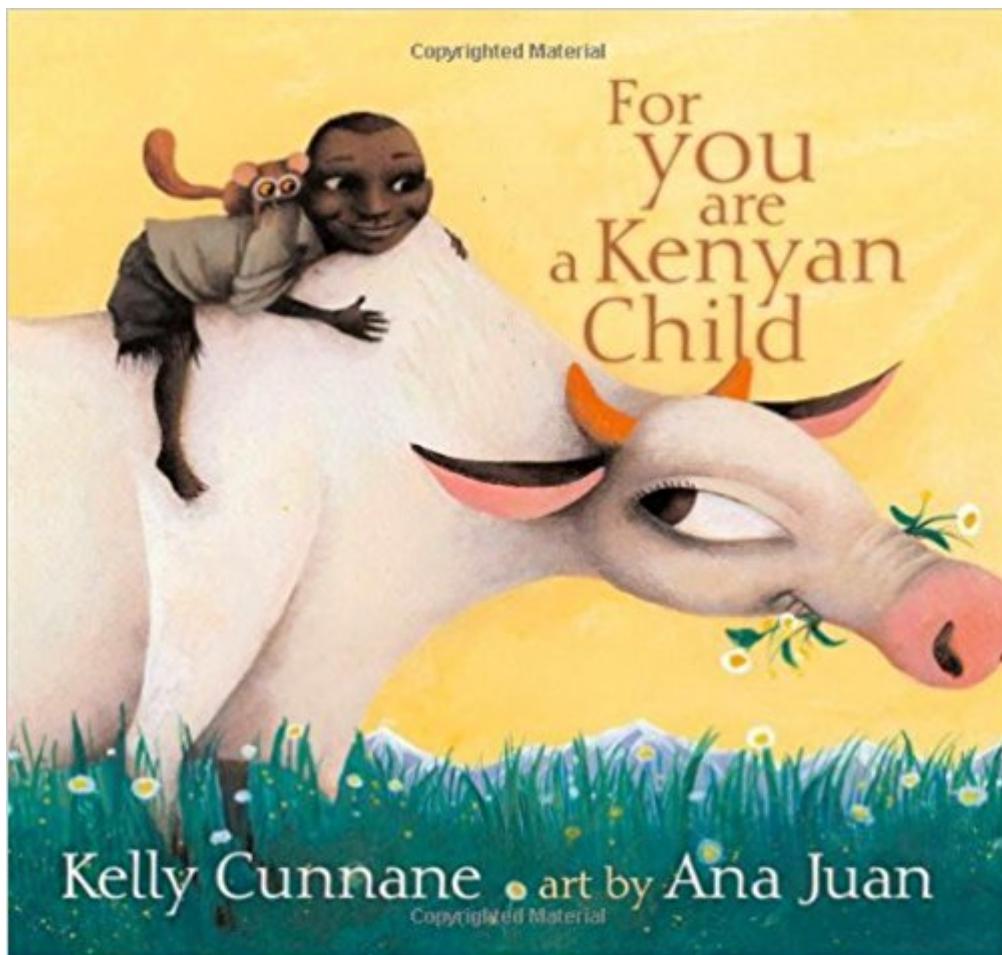


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# For You Are A Kenyan Child (Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Award)



## Synopsis

Imagine you live in a small Kenyan village, where the sun rises over tall trees filled with doves. You wake to the sound of a rooster's crow, instead of an alarm clock and the school bus. Your afternoon snack is a tasty bug plucked from the sky, instead of an apple. And rather than kicking a soccer ball across a field, you kick a homemade ball of rags down a dusty road. But despite this, things aren't that different for a Kenyan child than they would be for an American kid, are they? With so much going on around you, it's just as easy to forget what your mama asked you to do!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 760L (What's this?)

Series: Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Award

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers (January 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 068986194X

ISBN-13: 978-0689861949

Product Dimensions: 11 x 0.6 x 10.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #463,326 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #221 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa #237 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Country Life #1179 in Books > Travel > Reference > General

Age Range: 3 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. PreSchool-Grade 3  
Through vivid, descriptive text that highlights the Kenyan countryside and culture, this story about one day in the life of a Kalenjin boy unfolds. Roosters crow, and you wake one morning in the green hills of Africa, sun lemon bright over eucalyptus trees full of doves. The boy's primary chore is to take his grandfather's cows to the pasture and watch them carefully. However, once he gets them there, he slips away to see who else is awake. From then on, he keeps getting distracted by one thing or another. When he finally looks to where the cows should be, they are not there. His expression is forlorn as he ponders, Why did

you wander? Why didn't you stay and do the job Mama gave you today? When he meets his grandfather leading the cows on the path home—something he should have been doing—the youngster is contrite. Grandfather simply hands him back his cow switch and says, Twende nyumbani sasa—Let's go home now. The brilliant, colorful, and humorous illustrations stand out against the white backgrounds and are large enough for group viewing. A gentle story about family, responsibility, and a curious little boy.

—Mary N. Oluonye, Shaker Heights Public Library, OH Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

PreS-K. "Roosters crow and you wake up in the green hills of Africa." Short, poetic phrases, filled with sensory images, describe a young boy's day in a Kenyan village. He spends a "windy morning" herding his cattle, but his attention gradually wanders to his neighbors at the tea stand, to the village chief's wood shop, and so on, until he forgets his herd altogether. Luckily, the boy's grandfather comes to the rescue. The rhythmic, repetitive language winds the day's activity to a graceful, bedtime close and roots the simple story in Kiswahili phrases and cultural details--from the boy's breakfast of maize porridge to the chief's ceremonial stick. Juan's color-saturated, slightly stylized paintings bring the lush landscape and friendly community to life and expand the sense of a child's freedom and belonging. More specifics about the child's tribe appear in a brief author's note. Suggest this as a story hour choice for kindergarten units about neighborhoods and homes.

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Ever wonder what it's like to grow up in a little village in Kenya? Kelly Cunnane, a former Peace Corps volunteer in that country, tells the charming story of a little boy who is supposed to be tending his grandfather's cows when... well, there are so many other interesting things to do! You'll learn a little Swahili following him on his adventures ("Jambo!") and find out what happens when the cows come home. The colorful illustrations by Ana Juan are perfect for the story. I would definitely recommend this as a fun way to broaden a child's horizons.

Lovely story, my 6 year old can read on her own.

Good African folktale for children.

I love this book. When I taught elementary school, I would read this to my students. I would also

share with them about my trip to Kenya so as to open their minds to those less fortunate. This is one of my favorite books. Next to "There's a Monster at the End of the Book" by Grover.

Neat book. Ordered for my wife, who spent time in Kenya as a missionary, to read to our 1 year old son.

My children learned how other children live.

My toddler loves this book!

Thrilled! My great friend and co-worker is having a baby. Se is from Kenya and I wanted to give her something special! She loved it!!!!

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