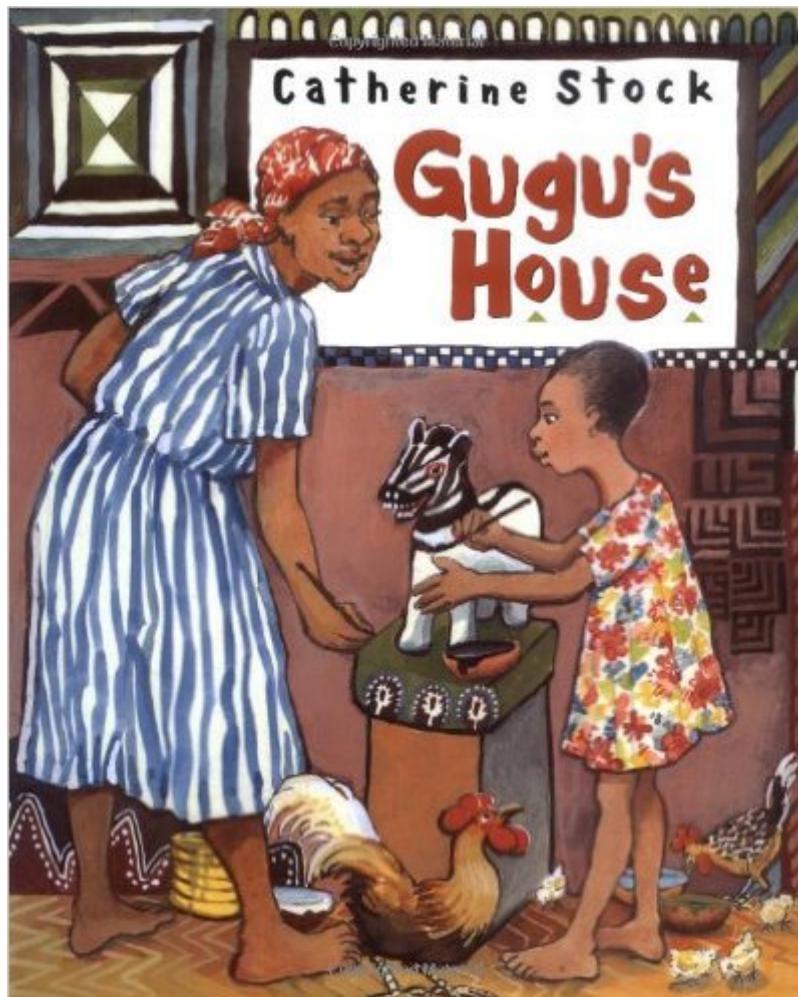


The book was found

Gugu's House



Synopsis

Kukamba loves to visit her grandmother, Gugu. Though the village where Gugu lives is dry and dusty, her house is big and sprawling and unlike any other. The courtyard and walls are decorated with beautiful paintings and clay animals, all made by Gugu herself. Best of all, when Kukamba visits, she gets to help shape and paint some of the wonderful zebras, elephants, and birds that Gugu is always adding to the house. When the heavy rains come and her grandmother's showpieces are destroyed, Kukamba is crushed. But the Gugu helps her see that an ending can also be a beginning, and art is not the only beauty the world has to offer. Set in the grassy plains of Zimbabwe and gracefully illustrated in watercolors, GUGU'S HOUSE is a unique tribute to the spirit of creativity and the immutable cycles of nature.

Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Clarion Books; Library Binding edition (January 22, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618003894

ISBN-13: 978-0618003891

Product Dimensions: 10.8 x 8.8 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 15 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,131,809 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Multiculturalism #470 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa #1430 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

This is a popular book in our home, with both children requesting it regularly. My 7-year-old still has not outgrown it, and my 4-year-old is just now fully appreciating it. This is a book about art, about family, and about the things that matter most in life -- the story is uplifting, the writing is vivid, and the illustrations are lovely.

The author of GuguÂ's House uses her colorful imagination as well as her personal

experiences as the basis for the plot and illustrations in this book. A curious little girl named Kukamba, who is the narrator and a main character, learns an intriguing lesson about the importance of art in the community from her grandmother, Gugu. Gugu's bright personality develops through her creation of art in everything that surrounds her. Stock based her character on the story of a woman who shares this same love of artwork with Gugu. Gugu instills this same value and appreciation in her granddaughter, who also possesses a vivid imagination. On a rainy day, Kukamba emerges to find that the water washes the beautiful masterpieces away. Gugu, who is also the town's inspirational storyteller, quickly reminds Kukamba that there are amazing and wonderful things to see in all of the nature that surrounds her. She takes the young girl to view the bright colors and wildlife that come with the rain. Kukamba is enlightened and immediately returns to create new masterpieces with her prime motivator, Gugu. Stock wrote the text in a happy and upbeat fashion that complements the mood of the characters. Stock's vibrant illustrations of Gugu and Kukamba's artwork as well as those of the lush vegetation coincide with the liveliness of the story. Children and adults of all ages will enjoy reading and learning from this entertaining book.

Stock, Catherine. *Gugu's House*. New York: Clarion Books, 2001.

This is an interesting book about art in Zimbabwe. Gugu decorates her compound with many natural paints and materials. When rain comes, everything is ruined but it is a time of celebration, the dry season becomes rainy and the plants and animals grow.

Loved this book as a story for my preschool toddler. Lovely story, funny parts he recites now and then, and a beautifully woven, subtle lesson on the gifts and ways of living with impermanence.

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