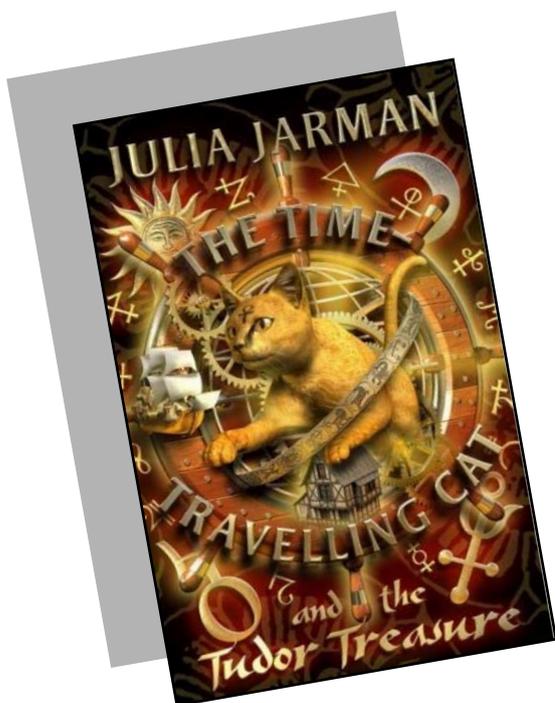


TEACHING GUIDE by BRIDGET CARRINGTON

# The Time Travelling Cat and The Tudor Treasure



Andersen Press  
ISBN: 978-1842706169

## SYNOPSIS

Ka, the time-travelling cat, has disappeared, leaving just one clue - a word on Topher's computer screen: R\*iche mou\*nt. When Topher discovers that 'Richemount' meant 'Richmond' in Tudor times, he fears that Ka is in terrible danger. Cats were tortured in Tudor England, so Topher must try to find her before it is too late. In doing so, he meets Queen Elizabeth and Doctor Dee, the court magician and astronomer, who thinks Ka can help him find the elusive philosopher's stone. This is an exciting and transporting fantasy, exploring both contemporary and ancient issues.

## ANALYSIS

### Style

- In the central story, the book describes people remote from our own time and experience. How does Jarman engage her readers interest in the characters, plot and the events of the time?
- Topher is a boy, so how does Jarman ensure that girls will also empathize with what is happening, both in the twenty-first century action, and the Tudor plot?

by Julia Jarman

In addition to the Time Travelling Cat series, Julia Jarman has written several short novels about different aspects of the Victorian era which are of particular relevance to older Key stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils, such as schools, health and housing, crime and punishment. She has also written a novel about Neolithic times. She is careful that, within a fictional setting, she provides accurate information about the historical background, the events and the personalities she includes in her novels.

*Almost certainly, you will need to do some **RESEARCH***

*Even in fiction your facts - if you use them - must be right.*

Julia Jarman



Julia's website at [www.juliajarman.com](http://www.juliajarman.com) has a great deal of practical information for teachers and primary age students.

She talks in some detail about writing; how to construct a story; and about how to use her books in the curriculum.



## TEACHING GUIDE by BRIDGET CARRINGTON

### Construction

- Topher lives in the twenty-first century, but travels back into Tudor time. What do we call the type of novel where characters sometimes slip between different centuries like this?
- Why has Jarman decided to frame her historical story within a modern setting?
- How successful do you find this technique?

### Characters

- In Topher's twenty-first century life, he has many issues to come to terms with: the legacy of bereavement, a new stepmother, a new home, school and making friends, and the ethics of scientific research.
- How far do all his modern concerns affect his life in Tudor times?
- Which of these issues is as relevant in Tudor times as today? How do they differ? Why?

### Plot

- How does Jarman use her careful research into life at these times to immerse readers in Tudor life? Is the plot believable?
- How can we tell if it portrays real events accurately?
- How much is fact and how much fiction – how can you tell?

