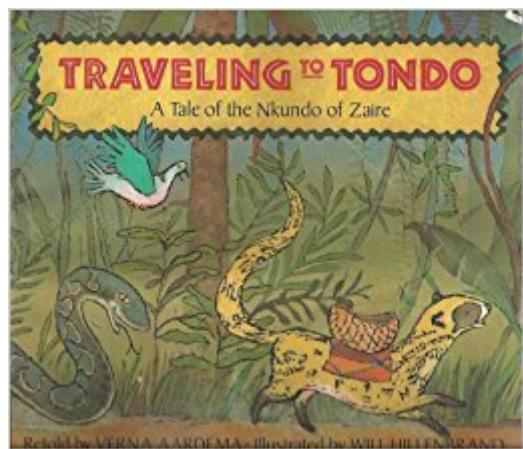


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# Traveling To Tondo, A Tale Of The Nkundo Of Zaire



## **Synopsis**

African children's fiction

## **Book Information**

Paperback

Publisher: Scholastic (1991)

Language: English

ASIN: B00120VOI4

Package Dimensions: 10 x 9.8 x 0.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 7 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #5,938,911 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in Books > Travel > Africa > Democratic Republic of Congo

## **Customer Reviews**

African children's fiction

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 Nkundu 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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