



# TEACHERS' RESOURCES

## RECOMMENDED FOR

Lower primary  
(Preschool – Year 1)

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## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** HSIE, English, Creative Arts
- **General capabilities:** Literacy, Critical and creative thinking, Personal and social capability, Visual literacy

## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- To discuss new vocabulary, respond to texts and share feelings and thoughts about the events and characters in texts.
- To use and experiment with different materials, and create artworks to communicate ideas to an audience
- To learn more about our relationship to our environment – both the built environment that we create and the natural environment and how those interact.

## THEMES

- Change and continuity
- Friendship/Significant relationships
- Our relationship to the natural and built environment
- Creativity/imagination

## PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

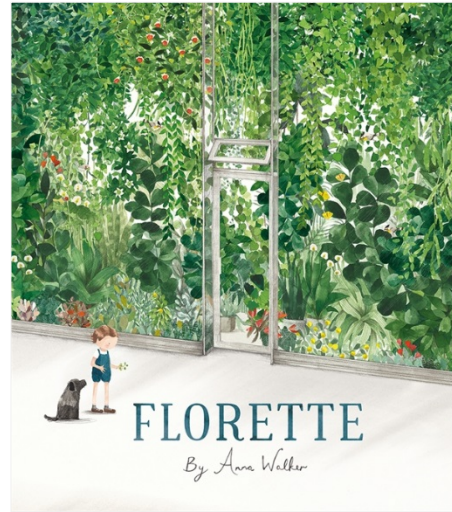
## PUBLICATION DETAILS

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## Florette

Anna Walker

## PLOT SUMMARY

When Mae has to move house from the country to the city, she feels lonely and sad – until she discovers a beautiful place full of green in the centre of the city. What she finds there sparks something special and beautiful that will make her feel much more at home.

From the creative talent who brought us *Mr Huff* and illustrated *Little Cat and the Big Red Bus*, *All Through the Year*, *Today We Have No Plans*, *Starting School* and *What Do You Wish For?*

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anna Walker writes and illustrates children's books and is based in Melbourne. Her charming studio is shared with a printmaker, Rosy the lamp, a few friendly plants, and knitted, woolly creatures.

Working with pencil, ink and collage, Anna develops her characters and enjoys spending time with them before they venture out into the world. Her illustrations are inspired by the everyday details of life and the amusing antics of her menagerie.

Anna's latest book with Penguin is *Mr Huff*, an exploration of how children deal with the worrying feelings that can accompany a bad day. Together with Jane Godwin, Anna has also recently created a beautiful picture book for Christmas, called *What Do You Wish For?*

## AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Anna says:

In 2014 I travelled to Europe with my family. Early one morning we were walking to the Louvre from our hotel and on the other side of a busy street I saw a shop front with plants pressed up against the window. The shop was closed. I stood for a moment looking at the leaves and then ran to catch up with kids. It was later that I kept wondering what was inside that forest and whether I could capture that feeling in a picture book.

The name of this book came from a visit our family made to the Palace of Versailles near Paris (it was made into a royal palace by France's King Louis XIV in the late 1600s). There was a picture on the wall of the King's beloved dogs. One of them was named Florisette. I wrote down the name in my visual diary and together the 'forest' in the window in Paris and 'Florisette' merged to become 'Florette'.

## THEMES

- **Change and continuity:** Using the language and events in the book children can learn about and discuss things associated with time, change and place
- **Friendship/Significant relationships:** Using the story of how Mae and her family move away from their secure and familiar life to a new one, students can identify personally significant events, places and people and compare with those of their peers. How are they similar and different to each other.
- **Our relationship to the natural and built environment:** Looking at the book's illustrations and text, students can identify the elements of the built environment of a city and the effect those have on the main character. They can compare how it might have been for Mae to live in a more natural environment, and then how by bringing some of the natural environment into the built environment can change how we feel.
- **Creativity/Imagination:** Using the illustration in the book, children can identify features in the

book that are significant to them and link that to their own experience. They can talk about the use of different colours, shapes, textures and other things of interest in the art and also talk about the artist and how/why she made the book.

## PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Look at the front cover of the book. Read the title together. Can you see what the title *Florette* is referring to? What do you think the story will be about?
2. Open the book wide and explore the front and back cover as one large image. Where do you think the story is set? City or country. How does the choice of colours make you feel and on the front and the back?
3. Read the blurb at the back of the book. What do you feel about it? What kind of things are you now expecting to see inside the book? What questions do you have?
4. Just inside the cover, before the title pages and the start of the story, are some illustrated pages. These are called 'endpapers'. What do the endpapers in the front of the book show you? What do they add to what you've already guessed about the story? (When you've finished reading the book, try looking at the front and back endpapers together. Are they the same? If not, what is different about them. How does that tie in with the story?)

## KEY STUDY TOPICS

### English

#### Questions

1. How many characters are in this story? Do you think things other than people can be characters in a story? How? Can you think of other stories that have non-human or non-living characters?

#### Activity

1. **New Words:** Can you find three words in the book that are new to you? Try to work out what they mean from the context (the way they are used and what surrounds them).



## Human Society and Its Environment

Anna says:

My story explores the idea of adapting to a new environment. I love the idea that our imagination helps us through times of transition or when we are out of our comfort zone.

