



The Cat Mummy

Jacqueline Wilson , Nick Sharratt (Illustrator)

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Verity's old tabby cat Mabel might not be quite as lively as she used to be and yes, she smells a bit and doesn't always make it to the litter tray on time, but she really loves her. More importantly, Mabel once belonged to Verity's mum--not that Verity actually ever knew her mum because she died. She really doesn't mind too much about not having a mum, apart from when she goes to visit her grave, which makes her think about being in the ground with a head full of worms.

So when she finds Mabel dead in the wardrobe, it seems to Verity that it would be much better to take a few lessons from the ancient Egyptians: rather than bury the poor old thing she decides to mummify her so they can be together forever. But what with the problems involved in finding the mummification materials and the fact that Gran would probably fuss about hygiene if she knew anything about it, things don't quite go as planned.

The Cat Mummy Details

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Discoverylover says

I bought this for a book tree MissMarkey's planning while I'm staying with her and read it before registering it. A good book!

Shazia Hassan says

I really enjoyed reading this book. This is a fiction, story book that could be recommended to children in year 5 and 6 to read. This book is ideal to have in the reading corner of the classroom or then in the school library for children to take and read in their own time. The story is about a girl, whose mother died when she was born and no one in her family ever spoke about the death of her mother. She had a cat called Mabel and she was very old. One day the cat went missing and after searching for days the girl, called Verti, found the cat in her wardrobe, dead. Parallel to this part of the story, that the cat was missing and everyone was searching for her for days; in school Verti and her friends were learning about Egyptians and the ways they used salt to preserve bodies of dead people and animals to keep them around forever.

Verti loved her cat very much and could not stand the thought of her being buried so she secretly decided to preserve the body of Mabel so she could keep her forever. The writer very beautifully shows emotions of the girl and everyone else in the family during this whole process. Any child could relate to this book since it is about real life situations and feelings. This book teaches ways of how to deal with a loss and how important it is to talk about it and not keep the feelings of remorse bottled up. In the book the friends in school also played a vital role of kindness and support which teaches children with value of friendship and how 'a friend in need is a friend indeed'. The language is simple yet powerful whilst reading the book one can feel the emotions and feelings of each character in the book. I truly enjoyed reading this book and have given it to my daughter who is in Year 6 to read. The importance of talk is shown in this book.

June says

The story is worth reading, especially for parents and adolescence. The story itself does provide a golden opportunity for parents to know how children interpret complication in the reality. Adolescence, however, can further build up their understanding towards complication. They have a chance to think about life and death as well.

The story attempts to view life and death from a little girl whose mother was dead when she was small. Obviously she hasn't experienced death and known little about it, therefore, when Mabel, her beloved cat, passed away, she was grief and with panic, not knowing how to deal with the abstract yet heavy issue. From the lesson she knew about Cat Mummy from her teacher, Miss Smith, so she tried to maintain the connection between her and her companion Mabel. The plot here sheds the light of the ability of children in seeking solution to solve problem that is unfamiliar for them. No matter the method is appropriate or not, adults should keep their door open for assisting them working out solutions. Miss Smith is an adult who provide enough support to the girl, so that she can have a clear mindset towards her cat's departure.

The story also reveals the role of parents played in the family. In the story, the father of the little girl

immersed to sorrow, neglecting the emotional and psychological need of his daughter. He also learns a lesson from the cat incident as well. He was relieved from mourn, and shared all the things about his wife, the mother of the little girl with his daughter. Family does directly influences children a lot in terms of values and attitudes.

It should have a few more highlights about the book. But I have to leave home now, see if I have time and share here next time!

duniamimpigie Anggi says

Saya rasa ini buku yang lumayan bagus untuk memperkenalkan "kematian" pada anak-anak. Meski memang, ini lebih ke kematian hewan peliharaan, sih. Setidaknya, tokoh utama cerita ini, Verity, jadi mengerti bagaimana kematian (baik kematian ibunya dulu maupun kematian kucingnya saat cerita berlangsung) bisa mengundang kesedihan bukan hanya bagi dirinya, namun juga orang-orang di sekitarnya, sehingga dia tanpa sadar selalu merasa berat hati ketika membicarakan kematian di depan keluarganya. Cerita ini juga berhasil mengutarakan bagaimana Verity akhirnya mengenal perasaan "tidak ingin berpisah" dengan mereka yang telah meninggal.

Katie says

This was book i received as a gift over ten years ago 2003 i think at easter from my mum.

This is still as good as when i first read it, but now i can see the ways that this is brilliant for young readers and helping delicately deal with issues such as parental death and the death of a pet. It discusses letting go and the reluctance of many adults to discuss issues that children want to know about.

Important for both adults and children.

Additionally my love for cats helps here too.

Mariana says

I have lost my cat Iris very recently and although I have a new one, a ragdoll named Saori, Iris will never be replaced as Mabel will never be replaced by Baby.

One thing about books, specially the ones for children is that they always try to teach us to enjoy life and what we have in front of us. I will never regret all those afternoons and weekends I spent at home just to stay with Iris.

Elishia says

A very sweet story about a young girl Verity whose cat, Mabel dies of old age. Verity feels guilty for not appreciating Mabel enough when she was alive and tries to preserve Mabel as a mummy after learning in school how the Ancient Egyptians did so with their cats. The story tells of Verity's quest to try to conceal

Mabel in her wardrobe away from her father and grandparents as she does not want to bury Mabel in the garden under the 'dirty earth' with the worms and in the dark!

