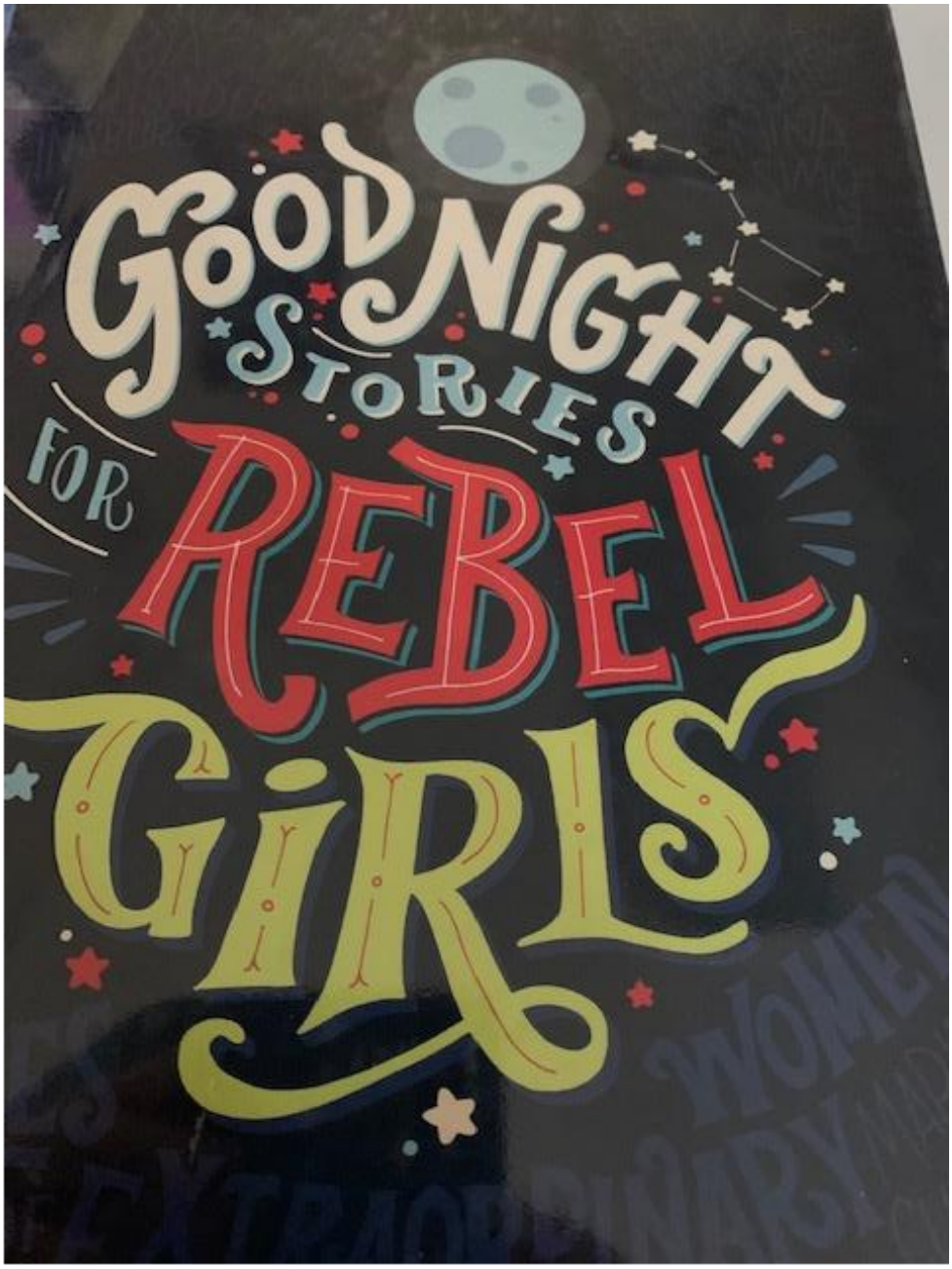
