

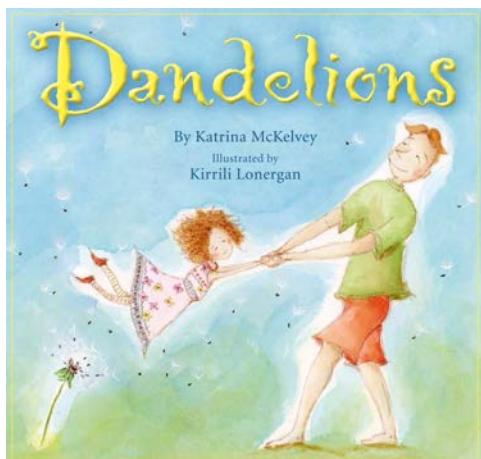
Dandelions

by

Katrina McKelvey and Kirrili Lonergeran

Public Library & Preschool Visits

A children's author and illustrator visit to your public library or preschool enhances and encourages reading!



An author/illustrator visit:

1. inspires everyone (including children, parents, the wider community and library staff)
2. encourages reading and writing for pleasure
3. motivates reluctant readers and writers
4. increases library use
5. offers a unique learning opportunity
6. gives the creative process (writing and illustrating) a purpose
7. encourages risk taking
8. validates what is being taught in our schools
9. gives insights into the publishing world
10. is thought provoking

About Our Book:

Dandelions is the story of a little girl who one day notices her father mowing the lawn — in the process destroying her favourite flowers: the dandelions. She rushes out to stop him, but she's too late, they're all gone. There's nothing for it: she's just going to have to sit outside and wait until they grow back! But fortunately, Dad has another idea. Taking her hand, he leads her to the house, and there, nestled near the verandah post, are two tiny dandelion puff balls. Father and daughter each blow as hard as they can, and the tiny dandelion parachutes spiral and spin, up, up and away, spreading their seeds to create new generations of dandelions far and wide. And together, father and daughter lie down on the grass, watching as they whirl and twirl through the air.

Exquisite watercolour illustrations combine with lyrical text to create a story that's perfect for readers aged 4–8. This is a book that will be cherished by families and recommended by teachers and librarians, exploring as it does the resilience of nature, the art of forgiveness, and the love between a parent and child.

About the author and illustrator:



Katrina McKelvey is an author, former primary school teacher, and mother of two. She is the President of the CBCA Newcastle sub-branch, and on the committee of the Newcastle Writers Festival. She also enjoys being a Books In Homes Volunteer Role Model. *Dandelions* is Katrina's first picture book.

Kirrili Lonergeran is a children's book illustrator, former paediatric nurse and mother of four. Her illustrations display a profound understanding of the needs of children. She is also the Vice President of the CBCA Newcastle sub-branch and the co-creator of the *Lessons of a LAC* program.

Visit Schedule:

We will:

- ~ discuss dandelions with the children
- ~ sing songs about dandelions - children can follow our movements
- ~ conduct a reading of the book
- ~ show the original illustrations and discuss the illustration process
- ~ demonstrate how to draw dandelions and characters found in the story
- ~ guide children through a craft activity (craft activity negotiable and supplied by library/preschool)

Group size: 30 children or less

Time: 60-90 minutes

Age: 3-8 year olds

Cost: \$300 per session (ASA rates) but this is negotiable.

Book sales: If possible, we would like to sell books during our visit. Please advertise book sales when this event is advertised. We can offer signed copies of our book at a special price of \$20 each (hardcover) instead of the RRP \$24.95.

More information about us:

Katrina's social media:

Website: www.katrinamckelvey.com

Blog: <http://katrinamckelvey.blogspot.com.au>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/katrinamckelveyauthor/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/katrinamckelvey/>

Kirrili's social media:

Website: www.kirrilonergan.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/kirrilonerganillustrator

Our book trailer can be found by clicking [here](#)

Contact us:

If you would like to discuss an author/illustrator visit to your public library/preschool, please email us at author@katrinamckelvey.com or kirrilonergan@gmail.com



What a delightful book! I must admit I had tears in my eyes as I finished this story. There was so much that I adored about this book I do not know where to begin.

- Journal of the Early Childhood Teacher's Association