



# Walker Books Classroom Ideas



## The Magic of Magnolia Moon

Edwina Wyatt  
Katherine Quinn  
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\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## Outline:

For *Magnolia Moon*, magic is a way to solve problems. And when you're starting a new class at school and your best friend doesn't live across the road anymore, problems seem to come easily.

In her latest adventure, *Magnolia Moon* invents everyday magic to help her navigate the pitfalls of friendship, school, family, and being ten. A lyrical and imaginative tale which highlights everyday wonders through *Magnolia's* curious and observant nature.

## Autho/Illustrator Information:

Edwina Wyatt is an award-winning Australian children's author. She grew up in Sydney, and worked as a lawyer and a high school teacher before becoming a writer of books for young readers. Her debut junior fiction novel was *The Secrets of Magnolia Moon*. Edwina lives in the Victorian High Country with her husband and two children. She has a passion for horses, paddocks and pine trees, and is an "aspiring" vegetable gardener and pianist (although she cannot read music...).

Katherine Quinn is a New Zealand illustrator and surface pattern textile designer based in Hawkes Bay. She works in both traditional and digital illustration, and her work often focuses on long-limbed, big-eyed girls with a touch of innocence and a sense of adventure.

## How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

**These notes are for:**  
• Ages 6-10

**Key Learning Areas:**  
• English

**Example of:**  
• Fiction

**Themes/Ideas:**  
• Magic  
• Friendship  
• Family  
• Imagination



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## Discussion Questions and Activities:

### Before reading

Before reading *The Magic of Magnolia Moon*, view the cover and title of the book. Identify the following:

- The title of the book
- The author
- The illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

Based on the cover, what do you think this story is about? How do you think it will begin/end? Revisit your answer after reading the story to see if your predictions were correct.

What does the term 'magic' mean to you? Before reading *The Magic of Magnolia Moon*, write down your definition of what magic means, and some examples of magic in books, TV shows or movies you like. Return to your list after reading the book. Has your idea of magic changed? Can you think of any examples of everyday magic inspired by Magnolia?

### Exploring the text

What are the themes in this novel? As a class or in small groups identify and list the themes. Individually write a statement of belief about each theme.

Each chapter is a story of one of Magnolia's adventures, with its own orientation, complication and resolution. Divide the class into 10 groups and assign each group a chapter from the book. On a large sheet of paper, have the group write the words 'orientation', 'complication' and 'resolution' and mind map the parts of their chapter that apply to each.

Edwina Wyatt uses a number of literary devices throughout the story. What is the definition of each device? How do these devices make the story more interesting for the reader? Can you find other examples of them in *The Magic of Magnolia Moon* and other books? Write a short story using as many of these devices as you can.

- Personification – "The wooden stairs muttered and grumbled in agreement" (p38)
- Metaphor – "she felt an ocean pen up in her stomach" (p30)
- Simile – "eyes as big as mill wheels" (p42)
- Repetition – "Bong, bong, bongggggg" (p40)

Keep a vocab journal while reading *The Magic of Magnolia Moon*. Collect words that you are unfamiliar with or that you find interesting, record the page number and find the definition for each.

Why do you think Magnolia lies to Daddy Moon? How does the lie make her feel? How does she resolve this situation?

Magnolia and Casper suspect Miss Mackerel of being a witch. What clues do they find to support their theory? Who are some famous fictional witches that could have inspired Casper and Magnolia?

*The Magic of Magnolia Moon* is illustrated. How does Katherine Quinn's art add to the story? How might the book be different if it didn't have any illustrations?

### Responding to the text

Write another chapter about Magnolia's adventures that could be included in the story. Think about a problem that Magnolia could solve using a kind of magic. Draw some illustrations to include with your story.

Magnolia's friend, Imogen May, has moved away, meaning they can't see each other every day like they used to. One way the two girls could keep in touch is writing letters. Pair up with other student in your class, another class or another school and become pen pals. Write each other letters back and forth. Some ideas to help you get started are: tell your pen pal about a book that you have read; write a short story; recount a fun outing you've had with friends or family; ask your pen pal questions about their interests; etc.

Magnolia's two best friends, Casper and Imogen May, don't get on at first, but by the end of the novel they are all best friends. Have you ever become friends with someone you didn't like at first? How did your opinion change for the better over time? Write or draw a story in which two or more people start off disliking each other and then become best friends.

## Other Great Titles From Walker Books:



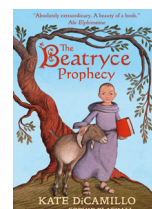
**The Secrets of Magnolia Moon**  
Edwina Wyatt  
illus. by Katherine Quinn  
9781760652357 PB  
9781760651541 HB  
Classroom ideas available



**Hapless Hero Henrie**  
Petra James  
illus. by A. Yi  
9781760650834 PB  
Classroom ideas available



**Dream Riders: Frankie**  
Laura Bloom and Jesse Blackadder  
9781760650513 PB  
Classroom ideas available



**The Beatryce Prophecy**  
Kate DiCamillo  
illus. by Sophie Blackall  
9781529500899 HB  
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