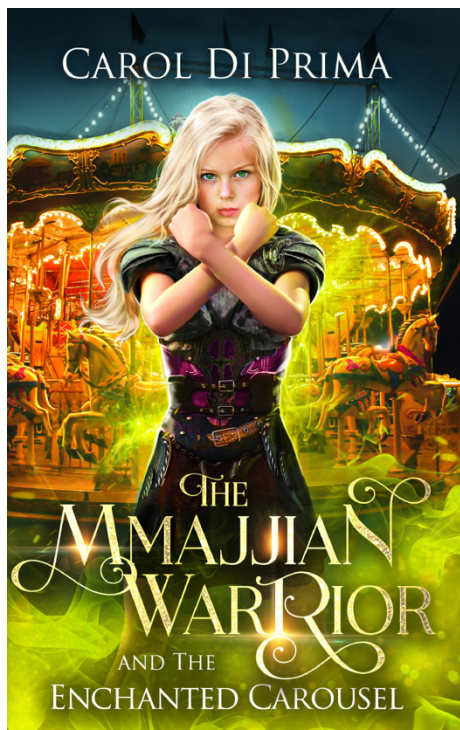


TEACHERS GUIDE

The Mmajjian Warrior and The Enchanted Carousel by Carol Di Prima



Genre: YA Fiction, Fantasy
Paperback
ISBN: 979-8-9858571-1-5
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163 pages, 5 x 8 ½



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163 pages, 5 x 8 ½

The Mmajjian Warrior and The Enchanted Carousel

By Carol Di Prima

ABOUT THE BOOK

Recommended for children ages 10 and up.

The Mmajjian Warrior and the Enchanted Carousel is a fantasy that addresses how social bullying, such as gossiping and spreading malicious rumors affect individuals, especially youngsters. A study done at the University of Buffalo, “has shown that reading fictional books increases a person’s ability to empathize with others and builds cultural and emotional understanding.” The main character, Laura, reaches those youngsters who have been maligned and helps heal their emotional and psychological scars. The book also relates the message that facing the culprits with the truth is empowering and liberating.

SYNOPSIS

Laura's quest to find the culprit responsible for spreading malicious rumors about her father puts her and her two best friends into precarious situations. During these incidents, Lily mysteriously appears and protects Laura. After several interventions, it becomes evident to Laura, the twelve-year-old, and her two best friends, that Lily, who has the appearance of an ordinary elderly woman, has extraordinary powers. They also discover that Lily has an evil foe, Nnorgath, who is determined to stop Lily from protecting Laura and who wants to kill Laura for reasons only known to Lily.

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PRONOUNCIATION OF FICTIONAL NAMES AND WORDS

- Mmajjia, Mmajjian = majeea, majeeian
- Nnogarth = Nogarth
- Cca'sa = casa'

THEMES

Social bullying, friendship, malicious rumors, love of family, interdimensional beings, fate, warriors

AGES

Recommended for children ages 10 and up.

DISCUSSION BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Discuss the difference between the genres fiction, and fantasy. Impress upon the fact that fantasy is a genre that includes imaginary worlds, magic, the supernatural and may include imaginary creatures.

INTRODUCE THE BOOK

Explore the title and the front cover of the book. Ask the following questions:

1. What do you think the title refers to?
2. Where do you think Mmajjia is?
3. What is the difference between a carousel and an enchanted one?
4. What makes a person a warrior? Do we have warriors in our society? How would they be different from a warrior in a fantasy? Do you know someone who is or was a warrior?

Solicit names of people they think might be contemporary warriors in our society. i.e. Martin Luther King Jr., presidents, scientists in the news, etc.