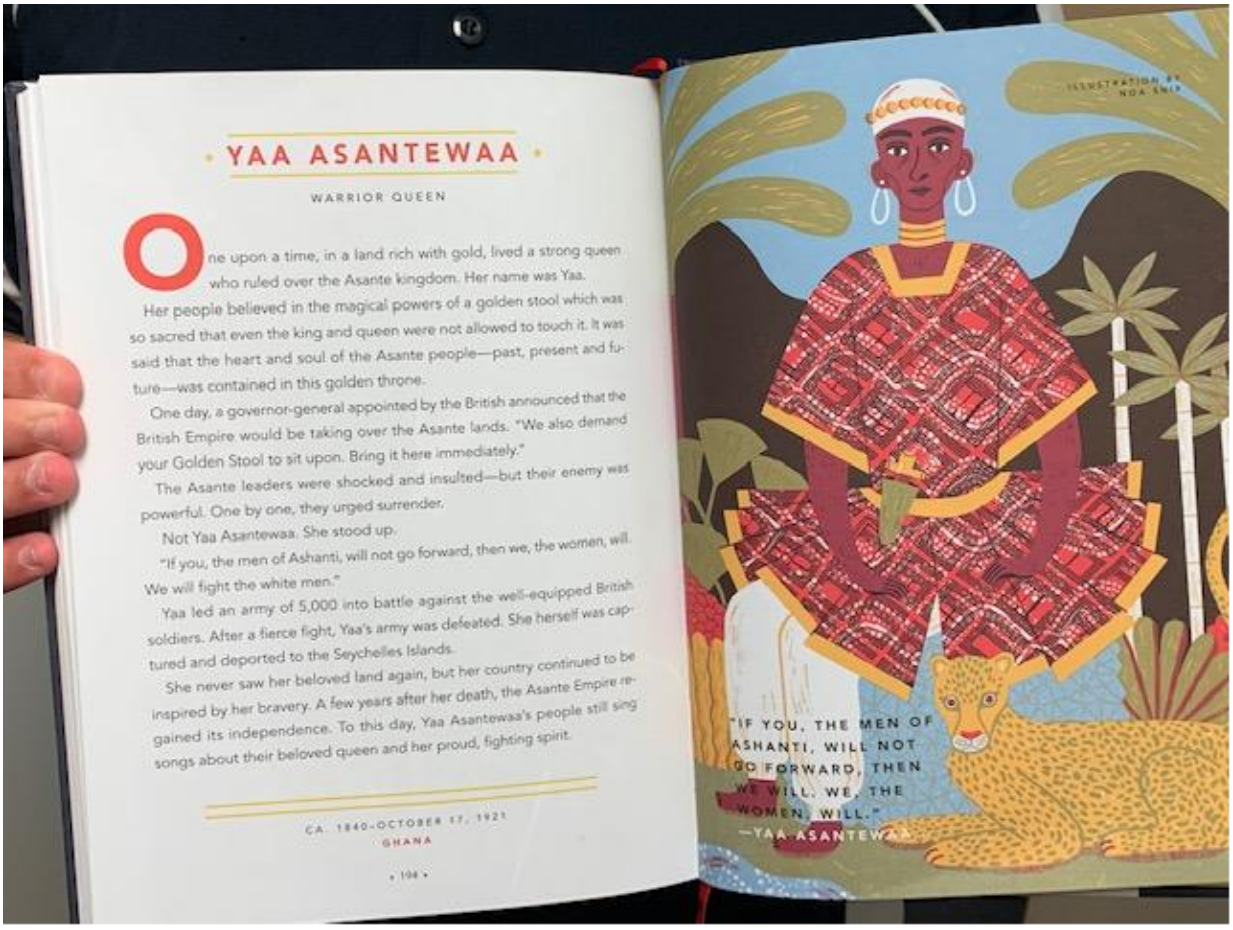

