

The Carnegies



The Carnegie Longlist 2026 Shadowing Resources



When It's Your Turn For Midnight

Carnegie Medal for Writing

Author: Blessing Musariri

Age range: 14+

Description:

Revelations around her Baba force Chianti to reassess her life and to dig deep into her family's past. There's a clever parallel between what it means to belong as part of a family and what it means to feel part of one's country. Intergenerational relationships are unpicked with care, highlighting how the wisdom and experience of older people can enrich younger generations, while also showing how young people are able to bring positivity and new perspectives. Identity, belonging and growing up through emotional trauma combine with great verve.

Themes:

- Women
- War
- Family
- Zimbabwe
- Resilience
- Found family

Shadowing Ideas:

1. Chianti's grandma and her friends, known as the Gogos, have a fashion business upcycling second hand clothes. Research upcycling and chat about it in your group. Why not try some easy upcycling? You can visit the Oxfam website and learn how to turn an unwanted old t-shirt into a tote bag. Visit <https://fashionjournal.com.au/pre-loved/upcycle-clothes-without-machine/> for some more ideas from Australian designers. Make a display of your discoveries and edge it with a design made out of scraps of material as a backdrop.
2. Chianti uses shoe box art to celebrate her family on page 66. Why not have a chat with someone else in your group, find out what things they like and create a shoe box showcasing their hobbies. You can draw, paint or decorate it, using photographs or cutout shapes then make a display in your reading space.
3. When it's Your Turn for Midnight is set in Zimbabwe. Chianti hitchhikes from Harare in the North East to visit her Ambuya in Mutare in the Eastern highlands. She says "it feels like a different world." Search for books about Zimbabwe in your local library. Look at the two locations on a map and measure the distance among them. Talk about the differences between the two cities and use this as a starting point to create a fact wall.