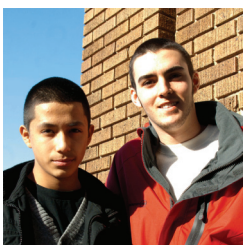
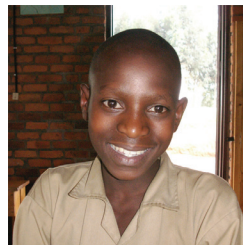
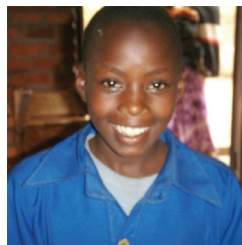
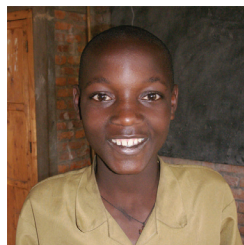
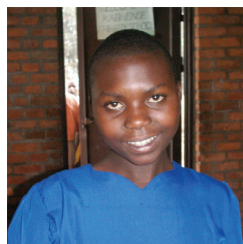


The IU Global Village Living-Learning Center &  
TEAM School's Books & Beyond Project

# THE WORLD IS OUR HOME

A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES

VOLUME III





# Books & Beyond

read. learn. teach. grow.

## *A Note to Our Readers*

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

Working in pairs, IU's Global Village students mentor TEAM Schools middle and high school students, and together the partners develop short stories that are compiled in an anthology along with stories from the Kabwende primary fifth (P.5) and sixth (P.6) 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, 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 2011 Books & Beyond project.*

For more information please contact:

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## **Thank You**

*This project could not have been successful without the contributions of many dedicated people and organizations. From Indiana University, we want to thank the IU College of Arts & Sciences, IU Global Village Living-Learning Center, IU School of Education, the IU Center for Language Technology and Instructional Enrichment, the IU Student Association, Residential Programs & Services—Academic Initiatives and Services, Kelley Living-Learning Center, Professor Beth Lewis Samuelson, Dr. Jeff Holdeman, Lauren Caldarera, and James Kigamwa. In Rwanda, we want to thank Clement Nkuriyingoma, Fidele Nzigira, Roger Ruberwa, Alphonse Mvumvaneza, Isaac Nshimiyimana, Abdul Cyubahiro, Simon Peter Munyaneza and the student mentors from Apicur Secondary School, and Kabwende teachers Onesphore Bagirishya, Emmanuel Niyonzima, and Theogene Ngendahimana. We also want to thank the TEAM Schools family, with a special thanks to Ali Nagle, Marc Tan, Nima Rouhanifard, Kristen Sigler, Joanna Belcher, Ben Cope, Sha Reagans, Ryan Hill, and the SPARK Academy teachers and staff. We owe thanks to assistance from the State Farm Youth Advisory Board and Indiana Campus Compact's Service-Engagement AmeriCorps program. This project is especially grateful to Books & Beyond visionary, Nancy Uslan, for her ongoing support and for founding the Friends of Books & Beyond organization. And most importantly, thank you to all the students from the Global Village Living-Learning Center, Kabwende Primary School, and TEAM Schools who dedicated endless hours to making this a reality.*



**Ψ INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
BLOOMINGTON**

## PROJECT SUPPORT

**Students, faculty, and staff who played an integral role in making this book possible by serving as collaborators, documenters, fundraisers, and translators**

Collaborators: Ellie Berry, Max Breitingner, Emily Christie, Andy Fak, Sidney Fletcher, Priyanka Jayanthi, Danni McPherron, Alexis Meleo, Kelsey Mize, Sarah Mosier, Emily Neitzel, Briana Petty, Mallory Schreier, Chelsea Skovran, Bryn Schweda, and Rachel Stewart

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# Alphabet Day

Nayyirah Sabir and Rachel Stewart



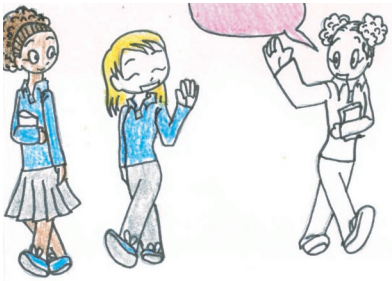
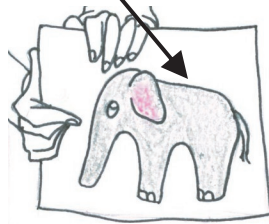
Alarm  
Bed



