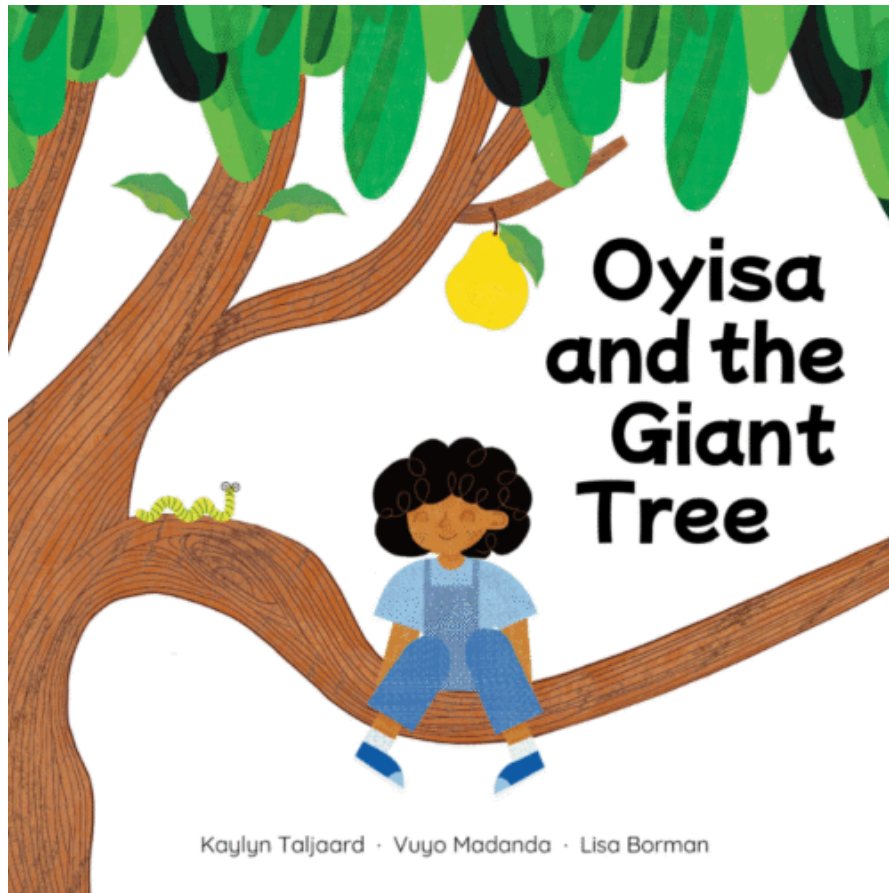


Oyisa and the Giant Tree

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



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THEMES

Family & Friends

Environment & Conservation

SUB-THEMES

Curiosity

patience

nurturing nature

growth and discovery

Story Discussion Guide

- Understand that small actions (like planting a seed) can grow into something big and beautiful.
- Appreciate how nature thrives when we nurture it.
- Learn patience and care through tending to plants.
- Begin to connect their own initiative of planting seeds to global values of caring for the earth.
- Recognize that children everywhere feel joy in helping life grow, building empathy and a sense of shared humanity (pluralism).

Lesson plan

Learning Outcome

Before Reading:

- Have you ever planted a seed or helped care for a plant?
- What do you think a seed needs to grow?
- How do you feel when you see something you cared for grow big and strong?

During Reading :

- Pause when Oyisa plants the seed: What do you think will happen next?
- Ask: Why does Oyisa care about this tiny seed?

After Reading:

- What helped Oyisa's seed grow?
- How did Oyisa feel when the tree got big?
- What can we do to take care of the plants and trees around us?
- How do you think kids in other parts of the world must feel when they grow something special?

Activities:

- Seed Jar Experiment: Plant seeds in a clear jar to watch roots grow.
- Patience Calendar: Track the plant's growth over time.
- Kindness Tree: Each child adds a leaf with a caring action they've done.

Expected Outcomes

- Value patience and nurturing.
- Develop early respect for nature and how small efforts grow into big impact.
- See that children everywhere share the same joy in caring for living things.

Curriculum Alignment:

Horizontal Alignment (Ages 3–5, Similar Themes)

- Oyisa and the Giant Tree – Discovering seeds.
- A Very Important Tree – Protecting a tree and its bird's nest.
- My Little Garden – Caring for plants.
- Ouma's Amazing Flowers – Celebrating the diversity of flowers.

Vertical Alignment (Progression of Themes Across Ages)

Ages 3–5

- Oyisa and the Giant Tree – Magic of seeds and patience.
- A Very Important Tree – Protecting nature's balance.
- My Little Garden – Learning to care for plants.
- Ouma's Amazing Flowers – Diversity and beauty in flowers.

Ages 5–8

- Grandpa Farouk’s Garden – Pollination and healthy gardens.
- A Tiny Seed – Transformation through a seed.
- Jadav and the Tree-Place – Reforestation through determination.

Ages 8-10

- The Big Dreamer – Planting mangroves.
- The Tale of the Water Hyacinth – Solving invasive plant challenges.
- A Tiny Seed – Transformation through one seed.

Applicable SDGs

- SDG 4: Quality Education – Encourages curiosity and foundational science learning.
- SDG 13: Climate Action – Helps children appreciate planting and caring for the earth.
- SDG 15: Life on Land – Highlights protecting and nurturing plants and biodiversity.

SDG Explanation

The story encourages children to see and value diversity, beginning with flowers.

This links to sustainability and environmental respect, while also nurturing empathy for difference in all forms of life.

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit initiative that curates children's stories from diverse cultures and lived experiences around the world. It gives children a window into other communities—and a mirror that affirms their own, helping children recognize the shared humanity that connects us across differences. Through narratives that gently challenge biases and broaden worldviews, Zamasama helps children see difference not as a barrier but as a bridge. Through the power of stories, we sow the seeds of pluralism that can grow into a more harmonious world for all.