

## Growing Up Around the World: Books as Passports to Global Understanding for Children in the United States



### Growing Up in Africa

#### Cameroon

Bognomo, Joël Eboueme. *Madoulina: A Girl Who Wanted to Go to School*. Boyds Mills, 1999.

Gr. 1-2. Eight-year-old Madoulina has dreams of becoming a doctor, but she must help her mother sell fritters in the marketplace instead of going to school. Happily a new teacher comes up with a solution to the family's dilemma. Joël Eboueme Bognomo lives in Cameroon.

Njeng, Pierre Yves. *Vacation in the Village*. Boyds Mills, 1999.

Gr. 1-2. Nwemb, a city boy, visits his grandparents' rural village during summer vacation. There a relative introduces him to the simple pleasures of village life. Pierre Yves Njeng lives in Cameroon.

Tchana, Katrin Hyman, and Louise Tchana Pami. *Oh, No, Toto!* Illus. by Colin Bootman. Scholastic, 1997.

Gr. 1-2. Toto, a toddler who loves to eat, creates chaos in the marketplace when he goes with his grandmother to get ingredients for a special soup. A glossary of Cameroonian foods and a recipe for egussi soup are appended. Katrin Hyman Tchana was a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon; Louise Tchana Pami, who is now deceased, was a citizen of Cameroon.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

Stanley, Sanna. *Monkey for Sale*. Frances Foster/Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2002.

PreS-Gr.1. Luzolo and her friend, Kiese, rescue a captured monkey at the market by trading goods from person to person until everyone has what he most desires, and the monkey is theirs to release back into the trees. Sanna Stanley grew up in the former Zaire as a child of missionaries from the United States.

Stanley, Sanna. *Monkey Sunday: A Story from a Congolese Village*. Frances Foster/Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1998.

Gr. 1-2. A monkey and several village animals create a commotion and amuse the congregation at an outdoor thanksgiving celebration where Luzolo's father is preaching. The story is based on the author's childhood experiences in the former Zaire.

## Egypt

Eldash, Khaled, and Dalia Khattab. *In an Egyptian City* (A *Child's Day* series). Benchmark Books/Marshall Cavendish, 2002.

Gr. 1-2. The typical day of a seven-year-old girl in Cairo is shown as Boushra says her prayers, goes to school, helps her mother shop at the outdoor market, visits her father at his shop, plays with her friends, and eats with her family. Khaled Eldash and Dalia Khattab both live in Egypt.

## Ethiopia

Kurtz, Jane. *Faraway Home*. Illus. by E.B. Lewis. Gulliver Books/Harcourt, 2000.

Gr. 2-3. Before he leaves on a trip to visit his mother in Ethiopia, Desta's Ethiopian-American father tells her some of his memories of his homeland. The daughter of missionaries from the United States, Jane Kurtz lived in Ethiopia from the age of two until enrolling in college.

Kurtz, Jane. *The Storyteller's Beads*. Gulliver Books/Harcourt, 1998.

Gr. 4-6. Two Ethiopian refugee girls befriend each other, despite their differences, as they make the dangerous journey out of war-torn Ethiopia in the 1980s.

Laird, Elizabeth. *The Garbage King*. Barron's Educational Series, 2003.

Gr. 4-6. Two youths from differing social and economic backgrounds find themselves in the same street gang of homeless youth in Addis Ababa. They maintain their friendship even after their circumstances improve. Elizabeth Laird is a British citizen who lived in Ethiopia during the late 1960s and has frequently revisited.

## Ghana

Asare, Meshack. *Sosu's Call*. Kane/Miller Book Publishers, 2002.

Gr. 1-4. During a storm, a disabled boy saves his fishing village and earns the villagers' respect by calling for help with the chief's drum. Meshack Asare was born and lived in Ghana until moving to London as an adult in 1983.

Provencal, Francis, and Catherine McNamara. *In a Ghanaian City* (A *Child's Day* series). Benchmark Books/Marshall Cavendish, 2002.

