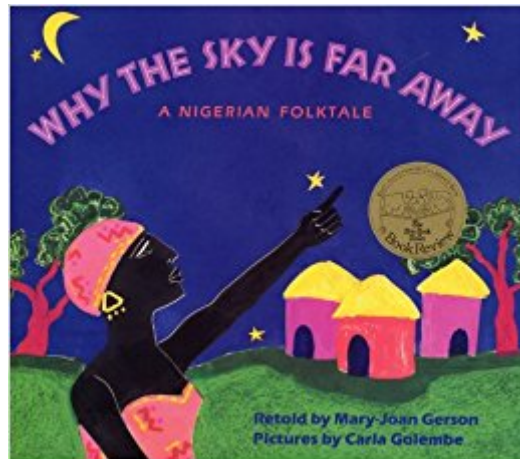




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Why The Sky Is Far Away: A Nigerian Folktale



Synopsis

Illustrated throughout, this tale explains why people today must grow and harvest their own food. In the beginning eating was simple - everyone reached up and ate a piece of the sky. Through carelessness and waste the people eventually angered the sky and it sailed upwards - out of reach.

Book Information

Age Range: 5 and up

Lexile Measure: 670L (What's this?)

Library Binding: 32 pages

Publisher: Joy St Books (September 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316308528

ISBN-13: 978-0316308526

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 10.5 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 15 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #582,251 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > African](#) #571 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#)

Customer Reviews

This understated narrative, adapted from a Nigerian pourquoi story, informs readers that the preservation of the earth's limited resources lies firmly in human hands. Dazzling, boldly hued illustrations--verdant flora, jet-black figures garbed in pinks and yellows--strikingly capture the carefree spirit of an Africa when an edible, delicious sky was a source of sustenance: "Men and women did not have to sow crops and harvest them. Anybody who was hungry just reached up, took a piece of sky, and ate it." Such luxury led to waste, however, and an angry sky threatened to withdraw its gift. For a time the people were "very, very careful," until one day a woman's greed brought an end to this idyllic life. Gerson's informative text may strike some as a bit prosaic, but it is aided by a wondrous premise--and by the intriguing fact that this timely message springs from a 500-year-old story. Though the characters in Golembe's primitive artwork possess the somewhat static look of etchings, they nonetheless exude intense emotion and vitality. Brightly painted textual borders, alive with native symbols, provide an additional enticing touch. Ages 4-8. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Kindergarten-Grade 3-- This pourquoi tale, first told 500 years ago by the Bini tribe of Nigeria, has a topical message that is accessible to children without being heavy-handed. ``In the beginning," the sky was so close to the earth that anyone who was hungry could just reach up, take a piece, and eat it. The sky was delicious, tasting sometimes of meat stew, sometimes of roasted corn. But the people grew careless with the sky's gifts, taking more than they needed to satisfy their hunger. The sky grew angry, threatening to withhold its gifts if the people continued to waste them. True to its promise, the sky moved far away, and the Bini were forced to plow the fields and hunt the forest. Golembe's striking illustrations deepen and enrich this simple tale, adding immensely to the book's appeal. Using a strong, sure line and a palette of deep, vibrant colors, she evokes a timeless African landscape, resonating both the mythic and contemporary themes. The symbolic qualities of the story are strengthened by a deceptively simple composition and the weight of the flat, stylized figures, done in dense, pure black. An eye-catching choice for folklore or picture book collections, and especially useful in supplementing multicultural and ecological curricula. --Linda Boyles, Alachua County Library District, Gainesville, FLCopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

This is a great story with a good message and beautiful illustrations! My five-year-old son loves it!

Excellent book -a little mature for my 3 year olds

My daughter read this book as part of the Prime Time program. She loved it then and loved it when I bought it for her for her birthday.

We love Anansi and we so glad to be able to find the books here.

Kids love it.

My daughter and I adore this book!

This is a great story, my child is a big young but I expect we will read this often and hopefully teach the kids to not waste.

Very entertaining!

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