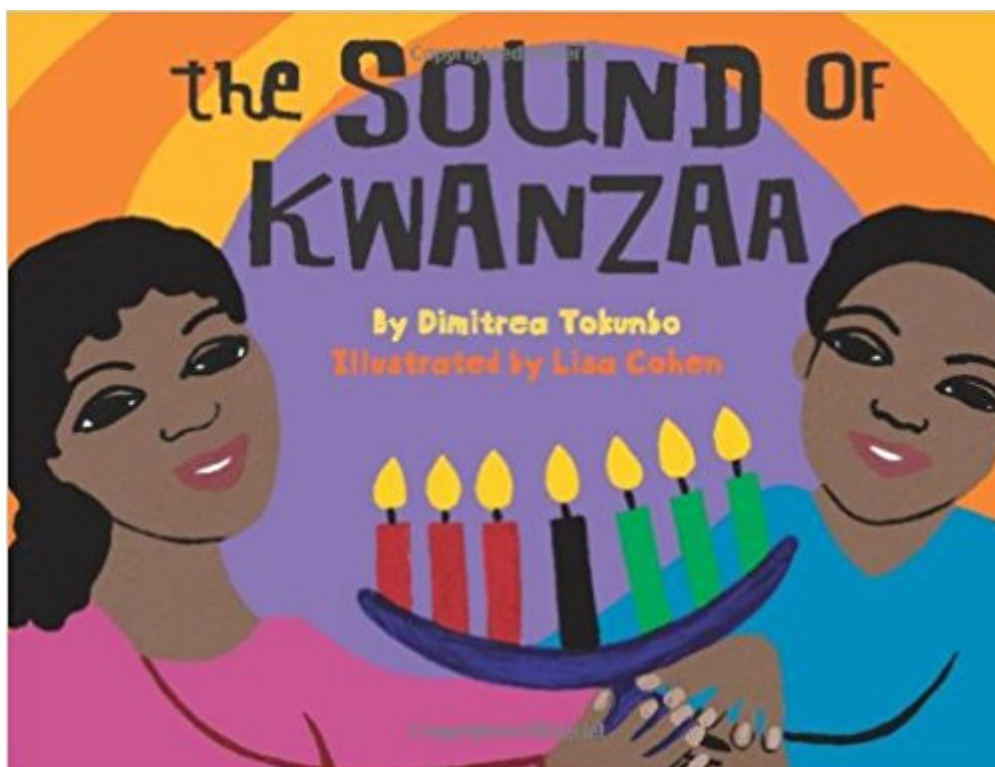


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# The Sound Of Kwanzaa



## Synopsis

Hear the words, sing the songs, dance to the beat, and shout "Harambee!" as you jump into this joyful celebration of the sounds of Kwanzaa! The sound is Umoja--bringing us together. The sound is Kuumba--the songs of our ancestors. The sound is Kwanzaa! Lively verse and colorful illustrations guide you through the seven principles of this festive holiday. All you have to do is come close, gather round, and discover what Kwanzaa is all about!

## Book Information

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press (October 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054501865X

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Product Dimensions: 9.5 x 12.3 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,639,886 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Kwanzaa #762 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Cultural Studies > Customs, Traditions, Anthropology #1949 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

PreSchool-Grade 3 "While this book serves as an easy introduction to the holiday, it fails to convey a celebratory tone. The Swahili words that comprise the seven guiding principles of Kwanzaa are defined on each spread, but the pronunciation guide appears in an author's note at the back. The boldly colored illustrations showing various people and activities don't always match the text. For example, &Beating drums and singing voices,/ we perform for KUUMBA shows a lone figure quietly painting. Likewise, ceremonial candles are mentioned on each page but not shown until the end. In a note, Tokunbo describes a karamu or traditional feast on the last day of Kwanzaa and includes a recipe for No-Cook Brownie Bites made from dates. An uneven offering that falls rather flat." Madeline J. Bryant, Los Angeles Public Library END

A simple, direct narrative describes the lighting of the Kwanzaa candles, the principle each represents, and how families carry out that concept with a focus on words and sounds. The principle of Ujamaa, or cooperative economics, for example, is depicted as laughing shoppers and chanting merchants, we support our neighborhoods. Back matter includes an author's note, a pronunciation guide, and a recipe for No-Cook Kwanzaa Brownie Bites. With an effective use of shape, silhouette, and bold color, the flat, posterlike illustrations are ideal for group presentation. Pair this with Juwanda G. Ford's *K Is for Kwanzaa: A Kwanzaa Alphabet Book* (1997) and Karen Katz's *My First Kwanzaa* (2003) for preschool and primary-grade Kwanzaa celebrations. *Preschool-Grade 2.* --Linda Perkins

My boyfriend's son loves this book!

*The Sound of Kwanzaa* by Dimitre Tokunbo is one of the better Kwanzaa books to share with groups of young children. Lisa Cohen's colorful illustrations are bright and vivid and hold a young child's attention. Most Kwanzaa books are too difficult for young children to understand. This book fills that gap. My young kindergarten and first grade students were delighted with this book and I would recommend it for elementary librarians to add to their Kwanzaa collections.

I purchased this book for reading to pre k and kindergarten children to understand Kwanzaa. It was very good. The illustrations are bright and colorful. It was a big success at our Kwanzaa celebration

Dimitrea's a dear friend of mine, so I was looking forward to this book for a *very* long time before it was published. And the published book didn't disappoint--it's a charming choice, especially to read out loud to a group of kids. If you can make it to one of Dimitrea's readings, I'd highly recommend taking the time as she's just plain delightful. There are a lot of books on Kwanzaa (a lot of books on holidays in general, actually) so what makes this one such a must-have? For me, it was the way this story lives up to its title and focuses on the sounds of celebration, also the book is quite active (for instance, "Beating drums and singing voices, we perform for Kuumba") making it a fun choice for littler people who might enjoy acting it out alongside the reader. The illustrations are bright and colorful and full of charm as well. (And the recipe for no-bake brownies at the back is really, really yummy!) An absolutely lovely addition to the holiday genre--and (hint, hint) this one would make a great gift, too.

We read this as a part of our Kwanzaa celebration with family. The children enjoyed it and even read some of the pages. I would recommend it to others.

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