



TEACHERS' RESOURCES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Secondary (ages 13+, years 8 to 11)

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KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- **Learning areas:** English
- **General capabilities:** Ethical understanding; Critical and creative thinking

REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

- An unputdownable suspense thriller and compulsive read that will have everyone talking.
- Under Annie's sugary-sweet exterior is an unreliable narrator who will have readers frantically turning pages to find out her secrets.
- Perfect for discussion and debate about moral and ethical dilemmas.
- Take a deeper look at how an author creates an unreliable narrator – what information is withheld, and what is told? How is suspense maintained?

THEMES

- Secrets and lies
- Family
- Friendship
- Trust
- Revenge
- Moral dilemmas
- Guilt and forgiveness

PREPARED BY

Penguin Random House Australia

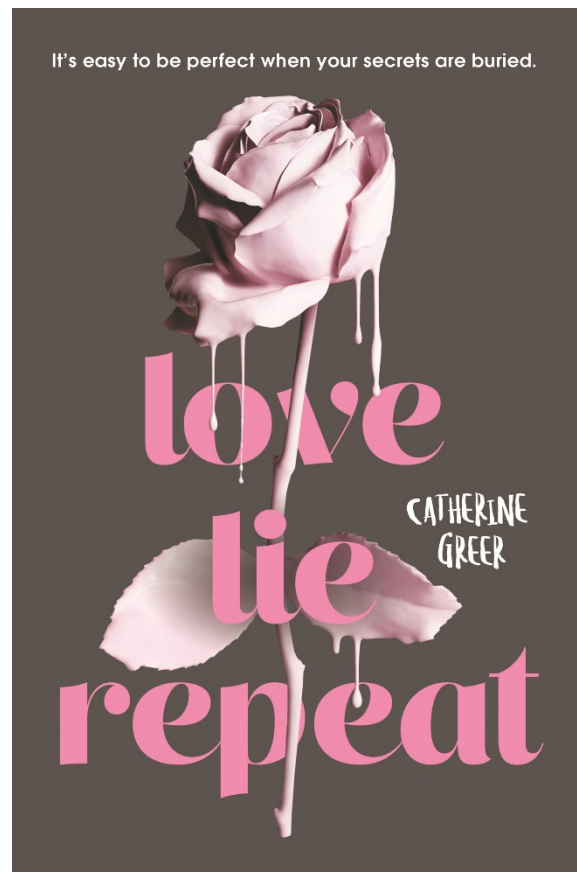
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Love Lie Repeat Catherine Greer

PLOT SUMMARY

Three girls, loyal to each other? That never happens. All the groups of three implode eventually. Two in, one out. Change. Betrayal. Again and again.

But not us. I make sure of it. I make Ash and Ruby see that our power is in our three-ness. We can do what no other trio can.

Together, we're strong.

Thick, thin, boys, mothers, divorce, other girls, secrets, lies, all of it.

I'll keep us together.

Watch me.

Intoxicating and intense, lush and chilling, *Love Lie Repeat* is the unmissable debut novel from Catherine Greer.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Catherine Greer is a Canadian-Australian author, copywriter and blogger. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Honours degree and a Master's degree in English. After working as a high school English teacher in Canada, Catherine immigrated with her husband to Australia where she runs her own freelance copywriting business in Sydney. She's the mother of two teenage sons.

Catherine is the author of the debut Young Adult thriller, *Love Lie Repeat*. Catherine is also the collaborating author of *Choosing Happiness* (with Stephanie Dowrick, A&U 2006), an award-winning positive psychology book available worldwide. Catherine's growth mindset picture book, *Jacaranda Snow* (Wombat Books), launched in October 2018.

When she's not writing books, Catherine runs a happiness blog, focusing on positive psychology, and recently she has been a guest on several popular American podcasts, including The Lively Show. Find out more about Catherine at catherinegreer.com.au or get in contact with her on: catherine@catherinegreer.com.au

AUTHOR'S INSPIRATION

Seeking inspiration for a contemporary novel, Catherine Greer looked at her office wall and saw her favourite poem, 'Siren Song', written 40 years ago by a fellow Canadian and her literary idol, Margaret Atwood. Catherine decided there was a novel buried in the Atwood poem, and she wrote a psychological suspense about girls, guilt and power.