GOOD NIGHT
STORIES
FOR
REBEL
GIRLS



YAA ASANTEWAA

WARRIOR QUEEN

One upon a time, in a land rich with gold, lived a strong queen who ruled over the Asante kingdom. Her name was Yaa.

Her people believed in the magical powers of a golden stool which was so sacred that even the king and queen were not allowed to touch it. It was said that the heart and soul of the Asante people—past, present and future—was contained in this golden throne.

One day, a governor-general appointed by the British announced that the British Empire would be taking over the Asante lands. "We also demand your Golden Stool to sit upon. Bring it here immediately."

The Asante leaders were shocked and insulted—but their enemy was powerful. One by one, they urged surrender.

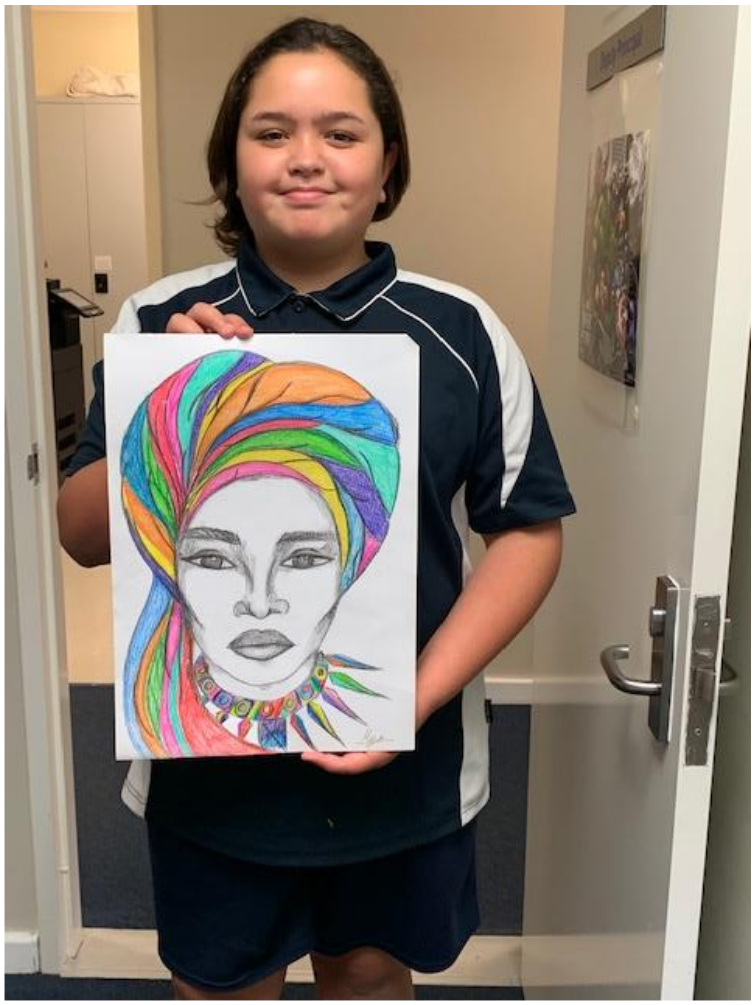
Not Yaa Asantewaa. She stood up.

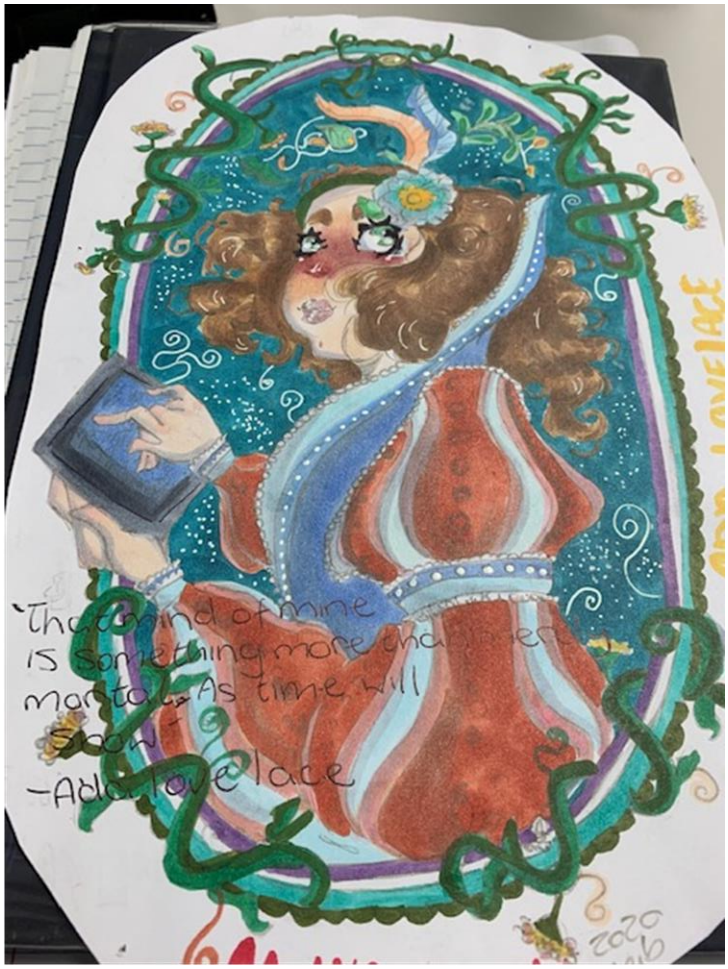
"If you, the men of Ashanti, will not go forward, then we, the women, will. We will fight the white men."

Yaa led an army of 5,000 into battle against the well-equipped British soldiers. After a fierce fight, Yaa's army was defeated. She herself was captured and deported to the Seychelles Islands.

She never saw her beloved land again, but her country continued to be inspired by her bravery. A few years after her death, the Asante Empire regained its independence. To this day, Yaa Asantewaa's people still sing songs about their beloved queen and her proud, fighting spirit.

CA. 1840–OCTOBER 17, 1921
GHANA




"The mind of mine
is something more than her
mortal. As time will
soon
-Ada Lovelace
2020