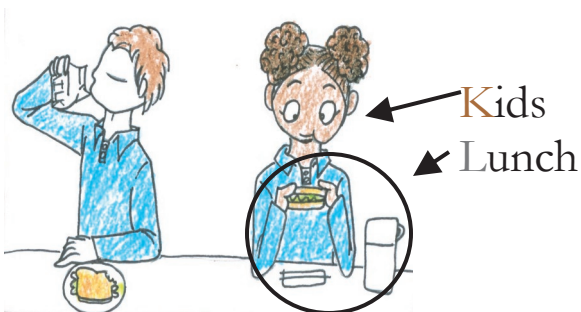
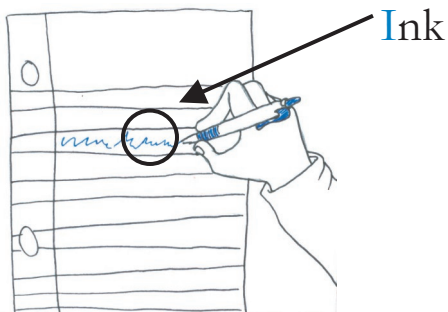
Cereal

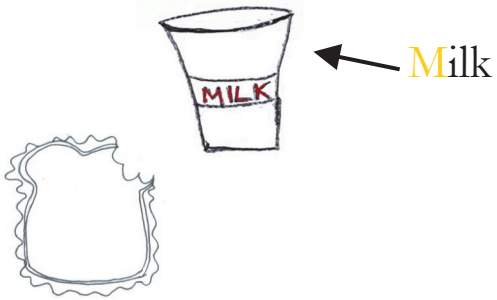


Drawing  
Elephant



Friends  
Good morning!

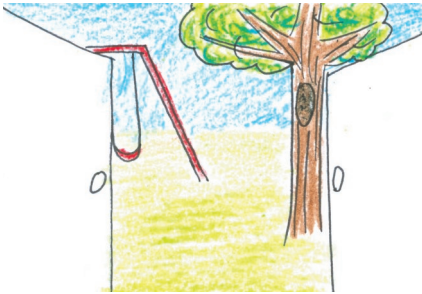




Milk



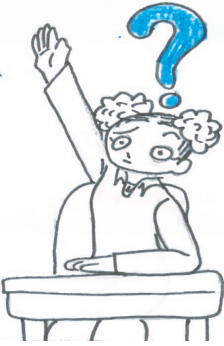
Newt



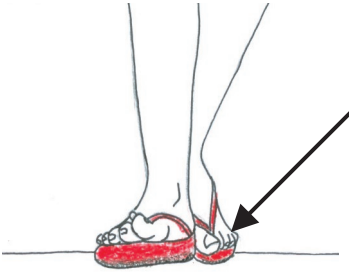
Outside



Pencil



Question



Red  
Sandals



Teacher



Umbrella



Video



Wig

Xylophone



Yak

Zither



Nayyirah is a junior at Newark Collegiate Academy in New Jersey. She likes to draw in her free time.

Rachel Stewart is a sophomore at Indiana University and wants to teach English when she graduates. She likes to read, make jewelry, and spend time

# Ms. Nagle's ABC Book

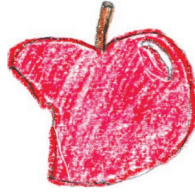
Chelsea Skovran, A'Kayla Williams,  
and Kehlani Camacho-White

This is Ms. Nagle's class.



She wants you to know  
the English alphabet:

A: Amber eats apples.

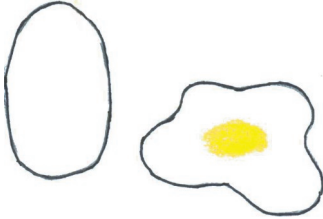


B: Bob watches birds fly.

C: Chelsea says,  
“Cheetahs run quickly.”



D: Daniel owns a dog.



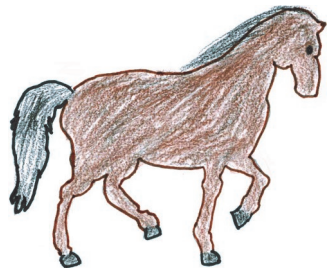
E: Emily cooks eggs.

F: Fred lives with his family.

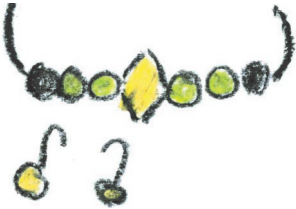


G: Gordon looks at gorillas.

H: Heather rides a horse.



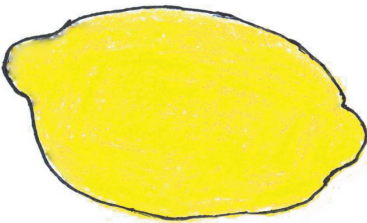
I: Ivan lives in Indiana.



