

Goodreads.com

<https://www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/ghana>

A list of recommended popular Ghanaian authors and books.

Culture Trip

<https://theculturetrip.com/africa/ghana/>

A frequently updating site that provides easy read articles about the culture of Ghana.

African Book Addict

<https://africanbookaddict.com/tag/ghanaian-authors/>

A list of popular and influential Ghanaian authors.

Lonely Planet

<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/ghana>

A comprehensive look into Ghana's culture and history. The site also offers a reading list.

Look for more reading suggestions or weblinks on our Collections page at:
www.CLDandJ.org.

Ghana, West Africa

Learn more about the culture and people of CLD&J's sister library in Ghana!



Visit the Community Library of
DeWitt & Jamesville
or search the online catalog at:
www.CLDandJ.org

5110 Jamesville Road
DeWitt, NY 13078
315-446-3578
www.CLDandJ.org

Ghana, West Africa is home to rich history and culture. Though now a democratic nation, Ghana, a name which translates to “Warrior King” in the traditional Soninke language, has had its fair share of military coups over its tumultuous lifetime.

However, Ghanaians are known for their upbeat and celebratory music, their beautiful storytelling, and their welcoming charm toward visitors.



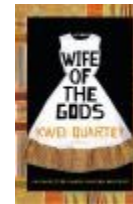
CLD&J has a sister library, **Okyeame Dankwa Memorial Community Library**, located in Worawora, near the eastern border of Ghana in the Volta Region. Not only is the Volta region known for its enviable waterfalls and natural beauty, but it is also the birthplace of one of Ghanaian’s favorite foods, banku.

This is only a sampling of Ghanaian stories and authors available through CLD&J and Onondaga Public Libraries. If you don’t find a particular author or title available, please check with our library staff to locate a copy at another library and have it brought here on reserve. We also welcome suggestions about new authors and titles.

Kwei Quartey is a mystery author born in Ghana to a Ghanaian father and an African American mother. After living in Ghana for most of his young life, he moved with his mother to New York following the death of his father. Though always a fan of literature, he became a doctor before pursuing his writing interests.

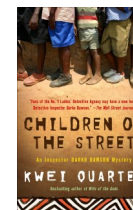


Now, Quartey writes in the early mornings and weekends when not practicing at a clinic. The author currently resides in Pasadena, California, but makes frequent trips to his native Ghana. Pick up one of Quartey’s Darko Dawson novels, each with a different setting in Ghana, to be immersed in a mystery— and a new culture!



Wife of Gods

Also available as audio through hoopla



Children of the Street

Also available as an ebook through Libby

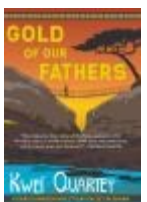
Murder at Cape Three Points

Also available as an ebook and audio through Libby



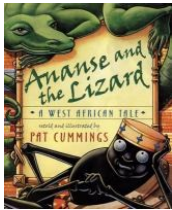
Gold of Our Fathers

Also available as an ebook through hoopla



Ananse, sometimes spelled Anansi or Anancy, is a popular reoccurring character in Ghanaian folktales. He is a mischievous trickster and often a little untrustworthy, but he always learns his lesson in the end! His adventures will not only teach valuable life lessons, but explore Ghanaian culture in an exciting and interesting way.

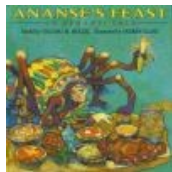
Though a lot of the tales share similar themes or morals, Ghana is home to a rich oral storytelling culture, making no two stories exactly the same!



Ananse and the Lizard: A West African Tale

By Pat Cummings; J 398.2 CUM

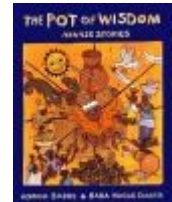
In this retelling of a Ghanaian folktale, Ananse the spider believes he will get to marry the daughter of the village chief, but instead he may end up being tricked by a lizard!



Ananse's Feast: An Ashanti Tale

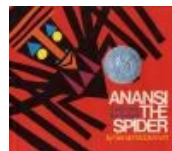
By Tololwa M. Mollel and Andrew Glass; J 398.2 MOL

In another folk tale starring Ananse the spider, Ananse is this time unwilling to share his feast with his friend, Akye the turtle. Ananse is successful in eating the whole feast himself, but Akye finds a way to get even!



The Pot of Wisdom: Ananse Stories

Adwoa Badoe; Available at other libraries in OCPL system
Ghanaian author recounts ten different tales starring Ananse. The stories deal with important issues that everyone faces, but are woven into exciting and colorful narration. Sometimes Ananse succeeds and sometimes he fails, but he usually ends up making a fool of himself!



Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti

Gerald McDermott; Available at other libraries in OCPL system

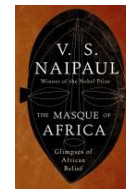
Learn how we got the moon in the sky though this lively folktale. An older Anansi is saved from certain doom, and now must figure out which of his sons to reward. The bright, bold illustrations alone make this retelling a must-read.



Anansi and the Box of Stories: A West African Folktale,

Stephen Krensky; Available at other libraries in OCPL system
Long ago in Africa, the sky god Nyame keeps all of the stories to himself, but when Anansi the spider asks their price, Nyame agrees to trade his stories if Anansi can perform four

seemingly impossible tasks.



The Masque of Africa: Glimpses of African Belief

By V. S. Naipaul; 200.96 NAI | History

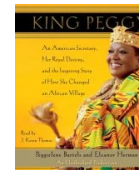
This book follows Naipaul as he travels across Africa, learning about the traditional religions of the different regions. Though not focused solely on Ghana, this book will provide you with an interesting look into the cultural beliefs that shaped Africa.



Ghana: The Bradt Travel Guide

By Phillip Briggs; 916.67 BRA | Travel

Regardless of whether you are ready to hop on a plane, this travel guide provides concise, accessible knowledge about the history, economy, culture, and politics of Ghana. The guide is an excellent place to gain a working knowledge of what Ghanaian life can look like. You never know, it may inspire you to take a trip of your own!

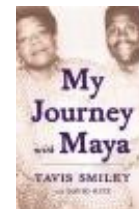


King Peggy

By Peggelene Bartels & Eleanor Herman; CD BIO
BARTELS

An average secretary receives a call at four in the morning one day telling her that she will be a king. King Peggy tells the story of Peggelene Bartels, a woman from a small village in Ghana, who moved to the United States, became a citizen, and was then thrown the curveball of a lifetime. Peggy must decide whether she can accept the throne (or, more literally, the stool), and all of the responsibilities that come with it.

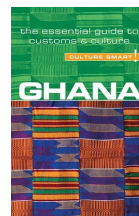
Available as an audiobook CD and a Libby ebook



My Journey with Maya

Travis Smiley with David Ritz; BIO SMILEY

This book is one of the few exceptions in this guide, wherein neither the author nor the subject are Ghanaian. Accompanying the great Maya Angelou through Africa as a bag handler sparks a lifetime of inspiration within Travis Smiley. The book touches on the relationship that outsiders may have with a foreign country, the respect that can be learned, and the beauty that comes from some of the world's brightest minds.



Ghana: The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture

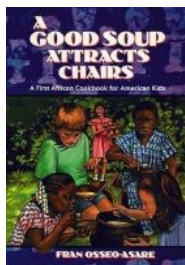
Ian Utley

Though very helpful as a resource if one is hoping to plan a trip to Ghana, this audiobook is also a warm invitation into Ghana's culture. Listen to this book over the course of a few commutes, and discover many of the traditions that Ghanaians hold dear to their hearts.

Available as an audiobook through Hoopla



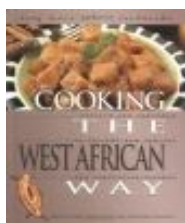
Often, the easiest way to get to know a culture is through its food. Use these cookbooks to get in touch with Ghana through its rich and unique flavors. You never know, a recipe you find may quickly become a staple in your household!



A Good Soup Attracts Chairs: A First African Cookbook for American Kids

By Fran Osseo-Asare; Available at other libraries in OCPL

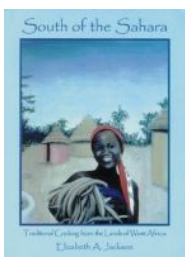
This children's cookbook presents over thirty-five easy-to-follow recipes from the kitchens of West Africa and Ghana and instructions on how to throw an African party.



Cooking the West African way: Revised and Expanded to Include New Low-Fat and Vegetarian Recipes

By Bertha Vining Montgomery and Constance Nabwire; Available at other libraries in OCPL

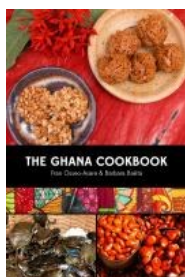
Learn the most common foods of West Africa and how to prepare them as well as learn about the area's culture.



South of the Sahara: Traditional Cooking from the Countries of West Africa

By Elizabeth A. Jackson; Available at other libraries in OCPL

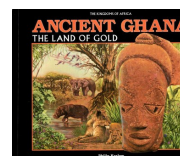
This book is as informative about food as it is about West Africa as a whole. It includes a map of West African countries today, a variety of recipes, glossaries, and even a guide on selecting hot peppers.



