



# Goodbye House, Hello House

Author: Margaret Wild  
Illustrator: Ann James

Publisher: Allen & Unwin  
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## Synopsis

This is the last time I'll fish in this river.  
This is the last time I'll run through these trees.  
This is the last time I'll dream by this fire ... Goodbye, old house. Goodbye.

A heartwarming story of letting go and starting anew, of moving from the country to the city, with a unique illustration style that allows room and space for the reader's imagination. Hello, new house. Hello!

## Author Bio

Margaret Wild was born in 1948 in Eschew, a small town in South Africa, and came to Australia in 1972. Before becoming a full-time writer, Margaret was a journalist for newspapers and magazines and then she worked for sixteen years as a book editor in children's publishing. Margaret's books explore a diverse range of themes, but she is particularly noted for exploring issues of identity, trust, and death.

Many of her books have appeared in foreign editions. All have been highly acclaimed. *Jenny Angel* (which was inspired by her brother's death at the age of seven), illustrated by Anne Spudvilas, *Fox*, illustrated by Ron Brooks, and *The Very Best of Friends*, illustrated by Julie Vivas are all winners of the CBCA Picture Book of the Year Award, while *Lucy Goosey* and *Little Humpty*, both illustrated by Ann James, were named honour books.



## Illustrator Bio

Ann James was a secondary art teacher before she took up children's book illustration over twenty years ago. She has illustrated more than 50 books since then.

Some well-loved favourites include the Penny Pollard series by Robin Klein, *The Midnight Gang* and *The Midnight Feast* by Margaret Wild, the Hannah series by Libby Gleeson, *The Butterfly* by Roger Vaughan Carr and most recently *Little Humpty* by Margaret Wild and *Shutting the Chooks In* by Libby Gleeson. Ann has written and illustrated two picture books of her own, *One Day* and *Finding Jack*. Most of her illustrations feature her own animals and she delights in being playful and experimental with the materials she chooses to work with. She and her friend Ann Haddon run Books Illustrated, a bookshop and gallery for book illustrations in Albert Park. Ann lives right opposite the dog beach in Melbourne, where she spends time thinking and walking with her dogs, Ollie and Kip.



Photo Credit: (c) Walker

## Curriculum Links

HASS - Foundation    ACHASSK015    ACHASSK017  
 HASS - Year 1    ACHASSK031  
 English - Literature - Foundation  
 Health and Physical Education - Foundation    ACPPS005

## Themes

**First Experiences**  
**Moving House**

## Pre-Reading Questions

Look at the front cover of the book.  
 Read the title together.  
 Look at the names on the book. What are they there for?  
 Identify the author and the illustrator. What do the author and illustrator do?

What do you think the story will be about?  
 Read the blurb at the back of the book.  
 What kind of things are you now expecting to see inside the book? What questions do you have?

Just inside the cover, before the title pages and the start of the story, are some illustrated pages. These are called 'endpapers'. What do the endpapers in the front of the book show you? What do they add to what you've already guessed about the story?

(When you've finished reading the book, look at the front and back endpapers together. Are they the same?  
 If not, what is different about them. How does that tie in with the story?)

## Discussion Questions

After reading the story, ask the children what they think the story is about.

What are the clues in the text or illustrations that help us know what is going on in the story.

Emma is moving house. From the country to the city. How do you think she feels.

Ask the class if anyone has moved house. How did they feel? Happy? Excited? Sad?  
 Nervous?  
 Or all of these things?

Why would you feel Happy/Excited/Sad/Nervous? Can you feel happy and sad at the same time?

Talk about other new experiences that have made us feel:

Happy  
 Excited  
 Nervous  
 Sad

## Home

Ask the class what the word 'home' means to them.  
 Write the responses on the board.

Ask if they think there is a difference between a house and a home, and what are those differences.

Some other books about 'home' and moving house

