

LILY IN THE MIRROR

PAULA HAYES

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YEAR LEVEL: Y4–7

ABOUT THE BOOK

Lily loves all things dark and mysterious, so when she discovers a magic mirror in a locked room it's like a dream come true. Or is it ...

With a new friend who needs her help, and an older brother who needs to get a life, Lily will require all eleven fingers at her disposal, plus a hefty slice of Grandad's chocolate ganache cake, to fix a long-forgotten mystery that's very close to home.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paula Hayes has a BA in Literature and History and a Diploma of Education from the University of Western Australia. Her short story 'The Universe Under My Bed' was published in *Alphabet Soup*, a children's literary magazine (now a blog), and she has self-published a young adult novel, *Heart*, about the supernatural journey of a lost WWI Perth soldier. Paula is a book reviewer for *Creative Kids Tales*. She is married with four children, three dogs and five rabbits.

THEMES

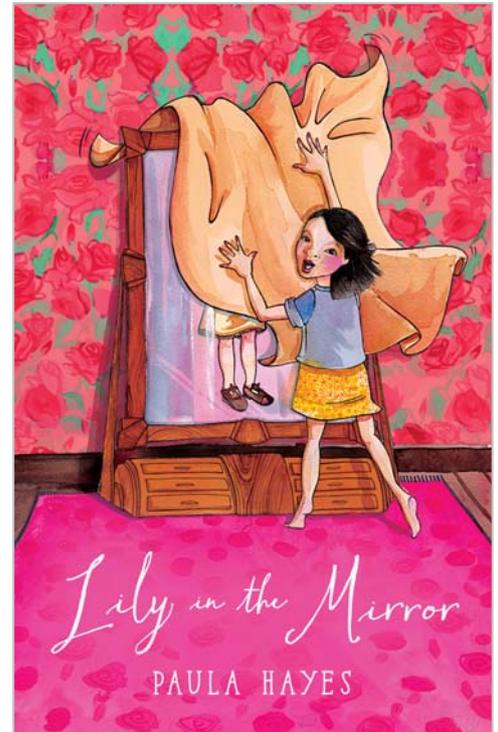
- Family
- Dementia
- Bullying
- Self-image
- Mystery
- Magic
- Imagination

AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

Y4–7 English

USEFUL WEBSITES

- The author's website: <https://paulahayesblog.wordpress.com>
- Bullying No Way: <http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au>



CLASSROOM IDEAS

Discussion questions

1. Use five adjectives to describe your first impression of the character Lily.
2. How does Lily's character change from the beginning of the book to its end? How does the relationship with Other Lily help Lily grow and become more confident?
3. Lily is fascinated by the dark and mysterious.
 - a. Brainstorm a list of settings, adjectives and verbs that can evoke a 'dark and mysterious' atmosphere.
 - b. What stories have you read that successfully created this atmosphere?
4. Genre study: fantasy
 - a. Create a class definition of the term 'genre'.
 - b. *It is usually unloved orphans that have all the magical luck.* (p. 7) Lily is a huge fan of the Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling – which genre does this series belong to? Have you read it? Did you enjoy it?
 - c. In pairs, brainstorm a list of literary conventions belonging to the fantasy genre. Do you think *Lily in the Mirror* fits this genre? Why/why not?
 - d. What genre/s of books do you usually like to read? Why?
 - e. Lily is passionate about reading. What is your favourite book? Write a persuasive essay or give an oral presentation encouraging your audience to read it.
5. Research topic: dementia
 - a. Create a fact sheet with the following subheadings: description; types; symptoms; cause/s; treatment/s.
 - b. How does Lily feel about her grandmother's dementia? What positive ways does Lily find to deal with this?
6. *In our family when someone says the same word a lot, my dad calls it their 'ism'. This means it is one of their catchphrases.* (p. 44) Do you have any 'isms'?
7. Lily's family is caring and loving, but her older brother, Linden, continually bullies her.
 - a. What is bullying? Define together as a class and give examples.
 - b. What is your school's bullying policy? What are some actions you can take if you or someone you know are being bullied? Discuss as a class.
 - c. Why do you think Linden bullies Lily? How does this make Lily feel?
 - d. Why does Lily relate to Other Lily's stories about Edgar the poltergeist and Dawn Hornbuckle?
 - e. How does the relationship between Lily and Linden change by the end of the book? What are the ways Lily and her family hold Linden to account?
8. *Zinnzy smiled and translated for us, 'Love is not a figment, it is alive and real and in this room.'* (p. 153) What do you think Zinnia means here?

Creative writing

1. **Persuasive essay:** Lily's all-time favourite hobby is googling new words to learn.
 - a. In pairs, google ten new words to use in your own writing.
 - b. What is your favourite hobby? Write a persuasive essay that describes the activity in detail and encourages your audience to try it.
2. **Diary entry:** How would you feel if you were trapped in the mirror like Other Lily? Write an imaginative diary entry from her point of view. What do you imagine the world inside the mirror to look like? Be sure to include some of Other Lily's adventures in this parallel universe.
3. **Fantasy narratives:** Using a narrative planning framework (exposition; conflict; rising action; climax; falling action; resolution), create a short story based on one of the following writing prompts inspired by *Lily in the Mirror*:
 - a. Imagine that you have a *doppelganger ... a look-alike on the outside but totally different on the inside.* (p. 22)
 - b. *'This is Other Lily ... she did disappear in 1947 but only to a parallel universe in the mirror.'* (p. 145) Write a short story on the theme of time travel and a journey to a parallel universe.
 - c. *She had scribbled Edgar's curse over and over like she was trying to work out what special clue she was missing. She had written down all the possible phrases that might undo it.* (pp. 164–165). Write a short story entitled 'The Curse'.
 - d. Write a short story about a house that is haunted by a poltergeist.

4. **Recipes:** Lily's grandad loves to bake all kinds of cakes. In teams of four, research the components of a recipe (title; ingredients/measurements; method/cooking directions; serving suggestions).
 - a. As a team, create a recipe for your very own cake to bake at school.
 - b. Invite students to try each of the cakes made by their classmates. They should then act as food critics and write a review. Graph and tally the results – which cake was most popular?
 - c. Design a menu listing all the different kinds of cakes your class has produced.
 - d. Hold a bake sale at lunchtime – donate the money raised to a charity of your choice.
5. **Family history:** Lily embarks on a voyage of discovery about her family ancestry in Treebark. Write a personal narrative about your own family history. You may like to include photographs.
6. **Continue the story:** What prank do you think Nimmy and Other Lily might play on Dawn to teach her to take better care of her dogs at the end of the book? Write this scene.
7. **Magazine article:** How would you describe the character Edgar the poltergeist? Research a famous haunting from around the world and write a magazine article about it.
8. **Puns:** 'I have been trapped ever since. After years of reflection – forgive the pun – I am not sure what I am anymore.' (p. 65) *What is a pun? In pairs, create some of your own!*
9. **Book review:** Write a critical book review of *Lily in the Mirror*. In your opinion, what were the strengths and weaknesses of the book? To whom will you recommend this book and why?

Art

1. **Creativity:** 'Go to your magical creative place and think of endless possibilities.' (p. 170) Using this quote as inspiration, create an artwork in any medium of your choice about *Lily in the Mirror* – a visual piece, sculpture, short story, poem, dance, song, script, new invention etc.
2. **Illustration:** Draw a picture of what you imagine the Rosy Room to look like.

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