

BRINGING THE RAIN TO KAPITI PLAIN

by Verna Aardema / pictures by Beatriz Vidal



BRINGING THE RAIN TO KAPITI PLAIN

(BASED ON A NANDI TALE)

BY VERNA AARDEMA

About the tale

The tale was discovered in Kenya, Africa more than seventy years ago by the famous anthropologist Sir Claud Hollis. Sir Claud camped near a Nandi village and learned the native language from two young boys. He learned riddles and proverbs from the Nandi children, and most of the folktales from the Chief Medicine Man. This tale reminded Sir Claud of a cumulative nursery rhyme he had loved as a boy in England, and also familiar to us "The House That Jack Built." So he called the story "**The Nandi House That Jack Built**" and included it in his book *The Nandi - Their Language and Folktales*, published in 1909. Vera Aardema has brought the original story close to the English nursery rhyme by putting in a cumulative refrain and giving the tale the rhythm of "**The House That Jack Built.**"



A Nandi Tale

BRINGING THE RAIN TO KAPITI PLAIN

retold by Verna Aardema / pictures by Beatriz Vidal

PUFFIN BOOKS

This is the great
Kapiti Plain,
All fresh and green
from the African rains -
A sea of grass for the
ground birds to nest in,
And patches of shade for
wild creatures to rest in;
With acacia trees for
giraffes to browse on,
And grass for the herdsmen
to pasture their cows on.



But one year the rains
were so very belated,
That all the big
wild creatures migrated.
Then Ki-pat helped
to end that terrible drought -
And this story tells
how it all came about!



This is the cloud,
all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
on Kapiti Plain.



This is the grass,
all brown and dead,
That needed the rain
from the cloud overhead -
The big, black cloud,
all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
on Kapiti Plain.

