Sisters in Crime's 2011 Davitt Award for Young Adult Fiction.

<http://pennymatthews.com.au/>



Curriculum Links

Geography

Year 5

[ACHASSK112](#)

[ACHASS101](#)

English

Year 5

[ACELT1608](#)

Themes

Global warming

Climate change

Environmental issues

Sustainability

Change

Acceptance

Moving House

Self Confidence

English

Literature and context

Identify aspects of literary texts that convey details or information about particular social, cultural and historical contexts

Discuss the importance of Finch's character?

Before you get to the end of the book, (and you find out who Finch is), ask the class to predict who Finch might be?

- Why do you think the author decided to include a character from 1947?
-
- At the start of the book Audrey is quite uncertain about who she is, and where she fits in. Why is Finch's presence in the story important to Audrey's character development.
- What other characters in the book played a part in building Audrey's confidence?

Geography

Year 5 Content Descriptions

Concepts for developing understanding.

The content in the geography sub-strand provides opportunities to develop students' understanding of place, space, environment, interconnection, change and sustainability. The curriculum focuses on the factors that shape the characteristics of places. They explore how climate and landforms influence the human characteristics of places, and how human actions influence the environmental characteristics of places (change, environment, place, interconnection). Students examine the way spaces within places are organised and managed (space, place), and how people work to prevent, mitigate and prepare for natural hazards (environment, place).

Inquiry Questions

How do people and environments influence one another?

How do people influence the human characteristics of places and the management of spaces within them?

Geography

Year 5

In the book Audrey's neighbour, Mavis talks about changes she has seen on the land, including a decrease in birdlife. These changes she sees as a result of development, farming and vineyards, and even pet cats.

Investigate Human Impact in your area.

Your local Area:

- Get in touch with your local council/shire to see if they have an Historical Society. They should have photographs of your local area from different times in the past.

OR

- Visit your State Library, they will have historical information about your area. This information may also be available from their website.

OR

- Do a Google search for images of your area: now and then/past and present

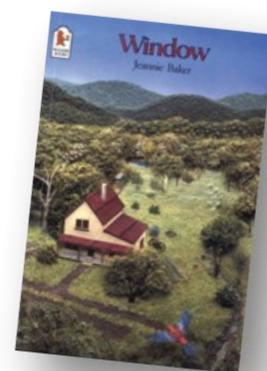
Environments in general

If finding before and after images from your local area proves difficult you may like to use Jeannie Bakers book Window.

This book shows the changes to one neighbourhood over the space of 22 years.

Window - 9780744594867

Window BIG BOOK - 9780744594874



Using whatever images you can find, discuss the following:

- What can you see that's changed?
- Is there anything that has remained the same?
- Why were these changes necessary? (population increase = more housing, more housing = more infrastructure, more food required = more land used for crops etc)
- What are the positive outcomes from these changes?
- Are there any negative outcomes? If so what are they?
- In light of any negative outcomes, choose one change in particular, and discuss what could have been done to lessen the impact (if anything)
- You may also like to consider any probable future issues, and consider ways the impact might be minimised.