



Galimoto

Karen Lynn Williams , Catherine Stock (Illustrations)

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“A joy to read aloud.” —*New York Times Book Review*

Kondi is determined to make a galimoto—a toy vehicle made of wires. His brother laughs at the idea, but all day Kondi goes about gathering up the wire he needs. By nightfall, his wonderful galimoto is ready for the village children to play with in the light of the moon.

This Reading Rainbow book is a school and library favorite that offers a view of life in the southeast African nation of Malawi, one of the world's least-developed nations.

Karen Lynn Williams, the award-winning author of such books as *Baseball and Butterflies* and *Painted Dreams* (also illustrated by Catherine Stock) delivers a heartwarming tale of perseverance that is sure to delight children everywhere.

Galimoto Details

Date : Published August 21st 1991 by HarperCollins (first published March 21st 1990)

ISBN : 9780688109912

Author : Karen Lynn Williams , Catherine Stock (Illustrations)

Format : Paperback 32 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Cultural, Africa, Realistic Fiction, 1st Grade, Science, Geography, Earth, The World, Family, Fiction

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From Reader Review Galimoto for online ebook

Kathy Grimm says

I chose to develop an art lesson plan based upon this popular children's book, "Galimoto." Kondi learns to use his ingenuity and everyday resources to craft a toy from discarded junk! A concept that is also important when demonstrating to young people that recycling can be fun! Below is a quote from the extended lesson.

"It is important for American students to draw analogies between themselves and students of different countries and communities of different ethnic/cultural diversity. This helps them to comprehend that they live in a global community where they must adapt to the differences between themselves and others in order to peacefully occupy the same planet and indeed the very same neighborhoods. This simple lesson in culture teaches students that they have similar interests to children of their own age in a country far away. It develops in students a greater understanding of a common identity and purpose." Kathy Grimm

Reading a story aloud to a young, captive audience is a great way to begin a new art project. I recommend this volume for art teachers developing lessons for third through fifth graders.

Luisa Knight says

This tale shows one little boys determination to make a galimoto (a toy made of wires). I really enjoyed the pictures as they were bright and animated scenes around the village.

Ages: 4 - 8

#geography #africa #malawi

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Lorraine says

This book is about a little African boy trading things to get the materials he needs to make his "Galimoto", a toy vehicle made with wire. Remember those? What a contrast for our kids here in America with all the toys we have here. I remember a favorite toy of the African kids where I lived was an old tire and a stick to roll it with. Did you ever roll down a hill in a tire? It's lots of fun but probably a little dangerous!

Kim says

This book is so well-written. The illustrations are wonderful and such an amazing addition to the story. I

loved the ingenuity and determination of this young man as he goes about looking for the needed materials to make his "Galimoto". I loved how the Karen Lynn Williams kept me wondering until the end just what a Galimoto is. If you want to know, you will have to read it to find out just like I did. I want this book to add to my own library. A wonderful, wonderful book.

Mary says

This is the story of a little boy who lives in a poverty-stricken community in Africa. All he wants is a Galimoto (a toy), and he works tirelessly to make himself one out of wires. He goes all over town collecting the wires that he needs, and eventually he creates the toy of his dreams. The best part is that the next day, he can take it apart and create any other kind of toy! This is a longer story with lovely pictures and was featured on Reading Rainbow.

Kayla Pleasants says

Galimoto is a story about a young boy in a village in Africa who really goes after his dreams. I loved this book because it showed the perseverance of the young man as he worked to achieve his dreams. The young boy sets out to make a Galimoto, a wire toy, for himself. He starts out with a few pieces of wire and trades, works, and finds what he needs to accomplish his goals. This book speaks to making a goal and the hard work it takes to reach that goal. It also lets students see into the life of a child in Africa. I would use this book in reference to goal setting and discussion on similarities and differences across the world.

Michael says

It's not a very emotional tale, but it has a powerful simplicity, and is very vivid in its depiction of some aspects of life in Malawi, Africa. It seems like something children can relate to, because it is all about trying to make something to entertain and be proud of, and about navigating the social worlds of children and adults to achieve your goals.

Season Neal says

A cute story about a little boy in an African village who is determined to make a toy out of a few materials even though his friends and family make fun of him. A great story to teach perseverance and believing in yourself.

Tracy says

Kondi is resourceful as he accumulates enough wire to make a galimoto.

Kathryn says

A young boy in an East African village opens his treasure box and takes out some wire, deciding to build a galimoto (Malawi word for a vehicle). But he doesn't have enough wire so he sets about finding some throughout the village. Will he find enough to make his special toy and, if so, what form will his imagination take with a few twists of the wire?

I appreciate the sense of joy, freedom and imagination the young boy experiences in the story. I was not as thrilled with the many grown-ups who seemed suspicious of his motives for looking around shops and junk yards. There was a bit of a disconnect there from the child going about on his own, so carefree, and then the adults seeming annoyed or upset at his ramblings until he told them what he was doing. It seemed that, in a village as small as this, he would be well-known and they would not think he was up to no good. Oh well, it was a minor quibble for an otherwise charming little story. The illustrations are very nice and evocative of place.

Best of all, I was struck with how the boy is so happy with so little--how his small box of treasures combines with his imagination to fill his days in a way that is just as good as a shopping spree to Toys R Us--even better, some would say! It seems that the fewer possessions one has, the dearer they become. Yet I think it's also true of children that they will choose a favorite toy or two no matter how many they have; it just seems to be in a child's nature to hug to something special and I think this universal feeling is displayed very nicely in this book.

Gabrielle Blockton says

Date: November 24th, 2014

Author: Karen Lynn Williams; Illustrated by Catherine Stock

Title: Galimoto

Plot: A seven year old boy in a African village is determined to look all over town for wire to make his most prized possession: a galimoto.

Setting: Unidentified African Village

Characters: Kondi (main character); Ufulu

Point-of-View: Third-Person

Theme: Determination; Dreams

Style: Narrative; African-American-themed Picture-Book; illustrations are vibrant watercolors.

Copyright: 1990

Notes: A good book to have in my library. It shows the character determination to create something that he wants. I feel that this book would be appealing to a young audience, showing them that you shouldn't doubt your dreams and to not let people doubt their own dreams as well as their strength. A good read.

Betsey Brannen says

Although I enjoyed the story of this book, I wish it had included some information about the culture of the galimoto, as well as the area in which the children live (the book jacket will tell you that it was in Malawi which both the author and illustrator based the story).

Kayla says

I think this book has a great message: never give up. Kondi is determined to make a galimoto. Everyone from his village doesn't believe he will get enough wire to do it. After traveling everywhere to find some spare wire he finally made his galimoto. Everyone was shocked when he showed them what he had made. I think my students would enjoy this book. They might even get inspired to make a toy of their own after reading this book.

Pam says

A sweet story about a young boy in Africa who collects wire from various places in order to build himself a toy car. While the book has much to teach, geography, different cultures and economic circumstances, perseverance, creativity, it does not address any of them in depth and for that I only gave it 3 stars.

Marcy Morgan says

Galimoto

Written by Karen Lynn Williams

Illustrated by Catherine Stock

1990 Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Books

ISBN: 0688087892

Genre: Picture book-Fiction

Level: K-3

With his African village as his backdrop, Kondi is determined to make himself a galimoto, a sort of push car toy. Kondi's possessions are few: an old shoe box filled with a ball made of plastic bags, a knife he had made, and a dancing man he had made from cornstalks. Kondi must be creative to trade and find pieces of wire to fashion his very own, galimoto.
