

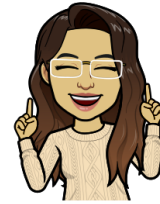
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Fables, Myths, and Fairy Tales

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HOORAY



The Race to Become Queen

Who will the prince choose for his queen? **Interestingly, this question is decided in *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*, an African story carefully written and illustrated by John Steptoe. In 1895 this story was first collected and published. Steptoe illustrated many other fabulous books as well. In this story there are characters who change shape because this is a magical folk tale.** The theme of the book is to do unto others as you would have them do to you **since that is the Golden Rule.**

This story takes place in an **ancient** village in Zimbabwe. The main characters in this story are Mufaro, **who is the dad**, and his daughters Manyara and Nyasha. **Mufaro means “happy man.” Manyara means “ashamed,” while Nyasha means “Mercy.”**

The Prince, **whose dad already passed away, announces that** he wants a queen. **Manyara wants to be queen. At** midnight she sneaks into the forest **because she wants to be the first to the palace. Surprisingly,** there are many people on the path, and she is mean to everyone she sees. **In the morning,**

Nyasha and her father are on the way to the **beautiful** palace **although they were suspiciously wondering where Manyara was**. Nyasha is sweet to everyone she meets.

When Nyasha and her father **quickly arrive** at the palace, Manyara runs out and **screams**, “Do not go in there, **because there is a seven-headed snake!**” **Nyasha walks into the palace. Surprisingly**, there was no seven-headed snake, but instead there is only a little garden snake. Then **suddenly** the garden snake turns into the prince. The prince explains that he was everyone that she met **when she was on the road**, and he wants to have her for his **fabulous** queen. **After** Nyasha and the prince are married, **which is that summer**, Manyara becomes a servant in their household.

In this story the prince **strongly values** kindness over beauty. No one knows when this story was originally made up, **because it was made up a long time ago**, but it is a **wonderful** tale that teaches readers that if they are kind, they will be rewarded **as** if they are a queen, whereas if they are mean to others, they will have consequences. **Sadly**, Manyara, **who is so mean**, races to become queen but does not become queen. **Because of her selfish attitude, she ends up being the servant.**