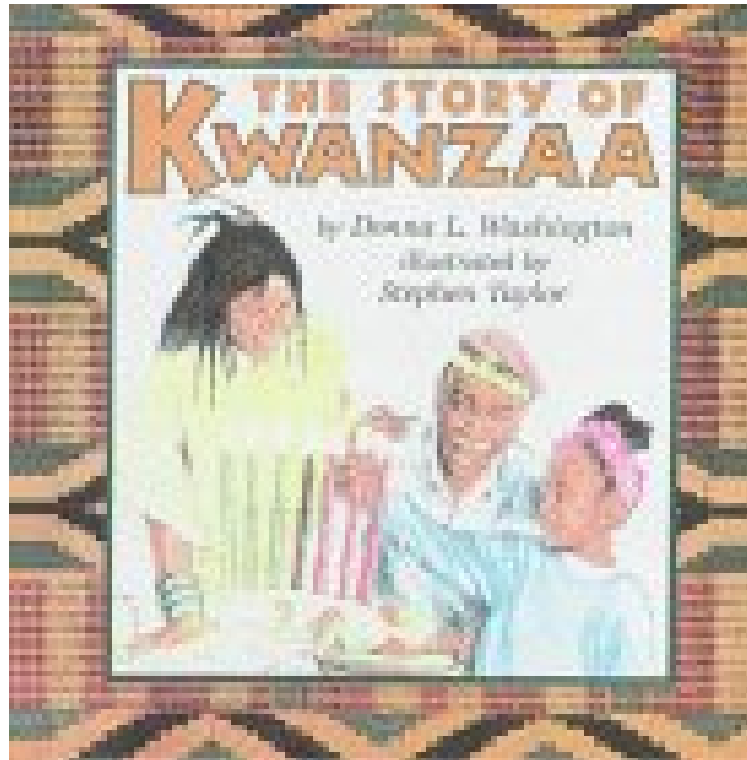


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The Story of Kwanzaa

Donna L. Washington

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Demco Media 1997-10 Original language: English 8.50 x 8.50 x .251, Binding: Turtleback | File size: 57.Mb

Donna L. Washington : The Story of Kwanzaa before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Story of Kwanzaa:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Story of Kwanzaa By The Kwanzaa Coloring Book The books begins by providing a very general history of Africa. However, some of the claims that are made I do not think are true, such as the Brer Rabbits stories were about slaves and their slave owners. Having read a book of Brer Rabbits tales, I think that the slave that Joel Chandler Harris interviewed for the Brer Rabbit books was retelling stories that originated from Africa. But, I like the illustrations in the book, each one of them could be a story by itself. Moreover, the real value of this piece of the literature is the last two-thirds of the book, where the seven days of Kwanzaa are explained and reference materials for Kwanzaa is given. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Too adult for most kids By Crystal Shipley The book was very informative, but I only ended up reading a sentence or two from a few pages to my Kindergarten class. The illustrations are nice from an adult perspective but boring for the students. I wouldn't recommend this as a read-aloud for an elementary class. I feel misled by the title and the cover illustrations; it isn't really a "story" and it isn't really for children. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Holiday Treat By Renate E. Riedner Part of a presentation to 2nd graders for the holidays along with books about Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

Illustrates the practices of the holiday originated by Dr. Maulana Karenga to celebrate the customs and history of African Americans, discusses its seven principles--the Nguzo Saba--and explores specific goals for the future.

From Publishers Weekly The title is self-revealing. As others have done before her, Washington simply tells the story of the holiday. Two things, though, may make this a worthy addition to existing fare. One is Taylor's inspired blend of photographs of contemporary African fabrics with joyful acrylic, pastel, and gouache illustrations. The other noteworthy aspect is the book's attention to African American history, also shared by the title reviewed below. Ages 6-10. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Booklist Gr. 2⁺-4. Beginning with ancestors in Africa, Washington explains the history leading up to the creation of Kwanzaa, following it through slavery and on to the civil rights movement, when activist Dr. Maulana Karenga came up with the idea of an African American festival. The author explains the principle behind each of the seven days of the celebration and notes some of the objects and activities used during the holiday. The material is outlined clearly, but the tone is flat, and the phrasing isn't always well handled: "Their purpose must be to claim their rightful place in the world." Taylor's illustrations, a rich combination of acrylic, gouache, and pastels, are livelier than the text, but there's enough good information supplied to make the book a good choice for many libraries.

Susan Dove Lempke From Kirkus s Washington's first book tells about the seven-day festival that begins on December 26 and celebrates the bounty of the earth (Kwanzaa means "first fruits" in Swahili) and teaches seven principles or beliefs--one for each day. Background comes in a brief history of Africans before slavery, slavery in America, the secession of the South and the Civil War, the civil rights movement, and the 1966 birth of the holiday. The seven principles teach African and African-American heritage, but they also reflect universal principles that everyone can live by. Bold, realistic illustrations are set off by elegant borders of African fabrics and designs. At the end are instructions on making a cow tail switch and a recipe for benne cakes. A fine primer on a holiday that is fast gaining recognition. (glossary) (Picture book/nonfiction. 6-10) -- Copyright 1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.