LEARNING STANDARD QUESTIONS:
Who are the characters in this book?
Answers ➔ Nana Aku, Zura, Mr. Dawson, Alejo, Bisou, Theodore, Zura’s Maame, Alejo’s Abuelo, Bisou’s Mimi, Lester’s Grandparents, Peter and Inez, other students and grandparents

Who is (are) the main character(s) in the book?
Answer ➔ Zura, Nana Aku

Why did the author write this story?
Possible Answers ➔ to teach about being different; to teach a tradition from Ghana Culture; to teach about traditions; to teach about acceptance; to teach about beauty; to teach about learning from one’s elders ...

ACTIVITY (with connection to the story):
Students are asked to make a stick figure puppet of themselves and to then pick one of the Adinkra symbols to put on their puppet’s cheeks – just like Nana Aku did for Zura’s class. Then they can share which symbol they selected, and why they selected it, with the class – using their puppet to tell the class.

Puppets can also be used during – or after – the story hour reading, to act out moments within the story.

MATERIALS NEEDED:
Construction paper in many colors, scissors, glue sticks, jumbo crafting sticks (or popsicle sticks), and the Adinkra Symbols and their Meanings Chart (taken directly from the book)

SHARE YOUR CREATION!
theREP would love students to share photos of (or short videos using) their puppets! They can be emailed to Associate Artistic Director, Margaret E. Hall, at mhall@capitalrep.org
ADINKRA SYMBOLS AND THEIR MEANINGS

dwennimmen (dweh-NIM-men):
crown bower;
means "strength and wisdom"

eban (eh-BAN):
force;
means "safety and security"

gyeyamme (JEH ni-mah-me):
most popular Adinkra symbol;
means "faith in and devotion to a supreme being"

abon (ah-BAHN):
two-storied house;
means "authority and power"

adinkrahene (ah-DIN-krah-heh-ne):
chief of Adinkra symbols;
means "leadership and greatness"

awo (AH-jo):
calmness;
means "peace and quiet"

hwemudua (shweh-moo-DOO-ah):
measuring stick;
means "high quality and excellence"

mate masie (mah-TEE mah-SEE-ah):
what I hear, I keep;
means "wisdom and knowledge"

mpuannum (um-POO-ah-num):
five tufts of hair;
means "house of joy [owned by priestesses] and loyalty"

ahoden (ah-ho-DEHN):
energy;
means "energy and strength"

akobo nan (AH-ko-to NINE):
hens leg;
means "patience and discipline"

akoma (ah-toh-MAH):
horn;
means "love and patience"

besa saka (beh-see SAH-kah):
boon of cola nuts;
means "power and unity"

sankofa (san-KOH-fah):
bird looking backward;
means "learn from the past to build the future"

sepo (say-POW):
dagger;
means "justice and the law"

wawa aba (wah-wah AH-bah):
seed of a wawa tree;
means "toughness and perseverance"

bofo ge na (bo-AH-to gay NAH):
support;
means "willing helper"

denyem (DEN-yem):
crocodile;
means "cleverness"

duabo (do-ah-FOH):
wooden comb;
means "beauty and care"