

Araba's Heritage Series

Book 1: Araba and the Symbols of Strength

Teacher & School Overview

Author: Dr. Eunice Araba Turkson

Series Theme: Building Character Through Literacy, Culture, and Reflection

Overview

Araba and the Symbols of Strength is the first book in the Araba Heritage Series, a culturally rich children's literacy series that introduces students to African heritage through engaging storytelling, meaningful life lessons, and interactive learning activities.

The story follows Araba as she discovers the meaning of strength through traditional Adinkra symbols from Ghana. Students learn that true strength comes from perseverance, wisdom, kindness, courage, and believing in themselves.

Instructional Benefits

This book supports classroom instruction by helping students:

- Strengthen reading comprehension skills.
- Expand academic vocabulary.
- Develop character and social-emotional learning competencies.
- Explore world cultures through authentic literature.
- Practice critical thinking through discussion and reflection.
- Respond through writing, art, and collaborative activities.

Classroom Connections

The book can be integrated into:

- English Language Arts
- Reading Workshop
- Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)
- Multicultural Studies
- Social Studies
- Library and Literacy Programs

Included Student Activities

The book contains extension activities designed to reinforce learning, including:

- Discussion questions
- Writing prompts
- Reflection activities
- Vocabulary development
- Creative response opportunities

Additional teacher resources and lesson plans are available to support classroom implementation.

Signature Extension Activity: Heritage Bracelet Experience

A unique feature of the Heritage Series is the **Heritage Bracelet Experience**.

After reading the story, students create a bracelet featuring the Adinkra symbols introduced in the book. As they assemble their bracelet, they reflect on the symbols' meaning and discuss how they can apply their lesson in their own lives.

The bracelet becomes more than a keepsake — it serves as a daily reminder of the character trait explored in the story.

Students will:

- Learn the meaning and history of the featured Adinkra symbol.
- Create a personalized bracelet connected to the story.
- Reflect on how the symbol relates to their own experiences.
- Strengthen creativity, fine motor skills, and cultural appreciation.
- Leave with a meaningful reminder to “live the lesson.”

Heritage Series Motto

Read the Story. Wear the Symbol. Live the Lesson.

Why This Book?

Students not only improve literacy skills but also gain a deeper appreciation for cultural diversity while developing confidence, resilience, and respect for others. The lessons encourage meaningful conversations that connect literature with students' everyday experiences.

Partnership Opportunity

Teachers and schools may begin with a classroom pilot using Book 1. The author is available to collaborate with educators by providing instructional support, lesson ideas, classroom discussions, and literacy enrichment activities.

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Teaching children to grow in literacy, character, confidence, and cultural understanding — one story at a time.