Catherine says: 'I wanted to write a book about the pressure to be perfect, and about teenage girls who are powerful, smart and worldly. They live in a competitive world – competing for grades, for attention, for "likes", for love. I wanted to show their struggles; I wanted to explore the idea that their cloistered world of home and school can be challenging – and sometimes dangerous. I wanted to show their struggles; I wanted to show that girls and women may be good at forgiving, but they never ever forget.'

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

Look at the cover image and blurb.

1. What do you think the image of the rose could symbolise?
2. What do you think the altered rose image is suggesting about beauty and perfection?
3. Read the strapline at the top of the front cover. What clues do you think this gives the reader about the type of book it is?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Catherine explores female relationships throughout the novel; the relationship between mothers and daughters, and between girlfriends. What issues are able to be explored in the narrative by focusing on the different dynamics in these relationships?
2. Annie and Claudia's relationship is complex and changes throughout the story. Do you think Annie's relationship with her mother will improve as time goes on? Or deteriorate further?
3. Annie is an unreliable narrator. How does the author ensure that ultimately the reader sympathises with her and cares about what happens to her? Is it always important for the reader to like the central character? Can you think of other examples of unreliable narrators in books and film?
4. During the story, it is easy to think badly of Annie's father since he is absent for most of the time and often disappoints Annie and lets her down. How do you feel about him by the end of the story? Did your feelings change?
5. Annie describes herself as someone who keeps people safe. Do you think this is correct? Do you think she believes that to be true?
6. The girls in the story wield a lot of power – within their own group and outside it. Do you think this is typical in everyday life?
7. The last chapter of the book, 'Repeat', implies that Annie hasn't quite moved on and let Trip and the past go ... Where do you think Annie will be in five years' time? And in ten years' time?
8. How do you think Annie's life would be different if Margaretta had never come to stay with them? Do you think her family would have been happier?
9. '*I'm good at finding out about people. And facing the worst.*' (p. 57) Do you think that this is true about Annie? There are a lot of secrets being kept by characters in the novel and Annie doesn't know all of them (Ashlin being gay, Annie's dad moving away). Why do you think Annie has this opinion about herself?
10. '*If there was one thing I could change, I would stop Mother from sighing. Sometimes I imagine choking those sighs from her throat. Sigh. Sigh. Sigh. I want to shake her and say she should stop being such a victim. But I don't – of course I don't – because I am a good daughter, a good person. Most of the time.*' (p. 126) Annie has a very low opinion of her mother during the story. Do you think that the revelation at the end of the narrative would have changed



this? Do you think that Claudia did the right thing? How has her decision to protect Annie over the years affected her?

KEY TEXTUAL CONCEPTS

Point of view

The story is told from Annie's point of view, but as mentioned above she is a highly unreliable narrator.

1. What do you think would change about the novel if we were to see a second character's point of view? For example Trip's viewpoint, or Ashlin's or Ruby's? Do you think seeing Margaretta's point of view in the flashbacks would have revealed a different side to Annie?
2. Would multiple points of view have changed the way you felt about Annie while reading? How would it have changed the direction of the book?
3. Pick a section of the novel to re-read. Now that you're familiar with the whole story – are there places where you can tell Annie is lying to the reader?
4. Get into the headspace of one of your favourite characters from the book (apart from Annie). Write a scene from their point of view. For example, write a scene from Annie's mother's viewpoint, perhaps after one of the conversations she has with Annie about Margaretta. Or write the scene at the tattoo parlour from Trip's point of view.
5. Re-read chapter 37. Write a scene from Chloe's viewpoint, including a conversation between her and Annie's father after the incident at the restaurant. How much do you think Chloe knows about Annie and her past? Do you think Chloe is the 'nightmare' stepmother that Annie makes her out to be?

