

# Under the Red Shawl

AUTHOR

**VIKKI CONLEY**

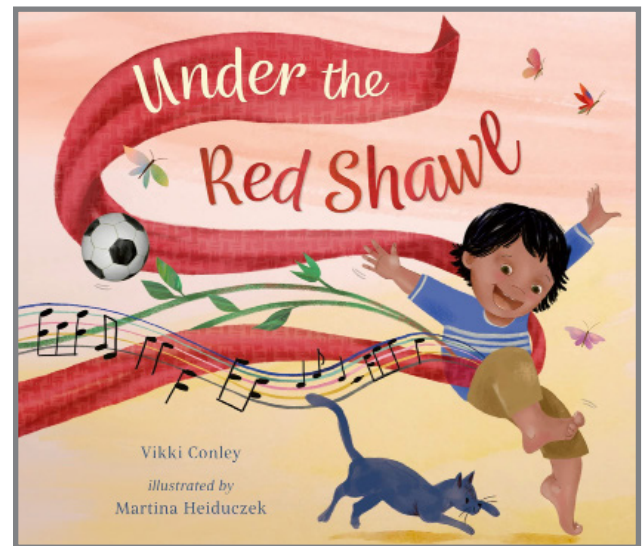
ILLUSTRATOR

**MARTINA HEIDUCZEK**

**SCIS:** 5466414

**ISBN:** 9781922326829

**RECOMMENDED FOR:** Lower Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Starting out in a new place is tough, but friendship, kindness and imagination help Salim, Mama and Donkey discover their new world. In this stunning picture book, by award-winning creators—Vikki Conley and Martina Heiduczek—we journey with Salim as he grows up creating a new life around himself.

This is a story about a journey, hope and creating fun with the little that you have. It is also a book that explores home and place, as well as how stories and play can help us cope and heal during difficult times.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vikki is an award-winning author with multiple internationally published picture books. An intrepid traveller, nature lover and creative all-rounder, she has worked as a professional writer, with diverse communities in Africa, Asia and Australia, for over 20 years.

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 Honor Book in 2022 and *Little Puggle's Song* became a CBCA Notable Book in 2020.

## ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Martina grew up in a small village on the Baltic Sea in Germany. Here you could find her galloping with flying pigtales through the forests on her Shetland pony, drawing or reading. These days she lives in Australia and works as an illustrator. Her illustrations are a mixture of digital and traditional media. With a passion for colour and textures, she aims to create happy images to evoke emotion and thought in young and old minds alike.

## THEMES

- Inclusion
- Home and place
- Refugees
- Other worlds
- Diversity
- Family / cross-cultural connections
- Growing up

- Creativity and play

### STUDY NOTES

- Before reading *Under the Red Shawl* ask what they think the story might be about.
- Mama says to Salim that they'll find another place—a safer place. What does this mean?
- Mama wants Salim to feel safe despite their difficult situation. What does 'Mama wrapped him like a cocoon' mean?
- Salim makes shadow puppets. Have you ever made them?
- Why do you think Mama and Salim have to create a new story? What do you think happened to them previously?
- Who is Zada? How does she behave towards Mama and Salim? What does she teach Mama to do? Do you know someone like Zada?
- Zada gives Salim a gift of a book. Salim wraps it like a baby. What does this mean? Salim has never seen a book before. Can you imagine or remember seeing a book for the first time ever?
- Discuss all the different ways that Mama and Salim use the red shawl. Why has the author used the red shawl like this in the story?
- After reading the book, ask the class what they thought of the story. Which was their favourite part and why?
- Think about the things you can SEE, SMELL, TASTE, HEAR and FEEL around your home. Create boxes with each heading and then assign to the box you think they belong.

### ENGLISH

- Search for the verbs (action words) and adjectives (describing words) within *Under the Red Shawl*. Then find two sentences in the book and write the nouns, verbs and adjectives in different colours for those two sentences in the book.
- There are a few examples of similes in the story. Try and find them all! Can you create one of your own?
- There are many examples of 'show don't tell' in the story. Can you spot them? Now try to practise this technique. Write two of your own sentences using 'show don't tell'.
- Have you ever had to move home? Have you been homesick? Have you been camping before or had a sleep over at someone's house for the first time? Try writing a story about this and how you felt.

### GEOGRAPHY

- Where do you think this story might be set? Pick a country/region that you feel might be similar to the one in *Under the Red Shawl* (try countries in Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia). Research the following:
  - what homes are like for children in these countries
  - how do they go to school?
  - can they get things like clean water and food easily?

### ART & SCIENCE

- Make shadow puppets! Create a shadow puppet play to perform in front of the class.
- Create your own enviro-friendly boat using nature or recycled materials. Try these boat ideas:
  - Nature boats—using sticks or twigs, and leaves for a sail
  - Jar lid boats —repurposed jar lids and recycled plastic paper or waxy cardboard for the sailCan you float them?
- Draw a picture of your home or your special place. What do you love about it? Why is it so special to you?

### PERFORMING ARTS/FOOD TECH

- Listen to some music or learn a dance from one of the countries/regions where you think the story might be set.
- Cook a meal from one of the regions you saw in the story.