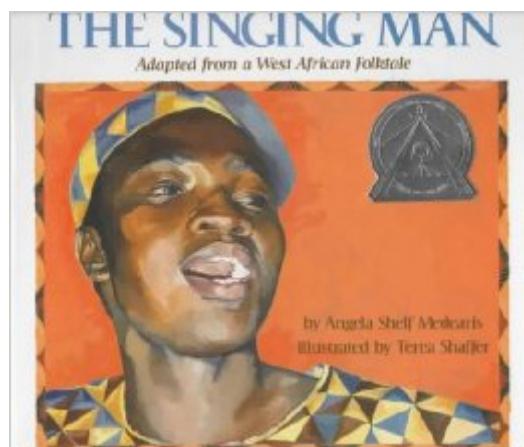


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# The Singing Man: Adapted From A West African Folktale



## **Synopsis**

A couple's youngest son is forced to leave his West African village because he chooses music over the more practical occupations of his brothers, but years later he returns to show the wisdom of his choice.

## **Book Information**

Hardcover: 1 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (3 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 4 and up

Grade Level: Preschool and up

## **Customer Reviews**

I am a storyteller and drummer, so this story is very appealing to me. It combines both. The illustrations are beautiful. This Nigerian tale is simple. It also invokes hope, that there can be a place for the artists in the world. The story is visual and can be "heard," as well, which is perfect considering it is the story of a musician. A person reading this to children could have great fun with it. It almost has the air of a Biblical story. Enjoy it! I currently have a borrowed copy. I am ordering my own for my personal collection!

This was a really good inspiring book. I think it's great for all elementary levels due to the fact that despite Banzar is a bit different from his two brothers. Rather than deciding to be a farmer or blacksmith like their typical Nigerian traditions he wanted to be a musician. Because of his decision his family kicked him out from not doing their traditional Nigerian jobs how the rest do. So, he still left and made his career of musicianing despite being kicked out. What I love is how he didn't give up his dream because his family didn't accept it. Which is what we should encourage students to

pursue: to do whatever kind of job they want to do. The illustrations are wonderful! They go in such detail and I think will catch the attention of the kids because of the colors well mixed. This is a great folktale to introduce them to not only because of telling them they can pursue their dreams no matter how difficult it may seem, but also because it shows a lot about the Nigerian culture and how they like to do things in their traditional ways. There's always that one person who's different and wants to cut that chain of doing the typical ordinary jobs.

In a small village near the town of Lagos there were a man and a woman who had three sons. One became a farmer, the other became a blacksmith and they both were honored. The third son, Banzar, wanted to be a musician and got cast out of the family. Banzar met a blind musician named Sholo who taught him how to play an omele drum and to be a praise singer. The king of Lagos recognized Banzar's talents. So, Banzar became the king's personal musician and was richly rewarded. Banzar was happily reunited with his family at the end. The book is fun to read. The paintings in the book are colorful and beautiful. I recommend it to anyone who enjoys music and loves reading folktales.

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