More Books about Africa

Recommended by author, LeAnne Hardy

If you enjoyed *The Wooden Ox*, try some of these other books about African life. This is only a sampling of our family’s favorites. For [more books about Africa](http://www.goodreads.com/review/list/1138224-leanne?view=reviews) many published outside North America, see my Goodreads page or ask your librarian to help you.

**For young adults:**

*AK* by Peter Dickinson (1993). Laurel Leaf.

 Readers of *The Wooden Ox* will appreciate this adventure story about a former child soldier in a fictional African country. Dickinson does not simplify the painful realities of African politics.

*A Coalition of Lions* by Elizabeth Wein. (2002). New York, Viking.

 This gripping sequel to *The Winter Prince* puts a twist on the traditional tale of King Arthur and shows sixth century Ethiopia as more culturally advanced than Europe of the same period. See also The Sunbird by the same author.

*A Girl Named Disaster* by Nancy Farmer (1996). New York, Orchard.

Eleven-year-old Nhamo risks her life traveling alone from Mozambique to Zimbabwe. Nancy Farmer plays with African spirituality in this adventure story.

*The Heaven Shop* by Deborah Ellis (2004). Allston, MN, Fitzhenry and Whiteside.

Binti’s father runs a brisk business selling coffins until real life catches up with him, and Binti becomes just another AIDS orphan. Ellis traces a typical scenario for one of Africa’s 12 million orphans. Proceeds go to UNICEF.

*Jock of the Bushveld* by Percy Fitzpatrick (2002). Johannesburg, South Africa, Donker.

Look for a modern edition of this classic dog story set amidst the Transvaal gold rush. It is a great adventure, but earlier editions are marred by the racist sentiments of the period. Don’t settle for the watered down picture book ‘retelling’.

*Keeping Secrets* by LeAnne Hardy (2013). St. Paul, MN, Birch Island Books.

 Fifteen-year-old Sindiswe Khumalo is the most promising figure skater the South African Skating Federation has ever had. But Sindi can’t talk about what’s making her father ill. The truth could cost her everything, but keeping the secret might cost even more.

*Memories of Sun*, edited by Jane Kurtz. (2004). New York, Greenwillow.

This collection of short stories and poems by authors from both continents describes life in various African countries and some of the experiences and impressions of Americans in Africa and Africans in America.

*The Rugendo Rhinos* Series by Shel Arensen. (2003) Includes *The Poison Arrow Tree, The Carjackers, The Secret Oath,* and *Poachers Beware!* Grand Rapids, Kregel.

Missionary kids in Kenya and their African friends have adventures and stop crime. Readers of this fun series will be begging their parents to move to Africa. Now out of print in the US, there is a Kenyan edition that features more African characters from Word Alive Publications, Nairobi, Kenya.

**For mature readers:**

*The Covenant* by James Michener (1980). New York, Mandarin.

 Published before the events that led to the first democratic elections in 1994, the history of South Africa is otherwise effectively told in the stories of individuals down through the generations.

*Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton (1951). New York, Scribners.

 Both faith and suffering are described in this classic story of the separation of the races in twentieth-century South African.

*The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver (1998). New York, Harper Perennial.

 The author is unsympathetic to missionaries, but otherwise portrays with love and deep insight the turbulent years surrounding the independence of the former Belgian Congo.