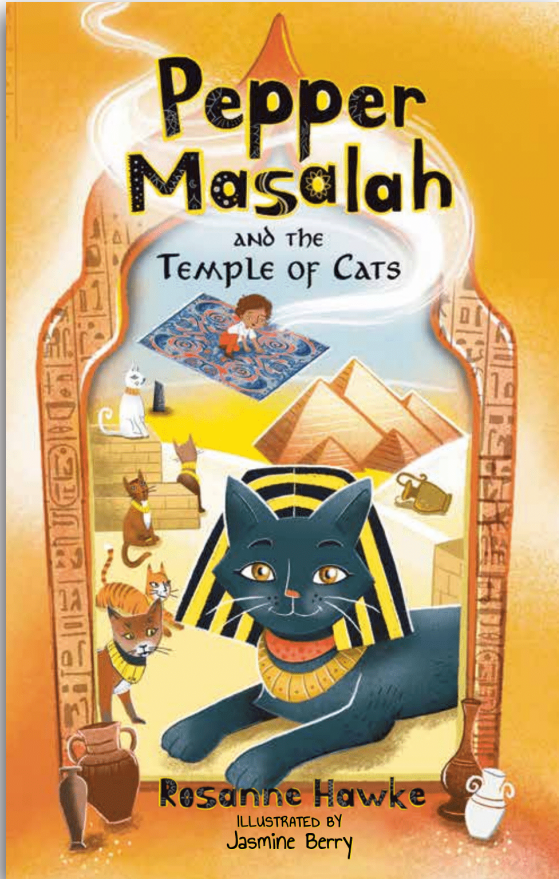


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# Teachers' Notes

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## PEPPER MASALAH AND THE TEMPLE OF CATS

Rosanne Hawke / Jasmine Berry

**ISBN:** 9781761111105

**Recommended retail:** \$11.99

**Reading level:** 6 to 8

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### BOOK SUMMARY

Pepper Masalah's flying carpet lands in Ancient Egypt where Pepper and Zam are taken to a temple full of cats by a girl called Tabia. Pepper is in danger as the people want to make her into a mummy as she is so special. To make it worse the carpet has floated away on the Nile and Pepper and Zam are stuck in time.

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## THEMES

Ancient Egyptian culture • Geography of Egypt • The Nile • Friendship and Kindness •  
Bombay & British short hair cats • Courage • Fantasy and Adventure in history

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**Rosanne Hawke is available for author talks and workshops.  
Contact Wombat Books for more information.**

*Pepper Masalah Teachers' Notes can be used in schools  
(independent learning, small groups, and whole classes); at home  
with caregivers; and as part of mental health support programs  
facilitated by counsellors, psychologists, children's charities, etc.*



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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Author Rosanne Hawke has been a teacher, a creative writing lecturer and a volunteer/aidworker in Pakistan and the UAE from 1981 to 1991. She spent two years in Al Ain, UAE (near the Omani border) between 1983-1985. She returned to Pakistan in 2006 on an Asialink Fellowship. She began writing in Pakistan and has over 35 books published.

Many of her books are set in Pakistan, Afghanistan, Azad Kashmir or about Afghans and Pakistanis in Australia. These include *Shahana*, *Marrying Ameera*, *Beyond Borders* and *Taj and the Camel Trek*. She lives in rural South Australia; loves reading and cats, and has been kissed by a camel.

### AUTHOR NOTES

I have not been to Egypt but my father had photos of him standing by the pyramids during WW2. I was fascinated as a child by the ancient culture of pyramids, the Sphinx and deserts. I remember making a map of Egypt at school and drawing camels on the yellow land of the map. I was also impressed that the ancient Egyptians revered cats. I knew Bible stories about Egypt too. Egypt seemed a good choice for Pepper, Zam and the carpet to land next as the carpet is trying to find its original owner. However, the carpet is still remembering how to fly and to do things properly, so it flies too far back in time.

