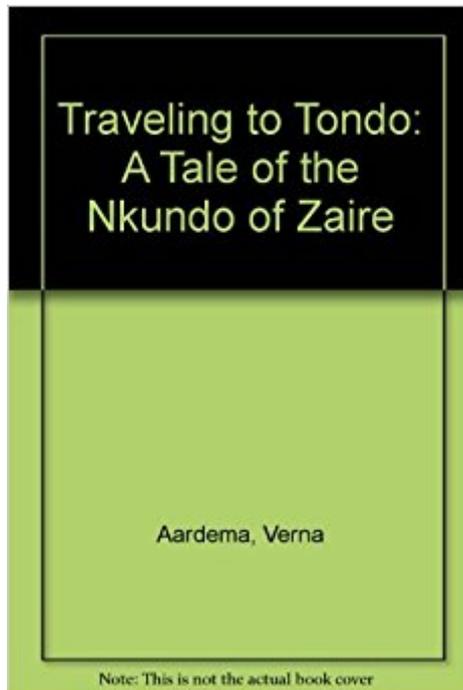


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# Traveling To Tondo



## Synopsis

Illus. in full color. "Bowane, the cat, has asked for the hand of a beautiful feline and is returning to his future wife's village with a basket of copper and trinkets. On the way, he invites one friend after another to accompany him. But delays stall the wedding party--for years--and when the entourage finally reaches Tondo, they are not welcome. This satisfying tale owes its success to a clean, straightforward telling and beautiful illustrations. Perfect for reading aloud, this is a traveling tale for all collections."--(starred) School Library Journal. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hillenbrand's muted, stylized illustrations complement Aardema's wry narration of Bowane the civet cat's slow, slow journey toward his prospective bride. Ages 3-8. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 1-4-- Not since the Three Sillies has there been a more foolish group of misfits--an unlikely quartet of a groom-to-be civet cat and his friends: a pigeon, a python, and a turtle. Bowane, the cat, has asked for the hand of a beautiful feline and is returning to his future wife's village with a basket of copper and trinkets. On the way, he invites one dear friend after another to accompany him. But one delay after another stalls the wedding party--for years--and when the entourage finally reaches Tondo, they are not welcome. The bride-to-be has married another and has a family, and Bowane is run off in disgrace. This satisfying tale owes its success to a clean, straightforward telling and

beautiful illustrations in blues, browns, greens, and gold. Small black decorations under the text show the silly travellers in silhouette as they march along. This is the kind of story children love, and they're sure to cluck their tongues as they sit in awe of someone else's stupidity. Told with a steady rhythm that's perfect for reading aloud, this is a traveling tale for all collections. --Denia Lewis Hester, Dewey School, Evanston, IL Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great little book introduced to me, the elementary art teacher, by an elementary music teacher. If you have instruments that are indigenous to the area of Africa for this reading, by all means use them. I select children to participate in this interactive book reading by using the African instruments for each animal in the story. All of this was put into a big plastic bin in the school library so that classroom teachers could check it out and use it in the classroom. I used it for a gifted group of students who had a great time with this reading. Good story, illustrations -

I purchased "Traveling to Tondo" because I remember how my son insisted I read it to him at bedtime every night for years. He loved it so I plan to share it with my grandchildren. It's a wonderful story!!!

My husband loved this book as a kid, so we purchased for our newborn. We've read it to her a few times and I love making the animal noises. Will be great when she's older too and can understand the humor in the story.

Even children realize that waiting for a log to rot is foolish, but of course it is a marvelous lesson in using wisdom and not always being a "yes civet".

What really first caught my eye with this particular book is that it is a story from another country, which is always a winner with me. But furthermore with that it was one story that I had never heard of before so definitely I wanted to see what was covered within the pages. First of all the Glossary/Pronunciation Guide is actually in the front of the book of the book. I truly enjoyed this location for it as I didn't have to continually keep flipping to the back when I needed to use it. Also the organization that is found for this helps the reader as the words basically show up in chronological order instead of alphabetical. Also with the exception of one or two words the pronunciations are easy to read and provide to the reader a more authentic taste. The writing is short

and simple while using a lot of repetition, which younger readers may enjoy. To add a bit of interaction I would suggest for an adult to try to convince the child(ren) being read to to make the animal noises as they travel. Although it may not be right on the money there will be some giggles and fun by all. And the lesson is one of the best lessons I have heard from a story whether it was fictional, fable, etc. Although the lesson may go over the head of some readers there is always room to re-read the book and enjoy it from cover-to-cover.

These are the oft repeated, rhythmic sounds of Bowane walking, Embenga flapping, Nguma slithering, and Ulu waddling - the four of them traveling to Tondo. So what's going on here? This is how it all starts: "One day in the town of Tondo, Bowane the civet cat met a beautiful feline he wanted for a wife. The cat was willing. And her father agreed to the marriage and set a certain bride price". In our current climate of political correctness this may set some sensitive readers back on their heels just a bit. But come on now - the cultural context ought to count for something. After all, this is an authentic retelling of a tale of the Nkundo people of Zaire. Anyway, getting back to the story, Bowane rounds up his friends Embenga, Nguma, and Ulu (a pigeon, python, and tortoise, respectively) and off they go to Tondo where the wedding will be held. Along the way each member of our little band of celebrants encounters temptation, distraction, or challenge, and in response, loyal to one another, the group makes a series of easy going but unwise choices that ultimately compromise the fulfillment of their mission. Children (and their parents) will enjoy the story line and will delight in the use of Nkundo words and sounds (a helpful Glossary and Guide to Pronunciation is included). But it is Will Hillenbrand's illustrations that really make the book. Stylistically sophisticated, combining elements reminiscent of both Rousseau and Klee, they make the reading of *Traveling to Tondo* a memorable experience for children and adults alike. And so - four stars; one for each of the well intentioned but unfocused companions.

I loved the book because of how creative one can become with it. I am going to read it to my son's 2nd grade class and have them participate to bring the animals to life.

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