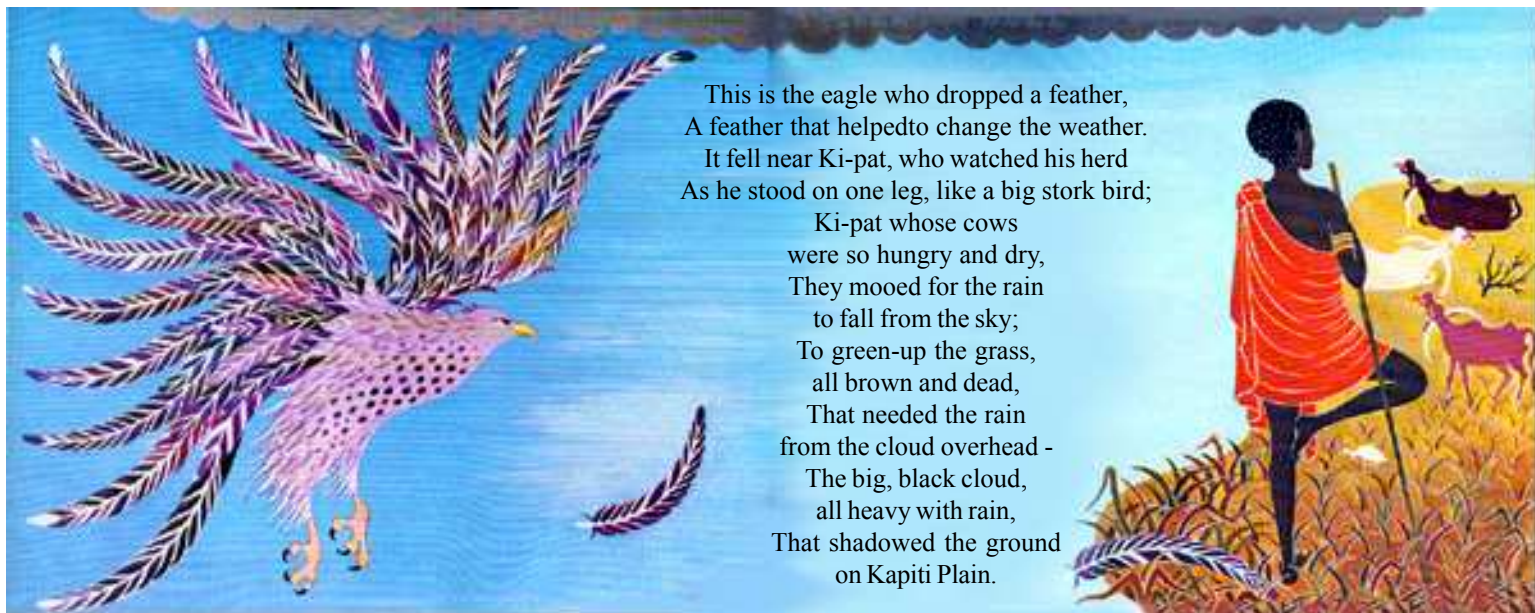


These are the cows,
all hungry and dry,
Who mooed for the rain
to fall from the sky;
To green up the grass,
all brown and dead,
That needed the rain
from the cloud overhead -
The big, black cloud,
all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
on Kapiti Plain.

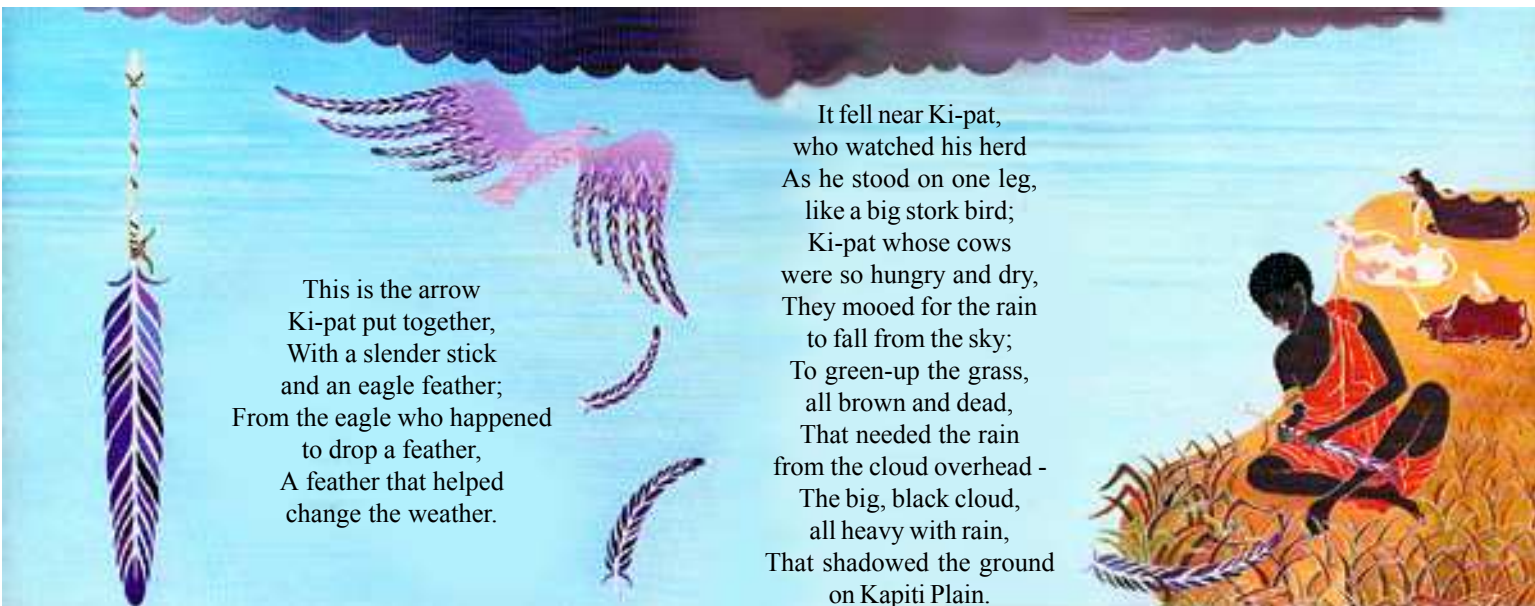


This is Ki-pat,
who watched his herd
As he stood on one leg,
like a big stork bird;
Ki-pat whose cows
were so hungry and dry,
They mooed for the rain
to fall from the sky;
To green-up the grass,
all brown and dead,
That needed the rain
from the cloud overhead -
The big, black cloud,
all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
on Kapiti Plain.



