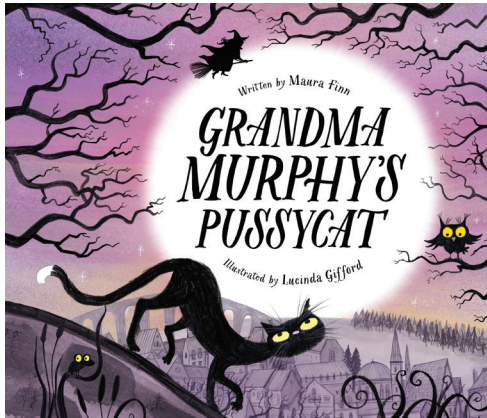




Teacher Notes

Grandma Murphy's Pussycat

by Maura Finn and Lucinda Gifford

Publication details

Publisher: Affirm Press
 ISBN: 9781922863874
 Size/format: 230 x 270mm, 32 pages, HB
 RRP: \$24.99
 Pub Date: 24 September 2024
 Reader ages: 4-8 years

Themes

- Magic
- Adventures
- Animals
- Night-time

About the Book

At midnight's strike as all lay sleeping,
 comes a figure, crawling, creeping ...
 It's Grandma Murphy's pussycat!

Where is this mysterious black cat going in the deep,
 dark night? And what adventures might he have
 along the way?

*An enchanting picture book that will bewitch young
 readers and grown-ups alike.*

About the Author and Illustrator

Born and bred in New Zealand, Maura Finn now lives in Melbourne with her husband and two young daughters. In her early writing days, she ran a rather lucrative playground business, swapping tailor-made poems for lunchbox leftovers. Now, many years later, she has rediscovered the joy and value of picture books through sharing them with her own children, and is delighted to think that her stories may contribute to other children's love of reading.

Lucinda is a hard working illustrator who has drawn the pictures for over 40 books, as well as for lots of websites, videos and posters. She has been drawing since she was a toddler in Scotland, when her teacher marvelled at her unusually terrifying sketches of witches. Now Lucinda lives in Melbourne and has a marvellous job where she gets to draw every day. Lucinda's favourite things to draw are castles, cavemen and creatures with big teeth or tentacles.

Before Reading:

- Have you ever stayed awake until midnight? How would you describe it?
- Explore the front cover of the book and read the blurb. What do you think this book is about?
- How would you describe the illustrations? What mood do they evoke?

Comprehension questions

- Who (or what) is the figure that comes 'crawling, creeping'?
- What other creatures do you spy in the book?
- Which words are repeated in the story? Why do you think this is?
- Who does the pussycat belong to?
- What sounds does the pussycat hear on his travels?
- Where do you think his 'secret destination' is?
- Is the pussycat afraid of anything? How does he deal with scary sounds and creatures?
- What is alliteration? Can you find any examples of it in the book?
- What is special about Grandma Murphy? Does she surprise you?

Literacy

Rhyme

- How would you describe the rhyming structure of the story? (You can work this out by underlying the words that rhyme and working out the pattern).
- What other rhyming structures have you encountered?

Genre

- Discuss the idea of 'genre'. What kinds of genres have you encountered in picture books before? What genre would you classify *Grandma Murphy's Pussycat* as? Why?

Verbs

- 'Peering, peeping' are examples of verbs, or words that describe actions. Make a list of all the other verbs you find in the story. Can you come up with three other verbs to describe the way a cat moves?
- What verbs would you use to describe the way you move?

Final reflections

- How do you think Grandma Murphy's pussycat feels when he's reunited with his owner?
- What did you enjoy most about this story? What would you have changed (if anything)?
- Where do you think Grandma Murphy's pussycat will go on his next adventure?

Creative Activities

- Draw a map of all the places mentioned in the story and show the route that Grandma Murphy's pussycat takes on his midnight prow. What do you think he does in each place?
- Explore Lucinda Gifford's striking illustrations. How do these pictures represent midnight? Use this style to create your own midnight silhouette – create a colourful background on an A4 sheet of paper, and then cut out a silhouette of a midnight scene in black paper to stick over the top of your night sky.
- Grandma Murphy's pussycat uses all five of his senses to explore the night world. Find an image in the book that captures each of the following senses – touch, sound, sight, smell, taste. Come up with your own sensory descriptions to describe your surroundings.
- There are a lot of creatures awake at midnight! Choose one of the other creatures in the book and write the story from their perspective.