Global Book Bag

**Title:** Wangari’s Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa  
**Author:** Jeanette Winter  
**Grade Level:** 3  
**Global Competence:** Pose questions to better understand issues and perspectives

The goal of this book bag is to introduce students to Wangari Maathai and her efforts and help inspire students to action within their communities.

*Wangari’s Trees of Peace* shares the efforts of 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai to reforest her homeland upon her return from studies abroad with the help of women within her homeland of Kenya and beyond. Students should learn that one’s own culture and history is key to understanding one’s relationship to others.

**Bag Contents:**

*Wangari’s Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa*
- Copy of map of Africa
- Copy of map of African Regions
- World Atlas
- A laminated map of your local community
- Composition book
- Blank paper
- Pencil and eraser
- Vis-a-Vis marker

**Directions:**

1. Read *Wangari’s Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa.*

2. As you read the book, write questions in the composition book about Wangari’s thoughts, events and words you may not understand. (For example: *What kind of trees grew in the area where Wangari lived? Why are trees so important?*)

Make sure you leave enough space between your questions so that you can answer them (or maybe someone else can answer them later when they read the book!)

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2. Using your copy of the book and a world atlas, label the blank map of Africa with the locations mentioned in the book. Transfer information that you think is important from the African Regions map to your Africa map. What does your final map tell you?

3. At the end of the book it is suggested you would be able to see many of the trees that were planted if you stood at the top of Mount Kenya. Where would you stand to see the most trees in your community? Draw a picture of the view you would have on the provided blank sheet of paper.

4. Use the laminated community map and the Vis-a-Vis marker to mark the location you would be standing when seeing what you drew your picture.

5. Write about the view you illustrated in the composition book provided in the bag. This book will stay with the bag from student to student.

Extended Learning:

1. Make a plan to improve a green space in your yard, neighborhood, or community.

2. Write a summary about the book to share with your classmates.

3. Discuss what it means to “pose questions to better understand issues and perspectives.”