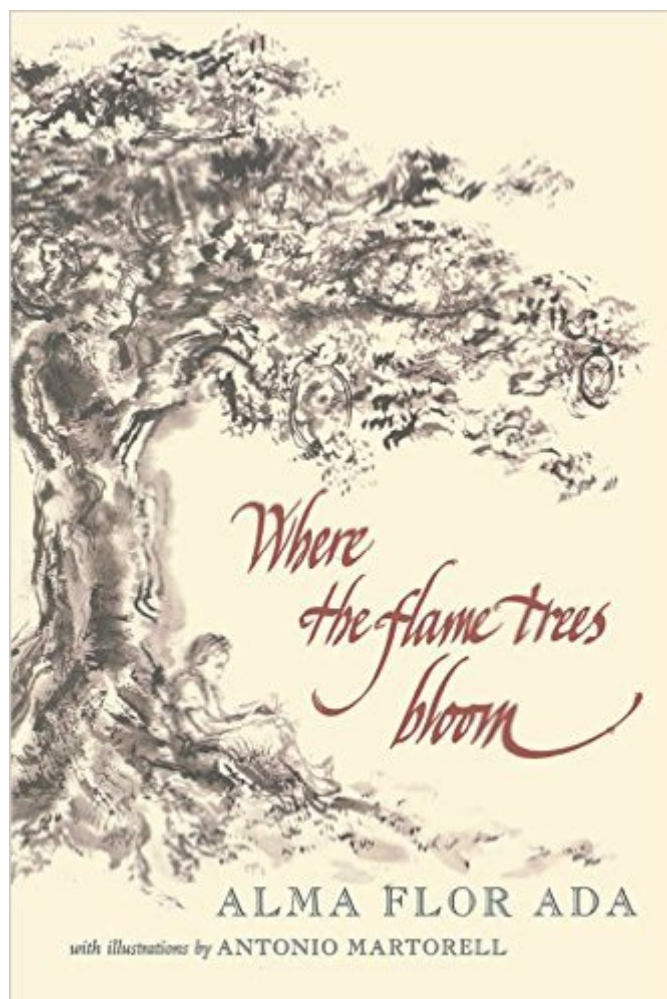


The book was found

# Where The Flame Trees Bloom



## Synopsis

Noted author Alma Flor Ada offers young readers eleven stories from her own childhood in Cuba - true stories about relatives and friends and the hacienda where she grew up for much of her elementary years. These true stories from Alma Flor Ada's childhood are filled with family love and values. Told through the eyes of a child, a whole world comes to life for the reader: the blind great-grandmother who never went to school but whose wisdom and generosity overflowed to those around her; the hired hand Samon whose love for music overcame all difficulties; her grandfather Modesto, who placed a higher value on human relationships than on his possessions. Eleven remarkable stories will move and inspire children and adults alike. Editorial Reviews From School Library Journal Grade 3-6-Those who wonder what "family values" really are may possibly find the answer in this slim volume of short stories. Telling of her childhood in Cuba, Ada begins with an introduction to her homeland followed by 11 episodes about her family and her community. One story tells of her grandfather Modesto's courage and loyalty in the face of the death of his beloved wife and the simultaneous collapse of the Cuban economy. Another tells of her great-grandmother Mina, who continued to make rag dolls for the village children even after she had lost her sight. And a third tale tells of a Japanese street vendor who sold ice cream for a living, but gave generous samples to children who could not afford to pay. Warmth and love for a treasured childhood exude from the pages. The writing is elegant, but not overly sweet. Each selection stands well on its own. Children can read this book independently or enjoy listening to it read aloud. Marilyn Long Graham, Lee County Library System, Fort Myers, FL

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1030 (What's this?)

Paperback: 80 pages

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Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #256,033 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #85 in Books > Children's Books

> Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Central & South America #91 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Literary #389 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Multicultural

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 6

## Customer Reviews

Alma Flor Ada paints a beautiful picture of her childhood in Cuba. As a teacher who looks for authentic literature about different cultures, I was very impressed with the stories that bore witness to the values of love and family in the Cuban culture. Each chapter can stand alone and the book works well as a read aloud. Ada's remembrances are very heart warming and will help children and adults to appreciate diversity. I would love to visit Cuba and experience some of the natural beauty and hospitality mentioned in this book.

Where the Flame Tree Blooms is a collection of stories used to create a vivid memoir of Ada's childhood in Cuba. Some of the stories she includes are small vignettes of events from her childhood; others are stories of her family that were told to her by her grandmother and great-grandmother about their childhood and young adulthood in Cuba. Ada paints a vivid picture of the not only the landscape of the area she lived in but of the cultural landscape of Cuba during her childhood. There is such an intimate quality about the stories that I felt like I was transported to Ada's childhood and was hearing these stories at the knee of her grandmother or sitting beneath the roots of the flame tree with a Ada as a young girl. She brings the members of her family to life on the page with her vibrant descriptions of their physical features, their dress, and their mannerisms. Each story brings into focus the compassion and strength of the people Ada writes about, and what stands out most about each of the characters is their zest for life.

This is a really beautiful book about the author's memories of living in Cuba, divided into several stories. The stories are sometimes humorous, sometimes inspiring, and always well-written with an almost-poetic voice. This book was really enjoyable to read, and makes me want to find other books written by her.

My daughters 3rd grade class read this book in school. Very well written and loved that it shares the beautiful side of Cuba, nothing political.

Good little book

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