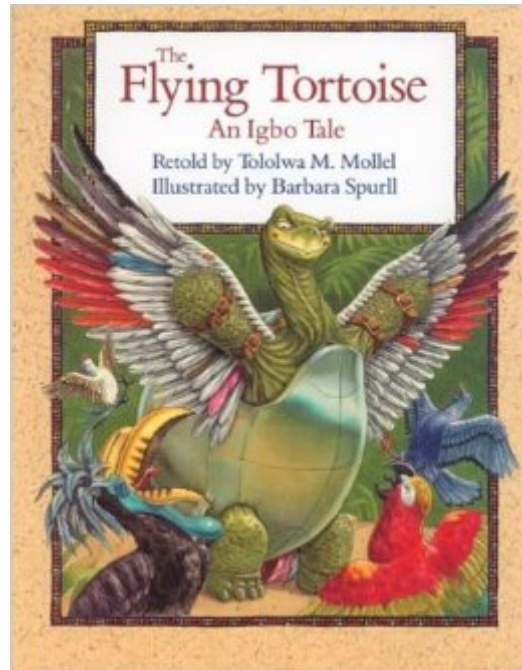


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# The Flying Tortoise: An Igbo Tale



## Synopsis

This humorous traditional tale from the Igbo people of Nigeria features the trickster tortoise, Mbeku, and shows how the tortoise got his rough, checkered shell as a result of Mbeku's greediness and cunning.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD670L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 1 pages

Publisher: Clarion Books; 1st edition (August 15, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0395688450

ISBN-13: 978-0395688458

Product Dimensions: 10.6 x 8.3 x 0.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,058,081 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > African](#) #1032 in [Books > Children's Books > Fairy Tales, Folk Tales & Myths > Multicultural](#) #52924 in [Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching](#)

## Customer Reviews

This story is very good for people ages 6-8, or in the 1-3 grades. It is about a tortoise who loves to play tricks and eat. He hears of a feast in the sky, and wants to go, so he tells the birds that are going that he once had a friend there. The birds believe him, and give him feathers to make wings and fly with. Then Mbeke tells them that the people giving the feast love fancy names, so Mbeke chooses King Aaaaalllll-Of-You. When they go up to the island in the sky, Mbeke coyly asks who the feast is for, and the hosts tell them that it is for "Aaaaalllll of you!" So Mbeke eats the whole feast, leaving none for the birds. The birds furiously rip his wings off, and leave him there. But he cries, and promises never to play another trick. SO the nrds go down and tell Mbeke's lizard friend, Ngwele, to make a pile of very soft things. Mbeke, up in the sky, laughs and exclaims about how he fooled the birds. Swallow, who was preening behind a bush, heard him and went down to tell his flock his plan. When Mbeke jumps to land in his pile, it is all bones and rocks, instead of grass and moss and stuff. So Mbeke's shell is ruined, and he asks Ngwele to sew it up. Ngwele agrees, and spends the whole rainy season patching it up. It looks old and dull now, instead of glowing and new,

and Mbeke is embarrassed to be seen in it. When he finally goes outside, he pulls his head in his shell so he will not be noticed, a habit to this very day.

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