Mama Panya’s Pancakes
A Village Tale from Kenya

Written by Mary and Rich Chamberlin
Illustrated by Julia Cairns

Adika and his mother, Mama Panya, are going to market to buy flour to make pancakes. Along the way, Adika invites all their friends for pancakes, causing Mama to worry that she can’t afford enough flour to feed the extra guests. However, everyone brings ‘gifts’ such as milk, butter, and flour so that there is more than enough. The book includes pages with extra information about Village Life in Kenya, Animals, Insects, Reptiles, Plants, Speaking Kiswahili, Mama Panya’s Pancake Recipe, Facts about Kenya, and a map.

About the Author
Mary and Rich Chamberlin are a husband-wife writing team. Mary also works as a freelance television producer and director, and Rich is an engineer. They have traveled extensively in Kenya and Tanzania. They live in Naperville, Illinois, where they share their home with their dog, Trisha, and their French-Lop rabbit, Bean.

About the Illustrator
Julia Cairns started her career in Botswana, Africa, where she lived for nine years. She now lives in northern California with her husband, two children, two dogs, two horses, and three chickens. Her book We All Went on Safari won the Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Gold Award. Another book, Off to the Sweet Shores of Africa, was the recipient of an ALA Notable Children’s Book Award.

Accompanying Activities

1. Social Studies Skills: Travel to Kenya
   Locate Kenya on a map or globe.
   Talk about distance, direction, means and time to travel to Kenya. After students have discussed their ideas, share with them a printout from a travel service outlining a trip to Kenya.
   • Geography - Use symbols, find locations, and determine directions on maps and globes.
     TEKS: SS 113.2 (b) 4 A; SS 113.3 (b) 5 A; SS 113.4 (b) 5 A
2. **English Language Arts: Dramatization**
   Read an Anansi book to the students, such as *Anansi and the Moss Covered Rock*. Have students use puppets to retell the events of the story.
   - **Listening/speaking/culture** - Retell or act out the order of important events in stories.
     TEKS: ELA 110.2 (b) 3 D; ELA 110.3 (b) 3 D; ELA 110.4 (b) 3D

3. **English Language Arts: Compare and Contrast**
   Students will compare/contrast children’s life in America with life in an African village. A T-chart may be drawn to compare/contrast transportation, food, clothes, and homes.
   - **Reading Comprehension** - represent text information in different ways, including story maps, graphs, and charts
     TEKS: ELA 113.2 (b) 1D; ELA 113.3 (b) 10 B; ELA 113.4 (b) 9 I

**Companion Books**

**Other Books by Mary Chamberlain**
*Dear Friends and Darling Romans.* J.P. Lippincott, 1959.

**Other Books Illustrated by Julie Downing**

**Kenya**