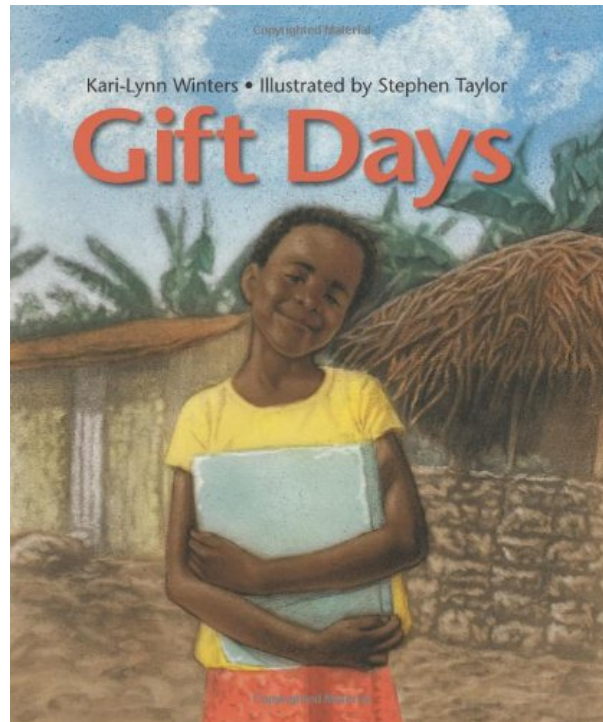
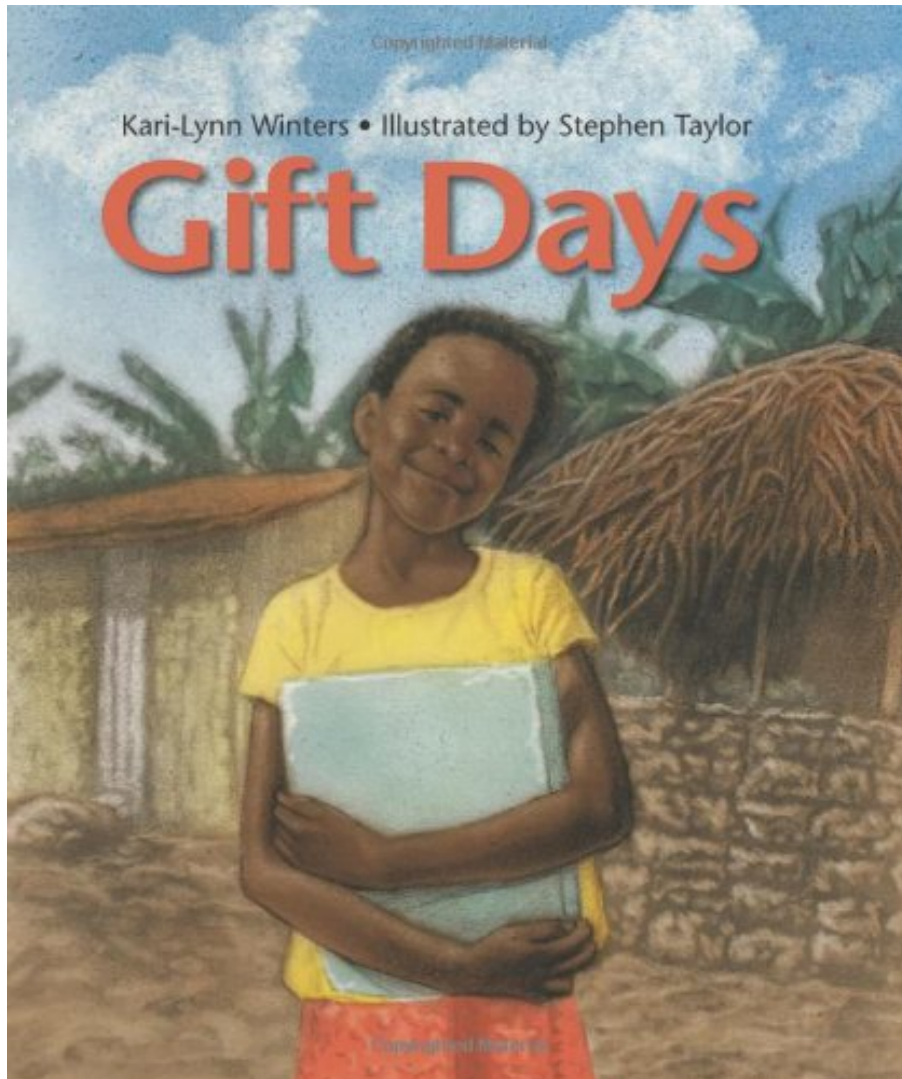


# GIFT DAYS BY KARI-LYNN WINTERS



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### From School Library Journal

