



Blurb

A picture book inspired by the true story of a giraffe sent as a gift to the King of France by the Great Pasha of Egypt in the 1820s.

The exquisitely composed pictures show the different stages of the journey made by Zeraffa, accompanied by her keeper, the young boy Atir. They travel downriver in a felucca 'to the place where the sea sipped up to the Nile' and cross the sea under a star-filled sky.

On arrival in Marseilles, it becomes apparent that the only practical way to get Zeraffa to her destination is to walk the 550 miles to Paris where she becomes much admired and inspires some extraordinary fashions.

The story ends on a note of connectedness between Europe and Africa.

This beautiful book could form the basis for children to explore the landscapes, cultures and environments.



Something about the Author- Dianne Hofmeyr

Dianne grew up on the southern tip of Africa. She graduated as an art teacher in Cape Town, South Africa, and has written several novels and picture books. Other picture books include *The Star-Bearer* and the *Faraway Island*. She now lives in London.

SPaG Focus

- ☐ **Adjectives** - words used to describe and give more information about a noun, which could be a person, place or object.
 - ☐ **Expanded noun phrase**- a descriptive phrase made up of a noun as well as one or more adjectives.
 - ☐ **Homophone**- each of two or more words having the same pronunciation but different meanings, origins, or spelling, for example new and knew.
- Sentence types:**
- ☐ **Command**- a type of sentence in which someone is being told to do something.
 - ☐ **Exclamation**- exclamation marks are used at the end of statements when a strong emotion is being expressed (good and bad – surprise, excitement or delight, but also anger, fear or shock).
 - ☐ **Question**- a type of sentence used to ask or write to gain further information from a person or people responding.
 - ☐ **Statement**- a definite or clear expression of something in speech or writing.

Teaching sequence aims:

- To talk confidently about picture books and responses individual to them.
- To explore important themes of courage, perseverance and compassion.
- To be able to take part in and write a balanced argument.
- To write a newspaper report.
- To use persuasive language when advertising a product or event.
- To write in role from more than one perspective.

Vocabulary

acacias - a tree or shrub of warm climates which bears spikes or clusters of yellow or white flowers and is typically thorny. (noun)

amulet- an ornament or small piece of jewellery thought to give protection against evil, danger, or disease. (noun)

balmy- pleasant, warm weather. (adjective)

giraffe- a large African mammal with a very long neck and forelegs, having a coat patterned with brown patches separated by lighter lines. It is the tallest living animal. (noun)

glimpse- a little look. (verb)

felucca- a small boat propelled by oars or lateen sails or both, used on the Nile and formerly more widely in the Mediterranean region. (noun)

pasha- the title of an officer of high rank. (noun)

rotunda - a round building or room, especially one with a dome. (noun)

soiree - an evening party or gathering, typically in a private house, for conversation or music. (noun)