



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

The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo is a beautifully written novel about a porcelain rabbit who learns the true meaning of love, loss, and compassion. At first, Edward is vain and self-centered—cared for deeply by a girl named Abilene, but incapable of returning that love. When he is separated from her, Edward begins a long journey—both physically and emotionally—where he meets various people who show him kindness, hardship, and affection. Through each encounter, Edward’s heart begins to open, transforming him from a cold, decorative toy into someone who understands the importance of connection and empathy. This story offers rich opportunities for classroom discussions about character growth, emotional resilience, and the impact of relationships.

Standards

Common Core State Standards for K–5

Reading: Literature

- Key Ideas and Details

Writing

- Text Types and Purposes

- Craft and Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge

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 by displaying the [Reading Trek map](#) on an interactive whiteboard and highlighting its various layers.
2. As the story progresses, Edward begins to experience a range of emotions, starting with vain arrogance and progressing to fear, sorrow, etc. Use Coggle ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to create a collaborative mind map of Edward's emotional journey.
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 Lawrence's character, who was most likely self-employed. Create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the characters and their cultures using Canva's Venn Diagram Maker ([TeachersFirst review](#)).
4. Find the Readers' Theater adaptation for chapter 22 in [Candlewick Press's activity kit](#) and download the script, assign the thirteen parts, and practice the lines. After an initial readthrough, reassign roles so every student has the opportunity to play one of the



characters in the story. (It's not necessary to perform before a live audience.) Have students write a response to each part they read and include it in their writing portfolio.

5. Create a virtual timeline of Edward's adventures using Sutori ([TeachersFirst review](#)). Read the review for more ideas for using the tool.
6. Ask students to choose a point in the story and write a personal letter from Edward to Abilene, sharing what he's learned about life, love, or loss. This allows students to explore Edward's point of view and develop empathy for his journey.
7. Have students choose one major emotion Edward experiences (e.g., loneliness, joy, sorrow, hope) and illustrate a scene from the

book that captures that feeling. Display their artwork in a "Journey of Emotions" classroom gallery. Students should also write a short artist's statement explaining Edward's growth and what they depicted. The gallery walk could be done virtually using WriteReader (creating a collaborative book) ([TeachersFirst review](#)) or Padlet ([TeachersFirst review](#)), to create a virtual bulletin board to share the project.

8. Provide magazines, printed images, or digital tools such as Adobe Express for Education ([TeachersFirst review](#)) for students to create a collage showing the diverse settings, cultures, and time periods Edward encounters. They can label the images and add captions to explain what each part taught Edward—and what it teaches us.

Extension Activities:

1. Use Book Creator ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to write and illustrate a new chapter where Edward is reunited with Abilene and becomes her toy.
2. 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 the VEVOX polling tool ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to display everyone's input.
3. Consider the resources available today that could have helped Bryce and Sara Ruth, then conduct further research to identify additional resources. Working individually or collaboratively, use Canva's Timeline Infographic Templates ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to create an infographic to share this information.
4. 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.](#)"
5. Have students work in pairs or small groups and use Adobe Podcast ([TeachersFirst review](#)) to create a short podcast episode where they reflect on Edward's emotional journey and discuss what lessons he might share with other toys or children. They can script it like an interview with Edward, incorporating key quotes and emotional insights from the novel.
6. Invite students to design a "memory suitcase" for Edward using a shoebox or digital tool like Google Slides ([TeachersFirst review](#)). Inside, they include symbolic objects (real or illustrated) representing the people, places, and lessons from each part of his journey. They should explain their choices in writing or during a class gallery walk

Helpful Resources

From TeachersFirst:

- [TeachersFirst CurriConnects Book List - Maps](#)
- [TeachersFirst Review of Google My Maps](#)
- [OK2Ask: Building Background Knowledge with Reading Treks](#)
- [OK2Ask: No Passport Required: Cross-Curricular Learning Journeys with Google My Maps](#)

Other Resources:

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