



Her Mother's Face

Roddy Doyle , Freya Blackwood (Illustrator)

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Her Mother's Face

Roddy Doyle , Freya Blackwood (Illustrator)

Her Mother's Face Roddy Doyle , Freya Blackwood (Illustrator)

Award winners Roddy Doyle and Freya Blackwood team up to create a heartwarming story of loss, love, and what it means to be a family.

When Siobhan was just three years old, her mother died, leaving Siobhan and her father alone in their house in Dublin. They never talk about her, and now, at ten years old, Siobhan no longer remembers her mother's face.

One day, Siobhan meets a mysterious woman in the park who tells her that to remember her mother, she just needs to look in a mirror. As Siobhan grows older, she sees more and more of her mother's face in her own reflection. With time, she and her father and her own daughter are able to remember Siobhan's mother with joy and laughter instead of tears.

Her Mother's Face Details

Date : Published November 1st 2008 by Arthur A. Levine Books

ISBN : 9780439815017

Author : Roddy Doyle , Freya Blackwood (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Death, Family

 [Download Her Mother's Face ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Her Mother's Face ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Her Mother's Face Roddy Doyle , Freya Blackwood (Illustrator)

From Reader Review Her Mother's Face for online ebook

Felicia says

Summary:

Siobhán lives in a big house in Dublin with her father. There is only her and her father, no one else – no brothers or sisters, no grandparents, no cousins, no aunts or uncles. And no mother. Siobhán's mother died when she was three and since her father won't talk about her, the memory of her has been slowly fading, and now, Siobhán no longer is able to remember her mother's face. When she tries to talk with her dad about her mother, he is so sad she gives up. But deep inside, Siobhán is longing to talk about her mother, and one day she meets a mysterious woman who listens to her. The woman gives her an advice that changes things for Siobhán forever: look in the mirror and your mother will be looking back at you.

Themes:

This book deals with the death of a parent and the life long process of grief that such an event brings.

Personal response:

I was deeply moved by the story about how Siobhán and her father deals with the passing of the mother. It is a truly sad, but beautiful and important story to read. I especially appreciated the fact that this story makes a point of not ending with a "happily ever after", but is honest in that one never recovers completely from the sadness of losing a parent.

Why I recommend it:

While this story may be emotionally challenging for young children, I believe it could work very comforting for a child that has lost a parent. It would also help other children understand and sympathize with children that has gone through similar events. Being in contact with one's emotions is very valuable in life, and this book can help children understand complex feelings of love and sadness.

Angela says

Before I came across this book I was only familiar with Roddy Doyle's adult literature much of which has rather colourful language, so I was curious to see what his writing style was like for children's literature. This book deals with a deep emotional issue in a very child friendly, delicate, accessible way. This story is set in Dublin and is about a girl named Siobhan whose mother died when she was 3 years old and she has now reached the stage where she can hardly remember what her mother looked like. Her father does not talk about her mum (like many men, or people who have recently been bereaved, we are given the impression that he is not ready/able to talk about such an emotional matter). The story deals with Siobhan's grieving and the longing that she feels for her mother. One day Siobhan meets a stranger in the park; a person whom she can open her heart up to and explain her feelings. It can be interpreted that this woman is a representation of her own mother. The woman explains to Siobhan that she should look in the mirror if she wants to know what her mother looked like (i.e. that her mother's image will be reflected in her own appearance as she grows up).

A very nice book to use in the classroom if you are looking at the issue of death and emotions. May suit independent readers in key stage 2. The book could be used in a cross curricular way between English and Religious Education. Although the story deals with death it is in no way depressing and the ending is actually really uplifting. Beautifully illustrated using a small range of colours (reds, greens and neutral tones).

FredTownWard says

Not Just for Children Who've Lost a Loved One,

This marvelously written and illustrated book, by turns heartrending and heartwarming, is not just bibliotherapy for children who've lost a loved one, though it could function quite well as that. It is also just a wonderful book for children who can thank God everyday their families are still intact.

Siobahn's mother had died when she was only three, and the only family she has left is her loving but still grieving father who still cannot talk about her mother and has apparently hidden away every single photo of her. So at 10, not only does Siobahn know nothing about her mother beyond her own memories, but now she can no longer remember her mother's face. The first part of the book consists of what Siobahn CAN remember about her loving (and fun loving) mother and Siobahn living with her silent sadness. Then one day in the park where one of her partial memories was made, she meets a lady she finally unburdens herself to who tells her a secret:

"...look in the mirror.... Because then you'll see your mother... the way she looked when she was your age...."

Siobahn goes home and stares into the mirror until she can begin to see another little girl, very like herself, but not exactly the same, and now she finds that she CAN see her mother's face, if not with absolute clarity, when she goes through her memories of her and feels happy for the first time since her mother died. The years fly by in the rest of the book with Siobahn checking the mirror every morning and evening until on her 30th birthday she realizes something extraordinary! The result heals not only her heart but also her father's.

Freya Blackwood's gorgeous illustrations perfectly complement the text, in fact one of them towards the end reveals something the text implies but does not state outright.

Recommended to everyone.