### DISCUSSION

In addition to historical topics, *The Time Travelling Cat and the Tudor Treasure* can be support learning in the following curriculum areas:

### Literacy

- Adventure and Mystery stories
- Historical Stories and Short Novels

- Stories that raise issues (scientific research, animal rights, vegetarianism, prejudice)

- Imagined worlds
- Novels by a significant author
- Series books

### Geography

- The countries, peoples and routes mentioned in discussion of the seafarer's voyages

### PSHE

- Scientific ethics: animal testing/rights (and vegetarian/vegan arguments)
- Citizenship: extremists: is life-threatening direct action justified?
- Step families: Topher's reaction to Molly – is it justified or reasonable?
- Making new relationships: at home and at school

### History

*...they were in a long wainscoted room at the end of which, on a canopied dais, he could see a throne – and sitting on it, surrounded by courtiers, was Queen Elizabeth of England.*

*She had red hair and a white face – which matched her dress! That was his first thought and he was glad no one knew it. He was sure you were supposed to think something far more flattering... p72*

### Britain and the wider world in Tudor times:

- Topher's experiences in Tudor times provide plenty of detail for the overall remit of the KS2 NC unit: a study of some significant events and individuals, including Tudor monarchs, who shaped this period

and of the everyday lives of men, women and children from different sections of society.

- Topher sees life at different social levels, which would inform discussion on Tudor everyday life: What were the differences between the lives of rich and poor in Tudor times? Year 3/4 (Unit 8)
- What can we learn about famous Tudor explorers from Topher's adventure? We hear about Francis Drake, Martin Frobisher and John Hawkins
- The book could also be useful for less able students in Year 5/6 for Unit 19: What were the effects of Tudor exploration?
- What is different about Tudor science compared with science today? Did Tudors distinguish between science, magic and witchcraft?

### TAKING IT FURTHER

- Visit: Museums such as the British Museum ([www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk](http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk)), the V&A Museum ([www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)) in London, an art gallery or a county museum which has Tudor pictures, costumes and artefacts
- Visit: Tudor houses such as Hampton Court Palace ([www.hamptoncourt.org.uk](http://www.hamptoncourt.org.uk)), Audley End ([www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)) or Hatfield House ([www.hatfield-house.co.uk](http://www.hatfield-house.co.uk)). Websites such as English Heritage or the National Trust ([www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)) will suggest Tudor buildings in your area. There are still many Tudor buildings in towns and the countryside: learn to recognize what they look like.

TEACHING GUIDE by BRIDGET CARRINGTON

- For exploration and sea voyages try the National Maritime Museum ([www.nmm.ac.uk](http://www.nmm.ac.uk))
- Become a Tudor for a day or (longer). Many Tudor or Elizabethan houses have special events and at houses like Kentwell Hall ([www.kentwell.co.uk](http://www.kentwell.co.uk)) you can live as you would have done in Tudor times.
- Look online to find information and visit libraries and museums to find information about.
- Primary Sources: find written records and portraits for of the Tudor period (try the National Portrait Gallery website ([www.npg.ac.uk](http://www.npg.ac.uk)) for pictures of Tudor people, and the British Library ([www.bl.ac.uk](http://www.bl.ac.uk)) or National Archives ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)) for documents). Use other primary sources such as archaeology and artefacts to find out about everyday life.
- If you enjoy Tudor life, read more novels about this time by other authors.

Julia Jarman  
The Time Travelling Cat and  
The Egyptian Goddess



Andersen Press  
ISBN: 978-1842705216

**Other Books in The Time Travelling Cat series**

**The Time Travelling Cat and the Egyptian Goddess**

- Ancient Egypt
- Year 3/4 (Unit 10): What can we find out about Ancient Egypt from what has survived?

**The Time Travelling Cat and the Roman Eagle**

- Roman Britain in AD79 - based on finds in Calleva Atrebatum near Silchester
- Year 3/4 (Unit 6A) Why have people invaded and settled in Britain in the past?

**The Time Travelling Cat and the Aztec Sacrifice**

- Cortes and his trip to Tenochtitlan in Mexico

Julia Jarman  
The Time Travelling Cat  
and The Roman Eagle



Andersen Press  
ISBN: 978-1842706176

**Contributor**

Bridget Carrington started her career by working in libraries in London. She then trained to teach, had a family and ended up as Deputy Head of an Infant and Nursery School in Norfolk, from which she took early retirement in 2002. Since then she has gained an MA in Children's Literature from the University of Surrey, Roehampton and has begun to research the early history of writing for young adults in England for a doctorate.

**Editor**

Nikki Gamble is lecturer, writer and literary consultant specialising in children's literature, drama and arts education.

She is currently course tutor for the Advance Diploma in Language, Literature and Literacy at the Faculty of Education, Cambridge and is Associate Consultant at the University Of London, Institute Of Education.

Recent Publications include Family Fictions (2001) (with Nick Tucker); Exploring Children's Literature (2002) Paul Chapman (with Sally Yates) second edition forthcoming; Guiding Reading at KS2 (2006) (2nd edit) (with Angela Hobsbaum and David Reedy) The Story Shop (2006).