

THE IU GLOBAL VILLAGE
LIVING-LEARNING CENTER &
TEAM SCHOOL'S
BOOKS & BEYOND PROJECT

PRESENTS

THE WORLD IS OUR HOME:
A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES
VOLUME II





Books & Beyond

read. learn. teach. grow.

A Note to Our Readers

This book is a compilation of stories from TEAM School's Newark Collegiate Academy (Newark, New Jersey), Indiana University's Global Village Living-Learning Center (Bloomington, Indiana) and Kabwende Primary Center (Kinigi, Rwanda).

Working in pairs, IU's Global Village students mentor Newark Collegiate Academy high school students and together the partners develop short stories that are compiled in an anthology along with stories from the Kabwende fifth and sixth grade students. The book, along with teacher training guides and professional development workshops, is a resource for the students and teachers in Rwanda who are learning English. In the United States, the anthology is sold with the profit returned to support the project. Along the way, students are acquiring skills in authoring, mentoring, and collaborating, intercultural communication, grant writing, documenting and fund-raising.

As you read the stories, it is important to remember that all the student authors have grown up under challenging circumstances, with different sets of worries and different childhood experiences. Students in Newark face large achievement gaps, and nearly a third of the city's population live below the U.S. poverty line, but with hard work, determination, and the help of those around them, students are able to overcome their adversities. In Rwanda, the students' challenges are reflected in their stories. Some of the Rwandan stories are taken from oral traditions while others are the unique creations of the Kabwende students. Some of the following stories bear witness to poverty and violence, but each story also teaches an important lesson. Friendship, daily life, responsibility, concern for family, community and the environment are strong themes throughout.

We encourage all readers to read the stories, enjoy them and learn about each other's cultures.

-The teachers and students of the 2010 Books & Beyond project.

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Thank You

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**INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON**

Table of Contents

<u>Page #</u>	<u>Title</u>
5.....	Our Earth
8.....	Helping
13.....	A Beautiful Land
15.....	The Dream
19.....	Sun and Rain
20.....	The Lesson of the Earth
24.....	Anne and the Hen
25.....	Lee's Trees
28.....	Melody Learns to Recycle
32.....	Let's Protect Our Environment
33.....	The Importance of Agriculture
35.....	Belle's Mission to Change the World
41.....	The Beauty of Rwanda and Its Development
42.....	Ibirunga National Park
44.....	The Forest Fairy
52.....	I Will Be Famous
54.....	My Life
56.....	A Friend in Need is a Friend Indeed
57.....	Baby Evee's Adventure
62.....	A Dog and A Sheep
63.....	Lying is Bad
64.....	Peter's Wish for Clean Fish
69.....	Everybody is Wise in Her Own Way
70.....	The Lion and the Cow

Table of Contents

<u>Page #</u>	<u>Title</u>
72.....	The Lion and the Leopard
73.....	Bakame and the Gorilla Meet in the Forest
74.....	Recycling for Fun
77.....	..Be a Good Shepherd
78.....	Rwamahe and Bwiza
80.....	Miley is Scared of the Dark
83.....	The Poor Woman in the Church
84.....	It's Good to be Handsome
86.....	Humor
87.....	Micomyiza and Serugi
90.....	Conversation
91.....	Fight Against Dirtiness
93.....	No Woman Can Eat Goat Meat in Rwanda
95.....	We Must Obey
96.....	The Death of a Disobedient Girl
100.....	Tommy the Bird
105.....	A Story
107.....	The King's Servant
110.....	Go Wild!
114.....	The Dreams of A Poor Man
116.....	Murorunkwere and Nyiramihigo
120.....	Be Merciful
125.....	Water Changes Everything

Our Earth



By Alexis Downing and Adrianna Pappas



This is a tree.



These are flowers.



This is the sky.



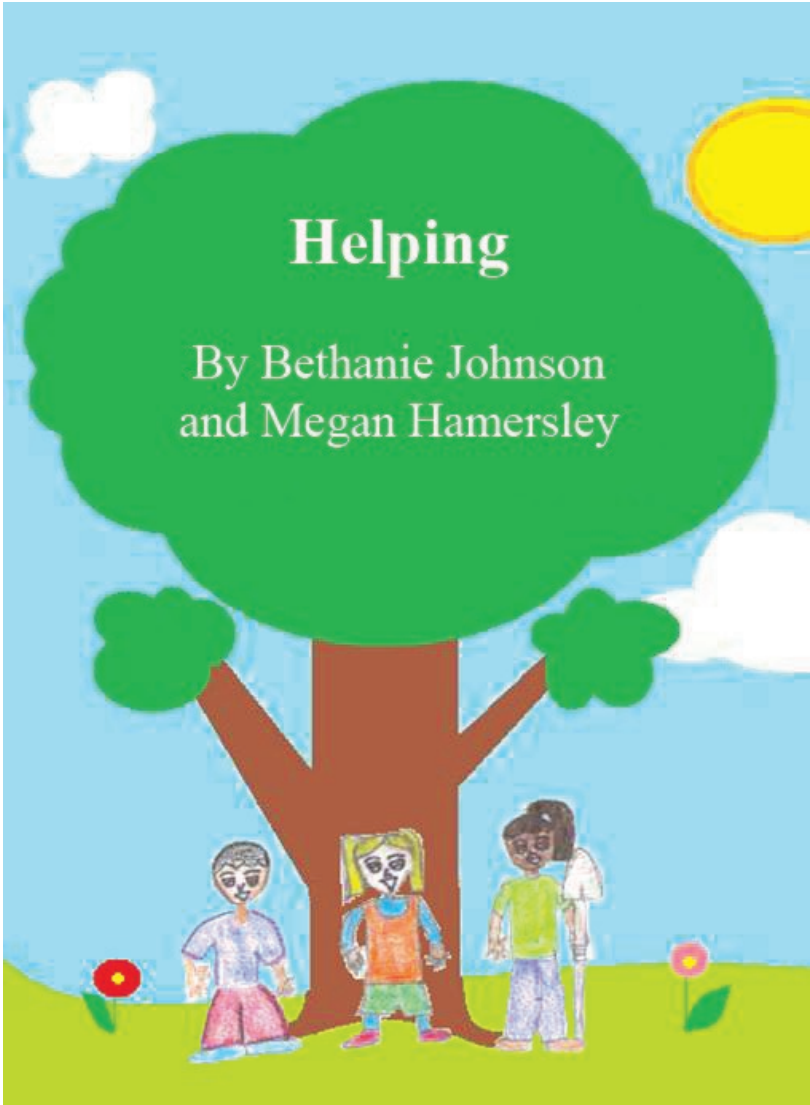
This is our world.



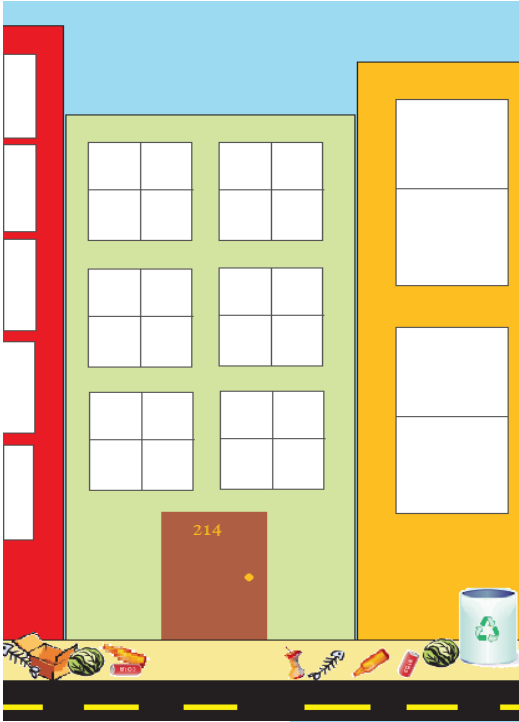
It is our home.



Take care of our Earth.

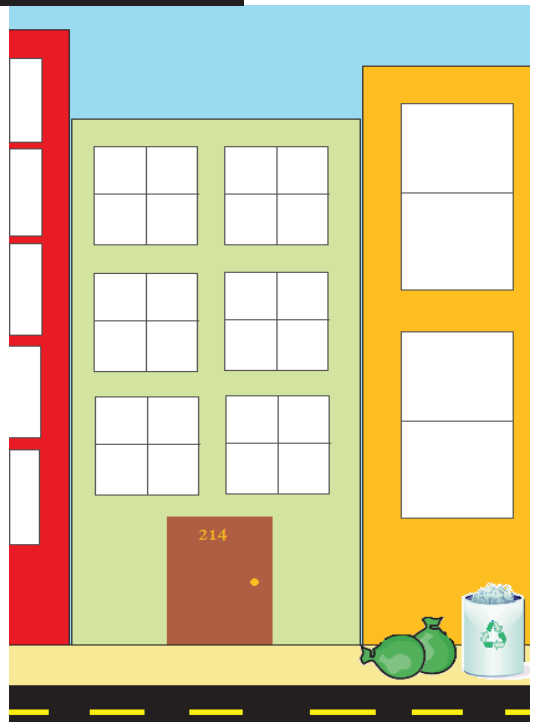


We like to help.
Nous aimons aider.

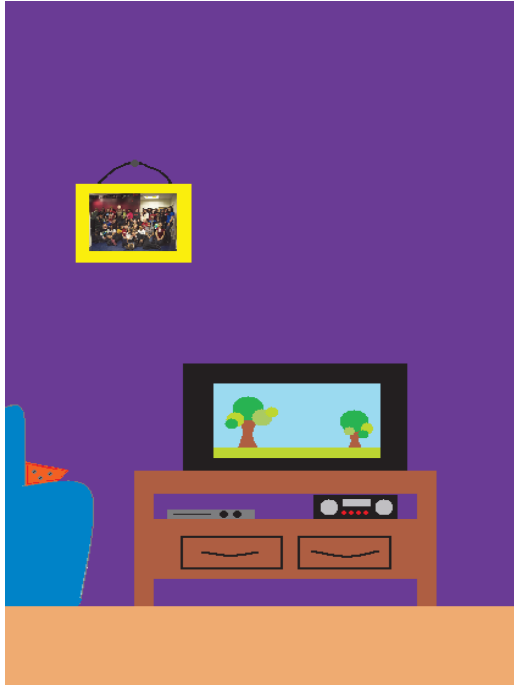


The street is
dirty.
*La rue est
sale.*

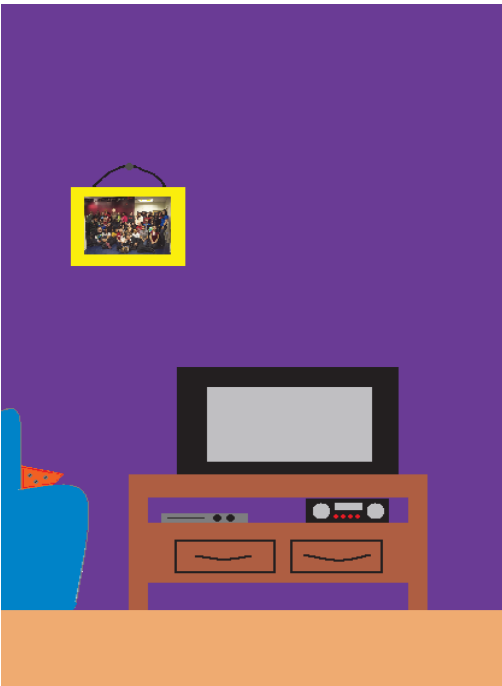
Now it is
clean.
*Maintenant
c'est
propre.*



The television is
on.
*La télévision est
allumée.*



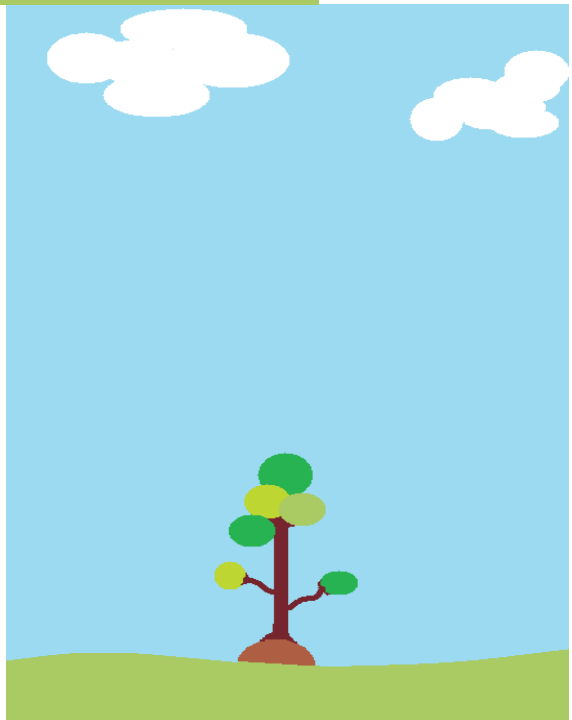
Now it is
off.
*Maintenant c'est
éteinte.*





The tree is
old.
*L'arbre est
vieux.*

This tree is
young.
*Cet arbre est
jeune.*





We help the earth.
Nous aidons la terre.