5. What would you fight for if you were a warrior?

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DISCUSS THE BACK COVER, THE SYNOPSIS, OF THE BOOK

VOCABULARY

- culprit = person responsible for doing something wrong
- precarious = dangerous
- foe = enemy
- malicious = hateful, cruel, evil
- interventions = interferences, cut in
- quest = goal, search

AFTER REVIEWING THE VOCABULARY AND THE BOOK COVERS, ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. What do you think the young girl, the warrior, in the cover is fighting for?
2. Is spreading rumors a form of bullying?
3. Do you think that Laura, the warrior, will find the person responsible for bullying her?

DISCUSS IN DEPTH THE TYPES OF BULLYING

1. Social bullying = spreading rumors, gossip
2. Verbal bullying = harassment, making fun of someone
3. Physical bullying = beating, using force to hurt a person
4. Cyberbullying = the use of social media and the internet to harass, gossip or spread rumors

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Consequences of physical confrontation of the bully
2. Understand the effects of bullying, i.e. depression and anxiety, lower academic achievements, difficulty sleeping
3. Distinguish the difference between fantastical events and real ones

ESTABLISHING PURPOSE FOR READING

READ THE ARTICLE WRITTEN BY THE AUTHOR, CAROL DI PRIMA

"PSST... PSST... PSST" Could This Be About You?

River Journal Online

<https://riverjournalonline.com/news/psst-psst-psst-could-this-be-about-you/34206/>

TEACHERS GUIDE

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COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ARTICLE

1. Why did the author write the book?
2. How does social bullying affect the victim?
3. Do you think the author was bullied? Why or why not?

LITERAL COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BOOK AS THEY PERTAIN TO EACH CHAPTER

CHAPTER 1

1. Why didn't Laura want to walk home with her two friends, Luca and I.C.?
2. Do you find it unusual that Laura's two best friends are boys?
3. What impact did the news that the boys give Laura affect her?
4. Why does Laura blame herself for the accident?
5. Describe the night of the accident.
6. Describe Laura's encounter with the elderly woman.

CHAPTER 2

1. How did the malicious rumors affect Laura?
2. Why didn't Laura remember meeting the elderly woman?
3. What do we learn about Luca, I. C. and the elderly woman?

CHAPTER 3

1. What did Laura's guilt prompt her to do?
2. Why wasn't she able to make sense of the dream she had?

CHAPTER 4

1. Why do you think the elderly woman keeps helping Laura?

CHAPTER 5

1. How does Mrs. Stephens try to allay Laura's guilt?
2. What makes Laura convinced that things will never go back to the life she knew before the accident?
3. Do you think that Laura's mother really believes what she says to Laura?

CHAPTER 6

1. How does Luca try to help Laura?
2. Compare Luca's reaction to I.C.'s reaction when Laura takes the bus
3. Why does the evil creature want to kill Laura?
4. How does Laura's deal with Jeff work in her favor?
5. Why doesn't Luca remember what happened on Charles Street? Why does Laura remember?
6. Compare Luca with I.C. How are they the same? How are they different?

TEACHERS GUIDE

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CHAPTERS 7, 8

1. Why are Laura and the boys arguing?
2. What realizations does Laura come to after she speaks to Lily?

CHAPTERS 9, 10

1. How does the relationship between Laura and her friends change?
2. How would you have handled Jill?
3. Describe Jeff and Mrs. Stephen's reaction to Laura's news about the fight.

CHAPTER 11

1. What has become obvious to Laura and her friends about Nnogarth and Lily?
2. How does I.C. get Lily back after she faded away? (Teachers Note: This is a work of fiction. Impress upon the students that they should not attempt to replicate I.C.'s experiment.)

CHAPTER 12

1. How does Mrs. Stephens try to have some kind of normalcy after the accident? Does it work?
2. Describe Lily's homeland, Mmajjia
3. Compare The Enchanted Carousel with a real one
4. What did Laura learn from her father? What did she learn from Lily?
5. Where is Andy, Laura's five-year-old brother?
6. What does Nnogarth plan to do with the children, including Andy?
7. Can Laura help Andy? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 13

1. How has Laura's mother and Laura's attitude changed?
2. How does Laura deal with Jill, the culprit?
3. How would you have dealt with Jill?
4. How does Laura feel after she tells Jill the truth about her father?

