Selections from the Children’s Book Collection:

Africa & Diaspora, Plants & People

Bringing the rain to Kapiti Plain: a Nandi tale. By Verna Aardema; pictures by Beatriz Vidal.
New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, c1981.
A retelling of the Kenyan tale about how Ki-pat brought rain to the drought-stricken Kapiti Plain.
Early readers. (j) QH541.5.P7ke Aa72 1981

Manyoni, a Zimbabwean girl, encounters several wild animals in various plant habitats on her way to school.
Early readers. (j) QK402.R5 St62 1993

Saddened by the death of their special friend, the very old man who told them stories and jokes, the village children decide to go against custom and plant a tree for him in the Forest of the Ancestors.
Early readers. (j) QK477.P4 Ec43 1994

Tree of life: the world of the African baobab. By Barbara Bash.
Text and pictures document the life cycle of this amazing tree of the African savannah, and portrays the animals and people it helps to support.

My great-grandmother's gourd. By Cristina Kessler; illustrated by Walter Lyon Krudop.
Residents of a Sudanese village rejoice when a traditional water storage method is replaced by modern technology, but Fatima's grandmother knows there is no substitute for the reliability of the baobab tree.
Early readers. (j) QK495.B66 A4, K485, 2000

This is the tree. By Miriam Moss; illustrated by Adrienne Kennaway. Brooklyn, N.Y.: Kane/Miller, 2000.
A lyrical description of the ancient baobab tree and how it provides shelter and nourishment to wildlife of the African plain.
Early readers. (j) QK495.B66 A4, M855, 2000

Retelling of a Zarma (West African) tale about a hunter who, with the help of his animal friends, shoots an arrow into an ebony tree and wins the hand of a beautiful girl.
Early readers. (j) QK495.E25 L343 2002

A look at evolution on the African savannah describes how the acacia bush, in danger of having its leaves ravaged by animals, began to produce thorns that protect it and create a beautiful sound when the wind blows.
Early readers. (j) QK495.L521 A25, A31, C838, 1993
A vignette from the childhood of African-American author Zora Hurston tells how she learned to realize her dreams from her mother and from her observations from the top of a chinaberry tree.
Early readers. (j) QK495.M52 M4, M619, 1994. (Also available in Spanish: Zora Hurston y el arbol sonador.)

Retelling of a Yoruba folktale about a woodcarver who appeases a spirit which lives in an iroko tree (Milicia).
Advanced readers. (j) QK495.M73 M56, G323, 1994

The West Indian trickster Anancy Spiderman tries to persuade Sun-Spirit, Water-Spirit, Earth-Spirit, and Air-Spirit to create the world's first palm trees so that he can collect a reward from the king.
Early readers. (j) QK495.P17 B459 1997

Saddened by the loss of her grandmother, Hyacinth is comforted when she sees purple flowers sprouting in her grandmother's garden.
Early readers. (j) SB406.B946 2000

A simple biography of the man, born into slavery, who became a scientist and devoted his entire life to helping the South improve its agriculture.
Early readers. (j) SB63 C25 AL1 1965

Recounts the life of the African-American agriculturist at the Tuskegee Institute, emphasizing his love of plants and his belief in living in harmony with the natural world.

In the garden with Dr. Carver. Susan Grigsby; pictures by Nicole Tadgell. Chicago, Ill.: Albert Whitman, c2010.
A fictionalized account of how plant scientist George Washington Carver came to an Alabama school and taught the children how to grow plants and reap the rewards of nature's bounty. Includes factual notes about George Washington Carver.
Early readers. (j) S417.C25 G877 2010

Follows Will Allen's work to revolutionize the way kids think about food and where it comes from, by developing urban farms and establishing farmer's markets, in order to feed the world.
Early readers. (j) SB321.M364 2013

From the whippoorwill's call on the first day of spring through the first snowfall, Edna and members of her family gather fruits, berries, and vegetables from the fields, garden, and orchard on their Virginia farm and turn them into
wonderful meals. Includes facts about the life of Edna Lewis, a descendant of slaves who grew up to be a famous chef, and five recipes. Early readers. (j) SB186 .G74 2009


**Anansi and the moss-covered rock.** Retold by Eric A. Kimmel; illustrated by Janet Stevens. New York: Holiday House, c1988. Anansi the Spider uses a strange moss-covered rock in the forest to trick all the other animals, until Little Bush Deer decides he needs to learn a lesson. Early readers. (j) QK537 .K571 1988


**Anansi and the magic stick.** By Eric A. Kimmel; illustrated by Janet Stevens. New York: Holiday House, c2001. Anansi the Spider steals Hyena’s magic stick so he won’t have to do gardening chores, but when the stick’s magic won’t stop, he gets more than he bargained for. Early readers. (j) SB453 .K571 2001


**Over and under the pond.** By Kate Messner with art by Christopher Silas Neal. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, c2017. Celebrates the forms of life that live above and under a pond, including turtles, red-winged blackbirds, blue herons, minnows, frogs, and catfish. Early readers. (j) QH541.5.P63 M47 2017

The magic tree: a folktale from Nigeria. By T. Obinkaram Echewa; illustrated by E. B. Lewis. New York: Morrow Junior Books, c1999. Mbi, an orphan boy, is constantly asked to "do this" and "do that" by his many unkind relatives until a special tree grows, just for him. Advanced readers. (j) SB379.U3 Ec43 1999


Mirandy and Brother Wind. By Patricia C. McKissack; illustrated by Jerry Pinkney. New York: Knopf, c1988. In order to win first prize in the junior cakewalk, Mirandy tries to capture the wind to be her partner. Early readers. (j) QC931 .M217 1988

The name of the tree: a Bantu folktale. Retold by Celia Barker Lottridge; illustrated by Ian Wallace. New York: Margaret McElderry Books, c1989. When the other animals fail at the task, the slow but wise turtle finds a way to obtain the bountiful fruits of a magic tree. Early readers. (j) SB108.4.Af8 L918 1989


Handa's surprise. Eileen Browne. London: Walker, c1994. Handa, a Kenyan girl, is surprised when she discovers that the fruits she has brought to her friend Akeyo are all tangerines. Pre-readers. (j) SB379.A1 B816 1994 (Also available in Spanish: La sorpresa de Nandi.)

Residents of a Sudanese village rejoice when a traditional water storage method is replaced by modern technology, but Fatima's grandmother knows there is no substitute for the reliability of the baobab tree. Early readers. (j) QK495.B66 A4, K485, 2000


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