Title: *The Ear, the Eye and the Arm*  
Author: Nancy Farmer  
Age group: 7th – 10th grade  
Topics: Family relationships, adventure, science fiction, African culture, African spirit world  
Notes: Set in Zimbabwe in 2194, the sheltered children of General Matsika set off on an adventure through the city of Harare. Thirteen year old Tendai and his younger siblings Rita and Kuda are quickly abducted and forced to use their wits and courage to escape and try to find their way home. As they are, they wind up staying on step ahead and just out of reach of the Ear, the Eye, and the Arm, the unique detectives hired to find them.

**Booktalk:**

Tendai and his siblings Rita and Kuda have never found real trouble before. They are homeschooled, rarely leaving their family’s compound in Mazoe in Zimbabwe. The father is General Matsika, head of security in a futuristic Zimbabwe. He thinks the outside world is too dangerous, so the children rarely leave the compound and never by themselves. They long for adventure and Tendai, in particular, needs one to earn his scouting badge. The three dupe their parents, without their knowledge, into giving permission for a trip across the city. That’s when they find out what trouble is.

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“We’re going to get rid of those brats before it’s too late,” snarled the She Elephant.

“What do you mean?” Knife said.

“I mean, sell them as we meant to do all along. To the Masks.”

“Oh, no, I don’t like that,” said Fist in a shocked voice.

“Why not? They need recruits.”

“Are you sure of that?”

“Listen,” the She Elephant said. “Nothing would give the head of the Masks more pleasure than to take Matsika’s son and turn him into a criminal. To tell the truth, it would cheer me up, too.”

“That takes care of Tendai. What about the others?” said Fist.

“The man has four wives and no children. He’d be willing to pay fifty thousand dollars for Kuda.”

“And Rita?” Knife said.

“Who cares about her? She’ll grow up like Granny – you can hear it in her nasty little voice. I understand the slave trade is doing well in Gondwanna.”

“I don’t like it!” cried Knife.

“You should have thought of that before you threw the knife. Now pour me a drink. I’ll drug the little squealers tonight. No! Not another word!”

Tendai heard the sound of pouring liquid. The *tsotsis* and the She Elephant settled down for some serious drinking, interrupted only when the jug gurgled or someone belched. He leaned against the wall and tried to sort out his jumbled thoughts.
After being kidnapped during their trip across the city, will Tendai have the courage to get his sister and brother free from the clutches of the She Elephant? Can they make it home to their parents? Will Rita big mouth cause more trouble? And just what are the Ear, the Eye, and the Arm? Find out by reading Nancy Farmer’s *The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm.*