

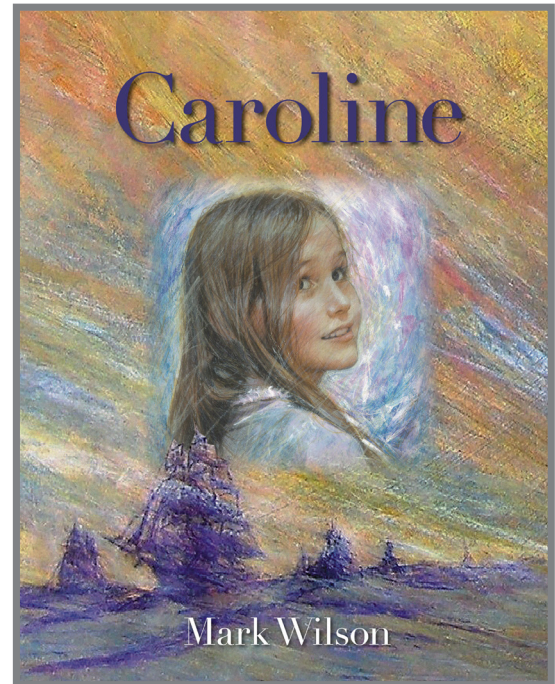
Caroline

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR
MARK WILSON

SCIS: 5455157

ISBN: 9781922081018

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower to Mid Primary



SYNOPSIS

Caroline is the true story of Caroline Chisholm. All who went before her did their part in helping shape Australia into a confident, progressive and vibrant society. But when Caroline arrived in Australia, she thrived on the challenges facing her to help the many orphans, migrants and destitute girls she found living on the streets of Sydney.

Mark Wilson's book gives the reader an insight into her life of service which was evident from when she was a young girl. He traces her life from childhood through to adulthood.

This book is a tribute to a remarkable woman, and an inspiring story of female achievement.

ABOUT THE CREATOR

Mark Wilson is a multiple award-winning author/illustrator with twenty-four children's books in print worldwide, in fourteen languages. Mark grew up with a love of comics, drawing, rock music, Australian history and endangered species—exploring most of these themes through his writing, illustrating, paintings and workshops.

He has won five Whitley Awards for children's literature, ten CBCA Awards, four Wilderness Society Awards and the 3rd C.J. Picture Book International Award. Mark was also presented with the 2011 Dromkeen Medal for Services to Children's Literature.

He recently won a 2023 CBCA Honor Book award for *Votes for Women! The Story of Nellie, Rose and Mary*, and the Colin Roderick Literary Award 2021 shortlist for *Eureka! A Story of the Goldfields*—the first picture book in the 60 year long history of the awards to be selected.

He hopes his books and workshops encourage students to study not only their own family history, but also Australian history, as well as native species and conservation.

STUDY NOTES

- Research and discuss immigration to Australia in the 1840's. Why did people migrate to Australia and where did they come from?
- Caroline Chisholm is best remembered for the home she established for destitute girls. Research and discuss the many other charitable things she did during her lifetime (see p 32).

- The author, Mark Wilson, tells us in an afterword how many people Caroline Chisholm helped. Research and discuss the population and immigration statistics in the 1840–50's. How many people were unemployed and destitute, what were the types of employment available and what education was available if you could get it.
- Research and discuss how Caroline arrived in Australia, where did she come from and why did she come? (See pp 8–11 and p 32).
- As a class, discuss what was Caroline's first impression of Sydney (see pp 10–11).
- Research and discuss words and expressions used in the mid 1800's, particularly the gold rush era.

LITERACY

- Research women's experiences on the Australian goldfields. Write a short piece about the living conditions, food, care of children and difficulties they encountered, and how Caroline helped people there.
- What was so special about Caroline Chisholm. What were the qualities she had in childhood that gave her the strength to do what she did later in life? Write a short piece to profile her (see pp 4–5).
- Look up the website <<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/chisholm-caroline-1894>> and write a short account of what you find (ie. her childhood, main achievements, etc.)
- Why did Caroline leave Australia? Write a short piece on her reasons for leaving (on multiple occasions) and what she hoped to achieve on these trips.
- What does the term 'determination' mean to today's youth? Compare what you find with the term in the context of the story.
- List the places Caroline lived/worked and write a short piece about what she was doing in one of these places (ie: India, Sydney, the goldfields, Bendigo, Melbourne, London, etc).
- On p 32 of *Caroline*, Mark has written a timeline of Caroline Chisholm's life. Research one item on that list and write a short essay about what you find.
- Mark Wilson's text is sparse and suggestive. How has he created a sense of Caroline's character, and how/where in the text has he done this.

VISUAL LITERACY

- The illustrations are impressionist on some spreads (pp 2–3), while others are stark and confronting—just pencil drawings (see pp 18–19). Discuss the various 'styles' of illustration Mark Wilson uses throughout the book.
 - Discuss why Mark Wilson may have used different styles for particular illustrations.
- Discuss the cover of the book and what it conveys about the story, particularly the expression on Caroline's face.
- How does the format and design of the book influence your reading of it? Discuss.
- Discuss how Mark Wilson conveys a strong sense of place and character in the illustrations (see pp 22–23).
- The medium is mainly acrylic paint on card or canvas. Try to create your own painting in this medium (which can be used on paper), showing the impressions of Australia you gained from the story.
- How do the colour themes on various pages affect your interpretation of this work? (See pp 6, 8 and 20).
- On p 15 of *Caroline*, Mark has drawn a bucket, used by Caroline to mop the floor. Look through the other illustrations carefully and find other objects that are typical of the 1800's. Create your own drawing of one of these items.