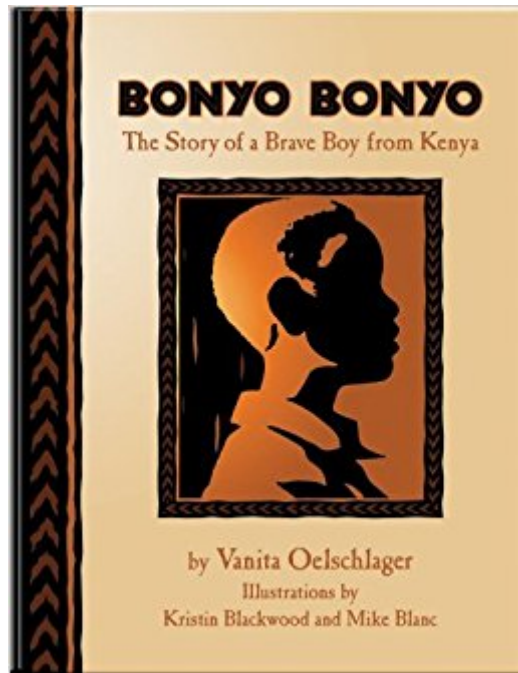




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# Bonyo Bonyo



## Synopsis

Bonyo Bonyo is a true story about how a Kenyan boy's courage and determination, along with critical support from family and strangers, helped him live out his dream of becoming a physician. Pursuing his goal forces him to leave his family and ultimately his country. But years later he is able to return as a doctor with the resources to build a much-needed clinic. Bonyo's story is full of wonderful core values: individual determination, growth through loss and pain, willingness of others to help us reach goals, the benefits of giving back. Intended for 4-8 year olds, ones who are old enough to understand how hard it would be to leave your family just so you can continue to go to school. Vanita Oelschlager wrote this book after interviewing Dr. Bonyo Bonyo. Dr. Bonyo Bonyo practices family medicine in Akron, Ohio. He tells each patient that they are family to him.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 42 pages

Publisher: Vanita Books (April 1, 2010)

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Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #847,026 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Africa #349 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa #1085 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 5

## Customer Reviews

• is the word for this picture-book biography of a poor child in rural Kenya who grows up to become a successful doctor in the U.S. and returns to set up a clinic in the village where he was born. True to Bonyo's viewpoint, the direct, first-person narrative begins with the young boy's life of hardship, his heartbreak when his baby sister dies, and his dream that he will someday put a hospital in the village. He walks barefoot for two days across two rivers in order to attend boarding school, eventually makes it to Catholic high school, and then at 17 is accepted into

a Texas college on scholarship. The clear illustrations with thick black lines and glowing color are dramatic yet spare, portraying the ever-present hardship and hunger in the village, the boy's struggle to get an education, and his determination to succeed. The quiet, triumphant climax shows people today lining up with their babies at Dr. Bonyo's village clinic. The message of harambee, or togetherness, is universal. Preschool-Grade 2. --Hazel Rochman

Vanita Oelschlager is a wife, mother, grandmother, philanthropist, former teacher, current caregiver, author and poet. She is a graduate of Mt. Union College in Alliance, Ohio, where she currently serves as a Trustee. Vanita is also Writer in Residence for the Literacy Program at The University of Akron. Kristin Blackwood is an experienced illustrator. Some of her other books include *My Grampy Can't Walk*; *Let Me Bee*; *Big Blue*; *Made In China*; *What Pet Will I Get?*; *Ivy in Bloom* and *Ivan's Great Fall*. She uses a linoleum reduction technique for creating the illustrations for this story. Kristin lives in Lakewood, Ohio, with her two daughters. Mike Blanc is a career artist, who has illustrated countless publications for both corporate and public interests, worldwide. After 35 accomplished years of traditional drawing and painting, he now prefers the digital mediums. Previous titles by Mike and Vanita include *Postcards from a War* and *Francesca*. Mike lives in Ohio.

In December 2009, I had the privilege of accompanying Dr. Bonyo on his annual medical missions trip to lovely village of Masara, Kenya. One evening after dinner, Dr. Bonyo shared his story with the group. I was very pleased to hear that the next summer his story was going to be published as a children's book because I did not want to forget any of it. The illustrations in the book were beautifully done and the storytelling really makes you feel like you are part of the adventure. This book makes me smile even when I just look at it sitting on my shelf and will always serve as a great reminder of the time I spent in Kenya with such a warm and generous man, Dr. Bonyo Bonyo.

This book is a must read for people of all ages. I am 33 years old & was touched by this true story. I gifted a copy to my sister who is a social worker & a child I mentor.

After meeting Dr. Bonyo, I was extremely interested in reading this book. I read a friend's copy and loved it so much, I wanted to share it with my grandchildren. I was inspired by the book and by the kindness and modesty of the man the boy in the book became.

Great book! I had the pleasure of having Dr. Bonyo as a preceptor and hearing this story from him. While reading it, I could hear his voice! Not only does this book teach children to chase their dreams, hopefully it will teach them to give back to society. I bought this book for my niece and nephew, but may be a little too young to fully appreciate it at ages 4 and 5.

I just absolutely love this book. It is also great as an electronic version. It is a very inspiring that can be enjoyed over and over again!!

Bonyo Bonyo, The True Story of a Brave Boy from Kenya by Vanita Oelschlager. VanitaBooks LLC. Biographies & Memoirs, Children's Nonfiction. 5+ Stars. Fantastic nonfiction book about a boy from Kenya who dreamed of becoming a doctor and what it took to realize his dream, with a bit about his home village people and the early years of Dr. Bonyo. Wonderful illustrations by Kristin Blackwood and Mike Blanc. Highly recommended! Thanks to NetGalley and VanitaBooks LLC for providing this ebook for review.

Bonyo Bonyo lives in a poor village in Kenya. When his little sister dies, he decides he is going to be a doctor and open a clinic in his village. When he is in seventh grade, his family has not money to pay for him to go to school. He meets a man in the town who is a principal at a school 2 days walk from his village. The man tells him he can go to school for free if he can get there. So begins his journey. Even though he does well in school, he needs money to get to the US for university. His father and his village all do what they can to help him raise the money he needs to get to Texas to take advantage of the scholarship he has been given. The truth of how little they had hit me. As the story progressed, the underlying messages of perseverance and determination showed through the passages. Both good and bad days were shown as well how Bonyo decided to handle the situations. The illustrations were well done and added another dimension to the story. It is wonderful to see that net proceeds from book sales would go to the Bonyo's Kenya Mission. There are so many ways a teacher could use this book in the classroom. Teaching about various cultures, social justice, perseverance and appreciation of all you have are just a few areas that come to mind.

I thought that Bonyo Bonyo was a lovely read for children. I do not usually read children's picture books but there was something about this one that caught my eye. My only regret is that it has taken me so long to read and review it. I found Bonyo Bonyo's resilience in the face of so many obstacles that many would find insurmountable refreshing and inspiring. He took a great tragedy

and turned it into something beautiful and wonderful. Seeing that he did not forget where he came from is a great message to today's children and I would most definitely recommend this delightful non-fiction picture book to people with small children, teachers, grandparents, aunts and uncles and basically anyone who has children in their lives.

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