

Raised by Moths

AUTHOR

CHARLIE ARCHBOLD

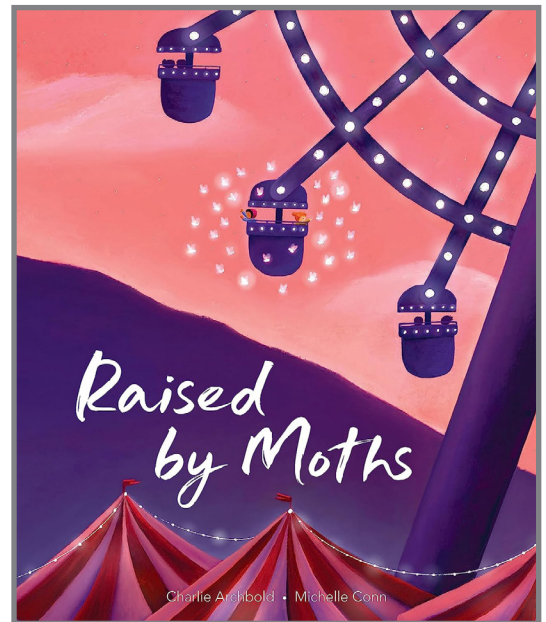
ILLUSTRATOR

MICHELLE CONN

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Willow jumps on the Ferris Wheel and is intrigued to see a boy surrounded by moths.

As they travel high above the fairground he tells her the reason why the moths love him so much: he was raised by moths.

Wonderfully fantastical and thought-provoking with stunning illustrations, *Raised by Moths* is quite unlike anything you've read before.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Charlie Archbold is an educator and writer. Charlie's debut young adult novel, *Mallee Boys*, was the recipient of the 2016 Adelaide Literary Festival Unpublished Manuscript Award and was named an Honour Book in the 2018 Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year for Older Readers Award. Her second young adult novel, *Indigo Owl*, is a fast-paced speculative fiction adventure. Her middle-grade manuscript, *The Sugarcane Kids and the Red Bottomed Boat*, was shortlisted for the 2020 Text Prize and was released in 2022. *Raised by Moths* is her first picture book.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Michelle Conn is a children's book illustrator and author who lives in the coastal town of Torquay, Victoria. She combines watercolour and pencil with digital illustration to create worlds filled with wonder and emotion. Michelle has a Bachelor of Design from The College of Fine Arts in Sydney and has worked as a graphic designer in print and corporate illustration. She has also completed a Bachelor of Education and worked for several years as a primary school teacher.

THEMES

Raised by Moths is a story of love and belonging. It explores the delicate themes of adoption, family and care. It shows one way we can find our place in the world. It is a fantastical story but is grounded in a contemporary setting.

STYLE

Raised by Moths is a highly imaginative story.

The illustrations enhance the magical realism of the book. *Raised by Moths* is set at night and the pictures bring out the adventure and excitement that comes with a fairground at dusk. The illustrations balance the contemporary setting with

joy and whimsy. The warmth of the people and animals and the care they have for each other is shown in every scene.

Raised by Moths is written from a first-person perspective. This way of storytelling adds immediacy and pace to connect and engage with the reader. We experience the tale from Willow's perspective.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the story discuss some of the new or unfamiliar vocabulary as required.
- Take a look at the cover illustration. Discuss what kind of story students think this might be. Wonder aloud and ask questions such as:
 - What can you tell me about the front cover?
 - Is it night or day? How do we know?
 - The Ferris Wheel shows us the story is happening at a fairground or at a show. Have you ever been to a fair or a show? Have you ever seen or been on a Ferris Wheel?
 - I wonder why all those moths are flying around only one carriage?
 - I wonder why we can see the children in one carriage but not the other people?
- Take a look at the page where the Ferris Wheel goes up into the sky and discuss the following questions:
 - How do you think Willow is feeling as the Ferris Wheel spins?
 - How do you think Willow is feeling when the Ferris Wheel stops at the top of the world?
 - I wonder why the boy claps his hands. Do you think the moths make Willow feel better?
- Discuss the page where the animals are looking after the children, then discuss the following questions:
 - Would you like any of these animals to look after you? Why?
 - If you were raised by animals, what animals would you choose to raise and care for you?
 - The boy loves his family very much, but he also loves the moths. Do you love lots of people and animals?
- The end of the book poses some interesting ideas, discuss the following questions to explore them further:
 - Why does a moth rest on the boy's shoulder?
 - I wonder why Willow has a special horseshoe?
 - What do you think Willow remembers at the very end of the story?

ACTIVITIES

- Learn more about moths. They are amazing insects.
- Show the life cycle of a moth.
- Create some moth print paintings.
- Make a magical Ferris Wheel using paper plates, pop sticks and coloured paper for the carriages.
- Create your own *Raised By* book. Choose an animal. Write and draw how it will look after you. What will you eat, how do you travel, where do you live, what will you play and what adventures will you have?