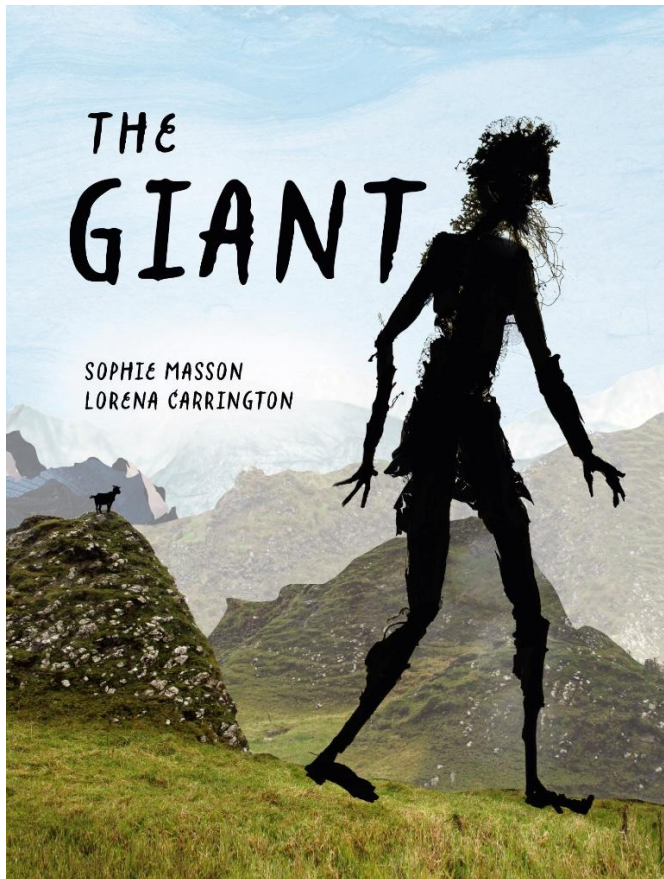


The Giant Teachers' Notes

On the day the giant wakes from a long sleep, he's filled with joy at the thought of seeing his friends in the town again. But he's slept so long that nobody remembers him, everyone hides from him, and his joy turns to a sadness that might engulf the whole town...

Until he hears the voices, calling to him.



About the author & illustrator:

Sophie Masson AM was born in Indonesia of French parents, brought up in France and Australia and now lives in regional NSW. She is the multi-award-winning author of many books, for children, young adults and adults, and in 2019 received an AM award in the Order of Australia honours list for her significant service to literature. Her most recent titles for children include *Sabina and the Cats of Rome*, illustrated by Laura Wood, Christmas Press 2024, and *Satin*, illustrated by Lorena Carrington, MidnightSun Publishing 2023, which received a Notable Books citation in the 2024 CBCA Book of the Year Awards. Forthcoming is *Bold Ben Hall*, Walker Books, 2025, and *The Giant*, illustrated by Lorena Carrington, MidnightSun 2025.

Lorena Carrington is an acclaimed illustrator and writer based in regional Victoria, known for her intricate photographic montage illustrations. Some of her recent books include *The Grown-Up's Guide to Picture Books* with Lara Cain Gray (author) and Timothy Ide (co-illustrator), *Leaf Letters*, *Kate Forsyth's Long Lost Fairy Tales*, and *Satin* with Sophie Masson. Her work has earned her numerous accolades, including

Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) Notable Book of the Year awards for *Satin* and *Long-Lost Fairy Tales*.

From the author:

The idea for the story of *The Giant* came into my head one day when I was walking up the road on a sunny but cold winter morning. He just arrived without warning; one minute I was strolling along, just enjoying the walk, the next minute I had stopped abruptly, seeing him so clearly, waking up, yawning and stretching after sleeping in his cave for a very, very long time.

As a child, I had read old stories where great heroes slept for centuries in caves but might wake up one day if they were needed to fight battles. But I knew my giant wasn't about fighting battles, he was about finding his friends. And I could imagine his excitement as he went out into the sunshine, filled with joy as he thought he could see his friends again. And then his sadness as he realised nobody remembered him...I hurried home then so I could write his story down and find out what happened next to this gentle giant whose tears could make a river rise...

It was wonderful to write it and even more wonderful and thrilling to see the giant and his world come to life in Lorena's magical illustrations!

From the illustrator:

I loved Sophie's gentle giant from the first time I read her story, and I could picture him immediately in my mind. He is made up completely from elements of nature: moss, stick, leaves, little bits and pieces you might find when you're out walking, so I like think of him as being real part of the landscape that he's in. In fact, most of the illustrations in this book are made with photographs of nature montaged together, along with paper collage, and a little bit of drawing.

I also knew right from the start that I wanted the illustrations to be full of colour. Set over a full day, from sunrise to after dark, the colours changing according to the time of day. If you look closely, you can see I've used photographs of different landscapes to make up landscapes in the giant's world, and also added some cut paper, little bits of drawings, and added little interesting things here and there. Look out for the drawing of the giant in the book, and see if the scene repeats itself in a different way later in the book. Can you find versions of the birds and the butterfly from the page borders too?

Some ideas for classroom activities:

1. The author mentions that as a child she read old stories where great heroes slept in caves for centuries. Try and find out something about one of those stories.
2. Why do you think the giant woke up from his long sleep?
3. The two children are the first to understand that the giant is not a threat, but a friend. Write a short paragraph describing how they felt before they came out of their house to speak to him.
4. Make your own paper boats. Maybe you could decorate them or hide a secret message inside. (Search for 'origami boat instructions' online)
5. Collect leaves, flowers, twigs and other interesting things, and make your own collage giant. Either make small versions individually, or the class might like to make one very giant Giant together!

6. Send a postcard to someone you haven't seen for a long time. It might be a grandparent, a friend who moved away, or the postie who delivers letters to your house while you're at school! (And you can choose what a 'long time' is. It might be a year or three days!)