

# Quickly! Quickly!

AUTHOR

**T.M. CLARK**

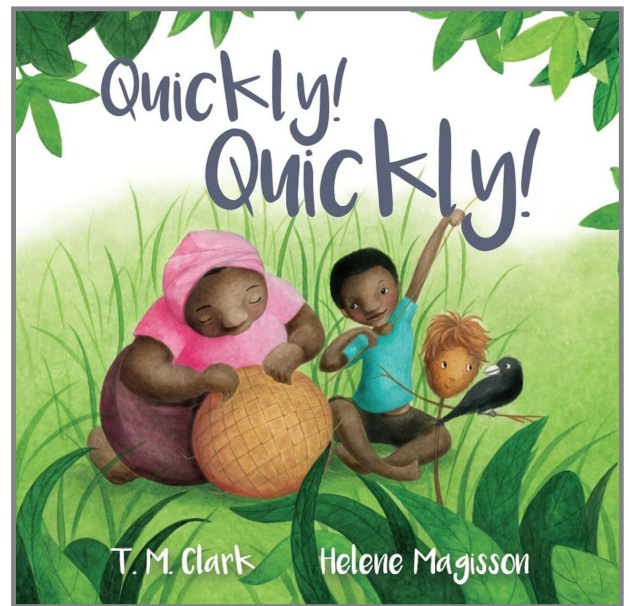
ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Quickly! Quickly! catch a crow.

Bongani has accepted he's too small to attend school just yet. But he also doesn't want to be chasing the animals away on his own either. He decides he needs a scared crow to help him do this important job.

Luckily his family are there to school him in the lessons of the difference between being quick and being clever.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Zimbabwean born T.M. Clark combines her passion for storytelling, different cultures and wildlife with her love for the wild in her multicultural books. Writing for adults and children, she has been nominated for a Queensland Literary Award and is a Children's Book Council Notable. When not writing, Tina Marie coordinates the CYA Conference, providing professional development for new and established writers and illustrators. She loves mentoring emerging writers, eating chocolate biscuits and collecting books for creating libraries in Papua New Guinea.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Helene Magisson is an award winning illustrator. She started her artistic career as a painting restorer in Paris, where she was also trained in the art of medieval illumination. Helene has lived in Africa, France and India. She is now settled down in Australia with her family. She has illustrated more than 15 books and has collaborated with major Australian publishers. Recent awards include the Australia Books Industry Awards 2021 and CBCA 2020 Notable Picture Book of the Year.

## STUDY NOTES

### BEFORE READING

- Show the cover to the class and ask the students what they think the book might be about.
- Read the back cover blurb. Does this give them more of an idea of what the book could be about?

### AFTER READING

- Ask students if Bongani reminds them of anyone they know: a friend, a sibling, themselves perhaps.
- What is their first impression of Bongani?
- How does Bongani change over the course of the story?

- Ask students how they perceive Bongani’s situation. Does he come through in the end?
- Find where Bongani accepts that there are some things he can’t change.
- Find three places where words can mean more than one thing.
- Find the place where Bongani checks on his grandmother’s memory. Discuss why you think he does this?
- Problem solving happens a lot in Bongani’s world—can you think of the last problem you had, and how you solved it?
- Bongani has many African animals in his environment and backyard. Using the pictures, can you recognise any other animals in Bongani’s environment other than that ‘crafty-crow’?
- What animals do you have in your home environment? Are there any the same?

## THEMES

### Acceptance

- There are some things in this world you can’t change, like growing taller faster, what are some things that you’ve had to accept in your life? Maybe you’ve had to accept sharing your clothes or toys with a sibling, or having to be old enough to sit in the front seat.
- What can make accepting something harder? Is it having patience, or seeing other people do something you want to do? How can we practice acceptance?

### Problem-Solving

- Bongani captured and released a monkey in the first book (*Slowly! Slowly!*) and now a crow in *Quickly! Quickly!*. How could he approach his next problem, the elephants? Brainstorm some ideas.
- When you’re faced with a problem like Bongani is with the crows how do you solve it? Do you also talk to people in your life like your parents, grandparents or teachers? Do you experiment and come up with new ideas?

### Intergenerational Memories

- Learning through stories and conversations with older generations, like our grandparents, can help us understand the world in new and exciting ways. What are some things you learned from your grandparents? How did they teach you?
- What importance does stories and sharing memories between older generations and younger generations hold? What happens if we lose the knowledge that older generations have?

### Animal Intelligence

- Have you ever been surprised by how smart an animal around you is? How have they surprised you? Bongani is taken aback when the crow outsmarts him, and is also able to mimic his voice.
- What are some special skills that animals have that you know about? Share them with your classmates. For example, dolphins can locate things and work out where they are using sounds they make! This is called echolocation.

### Love & Compassion

- The closeness of Bongani and his grandma is evident throughout the story. How does Bongani’s love for his grandma show in his actions?
- Bongani doesn’t like the crow being hurt. Why is compassion important when we interact with the people and animals around us? What difference does it make to have compassion for others?

### Persistence

- Bongani fails a few times to capture the crow, but he keeps trying. His persistence is rewarded. Why is it a good thing to keep trying after you fail? What is the importance of persistence?
- Have you ever had a similar situation where you’ve tried to do something but come up against failures? How did you cope with those failures and did you develop persistence?

### Learning Never Stops

- Bongani learns many things during this story—new words, how to craft a basket, how to catch a bird, the intelligence of crows. During the first book he learns similarly from his interactions with the monkey. And now a new problem is coming his way, the elephants. Why is it important to keep learning new things? What ways can we learn new things?
- Lifelong learning is something everyone can take part in. What are some new things that your parents or grandparents have learned lately? Have you taught them anything new?