



***Introducing KWANZAA – Reading the Introduction: “Fia Feels Unhappy”***

pp. 1-11, *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education* by Lonneta M. Gaines

**AUTHOR’S NOTES**

When I decided to write *Fia and the Butterfly*, my primary intention was to share highlights of my experiences during a wonderful trip that I took to Kenya – a beautiful country in East Africa – way back in 1999. The memories and the stories were swimming around in my mind but I couldn’t figure out a way to get started. It was a real problem! When I shared my problem with a friend, Dr. Dorothy Carter, educator, actor, and author of several beloved children’s books, Dr. Carter said: “Think of something in your own life that you can use as an entry point.” I tried that, and it worked! Dr. Carter’s advice opened my stories up to me so I could share them with others.

As a result of Dr. Carter’s advice, in the Introduction you will meet my younger self, who I named Fia – Fredericka Inez Anderson (named after her father, Frederick, just as I was named after my father, Mr. Lonnie). Fia is 11-years old. When I was that age, I really did spend far too much time in the mirror fretting over my African features. I hope that African American girls today like themselves better than I did. There are so many beautiful black girls and women in the media these days – not only looking good but also being helpful and active in their communities and in the world. These women and girls are powerful as well as beautiful! This is a good start. Here’s another thing: My parents really did move from Mobile, Alabama to Louisville, Kentucky. And yes, I wanted to stay with my Grandmother in Birmingham. Needless to say, my parents did not agree with my bright idea, and I’m so glad they didn’t!

And yes, dear readers, on September 15, 1963, four little girls were killed by anti-Civil Rights terrorists who threw a bomb into the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. The newspaper article that Fia reads in my book is an actual article. And young people, we want you to know this and to remember it.

FIA Lessons by Lonneta M. Gaines written for the AACRC/African American Cultural Resource Center  
Betty J. Johnson North Sarasota Library Website: BettyJJohnsonFriends.org

Ask for *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education* at your library or purchase the book at:

[https://www.amazon.com/s?k=ISBN+9780979541407&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=ISBN+9780979541407&ref=nb_sb_noss)

The setting for *Fia and the Butterfly* is 1963, during those turbulent times. And Fia is living during these times, experiencing both her personal life with its problems and the life of her community and the country with its problems – just like you are today. We are hoping that you can relate to Fia and reflect on your own lives, and learn to value and to think more clearly about your experiences.

**pp 7-9, *Fia and the Butterfly: 7 Stories for Character Education* by Lonneta M. Gaines**

In this second part of the Introduction, the Fantasy begins and I become a storyteller. No, I didn't really slip on the ice after school one day the way Fia did. And no, I didn't lie there unconscious on the cold sidewalk. And no, I didn't have a dream about a Storytelling Butterfly named Nana Bea. That's where the story begins – in my imagination, where Fia is sitting on a cloud which is floating over the beautiful country of Kenya. Fia is listening to Nana Bea, who is telling Fia stories that help her to think in different ways about her life.

And, dear readers, there's truth in these stories, even the Fantasy parts. There really is an African American Cultural Celebration called *KWANZAA*, and as Nana Bea teaches, there really are Seven Principles of *KWANZAA*, the *Nguzo Saba*. The language of *KWANZAA* is *Kiswahili*, a language frequently spoken in Kenya. So, in the world of *Fia and the Butterfly*, reality and Fantasy intermix, and it will be up to you to read, enjoy, and tell the difference. And that's another benefit you will receive from reading my book and participating in these activities – you will learn to think more critically – a skill that will last you a lifetime!

### Introducing *KWANZAA* Activity – *Nguzo Saba* Word Search

Learn more about *KWANZAA* on pages 121 and 122 in *Fia and the Butterfly*, and complete the Word Search to review the seven *KWANZAA* words in *Kiswahili*.

1. *UMOJA* - Unity
2. *KUJICHAGULIA* - Self-Determination
3. *UJIMA* - Collective Work & Responsibility
4. *UJAMAA* - Cooperative Economics
5. *NIA* - Purpose
6. *KUUMBA* - Creativity
7. *IMANI* - Faith

***Extra Credit (smile). Answer the twelve questions at the end of the story (pp 10 & 11).***



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Introducing KWANZAA Activity – Nguzo Saba Word Search

W V C V A A M A J U G K P I A  
X A I M A N I E Q A U R J Q J  
P K B I A U D X J J E A Q L O  
N L E M R J L R I W F F A Y M  
I Q I S U X R C G A O G F K U  
Z J L P M U H G N M E D J A B  
U C B J X A K I H I I K X N Y  
U D R B G W X B J X A C Q M J  
P O M U H J Y P H P X E R L R  
W T L X J B S R M Q F Q F W U  
M I J Q A J D Y H F W M T T W  
A U F K W F W W L P Q K W T E  
X Z P D T Q I H M A T L W P E  
D H Z D X I J V N N W L V N I  
V M J M N E C A Y Z O F W A M

*Nguzo Saba* means Seven Principles in *KiSwahili*. The Seven Principles of *KWANZAA*, an African-American Cultural Holiday, are values that we can use to guide our lives – not just during *KWANZAA* but every day! Find and circle the Seven Principles below in the Word Search Puzzle.

1. UMOJA
2. KUJICHAGULIA
3. UJIMA
4. UJAMAA
5. NIA
6. KUUMBA
7. IMANI

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**KEY: Introducing KWANZAA – Nguzo Saba Word Search**

W	V	C	V	A	A	M	A	J	U	G	K	P	I	A
X	A	I	M	A	N	I	E	Q	A	U	R	J	Q	J
P	K	B	I	A	U	D	X	J	J	E	A	Q	L	O
N	L	E	M	R	J	L	R	I	W	F	F	A	Y	M
I	Q	I	S	U	X	R	C	G	A	O	G	F	K	U
Z	J	L	P	M	U	H	G	N	M	E	D	J	A	B
U	C	B	J	X	A	K	I	H	I	I	K	X	N	Y
U	D	R	B	G	W	X	B	J	X	A	C	Q	M	J
P	O	M	U	H	J	Y	P	H	P	X	E	R	L	R
W	T	L	X	J	B	S	R	M	Q	F	Q	F	W	U
M	I	J	Q	A	J	D	Y	H	F	W	M	T	T	W
A	U	F	K	W	F	W	W	L	P	Q	K	W	T	E
X	Z	P	D	T	Q	I	H	M	A	T	L	W	P	E
D	H	Z	D	X	I	J	V	N	N	W	L	V	N	I
V	M	J	M	N	E	C	A	Y	Z	O	F	W	A	M

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