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The Fire Children: A West African Folk Tale



Synopsis

The first man and woman are lonely. What to do? They decide to fashion children out of clay. As they are baking the little figures in their fire, they're constantly interrupted by visits from the sky-god, Nyame. As a result, some of the children are pale and underdone, some are left in so long that they come out very dark, and the rest are every shade between. Frane Lessac's gorgeous gouache paintings, inspired by West African masks and pottery, and Eric Maddern's vivid text make this one of the most compelling of creation myths for young readers.

Book Information

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Frances Lincoln Children's Bks (May 15, 2015)

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

Customer Reviews

Absolutely fabulous folktale about why we are all different! Some might find the reference to "being cooked in a fire" offensive, but it needs to be understood in the context of a folktale. A must read for my racially diverse preschool class of 4's and 5's every year! A special book. My children ask for it to be read again and again. There is no better recommendation than that!

Wonderful story about the creation of man and why people come in so many different colors. It conveys a message of understanding that we are all one people in a most captivating way. I think this book should be an integral part of the early childhood curriculum

Excellent!!

I don't know how I feel telling children they are brown because they stayed longer in the fire pit- seems a little weird. It is a cute concept but teaching race is heavier and should not be sugar coated. Also- the pictures are really unattractive- artistically.

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