

Wangari Maathai (wun-GAH-ree muh-THIGH) was a Kenyan scientist who cared about the environment and women's rights. After many of the forests in her country were cut down, Wangari raised money to pay poor women to plant and care for new trees. This helped regrow the forests and gave the women a way to provide for themselves. Wangari's ideas spread to many countries in Africa and beyond. In 2004, Wangari won a Nobel Peace Prize, the first one given to an environmentalist and an African woman.

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For
Florence
Waeni Ndetu
-K.C.



For Winnie
-S.L.

WANGARI MAATHAI
PLANTED TREES



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LITTLE NATURALISTS

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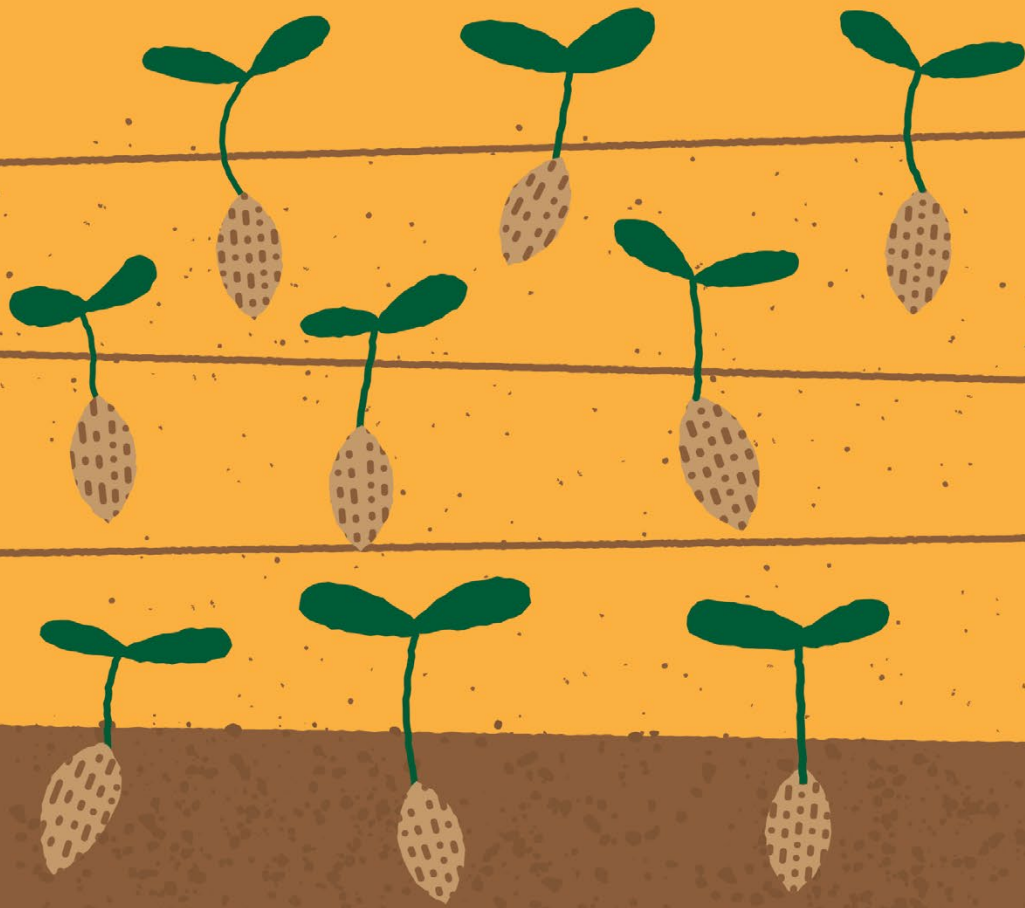
BY KATE COOMBS
ART BY SETH LUCAS

Women struggled to feed their children.

Even the streams were gone.



Wangari got nine tree seedlings.
She planted them in her yard.



She called the women to plant with her.
Getting started was hard. But then—

the women of Kenya planted

They learned to care for seedlings.



trees and trees in long green rows.



They watched them grow and grow.

One hundred trees, a thousand trees,
more and more till the land was green.

Here were the birds,



the firewood,

the good farm soil,

the cool streams.