A Beautiful Land

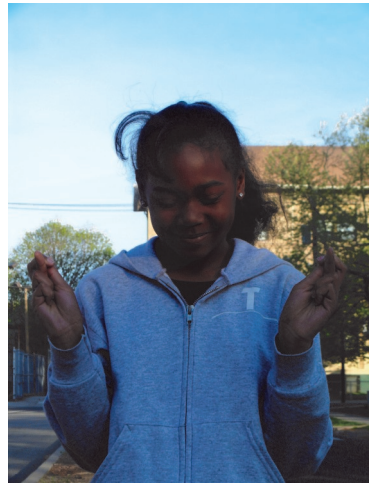
By Shania Jackson and Shelbey Richey



Anna's town had no trees.

This made Anna sad.

She made a wish.



Her tears watered the ground.

Plants began to grow.



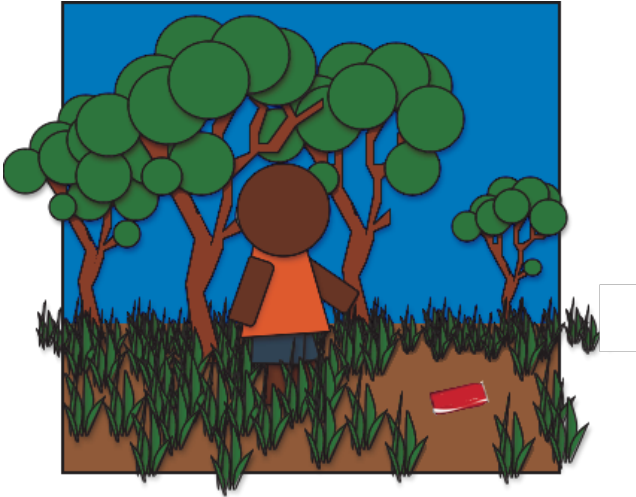
Plants, flowers, trees—a beautiful land.



Anna succeeded.

The Dream

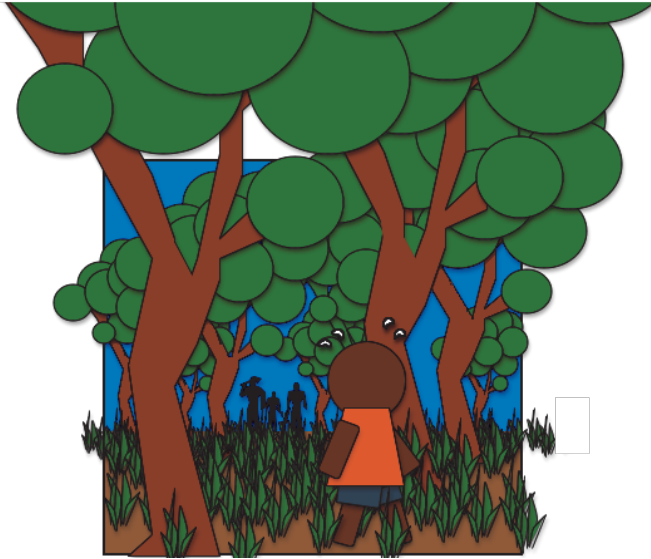
By Jason Odoom and Destin Hubble



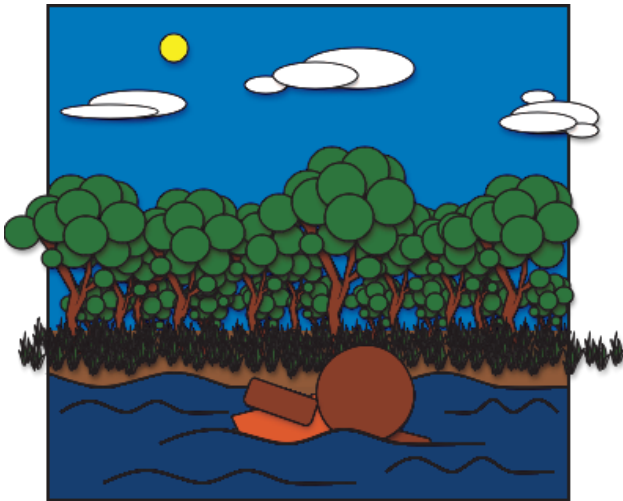
In the field, a little boy drops a glass bottle, and then all the plants die around it. The little boy runs from the field to the forest.



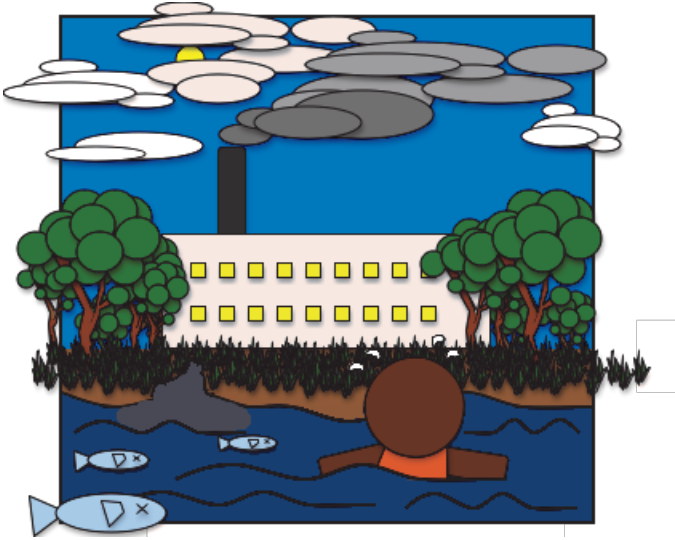
In the forest, men appear with axes to cut down trees, and the trees all vanish.



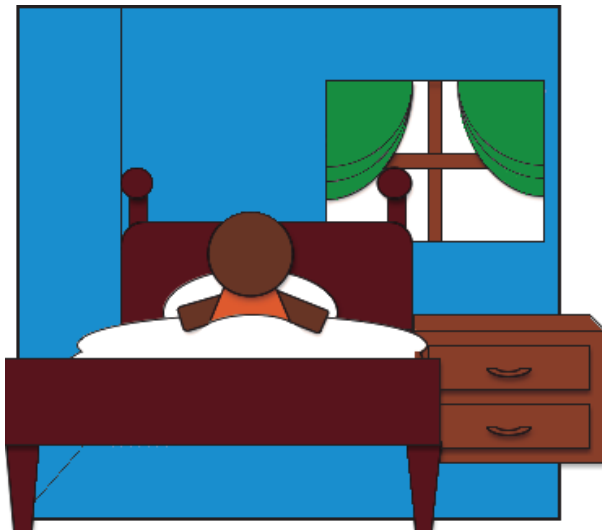
The little boy runs from the forest to swim in the water.



While he is in the water, a factory appears on the shore, and then all the fish disappear.

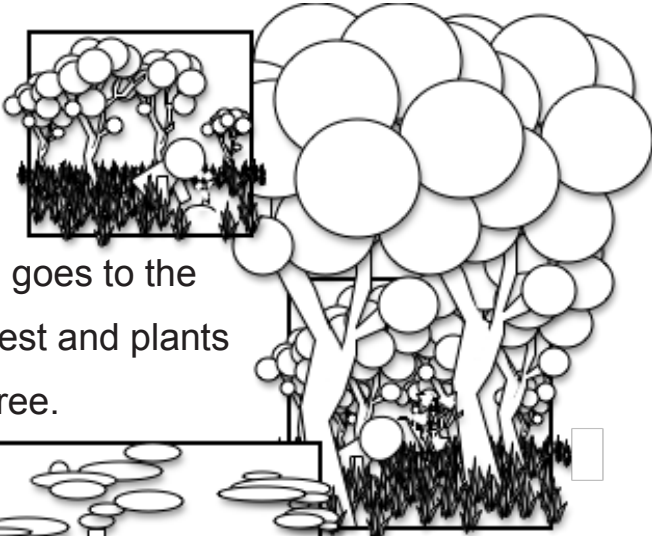


The boy wakes up. It is all a dream, but he knows it isn't only a dream.



He remembers how afraid he was, so he goes to a field and plants a flower.

It soon becomes beautiful.



He goes to the forest and plants a tree.



Eventually, it grows tall and green.

He goes to a lake to save the fish. When he grows up, the factory owner listens to him and stops polluting the water.

Sun and Rain

By HAKIZIMANA Enock

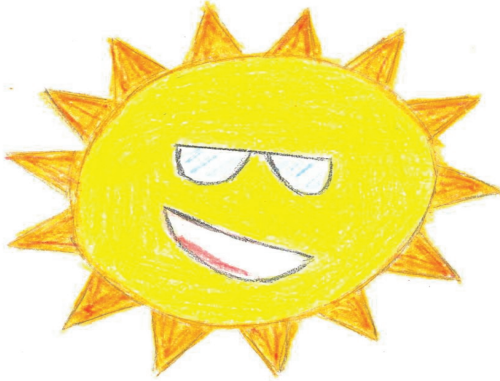
The sun and rain are very important things in my region. Sometimes there is moderate sun and rain, and that is good for cultivators. Their plants grow very well and produce good harvests. In several different areas, there is also moderate sun and heavy rain. There, the soil is washed away by the water. Hills and mountains are eroded by the water, and rivers and lakes are always full of water. Sometimes, this ruins the crops.

There is also a period of very little rain and dangerous levels of sun where there is no water in the soil. It is very hard for plants to grow. Animals have no grass to eat or water to drink. It is a bad period, and people suffer from hunger and poverty.

The Lesson of the Earth

By Denia Edwin and Danni McPherron

Meet Shine.



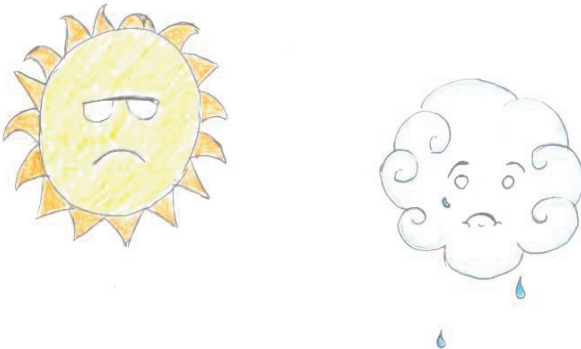
Meet Cloudy.
Shine and Cloudy keep the earth clean!



Brownie the bear throws a soda bottle into the river.



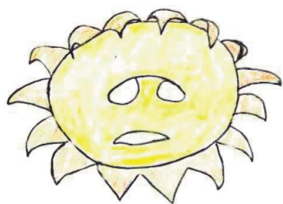
Cloudy starts to rain, and Shine loses a little bit of his sunshine. Cloudy and Shine are mad at Brownie for being mean to the earth.



Betty the beaver cuts down all the trees and blocks up the river with her dam. The river becomes polluted.



Shine loses even more of his sunshine. Cloudy starts raining harder.



The river is really dirty! Cloudy gets very angry and strikes Betty and Brownie with lightning!



Betty and Brownie are so sad. They want to be good! They clean up the river. Everyone is happy! Shine is bright again, and Cloudy stops raining.



Anne and the Hen

By INGABIRE Charlotte

Long ago, there lived a child named Anne.

Her parents had chickens, and Anne liked eggs very much. One day

Anne decided to ask the Hen to lay a lot of eggs for eating. But

the Hen replied that it was impossible. The

Hen wanted to lay eggs

for hatching chickens. Anne became angry so she made a decision to steal the Hen's eggs from time

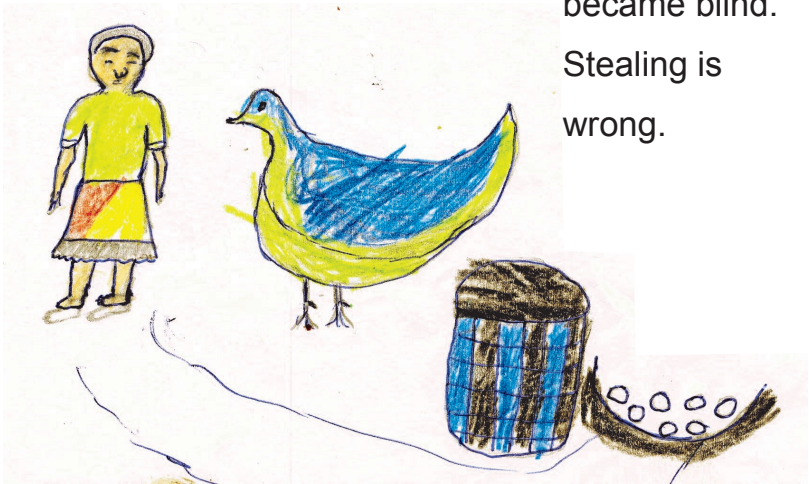
to time. One day, the Hen decided to hide herself behind the basket which was near her nest.

