

Planting Peace

A Biography of Wangari Maathai





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Planting Peace

A Biography of Wangari Maathai

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African Biography Series

Contents

1. The Good Earth 5

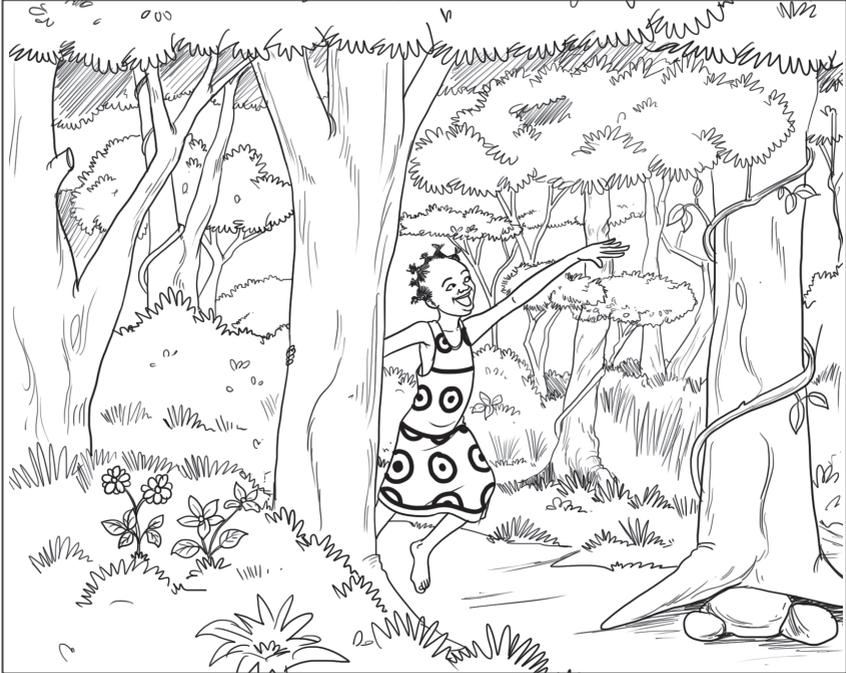
2. The Dying Land 8

3. Planting Peace 13

Vocabulary/Comprehension 16



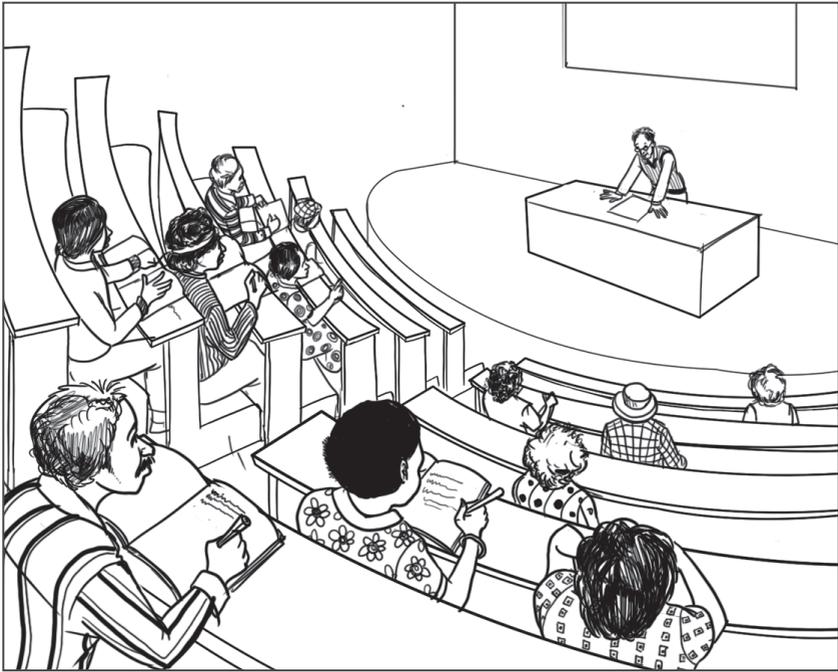
1. The Good Earth



Once there was a girl who loved trees. The trees were in a forest. The forest gave life to the land. The land gave food and water. The girl loved the land. She loved the forest. She loved the trees. Her name was Wangari.



Wangari was very bright. Back then, girls did not go to school. Her brother saw that she was bright. He talked with his parents. He asked them to send her to school. His parents said yes. And so Wangari went to school.



Wangari was very bright. She did well in school. Then she went to higher classes. She went to school in other countries. Wangari learned many things. She learned to do what is right.

2. The Dying Land



Wangari grew into a woman. One day she got married. She married Mwangi Maathai. They had three children. Their names were Waweru, Wanjira, and Muta.



Mwangi went to the village. Wangari went with him. She was shocked. The forest was smaller. There was little food. There was little water. The land she loved was dying.



Wangari talked to the women. They told her their woes. “We need more food! We need more firewood! We need more water!”

