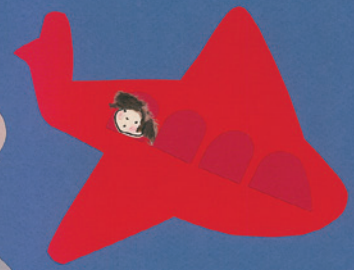


THIS WAY UP



Teachers' notes

Written and illustrated by Kylie Dunstan
Published by Windy Hollow Books

Grace's life has been turned upside down. Her family is moving countries again. Everything she owns is packed into a cardboard box and on its way 'home'. But home is not quite the place Grace had remembered. She has to find her way back to belonging, to feeling 'at home' in her new/old surroundings. For Grace, being reunited with her beloved grandparents is the turning point.

About the author/illustrator

Award –winning author/illustrator Kylie Dunstan now lives in Melbourne with her husband and two children. She grew up in South Australia where she studied art and worked in museums for many years before writing and illustrating her first picture book, *Collecting Colour*, which won the 2009 CBCA Picture Book of the Year Award. Since then Kylie has published *Because You Are with Me*, *The Red Bridge* a CBCA Notable Book and *Same, but Little Bit Diff'rent*, all in brilliant collage. *This Way Up* is her fifth picture book.

Author/Illustrator's note

'This Way Up' tells the story of a little girl returning to Australia after living overseas. Her life has been turned upside down and her house is in chaos. Throughout the book she finds her feet and her 'home'.

'This Way Up' further investigates the theme of dislocation and the notion of 'home' as first explored in my book

The Red Bridge (a Helen Chamberlin Book for Windy Hollow Publishing, June 2011). While *The Red Bridge* explores a move to a new country and all the challenges and adventures associated with such a big move, 'This Way Up' looks at moving from the point of 're-entry' to your own country.

'Re-entry' is often a more difficult experience for travellers than the shift to a new country and culture. While an overseas move is often viewed with an open mind and chance for 'adventure', the move 'home' can be fraught as expectations are already set based on prior experience and relationships. Often, what we come home to is quite different to how we remember it.

Before reading

What does the cover suggest the story may be about?

What can you tell about the main character from the front cover and title page?

After reading

The opening line is "Grace was going home".

Where do you think she had been?

What clues do the illustrations on the following pages give you about where she may have been and how long she may have been away?





Change

In This Way Up, Grace has to cope with change.

When was a time that you had to cope with change? e.g. moving house, moving school, new teacher etc?

What were your feelings?

What things made the change easier?

What were some of Grace's feelings?

How does the author convey Claire's feelings?

How do Claire's parents help her cope with the change?

Why do you think the box becomes so important to Grace?

Why do you think the doll with the red shiny dress, which has never been her favourite, suddenly becomes so precious?

For Grace moving home involves discovering old toys and treasures and also reuniting with family. Which of the experiences helps her adjust better?

If you were to go away from home for a long time what do you think you would miss the most? Can you classify these things in to objects and people or experiences?

Which is most important to you?

If you were leaving home for a long time, what might you take with you? Make a list of things you would take and things you would leave behind.

In maths you could estimate how much space you would need for the items you want to take and then estimate how many boxes you would need.

Illustration

Look at Kylie's use of colour. Why are some characters just plain silhouettes?

What effect do the coloured backgrounds have?

Have a go at making your own paper collage drawings like Kylie has done. In this book, Kylie has used a mixture of drawings and paper to put together her illustrations. Experiment with this in your own illustrations.

Collect some packing boxes and make cubby houses in them.

Companion books

The Red Bridge, written and illustrated by Kylie Dunstan

Box Boy, written and illustrated by Mal Webster