When Anne came, the Hen pecked at her eyes, and Anne

became blind.

Stealing is

wrong.



Lee's Trees

By Andy Johns, Kareem Walker,
and Atiya Drayton



This is Lee.

He lives by a
forest full of
trees.



He cuts them
down.



He builds a house.

The forest is gone.
There's not even a mouse!

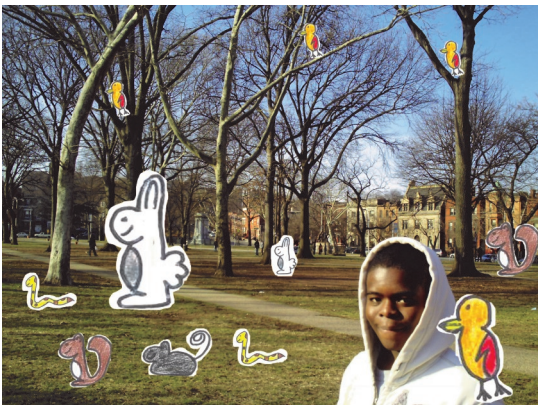


Lee is sad.
He feels very bad.





He plants some trees and starts to recycle.



The animals come back.
The forest is in style!

Melody Learns to Recycle!

By Jessica Odoom
and
Daniel Avon

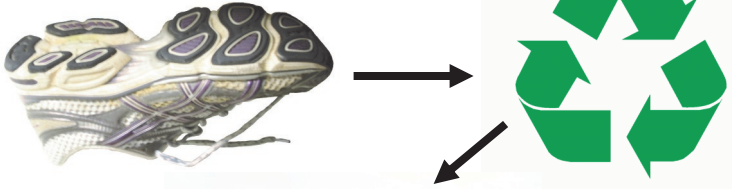


This is Melody.
She is nine years old,
and she is in the second
grade.

One day, Melody's science teacher Mr. Howard told the class, "We will be learning about what we can do to help our planet."



"We will see how they recycle old sneakers and turn them into an athletic surface for a running track," said Mr. Howard.



At the recycling center, Melody and her classmates learned the steps to recycle sneakers and turn them into a running track.



First, people collect

the sneakers.



Second, the

sneakers are shipped to
the recycling center.



Third, the recycling

center breaks up the soles
of the shoes into small
pieces of rubber.



Finally, they use

these small pieces to
make athletic surfaces for
running tracks.



Melody also learned that there are many
other things that can be recycled, such as
paper, glass, plastic, and aluminum.



When Melody went home she told her family about recycling and how important it was. They agreed to help her recycle.



Let's Protect our Environment

By MANIRIHO Patricia Gaspard

Once there was a father and his child. They lived in a very dangerous area because they were near the forest. One day they decided to go hunt animals.



When they arrived in the forest, the child fought and killed a lion while the father was killing a buffalo. The son called to his father to tell him the news, and they went back home. At home they



found Bakame, a wild hare, who had come to visit them. They sat down and talked

to him.

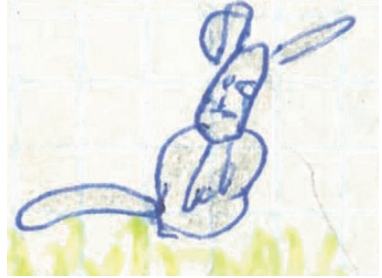
Bakame asked, "Where are you coming from?"

They answered, "We are coming from the forest where we were hunting animals!"

Bakame advised them, "It is not good to hunt animals and to destroy the environment!"

You have to take your hoes and try to grow sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, and coffee. These are things that are helping Rwanda develop.”

They thanked him and gave him food, then they decided to buy some hoes and seeds. From then on, they preferred to cultivate and not to destroy nature by harming animals.



The Importance of Agriculture

By HAKIZIMANA Jean d'Amour

Our Rwanda has many good qualities. Its best quality is the richness we get from agriculture. Many of the things we have at home are because



of the agriculture.

Let us praise our country and our local authorities who urge us day after day to take on agricultural duties.

No country can be developed without the elders. One cultivator called together all of his children and told them: “You see that my life is coming to an end little by little because I am old.

I want you to protect and manage my wealth. Hoe my land and cultivate my entire property. You will find my most precious things hidden underneath it! I don't know if you are going to find them easily because I don't remember exactly where they are hidden. But you will find them if you cultivate."

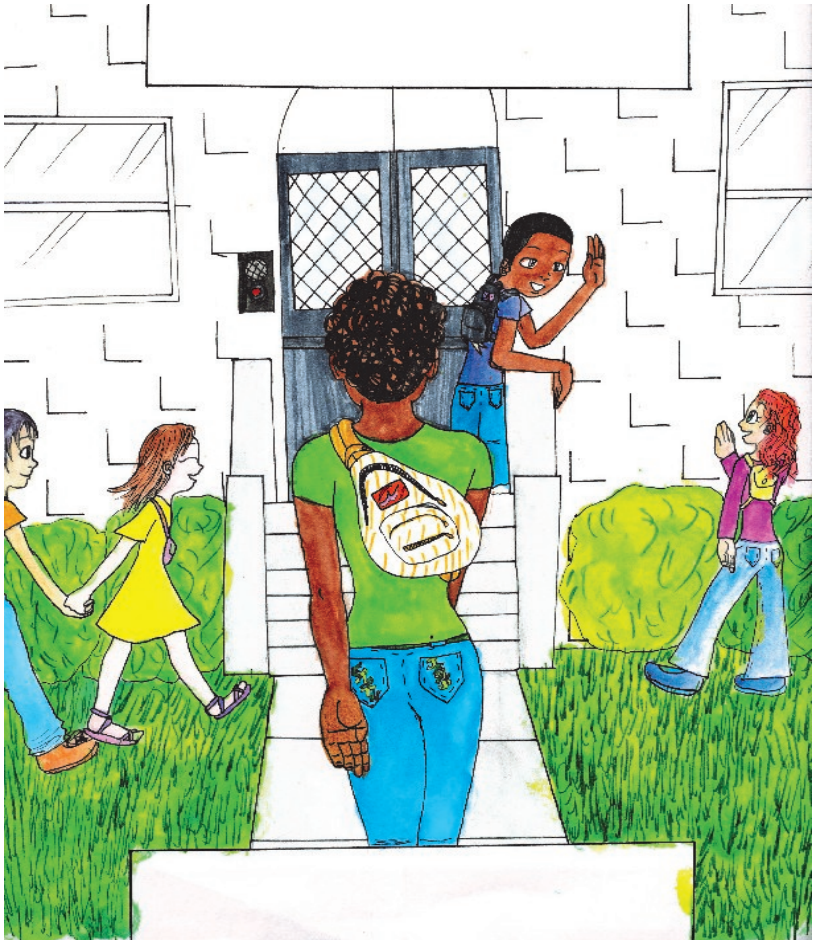
They cultivated the land but they didn't find anything. They used every method of cultivation, but still could not find anything. They even asked the tribesmen to help them, but they could not find anything, either. Then their father died without telling them where the hidden resources were. However, the children realized that the more they cultivated, the more they harvested.

In the end, they realized that they were one of the richest families in Rwanda. From that, they knew that those precious things actually came from working hard, because when we have land we should not waste it, but should make it valuable and productive.



Belle's Mission to Change the World

By Tamonica Braswell and
Yasmine Khoury



There was a girl named Belle. She was 8 years old, in the third grade, and she wanted to make a change.



Belle decided to pick up trash in her classroom.

When she was almost finished picking up trash, the school bell rang, telling her that class was about to begin.



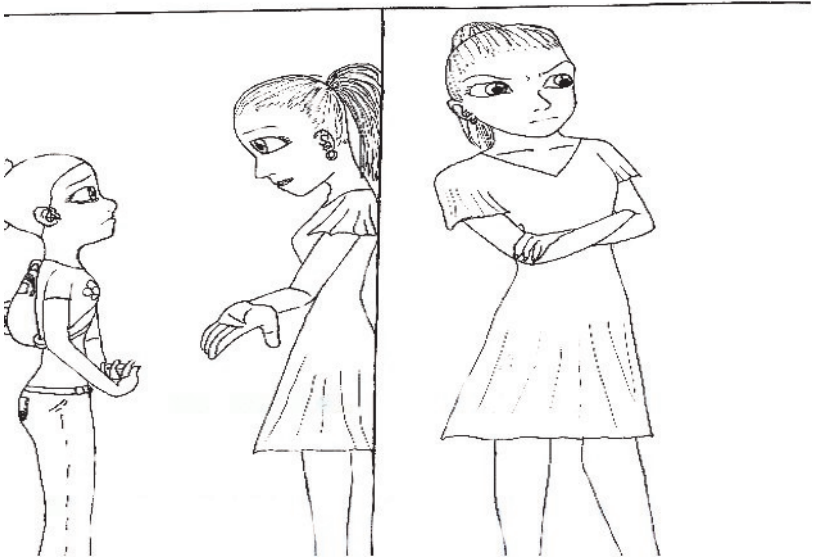
As the class started to enter the room, they looked at her and laughed. One kid asked, "Hey, what are you doing? We have janitors to clean up after us."



Belle was too sad to answer, so she left the room crying. The teacher came in and asked the students what happened.



Nobody spoke up, so she quickly told them to take their seats, and she went in the hallway to get Belle.



The teacher spoke to the class and explained that it is important to keep the classroom and our community clean and free of trash.

The class apologized to Belle. They got up out of their seats and helped her to clean the room.



The Beauty of Rwanda and Its Development

By HAKIZIMANA Enock

Rwanda has many splendid things. We have the Muhabura, Gahinga, Sabyinyo, Bisoke, and Kalisimbi volcanoes; and we have great mountains, such as the Nil-Congo mountain range. In our forests and savannahs, we have mountain gorillas, antelopes, monkeys, impalas, and zebras.

I invite you to come visit our marvelous environment. I am excited to tell you that in our country we have a very special day which comes every year: the gorilla naming ceremony, or Kwita Izina, which takes place on June 6. This ceremony started on June 6, 2005 at Kinigi near Kabwende Primary School, when more than five newborn gorillas were given names.

The naming ceremonies happen in Kinigi sector, in the Musanze District of the Northern Province. They are wonderful moments, and we get a good chance to observe some gorillas and learn how we can protect and maintain their kingdom in order to have them as good neighbors. This will help our country learn and become more developed.

I invite you to come visit us!

Ibirunga National Park (Volcanoes National Park)

By HATEGEKIMANA

One day, I was at home talking with my friend about National Park issues because we were seeing gorillas and monkeys outside of the park. My friend Henriette and I visited the Ibirunga National Park, especially the Sabyinyo volcano next to the ORTPN* center.

We went with an ORTPN agent to the forest. We saw various animals, such as monkeys, mountain gorillas, elephants, and impalas.

We saw the mountain gorillas dancing and beating on their chests as a sign of welcoming us. I was very impressed to see this. We tried to imitate them and they showed us that they were glad to receive us. We were also very happy to see that even gorillas have feelings similar to humans.

Every summer here at Kinigi, the government organizes a naming ceremony (*Kwita izina*) near the Kabwende school. This ceremony consists of giving names to the newborn gorillas. It is an international ceremony which makes the local

community conscious of protecting gorillas. Do you want to enjoy the wildlife where you can observe the volcano valleys and various animals and birds? Come to Kabwende Primary School and we will make you happy.

After visiting the National Park of Volcanoes, we went to Akagera National Park in eastern Rwanda and Nyungwe National Park where the landscape, animals, lakes, and climate impressed us all.

All of these good things are in this country of a thousand hills. Rwanda will make you happy and relaxed, especially during the holidays. Welcome to our country, Rwanda.

(*Rwanda Office of Tourism and National Parks)

THE Forest Fairy

By Nayyirah Sabir and
Andrea Schuba
Illustrated by Nayyirah Sabir



A forest and a city live together happily.



The city is big. It has many people.



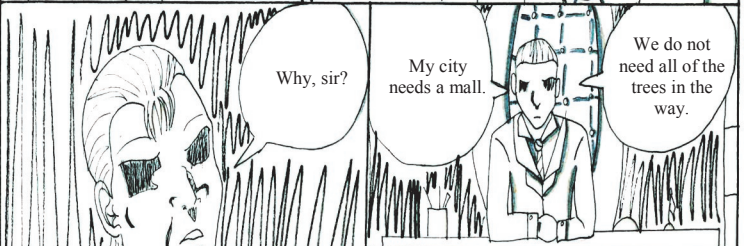
The forest is small. It has few animals.

