



**New from Mem Fox**

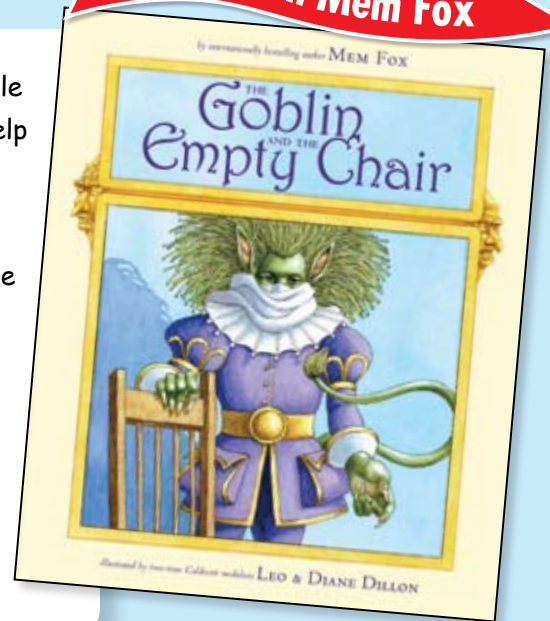
In a long time past in a land far away, a family has suffered an unspeakable loss. But a lonely goblin has been watching. And he knows what to do to help them heal.

From internationally acclaimed picture book master Mem Fox, and illustrators Leo and Diane Dillon, comes a rich and moving original fairytale about family, friendship and the power of compassion to unite us all.

### Educational Themes

Discuss themes of loss, coping and compassion, and helping those in need.

The fable-like style encourages pre-reading skills such as repetition and prediction and makes this story the perfect read-aloud in class situations.



### Teacher Tips

- Read aloud to the class, stopping part way through the story to predict what might happen. Question students to encourage them to express reasons for their thinking.
- At the end compare their predictions to what did happen and ask why they think it happened.
- Talk about what might have happened to the family. Ask why they are upset. (Maybe a family member or a pet died, or someone is unwell.)
- Discuss feelings. What or who makes us feel certain ways? Who or what makes us feel happy, mad? Who or what makes us scared, sad? What can we do when we feel like this? (Maybe we need some time out, cry, laugh, talk to friends, read a story or talk to a family member.)
- Talk about being lonely and how to make friends. Role-play different social situations. Ask: When someone is left out of a game, or when you see someone on their own and unhappy, what can be done to help?
- Compare this story to traditional fairytales. Discuss how they are similar or different.
- Create a picture of a friendly goblin.
- Talk about the reflection of the goblin in the water. Ask where else we see reflections and relate this to maths lessons on reflection.

### Curriculum Links: English, PD/H, Creative Arts, Maths

*The Goblin and the Empty Chair* lends itself to the use of fairytale to explore and express deeper issues.



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