They had many problems. Wangari said, “I know what to do. We shall plant trees.”



“How will that help?” the women asked.

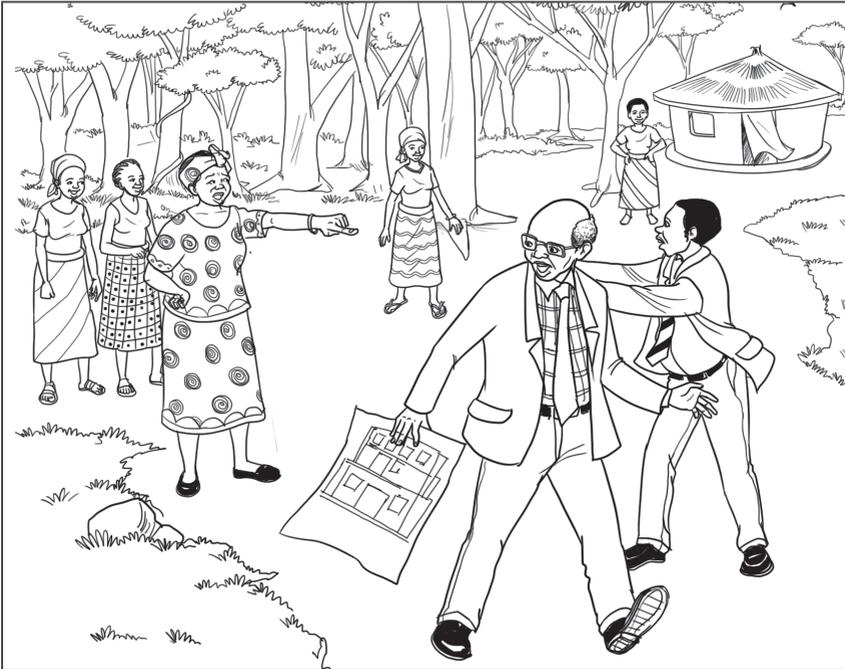
Wangari told them. “Trees give us food. Trees give us firewood. Trees help bring water. The trees give life to the land. Let us plant trees,” said Wangari. And so the women planted trees.



The women learned how to plant trees. They planted many trees. The trees gave them food and firewood. The water came back. Wangari helped the women. They made money from the trees.

The men were not happy. Her husband was not happy. They did not want the women to plant trees. They did not want the women to make money.

3. Planting Peace



Wangari did what was right. It was right to plant trees. So she planted trees. It was right to help the women. So she helped the women.

Big men wanted to build a big building. They wanted to build on the land of the people. Wangari said NO! So they left the land alone.



The women had food and money. They felt they could change the world. The women of Kenya were happy. Wangari had worked very hard. The world saw how hard she worked. So they gave her a big prize. It was a Nobel Peace Prize. They gave it to her to say thank you. Thank you, Wangari.



The people of Kenya planted many trees. They learned to love the trees. They loved the forest that gave life to the land. They loved the land that gave them food.

Once there was a woman who loved trees. She helped the women of Kenya. She helped the land she loved. She planted peace in the ground. Her name was Wangari Maathai.

Vocabulary Words

forest

bright

shocked

woes

problems

plant

husband

build

Nobel Peace Prize

Comprehension Questions

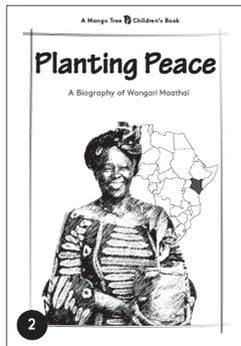
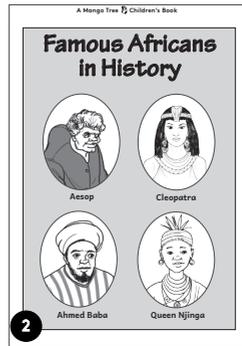
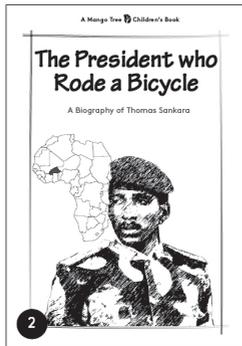
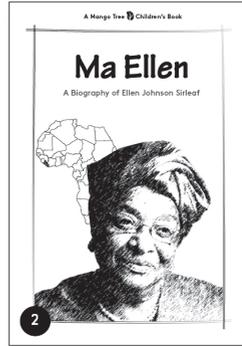
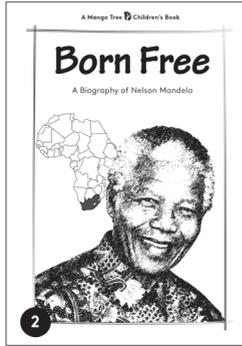
In the Text

1. Why did Wangari love the land?
2. How did planting trees help the women?
3. Why were the men not happy?

In My Mind

4. What do the trees give to you?
5. What would happen if there were no trees?
6. What do you think you could do to help Uganda?

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