



RESOURCE PACK

ABOUT THE BOOK

Every child deserves a story that ignites their imagination and inspire them to dream big...

In the little Italian town of Ruffo, Jonny finds comfort in his vivid dreams, where he escapes the bullying of his peers and the worries of his parents. But, when elements from his dreams begin to appear in reality, Jonny realises something is terribly wrong. One night, a Selenite, a magical creature from the Moon, visits Jonny in his dream, revealing that a looming doom threatens both the dream world and the waking world. Summoned to a dream library by Master Morpheus, the God of Dreams, Jonny learns of his destiny as a powerful dreamer tasked with retrieving a magical Sun Disc to prevent the impending disaster. Guided by the God of Dreams, Jonny embarks on an epic quest through a fantastical realm filled with ghosts, witches, mythical creatures, and his own fears. As the boundary between the dream world and reality blurs, Jonny must master his newfound abilities and decipher who to trust. If he fails, humankind and their dreams will vanish forever.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Melania, originally from Italy, currently lectures at a fashion college in London. She relocated to London in 2008, where she earned her master's degree in communication and a qualification in freelance journalism but found her true calling in crafting imaginative stories. Melania's debut children's novel, *Jonny and the Mystery of the Sun Disc*, blends storytelling and dreams inspired by her dream-journal kept under her bed, inviting young readers to embark on a fantastical adventure.



INFORMATION ABOUT THIS RESOURCE PACK

"Jonny and the Mystery of the Sun Disc" is a classic fantasy adventure that sparks children's imaginations through Jonny's magical world. The novel not only entertains but also imparts a powerful, positive message: believe in the power of dreams, overcome your fears, and remember that good always triumphs over evil. This resource pack is organized around the story's main themes, including adventure, fantasy, self-belief, bullying, overcoming fears, and friendship. The activities within are designed for children aged 8 and above, making them ideal for classroom or library sessions. Being also a teacher, Melania wanted to create her own teachers resource pack.

INTRODUCTION

Before you start, ask the group to share their thoughts about the book using the mind map provided below.

What did they like most about Jonny's adventure?

Which parts of the book were most interesting to them?

Any favourite characters?

Did the story convey any important messages to them? If so, what were they?

THOUGHT CLOUDS

In the clouds, write words to describe your thoughts



THEME 1 - THE REAL AND THE FICTIONAL

The first chapter introduces the protagonist, Jonny, fleeing from his bullying peers towards Ruffo Town, an imaginary place set in Calabria, the author's native region. Your task is to explore the geographical and imaginative aspects of this setting. A) Using your geography book, find where Calabria is situated. B) Based on the descriptions provided in the book, how do you imagine Ruffo Town? C) Consider where you live. What do you know about your hometown? D) If your hometown were an imaginary place, what would you name it and why?

Objective: This task encourages the group to blend geographical knowledge with creative thinking

THEME 2 - BULLYING

In the first three chapters we see Jonny constantly peeked and harassed by some of his peers at school.

Here's an extract: "At the sound of the bell, the other pupils scrambled noisily to their feet while Jonny stayed behind to write. This unusual behaviour did not go unnoticed by Paolino and some of the other boys in class. As soon as the teacher walked out of the room, they whispered to each other and then seized Jonny by the arms. "Paolino, give me my book back!" Jonny's face turned red with rage. The boys sniggered at the odd look on his face. P-12

How do these actions illustrate the dynamics of bullying? How does Jonny's experience with bullying in the first three chapters affect his behaviour and emotions? Now, pretend you were witness of these events. What would you do? What would you say to Paolino? Write him a short message and share with the group.