My love of cats grew from childhood. I remember eating from the cat's bowl, trying to be a cat. We always had a farm cat, usually an orange tabby tom. They were always called Tom. The cats I've had in the last 20 years have helped inspire the Pepper Masalah series. Q, a tuxedo cat was clever and collected hairpins and could open certain doors. Harry was an easy-going farm cat and went missing after a freak storm! That was when I first thought of Pepper's story. My daughter helped me think up a good name for a cat in the story. We came up with Pepper Masalah. Then I bought a black cat. I looked at Bombay cats first, then decided on a British Shorthair. I named the kitten Pepper Masalah. He was beautiful, intelligent and had a purr like a generator. And he loved carpets. You can find out more about my cats on my new website.

[www.rosannehawke.com](http://www.rosannehawke.com)



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## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

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Jasmine Berry grew up in beautiful Albany, Western Australia. She has been drawing to impress the other kids, since she was old enough to hold a colouring pencil.

But lately, she crafts these exciting and magical worlds with her computer, iPad and many coffees.

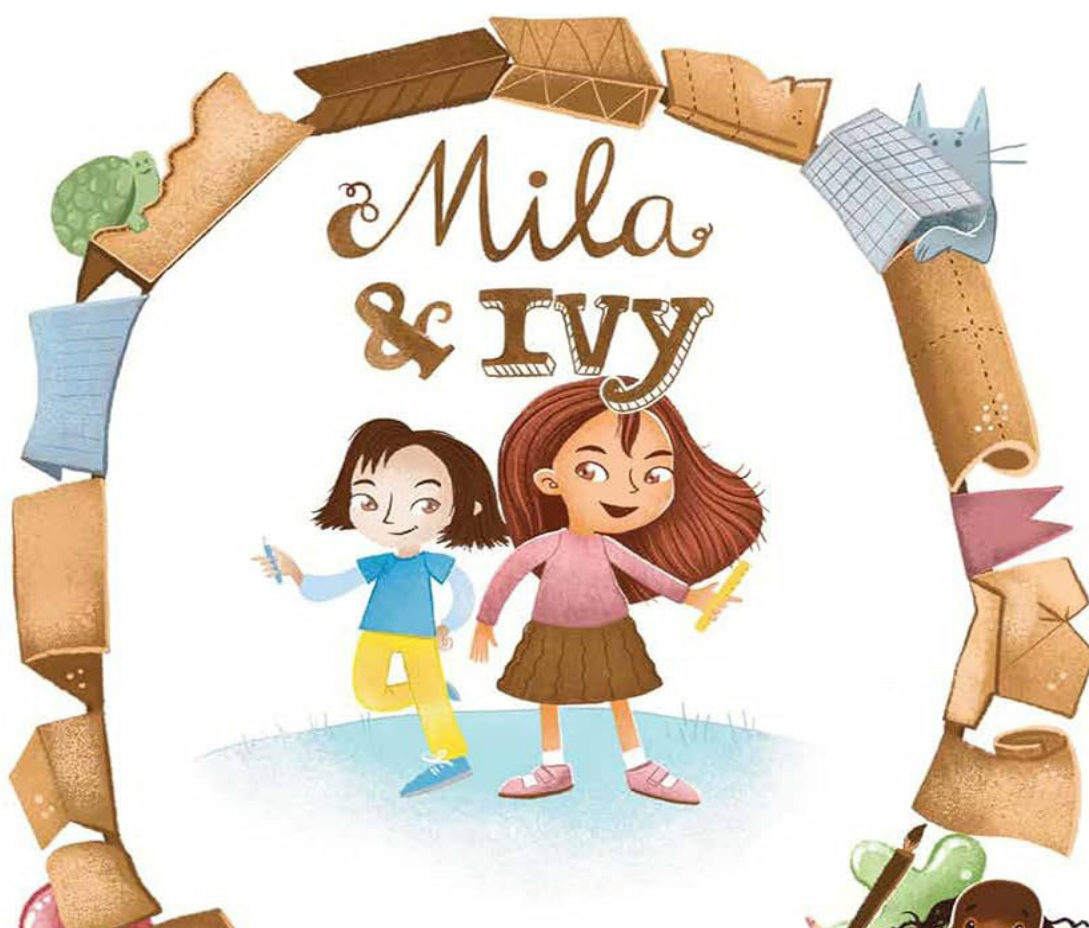
She lives in Perth with her husband and with two adorable cats, and a rather large collection of succulents.

