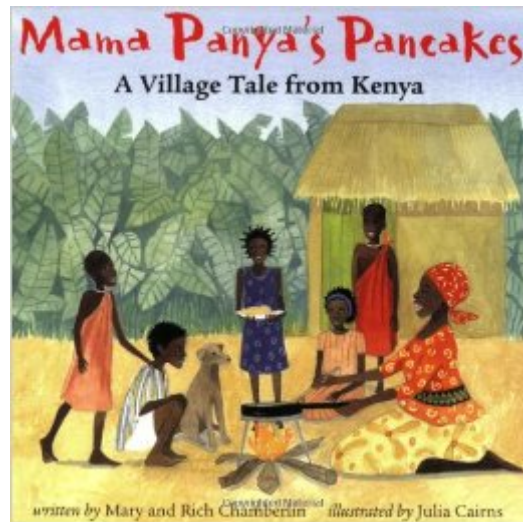


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# Mama Panya's Pancakes



## Synopsis

On market day, Mama Panya's son Adika invites everyone he sees to a pancake dinner. How will Mama Panya ever feed them all? This clever and heartwarming story about Kenyan village life teaches the importance of sharing, even when you have little to give.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD700L (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: Barefoot Books (March 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1905236646

ISBN-13: 978-1905236640

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 9.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (41 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #57,014 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa](#) #157 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American](#) #242 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values](#)

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

I have not read the book, however, as a Kenyan I cannot get over the fact that the Mother's name is Mama Panya, which, translated, means "Mother of Rat" (similar to how "Mama Simon" = Mother of Simon, "Mama Mary" = Mother of Mary, etc). As a sign of respect in Kenya, children often refer to adult women as "Mama X" where X is the name of one of her children (typically her eldest child). As such, the name Mama Panya suggests that this poor lady has a child named "Panya", a rat, which Kenyans consider one of the lowest/ nastiest animals. This makes the name "Panya" an unlikely name for anyone. The author could certainly have selected a better name. I will not be purchasing this book despite the positive reviews it has received.

I found this book when I was searching for a story from Kenya. I was putting together a unit on Kenya for third graders and came across this book and fell in love with it. The mother and son have

a sweet relationship and the message of sharing and community come through in the end. Wonderful illustrations and several reference pages at the end of the story. Mama Panya's recipe for pancakes are in there too. I made them and passed them around for my presentation. I loved this book and used it for my unit and plan on purchasing it for my classroom in the future. A wonderful story!!

My almost 3-year-old really enjoys when I read him this book. The text is not overlong, it's a smooth read, the dialogue is clever and the mother/son relationship has quite a bit of depth. The appendix page is good for older children to find out more details about Kenyan life, especially if they choose this book for a multicultural assignment. It provides a surprising lesson on the pleasures of neighborliness.

We had fun with this book -- my daughter thought the boy was just being "bratty" until we talked about how everyone contributed and how sharing led to more for everyone. Then she "got it", and now requests we read it often. The recipe for the pancakes is also easy and kids are able to help. Great book -- we also loved the illustrations -- some parts reminded us of life in Haiti which our Haitian-American kids loved.

This was an instant hit with my 3.5 year old son. The boy in the story invites all his friends for pancakes. His mom starts to get nervous that she won't have enough flour to make enough pancakes for everyone. In the end, the guests all bring something to share.

My daughters and I saw a theatrical production of the book and then decided to buy it. It was out of stock or on back order just about everywhere I looked. I was bummed. I placed the order through anyway and hoped it wouldn't be too long. Thankfully, it wasn't long after I placed the order that I received notification that the book was on the way. So glad because my girls really love this book and it has even more detail than the play we saw. A great book about community and faith!

I got this book after a trip to Tanzania. I wanted to read it to my grandchildren to let them know about the people we visited in East Africa. The illustrations are super and it sparked a lot of discussion about the people in Africa.

First, let me mention for those interested in the subject that this book shows babywearing in the

background in one of the spreads. The moral of the story, how a simple dinner became a feast when "all their friends" were invited to share it, is neither overly expressed nor too subtle for little ones. The illustrations are bright and colorful, this book will attract a lot of attention :) Please note that it's a bit wordy, probably suited for the older of the 4-8 crowd. The same advice \*definitely\* goes for the supplemental information at the back of the book, all sorts of things on how people live in Kenya and a few simple Swahili phrases and, of course, a recipe :)

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