Intertextuality

There are several literary references mentioned throughout the novel: *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald and the poem 'Siren Song' by Margaret Atwood.

1. How do these three texts link to the novel *Love Lie Repeat*? Are they linked by themes? By the plot? Or by the characteristics of the main characters?
2. Now that you've read the novel in its entirety go back to chapter 6 and re-read 'Siren Song' by Margaret Atwood. Are there warning signs about Annie's personality hidden in the poem? How does this make you feel about Annie's actions?

3. Annie gives Trip a pile of her father's old books. Some of the titles are *Fear and Trembling* by Kierkegaard, *Light in August* by William Faulkner and various titles by Lawrence Durrell. Research one or more of these books. Do you think the author chose these particular books deliberately to suit the themes of the novel? Or do you think the selection was random?
4. As well as pieces of literature, the author has used various products in the story to help create mood and tension. Re-read chapter 8, taking note of the names of the perfumes mentioned. Are these deliberate choices by the author? How has that decision effected that scene? Can you find other examples of this in the novel?

Symbolism

There are any symbols in the story: fire, metallic colours, silk dresses, crystals, hair references.

1. How does the author use the symbols within the book to reflect the darkness and light that exists within the character?
2. Annie decides to have the word 'choose' tattooed on her wrist when Trip takes her to the parlour. However the reader doesn't find out what she has inked on her skin until later in the novel. What does her decision tell us about Annie as a person? She uses the word as a symbol and reminder – do you think the tattoo helps her in the long run?
3. Trip tells Annie about the cave in Mexico – Cueva de los Cristales. How does this fit in with the other symbols in the novel? Why do you think the images of crystals (the cave, Trip's aquamarine crystal, Ruby's name, the crystal gallery at the Australian Museum) are used so frequently by the author?

ACTIVITIES

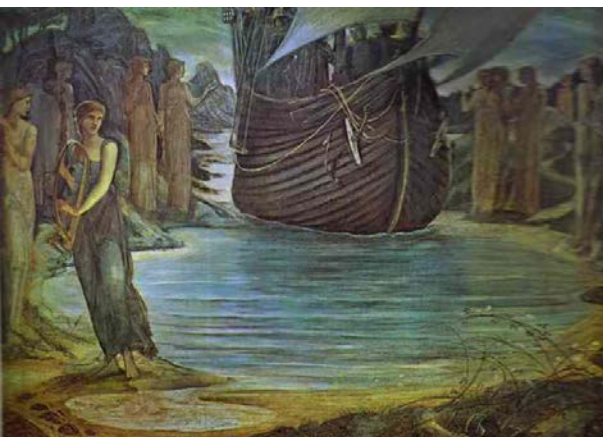
1. On pages 194/195, Annie says that her ten-year-old self wrote a story about a girl who was brave and smart. She called it *The Fierce Girl versus the World*. What do you think this story was about? Write the story that Annie mentions in the style of a fairytale.
2. Catherine Greer repeatedly uses objects as symbols in the novel: tattoos, crystals, long hair, flowers, scents. Create a mood board of images that you could use if you were designing the cover of the book. Create a hierarchy for these symbols. Are some more important than others? Pair these symbols with captions you've written or quotes from the novel.



3. *Love Lie Repeat* is full of amazing quotes about girls, power, relationships, love and hate, guilt and redemption. Design your own postcards to advertise the novel. Use hand-lettering, photography, graphics – whatever you think looks awesome.
4. Setting is an important way that the author builds tension in the novel. Take (or find) gorgeous photos of key elements of the setting and create a gallery display that Annie might pin on a bulletin board above her desk. You'll want to include a house like Grafton Hall, St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, skiing at Whistler, Australian Museum, etc.
5. Whether you love or hate Annie, do you know girls who are like her? Is it possible for all of us to have a little bit of 'Annie' inside us? Can you understand why she is like she is? Write an email to Annie. What would you say to her?
6. Imagine you're Annie. Write a journal entry after one of the major events in the novel. (For example, after the tattoo parlour, after your new half-sister is born, when you find Ruby's hairclip on Trip's sofa.)
7. Research 'sirens' in mythology. Do you think this name the Mothers gave the girls is accurate and suitable when compared to the mythological creatures? Why or why not? What does the idea of sirens say about the way women's power has been perceived throughout history?
8. Draw or paint your own version of modern-day sirens, inspired by Margaret Atwood's poem 'Siren Song', by Annie, and by depictions of sirens from art history.