Gr. 1-2. Seven-year-old Nii Kwei lives in his family compound in Accra. During this typical day he does chores, goes to school, plays with friends and family, shops, and eats traditional meals. Francis Provencal and Catherine McNamara both live in Ghana.

## Kenya

Lekuton, Joseph Lemasolai (with Herman J. Viola). *Facing the Lion: Growing Up Maasai on the African Savanna*. National Geographic, 2003.

Gr. 7-9. The author describes growing up with his nomadic Maasai family in northern Kenya. He was the only member of his family to receive formal schooling in Kenya and later in the United States. He currently teaches at an American high school and lives for a portion of each year in Kenya.

## Nigeria

Olaleye, Isaac. *Bikes for Rent!* Illus. by Chris Demarest. Orchard Books/Scholastic, 2001.

Gr. 1-2. In a rain forest village, a young boy finally earns enough money to rent a bicycle; however, when he damages it, he must work even more to pay for the repairs. All ends well when the boy learns to make his own bike from discarded parts. Isaac Olaleye was born and raised in Nigeria and currently lives in the United States.

Olaleye, Isaac. *The Distant Talking Drum: Poems from Nigeria*. Illus. by Frané Lessac. Boyds Mills, 1995.

Gr. 2-3. These fifteen poems lovingly portray daily life in a Yoruba farming village in the rain forest of Nigeria.

Onyefulu, Ifeoma. *Ebele's Favourite: A Book of African Games*. Frances Lincoln, 2005.

K-Gr. 2. When Ebele's cousin visits from Senegal, she tries to decide which of her favorite games they should play. Ifeoma Onyefulu was born in Nigeria and moved to London as an adult.

Onyefulu, Ifeoma. *Here Comes Our Bride!: An African Wedding Story*. Frances Lincoln, 2004.

Gr. 2-3. A young boy tells about a family wedding in Benin City and the preparatory events.

Onyefulu, Ifeoma. *Ogbo: Sharing Life in an African Village*. Gulliver Books/Harcourt, 1996.  
Gr. 1-5. A young girl tells about her “age set” group and also about the “age sets” to which the other members of her family belong.

Onyefulu, Ifeoma. *Saying Goodbye: A Special Farewell to Mama Nkwelle*. Millbrook, 2001.  
Gr. 1-3. In this intimate glimpse of an extended family gathering, the author records the funeral of her 102-year-old grandmother and her own son’s participation in this event.

## South Africa

Beake, Lesley. *One Dark, Dark Night*. Illus. by Paddy Bouma. Cambridge University Press, 1996.

PreS-K. A boy hears strange sounds in the night and his family imagines the scary creatures that might be outside, but they discover that it is only Nuisance the donkey. Lesley Beake lives in South Africa.

Cave, Kathryn. *One Child, One Seed: A South African Counting Book*. Photographs by Gisèle Wulfsohn. Henry Holt, 2003.

PreS-K. In this counting book a boy plants a pumpkin seed and, together with his family and friends, enjoys the resulting harvest meal at his homestead. Photographer Gisèle Wulfsohn lives in South Africa.

Daly, Niki. *Jamela’s Dress*. Illus. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1999.

Gr. 1-2. Jamela’s mother buys some fabric for a special dress and Jamela loves it so much that she can’t help parading around her Cape Town neighborhood in it. The illustrations in this joyous book are full of details of South African life. Niki Daly lives in South Africa.

Daly, Niki. *Once Upon a Time*. Illus. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2003.

Gr. 1-2. A girl in the dry Karoo region of South Africa learns to read with the help of an elderly neighbor.

Daly, Niki. *Where’s Jamela?* Illus. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2004.

Gr. 1-2. Jamela moves with her mother and grandmother to a house in the suburbs. She is happy to see the same star from her new bedroom window that she saw from her old one.

Heale, Jay. *South Africa (Festivals of the World series)*. Gareth Stevens, 1998.