Eventually with the discovery of Mabel by Verity's grandmother, the family learn to deal with the underlying issue of the death of Verity's mum who died at childbirth.

An insightful story which handles bereavement from a child's perspective very sensitively. A must-read!

Kana Haya says

as other child book contains, this one also teach us (nd of course our kids) about loving and caring. on this case is about how to love and care your pet such as cat or dog.

this book tells us the story about verity who is looking for her lost cat, mabel. mabel is an old cat that has becoming her bestfriend for the past years. when she finally found mabel, the cat had died. she remembered what her teacher's saying about the Egyptian making cat mummy for their died cat. so, she decide to make mabel into a mummy. did she succeed hiding it from her father and grandparents? check it urself!

Eve beinguniquebooks says

In this book Verity lives with her grandparents and dad along with their old cat, Mabel. Learning about the Egyptians at school, when Mabel goes missing and is later found by Verity she wants to help her pass on and sets about doing her best job of her version of worshipping and sending Mabel on as she can do herself.

It was a good book for dealing with grief and is sad and emotional but hopefully no kids get inspired to try out the method Verity does!

Nicole says

The Cat Mummy is a story which focuses on the main character Verity who has sadly lost her mother at a young age. She lives with her grandmother, grandfather and her father and her cat Mabel who is very old. Verity's mother died when she was a baby and although she is desperate to find out more about her mother she is terrified that the sensitive subject will upset her family. She feels that the only one she can speak to about her mother is her cat Mabel. Unfortunately because of Mabel's age she is very ill and Verity begins to show signs of anger towards Mabel because she has been sick all over the floor. As a result of Verity's anger Mabel runs away and cannot be found anywhere. When Verity finally finds Mabel it is too late because Mabel had died and she decides to keep this a secret from everyone.

At school Verity had been learning about the ancient Egyptians and how they use to preserve people and cats when they died. This gave Verity an idea to try and use what she learnt at school and try and make her cat into a mummy. After a few days Verity's grandmother realises that there is something wrong with Verity and she notices the bad smell which is coming from her bedroom. When her grandmother finds the cat wrapped in bandages Verity explains that she did not want to bury her cat the same way her mother is buried.

At the end of the book Verity comes to terms with the fact that she has to bury her cat. She also expresses her fear of death and burials to her father who then learns to understand that Verity needs to be able to speak to someone about her worries.

This is a sad story and it shows the perspective of death from a young persons point of view. It showed the fear that Verity has and the thoughts that she has when it comes to death and burials. The story can relate to many young people who have had pets who have died and it can teach them that even though this is a sad time that they can use different ways of coping with bereavement. For example Verity had a tough time speaking about death because of the fear of upsetting her family. However by the end of the book Verity and her father learn that they both need to talk about things, which made them feel better and have a better understanding about coping with death.

I really enjoyed this book as it lets the reader understand the different ways some people may deal with death of someone close to you. I also enjoyed the happy ending of the book as you saw Verity finally having the chance to find out more about her mother.

Stefanny Natalia says

3,5 stars for this...actually I'm gonna give this book 2 stars, don't get me wrong, I'm a Jacqueline Wilson's fan, but this idea of a girl making her dead cat turn into a mummy just so creepy you know... but then again I feel this character did that since she felt guilty to her cat and there was some kind of trauma about that I think, that's why this book at least worth for 3,5 stars....sorry :(

MeeJazz Frincy says

My favourite book by Jacqueline Wilson...♥

Kiddo says

lucu :) karena buku ini jadi ingin baca seluruh karya Jacqueline ^^ agak mengharukan juga

Louise Jones says

read lost of wilson with my eldest niece and also elderly lady but jumped at chance to read this with 7 year old niece although we read it really quick it was well written for encouraging children to talk about death and what is better then an animal most children will prob have a pet at sometime and the book gives rather good tips for dealing with death with a child i knew a friend who before dying made a scrapbook about herself for her children jac wilson never fails

Lorraine Ryan says

This is my first time reading a book by Jacqueline Wilson and I have to say it was one of my best reads so far. This is mainly because the storyline brought back memories, when my own loving grand-mother lived with me while I was growing up. It also touched on problems I could relate to and to so many others: coping with the death of a loved pet and dealing with a class bully.

‘Verity’ the main character, a young happy school-going child only realizes how much she loved her lazy cat ‘Mabel’ when she disappears. Mabel is a very special cat because she once belonged to her mother, who passed away when Verity was born. Verity found it easy to talk to Mabel about her mother, as she found she wouldn’t get upset compared to her dad and grandparents, who she lives with. When she finds Mabel dead, she tries to mummify her, after recently learning at school how the Ancient Egyptians try to preserve their bodies.

Jacqueline describes the great length Verity goes to try and hide her secret from her family in a funny and humorous way, brilliantly capturing how an innocent child would feel and think in this situation.

I particularly enjoyed how the end was very hopeful, Verity was encouraged to make a memory book about both her mam and Mabel, showing to children that we can never replace who we have lost but we can learn to love again...in this case Verity welcoming a new kitten into her home and her dad...I don’t quiet know but there is hope!

I would recommend this book for children aged seven to nine years. It would make a good read in schools as it focuses on the themes of grief and bereavement and how instead of bundling it all inside, we should discuss it out in the open.
