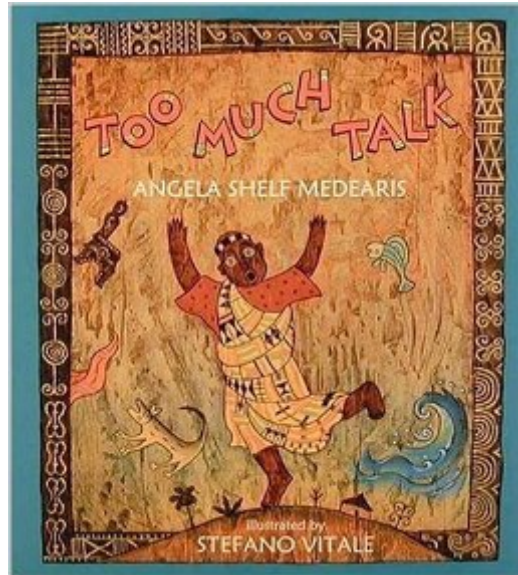


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Too Much Talk: A West African Folktale



Synopsis

A brightly illustrated retelling of a folktale from Ghana concerns the fun that starts when everything starts talking, including the farmer's yams, the fisherman's fish, and the weaver's cloth.

Book Information

Age Range: 3 and up

Lexile Measure: 400L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Candlewick; 1st edition (October 2, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1564023230

ISBN-13: 978-1564023230

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 9 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,128,684 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > African](#) #628 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Cultural Studies > General](#)

Customer Reviews

Talking yams are only the beginning of this simple and hysterically hyperdramatic retelling of an old Ashanti tale. When a farmer encounters a talking yam and runs and tells a fisherman, the fish talks, assuring him such a thing can't happen. Panic and hilarity ensues in the brief text and stylized pictures. This is one of those folktales that can be introduced to children of any age, and lends itself especially well to read-aloud for groups of children. Read-aloud works especially well with plenty of movement on the part of the reader, and encourages participation. Each talking creature or object invites the children to respond with a heartfelt "Aiye!" as the growing number of people run on, until they reach the king, for the inevitable conclusion. The story isn't meant to be a serious one, and the method of telling and illustrations support this humorous, almost comic strip kind of storyline. The large text on each page is short and to the point, making it accessible to even very young children. The art is lovely to look at--and you can see the African styling of it. Stefano Vitale has crafted a very vivid collection of images for this story. However, there does seem to be some mixture of African styles, according to some professional reviews, and this may be less well received by those familiar with regional African art styles. In my case, however, the stylized art and

various elements of African imagery allow for children to get some exposure to this sort of art and style. As to the story itself, it appears to be an old folktale from Ghana, and an amusing one at that.

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