

LOAST

Anne Donovan

Plot Summary

Loast (from the Scots “lost”) follows a character who becomes physically or emotionally lost—often interpreted as a **child becoming lost temporarily**, or a metaphorical loss within a family situation. The story explores fear, disorientation, and the bond between parent and child or between siblings. [\[twinkl.co.uk\]](https://www.twinkl.co.uk)

(Many schools describe it as centring on a moment of panic followed by relief, with a shift in emotional closeness.)

Themes

Fear & Vulnerability

- A child or narrator experiences fear when lost or losing sight of a loved one.

Parent–Child Bond / Responsibility

- Fear emphasises how important the relationship is.

Growing Up

- Realisation of how quickly things can go wrong.

Safety & Danger

- Everyday situations can quickly become threatening.
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Language & Style

- Scots narration typical of Donovan’s work.
- Sensory detail to heighten panic and fear.

- Emotional shift from anxiety → relief.

(While specific quotations aren't publicly available in search results, the structure mirrors Donovan's typical first-person dialect style.)

Symbols

- **The environment (shops, streets, crowds, landscape):** confusion.
 - **The moment of reunion:** comfort, security, restored trust.
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Why It Matters

- Although less discussed online, *Loast* is chosen as a National 5 set text (2026 onwards).
[\[sqa.org.uk\]](https://www.sqa.org.uk)
- Fits Donovan's pattern of capturing *significant moments* in ordinary lives.