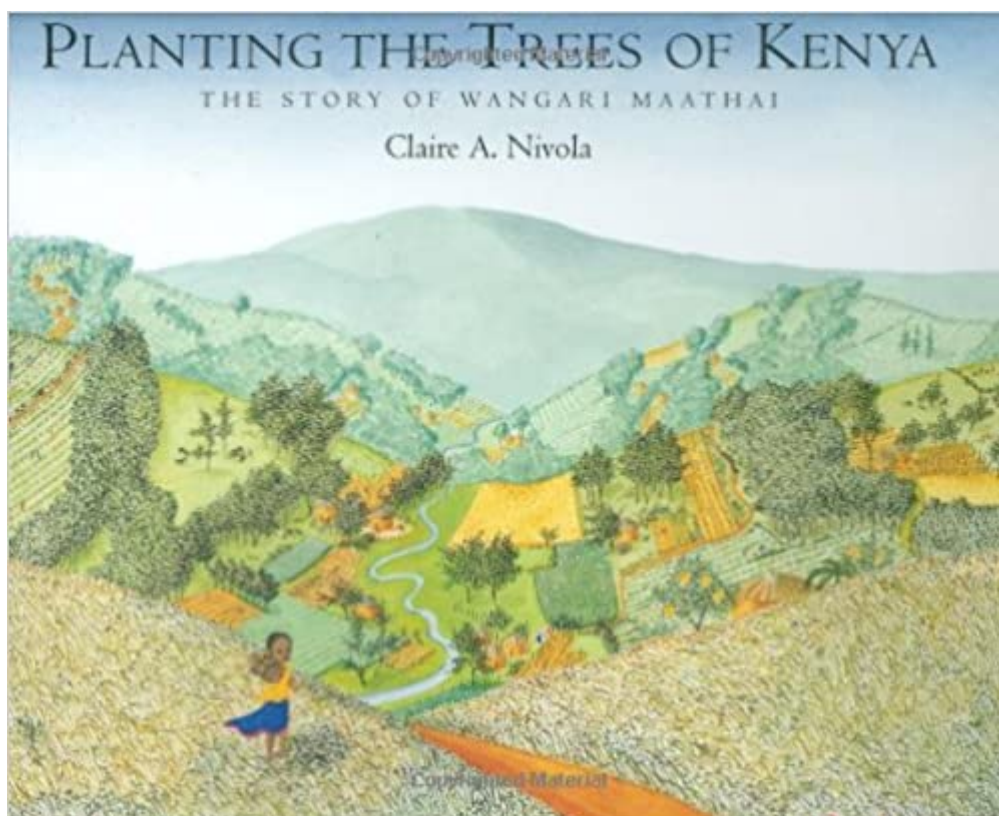


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# Planting The Trees Of Kenya: The Story Of Wangari Maathai (Frances Foster Books)



## Synopsis

Wangari Maathai, winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize and founder of the Green Belt Movement, grew up in the highlands of Kenya, where fig trees cloaked the hills, fish filled the streams, and the people tended their bountiful gardens. But over many years, as more and more land was cleared, Kenya was transformed. When Wangari returned home from college in America, she found the village gardens dry, the people malnourished, and the trees gone. How could she alone bring back the trees and restore the gardens and the people? Bill McKibben, author of *The End of Nature*, says: "Wangari Maathai's epic story has never been told better" — everyone who reads this book will want to plant a tree! With glowing watercolor illustrations and lyrical prose, Claire Nivola tells the remarkable story of one woman's effort to change the fate of her land by teaching many to care for it. An author's note provides further information about Wangari Maathai and the Green Belt Movement. In keeping with the theme of the story, the book is printed on recycled paper.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1030L (What's this?)

Series: Frances Foster Books

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR); 1 edition (April 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374399182

ISBN-13: 978-0374399184

Product Dimensions: 11.1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #220,741 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #18 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Recycling & Green Living](#) #114 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa](#) #222 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Women](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

**\*Starred Review\*** Kenyan activist Wangari Maathai was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004 for her environmental and human rights achievements. Founder of the Green Belt Movement, she has

encouraged people to repair their economy, land, and health with simple, environmentally friendly acts, such as planting more trees. This beautiful picture-book biography echoes the potent simplicity of Wangari Maathai's message with direct, spare prose and bright, delicate watercolors. Tracking forward from Maathai's childhood in the rich landscape of Kenya's highlands, the words and pictures clearly show how the activist's deep connection with nature as a youth inspired her to develop sustainable practices as an adult. Nivola writes about potentially complex, abstract relationships, such as those between ecological preservation and human health, with clear language that shows connections that children will easily grasp. The story of how each human and tree can make a difference will inspire young people, who will want to linger over the wide, double-page landscapes picturing people restoring stripped land to green, thriving communities and forests. An author's note offers more about Maathai's inspiring story. Point teachers and parents seeking more information to Maathai's autobiography, *Unbowed* (2006), which was named a Booklist Adult Editor's Choice. Grades K-3. --Gillian Engberg

