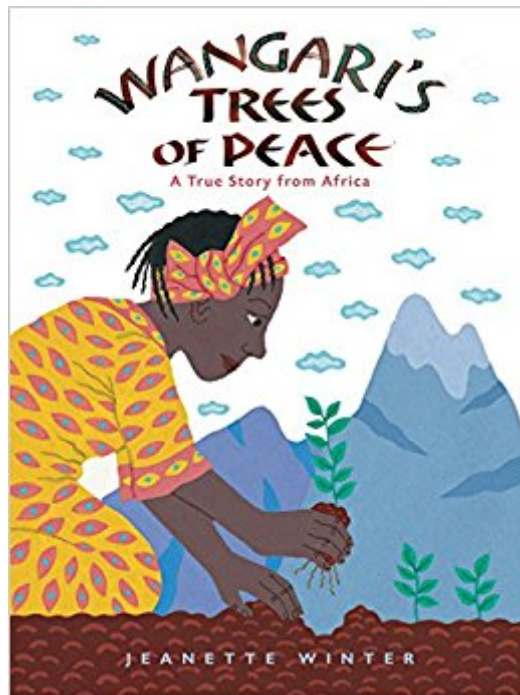




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# Wangari's Trees Of Peace: A True Story From Africa



## Synopsis

As a young girl growing up in Kenya, Wangari was surrounded by trees. But years later when she returns home, she is shocked to see whole forests being cut down, and she knows that soon all the trees will be destroyed. So Wangari decides to do something—and starts by planting nine seedlings in her own backyard. And as they grow, so do her plans. . .

. This true story of Wangari Maathai, environmentalist and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, is a shining example of how one woman's passion, vision, and determination inspired great change. Includes an author's note. This book was printed on 100% recycled paper with 50% postconsumer waste. (20081101)

## Book Information

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Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Kindergarten-Grade 4 • This delightful picture-book biography of the environmentalist has engaging illustrations and accessible, succinct prose. When Wangari Maathai was growing up in Kenya, the land was covered with trees. But on returning to her homeland from America, where she was educated on scholarship, she discovered a hot, dry, barren land, stripped of the trees she loved as a child. Starting in her own backyard, Maathai planted trees and

encouraged other women to do the same. More than 30 million trees have since been planted by the members of her Green Belt Movement. Maathai was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2004 in recognition of her work. The acrylic illustrations have a warm folk-art influence. The pictures are both literal and symbolic, and framed in complementary lines of color. An author's note and a quote from Maathai are included. This book would be a superb choice for read-alouds or assignments. © Melissa Christy Buron, Epps Island Elementary, Houston, TX Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Like Claire A. Nivola's *Planting the Trees of Kenya* (2008), this powerful picture-book biography introduces Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. As in Nivola's title, *Winter* follows her charismatic subject from her rural Kenyan childhood to her adult life as the founder of the Green Belt Movement, which has profoundly improved her country's health and economy. *Winter* distills Maathai's inspirational story into spare words and images. As in her other similarly formatted picture books, such as *The Librarian of Basra: A True Story from Iraq* (2005), *Winter*'s acrylic paintings employ rich, opaque hues and elemental shapes that illustrate specific details while conveying a broader sense of her subject's remarkable influence. An author's note fills in biographical facts, but children may still have questions about specific events, such as the violent protest battles that leave Maathai bloodied. Paired with Nivola's slightly more comprehensive approach, this title offers a welcome introduction to Maathai's awe-inspiring work and to the subject of activism in general. Grades 1-3. --Gillian Engberg

Great introduction to the work of Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai who was awarded the peace prize "for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace" (nobelprize.org). It is well written and illustrated and is just right for older pk - 2nd grade (or older). I have used this book to teach about taking care of the earth and right action. Students in my Human Values class brought up issues of gender inequality, non-violence (there is a page where it mentions how she was beaten and jailed), and injustice. There seems to be a great book about this amazing woman for every age group, so if this one seems too young or lacking depth, try *Planting the Trees of Kenya*, *Mama Miti*, or *Seeds of change*,

Beautiful, true story of a powerful woman who should be a role model for us all. It teaches a powerful lesson about the importance of protecting our environment, standing up for what you

believe in the face of adversity, and creating a community that works together to make the world a better place. There are so few children's books set in African countries, and what's great about this one is that it tells the story of the brilliance and bravery of a Kenyan woman who helped her own country. It's a story of Kenyan resilience, strength, brilliance, and independence and presents a Kenya that seeks change from within rather than relying on the typical trope of stories set in Africa that represent Westerners as heroes and Africans as helpless. Every child should read this book.

Wonderful book for a child to help foster helping others.

This was a summer reading assignment for my 8 year old son and I was delighted to hear about this incredible woman. The illustrations were very vibrant and kid friendly (it kept his attention, yeah!). After reading this with him I immediately Googled Wangari and was amazed to hear her efforts to plant trees in her country and how difficult a journey it was, but how with persistence and faith her campaign grew from her little village for the world to learn just how incredible a leader she became.

Everything was as stated in the purchase! great condition & great book!

I bought this for my 8-year-old niece. She and her mother read it together and really loved it. This is a great story, clearly told. For all our progress on the gender front, girls still need positive female role models, and Wangari Maathai, founder of the Green Belt Movement and Nobel Prize Winner is a terrific one. The story values education but also stresses the importance of putting education to use. Also, the story helps children understand sustainability. Finally, the story stresses how we all need to take part in forging solutions. One person can't fix enormous problems by herself.

This book is a lovely inspiration based on a true story. The copy I bought is now in the public library of Morant Bay, Jamaica. Please join me in sharing this story in many ways.

An excellent book, beautiful illustrations. Provides a wonderful example of what just one person can do when that person's example is followed by others. All children, and adults too, should be exposed to books like this.

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Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai (Frances Foster Books) Mama Miti: Wangari Maathai and the Trees of Kenya

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