Gr. 3-4. Visits to seventeen major South African festivals portray the multi-cultural peoples of the country and show how to make wire toys, a kite, sosaties (barbecued meat), and sing the South African national anthem. Jay Heale lives in South Africa.

Mennen, Ingrid, and Niki Daly. *Somewhere in Africa*. Illus. by Nicolaas Maritz. Dutton, 1992.

Gr. 1-2. A young boy in Cape Town enjoys his life in the city and visits the library to get books in order to read about the wild animals of his continent. Ingrid Mennen was born in Zimbabwe and educated in South Africa, where she now lives.

Naidoo, Beverley. *Out of Bounds: Seven Stories of Conflict and Hope*. HarperCollins, 2003.  
Gr. 4-6. Short stories from each of the decades from 1940 through 2000 highlight the defining moments of South Africa's descent into and rise out of apartheid. The stories feature youth from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds. Beverley Naidoo was born in South Africa and immigrated to Great Britain as a student in 1965.

Sisulu, Elinor Batezat. *The Day Gogo Went to Vote: South Africa, April 1994*. Illus. by Sharon Wilson. Little Brown, 1996.

Gr. 1-2. A child recounts a momentous event in South Africa's history, the day that her grandmother and other relatives were allowed to vote for the first time. Elinor Batezat Sisulu was born in Zimbabwe and now lives in South Africa, where she worked at a polling booth during the democratic elections of 1994.

Stewart, Dianne. *Gift of the Sun: A Tale from South Africa*. Illus. by Jude Daly. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1996.

Gr. 1-2. Thulani would rather bask in the sun than milk the cow, so he begins a series of exchanges that at first appear disastrous but eventually result in a sunflower crop that brings prosperity. Dianne Stewart lives on a sugarcane farm in KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa. Jude Daly is also South African.

Wulfsohn, Gisèle. *In a South African City (A Child's Day series)*. Benchmark Books/Marshall Cavendish, 2002.

Gr. 1-2. On this typical day, seven-year-old Bongani from Johannesburg attends school, helps his aunt at her food stand, shops with his uncle, does chores, plays in his neighborhood, and spends an evening making music with his extended family. Gisèle Wulfsohn lives in South Africa.

## Sudan

Kessler, Cristina. *My Great-Grandmother's Gourd*. Illus. by Walter Lyon Krudop. Orchard Books/Scholastic, 2000.

Gr. 2-3. There is a new well and water pump in Fatima's village, but her grandmother insists on storing water in the baobab tree as in generations past. Fatima reluctantly assists her and, when the pump breaks, their efforts help the whole village. Cristina Kessler has served in the Peace Corps and with other aid organizations throughout Africa; she currently lives in Mali.

## Tanzania

Mollel, Tololwa M. *Kele's Secret*. Illus. by Catherine Stock. Dutton, 1997.

Gr. 1-2. A little boy collects eggs that his grandmother's chickens lay all over the farm. When he finds a hidden nest full of eggs, he is able to accompany his grandmother to market. Tololwa M. Mollel, an Arusha Maasai who grew up on his grandparents' coffee farm in Tanzania, now lives in the United States.

Mollet, Tololwa M. *My Rows and Piles of Coins*. Illus. by E.B. Lewis. Clarion, 1999.  
Gr. 2-3. Saruni saves his carefully earned money to buy a bicycle. When his parents learn that he wants to use it to help his mother carry things to market, they reward him with the father's old bike.

Mollet, Tololwa M. *Subira Subira*. Illus. by Linda Saport. Clarion, 2000.  
Gr. 2-3. In this variation of a traditional tale, a girl who must look after her little brother learns patience and overcomes her own fears through accomplishing an impossible task.

Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie. *Babu's Song*. Illus. by Aaron Boyd. Lee & Low, 2003.  
Gr. 1-2. A boy who lives with his mute grandfather longs to go to school and play soccer. When a tourist buys a music box made by his grandfather, his dreams come true. Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen lived in Tanzania as a Peace Corps volunteer.

Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie. *Elizabethi's Doll*. Illus. by Christy Hale. Lee & Low, 1998.  
Gr. K-2. Elizabethi cares for her rock named Eva just as her mother cares for her new baby named Obedi.

Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie. *Elizabethi's School*. Illus. by Christy Hale. Lee & Low, 2002.  
Gr. K-2. Although Elizabethi is very excited to start school, she misses her family when she is there. After sharing the things she has learned when she returns home at the end of the day, she decides she can still go to school even though she loves home best.

## Zimbabwe

Stock, Catherine. *Gugu's House*. Illus. Clarion, 2001.  
Gr. 1-2. Kukamba loves to visit her grandmother's beautiful compound where she helps to mix paints and decorate the walls. When the rains come, their work is washed away and they must start over again, but everyone is happy for the vegetables that will grow and the livestock that will be fed. Catherine Stock grew up in many places around the world as she accompanied her Swedish father, a career diplomat; she attended college in South Africa.

## The African Continent

Diouf, Sylviane A. *Bintou's Braids*. Illus. by Shane W. Evans. Chronicle, 2001.  
Gr. 1-2. Bintou is a small girl in West Africa who yearns to have beautiful braids like her older sister. When she does a brave deed at the baptismal celebration for her baby brother, her grandmother rewards her with a special hairdo. Sylviane A. Diouf is of Senegalese and French descent and currently lives in the United States.

Ellis, Deborah. *Our Stories, Our Songs: African Children Talk About AIDS*. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2005.

Gr. 6-9. Sadly, to grow up in Africa, especially sub-Saharan Africa, is to be aware of the suffering and death brought about by the plague of AIDS. Deborah Ellis traveled from her home in Canada to Malawi and Zambia in 2003 and transcribed these interviews with children and teens (ages 7-19), all of whom are affected personally by the consequences of such a large epidemic.

Kurtz, Jane, ed. *Memories of Sun: Stories of Africa and America*. Greenwillow, 2004.

Gr. 4-6. Pictures of lives in Africa and in the United States, especially those that attempt to bridge these cultures, make up these twelve stories and three poems. Several are written by African authors who are not well-known in the United States; others are written by American authors with African connections.

Tadjo, Véronique, ed. *Talking Drums: A Selection of Poems From Africa South of the Sahara*. Illus. Bloomsbury, 2000.

Gr. 4-6. Poets from seventeen African nations share insights into our universe, the animal kingdom, love and celebrations, people, death, pride and defiance, and the changing times. Véronique Tadjo is an award-winning poet from the Ivory Coast who now lives in South Africa.

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***Growing Up Around the World: Books as Passports to Global Understanding for Children in the United States*** is a project of the International Relations Committee of the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association. We undertook this project in memory of Zena Sutherland, a past International Relations Committee member with a longstanding commitment to high standards for children's books and to understanding other cultures around the world.

Through *Growing Up Around the World*, we hope to make books that accurately depict contemporary life in other countries more widely available to American children. The project includes bibliographies representing five regions: Africa; the Americas; Asia and the Middle East; Australia and New Zealand; and Europe.

Because the primary goal of the project is to identify fiction and nonfiction that will help young people in the United States understand the lives of children living in other countries today, the bibliographies virtually exclude genres such as fantasy and historical fiction. Rather than including the best books about other countries written by outsiders to those countries, the list seeks to identify children's books written or illustrated by people who have lived for at least two years within those cultures. With very few exceptions, we limit the lists to books written in the last ten years and currently available in the United States. From time to time, the lists may be updated on the ALSC Web site.

We gratefully acknowledge assistance given by leaders and members of organizations such as the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY) and the Cooperative Children's

Book Center (CCBC) as well as individual librarians and children's literature specialists across the country and around the world.

**The Association for Library Service to Children  
International Relations Committee  
December 2005**