Eleanor A. Dasi, "Entry on: A Messob Gift to Lula's Friend by Kiazpora Book Series ", peer-reviewed by Divine Che Neba, Daniel A. Nkemleke and Lisa Maurice. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2018). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/211. Entry version as of October 07, 2026.

Kiazpora Book Series

A Messob Gift to Lula's Friend

United States of America (2019)

TAGS: African Storytelling African Traditions

We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	A Messob Gift to Lula's Friend
Country of the First Edition	United States of America
Country/countries of popularity	United States of America
Original Language	English
First Edition Date	2019
First Edition Details	Kiazpora, *A Messob Gift to Lula's Friend*. Santa Clara, CA: Kiazpora, 2019, 24 pp.
ISBN	9781946057280
Genre	Didactic fiction, Illustrated works, Juvenile fiction*
Target Audience	Crossover (children and young adults)
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This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children's and Young Adults' Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of "Artes Liberales" of the University of Warsaw.

Creators

Kiazpora Book Series (Publisher)

Kiazpora is a globally-connected group which has a mission to provide language-learning resources by way of colourful and well-illustrated books for kids. This is to help them link to their cultural heritage while at the same time enriching their minds. Their books are written in various languages as the need arises.

Source:

Official website (accessed: July 30, 2021).

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Additional information

Summary

Lula decides to offer a *messob** to her friend as a gift in honor of their friendship. She asks her mother if it is a good idea and her mother agrees. She looks at the messob basket made by her mother and is very excited. Lula knows how to bake and also how to make traditional baskets and she takes some weaving tools from her mother's kit box for that. The next day Lula looks for palms and straw to weave the traditional basket and her mother permits her to use some of the straw she had kept behind the house. After making the base of the basket, she looks at her mother's old design which is very beautiful to her but lacks a colorful and classy touch and thus continues to weave the basket in her own style. She adds colorful threads and creates beautiful patterns that also decorate the sides of the basket. She finishes the basket after several days and also makes a beautiful lid for it. Her mother is amazed at her incredible weaving talent. Later that day, Lula visits her friend and offers her the beautiful messob basket and her friend is very happy.

* A round basket traditionally hand-woven with straws and palms.

Analysis

Basket-weaving is an age-old and common tradition in many African cultures and other places in the world. In Africa, baskets are hand-woven with different types of traditional materials, and serve different purposes, including serving food, shopping, preserving special items, decorative ornaments etc. Weaving was therefore an art that was appreciated especially when the weaver could produce beautiful and rare patterns in different shapes and sizes. It was mostly practiced by women, who handed down the skill from generation to generation.

In the above story, the messob is used as a symbol of friendship as Lula offers it to her best friend.

In all, the story underscores the need to preserve traditional artifacts and skills in crafts as Lula acquires the skill from her mother and produces even more beautiful and complex designs. The idea of friendship is also emphasized as Lula keeps her relationship with her friend strong by offering her a messob as a gift. This translates into

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	the idea that long-lasting and strong relationships of friendship are cultivated and nurtured during adolescent years. The story therefore encourages young adults to value friendship bonds as these may serve as a guarantee to their solidarity in their adult years.
Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	African Storytelling African Traditions
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Child, children Friendship Heritage Sharing Tradition Values
Further Reading	Kloman, Harry, *Mesob across America: Ethiopian Food in the USA*, Pittsburg: University of Pittsburg Press, 2010.
Addenda	Origin: Ethiopia.

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