For Mae, finding herself in a strange place away from her familiar surroundings is a challenge. Trying to create a garden in her new surroundings is Mae's way of finding her place in the world.

For me drawing and imagining creatures, and looking for tiny details in the natural world around me is a way of understanding the world and finding joy in it.

### Questions

1. Has there been a time when you've had to leave something special behind – a toy, a pet, a friend, a family member?
2. Do you remember a time when you were in a strange or new place and didn't feel very comfortable?
3. What did you do to help you feel comfortable?
4. Did someone else help you?
5. What character in the story seems to be there on every page with Mae?

### Activity

1. **Memory drawing:** Do a drawing about your own experience of moving to a new home, school or starting anything new. They might include something that helped them settle into their new situation.
2. **Garden Ideas:** Provide each child with a seed, seedling or bulb, then make a garden together. Or the children could make a terrarium for the classroom.

## Creative Arts

The author used ink and watercolour paints with some collage for the artwork in this book.

### Questions

1. What do you notice about the very first page of the story when they are leaving their old home? (Hint: what can you see of their old home?)
2. What do you notice about the colours in the first few pages of the story compared to colours later in the story? How does it make you feel?

### Activities

1. **Paper Forest:** Have the class make a paper forest together usually simple collage. First they could explore different plants – unusual plants, exotic plants, imaginary plants, interesting trees. Then individually or in groups as them to create any kind of plant using coloured paper, tissue paper and any other collage items pasted on with glue. The individual plants could then be gathered into one large mural.
2. **Leaf Mural:** Collect different shaped and coloured leaved and stick them onto paper, making patterns. A lovely project for autumn!
3. **Chalk Drawing:** Draw a chalk garden on the pavement in the playground or on large sheets of black or green paper. The children could add their won imaginary creatures in the chalk garden.

## READING FLORETTE

Anna Walker is an author and illustrator. Just as much, if not more, of the story being told is conveyed through the illustrations in Florette. It is important to pause and ask students to examine the illustrations on each page carefully for further information and clues to the story. Whilst asking students questions about the text, look for questions that can be answered with the illustration on the page.

### Page 1

- What things in the story tell you that the family is moving house? How do you think the little girl, Mae, is feeling about that?

### Page 2 and 3

- Do you live in an area like this? If not, how is the area around your house different? What is man-made and what is natural in this illustration.

### Page 4 and 5

- Look at how Mae is standing when she's next to the lion statue. How does that tell you about how she's feeling?
- Have you ever collected treasures like Mae? What do you keep yours in? What sort of things do you like to collect? Why are they special to you?
- What do you think might be in the boxes?



### Page 6 and 7

- What is Mae trying to do by making her chalk drawing?
- What do you think the other children think about it? Why?

### Page 8 and 9

- Can you see any of the chalk drawings now? What has happened?
- On page 9, what has Mae used the chalk for now?

### Page 10 and 11

- What happened to Mae's daisies that went missing?
- What other things has Mae drawn on the boxes?
- What is she trying to do by drawing on the boxes?

### Page 12 and 13

- When Mae looks out of the window, why do the people below look like ants? (Hint: look at the the view from her window on p2)
- On p15, what kinds of shops can you see?

### Page 14 and 15

- Follow Mae's journey across the two pages. How does Mae feel by the bottom of p15 when she finally gets to the park that she saw from her window on p14? How do you think it might be different to a park in the country or perhaps even her backyard swing when she lived in the country?

### Page 16 and 17

- Go back to the page opposite page 1 and look closely at the illustration of Mae's old house in the country. Now read pages 18 and 19.
- Why do you think Mae gets excited when she sees the apple-tree bird?

### Page 18 and 19

- Wow! How did you feel when you first saw this spread? How does it compare to the rest of the city?
- What sort of shop do you think Florette is?
- Can you see where the apple-tree bird has gone? Why do you think it has gone there?

### Page 20 and 21

- Where is the apple-tree bird now?
- Look closely inside the Florette shop. How many birds can you see?
- What is Mae's dog looking at?
- Where do you think the little plant Mae finds might have come from?

### Page 23 & over the page on 24

Compare these pages with the spread on pp14-15. What is different on her journey home? (Hint: Look at her mum and little sister, the man on the bike and the park with tiny stones and what is on and around the bridge.)

### Page 25

What do you think Mae might do with her jar?

### Page 26 and 27

- Have you ever planted anything in a pot or in the garden? What things do you need for planting?
- Once you have planted something, what do you need to do to care for it?
- Where have you seen the other children before in the story? How are they different now?
- Do you think Mae is making some friends now? Why?

### Page 28 and 29

- What do you think has happened after Mae planted the first plant on pages 26 and 27?
- How long do you think it might have taken to make this garden?
- What creatures can you see hiding in the picture? What animals/birds have you seen in your garden?

### Page 30

- How has the garden changed in this illustration since p29?
- What are the birds that you can see? Why do you think they have now appeared?
- Compare the scene here to the one on pp 6-7.



## ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Florette	Anna Walker	9780670079414	Pre-1	\$24.99		
Mr Huff	Anna Walker	9780670078042	K-2	\$24.99		
What Do You Wish For?	Jane Godwin & Anna Walker	9780670078110	K-2	\$24.99		
Starting School	Jane Godwin & Anna Walker	9780670076765	Pre-K	\$24.99		
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