

BOOK CLUB NOTES

Magrit, a novel by Lee Battersby (Walker Books)

Summary

10-year-old Magrit has lived her whole life in a cemetery with no entrance and no exit. When the stork accidentally drops a baby into the cemetery grounds, Magrit decides to raise him as her own, despite the warnings of her skeletal best friend and advisor Master Puppet, and the ghostly voice that starts to taunt her from the area of the graveyard where Magrit never dares to go.

A delightfully dark fairy tale, full of Battersby's whimsy and charm.

– Jody Holmes, *ReadPlus*

About the Author

Lee Battersby is the author of several adult novels and over 70 short stories, published in Australia, the US and Europe. His work has been praised for its consistent attention to voice and narrative muscle and has resulted in a number of awards, including the Aurealis, Australia Shadows, and Australia SF Ditmar gongs. Lee lives in Mandurah, Western Australia, with his wife, writer Lyn Battersby and an increasingly weird mob of kids. He's been a stand-up comic, tennis coach, cartoonist, poet, and tax officer in previous times, and he currently works as Arts Officer for a local council, where he gets to play with artists all day. *Magrit* is his first novel with Walker Books Australia.

Questions for Discussion

- What's it like to read a story told primarily about a younger character? Does it affect the way you read the work as an adult? How important is it for children's books to be written for both young boys and young girls?
- Death is a key theme in *Magrit*. How important is it for children to be aware of death? Does children's fiction play a role in introducing it and similar themes in an accessible and enjoyable way?