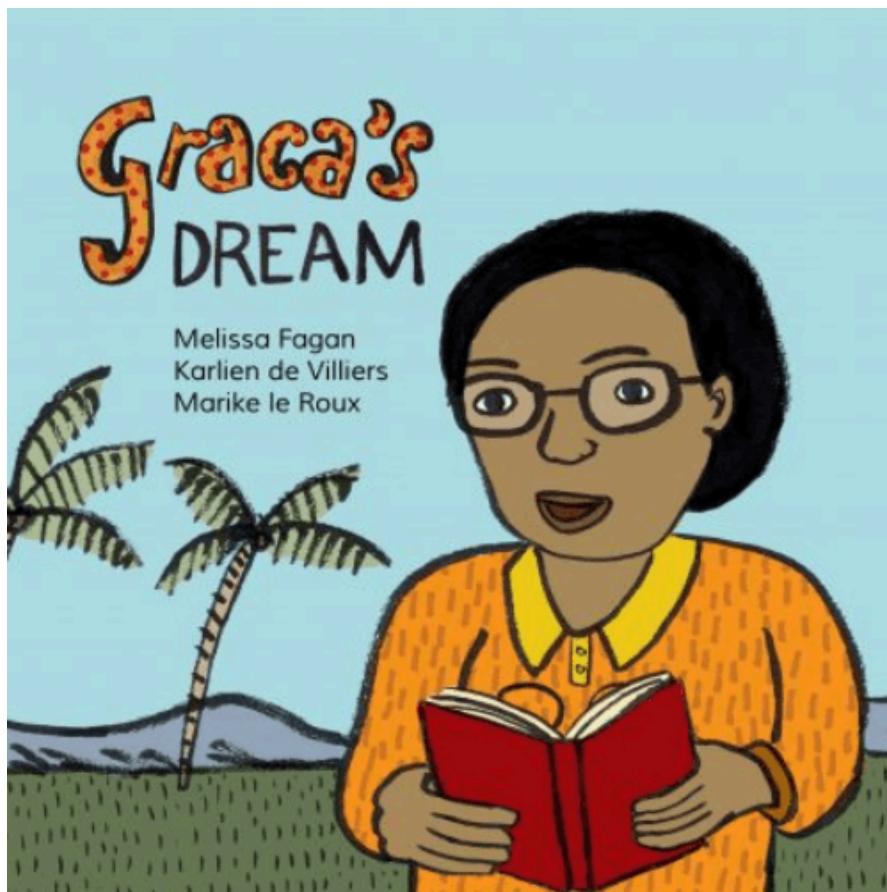


# Graca's Dream

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



**Written by** **Melissa Fagan**

**Illustrated by** **Karlien de Villiers/ Marike de Roux**

## THEMES

Community

Biography

## SUB-THEMES

Social & Emotional Wellbeing

Women leaders

Education for all

African history and liberation

# Story Discussion Guide

- Learn about the life and impact of Graça Machel.
- Understand the power of education and perseverance.
- Recognize how women have played vital roles in shaping nations.
- Be inspired to make a difference in their own communities.

## Lesson plan

Students will explore the life of Graça Machel as a model of leadership, compassion, and resilience. They will examine how education empowers individuals and transforms societies.

## Learning Outcome

### Before Reading:

- Do you know someone who works hard to help others learn?
- What do you think makes a good leader?
- Why is school important?

### During Reading :

- How did Graça's mother help her follow her dreams?
- Why did Graça want to become a teacher?
- How do you think she felt when her husband died?

### After Reading-

- What challenges did Graça face in her life?
- What do you admire most about her?
- How can you help others learn, even in small ways?

## Activities:

- “Dream Big” Poster: Children draw or write about a big dream they have—just like Graça.
- Timeline Activity: Create a simple timeline of Graça’s life to understand major milestones.
- Role Model Wall: Research and display short bios of inspiring African women leaders.
- Letter to Graça: Children write a thank-you note or letter to Graça, sharing what they learned from her story.
- Explore African Freedom Struggles: Briefly introduce the freedom struggles of other African countries such as Kenya (Mau Mau uprising), Ghana (Kwame Nkrumah), South Africa (AntiApartheid movement), and Angola. Discuss how colonialism affected education, land, and freedom—and how leaders like Graça helped bring change.

## Expected Outcomes

Children will appreciate the role of education in shaping lives and understand the contributions of African leaders like Graça Machel. They’ll be encouraged to value resilience, dream boldly, and uplift others through knowledge and compassion.

## Applicable SDGs

- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

## SDG Explanation

- SDG 4 reflects Graça's lifelong mission to ensure every child receives a quality education.
- SDG 5 is seen in her role as a powerful female leader breaking gender barriers.
- SDG 10 emphasizes her advocacy for marginalized communities and children across Africa.

## ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit platform that brings together stories from around the world to help children discover that beneath our differences—of culture, language, or belief—we share the same hopes, joys, and dreams. Today's children are tomorrow's citizens, and the responsibility of building a more peaceful, tolerant, and empathetic world lies with them. That's why it's vital to instill these values early—through stories that help them rise above the biases they inherit, and see diversity as a strength that unites us all.