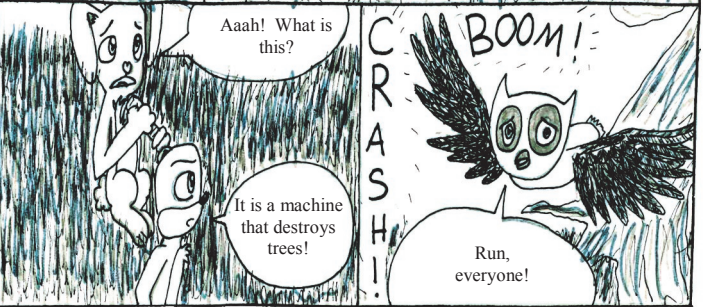
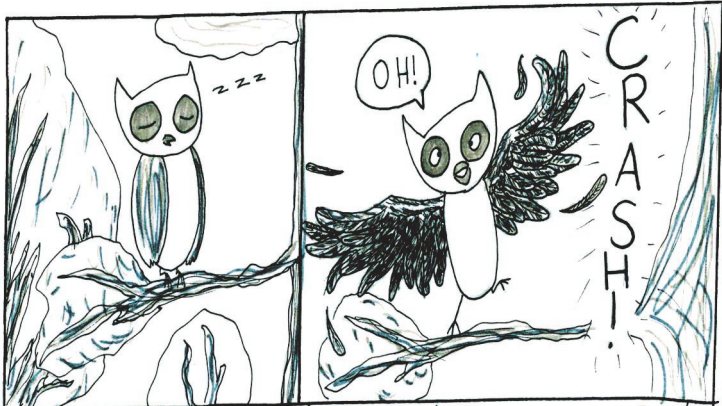
But the forest has a secret. A Forest Fairy lives there!



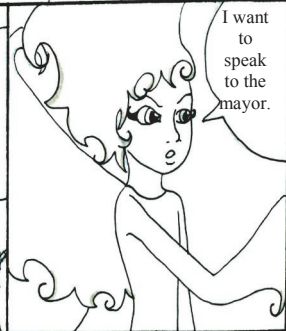
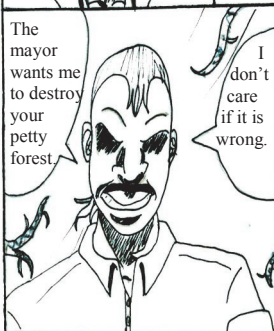
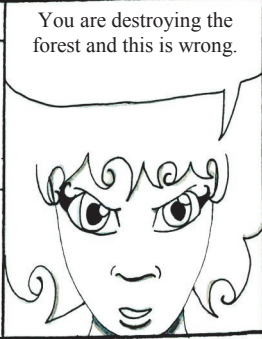


This is the mayor's office. He is the leader of the town.











A Drawing Story: I Will Be Famous

By NSENGIYUMVA Moise

Mahoro and Ntwari's father bought them a book about football*

*Soccer is called football in Rwanda.

When they were at home, they read the book under a tree.



They didn't see that it was written before 1994.



And me, I like football and I will become a celebrated person.



But Mahoro ...

Didn't you listen? There were no girls in the stories.



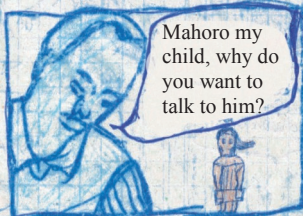
I will be as strong of a player as Zidane. You'll see!



Good afternoon papa, will you lend me your phone so I can call Jim Gatete?



Mahoro my child, why do you want to talk to him?



I want to be a famous football player that is known by all. Ntwari said I can't because I'm a girl.

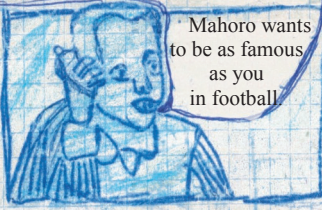


I will be as strong of a player as Zidane. You'll see!

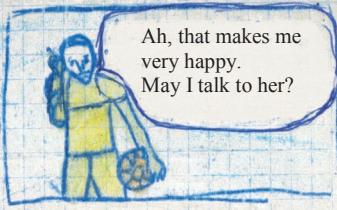


There aren't any girls who play on football teams...

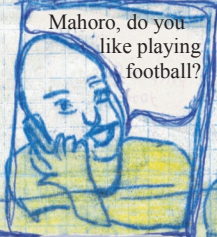
Hello, is this Gate? Good afternoon, this is Kayiranga.



Mahoro wants to be as famous as you in football.



Ah, that makes me very happy. May I talk to her?



Mahoro, do you like playing football?



Yes, I do. I am the captain of my school's team.



A girl's football team has just developed.



You see Ntwari. There is one.

It isn't possible.

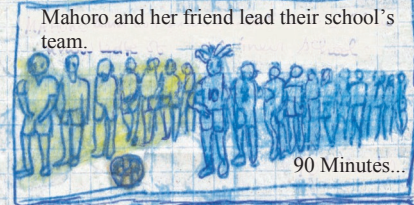


Mahoro, pass the ball to him!

Over here!



Oye! Oye! Pass to Mahoro!



Mahoro and her friend lead their school's team.

90 Minutes...



That's good!



Oye! Oye! Mahoro won!



Mahoro got the trophy!

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.



A Friend in Need is a Friend Indeed

By UWIRINGIYIMANA Angelique

One day, I went to fetch water very, very far from my home, because in our region, lack of water is a big problem.

When I was coming back, I had water in a small jerrycan. Near the forest I saw a pregnant woman with a great jerrycan full of water. In my heart I felt sorrow and I decided to help her. We were still very far from home. I gave myself the task of following her until she reached her home. When we arrived at her home, I saw that she didn't have firewood for cooking her food. I did my utmost to go to the field to look for small cut trees.

On the way, I saw my classmate sitting on the big dead tree, beating on her chest, crying that her mother had died. I took care of her by myself. I comforted her before I went with her to the neighboring house. I told her that when I came back with the firewood, I would also come to see her to have a short conversation with her.

For the woman who was in need of cooked food, I made it, and for the friend who had lost her mother I tried to console her. Together, we went to see our teacher, who gave her some advice as to how she

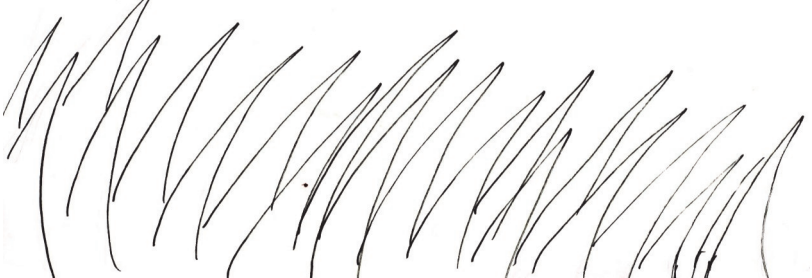
should behave in the following days. So, I feel very, very happy for having helped somebody in need.

A friend in need is a friend, indeed.

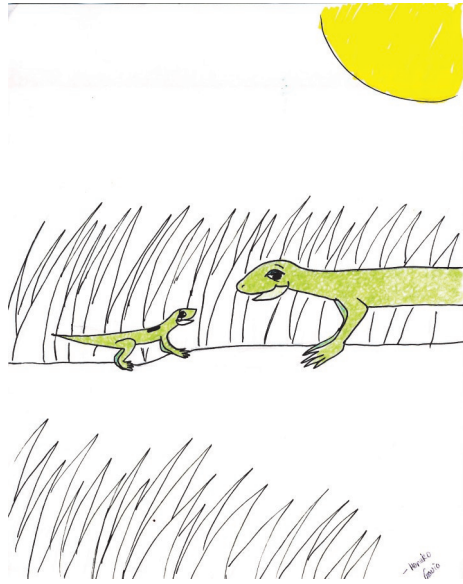
Baby Eevee's Adventure

By Maya Eaddy and

Navneet Kaur



Momma Lizard and Eevee Lizard lived in a jungle. Eevee Lizard always gave Momma Lizard trouble. One dark night, trouble came their way. Eevee saw something flashy and could not stay away.



She walked closer and closer to the flashy object, which was an empty bottle lying on the ground. She played with it, licked it, and grabbed it. The bottle got stuck in her throat! Eevee turned and twisted and tried to cry. But her voice was too quiet.



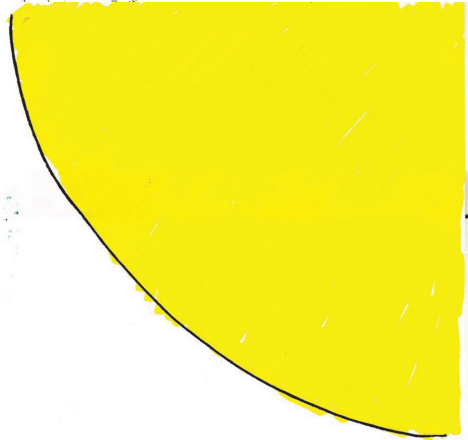
Momma rose to find her daughter Eevee gone. She twisted and turned and cried out loud. Family and friends came and crowded around.



She sent out word to find her newborn. Pigeons, crows, and moles came running, too. She said, "Find my lovely Baby Eevee right now."

All the animals took off left and right, trying to find Baby Eevee.

A little birdie sang here and a little birdie sang there, but they couldn't find Baby Eevee anywhere.





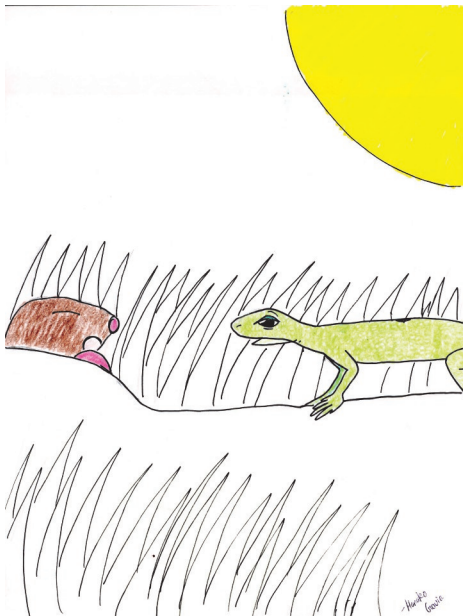
Mole and Rat went left and right, until they heard a baby cry.

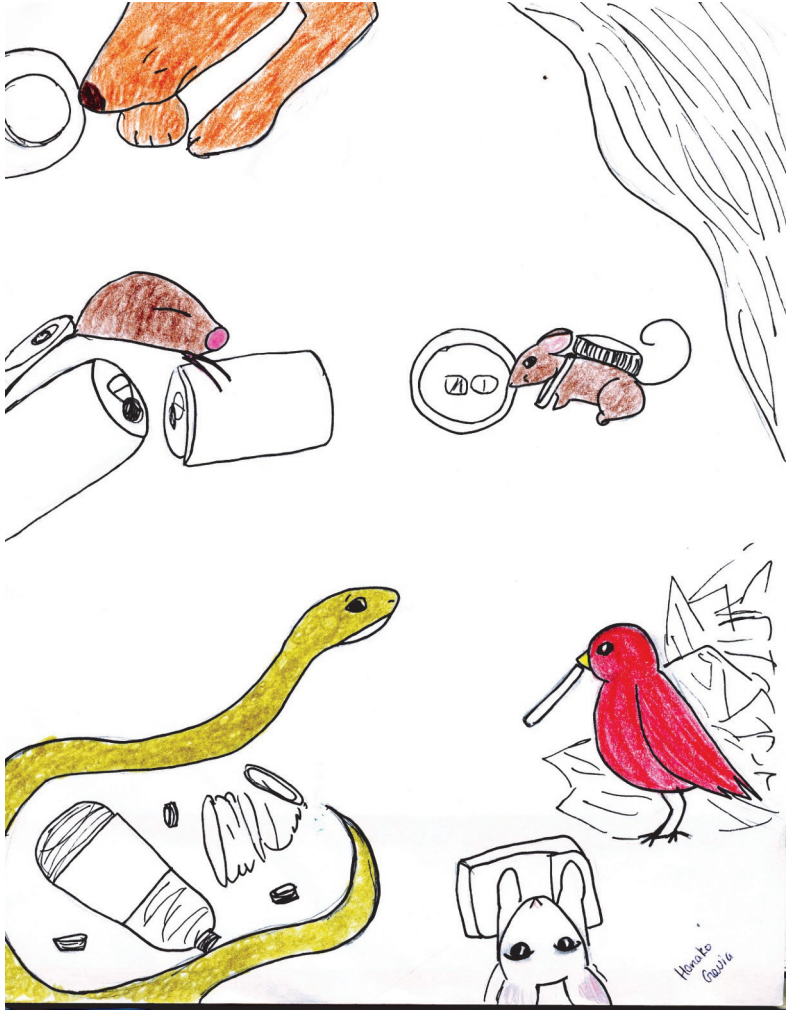
“Momma, Momma!”