CHAPTER 14

1. Describe Lily and Laura's dangerous trip to the Enchanted Carousel
2. What is an illusion? What do you really think E'ELL is?
3. How does Laura become a warrior?

CHAPTER 15

1. What special powers/gifts does Laura have as a warrior? How is she different?
2. How are Lily and Laura going to help Andy? What is the plan?
3. Does Lily answer Laura's questions? Why or why not?
4. Was Laura able to revive the children? What state were the children in?
5. How do the bubbles finally escape to get to the Enchanted Carousel?
6. How would you describe the evil creature, Nnogarth?

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CHAPTER 16

1. What does it mean to metamorphize?
2. How did the ride on the Enchanted Carousel transform Andy and the other children?
3. What sad news does Lily give Laura? How does Laura react?

CHAPTER 17

1. What does Laura discover about the accident, and Andy's kidnapping?
2. Why is Laura filled with fear? Are her questions answered? Why or why not?
3. How does Lily try to console Laura? Is she successful?

DISCUSSION AFTER READING THE BOOK

1. Discuss with the class what their thoughts are about the ending of the book. Did they like the ending? Why or why or why not? Would they change the ending?
2. Which parts of the book did they connect with? Why?
3. What do you think you should do if you or someone you know is being bullied?
4. Do you think bullying can be prevented?
5. Discuss with the students that studies show that there are three things that can be done to prevent it. They are called the 3 R's. They are: Recognize, Respond, and Report. By using the 3 R's, the culprits can be held responsible, and the victims can be free from harm.

Recognize = increase understanding and awareness of bullying

Respond = respond to bullying and act. Respond to ensure bullying does not continue

Report = report it. talk to someone such as a teacher, a counselor, parent, or a friend.

ACTIVITIES

1. Have students write about a time he or she was bullied or witnessed someone being bullied. Do not have the children write their names on paper. If the student has not experienced a bullying situation, they can write about reading about the event in a book. Collect the papers and choose one to read to the class. Discuss how the victim handled it and how it affected them.
2. Choose another written account of bullying and have children role play it. One youngster should be the bully and the other the victim. How did this victim react?
3. Choose a third paper and instruct the youngster who is the witness or the victim to use the 3R's.
Discuss which outcome had the best results for the victim.
Identify the type of bullying that was used in each case.

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FINAL DISCUSSION AFTER READING THE BOOK

1. What questions would you ask the author about the book?
2. How would you compare this book to another fantasy book you have read with or without the class?
3. Do you think the author should write a sequel? Why or why not?

SOURCES

1. [Study.com](https://www.study.com)
2. Stop Bullying
stopbullying.gov/resources/get-help-now
3. STOMP Out Bullying®
stompoutbullying.org

MEET THE AUTHOR



Carol Di Prima's career as an educator has spanned decades. She began her career as an elementary school teacher, librarian and media specialist. Being the school's librarian and media specialist intensified her passion for books and writing. It gave her great joy to see the look of wonder when her students read their favorite books.

Carol Di Prima's first novel, *Lily...Laura* was published in 2020. When Di Prima decided to self-publish via IngramSpark, it became a Four Seasons Book Awards Spring 2023 Finalist and garnered a 2023 BookFest Awards Honorable Mention for Fiction-YA-Fantasy.

Celebrating its fifth year in print, Di Prima decided to rename the anniversary edition *The Mmajjian Warrior and The Enchanted Carousel*, and simultaneously publish a Spanish language edition (translated by Wendy Feliz) titled *La Guerrera Mmajjica y el Carrusel Encantado*.

