



# The Girl Who Grew

## READ ALOUD GUIDE

**Themes:** Environmental Activism, Determination, Making a Difference

**Book Brief:** The inspiring true story of Wangari Maathai, a girl who loved nature and grew up to plant millions of trees and change the world!

**Author:**  
Storytime

**Illustrator:**  
Amari Mitnaul

## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover and title.

**The Pictures:** Take a quick picture walk and ask students what they notice about what Jane likes.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask, "Why are trees and plants important? How do they help us and our planet?" Explain to students that this story is about real events, but it is told like a story with characters, a setting, and events in order.

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** As we read, think about the main idea of Wangari's story and the important lesson we can learn from her life."



**Think Aloud:** "I'm thinking about the main idea of this story. Wangari loved nature as a child, and when she saw trees disappearing, she decided to do something about it by planting millions of trees. The main idea is that one person's love and determination can make a huge difference in the world."

## DURING READING

**Check for understanding & make connections:**

- What does Wangari love when she is young?
- What problem does Wangari notice as she grows up?
- What does Wangari do to help the environment?
- How does Wangari's work make a difference?

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** "What is the main idea of Wangari's story? What important lesson can we learn from her life and work?"

**Extending Our Thinking:** Ask students, "What is something you love about nature? How can we help take care of our planet?" Encourage students to think of one way they can help the environment (like recycling, saving water, planting seeds, picking up litter, or taking care of plants) and create a poster showing their action. Students can draw themselves doing their helpful action and add a sentence or caption explaining how it helps the planet, then share their environmental action plans with the class.

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- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.