Baby Eevee cried when she saw a big head appear.

Mole and Rat went back to Momma. “We found her, we found her, your baby daughter.”

She jumped with joy and tears poured from her eyes. Momma ran to her baby. She hugged Baby Eevee and took the bottle out of her mouth.





Momma saw the wrappers and waste on the ground. She asked “Who threw this carelessly around?”

All the animals picked up the trash to make their home a clean place.

Even Baby Eevee came to help.

A Dog and a Sheep

By SIBOMANA

A dog and a sheep lived together. They were good friends, and they had the same kind of life. One day, they sat somewhere and talked about their



hard lives.

The sheep said, "If I think about life, I don't know its end. In this world,

there is not another animal that lives this kind of life. Look! The people profit from my wool and make it into many things. Then they eat me.

That's their thanks to me."

The dog spoke, "Don't say your problem is smaller than mine. I, as a dog, protect people and accompany them, and they thank me by beating me and stealing my food."

The dog and the sheep said, "We don't treat the people as we are treated, but the people should know and remember that we are very important to them. They should treat us as living beings."

Don't treat living beings as things!

Lying is Bad

By UWASE Amina

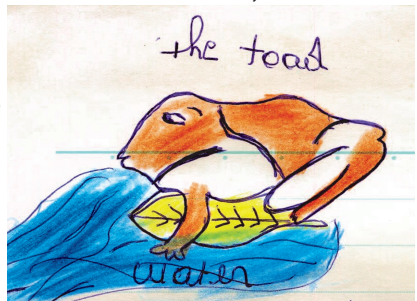
One day the toad met with the red rooster.

The toad asked the rooster why he was always so shiny and clean. “Your skin is always so smooth, but mine is rough because I live in the water. What do you do?” said the toad.

The rooster told the toad, “My wife heats oil and washes me with fat.”

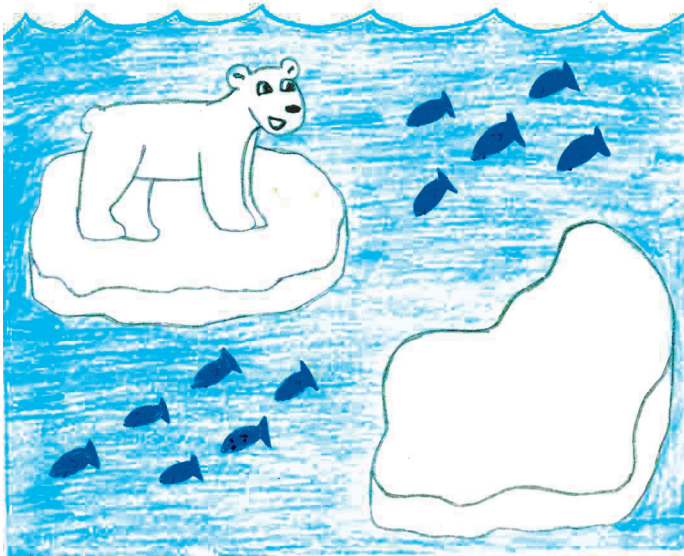
The toad said, “I understand. Let me go home.” The toad went home. When he arrived home, he told his wife to heat some oil. When the oil was heated, the toad ordered his wife to wash him with it. The wife refused, saying that it would be dangerous. The toad coerced his wife into lifting him and putting him in the pan of hot oil. His wife said, “First put only your foot in. If you don’t burn yourself, you can put both feet in.”

The toad accepted. When he put his foot into the hot oil, he burnt himself and cried, “Yorororororo!” He then went to the hospital to be treated. Since that time, the toad never talked to the rooster again.



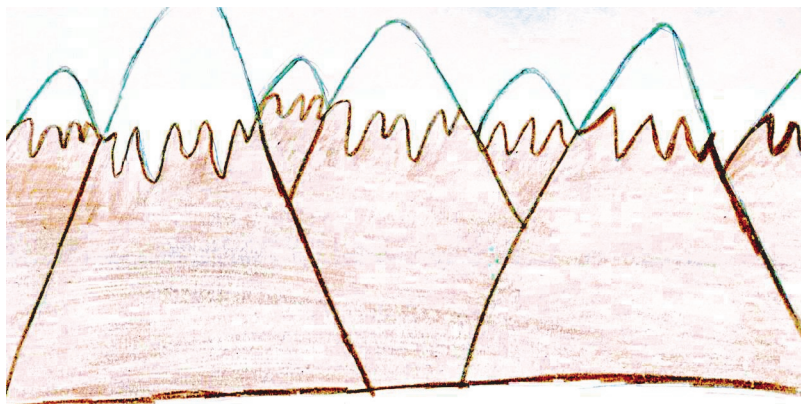


By Kendra Golson and Mae Ling Strang
Illustrations by Kendra Golson, Mae Ling Strang,
Mallory Schreier, and Hanako Gavia



Peter the Polar Bear lives in the Arctic Circle.

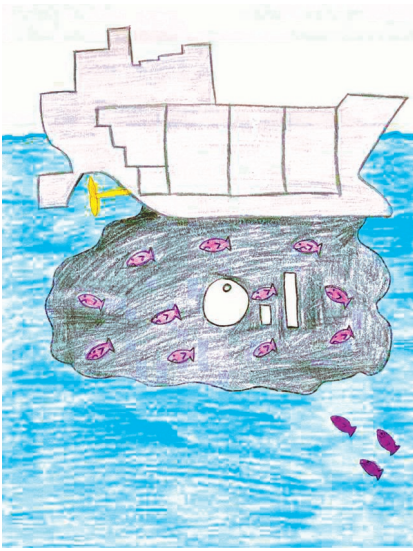
The Arctic Circle is very cold. Peter lives on sea ice. He loves his home more than anything!



The Arctic Circle stays frozen for the entire year!

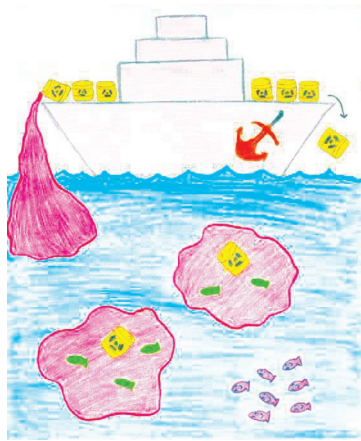


Peter is friends with Waldo the Whale and Wally the Walrus. They all love to eat fish.



We need to keep the water clean and free of oil,

harmful products,



and trash,



so Peter and his friends have clean food to eat
and a healthy home to live in!

Fun Facts about the Arctic Circle

Some of the other animals that live in the Arctic region are:

Muskox



Lemming



Seal



Hare



Caribou



Arctic Fox

Everybody is Wise in Her Own Way

By UWIMANA Dina

One day, the hare and the cat conversed about their lives.

“I am wiser than you. I know many ways to defend myself. What can you do if a monster appears here?” the hare asked the cat.

“I know tricks that can be useful to me,” the cat replied.

Suddenly, they saw panthers coming to catch them. The cat climbed a tree immediately. The hare tried to run, but the panthers caught and killed it. The cat saw that event and said to itself, “Any wise trick can defend you if it is used correctly. Everyone wants to believe his way is the best.”

Dear comrades around the world, respect each other. Everyone is wise in her own way.



The Lion and the Cow

By NIYIGENA Florence

In ancient times, there was a lion and a cow. The lion had his own water hole while the cow had none and was very thirsty. When the cow decided to go to the hole to drink some water, she told her calf, “When you hear my voice, go and kill the lion’s cub.”

The cow then cried and her child went to kill the lion’s cub. When the lion came, he saw that his child was dead. He decided to go look for the cow’s calf because he wanted to kill him to get revenge.

When the calf found some farmers who were cultivating their fields, he begged them to hide him. They hid him, but the birds in the trees were watching them.

Then the lion came and asked the farmers if they had seen the calf. They told him, “ We haven’t seen any of that kind of beast. Besides, what would it be doing here?” However, the birds in the trees told the lion that the calf was hiding in an empty hole.

The lion told the birds to watch the calf because he wanted to go back home and drink water before he came back to punish the calf. But the calf took some sand and threw it in the birds' eyes causing them to fly away. Then the calf was free! When the lion came back to find the calf, the farmers chased him away to prevent him from pursuing the calf. That is the reason why cows are friends of humans.

The Lion and the Leopard

By UWINEZA Alice

The Lion and the Leopard lived together. One day, they went to market to buy cows. The Leopard bought a cow which was close to giving birth, whereas the Lion bought a strong bull.



Afterward, the Leopard's cow gave birth to a calf, but the Lion said the calf was his because it was the child of his bull. The Leopard refused to give the calf to the Lion. The Lion



went to question all the animals of the forest about the calf. The Lion intimidated each animal and threatened to kill them one by one if they said he was wrong. All the animals obeyed except the Hare. Mr. Hare asked permission to go prepare birthing food for his father, but the Lion mocked the Hare. "How can your father give birth?" he asked the Hare.



Mr. Hare replied, "If my father can't give birth, how is it possible for your bull?"

Bakame and the Gorilla Meet in the Forest

By MUNYANEZA Jacques

There was once Bakame and a Gorilla. Bakame wanted to be the Gorilla's friend. But, Bakame was afraid of telling his good idea to the Gorilla. When Bakame was walking, he met the Gorilla, and the Gorilla told him, "Good morning, Bakame".

Bakame answered, "Good morning," and said, "I have a question and I want you to answer it."

The Gorilla asked Bakame, "What question do you have, Bakame?"

Bakame answered to Gorilla, "In the morning, everybody looks for something to eat in many places, but you stay in the same place. What do you eat?"

When the Gorilla heard the question that Bakame asked him, he laughed very much. "Do not ask me what you do not know. You see, friends come to visit me every morning and bring me what I have to eat."

Bakame asked the Gorilla, "Do they bring you food every time?"

The Gorilla said to him, "Yes."

Bakame said to the Gorilla, "If it is like this, when you eat, see to it that there is some food left for me. I will come to take it to eat myself." Bakame then said to the Gorilla, "I wish you good health," and went off.

From that day, Bakame began having a good life.

Recycling for Fun!

By Saudia Baskerville and Saya Kazahaya

Playtime was very fun for Mindy and her class. One day, Mindy's class could not play outside because of the trash on the playground.



Everyone shouted, "We really want to go outside!"





While her friends yelled, Mindy wanted to fix the problem.

Mindy went home and told her mother about the trash problem on the playground.



Mindy's mother told her, "There is an easy way



to clean up the trash."

And she taught her how to recycle.

The next day, Mindy sorted all of the trash into papers and plastics.

After sorting the trash, Mindy ran into the classroom to teach her friends about recycling.

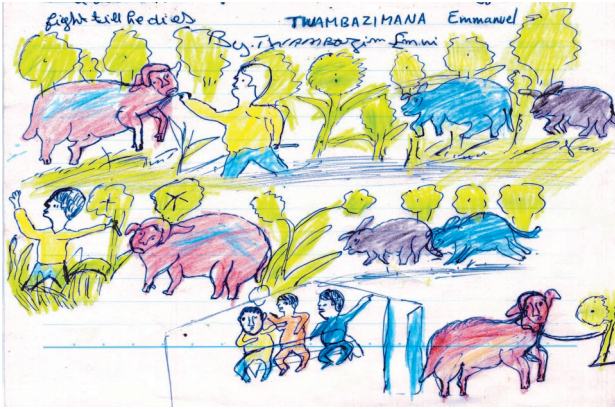


Now, Mindy's whole class recycles, and they can play outside every day!



Be a Good Shepherd

By TWAMBAZIMANA Emmanuel



There was a child called SENTAMA (which means “shepherd”), because he liked to keep sheep. One day the jackals decided to eat the sheep. They said to themselves, “Let us hide ourselves here, and when that boy leaves, we will jump on his sheep.” The jackals thought, “We are going to scare the boy by running after him. When he runs away, we will catch the sheep”.

The other jackal said, “Let’s go!” They ran after the boy. The boy ran, and ran so fast that they couldn’t catch him.

When he arrived home he realized what happened was not good. A shepherd must not have any fear. He must fight even if he dies.

Rwamahe and Bwiza

By IRADUKUNDA Immaculée

Once upon a time, a wife and husband had two children, Rwamahe and Bwiza. Their parents died, and Rwamahe took care of the cows while Bwiza was busy with domestic duties.

One day, Rwamahe was injured. He limped back home. Bwiza asked him what had happened. Rwamahe answered, "It is the hard problems of men."

His sister said, "You are saying that you alone work hard, and I do nothing?"

"It is easy to cook and wash dishes," replied Rwamahe.

