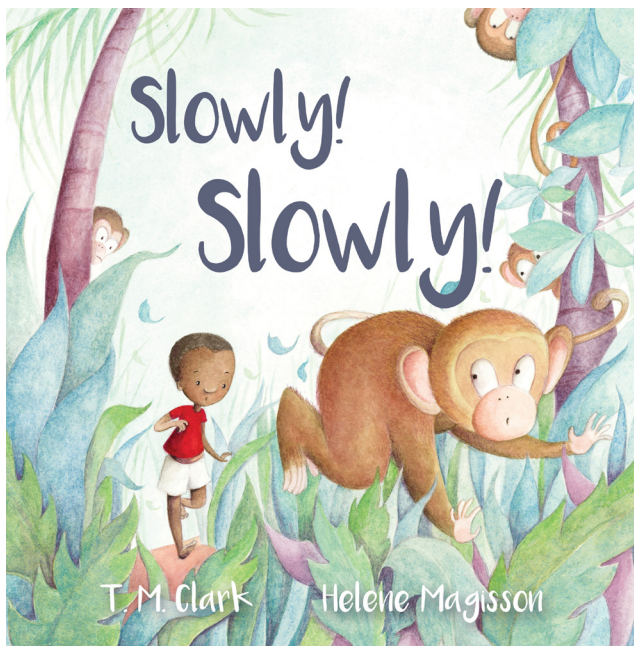




Wombat Books
Stories you'll want to share

Teachers' Notes



Slowly! Slowly!

T.M. Clark / Helene Magisson

ISBN: 978-1925563221

Recommended retail: \$24.99

Reading level: Ages 0-7 Picture Book

Book Summary

Slowly, slowly, you catch a monkey ...

Bongani wants to go to school but he is too young. To prove to his family that he is big and strong just like his cousins, he tries to catch a monkey.

Luckily his family is there to school him in the lessons of patience and compassion.

Adapted as a South African story, this variation of 'Softly, softly, catchee monkey' was originally an Ashanti (Ghana) proverb quoted by Lord Robert Baden-Powell, Founder of the Boy Scouts.

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Contents

Book Summary	1
Reasons For Studying This Book	2
Themes	2
About the Author	3
About the Illustrator	3
Key Curriculum Areas	4
Questions and Reflections	5
Classroom Activities	6

Reasons For Studying This Book

Throughout *Slowly! Slowly!* Grandfather teaches Bongani and young readers the important virtues of patience, perseverance, resilience and being grateful for what you have. These life lessons are important for preparing children for life experiences and challenges they may encounter in everyday situations.

It also immerses children into the African culture and its customs, which would seem quite foreign to many readers. Through vivid imagery by Helene Magisson, the young reader is transported to South Africa and can identify similarities and differences to their own way of life.

Slowly! Slowly! can be used to support several Key Learning Areas across the Australian Curriculum including English and Humanities and Social Science.

Themes

Perserverance
Patience
Resilience
Gratitude
Family
School/Education
Relationships Between Humans and Animals
Foreign Cultures
Diversity

About the Author:



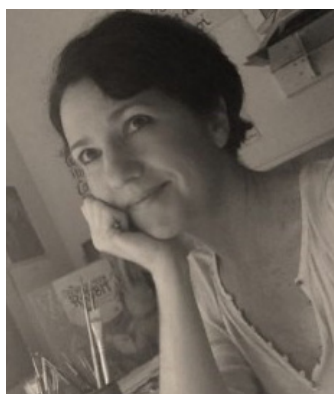
Born in Zimbabwe, Tina Marie completed her primary school years at boarding school in Bulawayo, but on weekends and holidays, her time was spent exploring their family ranch in Nyamandhlovu, normally on the back of her horse.

She began writing fiction when she moved to the UK while being a stay at home mum to her two sons, following a suggestion from her husband Shaun during a trip to Paris, and she hasn't looked back.

Now living on a small island near Brisbane in Queensland, Australia, Tina Marie combines her passion for story telling with her love for Africa. When not running around after the men in her life, she gets to enjoy her hobbies, which include boating, reading, sewing, travel, gardening, and lunching with her friends.

Passionate about Africa, different cultures and wildlife, most of Tina Marie's books are set somewhere on that ancient continent.

About the Illustrator



Helene Magisson started her artistic career as a painting restorer in Paris, where she was also trained in the art of medieval illumination.

She has been living in different countries, including Africa, France and India, and finally settled down in Australia. She ended up understanding that the easiest way to reach people's mind is with her pencils and brushes.

She has illustrated several books including *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams Bianco. *The Whirlpool* is her first book with Wombat Books. Helene is an award winning illustrator (first prize CYA conference 2013).

Key Curriculum Areas:

CURRICULUM AREAS AND KEY LEARNING OUTCOMES

Foundation (Kindergarten/Prep)

English/Humanities and Social Sciences

ACELT1575	ACELA1429	ACELA1434	ACELY1653
ACELT1577	ACELA1430	ACELA1786	ACHASSI001
ACELT1783	ACELA1432	ACELY1651	ACHASSI005
ACELT1578	ACELA1435	ACELY1652	ACHASSI015

Year One

English/ Humanities and Social Sciences

ACELA1444	ACELA1451	ACELT1582	ACELY1656	ACHASSI022
ACELA1787	ACELA1452	ACELT1584	ACELY1788	ACHASSI032
ACELA1447	ACELA1458	ACELT1586	ACELY1660	
ACELA1449	ACELT1581	ACELT1832	ACHASSI018	

Year Two

English/ Humanities and Social Sciences

ACELA1461	ACELT1833
ACELA1462	ACELY1665
ACELA1463	ACHASSI032
ACELT1591	ACHASSI038

Questions and Reflections

Have the teacher read the book out in class, making sure everyone can see the illustrations. Alternatively, students can take turns at reading each page aloud.

Speaking and Listening

1. Before reading, discuss the cover. Who are the characters? What could the book be about? Where do you think it is set?
2. What feelings does Bongani have about being too small to go to school?
3. What do you think Grandfather means when he says 'slowly, slowly, you catch a monkey'?
4. Bongani was sad about looking after the crops at first, but then he looked forward to it. Why do you think that is? Think of a time when you were given an important responsibility.
5. Bongani had to be patient before he could catch a monkey. Has there been a time where you had to be patient? Was the reward worth it?
6. Why do you think Bongani did not feel like a mighty warrior after catching his first monkey?
7. Bongani's name means 'be grateful' in the African language of Zulu. What are some things you are grateful for?

Writing and Representing

1. Write a short story about a time when you succeeded at something, even if you felt like giving up.
2. 'Slowly, slowly you catch a monkey' is an idiom. Can you think of other idioms you have heard? i.e. 'A penny for your thoughts'. List as many as you can.
3. Write a short story from the perspective of the monkey in *Slowly! Slowly!* How does it differ to the story written through Bongani's perspective?

Classroom Activities

Drama

- Make African animal shadow puppets. Prepare a simple puppet show for the rest of the class.

English

- Debate whether catching an animal is better than allowing animals to stay in the wild. Split the class into two teams: Pros and Cons. Those who are Pros, sit on the left side of the classroom. Those who are Cons, sit on the right side of the classroom. Let each team take turns in discussing their points. *i.e Bring into the debate sanctuaries that breed endangered species to make sure they do not go extinct.*

Visual Art

- SPOT the monkeys! Have kids count how many monkeys there are in the book!





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