

BOOKS ABOUT africa

Pan-Africa

Musgrove, Margaret. *Ashanti to Zulu: African Traditions*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1976.
A gorgeously-illustrated alphabet book illustrating the immense diversity of African peoples and cultures.

Northern Africa

Heide, Florence Parry. *The Day of Ahmed's Secret*. New York: HarperCollins, 1995.
Ahmed carries his secret all day long, through the busy streets of Cairo, to the delight of readers who follow.

West Africa

Aardema, Verna. *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1975.
In this Caldecott Medal-winning folktale, mosquito tells one little lie, setting off an unfortunate chain of events.

Gerson, Mary-Joan. *Why the Sky is Far Away: A Nigerian Folktale*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1974.
This 500-year old Nigerian "pourquoi" tale teaches children to respect the earth, a fitting message for today.

McDermott, Gerald. *Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1987.
In this Caldecott Honor book based on a folktale from Ghana, loveable trickster Anansi uses his wits to get out of trouble, and ends up bringing the moon to the sky.

East Africa

Aardema, Verna. *Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain*. New York: Dial, 1981.
In the vein of *The House That Jack Built*, this lilting, cumulative rhyming tale tells how one brave young herder saves his community from drought.

Feelings, Muriel. *Moja Means One: Swahili Counting Book*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1971.
In this Caldecott Honor book, while learning to count one to ten in Kiswahili, readers receive a beautiful introduction to East African culture.

Feelings, Muriel. *Jambo Means Hello: Swahili Alphabet Book*. New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1974.
A beautiful follow up to *Moja Means One*. Readers are introduced to 25 more Kiswahili words.

Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie. *Elizabethi's Doll*. New York: Lee and Low Books, 1998.
While her mother cares for the new baby, Elizabethi creates a doll of her own to care for, just like mama. Set in Tanzania, this award-winning story is both distinctly African and universal. A celebration of family and imagination, beautifully and lovingly illustrated by Christy Hale.

Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie. *Mama Elizabethi*. New York: Lee and Low Books, 2000.
A sequel to *Elizabethi's Doll*. Experienced in caring for her rock doll, Elizabethi is now charged with caring for her young brother while completing the daily chores, which proves to be a difficult task.

Stuve-Bodeen, Stephanie. *Elizabethi's School*. New York: Lee and Low Books, 2002.
A third title in the series, Elizabethi looks forward to her first day school, but struggles with homesickness.

Ward, Leila. *I Am Eyes, Ni Macho*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1978.
Beautifully illustrated, lyrical text, which begs to be savored. Transports you to Kenya, where a little girl points out all she sees. Ni macho means "I am awake," but it literally says, "I am eyes." A little girl points out all she sees in her home in Kenya.

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Southern Africa

Isadora, Rachel. *At the Crossroads*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 1991.

Moving and poignant, *At the Crossroads* chronicles a day in the life of children waiting for their fathers to return from the mines, where they've been working ten months out of the year. This book illustrates life in a "Black" South African township and captures the universal beauty of hope and family.

Step toe, John. *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*. New York: HarperCollins, 1987.

A beautifully-illustrated Cinderella story from Zimbabwe.