



Seeds of Change: Wangari's Gift to the World

By Jen Cullerton Johnson

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As a young girl in Kenya, Wangari was taught to respect nature. She grew up loving the land, plants, and animals that surrounded her -from the giant mugumo trees her people, the Kikuyu, revered to the tiny tadpoles that swam in the river. Although most Kenyan girls were not educated, Wangari, curious and hardworking, was allowed to go to school. There, her mind sprouted like a seed. She excelled at science and went on to study in the United States. After returning home, Wangari blazed a trail across Kenya, using her knowledge and compassion to promote the rights of her countrywomen and to help save the land, one tree at a time. *Seeds of Change: Planting a Path to Peace* brings to life the empowering story of Wangari Maathai, the first African woman, and environmentalist, to win a Nobel Peace Prize. Engaging narrative and vibrant images paint a robust portrait of this inspiring champion of the land and of women's rights.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 2–4—This entry on Wangari Maathai takes a slightly more comprehensive look at her life than several other recent books. Her deep love of nature and her determination, first to get an education and later to save the environment and ultimately the people of Kenya, are discussed. Foreign business interests and the duplicity of "corrupt police" forced her first into prison, then politics, and ultimately into spreading her message to the wider world. The book closes as she received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. An afterword adds more detail on the Green Belt Movement. Vivid colors sparkle from within the thick white outlines in the batik-style illustrations that fill the pages.—*Carol S. Surges, McKinley Elementary School, Wauwatosa, WI*

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From [Booklist](#)

Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai has become a popular subject for the elementary-school crowd: this title marks the fourth picture-book biography about the Kenyan environmentalist to be released in the last two years. More than the previous offerings, Johnson's title discusses Maathai's education, particularly the role that her brother played in advocating that his sister attend school, and later, at college in the U.S., the inspiration Maathai found in her female science professors: "From them she learned that a woman could do anything she wanted to." Throughout the poetic text, Johnson includes direct quotes, sourced in appended notes, which will help young people feel a more immediate connection to the inspiring activist and her powerful message. Sadler's bright mixed-media art, reminiscent of Ashley Bryan's work with its white outlines and rainbow-hued shapes, reinforces the sense of a depleted land growing green again and the presence, even in bustling city scenes, of a vibrant natural world. An author's note and resources conclude this title, which complements, rather than duplicates, other recent titles about Maathai. Grades 2-4. --Gillian Engberg

Review

starred review This debut picture biography, idealized and inspiring, draws on Wangari Maathai's autobiographical writing to present an overview of the activist's life from childhood to the present. Johnson sows her narrative with botanical metaphors: 'Her mind was like a seed rooted in rich soil, ready to grow.' The mugumo tree symbolizes Kenya's transition from agrarian bounty to environmental precipice: It yields figs for humans and animals yet bows to destruction as multinational corporations raze forests to profit from coffee plantations. Richer than other treatments of Maathai for children and more grounded in her work's implicit feminism, this details her education in Nairobi and the United States, her imprisonment for activism and her scientific and environmental work, resulting in the planting of 30,000,000 trees and economic empowerment for Kenyan women. Sadler's beautiful scratchboard illustrations incise white contoured line into saturated landscapes of lush green leaf patterns, brilliant-hued textiles and undulating, stylized hills. Maathai always wears a colorful headscarf or fabric bow, and the community spirit she resuscitates is joyfully celebrated on every spread. Vibrant and accomplished. --Kirkus Reviews

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carl White:

This Seeds of Change: Wangari's Gift to the World book is not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is actually information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This kind of Seeds of Change: Wangari's Gift to the World without we realize teach the one who examining it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Seeds of Change: Wangari's Gift to the World can bring any time you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even cellphone. This Seeds of Change: Wangari's Gift to the World having fine arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Ian Coghlan:

Seeds of Change: Wangari's Gift to the World can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but still delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into delight arrangement in writing Seeds of Change: Wangari's Gift to the World yet doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can drawn you into brand new stage of crucial pondering.

Arthur Bailey:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You can observe that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. The book that recommended to you is Seeds of Change: Wangari's Gift to the World this reserve consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. That book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The vocabulary styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some investigation when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book appropriate all of you.

Madeline Cecil:

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