"Wangari's work, as so beautifully depicted in *Planting the Trees of Kenya*, will inspire people worldwide." —Pete Seeger "The 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Wangari Maathai changed the world one seed at a time. Claire A. Nivola's lovely *Planting the Trees of Kenya* offers Maathai's story to a younger, wider audience. No child, and surely no library, ought to be without *Planting the Trees of Kenya*." —Boston Globe "A stirring biography about her extraordinary life, with focus on courageous efforts to reforest Kenya and empower women." —The San Francisco Chronicle "Simultaneously childlike and sophisticated...The idea of restoring ruined land to its original beauty will fill readers of all ages with hope." —Starred, Publishers Weekly "Beautiful . . . The story of how each human and tree can make a difference will inspire young people, who will want to linger over the wide, double-page landscapes." —Starred, Booklist "The delicately detailed illustrations suit the equally low-key writing style...This tale of civic responsibility, personal initiative, and conservation of natural resources is a timely one." —Starred, School Library Journal "There's plenty to discover in the intricate pen-and-watercolor illustrations; the text is more detailed and will engage older children." —American Scientist "Possesses a detailed, naive charm that beautifully explicates Maathai's social progress as she instructs women, schoolchildren and even prison inmates in the benefits of planting and nurturing trees...This impressive effort will resonate with children." —Kirkus

Reviews  
“As an illustrator, Nivola . . . creates absorbing, telltale images--sweeping views of the countryside with miniature human figures, in the manner of folk paintings . . . .The whole is as much a pleasure as an inspiration.”  
The Horn Book  
“Claire Nivola gives us a wonderful story about Wangari Maathai, the winner of the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize and the founder of the Green Belt movement.”  
Rondi Brouwer, Blackwood & Brouwer, Kinderhook, NY  
“Nivola’s story delivers the idea that each of us can make a difference. Older readers will appreciate Nivola’s detailed note about Maathai’s life and her Green Belt Movement.”  
The Sacramento Bee  
“Wangari Maathai’s story is beautifully told, is just the right length for young readers, and boasts wonderful illustrations that capture the beauty of this African country.”  
Book Loons

Review by Monserrat, Age 9  
There are no trees in Kenya! This book is called "Planting the Trees of Kenya." It is a nonfiction book about faith. In this story, there is a girl named Wangari who lives in a small village. She had a favorite tree out of all the others. When she grew older she needed to go to America for college so she could study. When she was done she was going to visit Kenya, but nothing looked the same. Her favorite tree was cut down! What will she do? Cry? Nothing? Read to see what she will do. The author wrote this book because she did not want anybody to cut down any more trees. I love when she said "You should hold a gun in your right hand and in your left a seedling." I like it because it shows that she’s trying to help. I would recommend this book to people who love the outdoors. This book is amazing and it about faith. if you love the outdoors, come buy the book today! I hope you will!

Planting the trees of Kenya is a keeper for all teachers k-12. every year we can remind our students of their value in this world by reading this book. science teachers could really take off in this book getting students to realize not only their part in a "global" world but what they can imagine for their small part of it. reading, social studies, world studies, economics classes could utilize this book all the way through high school. resources are listed. young girls and young women can see that there are unlimited callings and that they can make a difference, but this book is not just for girls it is a story that can inspire both young men and women. when i read this to my 7th graders one student asked, "How she do that?" good start for an essay or research paper, don't you think????  
acottwest  
virginia

In teaching my children to be good citizens of the earth I seek books to help me instill these values.

This is a book I will treasure always, and I know my children will too. It is an amazing story of a woman who has an idea and the belief that she can change her small part of the world after many years have changed the village she once knew. Not only is this a great book from that perspective, but it encourages the principles of environmental stewardship. Plant a tree! We can change the world!

This is one of the most wonderful picture books this year. It reminds us that we are all capable of recognizing problems and making significant positive changes by taking individual action, and it tells the story of an incredible, real life African role model. The artwork is detailed and captivating. I've given this book as a gift to three children so far this year and plan to keep gifting it!

This is a charming story about a fabulous woman. I was thrilled when I went to Kenya and was able to plant a tree.

Thank you

8 year old granddaughter loves the book.

Lovely children's story with a grown up twist and a non-preachy way to teach children about different cultures and ecology.

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Namibia, R) Amazing Pictures and Facts About Kenya: The Most Amazing Fact Book for Kids About Kenya (Kid's U) Seeds of Change: Wangari's Gift to the World Un Deux Trois (Dual Language French/English) (Frances Lincoln Children's Books Dual Language Books) The Complete Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs: Descriptions, Cultivation Requirements, Pruning, Planting Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Urban and Rural America: A Planting Design Manual for Environmental Designers Bedtime for Frances (Trophy Picture Books (Paperback)) **READING ORDER: TAMI HOAG: BOOKS LIST OF THE BITTER SEASON, KOVAC/LISKA BOOKS, HENNESSY BOOKS, QUAID HORSES, DOUCET BOOKS, DEER LAKE BOOKS, ELENA ESTES BOOKS, OAK KNOLL BOOKS BY TAMI HOAG Camino de Santiago (Village to Village Guide): Camino Frances: St Jean - Santiago - Finisterre Keyboard Musician for the Adult Beginner (Frances Clark Library Supplement) The Music Tree Activities Book: Time to Begin (Frances Clark Library for Piano Students)**

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