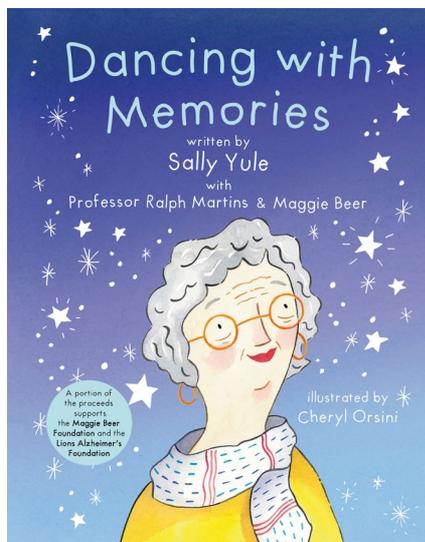


Classroom Resources



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Dancing with Memories

Sally Yule, Cheryl Orsini, Maggie Beer, Prof. Ralph Martins

BOOK SUMMARY

An intergenerational children's picture book about living with dementia.

Meet Lucy.

Lucy lives with dementia.

She wishes she didn't, but she does.

Her brain has changed, but she is still Lucy.

Thank goodness she has a brain AND a heart.

A moving and heartfelt picture book for young children and their families, to help them navigate the changes that come with living with Alzheimer's disease.

'Dancing with Memories empowers young people and their families to better understand dementia. It is a must-read.' – Professor Ralph Martins, Foundation Chair in Ageing and Alzheimer's Disease at Edith Cowan University WA, and Professor of Neurobiology at Macquarie University NSW.

'This is a beautiful book – how lovely is Lucy! I'm delighted my lunch box recipes are included, as food full of goodness and flavour gives us joy... just as Lucy does.' – Maggie Beer, cook, author and past Senior Australian of the Year

KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

- ACELA1461
- ACELA1470
- ACELT1591

THEMES

- Belonging
- Identity
- Health and Wellbeing

Recommended Reading Ages: 3+

Resources Created For: Lower Primary

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Classroom Resources

Before Reading

Predicting & Prior Knowledge

1. Have a look at the front cover:
 - a. Who do you think is the person on the front cover?
 - b. What might this book be about?
 - c. Do you know anyone who looks like the person on the front cover?
 - d. What's a memory?
 - e. Are memories important?
 - f. How might someone 'dance with memories'?
 - g. There is a special badge on the front cover that reads: A portion of the proceeds supports the Maggie Beer Foundation and the Lions Alzheimer's Foundation. What could this badge be telling us?
 - h. What do the key words on it mean?
 - i. Have you heard of Alzheimer's?
 - j. Do you know who Maggie Beer is?

During Reading

Shared Class Reading Plan

Read pages 1-6

1. Who is Lucy?
2. What does it mean when it says Lucy's house is full of memories?
3. What is special about today?
4. Lucy's doctor says she has dementia. Do you know what this means?
5. Do you know anyone with the same illness?

Read pages 7-12

1. What lets us know Lucy is still the same person she has always been?
2. What does Lucy do to try to stay healthy?
3. What are some other healthy foods Lucy could eat?
4. Why does Lucy decide to go to the wedding herself?

Read pages 13-18

1. What things does Lucy forget that may have helped her?
2. Why would Lucy's daughter possibly call the police?
3. How would you feel if you were Lucy and lost on your way to a special event?
4. If you came across someone lost, like Lucy, what could you do to help them?

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Read pages 19-24

1. Why does Reuben give Lucy a glass of water before taking her home?
2. Why is everyone so happy when Lucy returns home?
3. What does 'my heart is full' mean?

Looking at informative texts (pages 25 and 26)

1. How do we know this is not part of the story about Lucy?
2. Professor Ralph suggests three things that everyone can do to look after their brains. What are they?
3. Ask students to write their own basic informative text using question and answer format, like in the book.

Reading procedural texts (pages 27-30)

1. Look at the recipes and find common things in all of them – prep time, cooking time, servings, ingredient list and method/directions.
2. Ask students to write and illustrate their own simple recipe for a sandwich or snack they like to eat.
3. Cook one of the recipes as a class.
4. Watch a video of Maggie Beer preparing a simple dish and note down words she uses to describe her actions (verbs).
5. Talk about healthy lunchboxes – have students check if their lunchboxes contain any of the items on Maggie's list of Small Things.

After Reading

Writing

1. What's a good school memory you have?
2. What's a good outside school memory you have?
3. Do you have a special older person in your life? What's a good memory you have of time spent with them?

Write down the 'story' of your favourite memory.

4. Write the directions from one place to another. For example, your home to the bus stop where you catch the bus to school, from your house to a friend or relative's house, school to home, home to local shops. Be sure to illustrate your directions (Procedural).

Extension

Further resources for using this book in the classroom or library can be found on the book's website:

<https://www.dancingwithmemories.com.au/>

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About the Creators

Sally Yule has worked in health and aged care for more than twenty-five years. With her siblings and care team, she supports her parents who live with dementia. *Dancing with Memories* is her first children's book and seeks to give children agency and understanding as they support people living with dementia in their family or community. Sally lives in Sydney's Inner West with her husband Rod.

Cheryl Orsini is the much-loved illustrator of *The Fairy Dancers*, *The Tales of Mrs Mancini* and *The Magic Bookshop*. She has illustrated more than thirty children's books, and her work regularly appears in magazines and exhibitions. For more, visit www.cherylorsini.com

Maggie Beer AM is an acclaimed cook, known across Australia and internationally for her passion for using fresh, local and seasonal produce. From humble beginnings in Sydney's west, to working on her farm in the Barossa Valley, running a restaurant and managing fruit and olive orchards, Maggie has grown a food empire which now includes farming, food production, food writing, TV presenting and the Maggie Beer's Farm Shop. Since 2014, Maggie has been working tirelessly with her Maggie Beer Foundation, to educate and improve the food experiences for older Australians, particularly those living within aged-care homes.

Professor Ralph Martins is highly respected internationally as a prominent researcher in Ageing and Alzheimer's Disease (AD). Over his career, his insight into this devastating disease has led to several ground-breaking discoveries. He has also built a world-class research and clinical capacity in Western Australia linking with international peers at the forefront of the battle against AD. In recognition of his outstanding research achievements, Professor Martins was awarded the Western Australian of the Year in 2010, the Western Australian Citizen of the Year in 2011 and the Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the General Division in 2013.

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