J: Jenna wears jewelry.



K: Katie flies a kite.



L: Lana eats lemons.



M: Max likes math.

N: Nancy lives in Newark.



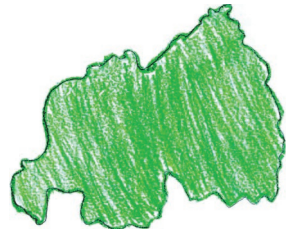
O: Owen saw an owl.

P: Peter eats pineapple.



Q: Quentin has a quilt.

R: Rick lives in Rwanda.

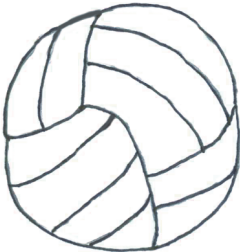


S: Sara plays soccer.



T: Tom climbs trees.

U: Uncle Sam lives in the United States of America.

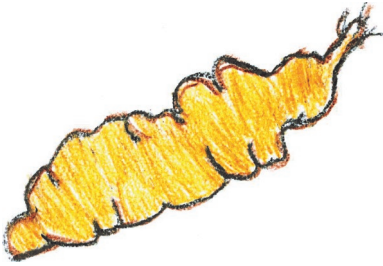
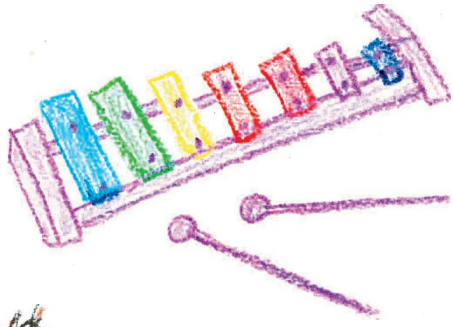


V: Vicky plays volleyball.

W: Wendy drinks water.

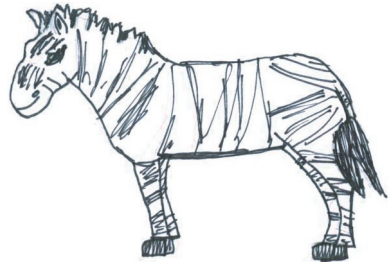


X: Xavier plays the xylophone.



Y: Yolanda eats yams.

Z: Zed likes zebras.



A'Kayla Williams is a 5th grader at TEAM Academy. She enjoys spending time with her family.

Kehlani Camacho is a 6th grader at TEAM Academy. She enjoys spending time with her younger siblings.

Chelsea Skovran is a freshman at Indiana University studying Environmental Management. She enjoys dancing and hanging out with friends.

# A to Z: Alphabet Journey

Kiara Pettyway and Briana Petty

**A** **America's** flag has fifty stars, one for each state.

**B** **Baseball** is a fun game played in America.

**C** **Country and Western** is a popular type of music.

**D** **Donuts** are a very tasty snack.



**E** **Eagles** are a symbol of America.

**F** **Friendships** form in Indiana with Books & Beyond.



**G** **George Washington** was the first president of the United States.



H “The World is our Home.”

I Ice cream is a delicious frozen dessert.



J July 4<sup>th</sup> is Independence Day in America.



K Kiara wrote this ABC story.

L Lake Michigan is a very large lake near Indiana.

M Michigan is the state to the north of Indiana.

N New York City has many tall buildings.



O Oceans like the Pacific Ocean are large.

**P** Children in New Jersey enjoy playing in **parks**.

**Q** A **quilt** is a blanket made of many different fabrics.



**R** The Mississippi **River** flows through the United States.

**S** The 13 **stripes** on the American flag represent the 13 original states of America.

**T** **Television** provides fun shows to watch.

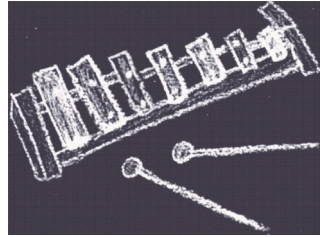


**U** **U.S.A.** stands for the United States of America.

**V** **Veterans** Day is the day we honor our soldiers.

**W** **Washington, D.C.** is the national capital.

**X** **Xylophones** are an instrument played in America.



**Y** **Yellowstone** was the first national park.

**Z** **Zoos** are a fun place to go see animals, like lions and monkeys.



Kiara is a student at TEAM Schools and is usually called “Piglet.” Her favorite subject is Spanish, and she likes to play soccer and sing. When she grows up, she would like to be a chef.

Briana Petty is a freshman at Indiana University studying Journalism and International Studies. In her spare time she likes to take photos and listen to music.

