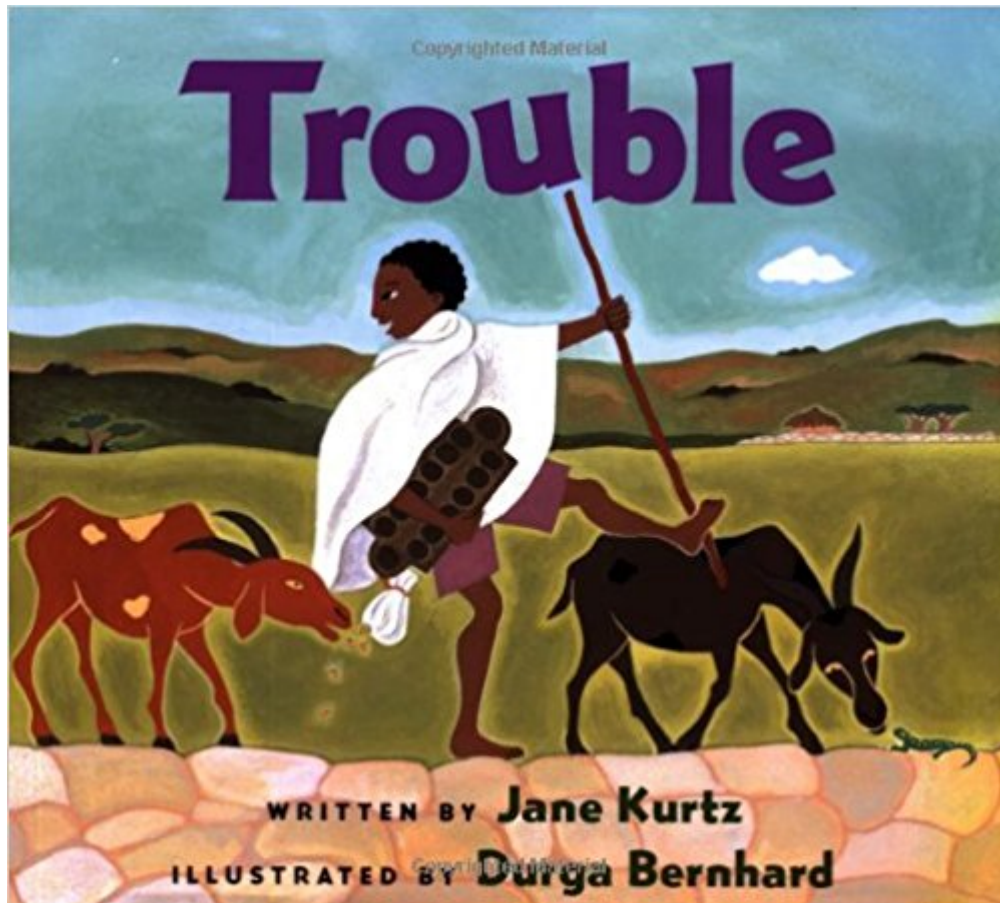




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Trouble



Synopsis

Tekleh is curious. Tekleh likes adventure. And trouble always seems to find him, no matter how hard he tries to avoid it. One day Tekleh's father decides that a gebeta (also known as mancala) board will help keep Tekleh occupied--and out of trouble. "Time and place will prove no barrier to kids' identification with an inadvertent mischiefmaker."--The Bulletin

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 790L (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

This charming children's story is based on a story that author Jane Kurtz heard growing up in Ethiopia. In it, young Tekleh is always getting into trouble, letting the goats into the garden, kicking dust on the roasting coffee beans. So his father gives him a gift of a wooden board game, which he promises will keep Tekleh out of trouble. We follow Tekleh the next morning as he takes the family's two goats to graze, and has a series of adventures before he returns home, the same but different. Durga Bernhard's warm, earth-toned illustrations are the perfect companion to this book.

PreSchool-Grade 2. A traditionally patterned, circular story from Eritrea that begins provocatively: "Trouble always found Tekleh." Tekleh's job is to tend the family goats that often wander off when under his care. The boy's father carves his undependable son a wooden board game, hoping it will entertain Tekleh and keep him out of trouble. Setting out with his goats and his game board the next morning, the lad fails to go straight to the grazing place. Instead, he and the animals wander off,

encountering many people along the way. First, he meets a group of traders who are looking for firewood and take his wooden game board. When he protests, he is given a knife in exchange. In subsequent encounters, he trades one thing after another until finally, predictably, he exchanges a papaya for another game board bringing the story full circle. Bernhard's gouache illustrations depict authentic cultural details such as round, grass-roofed houses; traditional shawls; and colorfully bordered, white cotton clothes. The pictures contain subtle details of humor well suited to the tale. Endpapers that map the boy's journey can be used to recapitulate the tale with listeners. In an endnote, the author cites Harold Courlander's version of the story included in his book *Fire on the Mountain* (Holt, 1995). Kurtz's retelling, which differs in detail but not in pattern and intent, depicts Tekleh as mischief maker, teasing more humor out of the tale than the more straightforward Courlander version. Enjoyable. ?Kate McClelland, Perrot Memorial Library, Greenwich, CT Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I would love to translate this book to Tigrinya and publish it . Very well written and good moral book. I like the the art too. must be painted by native . It is good to have this book for English speaker and/or Amharic speaker or learners.

Love this tale--wholesome, sweet, fun. A family win.

I can't wait to share this book with my student and his mother from Eritrea. Most of the time I have to find books on Ethiopia which doesn't sit well with mom even though she understands the difficulty. I also recently purchased a mancala board so we can play that game after we read the book. Mancala has been promoted to teach math and cooperative learning social skills.

Jane Kurtz has once again taken the raw material of the oral tradition and translated it to print, without losing the "feel" of a story told face to face. Tekleh, armed with a plaything that was designed to keep him out of trouble, finds himself trading it and each new item he receives, to stay out of trouble. As is traditional in such a circular tale, he ends where he began. For those who wish to venture into the world of telling a story without the book, this is one story that will help you avoid "trouble" as you retell the tale. For those who appreciate the appeal of an illustrated tale, the pictures are just enough to delight, but will allow the reader/listener their imagination at the same time.

TROUBLE is a circular story in the best tradition of folkloric literature. Young Tekleh is always in the company of trouble as he tends his goats in the Eritrean countryside. He loses the gebata board, which his father has made for him to keep him away from trouble, to a group of traders. Yet another board is cleverly regained, in a circular fashion, by the end of the book. Kurtz's rich imagery enlivens the story as do Bernhard's sprightly folk art illustrations. With an ever changing palette, she tells her own small jokes in the pictures. A wonderful, child-centered story kids will ask for again and again

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