

Catch That Chicken

Author: Atinuke

Illustrator:
Angela Brooksbank

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Synopsis

Fast, brave Lami has to learn to do quick thinking, not quick running, if she wants to stay best chicken catcher in the village! Lami loves chickens. She's the best chicken catcher in the village. She's fast, she's brave and she always catches that chicken. Until the day she chases one up the baobab tree, slips ... and falls. How can she catch chickens with a sore ankle? Could there be another way to catch that chicken? Told with great humour by Nigerian storyteller, Atinuke, this story of the headstrong, impetuous Lami will strike a chord with all children. The gentle message – to use quick thinking not just quick running – gives an incredibly satisfying ending, while Angela Brooksbank's beautiful artwork captures the energy and the beauty of the West African setting perfectly.

Illustrator Bio

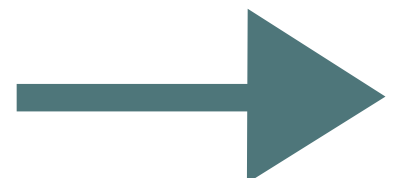
Angela Brooksbank worked as a designer and art director in the children's book industry before undertaking an MA at the Cambridge School of Art, and turning her hand to her own illustration.

About her picture book inspiration, Angela says, "I am constantly inspired by children's energy and unique response to life and hope that my work conveys some of their playful spirit."

Baby Goes to Market, written by Atinuke, is her debut picture book.



Author Bio



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Atinuke

As a child

I was born in Ibadan, in south-west Nigeria. I remember it as a city of dusty red roads, of bungalows buried under flowers, of botanical gardens. When I was five my father got a "good job" in the capital city of Lagos. A city of polo clubs and swimming pools and slums. We went to live behind the high walls of a mansion in a quiet part of the city, and left our extended family behind. This is where my love affair with books and stories began, locked behind the great iron gates of the lonely house. Throughout my childhood I wanted firstly and desperately to be a Boy, then an Adventurer, and lastly, An Author. Two of these were impossible (I was told) and one was dangerous. Forget it. So I carried on reading instead. I read Enid Blyton books and it sounded fun. At 10 years old, after a campaign of cajoling and persuading, my parents agreed to send me to boarding school in England. And that was, effectively, the end of my childhood.



As an adult

As soon as I could, I gave up all subjects but storybooks and went off to study literature. I wrote 10,000 words one year to get over a lost love and got into Oxford instead. But the writing I had to do there was so dry that I left. I decided to go Adventuring instead. I lived and travelled in England and France, Morocco and Germany and Spain, sleeping like a nomad on beaches and mountainsides. I sang for my supper, painted portraits, weeded gardens, worked as an artist's model and lived in a round mud hut in the wild wet woods of Wales. One day, pregnant with my first son, I told a story to some bored children at a festival and that's when my proper job found me! I haven't stopped telling stories since.

As an artist

I got through the trials and tribulations of life by escaping into books and making up stories in my head. My journal stayed with me through all my adventures, crammed with poetry and reflections and questions. I told stories for a living (because I had been told it was impossible to be An Author – and I had believed them). Until one winter in Wales – too ill to get up and go out and tell stories; too ill to go home to my fatherland – I found myself in the circumstances in which I write best (alone and bored and empty) and I wrote about what I was missing... I wrote Anna Hibiscus.

Things you didn't know about Atinuke

- My favourite chocolate is peppermint and vanilla flavour.
- I love wearing Big Boots and stomping about the place.
- My favourite place to live would be right on the beach.
- I was old before I met the love of my life (sometimes you have to wait a long time for your fairy tale dreams to come true).
- I live in my dream house. A wooden house my husband built ... which isn't finished yet!
- I live on a mountain called Angel Mountain, my favourite place to be.
- If I could have/do anything it would be to have a world that works together for the good of the whole planet.
- I love to knit socks.
- If in doubt, I go to bed. It's the best place to hole up.
- I love to whirl like Rumi.

Curriculum Links

ACHASSK015 The places people live in and belong to, their familiar features and why they are important to people

ACHASSK032 The weather and seasons of places and the ways in which different cultural groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, describe them

ACHASSK047 The way the world is represented in geographic divisions and the location of Australia in relation to these divisions

Themes

Africa-Chickens-Problem Solving

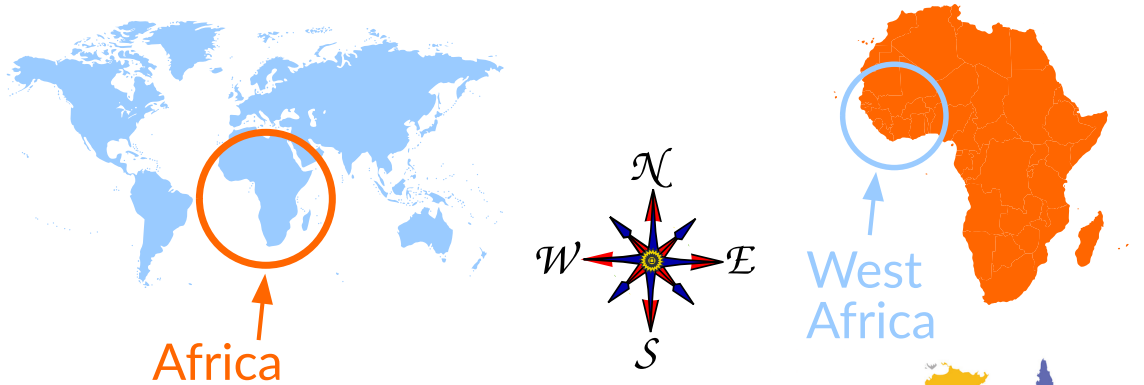
Discussion Questions

After reading the story ask the class where they think the book has been set. Write down their ideas.

Why do you think the book might have been set in these places?

At the start of the book, on the title page, there's a note about where the book is set. The story is set in West Africa.

On a globe or a large map, find Africa. Then find West Africa.



Talk about how we use terms like North, South East and West to describe the location of places.

Use a map of Australia to demonstrate, North, South East and West, as there a number of states with names relating to their location. South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory.

Look at the other states and determine where they are on the map in relation to North, South, East and West.



Seasons In Africa.

What can we tell about the weather from the pictures on the book? Look at the clothes they are wearing. When would we wear short sleeves and shorts?

Where Lima lives

Lima lives in a compound. After reading the book, and looking at the pictures, what do you think a compound is?

Look at the double page spread of the Compound.

What are some of the things that you can see?

Lami's compound might look different to the street that you live on, but are there some things that are the same?

There are certain things that we all need, food, water and shelter (our homes)

Can you see where people live in the compound?

Where they get their water?

Can you see where they are growing vegetables?

Grinding wheat to make bread?

What are you best at?

Lami is the best chicken catcher in the village

Sister Sadi is speedy at spelling

Friend Fatima is fast at plating hair

Big Brother Bilal is brave with bulls

What is one thing you are the best at?

I am the **BEST** at

:

