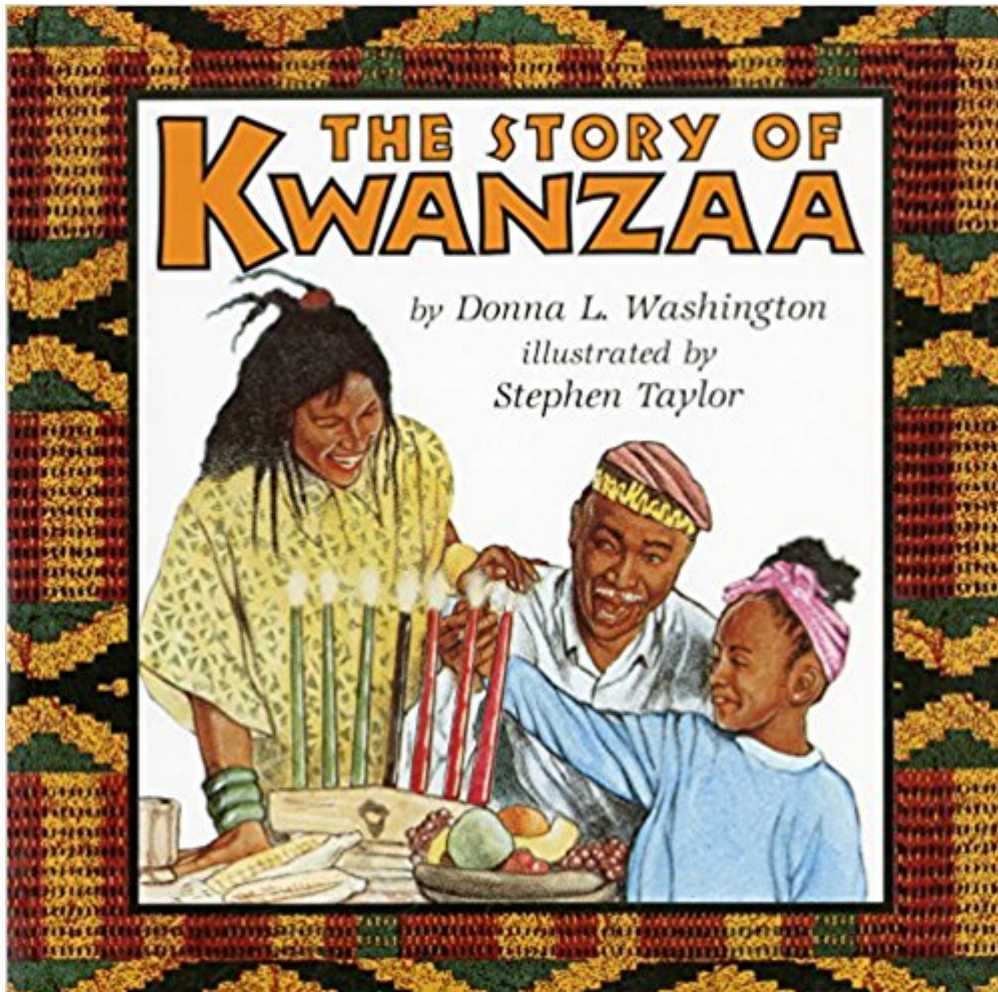




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The Story Of Kwanzaa (Trophy Picture Books (Paperback))



Synopsis

It's time for Kwanzaa! Light the candles on the kinara! Fly the bendera, and tell stories from Africa! The festival of Kwanzaa was originated by Dr. Maulana Karenga to honor the customs and history of African Americans. The seven principles of Kwanzaa, called the Nguzo Saba, serve to remind African Americans of the struggles of the past, and also focus on present-day achievements and goals for the future. The holiday fun continues with activities at the end of the book, including making your own cow-tail switch and baking benne cakes.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 590L (What's this?)

Series: Trophy Picture Books (Paperback)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Collins; Reprint edition (September 20, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0064462005

ISBN-13: 978-0064462006

Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.1 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #373,312 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in Books > Children's Books

> Holidays & Celebrations > Kwanzaa #43 in Books > Children's Books > Education &

Reference > History > Africa #563 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 5

Customer Reviews

The title is self-revealing. As others have done before her, Washington simply tells the story of the holiday. Two things, though, may make this a worthy addition to existing fare. One is Taylor's inspired blend of photographs of contemporary African fabrics with joyful acrylic, pastel, and gouache illustrations. The other noteworthy aspect is the book's attention to African American history, also shared by the title reviewed below. Ages 6-10. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 2[^]-4. Beginning with ancestors in Africa, Washington explains the history leading up to the

creation of Kwanzaa, following it through slavery and on to the civil rights movement, when activist Dr. Maulana Karenga came up with the idea of an African American festival. The author explains the principle behind each of the seven days of the celebration and notes some of the objects and activities used during the holiday. The material is outlined clearly, but the tone is flat, and the phrasing isn't always well handled: "Their purpose must be to claim their rightful place in the world." Taylor's illustrations, a rich combination of acrylic, gouache, and pastels, are livelier than the text, but there's enough good information supplied to make the book a good choice for many libraries.

Susan Dove Lempke --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The book begins by providing a very general history of Africa. However, some of the claims that are made I do not think are true, such as the Brer Rabbits stories were about slaves and their slave owners. Having read a book of Brer Rabbits tales, I think that the slave that Joel Chandler Harris interviewed for the Brer Rabbit books was retelling stories that originated from Africa. But, I like the illustrations in the book, each one of them could be a story by itself. Moreover, the real value of this piece of the literature is the last two-thirds of the book, where the seven days of Kwanzaa are explained and reference materials for Kwanzaa is given.

The book was very informative, but I only ended up reading a sentence or two from a few pages to my Kindergarten class. The illustrations are nice from an adult perspective but boring for the students. I wouldn't recommend this as a read-aloud for an elementary class. I feel misled by the title and the cover illustrations; it isn't really a "story" and it isn't really for children.

Part of a presentation to 2nd graders for the holidays along with books about Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

Donna Washington is a wonderful storyteller, and the illustrations in this book do the story justice as well. This is a great addition to any school or family library collection as it explains the tradition of Kwanzaa in an accessible and appealing way.

Just the right amount of info for young minds. Simple but thorough explanations and instructions introduced my daughter to this holiday much better than I could. She wants to do something different each year. So, this book has lasting value.

I bought this book for my two daughters (7 and 4). Both girls loved the book and I appreciated that they were learning something at the same time.

GOOD READ

We think teaching our children about cultural diversity is a must so we bought this book and it is Wonderful . It has little how tos and reciepies that were great for us as a family because we had no idea how to help her celebrate this holiday . Now on the first night of Kwanzaa we have a traditional dinner and the kids make cow tail switches to help bring the story to life

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