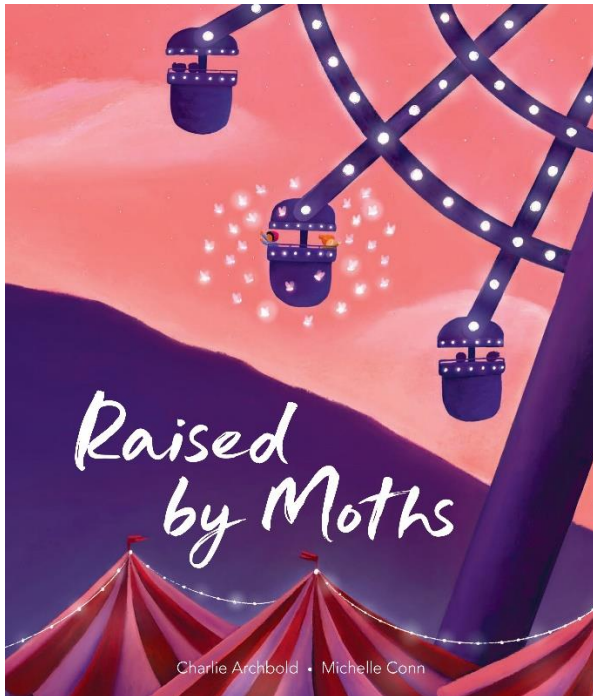


## ***Raised by Moths* Teacher Notes**

Title	<i>Raised by Moths</i>
Author	Charlie Archbold
Illustrator	Michelle Conn
Publisher	MidnightSun Publishing
ISBN	978-1-922858-18-4



### **Synopsis**

Willow and her mother are visiting a fairground. It is nighttime and the fairground sparkles. Willow joins an unknown boy on the Ferris Wheel. There is a sudden stop while they are at the top. The young boy reassures Willow that everything will be okay. He claps his hands, and a cloud of moths appear. The boy tells Willow he was raised by moths and then adopted by a human family. He loves his adopted family, but he will always love the moths. They return to the ground and part ways. As Willow and her mother head home, they pass fields of horses. The horses follow Willow. Will she remember the time before she was adopted? And that she was raised by horses.

### **Charlie Archbold: Author**

Charlie is a writer, and she lives in Adelaide. Her debut novel *Mallee Boys* was a 2018 CBCA Honour book. Her middle grade novel *The Sugarcane Kids and the Red Bottomed Boat* won the 2022 Readings Children's Prize, the 2023 Davitt Award, and is a 2023 CBCA Notable

book. More Sugarcane Kids mysteries are coming soon. *Indigo Owl* is her science fiction adventure. *Raised by Moths* is Charlie's first picture book, and she is very excited to be moving into this creative space for younger readers.

## **Michelle Conn: 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 and Ideas**

*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.

## **Suggestions for Classroom Discussion and Application**

Before reading the story discuss some of the new or unfamiliar vocabulary as required.

*raised by* - this tells us who looks after a child when a child is little and who helps them grow up.

*adoption* - this is when a child becomes part of a new family and does not live with their birth parents.

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.

- 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.

- 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?

Ideas to discuss at the end of the book.

- 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?

Follow Up 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. Chose 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?