Real name: KRYSTYNA SKARBEK

Code name: **Christine Granville (or "Pauline", or "Willing")**

Special skill: **Getting out of sticky situations**

Born in Poland in 1908, Krystyna Skarbek was Britain's first female spy. As a child, she loved horse riding, hiking, and skiing. When the Second World War began, she sailed from Cape Town to Southampton and demanded a job with the British secret service. They weren't too sure about having a female spy, but Krystyna – and her sporty talents – were going to come in handy . . .



Once, Krystyna skied out of Poland with early film evidence of Nazi plans to invade Soviet Russia hidden inside her gloves!

In 1941, when she was caught by the Gestapo (the Nazi secret police), she managed to get herself and her friend released with her quick thinking. Krystyna pretended they had tuberculosis, a terrible – and very contagious – illness. The prison hospital chest X-ray showed that her lungs were horribly scarred, so the Gestapo released them.



Krystyna was also fluent in French, and so in 1944 she was parachuted into occupied France, where she rescued 3 agents. She cycled 25 miles to the Nazi-controlled prison, despite being terrified of cycling. She hummed a tune to find out which cells the agents were in – and they hummed it back! She then persuaded the guards to let the prisoners go.





Krystyna was once caught holding a top-secret silk map. She wasn't scared – she just smiled at the German officers and rolled it into a headscarf.



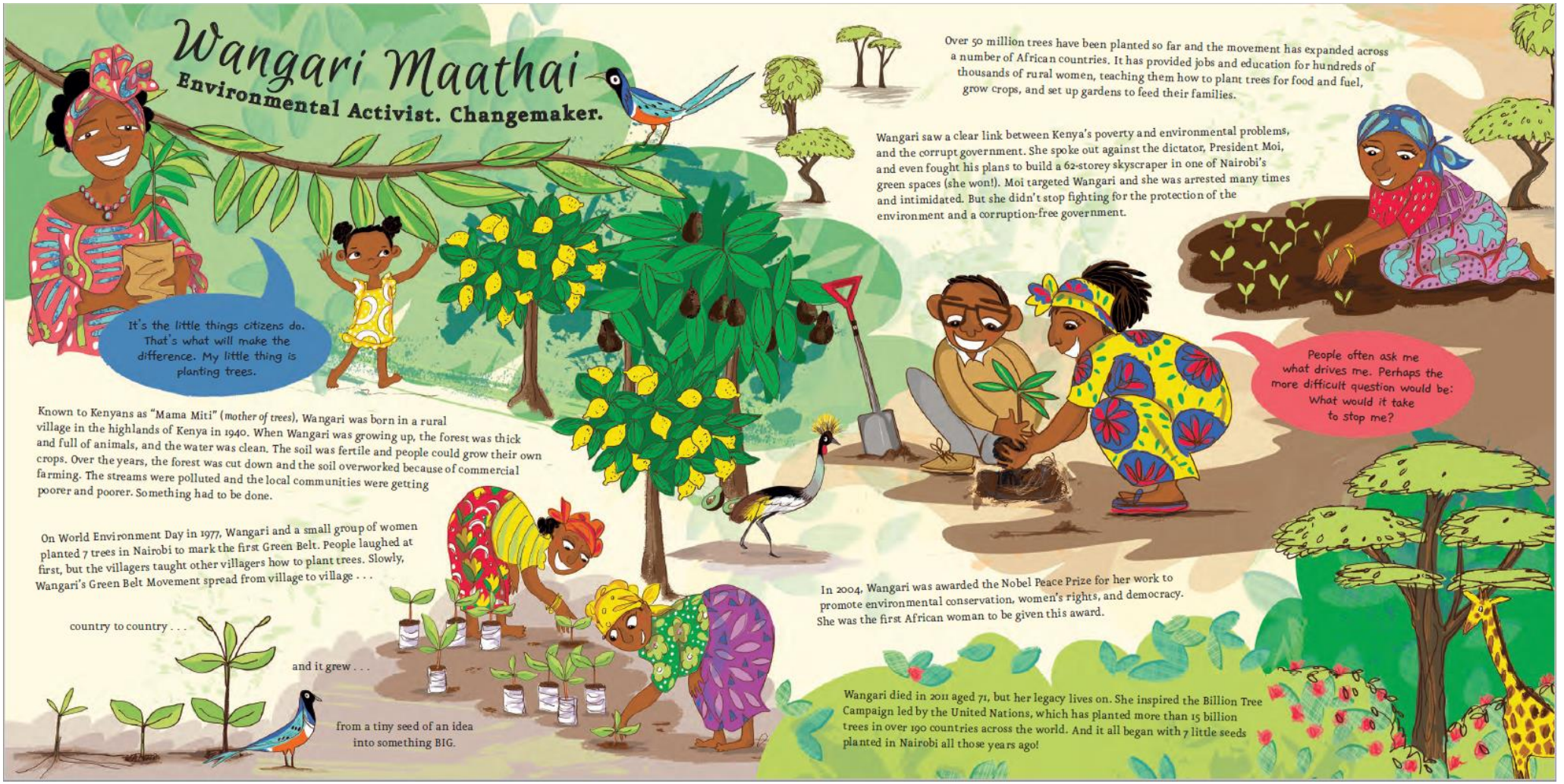
Krystyna was awarded the OBE (Order of the British Empire), the George Medal, and the French Croix de Guerre for her services.

These are just a few of Krystyna's many courageous missions. Sadly, for all her bravery, she didn't get the recognition she deserved in her lifetime. Once the war was over, Krystyna had to fight to become a citizen of Britain. The secret service didn't want to give her a permanent job, despite her many talents.



Krystyna found work cleaning bathrooms on a cruise ship, and was later murdered in a tragic incident. She is only just starting to get the respect she deserves over 50 years after her death.




Wangari Maathai
Environmental Activist. Changemaker.
It's the little things citizens do. That's what will make the difference. My little thing is planting trees.
Known to Kenyans as "Mama Miti" (*mother of trees*), Wangari was born in a rural village in the highlands of Kenya in 1940. When Wangari was growing up, the forest was thick and full of animals, and the water was clean. The soil was fertile and people could grow their own crops. Over the years, the forest was cut down and the soil overworked because of commercial farming. The streams were polluted and the local communities were getting poorer and poorer. Something had to be done.
On World Environment Day in 1977, Wangari and a small group of women planted 7 trees in Nairobi to mark the first Green Belt. People laughed at first, but the villagers taught other villagers how to plant trees. Slowly, Wangari's Green Belt Movement spread from village to village . . .
country to country . . .
and it grew . . .
from a tiny seed of an idea into something BIG.
Over 50 million trees have been planted so far and the movement has expanded across a number of African countries. It has provided jobs and education for hundreds of thousands of rural women, teaching them how to plant trees for food and fuel, grow crops, and set up gardens to feed their families.
Wangari saw a clear link between Kenya's poverty and environmental problems, and the corrupt government. She spoke out against the dictator, President Moi, and even fought his plans to build a 62-storey skyscraper in one of Nairobi's green spaces (she won!). Moi targeted Wangari and she was arrested many times and intimidated. But she didn't stop fighting for the protection of the environment and a corruption-free government.
People often ask me what drives me. Perhaps the more difficult question would be: What would it take to stop me?
In 2004, Wangari was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for her work to promote environmental conservation, women's rights, and democracy. She was the first African woman to be given this award.
Wangari died in 2011 aged 71, but her legacy lives on. She inspired the Billion Tree Campaign led by the United Nations, which has planted more than 15 billion trees in over 190 countries across the world. And it all began with 7 little seeds planted in Nairobi all those years ago!