Lily the Elf series
Anna Branford
Lisa Coutts (illus)
ARRP: $16.95 ea
NZRRP: $18.99 ea

Lily the Elf: The Precious Ring
9781925081046
Lily loves the ring she finds in the moss garden. It makes a wonderful wading pool. But the ring belongs to a small human. Will Lily have to return it?
Out Now!

Lily the Elf: The Midnight Owl
9781925081053
Lily is frightened when the midnight owlhoots during the night. But Granny isn’t afraid. She thinks the midnight owl sounds friendly. Will Lily always be afraid of him?
Out Now!

Lily the Elf: The Elf Flute
9781925081077
Lily wants to play her new silver elf flute at the Grand Elf Concert. But she can only make horrible whiffling sounds with it. Will she get to play at the concert?
Available August 2015

Lily the Elf: The Wishing Seed
9781925081060
Lily’s dress-up crown is broken. So she wishes on a dandelion seed for a real princess crown. Will her wish come true?
Available August 2015

These notes are for:
• Ages 5+
• Primary years F-1

Key Learning Areas:
• English

Example of:
• Illustrated fiction
• Fantasy

Themes/Ideas:
• Family
• Doing the right thing
• Working together
• Making decisions

National Curriculum Focus:*

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*Key content descriptions have been identified from the Australian National Curriculum. However, this is not an exhaustive list of National Curriculum content able to be addressed through studying this text.
Author/Illustrator Information:

Anna Branford was born in the Isle of Man and spent her early childhood in Sudan and Papua New Guinea before moving to Australia. Creative writing was her favourite subject at school and she wrote stories in all these different countries. Anna is a doll maker and a sociology lecturer at Victoria University. *Violet Mackerel’s Brilliant Plot* was her first published work for Walker Books Australia and was Honour Book in the 2011 Children’s Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Book of the Year Awards, Younger Readers category. In 2013, *Violet Mackerel’s Personal Space* won the Young Readers/Picture Book Award category of the Australian Family Therapists’ Award and was short-listed for the 2013 Children’s Peace Literature Awards. *Violet Mackerel’s Possible Friend* was short-listed for the 2014 CBCA Book of the Year Awards, Younger Readers category.

Lisa Coutts is an illustrator based in Melbourne, Australia. She has studied graphic design and her illustrations have graced books, greeting cards, magazines, festivals, posters, packages and even tea cups. Lisa exhibits her work at various galleries and serves on the committee of Illustrators Australia. The Lily the Elf series are her first illustrated novels with Walker Books Australia.

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.

Series activities
Before reading each Lily the Elf book, view the cover and title. Identify the following:
- The title of the book
- The author
- The illustrator
- The publisher
- The blurb.

From the title of the book only, what do you think the story might be about? How do your predictions change after looking at the cover? What about after reading the blurb?

Who is in Lily’s family? Draw a diagram of who is in your family and compare it to Lily’s family. How are they similar or different? Have a class discussion about how families can be made of many different combinations of people and that not all families are the same.

Fill out the character study worksheet for Lily, Dad, Granny and any other characters you choose.

What are elves? What do you learn about them from the Lily the Elf books? Find other books in your school library about elves. Compare these to the Lily the Elf books and have a class discussion about how authors and illustrators of these books represent elves similarly or differently.

Where does Lily live? Where else do you think would be a good spot for an elf house? Imagine you were an elf and design your own elf house and garden.

For each book in the series, identify the complication (the problem that Lily faces) and the resolution (how Lily overcomes that problem).

What other books has Anna Branford written? Visit your school library to find the books.

After reading all of the Lily the Elf books, choose which one is your favourite. Why did you pick that one? Ask your classmates what their favourite Lily the Elf book is and why.
Lily the Elf: The Precious Ring
Lily uses a child’s ring as a paddling pool. What other human objects could a tiny elf use?

The human girl that owns the ring is upset that she lost it. Have you ever lost something important to you? How did that make you feel? What are some useful things to do when you’ve lost something important?

Lily would very much like to keep the ring even though it doesn’t belong to her. Do you think it was right that Lily returned the ring to its owner? What would you do if you found something precious that didn’t belong to you?

Lily discovers that anything can be precious if it is important enough to a person. Do you own anything that is important and precious to you that might not be precious to another person?

Compare Lily’s body language and facial expressions in the illustrations on pages 9 and the 23. What emotions do you think she is feeling in these two illustrations? How can you tell?

Lily the Elf: The Midnight Owl
Lily wishes she was braver. What does being brave mean to you?

Why do you think Granny believes that Lily will be less scared of owls if she meets one?

Lily and Granny put a lot of preparation into packing and dressing for their adventure to visit the Midnight Owl. Imagine you were going on an adventure at night. What would you take with you and what would you wear?

Owls are nocturnal which means they are awake at night. Do you know of any other animals that are nocturnal?

Think of a time when you were scared of something but overcame your fear. Tell the class about your fear and how you overcame it.

What did Lily discover about overcoming fear?

Lily the Elf: The Elf Flute
Do you or anyone else in the class play a musical instrument? Ask them to tell the class if it was difficult when they started practising. How much practice did it take to learn how to play the instrument?

Lily is going to read a poem at the elf concert. Visit your school library and find books of poetry. Pick your favourite poem and recite it for the class. Use props and sound effects like Lily does to complete your poem recital.

Lily doesn’t manage to play the proper notes on the elf flute. However, she manages to make wonderful wind noises at the elf concert. Get some musical instruments or other items that make noise and experiment to try and find different noises such as animal sounds or water sounds.

What did Lily discover about learning a new skill?

Lily the Elf: The Wishing Seed
Draw a picture of yourself wearing an elf princess or prince crown that you have designed, just like Lily does in chapter 2. Create a display of all the elf crowns that your classmates have designed on the wall of your classroom.

Create your own elf crown by cutting a strip of cardboard to fit around your head. Paint the crown interesting colours and glue beads, glitter, stars and any other interesting things you can find to the crown.

Have you ever wished for something and it came true? Tell the class about your wish.

Did Lily’s wish come true? How? Do all wishes come true? Why or why not?

Other great titles from Walker Books

The Princess in Black
Shannon and Dean Hale
LeUyen Pham
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Atinuke
9781406349122 PB

Judy Moody and Friends: Triple Pet Trouble
Megan McDonald
Enwin Madrid
9780763674434 HB

Mango and Bambang: The Not-a-Pig
Polly Faber
Carla Vulliamy
9781406361438 HB
What is the character’s name?

______________________________

Write three words that describe the character.

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What things does the character like?

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What is the character good at?

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Draw a picture of the character