

A Tiny Seed: The Story of Wangari Mathai

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



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THEMES

Conservation & Environment

Community

SUB-THEMES

Women Empowerment

Income generation

Story Discussion Guide

Understand why trees are important for our planet.

See how learning and education can help us solve problems.

Think about how working together helps protect nature.

Feel inspired to lead and help others, just like Wangari did.

Lesson plan

Learning Outcome

Before Reading:

Have you ever planted something and watched it grow?

What was it?

Why are trees important?

Have you ever heard of someone who helped protect nature or planted trees?

During Reading :

What challenges did Wangari face in her life?

How did she get other people to help her?

After Reading–

How can one person make a difference for the environment?

What can we do in our own school or town to protect nature?

Activities:

Seed Planting Project – Use biodegradable pots to plant seeds and watch them grow.

Environmental Pledge – Write one thing you promise to do for nature on a leaf-shaped cutout and stick it on a class tree wall.

Role-Playing – Act out parts of Wangari's story to understand how she led people and stayed strong.

Applicable SDGs

SDG 4: Quality Education

SDG 5: Gender Equality

SDG 13: Climate Action

SDG 15: Life on Land

SDG Explanation

SDG 4 – Wangari's pursuit of education enabled her to understand environmental issues and advocate for change.

SDG 5 – By mobilizing women to plant trees and take charge of their communities, Wangari promoted women's empowerment.

SDG 13 – Reforestation efforts directly addressed climate change.

SDG 15 – Tree planting helped restore ecosystems and biodiversity.

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.