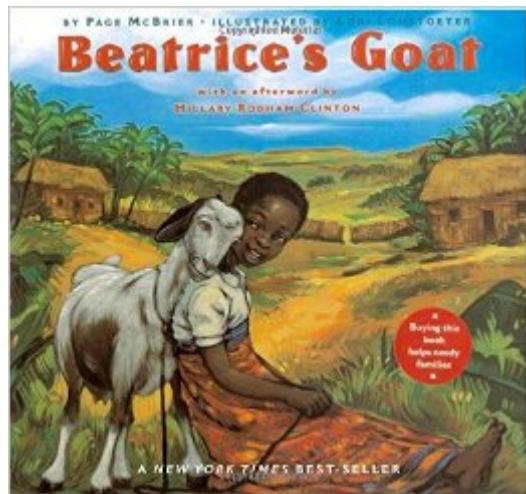


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# Beatrice's Goat



## **Synopsis**

This illustrated book offers the true story of how a poor African girl was able to attend school after receiving a goat as a gift through a special international project and then sell its milk to get the money needed to buy her books. Reprint.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 640 (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Aladdin; Reprint edition (July 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0689869908

ISBN-13: 978-0689869907

Product Dimensions: 10 x 0.2 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (88 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #67,647 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty #46 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa #191 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Animals > Farm Animals

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Beatrice lives in the village of Kisinga, Uganda with her mother and five younger brothers and sisters. Life is hard and the family is very poor. Beatrice dreams of going to school, but knows that the family probably will never have the money for books and a uniform, so that she can attend. And then one day everything changes; the family receives a goat. Beatrice names the goat Mugisa, which means lucky because her mother said the goat was their lucky gift. Soon the goat gives birth to two kids and the family's life begins to change. They have milk to drink and some to sell and in time, they are able to sell one of the kids to improve their lives even more. They build a new sturdy hut with a steel roof that won't leak and are even able to make Beatrice's dream of going to school come true..... Based on the true story of how one family was helped by Heifer Project International, an organization that donates livestock to poor communities, Page McBrier's beautiful and engaging picture book shows how different life can be in other parts of the world and how little it takes to bring

hope and changes to developing countries. Her eloquent text is complimented by Lori Lohstoeter's rich and expressive illustrations and together, in a very simple, gentle way, they show youngsters how something, even as small as a goat, can lift a family out of desperate poverty and give them a better life. Perfect for children 4-8, Beatrice's Goat is an uplifting story told with great insight and a wonderful addition to all home bookshelves.

This is a wonderful book which will inform children who live in the USA that many, many children in the world do not have access to free education. This book tells a story of how just one goat from Heifer Project International not only allows Beatrice to finally go to school, but the income from selling the goats milk also helps to improve her family's life. The children who read this book will have an insight on what life is like for children who live in Africa. The illustrations are beautiful and very colorful.

If you are trying to teach your children the value of volunteerism and sharing this book is for you! Not only is the story genuine and touching but it supports one of the best charities in existence today. Children all over the world have so much less then children born in the US and with just a simple gift of a goat you can help to change a family's life. What the story doesn't tell you are how goats/cows/chickens/pigs, etc. have also helped keep families from "selling" their young daughters into prostitution to support their families. If you want to do something worthwhile for a family much less fortunate then your own - - BUY A GOAT - - you'll be so happy you did.

Our 5 & 7 year olds love this glimpse into a life so different from their own, and loved seeing the work of Heifer International in action. This is a great way to show youngish children how a small action can have a big result, and how people can take a small opportunity, and with hard work, turn it into something that can change their life. Written with a warm gentleness, this is definitely a book for sharing.

Buy this book and then donate a goat through the heifer foundation in a child's name. Together they make a great gift. Be creative: throw in some goat cheese and other goat items and make it a gift for a whole family. The book is a true story of how a little girl's family got a goat that, more or less, changed their lives. Very cute story and a good cause.

I really liked the beautiful and richly colored paintings that illustrate the pages of "Beatrice's Goat."

The artwork is full of realistic details about life in Uganda, ranging from the colorful fabric patterns to the shape of the green banana bunches hanging from the trees. However, I wouldn't give equally high praise to the text. The phrases are often awkward and overly complex; I found myself changing a lot of the words as I read this book to my pre-K daughter. It might be OK for a 7- or 8-year old, but even then, I don't think the story flows as well as it should. I bought this book because I was looking for a picture book set in Africa to give to my 2-year-old goddaughter in Malawi. But I will not be sending it to her. Although it may be a useful story to educate American kids about life in a rural Ugandan village, it unfortunately plays into too many stereotypes (especially the "benevolent Westerners coming to the aid of poor Africans" stereotype) for me to feel comfortable sharing it with a family who actually lives in that part of the world. Don't get me wrong, Heifer is a great organization, and I donate to them often - this just felt a little too much like promotional material for their mission, rather than being an excellent story on its own merits.

This book is recommended for ages 4-8, but we checked it out of the library for my three-year-old and it's clear we will have to buy it. She wants to read it every day, and we have promised her that we will buy a goat for a girl in Africa this Christmas. The illustrations are quite beautiful, and the story is so sweet that I often find myself tearing up on the last page, even though I've read it daily for a couple of weeks now.

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