"It is very simple to spend all day long watching cows," said Bwiza.

Rwamahe replied, "Instead of shouting in vain, let's exchange jobs."

Rwamahe stayed at home, and his sister Bwiza went to feed the cows in the corral. When she arrived there, the cows confused her because they ran away, each in its own direction.

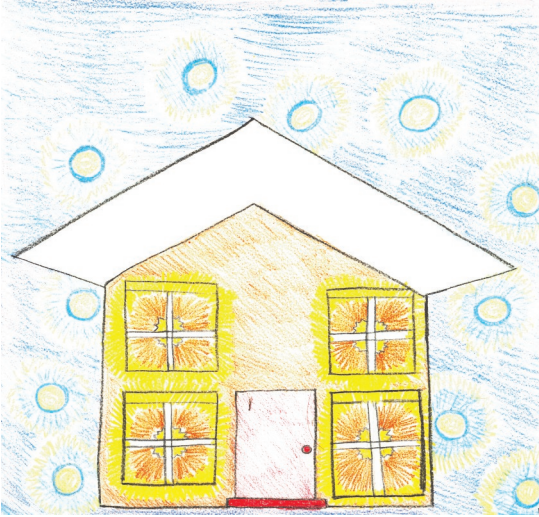
She did not know what to do, so she sat down and wept. A bird came and asked, “What is making you weep?”

Bwiza said, “I was a girl who kept cows and washed dishes. My bird, go and tell Rwamahe that the cows from our father have been lost.”

The bird told this to Rwamahe. Then Rwamahe came and gathered the cows, and they returned to grazing. Finally, Rwamahe and Bwiza decided to respect each other.

Miley Is Scared of the Dark

By Andrea Hynes and Emily Neitzel



Miley is afraid of the dark and keeps her bedroom light on every night even when she is sleeping. One day, Miley's parents notice that their light bill is too expensive, and Miley's lights are always on.

"We have to talk to Miley," says Miley's mother.

"We sure do, " says Miley's father.

At dinner, Miley's mother and father tell her that she is wasting



Miley's mother says, "Honey, we have to learn to conserve energy."

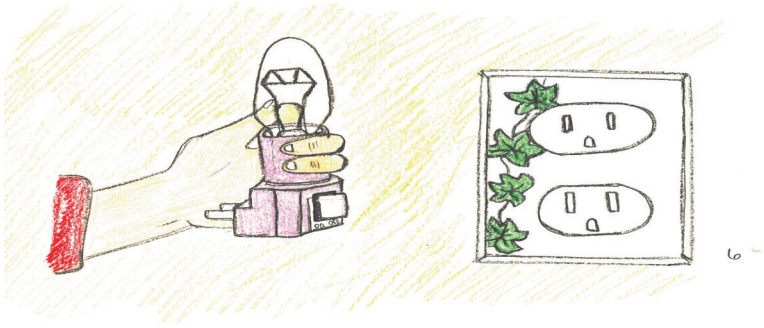
Miley asks, "What does it mean to conserve?"

Her dad replies, "Conservation means saving our resources. This means that you use the light only when you need it."

Miley said to herself, "I can't keep using the



when I do not need it. I need to learn to sleep in the dark and be a big girl!"



The next day, before Miley goes to bed, her mother and father give her a night light. Her mom says, “Now this should help.”

Miley says, “Now that’s conservation!”



The Poor Woman in the Church

By AHISHAKIYE Ferdinand

There was an old woman who was very poor. She went to pray in the church. She arrived at the time for offering. The woman said, “Maria, don’t look at me with bad eyes. I am going to take 200 francs from this basket.” Then the woman left the church.

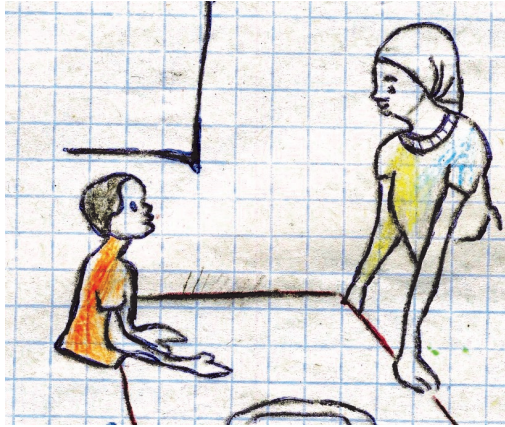
When a week had passed, she returned and said, “Maria, forgive me and don’t look at me with bad eyes. Now I am going to take 500 francs.” The priest saw her take the money from the offering. The next day the priest hid behind the statue of Jesus Christ.

The old woman came into the church and said, “Maria, now I come again but look at me with good eyes. I am going to take 1,000 francs from this basket, and I will not return.” As she was taking the money from the basket, the priest asked from his hiding place, “What are you going to do now?”

The old woman, thinking that Jesus was speaking to her, said, “Why are you forbidding me to take the money when your mother didn’t say a word against it?”

It's Good to Be Handsome

By TWAMBAZIMANA Fabien



Our brother is anyone we meet, including the people who are the same age as us, or who are older than we are.

Do to your brother what you want him to do to you.

Forgive others so as to receive forgiveness from them in return. Help them before they do something good for you.

Don't make up ridiculous situations when someone is confused. It is not his fault he is unsure. Remember that everyone needs to be loved and told he has a good character.

Don't gossip. Telling bad things about someone and making him look ridiculous to others

can create contradictions and conflicts in the community.

We have the duty of bringing people together, conversing with them, and teaching them tolerance towards other cultures to create a strong, solid society.

When you help your brother in a good or bad situation, that good character will make you blessed and lucky in all that you are undertaking.

Humor

By NYIRAMUGISHA Angelique

One day, a man and his wife were eating sweet potatoes at home. During the meal, the big sweet potatoes were placed in front of the man. The man wanted to know how much his wife loved him or whether she was greedy. So, while they were eating he turned the plate secretly so that the big sweet potatoes were in front of his wife.

His wife also did not want to eat the big sweet potatoes before her husband, so when the man looked away his wife turned the plate in front of her husband. After that, her husband did the same thing three times. By the end, only the big sweet potatoes were left on the plate. His wife asked him why he did not eat these potatoes, and the man answered that he knew she loved him.



Success!

All the big sweet potatoes remained!

Micomyiza and Serugi

By TURACYAYISENGA

Once there was a family who had a child called Micomyiza, which means “merciful.” After a



long time, his mother died, thus his father decided to get married to another woman. They had cows, so when Micomyiza grew up he became a cowboy.

While he was keeping their cows, he made a new friend called Serugi. Serugi was poor, his clothes were rags, and he suffered from scabs all over his body. He lived in the forest eating fruits because he didn't have a family. The forest became his orphanage.

Some time later, Micomyiza became fond of him and decided to take him home, in secret because his step-mother was very cruel. In the evening, when they came back, he took Serugi in the second house located behind the main house in the yard.

Micomyiza took care of his friend, but in

secret, because he was afraid of his step-mother. His father had gone to see the kings. He hid Serugi most of the time.

One day, when Micomyiza was in the pasture keeping their cows, Micomyiza's stepmother entered the house where Serugi was hidden. She was surprised.

"How did you get in here?" she asked.

Serugi explained to her all the things that had happened to him.

"No, you are a thief. You have come to steal," replied the step-mother.

At once, she took a big stick and started beating him. Fortunately, Serugi escaped and got to his home in the forest. In the evening, when Micomyiza arrived, his stepmother was angry with him and asked how Serugi got into their house. Micomyiza gave her answers, but his stepmother beat him too. Micomyiza ran away crying. When he arrived in the forest, he called for his friend. Serugi answered Micomyiza's call. They were happy to be together. They explained what happened to each other with the stepmother. They prayed to God for protection. They stayed together

in the forest. Sometime later, Micomyiza's father came home and heard all the news about his son, so he went to look for him in the forest.

Finally, he joined both children in the forest before bringing them home. He blamed his wife for being so cruel. She apologized for her behavior, and they lived peacefully.



Conversation

By NYIRAMUGISHA Solange

Boss: Hello!

Worker: Hello, boss. There is a problem here.

Boss: What is the problem?

Worker: Boss, the handle of the hoe is broken.

Boss: Is this a problem? What were you doing?

Worker: I was digging a hole in the garden.

Boss: You say a hole in the garden? What were you seeking there?

Worker: I wanted to bury your dog there. It has died.

Boss: Bobby has died?! How did he die?

Worker: He fell in the swimming pool.

Boss: It is not possible. He is good at swimming.

Worker: The problem is that there was no water in the pool.

Boss: Why was there no water in the pool?

Worker: I used all of the water when the house was attacked by fire.

Boss: How did the fire attack the house?

Worker: Your old mother wanted to light a candle, which set fire to the chairs and table and then the whole house.

Boss: Is she ok?

Worker: I don't know.

Boss: You say that you do not know?

Worker: Yes, because she is still in the house and did not leave.

Boss: AHH! She has died in the fire!

Fight Against Dirtiness By IRADUKUNDA Eugène

There was a child named Bwiza. She had a fear of water so she never washed her body. Her parents woke her up early in the morning. They told her to wash her body and go to school but she went to school without washing.



The teacher asked her why she came to school so dirty. She lied and said that she hadn't had water to wash with. All day the head teacher was monitoring the cleanliness of the class. He saw Bwiza who had shabby clothes and rough skin. He summoned her parents and asked them why their child was so dirty. They told him she refused to wash. The head teacher punished her, and the child decided to become an exemplary student.

Dear friends, avoid dirtiness. You can get illnesses like jigger skin* and ring worm from dirtiness .

**Jigger skin refers to Tungiasis, an inflammatory skin disease common in tropical regions of Africa that is caused by infection from chigoe (sand flea) bites.*

No Woman Can Eat Goat Meat in Rwanda

By MUKAHIRWA Aline



There once was a man who raised many goats, and one day he got married to a woman. After many years, there was a famine, and the man and his wife had to eat their goats. The famine continued, and soon the goats became few.

The man came up with a trick to eat the remaining goats on his own. During the night, while his wife was sleeping, he cut his long beard and glued it on his wife's chin. When the wife woke up, she felt the hair on her chin and thought it was the grass from their bed.

She tried to take it off, but she couldn't because it hurt. She cried, and her husband woke up and asked her what was the matter. She showed him her chin, and the husband cried too.

He said, "That is a beard! I think it is caused by the goat meat that you always eat." He then told her, "It is a taboo for women to eat the meat of goats. It will make you grow a beard or a tail like that of a goat." This made the woman weep.

The husband forbade his wife to go outside and told her that he was going to look for the treatment to make the beard go away. He went into the forest and found plants that got rid of the glue and made the beard come off her chin. The woman swore never to eat the goat meat again.

That was the greediness of man.

We Must Obey

By MANZI Roger

There was a young girl called Nyirakanyana.

One day her parents told her not to go to fetch wood in the forest when her friends came to call her. Her parents went to their farm far away from home. Nyirakanyana's friends came for her and said, "Come with us. We are going to fetch some wood for fire in the forest." She refused. They insisted that she go with them and finally she accepted.

When they arrived at the forest, guards shot at them. The other girls ran away, but Nyirakanyana died. When her parents heard the terrible news, they said, "She who doesn't obey her parents will obey the cricket." "*Uwanze kumvira se na nyina yumvira ijeri.*"



The Death of a Disobedient Girl

By HAKIZIMANA Aimé Cesaire

Long ago, there was a girl whose name was Nyiramwiza. She was the most beautiful girl in the village. Her parents loved her greatly, and they prevented her from going anywhere. They said, “If you leave our home, a wild animal will kill and eat you.”

Days and days passed. She was staying at her home, but one day,



twenty girls from the village came to her home.

They said, “Please come with us.”

“No, I can’t,” Nyiramwiza replied.

“Why?”

“If I do, a monstrous animal will kill me.”

“Don’t worry. We will protect you.”

“Go on. After cleaning the dishes I will come after you, but go slowly.”

“Yes, we will go slowly.”

After half an hour, Nyiramwiza left home and went thought the dark forest. In the middle of it she

saw a monstrous animal like a human being. It had five fingers on one hand.

“Where are you going, beautiful girl?” the monster asked.

“To have my teeth carved. My friends left me. There are two hours left, but now I’m in this forest. Please don’t eat me,” Nyiramwiza begged the monster.

“Be quiet, my girl, and I’ll do it well, but don’t tell anyone that I carved them.”

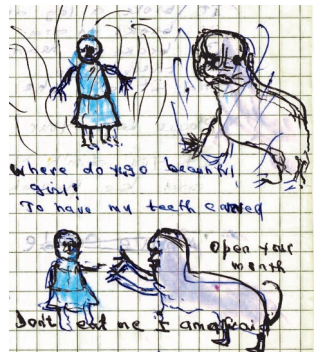
“I won’t.”