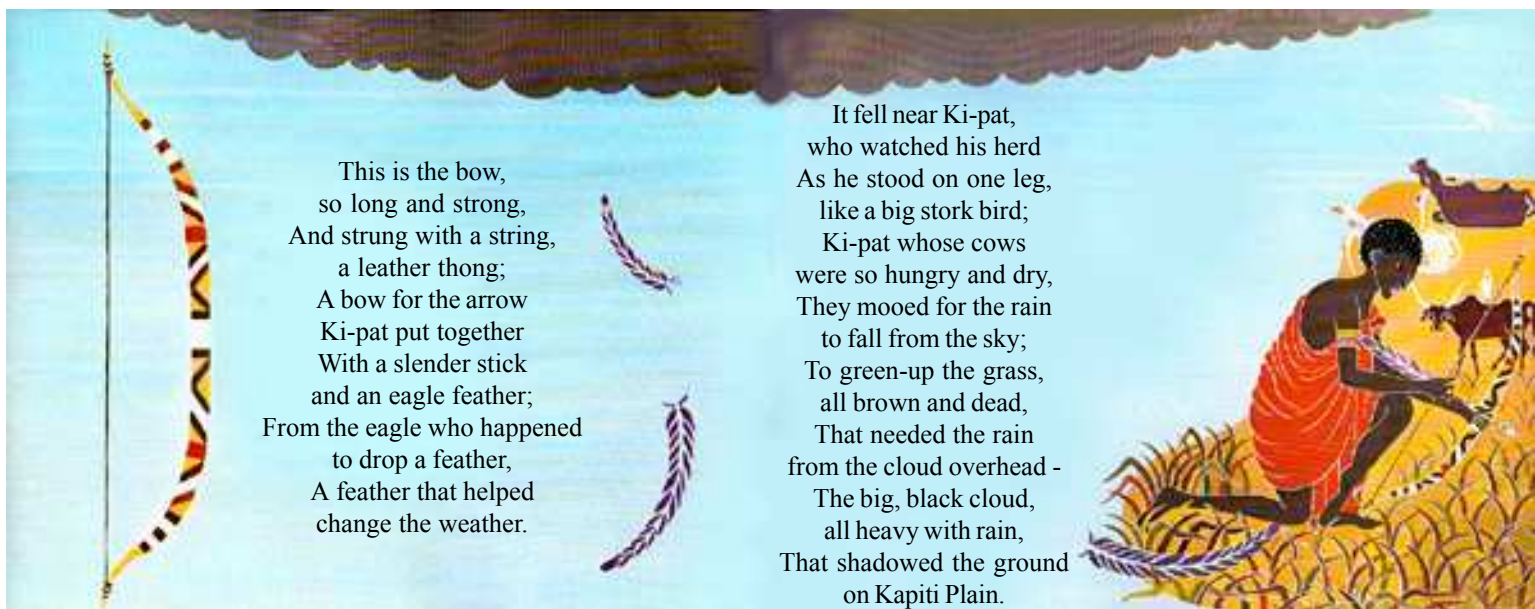


This is the eagle who dropped a feather,
A feather that helped to change the weather.
It fell near Ki-pat, who watched his herd
As he stood on one leg, like a big stork bird;
Ki-pat whose cows
were so hungry and dry,
They mooed for the rain
to fall from the sky;
To green-up the grass,
all brown and dead,
That needed the rain
from the cloud overhead -
The big, black cloud,
all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
on Kapiti Plain.