The Ghana Cookbook

By Fran Osseo-Asare and Barbara Baëta; Available at other OCPL libraries

This cookbook is designed as an introductory, but comprehensive cooking course that builds on basic flavors, textures, and cooking principles, and seasons them with stories, photography, and cultural explanations.



Ancient Ghana: The Land of Gold

By Phillip Koslow; J 966.7 KOS

Discusses the settlement of West Africa, the spread of Islam, the establishment of the gold trade, and the rise, civilization, and fall of the Soninke states known as Ghana.



Ghana

By Patricia Levy & Winnie Wong; J 966.7 LEV

Provides comprehensive information on the geography, history, wildlife, governmental structure, economy, cultural diversity, peoples, religion, and culture of Ghana.



Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah

By Lauren Ann Thompson & Sean Qualls; J BIO YEBOAH

Born in Ghana, West Africa, with one deformed leg, he was dismissed by most people—but not by his mother, who taught him to reach for his dreams. He rode an astonishing four hundred miles across Ghana in 2001, spreading his powerful message: disability is not inability.



From the Heart of Africa: A Book of Wisdom

By Eric Walters; J 398.996 WAL

A collection of African wisdom gorgeously illustrated by artists from Ghana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Canada, the United States and more.



Nelson Mandela's Favorite African Folktales

J 398.2 NEL; CD J 398.2 NEL

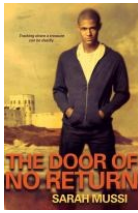
Though not all of the stories are from Ghana, this collection relies folktales from all over Africa. This collection is available as both a physical book and as an audio recording.



The Magic Backpack

By Julia Jarman; Available at other OCPL libraries

Mrs. Crumble assigns each student to bring a different ingredient so the class can bake a Super-Duper Round the World Chocolate Cake. When Josh forgets his ingredients at home, his magic backpack saves the day by flying Josh to Uncle William's cocoa plantation in Ghana.



The Door of No Return

Sarah Mussi; Available at other OCPL libraries
Sixteen-year-old Zac never believed his grandfather's tales about their enslaved ancestors being descended from an African king, but when his grandfather is murdered and the villains come after Zac, he sets out for Ghana to find King Baktu's long-lost treasure before the murderers do.



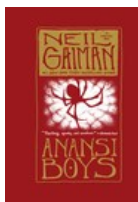
Solo

By Kwame Alexander; YA FIC ALEXANDER
Seventeen-year-old Blade endeavors to resolve painful issues from his past and navigate the challenges of his former rock-star father's addictions, scathing tabloid rumors, and a protected secret that threatens his own identity. Also available in eBook and audiobook through Libby, as well as an audiobook on CD



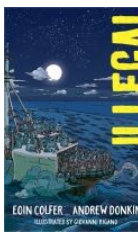
Aluta

By Adwoa Badoe; Available at other OCPL libraries
For eighteen-year-old Charlotte, university life is better than she'd ever dreamed, a sophisticated and generous roommate, the camaraderie of dorm living, parties, clubs and boyfriends. Most of all, Charlotte is exposed to new ideas, and in 1981 Ghana, this may be the most exciting and most dangerous adventure of all.



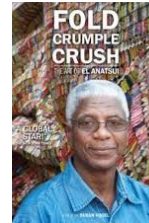
Anansi Boys

By Neil Gaiman; FIC GAIMAN
Charlie's dad wasn't just any dad. He was Anansi, a trickster god, the spider-god. Anansi is the spirit of rebellion, able to overturn the social order, create wealth out of thin air, and baffle the devil. Some said he could cheat even Death himself. Available in Large Print, Audiobook and eBook on Libby and audio recording on CD.



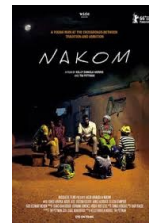
Illegal

By Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin; J GN COLFER
Ebo is alone. His brother, Kwame, has disappeared, and Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the hazardous journey to Europe, and a better life, the same journey their sister set out on months ago. But Ebo refuses to be left behind in Ghana. He sets out after Kwame and joins him on the quest to reach Europe.



Fold Crumple Crush: The Art of El Anatsui

Available on hoopla
The film circles around [Ghanaian artist El] Anatsui, drawing ever closer to a deep understanding of the man and his surprising bottle top hangings. The celebrated artist is seen installing work on the great world stage of the Venice Biennale; he is followed back to the small town of Nsukka as he goes about his daily life; then he is watched inside the hive of his studio, directing assistants as they stitch together bottle tops into a vast metal hanging. Finally, Anatsui admits viewers to the privacy of his home where he tells us about his formative years, and reveals a youthful discovery that clouded his life.



