

RESCUING TITANIC: A TRUE STORY OF QUIET BRAVERY IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC

Flora Delargy

Wide Eyed Editions

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Themes

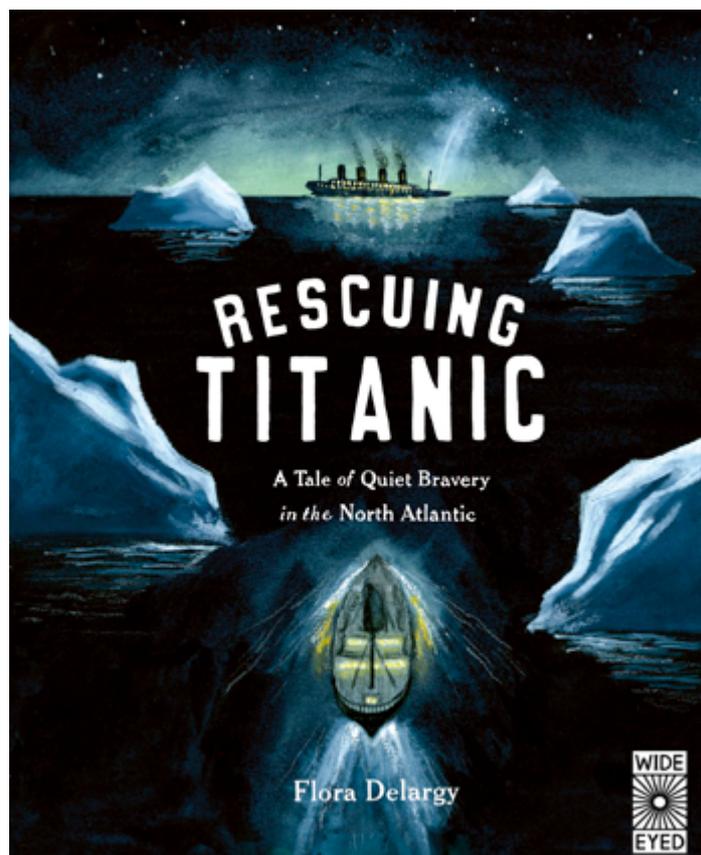
- History and historical non-fiction
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Bravery and courage

Summary Written and illustrated by début Northern Irish artist Flora Delargy, whose grandfather and great-grandfather both worked in the Belfast shipyards where the *Titanic* was built, this exquisitely illustrated story of quiet bravery tells in rich detail how the little ship *Carpathia* saved 705 passengers of the *Titanic* from the icy waters of the North Atlantic.

Judges' Comments

This début book, with stunning illustrations, provides a different perspective on one of the world's most famous maritime disasters – the sinking of the *Titanic*. The focus this time is on the RMS *Carpathia* and its journey across the ice fields in an attempt to save passengers from drowning. Intertwining the stories of passengers and crews on both ships allows for a collective tale of heroism while also paying respect to the victims of the catastrophe. Illustratively, the detailed hand-drawn artwork is excellent and reveals the extraordinary research behind the project.

About the Artist Flora Delargy is an author and illustrator from Belfast. She has a master's in children's book illustration from Cambridge School of Art. In 2019, she was selected for the Illustrators Exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair. *Rescuing Titanic* is her first book for children.



QUESTIONS

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

1. What do you think of when you hear the words ‘non-fiction book’?
2. What can you learn from the subtitle of the book?
3. Describe the cover illustration in three words.
4. Name one fact you know about the *Titanic* and one fact you know about the *Carpathia*, if you can!

AS YOU READ

1. Look at the key crew and passengers on pages 8–9: do you recognise any names from the *Carpathia*? Do you recognise any names from the *Titanic*?
2. List three differences between the *Titanic* and the *Carpathia* (for example, size, passengers, what was being transported, the year it was built, destinations and so on). Why do you think the two ships differ so much?
3. Why would it be important to have three different groups of crew members on the *Carpathia*?
4. Which of the navigational tools shown on pages 22–23 do you think is the most important? Why?
5. Do you think Morse code was an effective way to communicate?
6. Look at the illustrations on pages 34–35. What do they tell us about the atmosphere on the *Titanic* after it struck the iceberg?
7. How do you think Harold Cottam felt when he received the message from the *Titanic*?
8. Compare the illustration of the *Carpathia* on pages 42–43 to the one on pages 24–25. What do you notice about the people inside the ship? How is their behaviour different?
9. What do you think it was like to be on a lifeboat fleeing the sinking *Titanic*?
10. Why do you think the crew and passengers on the *Titanic* used flares? Were they effective?
11. Look at the illustration on pages 62–63. What does it tell us about the survivors and how they felt?
12. How did the staff and passengers of the *Carpathia* support and comfort the survivors of the *Titanic* after they were rescued?
13. Captain Rostron of the *Carpathia* was commended for his bravery in rescuing people from the *Titanic*. How important was leadership and teamwork in this operation?

