

A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO

A FLUTE IN MAYFERRY STREET by Eileen Dunlop



www.florisbooks.co.uk

Themes/issues addressed in this book

Disability; mystery and ghosts; single-parent family; First World War

Book Summary

Colin lives in a house in Mayferry Street in Edinburgh's beautiful Georgian New Town, with his disabled sister, Marion, and widowed mother. On finding a long-forgotten letter from 1914, his normally quiet life is thrown into disarray as the house comes alive with whisperings and the mysterious sound of a flute playing. Colin and Marion follow the clues to reveal a family secret that has repercussions for their own lives in this exciting ghostly story.

BEFORE READING

Group Activities

- Discussion: talk about the house you live in and what is interesting about it.
- Discussion: talk about sad things that have happened, and how you dealt with them.
- Discussion: talk about what it is like to live in a family and why it is sometimes difficult.

AFTER READING

Individual Work

- Write a paragraph describing which bit of the story was the most exciting, and why.
- Find out about the First World War. When did it start, and where was it fought?
- Re-read the bit of the book where Jen tells Colin he was silly to think there was a flute playing upstairs. Write about a time when the adults around you didn't realize that something important was going on.

Group Activities

- Discussion: search through the book and find out when each clue to the mystery is given, for example, when Colin notices the floorboards in the attic where the high bed once was. How many clues can you find?
- Discussion: talk about Colin's mother and how she helps them. What information does she give about the history of the War, or about the family? How many different pieces of information can you find?

Vocabulary

- Check you know what the following words mean:
 - hunched
 - disapproving
 - pacifist
 - passivity
 - dismantle
 - diversion
 - investigate
 - faultlessly
 - incredulously
 - villain
 - temptation

FLYWAYS

Series Summary

Flyways was conceived in response to the general decline in children's literacy levels. The series provides high quality, imaginative and thought-provoking fiction to children who are currently unchallenged by the majority of available reading material. The Flyways series includes a high percentage of prize-winning international literature, as well as books by new and established authors.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS COVERED

5-14 Curriculum (Scotland)

Years: P6-P7, S1-S3

Reading:

Reading for Information
Reading to Reflect
Awareness of Genre

Talking:

Talking in groups
Talking about texts
Talking about experiences, feeling and opinions

Writing:

Functional
Imaginative

National Curriculum (England, Wales, Northern Ireland)

Key Stages 2 and 3

English: Reading

Reading Strategies
Response to Texts, inc analysing and evaluating

Reading for Information

National Literacy Strategy:

Text-Level Reading
Text-Level Writing
Vocabulary