

Wangari's Trees of Peace



Book Information

Run Time	7:00
Author	Jeanette Winter
Illustrator	Jeanette Winter
Narrator	Jennifer Kanari
Publisher	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Ages	2–9; PreK–3; Guided Reading Level–N
Genre	Nonfiction
Themes & Ideas	vision, passion, inspiration, determination, Nobel Peace Prize, environment, Africa With hard work and determination, a person can make their home a better place.
Language & Literary Features	Key details
Sentence Complexity	succinct prose
Vocabulary	harvest, sugarcane, maize, scholarship, barren, desert, seedlings, nursery, forester, ignore, rustling, troublemaker, convinces, home, Kenya, protect, sweet potatoes, shines, earnings
Special Vocabulary	vision, passion, inspiration, determination, environmentalist, nonfiction
Illustrations	engaging and informative

Story Summary

Wangari's Trees of Peace is based on the true story of Wangari Maathai, an environmentalist in Kenya and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.

Wangari Maathai is a young woman who saw deforestation turn the lush lands of Kenya into a barren desert. As a young girl growing up in Kenya, Wangari was surrounded by trees. But years later when she returns home, she is shocked to see whole forests being cut down, and she knows that soon all the trees will be destroyed. So Wangari decides to do something—and starts by planting nine seedlings in her own backyard and convinces the women around her to do the same. And as they grow, so do her plans, by 2004, 30 million trees had been planted.



Lesson Focus

Peace

Activity Ideas

Writing/Drawing

Draw a picture of how you can make your home a better place. Explain how you can make your home a better place.

Research

Research Africa, Wangari Maathai, and Nobel Peace Prize.

Map

Find Africa on a map and then within Africa, find Kenya. Find the hometown in which you live.

Tree Stages

Draw or sequence the stages of a tree seedling growing.

Additional activities can be found in the following pages of this document.

Wangari's Trees of Peace

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Discuss the story and write your answers together.

What is *Wangari's Trees of Peace* about?

How did Wangari make her home a better place?

How can you make your home a better place?

Wangari said, “It’s the little things that citizens do. That’s what will make the difference.” What do you think she meant?

What are some of the facts you learned from *Wangari's Trees of Peace*?

Wangari's Trees of Peace

Pause at the indicated time stamps and discuss the story

0:22

An umbrella is something used for protection from the sun and rain.
How are the trees like an umbrella?

1:14

How is Wangari feeling? What clues did you use to answer the question?

1:54

How does the author help us to see how Wangari's home in Kenya is different when she returns from America?

2:31

What is changing? How do you know?

2:52

What does Wangari mean by saying, "We are planting seeds of hope"?

3:20

Why did the men laugh at the women?

3:40

What does Wangari do for the village women who planted trees?
Why is this important?

