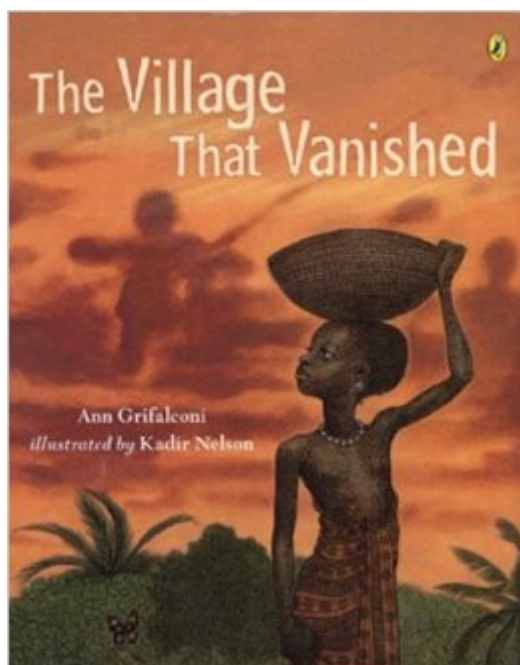


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# The Village That Vanished



## Synopsis

Young Abikanile and all of the villagers of Yao feel safe hidden deep within the African jungle. But word has come that the slavers are on their way! Abikanile looks to her mother and her grandmother for strength and guidance. These two brave women come up with a plan to fool the slavers and protect their tribe. But as the villagers retreat into the forest, Abikanile finds that she too has the courage to help her people stay safe and free.

## Book Information

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reprint edition (December 29, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142401900

ISBN-13: 978-0142401903

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 0.2 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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

Best Sellers Rank: #288,977 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Africa](#) #151 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa](#) #8220 in [Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## 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 Njemile 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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