



TeachersFirst READING TREKS

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane

Teacher Guide

Grade Level & Content Areas

Access Reading
Trek Map

Ages: 7–10

Grades: 2 (read-aloud), 3–5
(independent reading)

Reading Level: 4th grade

Lexile Measure: 700L

Guided Reading Level: U

Developmental Reading

Assessment (DRA): 50

Content Areas: English/language arts, social studies, and social development.

Synopsis of Book

This fantasy adventure by Kate DiCamillo steps back in time to tell of the travels of Edward Tulane, an elegant but arrogant China rabbit and the favorite toy of a young girl named Abilene. Told from his point of view, the story follows Edward from his comfortable life to the mishap that sends him overboard the *HMS Queen Mary*. After nearly a year on the ocean floor, Edward lands in the net of a fisherman who takes him home to his wife, both still grieving the loss of a child. After leaving the couple, he spends several years traveling with a drifter and his dog, then becomes the beloved, sole toy of a dying child. As Edward travels from one owner to another, he learns many lessons about life and loving others.

Standards

Common Core State Standards for K–5

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Reading: Informational Text

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure

National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

- Theme 1: CULTURE
- Theme 2: TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
- Theme 3: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS

National Core Arts Standards for Visual Arts

- CREATING
- RESPONDING

Using a TeachersFirst® Reading Trek to Explore This Book

TeachersFirst Reading Treks create a virtual field trip of resources about a piece of literature or a text using the My Maps feature of Google Maps. To motivate and enrich student reading, teachers and students can reference this visual collection of web resources and images as they relate to the contents of a book.

TeachersFirst has done the hard work for you! Use the activities in this teacher guide and the accompanying [Reading Trek map](#) as you and your students explore this book. And, if you feel inspired, you (or your students) can create your own Reading Trek about this or another book!

Using This Reading Trek in Class

Below is a list of ideas for how to use this Reading Trek in your educational setting.

Working with the Map:

1. Introduce the book to the whole class on an interactive whiteboard using the [Reading Trek map](#) and highlighting its various layers.
2. As the story progresses, Edward begins to experience emotions, starting with vain arrogance, then fear, sorrow, etc. Use Coggle ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to create a collaborative mind map.
3. During the Great Depression, many people lost their jobs and their homes (as was the case with Bull and Bryce's family), but Abilene's family seemed to be spared, as they were able to travel in luxury. Add to that the character of Lawrence, who was most likely self-employed. Create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the characters and their cultures using Canva's 4-Circle Venn Diagram Maker ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
4. Using the [Reader's Theatre adaptation for Chapter 22](#), download the script, assign the thirteen parts, and practice the lines. Reassign roles and allow all students to play one of the characters in the story. (It's not necessary to perform this before a live audience.) Have students write a response to the parts they

read and include them in their writing portfolios as appropriate to your school.

5. Create a virtual timeline of Edward's adventures using Sutori ([TeachersFirst review](#)). Read the review for more ideas for using the tool.

Extension Activities:

1. Use [Bagram Ibatoulline's website](#) to view twelve untitled book covers (there is a thirteenth book cover with a title) and create a title to accompany the artwork.
2. Use Book Creator ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to write and illustrate a new chapter where Edward is reunited with Abilene and becomes Abby's toy.
3. Families in New England's tightly woven fishing communities relied on each other, but gossip also abounded. Brainstorm the opinions of the townsfolk. Why was Lolly so angry? What role did Edward play in the lives of Lawrence and Nellie? Use VEVOX ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to display everyone's input.
4. Consider the resources available today that could have helped Bryce and Sara Ruth and research to find others. Create an infographic to share this information, either individually or working collaboratively, using Timeline Infographic Templates ([TeachersFirst review](#))
5. Research the consequences of illegal rail travel after listening to Walter Ballard's Interview about [riding the rails](#), then learn more about hobos in "[Don't Call them Bums.](#)"

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:

- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Engage & Inspire with Reading Treks](#)

Other Resources:

- Author [Kate DiCamillo](#)
- Illustrator [Bagram Ibatoulline](#)
- [Candlewood Press Teaching Guide for *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*](#)
- [Oregon's Children's Theatre Teacher Resource Guide for *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*](#)