4:48

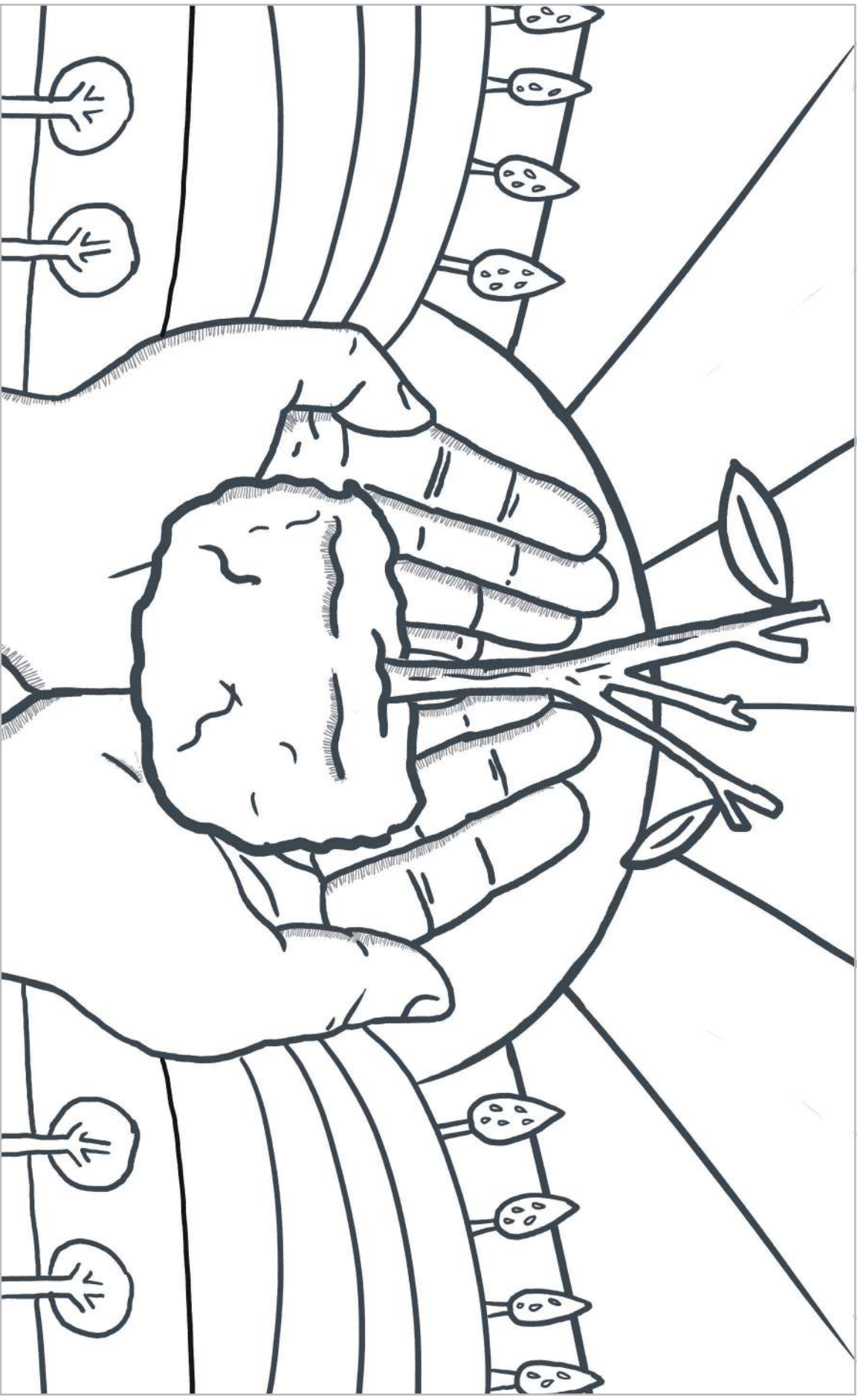
Was Wangari really alone? Explain.

5:40

Why are the village women walking taller with their backs straight?

After viewing the Book:

1. What do you think about Wangari standing tall to protect the trees? Would you be willing to go to jail for something you believed in?
2. Do you think Wangari was a brave woman? Why or why not?
3. What do you think Kenya would be like today if Wangari had not planted the trees?
4. Why do you think Jeanette Winter wanted to write the story about Wangari? What lesson did she want us to learn?



Drawing and Writing

NAME _____

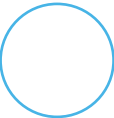
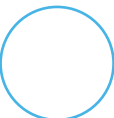
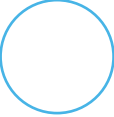
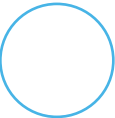

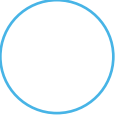
Wangari states: “The earth was naked. For me the mission was to try to cover it with green.” What is your mission? How do you plan to accomplish it? Draw a picture that represents your mission and write about it below.



Sequencing

NAME _____

Draw illustrations that go along with the key details from *Wangari's Trees of Peace*. Then, write the correct order that the details happened by writing 1–6 in the circles provided.

					
	The umbrella of green trees returns to Africa.		Wangari stands tall as an oak to protect the trees.		Wangari returns from school in America to a barren land.
					
	An army of women plant trees in Wangari's village.		Young Wangari's home has an umbrella of green trees.		They put Wangari in jail!

Connecting Activity

NAME _____

Match the words on the left with their definition on the right.
Draw a line to connect the two.

umbrella of trees

Very young trees.

barren

A book about something
that really happened.

seedlings

The name of the woman
who started planting trees
in her backyard.

Kenya

How Wangari talked the women
into helping plant trees.

a true story/
nonfiction

Land without trees or plants.

home

What Wangari did to keep the
trees from being cut down.

convinces

A name that the author
gave to the trees in Kenya.

Wangari

The village or country where you live.

protects

The country in Africa where
Wangari grew up.