Ulysses and the Sirens, John William Waterhouse, 1891



The Sirens, Edward Burne-Jones, c. 1875

KEY QUOTES FROM LOVE LIE REPEAT

Love Lie Repeat is perfect for reading groups. Get your reading group, class or friends talking with these quotes that sum up Annie's world. Do you agree or disagree with each one? Is it true or untrue . . . or somewhere in between? Is Annie keeping her friends safe, or doing them harm?

You've probably had that kind of friend; we all have. The one who says she's telling you something for your own good? And then she scalpels a horrible truth into your heart so deep and painful it never, ever goes away? (p. 1)

When I tell the truth, it's for a good reason. It's to keep everyone safe. (p. 1)

We're *privileged*, [my mother] reminds me almost every day, and that comes with a certain level of *responsibility*. What this means is that – like every other mother in our suburb – she's raising me to perfection. Our parents give us every advantage, then expect results. (p. 17)

Alas it is a boring song but it works every time. (p. 28, from 'Siren Song' by Margaret Atwood, used with permission)

The truth should be everything. (p. 32)

She had almost died saving me. Almost, but not quite. (p. 48)

I'm good at finding out about people. And facing the worst. (p. 57)

They light fires, real or metaphorical. They cause things to mess up. Just like me. (p. 57)

Girls may be good at forgiving, but they never ever forget. (p. 88)

Boys come and boys go but Sirens are friends forever. (p. 112)

I want to shake her and say she should stop being such a victim. But I don't – of course I don't – because I am a good daughter, a good person. Most of the time. (p. 126)

I refuse to let my own mind mess me up. (p. 148)

[My] scars exist invisible inescapable from every decision I've ever made. Tonight, right now, I'm about to make another one: a decision or maybe a mistake. (p. 152)

He betrayed me. He says he loves me. Both could be true, or neither. (p. 169)

In general, truth kills. (p. 187)

But three girls, loyal to each other? That never happens. All the groups of three implode eventually. Two in, one out. Change. Betrayal. Again and again. Every week somebody's heart is broken. (pp. 187–188)

I can spot a liar anywhere, any time. Because it takes one to know one. (p. 198)

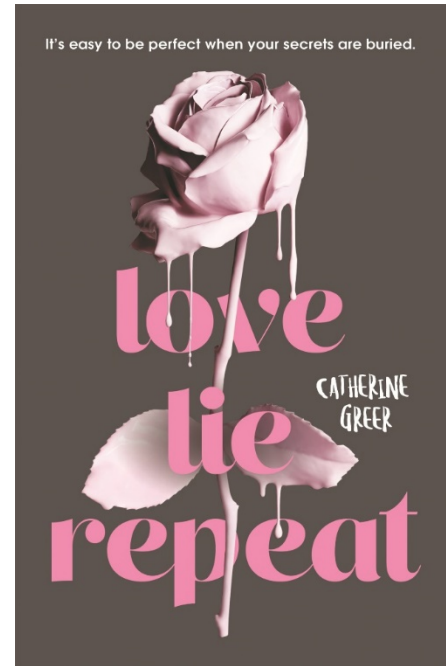
There is almost nothing better than chocolate, not even true love. (p. 226)

Your boots are only as brave as you are. (p. 248)

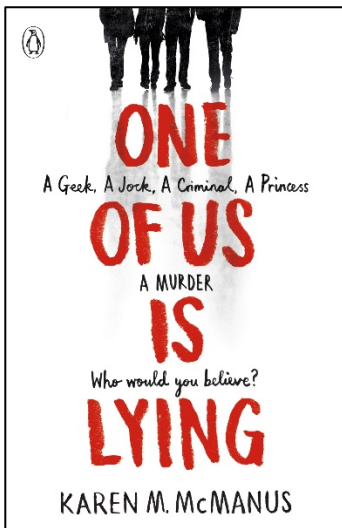
Behind every untrusting girl is a boy who made her that way. (p. 270)

