

The Carnegies



The Carnegie Longlist 2026 Shadowing Resources



Coorie Doon

Carnegie Medal for Illustration

Illustrator: Jill Calder

Age range: 3+

Description:

A celebration of love told across generations through the lilt of a lullaby. There's a childlike tone to many of the illustrations and soft, pastel colours evoke a cosy, dreamy quality. These become more focused as the dreams transition from childhood to adulthood. It's positive that Shona as a sixty-year-old is depicted as a woman in her prime. Relationships across generations are shown with both sensitivity and joy. Imaginative and intimate.

Themes:

- Family
- Lullaby
- Mixed race
- Dreams
- Adoption

Shadowing Ideas:

1. 'Coorie doon' or 'coorie in' comes from an old Scots term meaning to nestle or snuggle. Create a cosy reading nook using blankets, pillows and beanbags. Arrange them safely and invite your shadowing group in to coorie doon and enjoy a book together. You could even bring snacks!
2. Think about your bedtime rituals now, and when you were younger. Are there any expressions within your family that are used in the same way as 'coorie doon'? If you were to illustrate that expression, what would it look like? What colours/textures/materials would you use? Have a go at creating this on paper. Don't forget to share your work with us on social media, using #Carnegies2026
3. Walk through the illustrations and think about what sound effects you might use for each. Would you use sounds from nature? Could you use musical instruments? Are there sounds you can create with your voice or your body that would work with the feelings that the illustrations are trying to create? Work together to experiment and explore different sounds. Create a soundtrack and perform a reading of the book for an audience of friends and family.