



## Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture [sfbg.org/library](http://sfbg.org/library)

Selections from the Children's Book Collection:

# Africa & Diaspora, Plants & People

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**Bringing the rain to Kapiti Plain : a Nandi tale.** By Verna Aardema ; pictures by Beatriz Vidal.

New York : Dial Books for Young Readers, c1981.

A retelling of the Kenyan tale about how Ki-pat brought rain to the drought-stricken Kapiti Plain.

Early readers. (j) QH541.5.P7ke Aa72 1981

**Where are you going, Manyoni?** By Catherine Stock. New York : Morrow Junior Books, c1993.

Manyoni, a Zimbabwean girl, encounters several wild animals in various plant habitats on her way to school. Early

readers. (j) QK402.R5 St62 1993

**The ancestor tree.** By T. Obinkaram Echewa ; illustrated by Christy Hale. New York : Lodestar Books, c1994.

Saddened by the death of their special friend, the very old man who told them stories and jokes, the village

children decide to go against custom and plant a tree for him in the Forest of the Ancestors. Early readers.

(j) QK477.P4 Ec43 1994

**Tree of life : the world of the African baobab.** By Barbara Bash.

San Francisco : Sierra Club Books ; Boston : Little, Brown, c1989.

Text and pictures document the life cycle of this amazing tree of the African savannah, and portrays the animals and people it helps to support. Early readers. (j) QK495 .B66 A4 B291 1989.

**My great-grandmother's gourd.** By Cristina Kessler ; illustrated by Walter Lyon Krudop.

New York : Orchard Books, c2000.

Residents of a Sudanese village rejoice when a traditional water storage method is replaced by modern technology, but Fatima's grandmother knows there is no substitute for the reliability of the baobab tree. Early readers.

(j) QK495.B66 A4, K485, 2000.

**This is the tree.** By Miriam Moss ; illustrated by Adrienne Kennaway. Brooklyn, N.Y. : Kane/Miller, 2000.

A lyrical description of the ancient baobab tree and how it provides shelter and nourishment to wildlife of the African plain. Early readers. (j) QK495.B66 A4, M855, 2000.

**The hunter and the ebony tree.** By Nelda LaTeef. North Kingstown, R.I. : Moon Mountain Pub., c2002.

Retelling of a Zarma (West African) tale about a hunter who, with the help of his animal friends, shoots an arrow into an ebony tree and wins the hand of a beautiful girl. Early readers. (j) QK495.E25 L343 2002

**Whistling thorn.** By Helen Cowcher. New York : Scholastic, c1993.

A look at evolution on the African savannah describes how the acacia bush, in danger of having its leaves ravaged by animals, began to produce thorns that protect it and create a beautiful sound when the wind blows. Early

readers. (j) QK495.L521 A25, A31, C838, 1993

**Zora Hurston and the chinaberry tree.** By William Miller ; illustrated by Cornelius Van Wright and Ying-Hwa Hu. New York : Lee & Low Books, c1994.

A vignette from the childhood of African-American author Zora Hurston tells how she learned to realize her dreams from her mother and from her observations from the top of a chinaberry tree.

Early readers. (j) QK495.M52 M4, M619, 1994. (Also available in Spanish: **Zora Hurston y el arbol sonador.**)

**The Iroko-man : a Yoruba folktale.** Retold by Phyllis Gershator ; illustrated by Holly C. Kim.

New York : Orchard Books, c1994.

Retelling of a Yoruba folktale about a woodcarver who appeases a spirit which lives in an iroko tree (Milicia).

Advanced readers. (j) QK495.M73 M56, G323, 1994

**First palm trees : an Anancy Spiderman story.** By James Berry ; illustrated by Greg Couch.

New York : Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1997.

The West Indian trickster Anancy Spiderman tries to persuade Sun-Spirit, Water-Spirit, Earth-Spirit, and Air-Spirit to create the world's first palm trees so that he can collect a reward from the king.

Early readers. (j) QK495.P17 B459 1997

**Grandma's purple flowers.** By Adjoa J. Burrowes. New York : Lee & Low Books, c2000.

Saddened by the loss of her grandmother, Hyacinth is comforted when she sees purple flowers sprouting in her grandmother's garden. Early readers. (j) SB406 .B946 2000

**A weed is a flower: the life of George Washington Carver.** Written and illustrated by Alik.

Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice-Hall [1965]

A simple biography of the man, born into slavery, who became a scientist and devoted his entire life to helping the South improve its agriculture. Early readers. (j) SB63 C25 AL1 1965

**George Washington Carver.** By Andy Carter and Carol Saller ; illustrations by Lance Paladino.

Minneapolis, Minn. : Carolrhoda Books, c2001.

