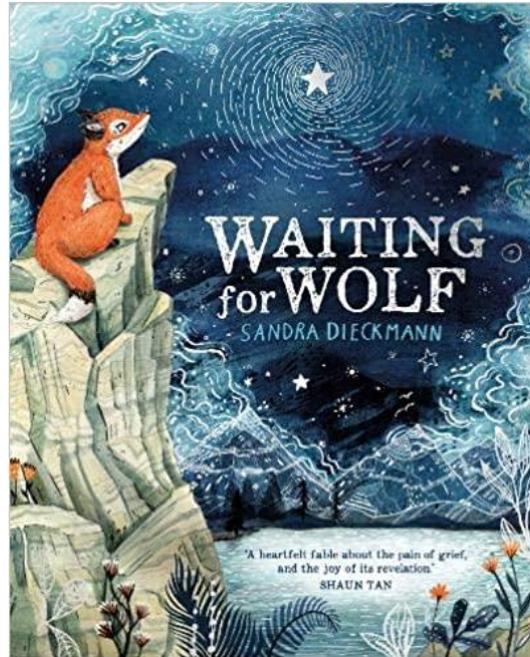


No Outsiders – home activities

Waiting for wolf by Sandra Dieckmann



(2019, Hodder children's books)

<https://www.foyles.co.uk/witem/childrens/waiting-for-wolf,sandra-dieckmann-9781444946581?term=waiting+for+wolf>

Blurb:

Fox and wolf run together, swim together and marvel at the beautiful world around them together. Until, one day, Wolf is no longer there....

A beautiful and heartfelt picture book about friendship and loss and learning to carry on

Sandra Dieckmann reads Waiting for wolf here <https://youtu.be/34CHRRtPmZY>

No Outsiders links: friendship, feeling alone, loss, talking about feelings

The activities in this pack are aimed at upper Key stage 2 children, although the beautiful book will be enjoyed by all.

No Outsiders – home activities 1

Waiting for wolf by Sandra Dieckmann

Look at this picture; what do you see?



This is Nigel. Nigel met Phedre when they were both 16 years old and they later got married and had children. Nigel and Phedre were married for over 50- years and loved each other very much. When Phedre was 69 she died and she left her husband instructions to keep watering the plants in the bathroom when she was gone. Nigel faithfully watered the plants for five years until his children helped him move in to a retirement home, and the truth about the plants was discovered; they were made of plastic.

Nigel and Phedre's daughter Nicol said, "It was only when we flew over to help him move we realised the plants were plastic. He said, 'I wondered why they still looked so good!'."

"We really laughed about it and it was lovely to think that my mum was still there with us.... it would have tickled her to know he'd actually done it."

Nicol said watering the plants gave her father something to do, but he did wonder why there were often puddles on the bathroom floor. He thought the toilet was leaking.

Nicol shared the story on twitter and it quickly went viral. People shared their own stories about lost loved ones and remarked on the wonderful sense of humour Nicol's mum must have had.

Now think about these questions:

1. Why do you think Phedre asked Nigel to water her plants?

2. How do you think Nigel felt every time he watered the plant in the bathroom?

3. Why were there puddles on the bathroom floor?

4. How do you think Nigel felt when he realised the plant in the bathroom was plastic? How do you think he felt about Phedre?

5. "We really laughed about it and it was lovely to think that my Mum was still there with us." Was Mum still there with them? What does the daughter mean?

6. What can we learn from this story?

7. At the end of the film Sandra says, "We're never really alone. And even if somebody leaves forever, there's always people there that love us and are there for us. And the people that we've known, we can remember them, and that can make us happy." What does she mean? What can we learn from this? How is the story of Phedre and Nigel related to this?

8. Why do you think Sandra chose to bathe the mountains in sunshine at the end of the book? What is she showing us?

No Outsiders – home activities 2

Waiting for wolf by Sandra Dieckmann

The art work in this story is beautiful; look at the opening page where Sandra talks about the mountains; look at the different shapes and shades she has used to create her landscape.

Create a piece of art using this scene as a starting point. Study the shapes and forms and colours. You could choose another page from the book to recreate; for example, the page where Wolf says he will be 'starlight tomorrow' uses different patterns to show a mountain range.

No Outsiders – home activities 3

Waiting for wolf by Sandra Dieckmann

“Life is beautiful,” whispered Fox. Suddenly, all the things they had done together came flooding back in bright colours”

“He was gone, but all the wonderful things they had shared together would be with her always.”

What memories of her time with Fox do you think she will treasure? In each box, record a memory to help Fox celebrate her special time with Wolf. Choose and illustrate four memories.

No Outsiders – home activities 4

Waiting for wolf by Sandra Dieckmann

The language used by the author has been carefully chosen to evoke emotion in the reader. Use the text below to as a stimulus for your own writing, build a paragraph extending Sandra Dieckmann’s ideas and words and developing her descriptions.

She called in to the starry sky, “Woolf!” There was no answer. So she yelled louder in to the crushing silence...

She reached up in to the sky and pulled the shining star blanket down from the sky. Everything went dark....

She sat there for a long time, wrapped in the velvety star blanket....

Fox put the star blanket gently back where it belonged. The moon shone down peacefully over the lake and the stars danced in the sky.....

No Outsiders – home activities 5

Waiting for wolf by Sandra Dieckmann

Listen to the story and answer the questions below:

1. Wolf and Fox talk and laugh for hours. What do you think they talk about? How have they become such good friends?

2. Do you think Wolf knows he is about to die? Explain your answer.

3. How does wolf try to prepare Fox for the change that is about to happen? Why doesn't Wolf tell Fox the truth? Do you think this is the right decision? Explain your answer.

4. At what point do you think Fox understands what has happened? How do we know she knows?

5. Why do you think Fox pulls the shining star blanket down from the sky?

6. Why do you think Fox seeing her bright red paw stops her tears?

7. "Fox knew she wasn't going to stay in the darkness any longer. She wanted to swim in the blue lake and run along the yellow sand." How, why have Fox's feelings changed?

8. Why do you think Sandra Diekmann chose to write this story? Is there a message?