You can find Jasmine at any of the links below! On Jasmine's website she has some freebies you can access for her Pepper Masalah books.

Instagram: [@jasmineberryart](https://www.instagram.com/jasmineberryart)

Twitter: [@jasmineberryart](https://twitter.com/jasmineberryart)

Web: [www.jasmineberryart.com](http://www.jasmineberryart.com)



Jasmine has also illustrated the picture book *Mila & Ivy* for Wombat.

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## REASONS FOR STUDYING THIS BOOK

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Pepper Masalah is a series promoting friendship and kindness. But it uses its themes of fantasy and adventure to also explore culture, the environment and different real world issues. In this book it explores themes of mummification and worship in an age appropriate way. Additionally, it teaches children more about cats and about Egyptian culture and geography. The time setting also adds a new dimension to the exploration.

## KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

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Curriculum Areas and Key Learning Outcomes.

### YEAR ONE

English, Humanities and Social Science

ACELA1444	ACELA1451	ACELT1582	ACELY1656
ACELA1787	ACELA1452	ACELT1584	ACELY1788
ACELA1447	ACELA1458	ACELT1586	ACELY1660
ACELA1449	ACELT1581	ACELT1832	ACELA1454
ACHASSI022			

### YEAR TWO

English, Humanities and Social Science

ACELA1461	ACELA1463	ACELT1833	ACELA1454
ACELA1462	ACELT1591	ACELY1665	
ACHASSI038			

### YEAR THREE

English, Visual Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

ACELT1594	ACELY1676	ACELA1488	ACELY1675
ACELT1596			
ACHASSK093	ACHASSI059	ACHASSK070	ACHASSI080
ACHASSI060	ACHASSI056		

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## TEACHING POINTS AND ACTIVITIES

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This book may be used in whole class, small group or independent learning activities in schools.

Please note, the following suggestions and activities are suited to a variety of year levels spanning Foundation to Year 6 primary aged children. Some activities may be applicable to early secondary school students, as well.

## KNOWLEDGE AND LITERAL UNDERSTANDING

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### PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Show the cover to the class and ask the students what they think the book might be about.
2. Read the back cover blurb. Does this give them more of an idea of what the book could be about?
3. Ask students if they can recognize the setting of this story from the cover image.

### AFTER-READING QUESTIONS

1. Ask students if Pepper or Zam remind them of anyone they know: a friend, a sibling, their pet, themselves perhaps.
2. What is their first impression of Pepper Masalah? Of Zam?
3. How does Pepper change over the course of the story? Does Zam change too?
4. Ask students how they perceive Pepper and Zam's situation. Do they come through in the end?
5. Pepper's flying carpet has taken them somewhere new. Where (or when) have they landed this time?
6. Pepper is a very clever cat with the ability to talk to Zam. For those with pet cats, when have they shown their smarts? Ask students what they think their cats would say?
7. So far, Pepper and Zam have been to the Arabian Peninsula and Egypt. Where do the class think they'll go next? Where do the students want to see the characters go?
8. Pepper and Zam are in Ancient Egypt. Do any students know any fun facts about Ancient Egypt? Share some facts with the class. What are some of their favourite ancient civilisations?
9. Ask students if they had their own flying carpet, where would they want it to take them.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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### DISCOVER

