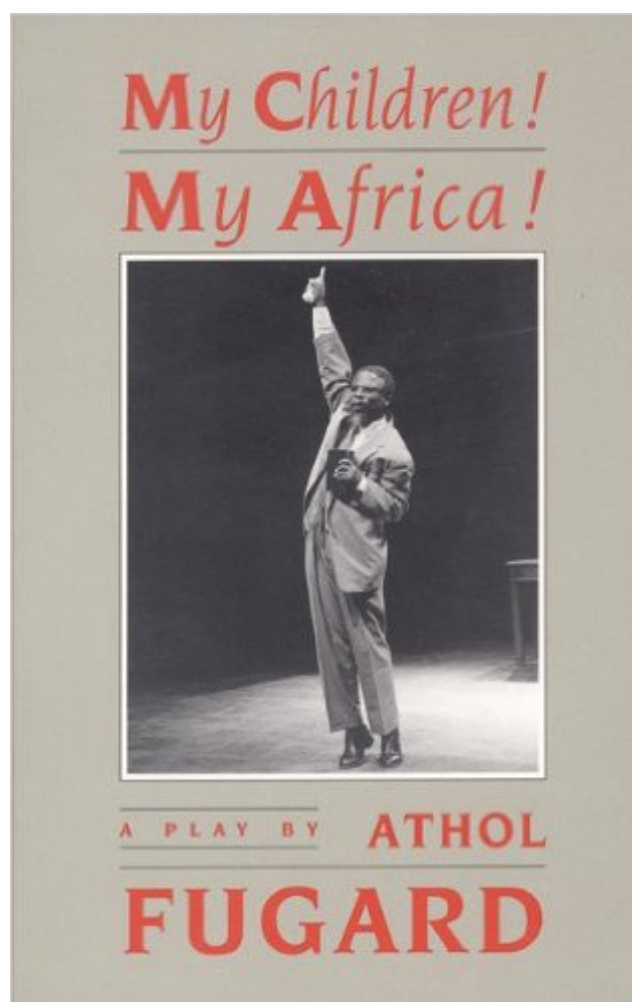


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# My Children! My Africa!



## Synopsis

The search for a means to an end to apartheid erupts into conflict between a black township youth and his "old-fashioned" black teacher.

## Book Information

Paperback: 78 pages

Publisher: Theatre Communications Group (1989)

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## Customer Reviews

"My Children! My Africa!" is a flawed, yet powerful play first performed in 1989 in South Africa. Fugard is a talented playwright, but his assumptions are somewhat off. The text centers around three characters set in "State of Emergency" 1984 South Africa. Isabel, a white, precocious Afrikaner; Thami, a black, independent African; and Mr. M, the teacher, caught in the middle of events not so out of their control. The story is somewhat about reconciliation and the power of education and discipline. Yet, things fall apart as Thami rebels in his mind against the Bantu education and the Western teachings (taught to him by his teacher Mr. M). In the end, all three pay the price for their friendship, but that is not the most of it. In all honesty, the play taken with a grain of salt is moving and I felt my chest tighten and my heart race as Fugard effortlessly moves the reader through this trying time. But upon reflection, problems begin to emerge. One is the assumptions are raised. Fugard is obviously anti-apartheid, but does the future of South Africa, as he was predicting in 1989, lay with those like Thami or those like Isabel. Thami, who begins to be swept away by the movements in Southern Africa (notably Angola, Zimbabwe and Mozambique) is given a negative aura by Fugard, as if he lets his emotions rule his better reasoning, exemplified by Mr. M. As one critic points out, Fugard, in the end, voices the beliefs of the white, middle class South Africa

through characters like Isabel and Mr. M. The violence, which is "inevitably" what Thami will adopt, will only hurt South Africa's future after apartheid even more. The other is the historical inaccuracies. The book was written in 1989, but set in 1984.

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