When I do something, I have a good reason. I help people learn their lesson, help them change for the better. (p. 271)

I look at my Sirens and I think that girls do a lot of things because of fear. We lie and worry and build a version of ourselves – an acceptable version – to convince other people we're okay. We carry weight we don't need to carry, weight from worry and from lies. (p. 313)



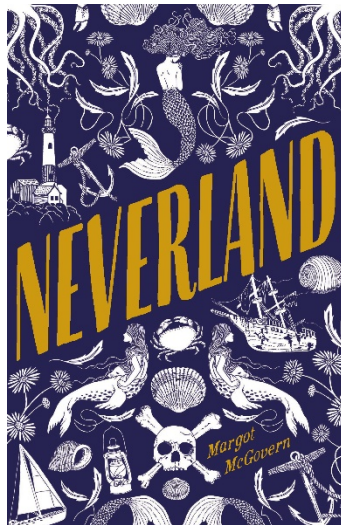
FURTHER READING FROM PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE AUSTRALIA



One of Us is Lying
by Karen M. McManus

On Thursday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention. Bronwyn, the brain, is Yale-bound and never breaks a rule. Addy, the beauty, is the picture-perfect homecoming princess. Nate, the criminal, is already on probation for dealing. Cooper, the athlete, is the all-star baseball pitcher. And Simon, the outcast, is the creator of Bayview High's notorious gossip app.

Only, Simon never makes it out of that classroom. Before the end of detention, Simon's dead. And according to investigators, his death wasn't an accident. On Thursday, he died. But on Friday, he'd planned to post juicy reveals about all four of his high-profile classmates, which makes all four of them suspects in his murder. Or are they just the perfect patsies for a killer who's still on the loose? Everyone has secrets, right? What really matters is how far you would go to protect them.



Neverland
by Margot McGovern

After doing herself near-fatal harm, Kit has returned to her island home. But it's a place she hardly recognises: the witch and the mermaids are hiding and the pirates have sailed to more bountiful shores. In their place is Neverland and its inhabitants – damaged teens too sick to be in regular school, watched over by her psychiatrist uncle. And now Kit is one of them.

Kit has a choice. She can use illicit night-time adventures with friends and mysterious new boy Rohan to avoid the truth. Or she can separate harsh reality from childhood fantasy and remember the night of her parents' deaths.

What really prompted her family's departure from the island? Did a monster drive them away? Is the monster still there?

Teachers' resources available.



Risk
by Fleur Ferris

Taylor and Sierra have been best friends for their whole lives. But Taylor's fed up. Why does Sierra always get what – and who – she wants? From kissing Taylor's crush to stealing the guy they both met online for herself, Sierra doesn't seem to notice when she hurts her friends.

So when Sierra says Jacob Jones is the one and asks her friends to cover for her while she goes to meet him for the first time, Taylor rolls her eyes.

But Sierra doesn't come back when she said she would. One day. Two days. Three . . . What if Taylor's worrying for nothing? What if Sierra's just being Sierra, forgetting about everyone else to spend time with her new guy?

When Taylor finally tells Sierra's mum that her daughter is missing, Taylor and her friends are thrown into a dark world they never even knew existed.

Can Taylor find Sierra's abductor in time? Or should she be looking for a killer?

Teachers' resources available.



ORDER FORM

TITLE	AUTHOR	ISBN	SCHOOL YEAR	RRP	QTY	TOTAL
Love Lie Repeat	Catherine Greer	9780143791225	8-11	\$19.99		
One of Us is Lying	Karen M. McManus	9780141375632	9-12	\$17.99		
Neverland	Margot McGovern	9780143787846	9-12	\$19.99		
Risk	Fleur Ferris	9780857986474	8-10	\$19.99		
TOTAL						

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