

On the Way to School

AUTHOR

VIKKI CONLEY

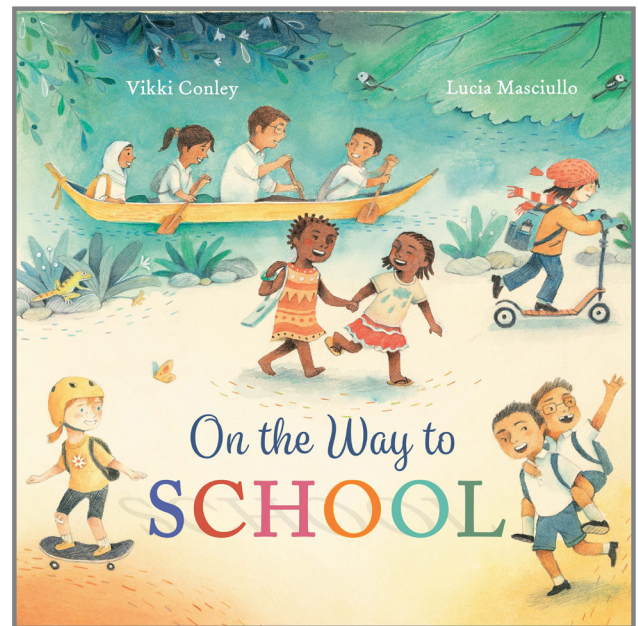
ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Every day, children all over the world are travelling to school—by bus, by canoe, through valleys, over mountains and snow. How do you get to school? With themes of diversity and culture, *On the Way to School* celebrates the joy and challenges of travelling to school.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vikki is an award-winning author with multiple internationally published picture books. She has worked as a professional writer with diverse communities in Africa, Asia and Australia for over 20 years. She is an intrepid traveller, nature lover and creative all-rounder. Vikki writes and shares stories that celebrate the spirit of wonder, freedom and adventure that she wishes every child could enjoy. Her title *Amira's Suitcase* became a CBCA Honour book in 2022, and *Little Puggles' Song* became a CBCA Notable book in 2020.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Lucia is an award-winning illustrator who loves to create whimsical characters and colouring with traditional techniques; mixing watercolour, pencil and collage. Born in Italy, she moved to Australia in 2002 and since then has illustrated more than thirty books. She currently lives on the Gold Coast.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading, introduce *On the Way to School* to the children and ask them what they think the story might be about.
- Where do they think the children on the cover of the book live?
- Ask the children how they get to school. Before they read the book, ask them to talk about the different ways of getting to school.
- Which ways of getting to school seem the most difficult? Which are the easiest? Which are most surprising?
- This book provides a great opportunity to talk about different cultures and physical and human geography. For example, in very hot countries, school is from 7am to 12pm because it gets too hot in the afternoon. In some countries, they have uniforms, and in others, they don't, etc.
- Have a look at the map at the end of the book. Can they place the children from the story to the correct area on the map? Can they name the continents and some of the countries?
- After reading the book, ask them what did they think of the story? Which was their favourite part and why?

- Search for the verbs (action words) and adjectives (describing words) within the story of *On the Way to School*. Then write the nouns, verbs and adjectives in different colours for two sentences in the book.
- There are lots of examples of onomatopoeia in the story. Try and find them all! Then use them in your own sentences.
- Make up a story about what happened on the way to school. It could be based on a real story that has happened to you, or you could make it up entirely.
- Pick a country/region from the story, for example, countries in Africa, India, Latin America and Asia. Research how children go to school, what their classroom is like and what are some of the challenges for them to get to school.
- Design a school uniform.
- Listen to some music or learn a dance from one of the countries/regions from the story. You could also cook a meal from one of the regions.
- Draw a map of how you get to school. Include your house, your school and any important things you pass on the way. Remember to draw what transport you use, too.
 - Draw a picture of another way you might travel to school. It could be something you actually do, or it could be inspired by something you saw in the book. Or you could use your imagination to come up with a make believe way to arrive to school. Helicopter? Jet pack? Riding a cow?
- Think about the things you can SEE, SMELL, TASTE, HEAR and FEEL on the way to school. Divide your page into five columns with the headings SEE, SMELL, TASTE, HEAR and FEEL and write them in the appropriate columns.