

Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa

By Jeanette Winter



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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.

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Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa By Jeanette Winter Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

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.

From Booklist

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 aweinspiring work and to the subject of activism in general. Grades 1-3. --Gillian Engberg

Review

"Wangari Maathai, the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner whose Green Belt Movement has planted 30 million trees in Kenya, is the subject of Winter's (*The Librarian of Basra*) eloquent picture biography. . . . Winter's images appear in framed, same-size squares on each page, creating a flat, frieze-like effect that pays off as Wangari's movement grows and the activities within each frame multiply—a powerful demonstration of Wangari's work." --*Publishers Weekly*, starred review (8/11/08) (*Publishers Weekly (starred)*)

"This delightful picture-book biography of the environmentalist has engaging illustrations and accessible, succinct prose. . . . This book would be a superb choice for read-alouds or assignments."--School Library Journal, starred review (11/08)

(School Library Journal (starred))

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lacie Young:

What do you concerning book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have extra time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. They have to answer that question simply because just their can do which. It said that about guide. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on jardín de infancia until university need this kind of Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa to read.

Margaret Boyer:

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Ella Oxley:

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