

Lilli and Her Shadow

Pat Dudgeon and Laura Dudgeon

illustrations by Sally Morgan and Tracey Gibbs

Waarda series editor: Sally Morgan

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Synopsis

Lilli and her family are moving down to the big city, and Lilli is worried she'll be terribly lonely. She knows she'll miss her cousins, her uncles and aunts, her old friends, but more than anyone, she'll miss her Nan. However, Nan has her own way of keeping Lilli company. She sends her special friend, a mysterious, magical dingo-cat called Shadow to keep an eye on Lilli. With Shadow by her side Lilli finds the transition to her new life much easier. Before long she realises Nan needs Shadow much more than she does, so together they find a way to send him home.

Writing Style

Lilli and Her Shadow is told in the third person, but principally from the point of view of Lilli, a young girl. Broken into short chapters, the writing pulls the reader through the book with dynamic descriptions and lively dialogue.

Themes

Lilli and Her Shadow is about family relationships and change.

About the Authors

'My name is Pat Dudgeon and I am Laura's aunty. I was born in Darwin in 1959. My people are the Beniol Bardi people from Broome way in Western Australia.'

'My name is Laura Dudgeon. Pat Dudgeon is my aunty. I was born in Darwin in 1993. My country is the Kimberley. I am descended from the Beniol Bardi people from north of Broome and the Giga people in the East Kimberley.'

Authors' Motivation

Pat says: 'I was fortunate that I grew up with my mother and grandmother who were great role models for me. Laura and I wrote this story thinking about our lovely grandmothers and Laura's move to Perth when she was younger.'

Laura says: 'My story was inspired by my Nana and is based in my hometown of Darwin.'



Lilli's move from a country town to the big city was based on my own experience of moving with my mother from Darwin to the big city lights of Perth.'

STUDY NOTES

Pre-reading

Look at the book and think about the impression it gives you before reading.

- Based on the **title** alone, what do you expect the book to be about?
- Based on the **cover illustration** and the **title**, what do you expect the book to be about?
- Are your answers to questions 1 and 2 different? Why?
- Write, draw or tell your own story called *Lilli and Her Shadow*, using just the title and cover illustration as your start point.
- Read the back cover blurb. Does this change your ideas about the book?
- Does the blurb make you want to read the book? Why/why not?

After reading

Structure and presentation

After reading the story look again at the cover illustration.

- Which elements of the story are illustrated on the cover? Why do you think the illustrator chose to paint those elements?
- Write an alternative blurb for the story.
- How important are the internal illustrations to your understanding of the story? Draw your own pictures (not necessarily based on those in the book) of Lilli, Nan, Uncle Bernie or Shadow.
- This is a short chapter book. Why do you think the story is divided into chapters? How do the chapters generally begin and end?
- The story is told in the third person, but principally from Lilli's point of view. How might the story have been different if it was told from Nan's point of view, or Shadow's?

Family:

Lilli has several different generations of family in her life – we read about her brother, parents, grandmother, cousins and uncle.

- How similar or dissimilar is Lilli's family to yours?
- Lilli has a special relationship with her grandmother. Do you have grandparents? Why are grandparents different to parents? Have your grandparents taught you/showed you anything special? What are your favourite activities with them? Write about one of your grandparents or another adult in your family.
- Do you have any brothers or sisters? What are they like? Find a partner and tell each other about your siblings or another relative of a similar age. Describe their physical attributes, their personality, their hobbies.
- Choose one of your siblings, or a different family member, and write up two lists about them: draw a line down the middle of a sheet of paper and at the top of each column write 'Similar' and 'Different'. On one side write a list of the things that are the same about you and that person, and a list of the things that are different about you and that person.

Special Friends:

Lilli's grandmother lends her special friend Shadow to Lilli. At first Lilli is frightened of Shadow but she grows to love him.

- Is it important to the story that Shadow is a 'dingo cat'? How might the story be different if Shadow was a different kind of creature? Would you like to have a special friend like Shadow? Make up your own shadow creature. What would you do with it? Would you tell other people or keep it a secret? What would you call it?
- Lilli's new friend Alice tells her about the teddy bear she took to school when she was new. Do you have something that you take to new places or situations? How does it make you feel? Do you keep it secret?

Place:

Lilli's family moves from the country to the city.

- Can you guess from the story where in Australia Lilli lived before the move? What are some of the clues to where the town is located?
- Do you live in the city or the country? Have you always?
- How does it feel/how do you think it would feel to move a long way from the place you've always known? What special things would you be sure to take with you? Why? What would you miss most about your place?
- If you live in the city do you think you would like to live in the country? Why/why not?
- If you live in the bush do you think you would like to live in a city? Why/why not?

Indigenous Story-telling:

- Are Indigenous stories different to other kinds of stories you've read? In what ways are they different? In what ways are they similar?
- Invite a local Indigenous spokesperson to come and talk to the class about their people's storytelling and culture.
- Arrange for a language lesson in the Indigenous language of your local area.

Aboriginal perspectives:

There are substantial resources for exploring Aboriginal perspectives across the curriculum available at:

- <http://www.det.wa.edu.au/education/abled/apac/lessons/index.html>
- <http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/primary/hsie/crosscurriculum/aboriginal/index.htm>
- <http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/indigenous/>
- <http://www.fep.education.tas.gov.au/English/abtorres.htm>
- <http://www.aboriginaleducation.sa.edu.au/pages/Educators/>

Write to one or both of the authors and tell them what their story made you think about, and how it made you feel. Send your letter c/o Fremantle Press.