- Geography: discover where Egypt is. Draw a map. What countries are nearby? How far away is it from Australia?
- History: Read various books on Ancient Egypt and its people. How do they live, what do they wear, what do they eat? Google 'Ancient Egypt for Kids' and find some facts that interest you.
- The ancient Egyptians loved garlic. They also ate green vegetables, lentils, figs, dates, onions, fish, birds, eggs, cheese, and butter. Their staple foods were bread and beer. Bread was actually so important in Egyptian society they had 14 hieroglyphs (written picture words) for bread. They even had a type of flat bread. Breads were sweetened with dates, honey, and figs or dates. They also ate grapes. Try making an Egyptian platter with flat bread, dates, figs, grapes and cheese. Some other recipes can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
- The ancient Egyptians were aware and clever. Why do you think they drank barley beer and not water from The Nile?
- Choose an interesting cat fact from the back of the book. Research it to find out more about it and create a poster showing all you've learned.
- See if you can discover more cat facts not already provided in the book.

### CREATE

- Make an Egyptian headdress that the Pharaohs wore or a blue dog mask. A Nemes headdress (one that is worn by the Pharaohs) activity can be found [here](#). An Anubis mask (blue dog) can be found [here](#). Once you've made your mask, look it up on the internet and find out some facts about it.
- What would you like to do if you could go back to ancient Egypt? Where would you go and who would you meet? Write a story.
- Choose an animal to be the main character in a story. Where will the story be set? What problem will the character have to solve? Will the animal talk? **Writing tip:** when writing animal characters they still need to be written about with the same care as you would write about a human character. The author thinks of Pepper in human terms, so she can have emotions and thoughts, but the author remembers that she has cat behaviours too.
- What sort of life do you think Mosi and the other cats are having now that they are free from the temple? Write a poem or paint a picture.
- Would you like to go back in time? Which historical period would you choose? Would you go on a carpet or in a time machine? Who goes with you? Write a story about what happens when you get there.

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## DISCUSSION

- Ancient Egyptians used to revere cats. Research why this was so.
- Do you think the crocodile could be dangerous?
- Do you think the water in the river has affected the carpet? In what way?
- Only Tabia and Mosi can understand Pepper and Zam, like Hamood could in the first book. Why do you think this is happening?
- Sefu says Pepper is sleek and strong, black with apricot eyes. What breed of cat do you think Pepper might be? Can you find a picture of how she may look?
- Why is Pepper so special to Sefu? Why does he want Pepper and the carpet?
- Why did the ancient Egyptians make mummies from people and some animals that died?
- Why did the Ancient Egyptian cats wear necklaces? Do you think modern cats would wear necklaces? Why or why not? Could it be dangerous?
- Why does Zam have the skill to climb up the outside of the temple? Writing tip: Whenever your character can do something amazing, always show how this is possible.
- How are Pepper and Zam kind to the temple cats?
- Pepper Masalah's Cat Fact Files are different in this book than in Pepper's first book. Why do you think this is?
- What new information in the news section gives more understanding about the carpet?



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## ACTIVITIES

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### WRITE A LETTER TO THE AUTHOR

Reflect on the book and series so far. What have you enjoyed about Pepper and Zam and their adventures? In your letter share what you liked most about the stories and try discussing your favourite character and what you enjoy about them. Include any questions you might have.

Share your reflections with the class and see if other classmates liked the same things or had similar questions.

### MUMMY CHALLENGES

Ancient Egyptian mummies would be completely wrapped up in linen bandages. Using a roll of toilet paper instead, compete against your class in pairs for who can make the best mummy in the shortest time.

### CONVERSATIONS

Using speech bubbles and thought bubbles, draw the characters and their conversation.

Remember, thoughts are drawn as a cloud, and speech is drawn as a bubble. You can look at some comics or graphic novels for guidance.

### CREATE A CHARACTER PROFILE

Use [this link](#) to print off a character profile. You can choose any character from the story to do a profile on.

### MAZE

On the next page is a maze that can be printed out for students to complete and colour in

# Pepper Masalah

and the FLYING CARPET

