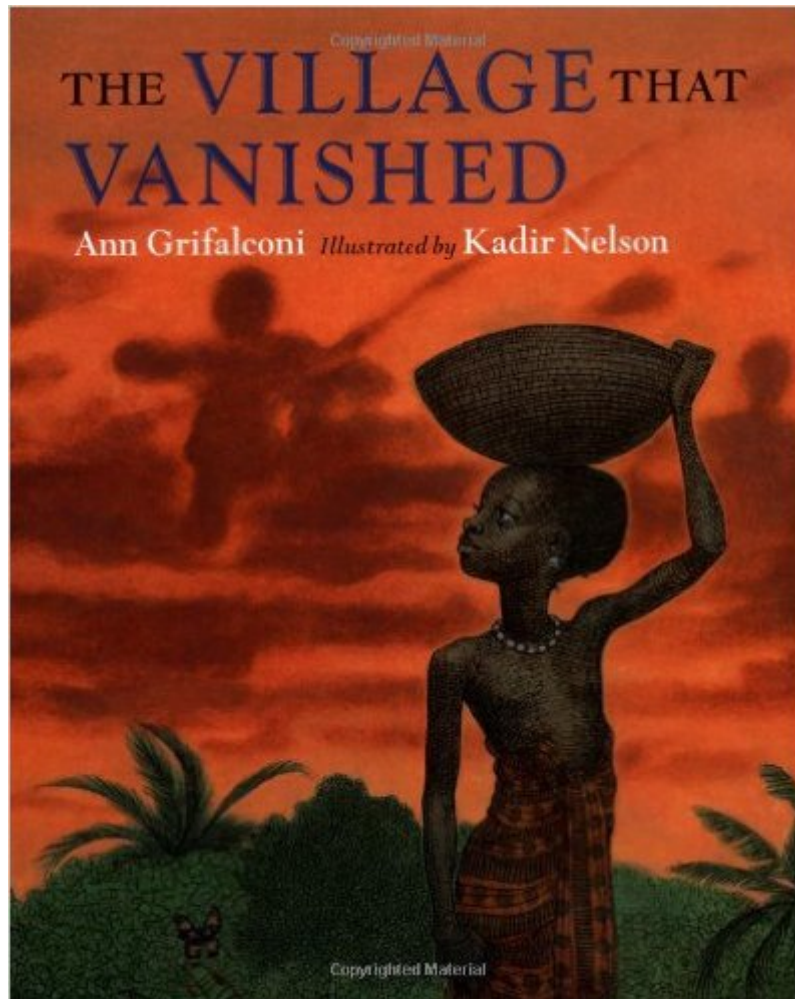


The book was found

# The Village That Vanished (Jane Addams Honor Book (Awards))



## Synopsis

Young Abekenile and all the villagers of Yao feel safe sheltered deep within the jungle. But word has now come that slavers are on their way! Abekenile looks to the women of her tribe: her mother, who comes up with a clever plan to fool the slavers, and a tribal elder, who stays behind to face the slavers, steadfast in her trust that the ancestor-spirits will watch over her. But as the villagers retreat within the forest, it is Abekenile who finds that she too has the bravery and daring to help her people stay safe and free. Kadir Nelson's lush and striking artwork beautifully expresses this inspiring tale.

## Book Information

Series: Jane Addams Honor Book (Awards)

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Dial (September 30, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0803726236

ISBN-13: 978-0803726239

Product Dimensions: 9.3 x 0.5 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #837,900 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Africa](#) #369 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa](#) #17465 in [Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure](#)

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

## Customer Reviews

I got this book solely because of Kadir Nelson's magnificent illustrations in "Ellington Was Not a Street." Nelson again shows why he's one of the top kids' books illustrators. Moreover, the story skillfully weaves fact, spirituality, and suspense in an exciting, identifiable story of escape from danger--in this case slavers who will capture or kill them. The narrative focuses on three members of a peaceful agricultural community in Africa, part of the Yao tribe: Abikanile (whose name means "listen") a pre-adolescent girl who embodies fear and courage, her mother, Njemile ("upstanding") the moral leader and embodiment of practical and sacred wisdom, and her grandmother, Chimwala ("stone"), brave and unyielding as a rock. There's a pervasive theme of spirituality: The book opens

with Njembile praying to her ancestors to keep the family safe, and her prayer foreshadows some of the ensuing events: Do not deny me now! Lend me and my children The secrecy of the crocodile Below your waters! Oh, my ancestor spirits We need your magic now! Protect our village, Keep us free! Realizing that they can't successfully battle the slavers, and that hiding would be futile, Njembile convinces the small community that they must fool the slavers by destroying or hiding every trace of the village. They quickly take apart their reed huts, and carry as many items as they can. Chimwala is too frail to make the journey, but she stays behind as decoy, planning to tell the powerful traders that she is a witch, living alone in small jungle clearing. "The slavers will not take me! Am I not old and mean? Is it not said `The Crocodile will not eat old wrinkled adder snake?"

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