

**Before reading:**

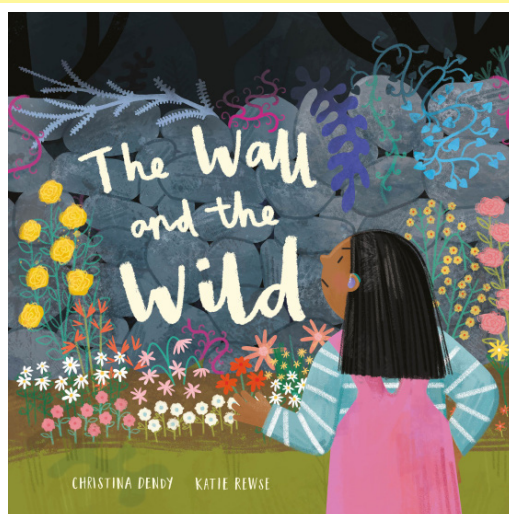
Looking at the front cover, who do you think the girl might be? What do you think her facial expression is suggesting? What is she looking at? What might she be thinking about?

What does "wall" mean to you? What is the purpose of a wall?

What does "wild" mean to you? What does it mean when we refer to something being wild, whether animal or plant?

What sorts of colours are used on the front cover? What do they remind you of?

What do you think this story might be about?

**After reading:**

In this story, Ana enjoys gardening and planting seeds. However, she picks the 'perfect' ones and throws the rest over the wall, into the wilderness. Why do you think she does this? What does she want to achieve?

Being outside in nature helps Ana to find peace. The fresh air, the beautiful flowers and the humming insects make her happy. She has made gardening her hobby. What is your favourite part of nature?

Ana likes things to be nice and orderly, so that she has some control over something, compared to the messy world around her. She creates lots of boundaries of where her plants can grow. What things do you do, or what things do your carers do, to keep things in order? What boundaries are put in place? For example, is there a particular place you put your toys?



What happens to her garden when she tries too hard to make it perfect by throwing the imperfect seeds away?

Imagine the plants and flowers are people: Ana keeps all the people she thinks are 'perfect' and 'pretty' and throws the rest away. Why might this not be a good idea? Why would it be better for everyone to learn to live and 'grow' together, regardless of looks, background or ability?

Although it isn't drawn attention to, Ana has a hearing impairment and wears hearing aids to help her hear others. However, we wouldn't know this because she is just like any other young person! What does this teach us about people with disabilities? Should we treat them differently? Do you know anyone with a disability (physical or hidden)? How are they made to feel welcome in your neighbourhood?



Plants, like people, need each other to grow healthily. We can't pick and choose, and throw away what we don't like. In the end, Ana realises that even the plants and flowers she threw over the wall grow to be big and beautiful, and begins to love it. What would be your favourite 'wild' plant or animal? Something that roams free of any control, but is still admirable.

### Activities

Keep a nature journal. Go out for a walk and make a note of everything you see (or ask a grown-up to help you)—plants, animals, etc. Now think about what each of those things eats. Where or how do they get it? How does everything in our natural environment need each other to survive?



Imagine you are an animal that you have seen on your walk. Describe what your day is like. Where do you go? What do you see? What do you eat?

Think about people around you—how do you all do things for each other? What do your parents do for you? What do your grandparents do for you? Teachers? Doctors? Binmen? Shop assistants? What would happen if someone didn't do something? Can you draw a web to show the link between all the people?



### Art Activity: Build a Fairy Garden!

You will need a grown-up to help you.

This can be filled with as much or as little as you like.

You first need to select a pot that is big and sturdy enough.

Fill it with soil.

Go on a walk around your garden, and house, and with permission, pick as many different flowers or plants, as well as some rocks or stones that catch your eye. If you have some small ornaments or garden pieces, you can use these too.

Decorate your pot to make it look like a little garden!







**Lantana**

Colouring sheet for *The Wall and the Wild* written by Christina Dendy and illustrated by Katie Rewse.

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