Di Prima is a member of the American Library Association (ALA). She has degrees in elementary education, and intermedia from Lehman College and School Library and Media Specialist (SLMS) from Syracuse University. She lives in Westchester, New York, with her cats, Sienna and Bella. Learn more about Carol Di Prima: caroldiprima.com

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MEET THE TRANSLATOR



Wendy Feliz is a translator, transcriber, writer, and educator of the Spanish language. She specializes in literary and technical translations. Born in the Dominican Republic, she moved to New York City at an early age, bringing in her suitcase not only her belongings, but also a desire for cultures and literature. She is well-traveled throughout Latin America and Europe aiding in her awareness of the culture, politics, and history. Feliz has worked on technical translations for various companies and nonprofit organizations and has worked on the translations of literary works for writers and poets as well as transcriptions for literary works in progress. Wendy obtained her B.A. in Latin American Literature and Linguistics at The Ohio State University, where she developed her skills in Hispanic Linguistics with dialectology, language in contact, and sociolinguistics. She also obtained an M.A. in Latin American Literature and Culture from St. John's University, studying literary works from pre-Columbian times to the 20th century. *La Guerrera Mmajjica y el Carrusel Encantado* (*The Mmajjian Warrior and The Enchanted Carousel*) is Feliz' first translated Young Adult Fiction novel. Learn more about Wendy Feliz: feliztranslations.com

MEET THE EDITOR

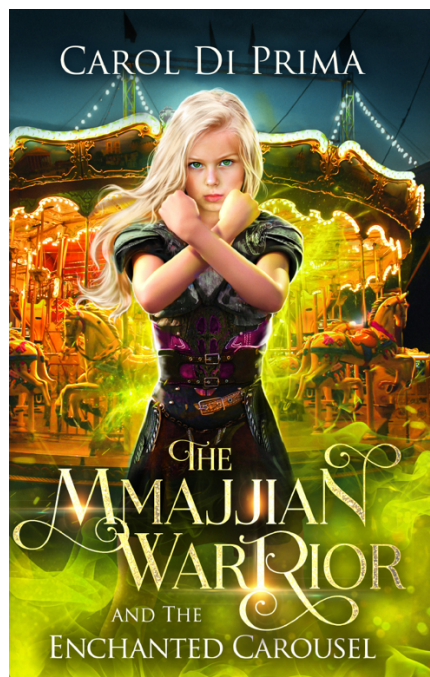


José R. Pagán is a Puerto Rican journalist who has worked for 25 years as a content creator in print and digital media in Puerto Rico and several cities in the United States. He holds a bachelor's degree in Journalism and a master's degree in Media and Contemporary Culture from Sacred Heart University. He published a guide to canine euthanasia entitled *A Compassionate End* and wrote *The Legacy of a Hard Worker*, a collection of family memoirs. *La Guerrera Mmajjica y el Carrusel Encantado* (*The Mmajjian Warrior and The Enchanted Carousel*) is Pagan's first translated Young Adult Fiction novel. He currently resides in San Antonio, Texas.

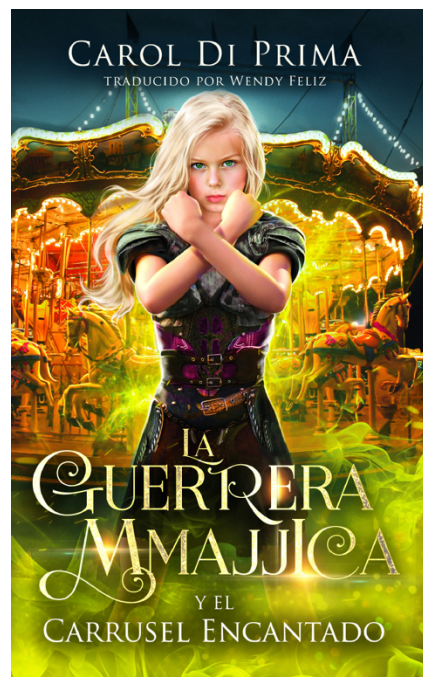
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