“Okay. Open your mouth,” the monster said, and he carved them well. “Go back home quickly. Don’t smile. If you do, I will eat you.”

“Thanks. I will not smile.”

In a marriage ceremony where all the village girls were dancing, Nyiramwiza smiled, and everyone looked at her carved teeth. They said to one another, “Look at how Nyiramwiza’s teeth are carved.”

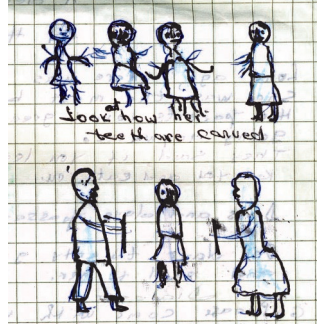
Well, after dancing, everyone came to her and asked her who did them, but she said, “If I tell



you, a monstrous animal will kill and eat me.”

They said to her, “Don’t worry.”

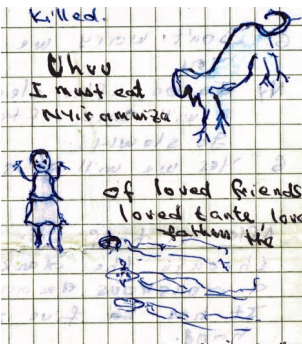
She refused to answer. Her aunt asked her, but she refused. Her niece asked her, but she refused. Everyone asked her, but she refused.



Then, her parents begged her and said, “Please tell us what happened to you.”

She said, “My mother, my father, if I tell you, I will die.”

“If you don’t, we will kill you,” they said. So



Nyiramwiza told them what happened.

It was night. Immediately, all fell asleep, and a monstrous animal cried out, “Uuhuu! I must eat Nyiramwiza.”

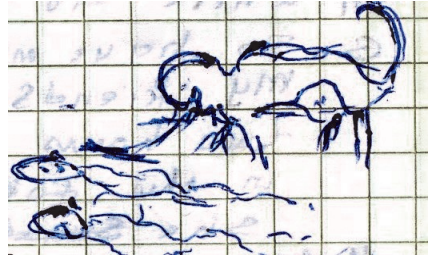
Nyiramwiza tried to wake everyone up, but it was all for naught.

“Oh father! Oh mother! That animal is coming to eat me,” she sang. But still they slept.

The monstrous animal came to the gate and said, “Uuhuu! I must eat Nyiramwiza.”

She sang again. “Oh beloved aunt, beloved father, beloved mother, beloved friends! The monstrous animal

comes to kill me and eat me! Good-bye, everyone. Good-bye, friends. Good-bye, my



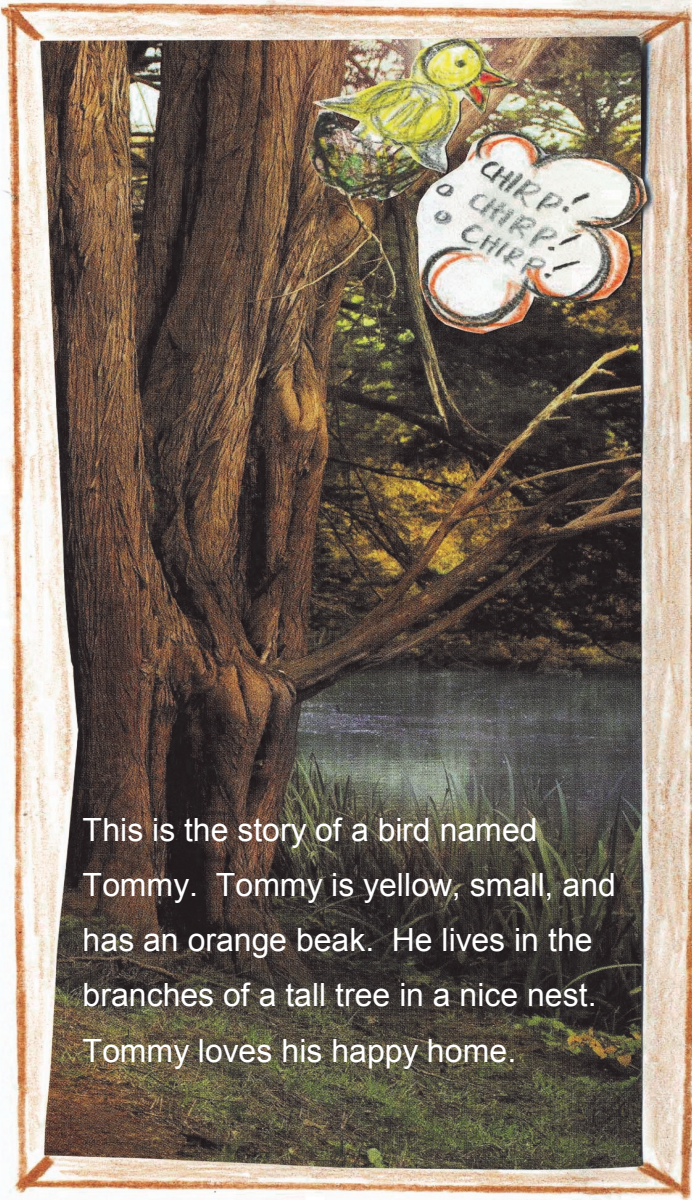
beloved brothers and sisters. I must be eaten. Oh good-bye, father. Good-bye, mother.”

After that, the monstrous animal killed Nyiramwiza. It broke off a leg and put it around the father’s neck. It broke off an arm and put it around her mother’s neck. It broke off her head and put it in the middle of their gate, and then it ate the remains of her corpse.

Please heed your parents’ advice. If you don’t, you will go astray and be punished severely.

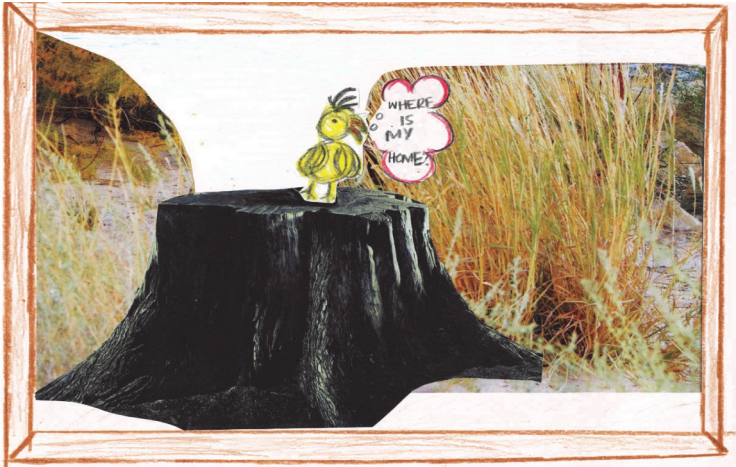
Tommy the Bird

By Frances Friedl and Aaliyah Bowen

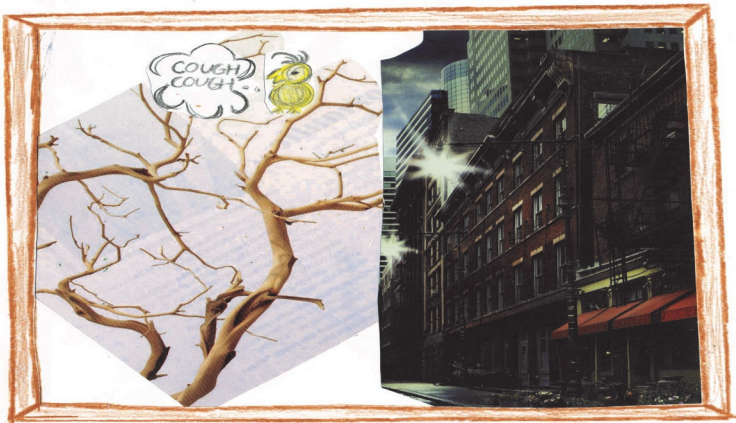


This is the story of a bird named Tommy. Tommy is yellow, small, and has an orange beak. He lives in the branches of a tall tree in a nice nest. Tommy loves his happy home.

One day, Tommy goes to find food. When he comes home, he sees that his tree is gone. It was cut down. Tommy is very sad because he has to leave and find a new home.



First, Tommy goes to a tree by a factory. The tree is nice and big, but the smoke from the factory makes him sick. Tommy cannot stay. He has to leave.





Next, Tommy goes to a tree in the quiet forest next to a pond. No one is there. Tommy looks in the water and sees garbage. It is not pretty after all.

Tommy begins to cry and flies away. As Tommy is flying, he is sad until he sees a very nice tree in a person's yard.





He flies into the yard and sees many other birds. Tommy sits on the tree but he cannot fit. The big birds took up all the space.

Dill, the boy who lives in the house, sees the problem and tells his friends. He has an idea to help the birds. He wants to get some trees to plant so they can grow into new homes for the birds.





Dill and his friends get eight trees and plant them. Tommy flies onto one of the new trees. Now he has a new home, and there he can live happily ever after.

A Story

By HAKORIMANA Jean Bosco

A long time ago, there was a wife, a husband, and their beloved dog. One day, the husband went to feed his cow in the pasture, and the wife stayed at home. It was forbidden in the wife's clan for her to eat meat.

Later on, the wife went to fetch water because her husband had a very good jug which they always brought with them. When she was on her way home from fetching water, she looked at her watch and realized that the time for cooking food had passed. So she ran as fast as she could, but she tripped and fell down and the jug broke. She cried out, "Oh! My husband is going to kill me!"

She went back home and looked in sorrow at the dog. The dog said, "Why did you come back so sad?"

The wife replied, "My husband is going to be late tonight and I am sad." But this was just lies. After a short moment, the husband came back with his cow and told her immediately, "Take the jug and go to the market. You will buy some meat. Don't forget to buy some rice because as you

know, you don't eat meat!"

The wife asked for some money and went to buy some meat and rice. She put rest of the money aside and bought another jug to replace the broken one. When she arrived home, she cooked the meat and rice. The husband was back in the pasture, and the dog was watching her. As she roasted the meat, she wanted to taste it by eating a small amount, but a bone got caught in her throat.

When the dog found her, he went around singing, "You people who farm at Nyarutovu, the small bone caught itself in the woman's throat and she has lied to her husband that she doesn't eat meat."

The wife called him, "Gusu! Gusu! Gusu! Come, my beloved dog, I will give you some meat! Keep my secret!"

The dog replied, "Never!"

The wife said, "Gusu! Gusu! Gusu! I will give you some rice!"

The dog said, "Never!"

The wife said, "Gusu! Gusu! Gusu! I will make you lie down on one of my breasts and will

cover you with the other one!”

The dog said again, “Never!”

The husband came back. He found the wife trying to dislodge the caught bone. The husband was surprised because she had said that her clan’s people don’t eat meat. He helped her and when the bone was out of her throat, she cursed the dog.

After that, her husband made her eat meat every time she bought it.

The King’s Servant

By IRADUKUNDA Emmanuel Sabine



Long ago, there lived a man and woman who gave birth to a boy whose name meant “What can I do for him.” His parents were very kind to him but they were not rich. They wove mats and sold them

to get money for feeding their child. They lived in that situation for a long time.

After growing up, the child went to work as a servant for the king, who lived in the same area as they did. The boy became so rich that he forgot the poverty in which he grew up. Unfortunately, after becoming rich, he did not care for his parents, but instead he disobeyed them. He did not remember their kindness. Instead of helping and greeting them, he dishonored them. Instead of helping them, he neglected them. During that poverty the parents stayed calm for a long time in sadness. They became angry with him because they had suffered hard in his youth to make a good



life for him. Not only the parents but also their neighbors were angry about the child's behavior. They tried to advise him but nothing changed. One day the complaint reached the king's ears. He decided to call the child to him.

“What happened to you?” the king asked the boy. “What is wrong with you? Why don't you help your parents? I heard about your lack of gratitude to your parents. That is why I now reject you. You are no longer my servant. I prefer your parents in your place.” His parents went to the king, and a short time later, their son began to beg for money to earn a living. Fortunately, his parents supported him. They gave him a lot of help, and he lived a good life thanks to his parents. Since that time, he turned away from his bad behavior. He did not forget his parents' lesson.



Go Wild!

The Story of Jack Hanna

By Kiara Pettway

Photographs courtesy of Jack Hanna

Jack Hanna was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, USA. He always loved animals. He started working with them when he was eleven years old. He cleaned cages for a veterinarian.



Jack often got in trouble in college because of his animals. Once he got in trouble for keeping a duck in his dorm room. Another time he was caught keeping a donkey behind his fraternity house.

Jack Hanna did not become successful easily. In 1973, a lion attacked a three-year-old boy at Hanna's zoo, and the boy lost his arm.

Jack did not let this stop him though. He said, "My dad used to tell me if you work hard and you love what you do, you'll succeed in life."