Recounts the life of the African-American agriculturist at the Tuskegee Institute, emphasizing his love of plants and his belief in living in harmony with the natural world. Early readers. (j) S417.C25 C245 2001

**In the garden with Dr. Carver.** Susan Grigsby ; pictures by Nicole Tadgell.

Chicago, Ill. : Albert Whitman, c2010.

A fictionalized account of how plant scientist George Washington Carver came to an Alabama school and taught the children how to grow plants and reap the rewards of nature's bounty. Includes factual notes about George Washington Carver. Early readers. (j) S417.C25 G877 2010

Early readers. (j) S417.C25 G877 2010

**Farmer Will Allen and the growing table.** By Jacqueline Briggs Martin ; illustrated by Eric-Shabazz Larkin;

afterword by Will Allen. Bellevue, Wash. : Readers to Eaters, c2013.

Follows Will Allen's work to revolutionize the way kids think about food and where it comes from, by developing urban farms and establishing farmer's markets, in order to feed the world.

Early readers. (j) SB321 .M364 2013

**Bring me some apples and I'll make you a pie : a story about Edna Lewis.** By Robbin Gourley.

New York : Clarion Books, c2009.

From the whippoorwill's call on the first day of spring through the first snowfall, Edna and members of her family gather fruits, berries, and vegetables from the fields, garden, and orchard on their Virginia farm and turn them into

wonderful meals. Includes facts about the life of Edna Lewis, a descendant of slaves who grew up to be a famous chef, and five recipes. Early readers. (j) SB186 .G74 2009

**Planting the trees of Kenya : the story of Wangari Maathai.** By Claire A. Nivola.

New York : Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, c2008.

The story of how Wangari Maathai mobilized the women of Kenya to reforest their land.

Early readers. (j) SD409 .N649 2008

**The mangrove tree : planting trees to feed families.** By Susan L. Roth & Cindy Trumbore.

New York : Lee & Low Books, c2011.

A cumulative verse, alternating with additional narrative, describes the ecological and social transformation resulting from the work of Dr. Gordon Sato, a Japanese American cell biologist who made saltwater and desert land productive through the planting of mangrove trees in the tiny African country of Eritrea. Early readers.

(j) SD397.M25 R742 2011

**Lola plants a garden.** By Anna McQuinn ; illustrated by Rosalind Beardshaw.

Watertown, Mass. : Charlesbridge, 2017.

Lola plants a flower garden with her parents' help, and watches it grow. Early readers. (j) SB453 .M46 2017

**One child, one seed : a South African counting book.** By Kathryn Cave ; photographs by Gisele Wulfsohn.

New York : Henry Holt, in association with Oxfam, 2003.

A counting book that also gives us an understanding of South African culture.

Early readers. (j) QK661 .C315 2003

**Anansi and the moss-covered rock.** Retold by Eric A. Kimmel ; illustrated by Janet Stevens.

New York : Holiday House, c1988.

Anansi the Spider uses a strange moss-covered rock in the forest to trick all the other animals, until Little Bush Deer decides he needs to learn a lesson. Early readers. (j) QK537 .K571 1988

**Anansi and the magic yams : a West African folk tale.** Retold and illustrated by Joanna Troughton.

London : Blackie Children's Books, c1994.

Retelling of the Ashanti folktale about a trickster spider who greedily takes the special magic yams from the Spirits' garden. Early readers. (j) SB211.Y3 T757 1994

**Anansi and the magic stick.** By Eric A. Kimmel ; illustrated by Janet Stevens. New York : Holiday House, c2001.

Anansi the Spider steals Hyena's magic stick so he won't have to do gardening chores, but when the stick's magic won't stop, he gets more than he bargained for. Early readers. (j) SB453 .K571 2001

**The talking vegetables.** Retold by Won-Ldy Paye and Margaret H. Lippert ; illustrated by Julie Paschkis.

New York : Henry Holt, 2006.

After Spider refuses to help the villagers plant the vegetables, he is in for a surprise when he goes to pick some for himself. Early readers. (j) SB321 .P39 2006

**Over and under the pond.** By Kate Messner with art by Christopher Silas Neal.

San Francisco : Chronicle Books, c2017.

Celebrates the forms of life that live above and under a pond, including turtles, red-winged blackbirds, blue herons, minnows, frogs, and catfish. Early readers. (j) QH541.5.P63 M47 2017

**The magic tree : a tale from the Congo.** Adapted and illustrated by Gerald McDermott.

New York : Henry Holt, 1994, c1973.

Retells a Congolese tale in which an ugly and unloved twin discovers a magic tree that gives him everything he wants. Early readers. (j) QK477.F3 M143 1994

**The magic tree : a folktale from Nigeria.** By T. Obinkaram Echewa ; illustrated by E. B. Lewis.

New York : Morrow Junior Books, c1999.

