

# The Kite Rider KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Plot:** Haoyou knows that his father's spirit lives among the clouds above Ancient China. He also knows that to save his mother from being forced into a new marriage he must now follow in his father's footsteps and take to the skies, riding a kite through the clouds and the spirits of the dead. The great Miao master of the Jade Circus, offers twelve-year-old Haoyou the amazing chance to change his life by becoming a kite rider!

Traveling the Empire as part of the Jade Circus, Haoyou earns freedom, money, and unexpected fame -- as he skillfully performs for local villagers who believe he can bring back messages from lost loved ones whose spirits haunt the sky. Miao even plans for Haoyou to perform before the Mongol conqueror Kublai Khan himself, but is the Great Miao all that he seems, or could he be using Haoyou in a treacherous plot?

**Themes:** Love, loyalty, friendship, loss, sacrifice, death, reunion

**Setting:** 13<sup>th</sup> Century China

Name of book:	The Kite Rider
Date Published:	2001
Author:	Geraldine McCaughrean
Genre:	Historical adventure

## KEY QUOTES

"Haoyou knew that his father's spirit lived among the clouds. For he had seen him go up there with a soul, and come down again without one."

## CHARACTERS

**Haoyou (how you)**- Aa 12-year old Chinese boy  
**Mipeng**-a distant relative to Haoyou and is a medium (fortune teller)

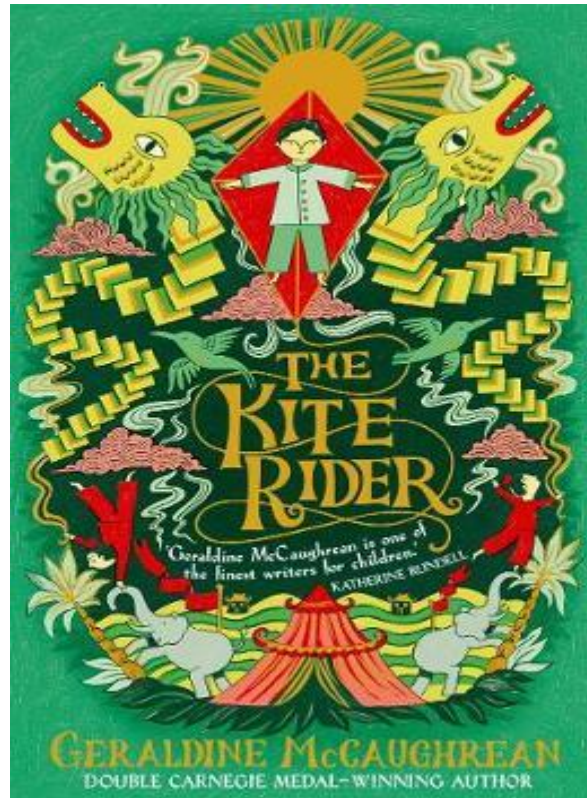
**Pei**-Haoyou's father who dies when he's forced to become a kite rider

**Di Chou**-the man that is responsible for Haoyou's The great Miao/Miao Jie-

**Kublai Khan**-the conqueror of Ancient China

**Great Uncle Bo**-the leader of Haoyou's family, who looks after Haoyou's mother when he leaves Dagu (his home town)

**Qing'an**-Haoyou's beautiful but overly trusting mother



## DISCUSSION POINTS

- Should the money someone earns be given to the eldest in the family?
- Is it right that a child should be working in a circus rather than being at school, or at home with his mother?

## VOCABULARY

<b>Apprentice</b>	A person who trains in a specific skill.
<b>Prosperous</b>	Something that is doing well and thriving.
<b>Barbarians</b>	Uncivilized, savage group of people.
<b>Impertinent</b>	To be rude.
<b>Cargo</b>	Goods carried on a ship.
<b>Gusty</b>	Breezy.
<b>Calamity</b>	Chaos or disorder.
<b>Treacherous</b>	A behaviour showing betrayal or deception towards another person.
<b>Uncommon</b>	Rare.
<b>Medium</b>	Someone who can talk to the dead.

