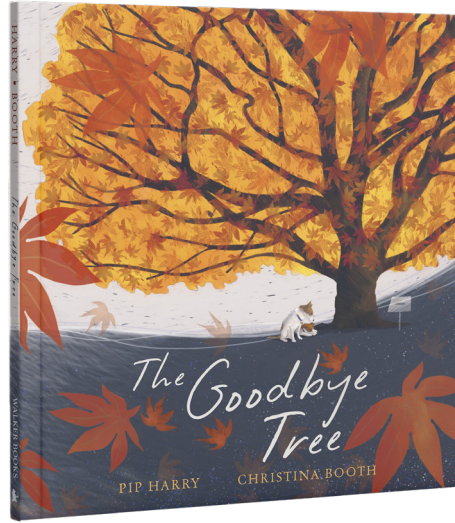


DISCUSSION GUIDE

Written by Walker Books Australia

Free education resources written
to the Australian curriculum.

ABOUT the BOOK



THE GOODBYE TREE
AUTHOR: PIP HARRY
9781760658168 HARDBACK
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A moving and insightful story of creating a memorial for a loved one, from award-winning author Pip Harry.

One summer morning, Nick and his family wake up early, and gather precious things to take with them. Today, they will plant a tree – a tree that will reach towards the sun and bring shade to those who rest beneath it. Together they will sow the seeds of a living memorial to someone who has gone before them, but will never be forgotten.

The Goodbye Tree is a poetic and insightful story of a family coming together in grief, and shows how loss can be the source of unexpected gifts.

For ages 5+

ABOUT the AUTHOR

PIP HARRY is an Australian author and journalist who lives on Sydney's Northern Beaches. Her acclaimed young adult, middle grade and picture books have won the CBCA Book of the Year and have been shortlisted for the NSW and Victorian Premier's Literary Awards, ABIAs and Indie Book Awards. Pip works as a content producer for a youth homelessness organisation and loves to swim, eat gelato and travel. She is passionate about children's literacy and the life changing power of reading and stories.

ABOUT the ILLUSTRATOR

Author and illustrator *CHRISTINA BOOTH* works from her bush studio in Tasmania, Australia. Trained as a teacher and painter, she loves that she makes up stories and colours for a living. Christina started her literary career illustrating for great Australian authors such as Max Fatchen, Colin Thiele, Christobel Mattingley and Jackie French. Many of Christina's books have been CBCA Notables and her 2009 picture book *Kip* was a CBCA Honour Book. She won the 2014 Environment Award for Children's Literature for *Welcome Home*, and her 2019 title *One Careless Night* was shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Awards, and won the Environment Award for Children's Literature and the Whitley Book Award.

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Why do you think the tree is called a "goodbye tree"?

Is it really just about saying goodbye? Why do you think they chose a tree to remember someone?

2. How do you think Nick feels in the story?

Can you point to parts of the story or pictures that show his feelings?

3. What are some ways the family remembers their loved one?

Do you think remembering someone can make us feel happy, sad, or both?

4. Have you ever remembered someone or something special?

What did you do to remember them?

5. What does it mean that the tree will grow and give shade to others?

How can something sad also turn into something kind or helpful?

ACTIVITIES:

1. Memory Leaf Tree

Create a large paper tree on the wall. Each student decorates a paper “leaf” with a drawing or words about someone/something they love (this can be a person, pet, or even a happy memory). Add the leaves to the tree to build a shared class “memory tree.”

2. Planting or Caring Activity

If possible, plant a small tree, flower, or class plant together. Talk about how caring for something living can help us remember and show love. Assign simple “plant helper” roles to build ongoing connection.

3. Feelings Through Art

Provide crayons, paints, or collage materials. Ask students to draw “what feelings look like” after reading the story.

Invite sharing with the class.