Jack succeeded by hosting a television show called "Hanna's Ark." This show taught children about animals.





Jack liked to teach about animals, but he also liked to learn about them. He took many trips to Rwanda with one goal. More than anything, he wanted to see the famous silverback gorillas!



The first time Jack went to Rwanda, he and his wife Suzi tried to see the gorillas but there were too many people on the tour, so they were not allowed to go. Jack and Suzi did not give up hope of seeing the gorillas, though. Two years later they returned to Rwanda and achieved their goal.

Jack had many funny experiences in Rwanda. One time, he went on a tour to see the gorillas. He was supposed to tuck his pants into his socks, but he forgot. When they were walking, the ants crawled up into his pants. He could not get the ants out and so he pulled off his pants in front of everyone!



Now, Jack has a home in Rwanda. He loves the gorillas, but he also loves the people. “They’ve been through so much, but they still have beautiful smiles!” He says, “My favorite place in the world is Rwanda!”

The Dreams of a Poor Man

By TUYIZERE Angelique

There once was a man who was poor. He earned a living through trade. People called him a man who liked to eat a lot. One day, while he was walking, he felt tired, so he put down what he was carrying to take a short rest. As he fell asleep, he began to dream.

In his dream, he returned to his life. He worked without taking time off to rest or to eat. Sometime later, he approached a young man, and the young man said, "I see that you are very unhappy. Therefore, you may ask me to do something for you." The man answered him without thinking and said, "My lord, I would like to ask you to make everything I touch turn into gold."

The young man answered him, "I thought you were going to ask me for something more interesting, but this is what you ask me? But since it is what you want, I will give it to you."

After saying this, the young man disappeared. The poor man wanted to see if what the young man had just told him was true, so he

touched his heavy load and it turned into gold. When he saw the gold, he was pleased with his wish and started to turn all the things he carried into gold. He felt very happy and thought to himself that now he could eat whatever he wanted. He would be able to drink a lot of beer and never have to drink water again.

After a while, he continued on his journey and took out the sweet potatoes he had brought to eat. However, when he touched them, they turned to gold. When he went to drink water, he saw that it also became gold. The man didn't know what to do. He told himself, "How can a man live by eating stones?"

After a long time without eating, he was going to die of hunger and said, "I wish I could change my fate. I wish I could return to my poverty." After that thought, he became poor like he formerly was. And he said to himself, "I will not wish for what I don't have. I will like what I have."

Don't want what isn't yours.

Murorunkwere and Nyiramihigo

By NIKUZE Pétrorille

A long time ago, there was a wife, a husband, and their children. The first was a boy called Murorunkwere and the second, a girl called

Nyiramihigo. Later, the wife died. The husband was obliged to bring in another woman. But the second wife told her husband, “For me to be



with you in harmony, you must first throw your children into the forest!” The husband accepted to

throw the children of his first wife into the forest.



The children tried to build a small house in the forest. The boy went to hunt, and the girl stayed at home to cook the meal.

Later on, another person traveling with his cows arrived and asked them, “Who brought you into the forest?”

They replied, “It is our father who has thrown us into this deep forest!” Then the traveler gave them a cow.

The boy took the cow to graze, and the girl stayed at home. But the father sent his servants to kill the children in the forest. When the servants arrived at the home in the forest, they found the girl and asked, “Where is your brother?”



“He took the cow to graze,” she replied.

“Who has given you the cow?” the servants asked.

“It’s almighty God who has given it to us!” said the girl.

The servants shouted, “Go and bring your brother!”

When she found her brother, she cried, “Come and they will kill you, Murorunkwere!”

“Who will kill me, Nyiramihigo?”

“The servants of our father!”

The boy said, “Give them food, so that they can eat. Give them milk, so that they can drink. I

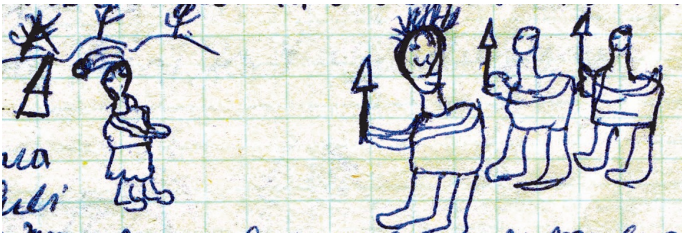


am still in the forest looking for firewood! I am coming! The cows and calves are crying!”

The girl gave food and milk to the servants, who went back home to their father's house. When the father asked them why they had not killed the two children, the servants said, "We arrived and found them beautiful and handsome. We couldn't kill them!"

The father sent other messengers three times, but the result was the same. The children were not killed. Then, he decided to go kill them himself.

He arrived at their home in the forest with his servants. When he found his daughter, he kicked



her and she fell down. When she stood up, the father asked, "Where is your brother?"

The girl said, "He took the cows to graze."

"Who gave you the cows?" asked the father.

"The almighty God!" replied the girl.

"Go and bring him to me!" the father ordered.

The girl went to her brother crying, "Come to be killed, my brother Murorunkwere!"

“Who will kill me, Nyiramihigo?” the boy asked.

“Your father who has given you life!” the girl replied.

The boy said, “Give him food and milk to drink. I am coming. I am still looking for firewood, and the cows and calves are still crying.”

She gave food and milk to her father and to his servants. When the father and his men became satisfied and happy, he asked impatiently to see his son. They went deeper into the forest to look for the boy. When they found him, the father decided to go back home with his children and obliged his servants to keep them well. When the king heard the story, he decided to call in the second wife of their father. He charged her with attempted murder, and she was banished from the community.

Then the children and their father stayed in peace.



Be Merciful

By IRADUKUNDA Angelique

Once upon a time, there was a family that lived in the countryside far from the town. The family consisted of two parents and three children, including one girl.

The children were students, and their parents paid a lot for their school fees, school materials, uniforms, etc. The first two boys walked to school. After finishing primary school, they went to secondary school and after that, to a university.



The parents were not rich enough to feed them well or to satisfy all of their needs, but they made an effort according to their ability.

A few years later, the sons got good jobs that made them more respected and honored by everybody. They went to live in town and became very rich. They had lots of cars, wonderful houses, and became famous in the town. The two great men bought houses in

different towns. The private cars in which they traveled were different from the public busses for passengers. They lived a good life with their new families.

Unfortunately, they forgot their family that remained in the countryside because of their poverty. They neither helped nor visited their parents. Their parents were extremely poor due to paying for their children's education. When the parents sent the daughter to ask her siblings for clothes or food, she did not get anything and returned home empty-handed.

"Listen to me," said the man to his wife. "I am going to pretend to be dead and after my death, you will tell them that I died. I am sure that they will come here to bury me after being informed about what happened to me."

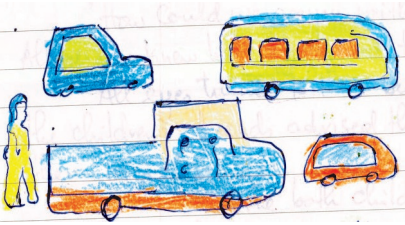
"After that, what will happen?" asked the children's mother.

"It is certain that they will bring a coffin and burial clothes," said the man. "Now, when you and the children are getting ready to put me in my casket, I will sneeze, then rise and get up. We will start to mock them along with all the people who

are in great sadness because of my death.”

“You are tactful, and your objective will be reached without a doubt,” said his wife.

At once, they gave the announcement to the radio and sent word to their sons. Immediately after

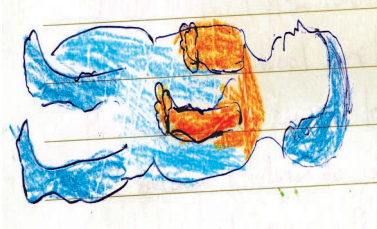


hearing the awful news, the two sons with their families, accompanied by all their friends, soon

arrived to bury their father. All kinds of cars were parked in the village where the burial would take place. There was a crowd of people, both rich and poor, gathered there in sadness mixed with surprise. The rich people were looking at the thatched house very critically asking themselves if this was the old house of these two rich brothers. The great men were surprised and ashamed. All the townspeople looked at them. The sons had become extremely rich during the time that the townspeople had not seen them. Their faces had changed and were as smooth and bright as faces of white men. It was obvious that the rich sons had a balanced diet and did not have any diseases. They entered the house and when the sons were

getting ready to put their father into his casket, he sneezed. All eyes turned on him.

They all exclaimed, surprised at what had happened, "The dead is raised! God be praised!"



At once, the children's father scolded his sons, "You ungrateful children, what did I do

wrong to you? We suffered from labor in order to feed you well, we paid your school fees, and we lived in bad conditions so you did not have to, and now your reward to us is this ungratefulness. We were kind to you, but after you both became rich, you dishonored us with your ignorance. You rejected us all as your enemies. Give us the reason of your behavior," said the parents and all the townspeople to the rich sons. "We cannot curse you. However, you have become parents, and I wish that your sons and daughters do the same to you as you did to me. Now get out of my sight. How could we see you without a trick like this?"

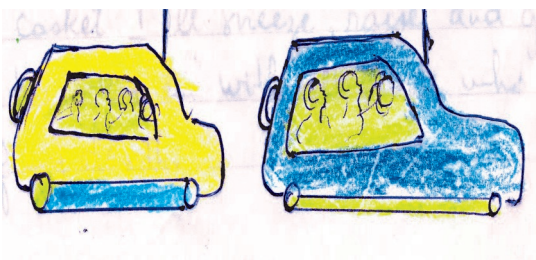
All the townspeople knew what had happened to the rich sons. All eyes turned on

them, but during the chaos, the friends of the rich men advised them to apologize for their ungratefulness.

The two sons apologized for their ungrateful behavior. Their parents and the townspeople forgave them and told them, “Never again, never again.”

Since that day, the families lived on good terms. The men built a good house for their parents, then gave them food and clothes and promised to visit them three times a month.

God made you rich to help the poor, so don't repay kindness with ungratefulness. If someone apologizes, be merciful.



Water Changes Everything: The story of *charity: water*

Written by Jordyn Marlin and Ellie Berry
Photographs courtesy of Scott Harrison,
Founder of **charity: water**



Thirty-four-year-old Scott Harrison founded an organization called “*charity: water*” in 2006. Since he started *charity: water*, he has raised \$18 million to help one million people in sixteen countries around the world. This includes Rwanda, where he has helped eleven villages have clean drinking water.

When Scott was a little boy, he already showed signs of compassion. At age four, his mother became sick from carbon monoxide poisoning. He spent much of his time caring for her while he was growing up. He always showed he was capable of helping others.



*Above: Boys in Rwanda stand next to their new well. Their lives will be much different now that they have clean, safe drinking water. **charity: water** and Living Water International made this well possible.*

After Scott grew up, he got a new job throwing major parties in New York City. He made lots of money doing it, but only for himself.

Then Scott went on a trip to take photos for an organization called Mercy Ships. He took more photos of the sick people and the doctors than of the scenery. Wanting to see more, he stayed in



Liberia, a country in West Africa, volunteering with Mercy Ships.

Scott thought his photos of the people he met told a great story. Now he uses photos and videos to tell people why clean water is so important.

He wanted to make a difference because he knew that there were one billion people in the world without clean drinking water!



Scott chose water because he felt that of all the major problems in the world, water touched the most people. Plus, 80% of all diseases come from dirty water.

The idea of **charity: water** started on Scott's 31st birthday when he asked people to bring \$20 instead of gifts. The money that he raised from his birthday was enough to build six wells in Uganda!



The next year, Scott encouraged other people with September birthdays to do the same thing. They raised a total of \$150,000 that year.

Did you know that \$20 can give a person clean water for twenty years?

One out of every eight people on Earth does not have clean water.



Scott's work at ***charity: water*** takes him all over the world to help provide clean drinking water for a million people. Most people in developing countries rely on less than five gallons of water a day.



Access to clean water helps girls have more time in school because they spend less time walking for water.



Scott Harrison's favorite place is Ethiopia. He loves it so much because the people are willing to persevere to have clean water to drink. Scott has visited Ethiopia six times.

He recently returned from Haiti where he helped the victims of the 2010 earthquake get water.



Left: A village gathers to see a well completed in Ethiopia, one of Scott's favorite places.

If **charity: water** hadn't started, there would be a million people that would still be drinking dirty water. But Scott doesn't spend too much time thinking about it.



There are still one billion people who need access to clean drinking water. Scott says, "One of the biggest challenges is the enormity of the problem and figuring out how to solve the entire problem." But we can all be part of the solution.

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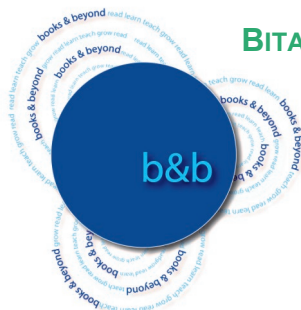
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