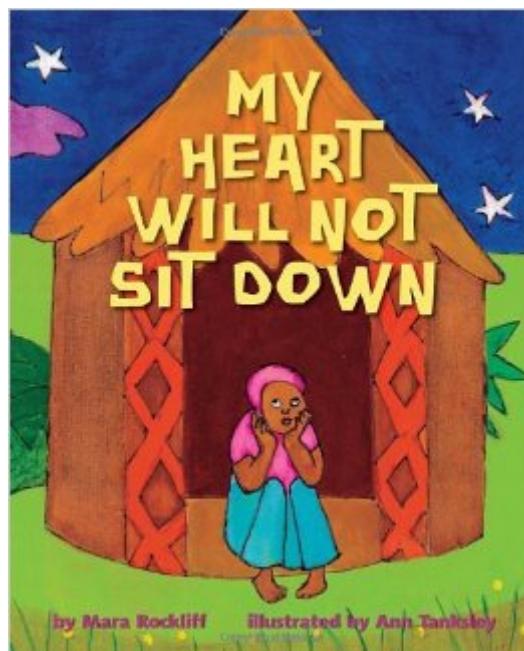


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# My Heart Will Not Sit Down



## **Synopsis**

When Kedi hears about America's Great Depression from her teacher, her heart will not sit down. Men and women are unable to find work. Children are going hungry. In her teacher's village of New York City, people are starving because they do not have money to buy food. But can one small girl in Africa's Cameroon like Kedi make a difference all the way across the great salt river in America? Inspired by true events, Mara Rockliff's gorgeous and accessible text matched with Ann Tanksley's vibrant and warm illustrations bring to life the remarkable story of one child's vision, passion, and dedication to make the world a better place.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers (January 10, 2012)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 8.3 x 0.3 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #836,619 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Africa #209 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Homelessness & Poverty #361 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Apparently during the Depression a gift of \$3.77 arrived in New York City to feed the hungry. The gift was from the much poorer country of Cameroon, in Africa, where life in the villages is often a daily struggle for food and people often eat only one meal a day. While the actual story of this gift is not known, author Mara Rockliff takes this small episode and explores it in a fictionalized way for the amazing generosity it showed. In this fictionalized account, an African girl, Kedi, hurries to school to get to sit near Teacher. But today Teacher wasn't wearing his usual smile. He tells the African children that the Depression in America is getting worse. Men and women in the "village" of New York have no work and children don't have food. It seems an odd thing for an American teacher to

be telling a group of poor African children, but perhaps he was just talking, not thinking of the possible consequences. Kedi cannot get the poor, hungry children of New York out of her mind. She feels so bad for them that her "heart will not sit down". She asks her mother for some money to give to the teacher, but Mama has none to give (although she welcomes the people of New York to come and share her yams). Kedi goes throughout the village asking each man and woman for some money for the hungry New York children, but time after time meets with disappointment. The few coins the villagers possess are needed for the tax and other expenses. But before Kedi leaves for school the next morning, her mother hands her one small coin for the teacher. Kedi, however, knows it is too small to feed all the hungry children in New York. How can she give Teacher such a small gift? But maybe Kedi has done more good than she thought.

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