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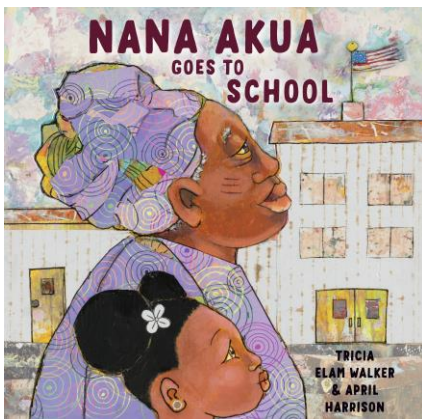
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*An uplifting celebration of cultural differences*

# NANA AKUA GOES TO SCHOOL

Written by Tricia Elam Walker, illustrated by April Harrison

In this moving story that celebrates cultural diversity, a shy girl brings her West African grandmother—whose face bears traditional tribal markings—to meet her classmates. **NANA AKUA GOES TO SCHOOL** (Schwartz & Wade Books | On Sale June 16, 2020 | Ages 4–8) is a moving story about embracing your culture, perfect for readers of all ages, from kids to grandparents!



It is Grandparents Day at Zura's elementary school, and the students are excited to introduce their grandparents and share what makes them special. Aleja's grandfather is a fisherman. Bisou's grandmother is a dentist. But Zura's Nana, who is her favorite person in the world, looks a little different from other grandmas. Nana Akua was raised in Ghana, and following an old West African tradition, has tribal markings on her face. Worried that her classmates will be scared of Nana—or worse, make fun of her—Zura is hesitant to bring her to school. Nana Akua knows what to do, though. With a quilt of traditional African symbols and a bit of face paint, Nana Akua is able to explain what makes her special, and to make all of Zura's classmates feel special, too.

## **Advance Praise for *NANA AKUA GOES TO SCHOOL***

★ “An open-hearted tribute to children with immigrant parents or grandparents.”

—*Kirkus Reviews, starred review*

★ “This lovely story explores the perennial fear of being different, while showcasing the great love between a grandparent and grandchild.” —*School Library Journal, starred review*

★ “This beautiful picture book offers a helpful perspective on cultural differences within a heartening family story.” —*Booklist, starred review*

★ “A compelling portrait of a grandmother.” —*Publishers Weekly, starred review*

“Here is a story that is both highly specific in the culture represented and universal in its expressions of emotion and heritage.” —*The Horn Book Magazine*

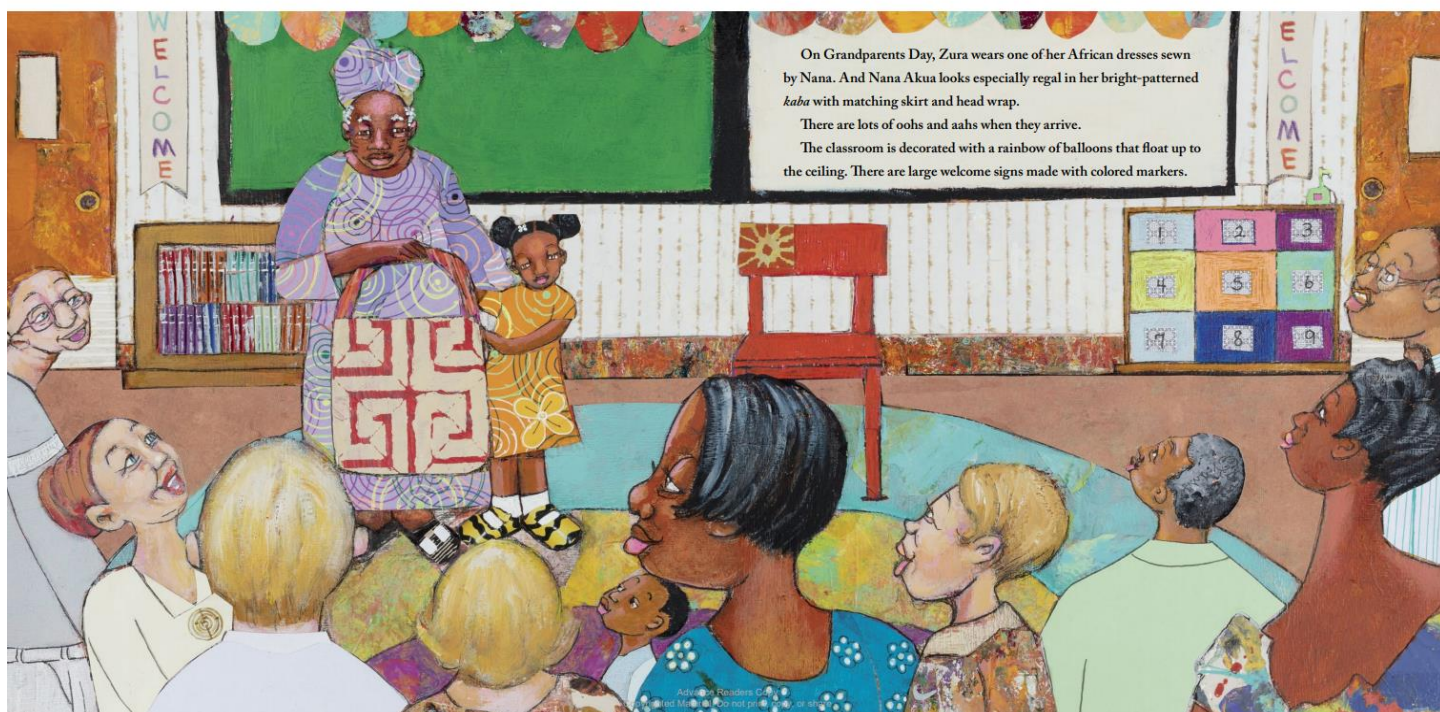
-TURN OVER-

## About the Author & Illustrator

**TRICIA ELAM WALKER** is the author of the novel *Breathing Room*. She is an award-winning fiction and nonfiction writer, cultural and fashion commentator, and blogger who has written for National Public Radio, the *Washington Post*, *Essence* magazine, *HuffPost*, and more. She practiced law for sixteen years prior to teaching writing in Washington, DC, and Boston. Tricia is an assistant professor of creative writing at Howard University and is working on several projects, including children's books, plays, and a second novel.

**APRIL HARRISON**, a renowned folk artist, is the Coretta Scott King/John Steptoe New Talent Award-winning illustrator for Patricia C. McKissack's final picture book, *What Is Given from the Heart*, which received four starred reviews and which the *New York Times Book Review* called "an exquisite story of generosity." Her work appears in the public collections of Vanderbilt University, the Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center, the Atlanta Housing Authority, and the Erskine University Museum and in many private collections. Learn more at [aprilsongallery.com](http://aprilsonggallery.com).

### SAMPLE SPREAD



### NANA AKUA GOES TO SCHOOL

By Tricia Elam Walker | Illustrated by April Harrison

Schwartz & Wade Books | On sale June 16, 2020 | Ages 4–8 | 40 pages

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