



Carpet

Written & Illustrated by Madeleine Meyer
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Teachers' notes

Madeleine Meyer has been a maker and drawer all her life. As a migrant child drawing gave her refuge in her new Australian world. She has lived on farms for much of her life with her donkeys geese and peacocks. She shares her time between the garden and her ceramics studio

Madeleine has been working and teaching in clay for over thirty years. Her large pieces have a distinctive quirky character including creation of zoomorphic forms . she has decorated her pieces with stories and is now transferring her stories onto paper. She has exhibited in major galleries including Australia, Spain and Japan over the last thirty years.

The nomadic grandmother is a favourite with her six grandchildren who eagerly await her arrival with demands for for her fantastic and terrifying pirate bedtime stories. She lives in northern NSW.

A Note from the Author

I grew up in a Dutch household where there were Persian carpets which carried their own exotic history. I am also an avid op shopper with its possibilities of the unexpected.

I wrote the story because I wanted to show the value of an item that comes with its own story in a

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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

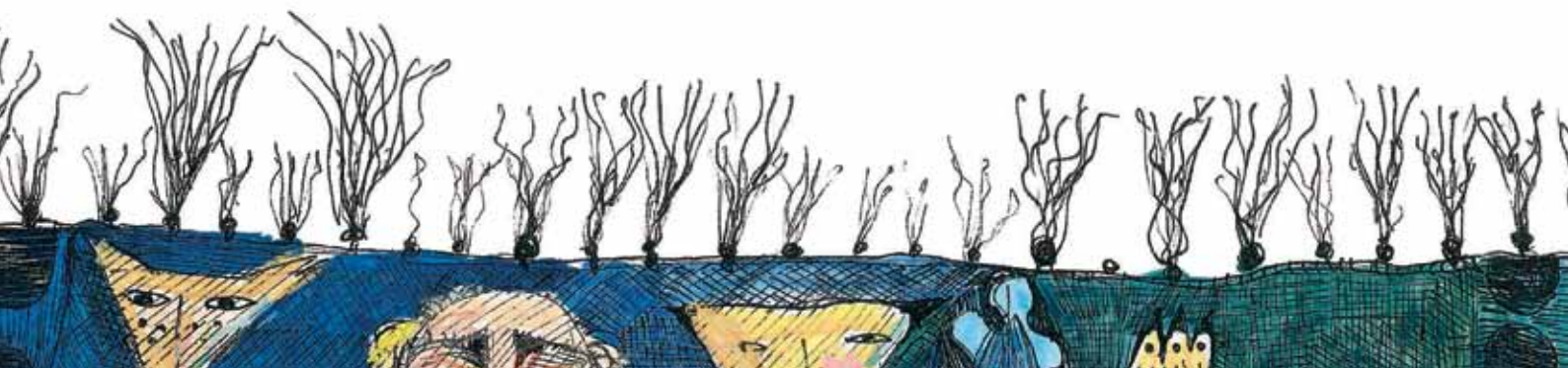
history from east to west, its life in a prosperous household of an earlier era with garden and servants, its dinners and dances, with birth and with death.

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 there.

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.

