



Anna Hibiscus' Song

Atinuke , Lauren Tobia

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Anna Hibiscus is so filled with happiness that she feels like she might float away. And the more she talks to her mother and father and grandfather and grandmother and aunties and cousins about it, the more her happiness grows! There's only one thing to do...Sing!

Anna Hibiscus' Song Details

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From Reader Review Anna Hibiscus' Song for online ebook

Edward Sullivan says

It's just about impossible to resist the infectious happiness of Anna Hibiscus. Warm and joyful.

Nancy Kotkin says

Text: 4 stars

Illustrations: 4 stars

Picture book, set in Africa, about a little girl brimming over with happiness. As she checks in with various family members, we learn how each person contributes to this large extended-family household. Illustrations help bring the diverse setting to life and allow readers to glimpse the personalities of Anna's family members. This is the same protagonist and family of the Anna Hibiscus chapter book series, produced by this same creative team.

Tasha says

Anna Hibiscus returns in a picture book! Anna Hibiscus lives in Africa with her extended family and they are very happy. In fact, Anna Hibiscus is so happy that she almost floats out of the mango tree she is sitting in. She doesn't know what to do with herself, so she asks her grandparents, aunties, uncle, cousins and parents what they do when they feel so very happy. Though Anna Hibiscus tries their techniques, she has to figure out what her own reaction to pure happiness is.

Read the rest of my review at my blog, [Waking Brain Cells](#).

Jamila says

This picture book is a delightful story about family, and it has beautiful illustrations. However, I cannot give it five stars because Atinuke does not name the country in which Anna Hibiscus lives. "Africa is not a country!"

Barbara says

One of the things I love about this book is how profound Anna's happiness is. I also loved how her happiness only increased when she shared it with those around her. Clearly, everyone has different ways of expressing their joy and pleasure in life. After following her mother's instructions to sit quietly and enjoy her happiness, Anna does so--and then she starts to sing. Although I wish the author had named her home country rather

than just saying she lives in "Amazing Africa" [which is a continent, after all](unpaginated), this is a joyous book. The illustration of Anna spreading her arms while standing on a tree limb epitomizes bliss. It's wonderful to encounter a book that celebrates such a happy state of mind.

Steph says

Atinuke's books fit so well into the ISD Library context. ISD is a multicultural international school, so to see a character who is "mixed" like many of our own student population simply resonates well with our students. They relate to a Canadian mother and an African father, as well as the cultural context within the picture book. Kids say, "My grandpa wears a bubu too", or "I have a mango tree in my backyard", or "I play outside with my cousins too". There is no end to the ways in which the kids relate to this book. Anna Hibiscus is adorable, as is her family.

Laura5 says

I love Anna Hibiscus!

Anna is happy. She asks different family members what they do when they feel happy - and each time her happiness grows.

Would pair well with books like:

Clap Your Hands

If You're Happy and You Know It

Destinee Sutton says

There are several Anna Hibiscus chapter books for early readers, but this is the first picture book starring happy little Anna. Anna lives in Africa, "amazing Africa," as she calls it, with her large family. In this story, Anna is so happy she doesn't know what to do, so she goes around asking all her family members what they do when they're happy. A more joyful picture book would be hard to find. The illustrations are friendly, colorful, and full of energy. Of course, this book is significant not only for its great execution, but also its setting. How many everyday life books for children are set in present-day Africa? And of those, how many are super happy?

Crystal says

This is a warm fuzzy book about family and how we express ourselves when we are happy. I love Anna Hibiscus.

Zoie Loosier says

This book is a great book to show the African culture. Anna Hibiscus is so full of happiness and isn't sure what to do to express this. She asked multiple people in her family what they did when they were happy. As a reader, this book had the power to just make you happy just because Anna was so happy. As a teacher, I would use this not only to show the diversity but to encourage the students to be themselves. Anna Hibiscus finally finds that she shows her happiness through singing. I would ask the students to find what they do when they are happy and ask them to share with the classes. This would help make the children understand that everyone is different and that is what makes everyone their own person.

Cheryl says

Have you ever felt so happy it seemed as if you needed to figure out what to do or else you'd explode? So beautiful, so joyful, I want to cry. I guess that's what I do when I'm happy, at least sometimes. I'm very happy about these books, and grateful to Atinuke for creating them.

I particularly like that Grandfather counts the reasons why, when he is happy. And the endpapers, that show a portion of the city by day and by night.

Melissa says

The illustrations in this book were really surprising! The text never states that this little girl has a white mother and black father, but it is clearly depicted in the illustrations. Anna is a mulatto child and the illustrator does a good job of showing this. This would be a good book for children who are a mix of black and white skinned parents to visually seeing themselves in a book.

Anna lives with her extended family. Her aunts all work together while her mother works by herself in the garden. I am not sure what to think about mom working alone. It almost seems like she isn't quite accepted in the family. The important message of the book shows that happiness can come in all shapes and sizes. Everybody has a different way of showing they are happy. Kids could relate with one or many of the characters or tell how they act when they are happy.

Ellie Labbett says

A story buzzing with joy and togetherness. Watching her family going about their day, Anna Hibiscus completely busts with happiness. This only increases as she spends more time with those that she loves. For those within and outside of the story, Anna's feeling quickly become infectious through the fun, repetitive language and expressive illustrations, as each character reveals how they demonstrate their own happiness. The narrative is such a celebratory way to discuss the importance of family and love, whilst also allowing children to explore how the same emotion can be felt or expressed differently, and perhaps reflect upon themselves.

Atinuke and Tobia evoke Africa beautifully. It is lovely to see representations of the diverse landscape that

Africa offers. From the hustle of the city to the coolness of the Mango Tree- you almost feel like you could fall into Anna's garden or stroll across the pavement.

A fantastic book which offers so many opportunities across the curriculum in the Early Years or Year One. From the Humanities to the Arts, I think children would be really enthused by any work inspired by this text.

Komal Parveen says

Anna Hibiscus is a little girl who lives in Africa. The illustration show that she comes from a mixed race background. This book is a part of a series of books based around a little girl named Anna Hibiscus. Anna Hibiscus is feeling happy so she takes it in turn to go and see everyone knows and asks them what to do. Everyone she comes across tells her what they do when they are happy; as a result of this Anna is able to participate in things that children in Europe may not have come across, such as pounding yam. Part way through the story she comes across her cousins including one named 'chocolate' which I felt was a bit strange considering he was of African origin. Although many children would pass this by without a thought I can imagine that others may not. In the end Anna Hibiscus discovers that everyone likes to show that they are happy in different ways and her way is to sit in the mango tree and sing. This book would be suitable for lower key stage 2 and is a good way of showing children that people express their feelings in different ways. It can be used as a discussion starter on how people may express their feelings in different way and to some extent can also be used to show children the culture and lifestyle of people who live in Africa although, in order to this effectively I would recommend using other resources to accompany the book.

Daniel Riles says

I have not found many books set in Africa that avoid romanticizing it, falling into stereotypes, or being about animals in the jungle. This is just a girl who is happy and whose happiness is amplified by her family around her. It just happens to be in Africa (no country, though). Without any direct mention of it, her mom is white and her dad is black. It would be easy to make the book a teaching story about interracial marriage or biracial kids, but it is just part of the story as are aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents all living together. All of these things are there to talk about, but they are not shoved down the throat of the reader.

And Anna is so happy!