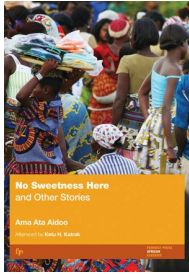
Nakom

Available on hoopla
Upon his father's sudden death, a talented medical student must return to his home village in Ghana to fight for his family's survival.

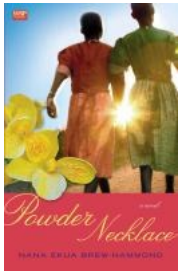


Emmanuel's Gift

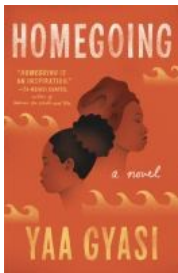
Available at other OCPL libraries
Read the book, then watch the movie! Ghana is not a good place to have a disability— parents either poison their disabled children, or leave them to die in the forest ("seeing off"). At best, the disabled are expected to be beggars. Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah was born with one deformed leg, which led his father to abandon his mother. Until her early death, she championed her son, enrolling him in school and taking him to various doctors searching for a cure. Her encouragement proved long lasting, as this documentary tells how Emmanuel became a successful amputee athlete. Today, he works to bring political and social change to Ghana's disabled.



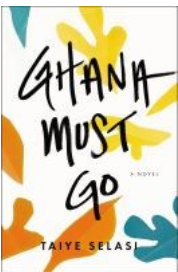
No Sweetness Here (And Other Stories),
By Ama Ata Aidoo; Available at other OCPL libraries
In this collection, Aidoo explores postcolonial life in Ghana with her characteristic honesty and humor. Tradition wrestles with new urban influences as Africans try to sort out their identity in a changing culture. True to the tradition of African storytelling, the characters come to life through their distinct voices and speech. If there is no sweetness, there is the salt essential to life, even if it comes from tears, and the strength comes from a history of endurance.



Powder Necklace: A Novel
By Brew-Hammond and Nana Ekuia; Available at other OCPL libraries
Rendered a foreigner among her own people when her mother sends her to school in their native Ghana, a young woman learns about the painful economic circumstances affecting the region, which sharply contrasts with her divorced parents' homes in England and America.



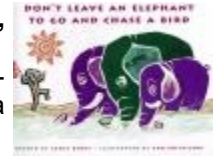
Homegoing: A Novel
By Yaa Gyasi; Available as an ebook and audio on Libby
Ghana, eighteenth century: two half sisters are born into different villages, each unaware of the other. One will marry an Englishman and lead a life of comfort in the palatial rooms of the Cape Coast Castle. The other will be captured in a raid on her village, imprisoned in the very same castle, and sold into slavery. *Homegoing* follows the parallel paths of these sisters and their descendants through eight generations: from the Gold Coast to the plantations of Mississippi, from the American Civil War to Jazz Age Harlem.



Ghana Must Go
By Taiye Selasi; Available in print at other OCPL libraries or as an ebook on Libby
Kweku Sai is dead. A renowned surgeon and failed husband, he succumbs suddenly at dawn outside his home in suburban Accra. The news of Kweku's death sends a ripple around the world, bringing together the family he abandoned years before.



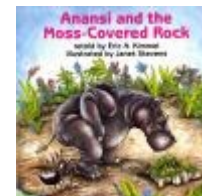
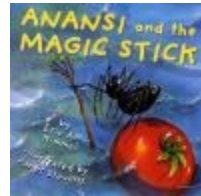
Don't Leave an Elephant to Go and Chase a Bird,
By James Berry; Available at other OCPL libraries
Anancy Spiderman trades various items with the people he encounters, until he himself is distracted by a bird and ends up empty-handed.



Anansi Does the Impossible!: An Ashanti Tale
By Verna Aardema; Available at other OCPL libraries
Anansi and his wife outsmart the Sky God and win back the beloved folktales of their people. Peppered with Verna Aardema's trademark idiophones, words that mimic actual sounds, this book makes an ideal read-aloud.



Eric A. Kimmel writes a selection of stories starring Anansi, including *Anansi and the Magic Stick*, *Anansi and the Moss-Covered Rock*, *Anansi Goes Fishing*, and more! Pick up one of his many titles— some including an audio recording— or borrow a Playaway to be immersed in his wonderful retellings.



Anansi's Adventures: Playaway with stories
by Eric Kimmel; J PLAYAWAY VIEW ANANSI
Anansi Goes Fishing and *Anansi's Party Time* are both included on this Playaway. Playaways allow you to watch your favorite stories anywhere!



Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock
J DVD 398.24 ANA
View and listen to a narration of this enchanting tale.