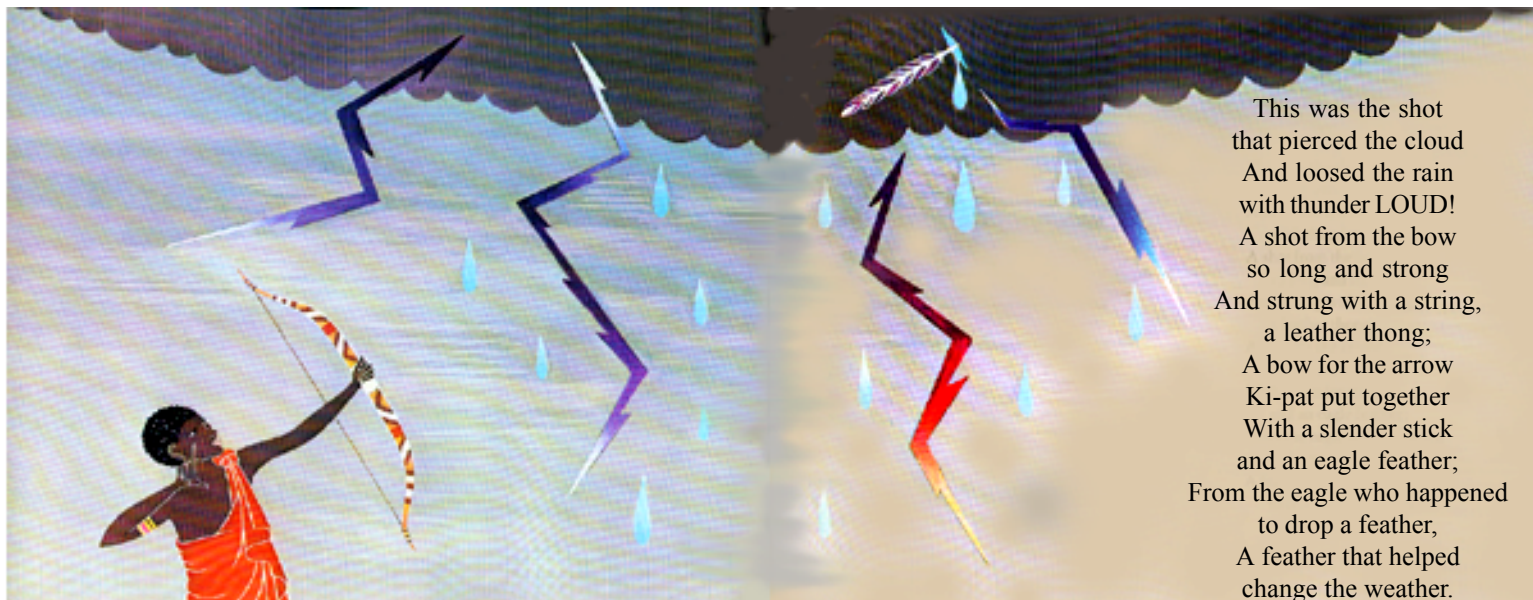
This is the arrow
Ki-pat put together,
With a slender stick
and an eagle feather;
From the eagle who happened
to drop a feather,
A feather that helped
change the weather.

It fell near Ki-pat,
who watched his herd
As he stood on one leg,
like a big stork bird;
Ki-pat whose cows
were so hungry and dry,
They mooed for the rain
to fall from the sky;
To green-up the grass,
all brown and dead,
That needed the rain
from the cloud overhead -
The big, black cloud,
all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
on Kapiti Plain.



This is the bow,
so long and strong,
And strung with a string,
a leather thong;
A bow for the arrow
Ki-pat put together
With a slender stick
and an eagle feather;
From the eagle who happened
to drop a feather,
A feather that helped
change the weather.

It fell near Ki-pat,
who watched his herd
As he stood on one leg,
like a big stork bird;
Ki-pat whose cows
were so hungry and dry,
They mooed for the rain
to fall from the sky;
To green-up the grass,
all brown and dead,
That needed the rain
from the cloud overhead -
The big, black cloud,
all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
on Kapiti Plain.



This was the shot
that pierced the cloud
And loosed the rain
with thunder LOUD!
A shot from the bow
so long and strong
And strung with a string,
a leather thong;
A bow for the arrow
Ki-pat put together
With a slender stick
and an eagle feather;
From the eagle who happened
to drop a feather,
A feather that helped
change the weather.

It fell near Ki-pat,
who watched his herd
As he stood on one leg,
like a big stork bird;
Ki-pat whose cows
were so hungry and dry,
They mooed for the rain
to fall from the sky;
To green-up the grass,
all brown and dead,
That needed the rain
from the cloud overhead -
The big, black cloud,
all heavy with rain,
That shadowed the ground
on Kapiti Plain.



So the grass grew green,
and the cattle fat!
And Ki-pat got a wife
and a little Ki-pat -

Who tends the cows now,
and shoots down the rain,
When black clouds shadow
Kapiti plain.

END