Objective: To encourage readers to think about the impact of bullying

THEME 3 - DREAM LIBRARY

"Anyone there?" Jonny asked, taking a few steps inside the library. As the whispering stopped, Jonny stood looking out in all directions – and a most dreamy library it was. The shelves, made in Rosewood inlaid with mother of pearl, were stacked with thousands and thousands of books mostly bound in leather. The gold letters printed on the cover appeared and disappeared as he looked at them..." - P-37

What details in the description of the library make it seem magical and dreamlike? Write a detailed description of your local library. Consider the materials, books, special features, and atmosphere. While your local library may not have talkative statues and floating books – what aspects make it a special and magical place for you?

Objective: Develop students' descriptive writing abilities and attention to details

THEME 4 - SELF-BELIEF

The "Jonny," Master Morpheus glared into his eyes. "I need your help. You are the *only* person destined to recover the Sun Disc and save us." Jonny felt a knot in his stomach. "Why me?" P- 44

A tear stripped his cheek whilst the flames waved and danced in a circle around the remains of his uncle's hut. Teeth grinding, he ran through the forest. Towering trees had never looked more terrifying with their wide branches and long, twig claws. Passing clouds revealed a full, red moon. He had to speak to The Gorgons Brothers. He had to find out where the Sun Disc was...P-118

From the day Jonny got summoned by the God of Dream to discover the Sun Disc he was faced with many doubts and dangers that constantly tested his persevere and self-belief. Create a collage that represents your strengths, talents, and what makes you unique. You can use drawings, cut-outs from magazines, positive quotes or words that describe your qualities. Attach your collage on the wall. A follow up task would be to get the kids to look at the artworks and try to guess who's collage it is.

Objective: This task encourages kids to reflect on their abilities and build a positive self-image.

THEME 5 - FRIENDSHIP

"I did not punch him! He stole Jonny's book; I was only trying to take it back." Ciccio frowned pointing at Jonny's book on the floor...P-14

Gino spoke quietly. "I thought you said we were friends." "Uh?" "Yes, I mean, earlier at the entrance door. You referred to me as a friend... P- 190

Why do you think having friends is important? What are some ways you can show appreciation to your friends? Can you remember a time when a friend helped you feel better or supported you? How did that make you feel? What qualities do you think are important in a friendship?

Objective: To encourage kids to reflect on their friendships, recognise the positive impact of these relationships

THEME 6 - MIDNIGHT WONDER

"They broke through a tapestry which hid a secondary exit, and before they knew it, they were both running through a tunnel of knotted trees. Owls hooted. Jonny twisted his head. "Don't look behind, you'll slow us down!" the girl cried. "Over the bridge... across the beechwood... first tree to the right... there is a place that only exists at midnight. P-105

In chapter 10, Eyllia, new Jonny's friend, reveal to Jonny of a hiding place that only exists at midnight. It is the border between dreams and reality.

Tic toc, tic toc. The clock is marking midnight for you too. Imagine and create your own midnight wonderland. You can draw it or write about it. What does your Midnight place look like? How is it different from places that exist during the day? Who or what lives in your Midnight Wonderland?

Objective: Develop students' descriptive writing abilities and attention to details

THEME 7 - BELIEVE FOR BELIEF

In Jonny and the Mystery of the Sun Disc (Chapter 9) there is a mystical forest known as Erebus Forest. Rumour has it that Unicorns roam there, but no one has ever seen one. This has led many dreamers, including Jonny, to question the existence of these magical creatures and, in some ways, of magic itself. In that occasion Gino, Jonny's new friend, reminds him that openly expressing doubt about their existence is frowned upon due to the #BelieveforBelieve rule set by the Master Dreamer, Morpheus. The rule aims to encourage all the dreamers in the realm to believe in the impossible, but also in each other.

Who is the person you can always count on during your lowest moments? You can write them a letter to thank them for always believing in you and you can also have fun drawing them a portrait.

Objective: This task encourages kids to reflect on their abilities and build a positive self-image.

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PLEASE SHARE YOUR ACTIVITIES WITH THE AUTHOR

#BELIEVEFORBELIEF

IG: @MELANIAGIOFRE



THANK YOU!