

My Life

By AHISHAKIYE J. Claude

I was born in 1990 in Rwanda. I started my primary schooling when I was nine years old because my parents were poor and told me to help them by fetching what I could for food to help us survive. Now that I am older, I help my parents look after my younger brother and sister. When I started my studies in first grade, we studied in Kinyarwanda and French. The upper levels studied all of their lessons in French, but English was only one class. When the tourists came to our school, they greeted us in English. At that time, I felt envious because they could speak English so well. Now, I am working hard to learn English.

When the delegation from Indiana University and Team Academy came to Rwanda to visit us, I was among the pupils who were interviewed first. Even though I am older than some of my classmates, I learn my lessons quickly. To explain my progress, I can quote the administrator of our sector (chef du secteur), “We cultivate the Irish potatoes.”

The people of my sector grow pyrethrums (chrysanthemums). Our sector touches one of the volcano parks. Sometimes the gorillas come to the border and we see them. There are other animals such as buffalo, elephants, and monkeys.

I would like to invite everyone to visit our region and the gorillas. At our school, we have a group of dancers. I dance with them. We can dance to our traditional music for you.