Mbi, an orphan boy, is constantly asked to "do this" and "do that" by his many unkind relatives until a special tree grows, just for him. Advanced readers. (j) SB379.U3 Ec43 1999

**Gift of the sun : A tale from South Africa.** By Dianne Stewart ; pictures by Jude Daly.

New York : Farrar, Straus, Giroux, c1996.

Tired of milking when he would rather bask in the sun, Thulani sells the cow and begins a series of exchanges that results in a sunflower crop and prosperity. Early readers. (j) SB299.S9 St49 1996

**The Market Lady and the mango tree.** By Pete and Mary Watson.

New York : Tambourine Books, c1994.

A sly merchant gets rich when she devises a contraption for collecting mangos, but a dream teaches her a lesson about greed. Early readers. (j) SB379.M2 W336 1994

**Mirandy and Brother Wind.** By Patricia C. McKissack ; illustrated by Jerry Pinkney.

New York : Knopf, c1988.

In order to win first prize in the junior cakewalk, Mirandy tries to capture the wind to be her partner. Early readers. (j) QC931 .M217 1988

**The name of the tree : a Bantu folktale.** Retold by Celia Barker Lottridge ; illustrated by Ian Wallace.

New York : Margaret McElderry Books, c1989.

When the other animals fail at the task, the slow but wise turtle finds a way to obtain the bountiful fruits of a magic tree. Early readers. (j) SB108.4.Af8 L918 1989

**The rainstick : a fable.** By Sandra Chisholm Robinson ; illustrations by Peter Grosshauser.

Helena, Mont. : Falcon Press, c1994.

A boy embarks on a quest to bring back the sound of rain to his West African village. Includes a discussion of how rainsticks are used today and instructions for making a rainstick. Advanced readers. (j) SB108.4.Af8w R566 1994

**Bitter bananas.** By Isaac Olaleye ; illustrated by Ed Young. Honesdale, Pa. : Boyds Mills Press, c1994.

When baboons begin stealing the sweet palm sap that Yusuf sells at the market near his Nigerian village, he makes a natural pest repellent using bananas. Early readers. (j) SB299.P3 OL1 1994

**Handa's surprise.** Eileen Browne. London : Walker, c1994.

Handa, a Kenyan girl, is surprised when she discovers that the fruits she has brought to her friend Akeyo are all tangerines. Pre-readers. (j) SB379.A1 B816 1994 (Also available in Spanish: **La sorpresa de Nandi.**)

**Koi and the kola nuts.** By Brian Gleeson ; illustrated by Reynold Ruffins. New York : Rabbit Ears Books, c1992.

Cheated of his rightful inheritance, a chief's son uses a bunch of kola nuts to gain a happy new life. Advanced readers. (j) SB279.K64 G479 1992

**My great-grandmother's gourd.** By Cristina Kessler ; illustrated by Walter Lyon Krudop.

New York : Orchard Books, c2000.

Residents of a Sudanese village rejoice when a traditional water storage method is replaced by modern technology, but Fatima's grandmother knows there is no substitute for the reliability of the baobab tree. Early readers.

(j) QK495.B66 A4, K485, 2000

**Fruits : a Caribbean counting poem.** By Valerie Bloom ; illustrated by David Axtell.

New York : Henry Holt, 1997.

This poem counts up to ten different kinds of Caribbean fruit, including guavas, jackfruit, and Otaheiti apples.

Early readers. (j) SB379.A5 B623 1997

**Shaina's garden.** By Denise Lewis Patrick ; pictures by Stacey Schuett.

New York : Aladdin Paperbacks, c1996.

An African American girl learns about vegetable gardening and grows her first tomatoes.

Early readers. (j) SB349 .P275 1996

**Wild, wild sunflower child Anna.** By Nancy White Carlstrom ; illustrated by Jerry Pinkney.

New York : Macmillan, c1987.

Spending a day outdoors, Anna revels in the joys of sun, sky, grass, flowers, berries, frogs, ants, and beetles. Early

readers. (j) QH48 .C197 1987

**Working cotton.** By Sherley Anne Williams ; illustrated by Carole Byard.

San Diego, [Calif.] : Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, c1992.

A young black girl relates the daily events of her family's migrant life in the cotton fields of central California. Early

readers. (j) SB245 .W675 1992

**Cherries and cherry pits.** By Vera B. Williams. New York : Greenwillow Books, c1986.

Bidemmi draws pictures and tells stories about cherries. Early readers. (j) SB366 .W675 1986

**Flower garden.** By Eve Bunting ; illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt.

San Diego : Harcourt Brace, c1994.

Helped by her father, a young girl prepares a window box flower garden as a birthday surprise for her mother. Pre-

readers. (j) SB417 .B886 1994

Updated September 2019.

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