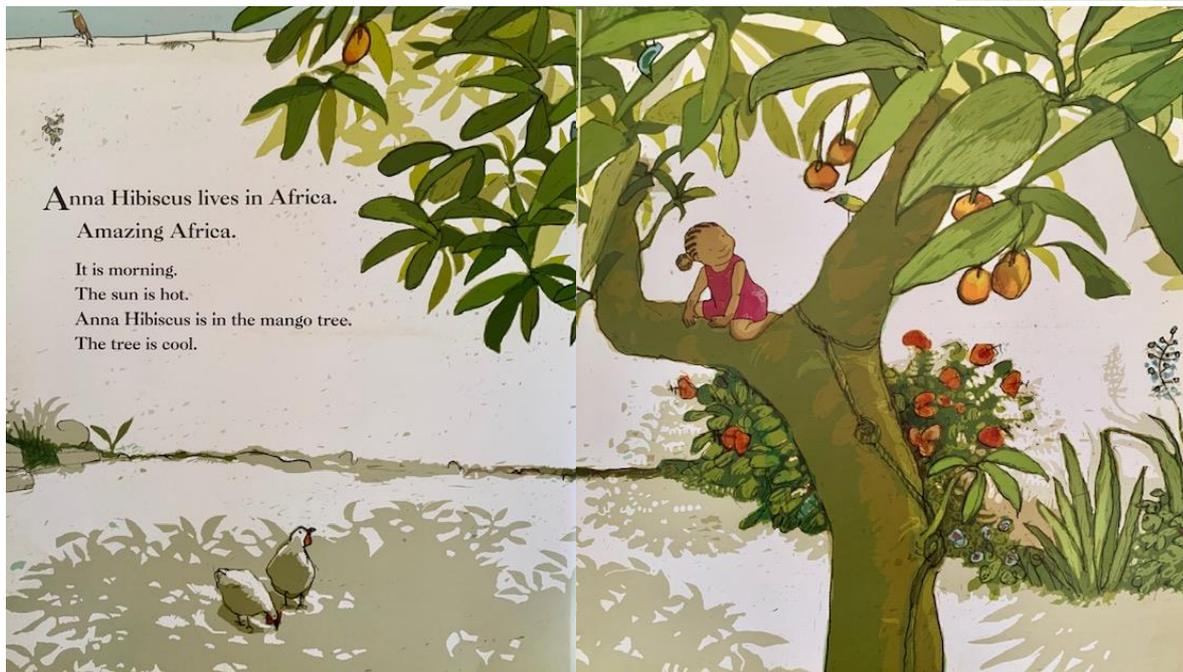
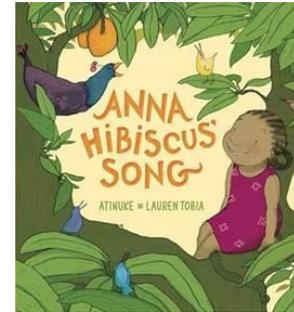


Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

Anna Hibiscus' Song by Atinuke, illustrated by Lauren Tobia (Walker)

1. Explore it

Read the spread from the book below and take time to look carefully at the illustration:



What is happening? What do you think you know about this girl? Where does she live? Why has Atinuke, the author, described it as 'Amazing Africa'? What do you like about the place you see here? What do you think this little girl likes about it? How is she feeling?

Now look at the front cover above and read the title. What more have you learned about this little girl? Why does she like being up in the tree so much? What might be special about being in the tree for her? Might anything else be making her feel happy? Think about your own life in relation to the book. Have you ever climbed a tree before? If you have, what was it like? If you haven't, would you like to? Do you think you would like to be in this tree too? Why do you think this book might be called Anna Hibiscus' Song?

What is Anna looking at while she is in the tree? Why might the birds be interesting to her? What might they be doing? Have you heard birds singing before? What do they sound like? What do you think the bird she is watching sounds like? Do you like listening to the birds outside your home? A grown up could help you find out more about the birds of Nigeria in Africa.

2. Illustrate it

Look again at the illustrations in the spread and the front cover. How many different kinds of birds can you spot? How would you describe them? What is different about each of them? What is the same about

them? Can you draw them? What do you need to include? Take some paper and any drawing materials you have to hand and have a go at drawing the birds, their bodies, eyes, beaks, wings and legs. Will you colour your birds? Will you use crayons, felt pens or decorate with collage? You could cut up old magazines to make feathers or you might even have some feathers at home you can use.

Share your drawings with someone and talk about which is your favourite. What do you like about it? What can you find out about the birds that live in your own local area? Can you draw and name the birds that you have seen on your outings or outside your window? Maybe you could imagine some that you have heard but not seen? How would you show them singing? What would their beaks look like? You could cut your drawings out and hang them up so they are flying around, or make a tree for them to sit in.

3. Talk about it

- Can you think of any other words that start with the same sounds as **amazing** and **Africa**, like **apple** or **adventure**? Say these words out loud so that you can hear and recognise the sound at the start of these words.
- What is special about the mango tree? Why does Anna go up there? Can you think of more than one reason she likes it?
- Do you think she has been up the tree before? What might tell you this?
- Sitting in the mango tree makes Anna Hibiscus happy. What do you think she likes best about it? How do you know? How can you tell she is happy?
- Would sitting in a tree make you happy? What makes you happy? Do we all enjoy the same things?

4. Imagine it

Look at your bird drawings and think about what their song sounds like. You could try to listen to birds outside for ideas or you could listen to the birdsong of different British birds on: <https://www.british-birdsongs.uk/>. Choose a birdsong you like and try to sing it yourself. Can you copy the rhythm? Is it fast or slow? Does it repeat? How will you use your voice to make high or low sounds? Ask someone else to copy another birdsong. How does that sound? Try writing down your birdsongs, for example: chirrup chirrup...tu tu tu tu tu...twit twoo...chiff chaff chiff chaff...drum drum...coo coo coo.

5. Create it

Think back to the title of the book: Anna Hibiscus' Song. What kind of song do you think Anna sings? How would her happy mood affect her singing? Do you know any happy songs she might sing? Who would Anna sing to? Who else might be in her story?

Now think about the things that make you happy. What do you like to do when you are happy? Do you sing or dance? Do you run or skip? Do you like to be quiet and calm? Do you like to be inside or out? Do you like being with anyone special?

Compose a song that you can sing when you are happy. Can you write it down for someone else to sing? Maybe you could change the words to a familiar song like 'If you're happy and you know it', adding things that make you and your family happiest. Ask someone to help you write out the new version and practise singing it together. Can you add actions to make it even more fun? If someone in your house has a mobile phone, you could record your happy song and send it to cheer someone else up or call someone on the telephone to sing it to them.