

# The Courage of Magnolia Moon

AUTHOR

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ILLUSTRATOR

**KATHERINE QUINN**

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Mid Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Magnolia Moon returns with a story of the great daring it takes to be ten years old (almost eleven). Whether she's helping a friend be brave, standing up to bullies or helping out at home, Magnolia shows readers how a little bit of courage can make life magical. A lyrical and imaginative tale which highlights everyday wonders through Magnolia's curious and observant nature.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Edwina Wyatt is an award-winning Australian children's author. She grew up in Sydney, and worked as a lawyer and a high school teacher before becoming a writer of books for young readers. Her debut junior fiction novel was *The Secrets of Magnolia Moon*. Edwina lives in the Victorian High Country with her husband and two children. She has a passion for horses, paddocks and pine trees, and is an 'aspiring' vegetable gardener and pianist (although she cannot read music...).

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Katherine Quinn is a New Zealand illustrator and surface pattern textile designer based in Hawkes Bay. She works in both traditional and digital illustration, and her work often focuses on long-limbed, big-eyed girls with a touch of innocence and a sense of adventure.

## STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the novel, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:
  - The title of the book
  - The author
  - The publisher
  - The blurb.
- What can you see happening on the cover of this book?
- Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.
  - After reading, design your own cover for the book with new imagery and a new tagline that will persuade and interest people in reading the book.
- Discuss the title of the book. Do you think this is a good title? Why or why not? If you were asked to choose an alternative title for the book, what would it be? Remember, a good title should capture the audience's attention and

give them some idea of what the book is about.

- The orientation sets the scene, mood and introduces the characters. In the opening scene of the novel:
  - Which character/s are we introduced to?
  - What mood is the author setting?
  - Write what you think could happen in the story based on how the writer has set the story up.
- It is the author's job to create trouble for their characters. They need to make it difficult for the characters to achieve their goals. What trouble (complications) does the author create to make it difficult for the main character to achieve their goal/s?
- Can you identify the climax of the story, the moment of highest tension?
- Characterisation is how the characters in a novel are described physically, their point of view, their personalities, their private thoughts and their actions. Draw a picture of a character from the book and then describe their personality in five words.
  - Compare your ideas of that character with other people in your class. Did you imagine the same person?
- Consider the world the author has created in this novel. Can you describe it? How is it different to the world you live in? Which elements of the world seem realistic, and which seem fantastical?
- How does the story conclude/come to a resolution?
- Compare the ending of the story with how you imagined it ending at the end of the first chapter. Were you surprised by where the story went?
- Choose a scene in the novel and rewrite it from the perspective of another character. Focus particularly on the character's attitudes and feelings, rather than simply recounting events. How might another character see and experience events differently to the character in the novel?
- Imagine that a movie was being made of the novel. In small groups, create a soundtrack to accompany some of the key scenes, thinking particularly about the mood you want to convey. You could either make a compilation of existing songs or compose your own musical pieces. Present your soundtrack to the class, explaining why you have chosen the pieces you have. Also choose your ideal cast for the movie and create a movie poster.