<http://www.amazon.com/review/R1J87XA6...>

Matilda Moir says

This is a lovely book full of emotion and colour. It follows the story of a young girl who cannot remember the face of her deceased mother. The first page really draws you in, we have two completely different characters. Siobhan who is colourful, inquisitive and happy, she is in the left hand side of an unframed page (we are looking down on her which indicates the sadness/insecurity she feels later on in the book). In the far top right we have her father, we can barely see him but we know how sad he is, he is slumped in the corner, in a dark room with no colour except pale. There is a combination of full pages and frames within the book. We have a mixture of past and present throughout, as well as a mixture of happiness and sadness. The moral of this story seems to surrounding self-awareness and seeing whats right in front of you. The ending is a perfect, yet original happy ending. Siobhan realises she can have happiness and her father opens up to the idea as well. It also advertises to children the reality of the world; there isn't really a 'happily ever after' but living life to its full potential with happiness and sadness.

Mathew says

Doyle's first picture book (and I use that term very sweepingly because it's more of a story illustrated) touches on the life of Siobhan, a girl who grows under the shadow of her father's loss of his beloved wife and her anxiety and pain at losing sight of her mother who died when she was three.

Although the meaning behind the story is tender and the fact that her father will not speak about his wife until the end is hard to take, I just felt no chemistry between the words and pictures. Much like Almond's first venture in picturebooks, a part of this is because Doyle writes everything needed and Blackwood, whose watercolours are lovely, is bound to the text - no room for exploring or expanding.

Gonzos says

We have read this book as a class in school. The children are 11-12 years old.

This is a heartwarming story the majority of our class really enjoyed it.

The delicate detailed pictures were delightful and very popular among the children.

There is a lesson to be learnt in this beautiful story, it reminds the readers to appreciate their families and also when life becomes too serious its important to put a feather in your knickers and have a giggle!

Although the content and theme of the book is sad, poignant and unorthodox it is still very child friendly and a must read for every young reader! The sad beginning leads to a surprisingly happy and cheerful ending.

Cami says

Beautifully illustrated, this is a book about a young girl whose mother has died. The only other family she has is her dad and he won't ever talk about his wife. The girl is sad that she can't remember her mother's face. One day a surprise meeting with a stranger changes things...

I cried through the last half of this book unapologetically. I think mother's will like this a lot more than kids, but my daughter was obviously drawn to the lovely pictures.

Katy Brandes says

Reading this children's book today gave me an adult-sized smile, which I really needed to help heal my adult-sized grief.

Louise (A Strong Belief in Wicker) says

Wow what a perfect book. I hope that Roddy Doyle writes many more picture books if this is one is representative. It's sensational. The moving story of a young girl called Siobhan whose mother died when she was 3 years old. Time passes and she can remember her mother's hands and words, but has trouble remembering her face. Siobhan's father is silent from his grief. Subtly illustrated by Freya Blackwood, her

gentle, evocative paintings complement the story beautifully. Cover blurbs are rarely correct, but I think that this story is indeed "'a balm to the heart, and a feather in the knickers".

Eloise says

Reading this nice little picture book, which came to me straight from Dublin (yes, Ireland!) via my favorite book fairy, was cathartic for me. It's been 18 years since my mother died, and I often try to remember exactly what she looked like, which shouldn't be all that difficult, since I wasn't exactly a child when she died. But sometimes it is difficult to remember. So, I very much identified with the girl in the book. A tender, sweet story.

Tami says

Siobhan was sad. She dearly missed her mother. She had wonderful memories of all the fun things she and her mother had done and the moments that they had shared together before Siobhan's mother had died. But she was beginning to forget what her mother her mother had looked like.

Then, one day something mystical happened. A woman told Siobhan that if she wanted to know what her mother looked like she should look in the mirror. As she aged, she would see her mother's face as she was when she was that age.

Her Mother's Face is a touching story with a surprise ending that will make you smile.

Linda says

Yes, THAT Roddy Doyle has written a children's book. It's an old fashioned approach to telling a children's story, so at first I was skeptical (and it's long; I'd classify it as a picture storybook, rather than just pb). This is a lovely, sad story about a girl whose mother dies when she's 3, and her father removes all memories and photos from the house. She can remember her mother's voice and their interactions, but she can't remember her mother's face -- until a stranger at a park tells her to look in the mirror. This one won me over. It won't be one you read over and over, but it makes a meaty read-together

Ellie Labbett says

Doyle explores the effect of losing someone early on in life, the fading memory and the consequences of suppressing feelings. The story has a lovely moving message that those who we love never really leave, we hold them within us.

At times, I felt that this was a slightly ambiguous story and I wondered where the boundary lay between reality and the imagination. Perhaps this is just a reflection upon the reality of death, how someone that no longer exists can feel so real to us.

Importantly, Doyle hones in on the fact that life moves on without a loved one, good things can happen, and relationships can evolve. This is a necessary understanding for all elements of life, not just death.

Randie D. Camp, M.S. says

Siobhan's mother passed away when she was just three years old, now that she is a little older she is sad because she can't remember her mother's face. Siobhan puts on a strong face, has lots of friends, does well in school but no one knows she is sad and her father is too sad to talk about her mother. One day, Siobhan meets a stranger in the park who listens to her feelings and offers her great advice. Siobhan follows it and as she grows older, she is able to see her mother's face and find happiness.

Beautiful story, soothing illustrations, comforting book for anyone who has lost a loved one.

Megan says

I love it when writers for adults turn their hand to children's literature and this is about as lovely as a 'not happily ever after' story can be. Freya Blackwood's measured illustrations paired with Roddy Doyle's compassionate insights into family and a young girl's search are finely balanced in this wonderful book for young and old. I've read this many times and discover something new each time.
