

## **ABSTRACT**

This dissertation, and the supporting examples of creative writing, focuses on illustrated literature for children both in Ethiopia and in the Diaspora. The three illustrated stories, one without words aimed at young children in Ethiopia and two aimed at older children in the Diaspora, were developed over the period of the research and have undergone numerous drafts as the author identified issues relating to the context of writing for an Ethiopian audience as well as the problems faced in trying to get a children's book published in the U.K. and Ethiopia.

A brief critical analysis of the history of Ethiopian children's literature was followed up by a study of oral storytelling in Ethiopia and its impact on books for children. The author also explored the influences on illustrators of Ethiopian children's literature and on their book illustrations. The methodology included using practice as research and took account of post-colonial discourse and ethnology in an attempt to ascertain whether anyone, not born in Ethiopia or of Ethiopian descent, should write or illustrate books about Ethiopia for children from that country. By the end of this research the author had identified niche markets to target and strategies that writers and illustrators, whether Ethiopian or non-Ethiopian, should follow to produce good quality materials for Ethiopian children.

## DECLARATION

This work has not previously been accepted in substance for any degree and is not being concurrently submitted in candidature for any degree.

Signed.....(Candidate)

Date.....

### STATEMENT 1

This thesis is the result of my own investigations, except where otherwise stated. Other sources are acknowledged in explicit references. A bibliography is appended.

Signed.....(Candidate)

Date.....

### STATEMENT 2

I hereby give consent for my thesis, if accepted, to be available for photocopying and for inter-library loan, and for the title and summary to be made available to outside organisations.

Signed.....(Candidate)

Date.....

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The completion of this thesis and the creative writing pieces included would not have been possible without the encouragement and support of many people: family, friends, colleagues and university staff.

Firstly I most grateful to my husband whose patience and understanding gave me the incentive to finish this research. I am also indebted to my Ethiopian friends and to those colleagues I worked with through the Writers for Ethiopian Children and in the Ministry of Education. Particular thanks go to Michael Daniel Ambatchew, Martha Hardy and Hirit Belai for their continuous guidance and feedback on my critical and creative writing.

My thanks also go to department staff in Bangor University and in particular to Dr Llion Iwan, my supervisor in my final year, who provided the support and advice which has enabled me to complete this work.

# CONTENTS

## SECTION 1

Chapter 1 Introduction	1
Chapter 2 Methodology	11
Chapter 3 A Brief History of Illustrated Children’s Literature for Ethiopian Children	31
Chapter 4 Oral storytelling in Ethiopian Children’s Stories	51
Chapter 5 Context in stories for Ethiopian Children	79
Chapter 6 The Influences on Illustrations and Illustrators of Ethiopian Children’s Literature	99
Chapter 7 Ten Donkeys	117
Chapter 8 Back in Time Commentary on Back in Time	128 236
Chapter 9 The Story Teller Commentary on The Storyteller	242 293
Chapter 10 Conclusion	296
Appendices	304
Bibliography	319