AFTER YOU HAVE READ

1. Did you know anything about the *Carpathia* before reading this book? Did you know more about the *Carpathia* or the *Titanic*? Why do you think that might be?
2. Take a look at the glossary. What words do you recognise? What words are new to you. Does the glossary help you better understand certain parts of the book?
3. Why do you think telling the story of the *Carpathia* and the bravery of the crew and passengers is important?
4. Do the illustrations help tell the story? What was your favourite illustration and why?
5. Lots of people were involved in rescuing survivors from the *Titanic*. Who do you think is the most interesting? Why?

QUESTIONS FOR OLDER READERS

1. Pages 42–43 are flipped vertically. Why do you think the author chose to do this?
2. Why do you think it’s important to remember the *Carpathia*?
3. What part of the story would you have liked to learn more about? Where might you get more information about it?

ACTIVITIES

- Look at the Morse code alphabet on page 27. Can you translate the code in the middle of pages 26–27? Try writing your name, favourite colour or favourite animal in Morse code – all it takes are some dots and dashes!
- Create a timeline of events on the night the *Titanic* sank (hint: use the clocks and timestamps that appear from page 28 onwards to help you). Take a ruler and draw a straight line. Then mark ten points on the line with equal space between them. Each mark translates to thirty minutes. The first mark will be midnight, second mark 12.30 a.m., third mark 1.00 a.m. and so on until 5:00 a.m. Then using the information in the book, mark out the important events of that night on this timeline.
- Look at the illustration of the *Carpathia* on pages 24–25. Draw an outline of a ship (you can even use tracing paper and copy the outline from the book). Then use a ruler to create boxes inside the ship. Draw pictures to show what the inside of your boat would look like. (What rooms would you have? What do the people do in each room?). You can design it however you want!
- Research these other infamous big ships: HMHS *Britannic* and RMS *Olympic*. Check out online websites or visit your local library or museums. There are lots of fascinating ships in history you can learn more about.
- Bernice Palmer photographed key moments during the rescue of the *Titanic* survivors, recording important moments in history. Use a camera to photograph or draw a picture to record a moment that's important to you (your family now, a big event, a historical site near you, whatever you like). You could always explore your own family history and document any notable events.

ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER READERS

- Look at the further reading on page 75. See if you can borrow a copy of any of the books listed in your local library (you might be able to order them in from other libraries) or as digital copies online.
- Do you know of other books about the *Titanic* or *Carpathia*? Share them with your classmates.
- Pick a key crew member or passenger from pages 8–9 and research them. Find out where and when they were born, about their job, about their family and friends, why they were on the ship and so on. Then write a list of questions you would have liked to ask them in an interview.
- Try the Homeschool Science iceberg science experiment (all you need is a big bowl, water and a block of ice). You can follow the instructions on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otVQ5ULYRyg>. Consider how much ice is visible above the water. How do you think this impacted the *Titanic* when it hit the iceberg? How do you think it affected the *Carpathia* as it navigated the ice field?

FURTHER RESOURCES

- Flora Delargy talks about her work on *Rescuing Titanic* on the Quarto Group blog. She shows readers that a glimmer of hope can be found even in great tragedy, and heroes are not always big and mighty: <https://www.quartoknows.com/campaign/quartokids/meet-the-author-flora-delargy>
- Listen to the *Just Imagine* podcast where Flora Delargy talks about her background and experience writing and illustrating *Rescuing Titanic*: <https://justimagine.co.uk/podcast/flora-delargy/>
- Take a virtual tour of the *Titanic* on the HistoryView website: <https://historyview.org/library/titanic/>
- Watch 'The Story of the *Carpathia*' on YouTube to learn more about the *Carpathia* and the ship's fate after the rescuing of the *Titanic*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0a6_DEobUU4
- Visit the Titanic Museum in Belfast: <https://www.titanicbelfast.com/>