

# ZIVA THE GREAT

Educator & Librarian Guide

By Cindy J. Vanous



## About the Book

Ziva is not like the other cats. With her watchful eyes and guarded heart, she keeps the world at a careful distance — until a gentle connection begins to change everything. Ziva the Great is a thoughtful story about trust, patience, and the gentle ways healing can unfold.

Perfect for read-aloud or independent reflection, this story invites readers to look beyond first impressions and consider what kindness can make possible.

## Themes in the Story

- Trust and emotional safety
- Patience and understanding
- Healing from past experiences
- Empathy and compassion

## Discussion Questions

1. At the beginning of the story, how does Ziva behave around others? Why do you think she acts this way?
2. What changes as Ziva begins to feel safe?
3. Why is patience important when building trust with someone who is scared or unsure?
4. Have you ever felt misunderstood like Ziva? What helped?
5. What does this story teach us about kindness?

## Extension Activities

### Kindness in Action

Ask students to write or share one small way they can show patience or kindness this week.

### Write Your Own Gentle Hero

Have students create a short story about an animal or character who learns to trust someone new.

## About the Author

Cindy J. Vanous writes character-centered children's stories that explore belonging, courage, and emotional growth. Her work invites young readers to slow down and feel the story in their own special way.