Gr 1-2-Nassali is growing up in Uganda. Her mother has died, and, as is customary in her culture, when a mother dies, the work of running the household, feeding the hungry mouths, and caring for the younger siblings falls to the eldest girl. Yet Nassali wants so much more than that for herself. Her brother, Matovu, attends school, and Nassali is heartbroken that she can't. When she rises one day and finds that all of her chores are completed, she is able to spend time practicing printing squiggles in the dirt that she has seen in books. Who gave her this gift day, she wonders? Matovu has seen her burning desire to learn and begins to help with the chores and tutors her as well, and it isn't long before Nassali is able to read something to her proud family. The monochromatic palette is dark throughout the book with no relief when things begin to look up for Nassali. Back matter describes the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which often are inaccessible in countries such as Uganda. A final page provides a much-needed glossary. For example, there is mention that Nassali's mother died of "slim," which is defined as HIV/AIDS. Pair this book with Elizabeth Fitzgerald Howard's *Virgie Goes to School with Us Boys* (S & S, 2000) to showcase the importance of school to another young girl.-Joan Kindig, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

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Recommended.

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# GIFT DAYS BY KARI-LYNN WINTERS PDF

Storytelling World Award honour book 2014

Rainforest of Reading Award nominee, 2013

Young Nassali longs to read and write like her brother, but since her mother's death, Nassali is responsible for looking after her younger siblings and running the household. There is no time for books and learning. Then one day, she wakes up to discover that her chores have been taken care of. It is her first gift day. From that day on, once a week, her brother gives Nassali the gift of time so that she can pursue her dream of an education, just as her mother would have wanted.

- Sales Rank: #1345806 in Books
- Published on: 2012-10-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 10.17" h x .37" w x 8.91" l, .84 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 32 pages

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Recommended.

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#### Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A young girl's passion for learning

By Z Hayes

"Gift Days" is an inspiring read and serves as a stark reminder of the struggles faced by young girls in developing countries. Nassali is a young Ugandan girl who carries the weight of her family's burdens on her young shoulders. Since her mother's death, she has been tasked with caring for her three younger siblings while her older brother, by virtue of being a boy, gets to go to school. Nassali's family, which is supported by her uncle and grandmother, is too poor to afford school and uniform fees for all the children, so it is the boy that gets the privilege of attending school while the girl tends to chores at home.

Nassali is frustrated by this unfair practice but refuses to give up her dreams of learning how to read. She tries to sneak her brother's book out of his hands after he falls asleep at night, but he finds her with the book in the morning and demands it back. She follows her brother to school, hoping to discreetly learn while hiding beneath the classroom window, but that doesn't work out either. What is a young girl to do? Luckily, Nassali has a kind brother who realizes his sister's passion for learning is not a mere flight of fancy, and gives her the invaluable present of 'gift days' where he finishes her chores for her and sits down to teach her to read. This gift sees Nassali not only finally attaining her goal of learning to read, but of eventually going to university.

Though this story ends on a positive note, many other girls in Nassali's circumstances are not as lucky. At the back of the book, readers learn the plight of thousands of Ugandan girls who have been forced to give up their education so that they can shoulder the burden of caring for their families when the mother is taken ill or dies, usually of HIV/AIDS which is depicted to be a serious problem there. The author also provides more information on this subject with web links that can help interested readers learn more about children's rights and some of the problems faced by children in third world countries. As for young readers though, I think this picture book serves as a wonderful medium to help them understand how privileged those of us living in developed countries are, where education is accessible, and where gender disparity is not as prevalent as it is in third world countries. A recommended read.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

### Wonderful Story with a Unique Perspective

By Frank Barchester

Kari-Lynn Winters and illustrator Stephen Taylor have created a simple yet compelling story about a Ugandan girl named Nassali who lives in a small village and hungers to learn how to read. The story reads like a combination between a children's tale and an anthropological study. This does not mean that it is an unaccessible story. Quite the contrary. It makes the life of young Nassali significant yet different from the experience of North American children. It provokes good questions from kids (like my own) about how Nassali's life differs from theirs and why. Nassali's story is also one about how a child of great spirit can convince those around her to support her in her quest for an education even when women, especially young girls, are not encouraged to learn a great deal. The story concludes with a brief summary about United Nations' efforts to guarantee a good education for all children. Unlike some picture books, this volume includes some web resources to continue searching for information about kids and Uganda as well as a glossary of tribal terms used throughout the book. This is definitely a book that can serve as a young children's read-aloud as well as a jumping-off point for school-age children to begin their first non-fiction research. One additional note for educators, this book makes for a great Common Core State Standards resource for fiction/non-fiction reading pairs. Well done, Kari-Lynn and Stephen!

See all 2 customer reviews...



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