

Read through the information about Efua Traoré found below. Think about the reasons why you think Efua decided to write a book about Nigeria.

## Who is Efua Traoré?

Efua is a Nigerian-German author who grew up in a small town in Nigeria. For as long as she can remember, her head was filled with little stories!

At the age of 18 Efua moved to Germany, where she lives with her family, and has written her first book, *Children of the Quicksands*.



## Efua Traoré

I remember how I felt as a child, never seeing myself reflected in books. I didn't want my children to have the same feeling of not belonging or that they didn't matter.

It was then I decided to write *Children of the Quicksands* for my daughters. I was angry about the boring and vague image of Africa, which did not allow the beauty of its many countries to shine through. So I wrote a magical adventure story set in Nigeria.

## Efua Traoré's book

When I moved to Germany at the age of 18, I left behind Lagos – a 20 million-strong mega-city with afrobeats booming from loudspeakers, traffic jams that reached from the mainland and crossed the blue shimmering lagoon.

To my surprise, when I got to Germany, I found out that I came from a dull, indistinct place at the bottom of the globe called Africa – known for its poor, black-skinned people living in rural places.

I was shocked. An entire continent of over a billion people, more than 50 countries, 2,000 languages, diverse cultures, religions and brilliant attires reduced to this one sad image.

