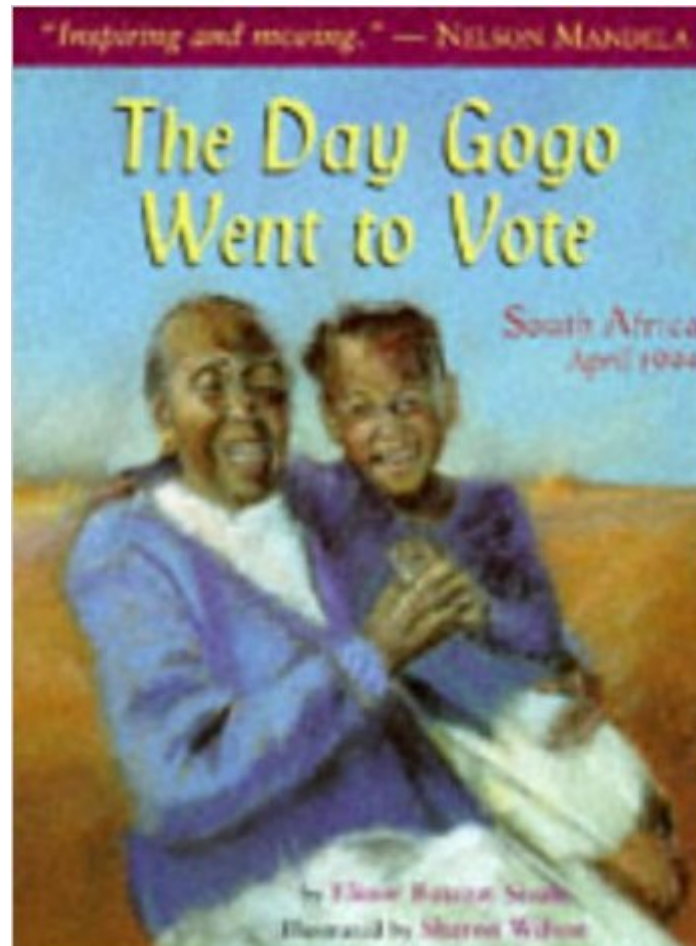


The book was found

The Day Gogo Went To Vote: South Africa, 1994



Synopsis

Thembi and her great-grandmother, Gogo, are inseparable. Gogo is so old, she hasn't left the house in years. One day Thembi's parents come home and announce that black South Africans will be allowed to vote for the first time in a government election, and the whole family is astounded when Gogo says she will go out and cast her vote, too. And she insists on bringing Thembi with her!

Book Information

Age Range: 5 and up

Lexile Measure: 780L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Little Brown & Co (Juv); 1st edition (April 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316702676

ISBN-13: 978-0316702676

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 8.8 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #859,679 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Africa](#) #373 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa](#)

Customer Reviews

The sub-title of this new children's picture book says it all. Everybody in South Africa remembers those astonishing days when the unbelievable happened and all South Africans went to vote. Today, when you go to a former township or homeland and ask anybody, "How was it when you voted?" you'll get a wonderful story about getting up early, walking a long, long way and then waiting, waiting, waiting. Outsiders are amazed at the patience and dignity of the often vast crowds waiting at polling stations in places like Soweto. But the people who sat or stood for most of the day with blankets and food, with their children or old parents, will tell you they could have waited peacefully for much longer. After all, they'd already waited all their lives! In *The Day Gogo Went to Vote*, this momentous time is seen through the eyes of little Thembi whose hundred-year-old great-grandmother, "Gogo", takes care of her every day while her parents are at work. Thembi's questions are answered in a way that explains election procedures to young readers but for Thembi the real impact of voting day was that Gogo was going out! Gogo had never "left the yard", even to

go to church, since the long ago day when she had been humiliated and shouted at by a man at the pensions office. When the day comes, Thembi experiences one extraordinary event after another. Wearing their best clothes, she and Gogo ride in a rich store-owner's "Benz", a machine makes Gogo's hands look blue, press cameras flash, her parents cry and no-one remembers to send her to bed that night when friends and family feast and toyi-toyi through the night. Elinor Batezat Sisulu, a social worker in Cape Town, worked at a polling booth in April, 1994.

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