

Lamont Books Standing Order

February 2012

Teacher Notes and Activities

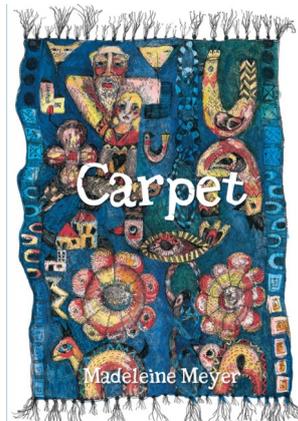
Carpet

By Madeleine Meyer

ISBN 9781921136269

\$25.95

I am carpet. This is my story. A whimsical journey through the life of a beautiful carpet from its weaving in Persia to a rich Western household, through an opportunity shop to a new life with a modern family in which the carpet experiences all the highs and lows and joys and sorrows of its generations of human owners in their daily lives. At the end of its useful life, the carpet happily returns to nature to enrich the growth of the plants in the garden where it has been discarded.



Teacher Notes taken from those supplied by Windy Hollow Publishing.

Note from the author:

I wrote the story because I wanted to show the value of an item that comes with its own story in a society that values the new, and to show the need to re evaluate the use of resources.

In the first person I tell the story of a carpet's life journey, commencing with its creation by small fingers in a foreign country long ago. I follow its history from east to west, its life in a prosperous household of an earlier era with garden and servants, its dinners and dances, with birth and with death.

There is some shame and anxiety when carpet finds itself in the op shop, and apprehension when its potential new owners appear.

But then its new life begins and carpet becomes involved in a lively and satisfying second life.

But even a carpet's story has to come to an end, and carpet, after its final conservation work on the banks of a national park, is free to let go its last knots and fly with the breeze.

The story relies almost solely on its imagery. The drawings are informative and sequential and comprehension does not rely necessarily on literary skills.

Before Reading

- What clues do the front cover and title give you about the book?
- How do the colours of the carpet on the cover make you feel?

After Reading

- Imagine you are one of Dr and Mrs Divine's children, living in the big house with Carpet in the olden days. Look closely at the illustrations of this part of Carpet's life to see what the family's activities were, and describe a day in your life.
- Write a story of the trip to the op shop from Sam's or Ruben's point of view.
- Look at the page showing the birthday party at Sam's and Ruben's house and describe what happened at the party before and after the 'Superheroes' water-pistol fight.
- How does Carpet notice the changing seasons?
- Write about the day of the bushfire in the National Park when Carpet is keeping the weeds down.
- What does Carpet think about its life by the end of the book?
- What does Carpet mean when it says it is 'slowly returning to nature'?
- List the ways in which Carpet's life has been useful to its different owners.