

KEY VOCABULARY

Determined – strong will

Exhausted – very tired

Journey – travelling

Resilient – keeps going

Urban – city

Rural – countryside

Olympics- a sporting event held every 4 years

Poverty- the state of being extremely poor

Tradition- customs or beliefs passed from generation to generation

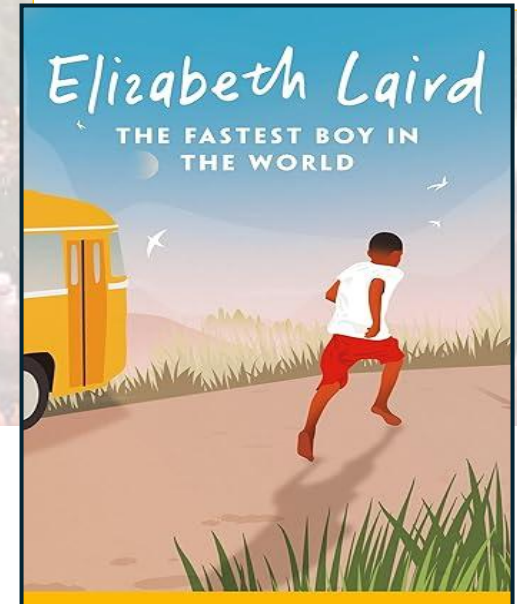
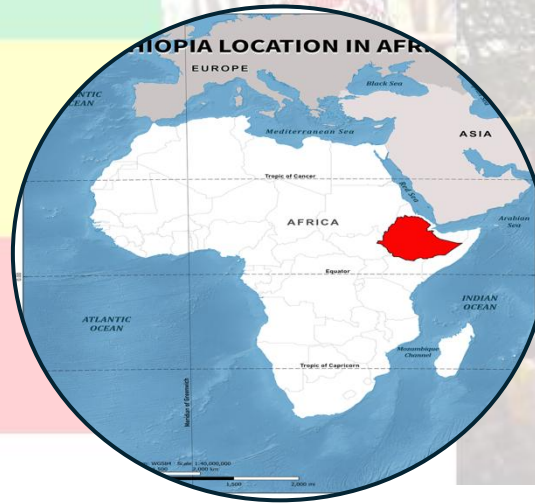
Pride- deep satisfaction of your own or other's achievements

THEMES

- **Determination and resilience**
- **Family and responsibility**
- **Courage in difficult situations**
- **Overcoming challenges**

ETHIOPIA FACTS

- **Located in East Africa**
- **Capital city is Addis Ababa**
- **Famous for long-distance runners**
- **Many people travel long distances on foot**
- **Mix of rural villages and busy cities**



STORY SUMMARY

- Solomon lives in Ethiopia and loves running
- Travels over 20 miles to Addis Ababa with his grandfather
- Grandfather becomes ill in the city
- Solomon must return home alone
- Bus breaks down so he runs the journey



CHRONOLOGY

- Solomon lives in village
- Travels to city
- Grandfather becomes ill
- Bus breaks down
- Solomon runs home for help



EXTRA FACTS

- Ethiopia is one of the oldest countries in Africa
- Addis Ababa is one of the highest capital cities
- Running is an important cultural sport
- Story reflects real-life challenges



Author

Elizabeth Laird was born in New Zealand but grew up in London. Her novels include *Red Sky in the Morning* (1988), about a disabled child; *Kiss the Dust* (1991), about Kurdish asylum seekers in Iraq; *Secret Friends* (1996); *Jay* (1997), which has a drug theme; and *Jake's Tower* (2001), in which a boy has to cope with a violent stepfather. *The Garbage King* (2003) is set in Addis Ababa, and is about Ethiopian street children. *A Little Piece of Ground* (2003) is set in Ramallah, Palestine, from the point of view of boys caught up in the intifada. *Secrets of the Fearless* (2006) is a historical adventure story set against the backdrop of Nelson's navy. *Crusade* (2007), was shortlisted for the 2007 Costa Children's Book Award.