# Keanna and the Purple Scarf

Nidrea Futrell and Dakota Henninger

Illustrations by Caitlin Ryan



It is a cold day. Keanna puts on her purple scarf. She smiles because the scarf is warm. She twirls, dances, and spins with her hands in the air.

The wind starts to blow. The wind takes her scarf. Keanna shouts, “No! No! Don’t take it!”

She tries to catch her scarf, but the wind blows it all the way into the park. Keanna follows her scarf. She searches the park, but she does not see it anywhere.



Keanna is sad. She starts to cry. Tears fall down her face. Keanna sees her friend, Lee. He sees her crying.

“What’s wrong?” Lee asks.

Keanna says, “The wind took my scarf, and I cannot find it!”

“Don’t quit, Keanna,” says Lee. “You will find your scarf!”



Keanna wipes her tears. “You are right. I will not quit. I will keep trying.”

Suddenly, a strong wind blows. Red, yellow,

and brown leaves fall from a tree. Keanna sees something long and purple on a branch.

“My scarf!” Keanna says. “I found it!”

Keanna takes her scarf and puts it on. She smiles because she is happy to have her purple scarf again. Keanna goes home very, very happy. The end.



Nidrea Futrell is a student at TEAM Academy in Newark, New Jersey.

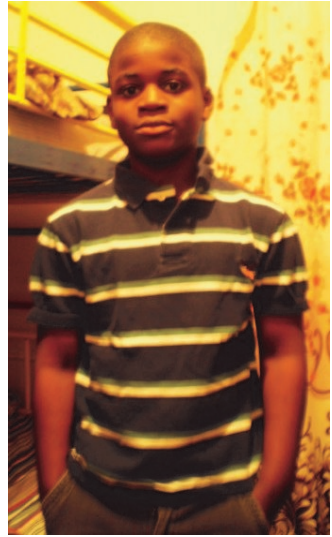
Dakota Henninger is a student at Indiana University, and is from Fort Wayne, Indiana. They both loved working on this story for you, and really hope you enjoy reading it and sharing it with others.

**Remember: Never Give Up!**

# English as a Second Language

Jessica Odoom and Hannah Yeiser

Victor is ten years old. He used to live in Nigeria. His parents found jobs in the United States. Now he lives in Maplewood, New Jersey.



Victor's friend, Hannah, is nine years old. She lives in Nigeria. She visits Victor during the summer. When she visits, Hannah stays at Victor's house.

New Jersey is very different from Nigeria. The weather is not as hot in New Jersey. The buildings are taller and closer together.



Hannah wants to improve her English. She hopes to speak English with everyone in New Jersey.



“Victor, will you teach me more English?” asks Hannah.

“Yes, I will teach you more English,” he says.

Victor teaches Hannah English all summer. She learns phrases like, “The boy plays basketball.”



Hannah's English is as good as Victor's English by the end of the summer. She rides a plane back home to Nigeria. She plans to share her new English with others.



Jessica Odoom is 15 years old and goes to Newark Collegiate Academy. She enjoys reading.

Hannah Yeiser is 18 years old and goes to Indiana University.

# A Friend for Yve

Jordyn Marlin and Chelsea McShurley

Rose is 10 years old. She goes to school with many friends, including John, Peter, and Emily. They like to read books, go shopping, and play soccer.



On the first day of school the teacher, Mr. Smith, walked to the front of the room and said, “We have a new student in our class. Her name is Yve. She is from France.”



“Yve is from France? She must be very different,” Rose thought. Rose did not know anything about French people. Rose did not think that she could be Yve’s friend. At lunch, Rose and her friends talked about Yve. They said mean things about Yve.

“Yve probably doesn’t like to play soccer,” said John. “We wouldn’t be able to have fun with her.”

“Yve probably doesn’t like to read books,” said Peter. “She is from France, so she can’t read the English books we read.”

Even Emily had something mean to say: “I don’t think Yve will like to go shopping with Rose and me.”

They decided not to be her friend. Yve was sad.

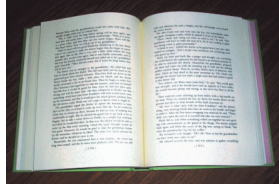
Mr. Smith told the class to take their seats. “Let’s meet each other! Rose, you will talk with Yve,” Mr. Smith said. Rose’s friends giggled, but

Rose just frowned. At first Rose and Yve sat in silence.

Yve began to speak, “Hi! My name is Yve.” Rose was still silent. “I really like books, shopping, and playing soccer,” Yve continued. Rose was very surprised that Yve liked to do the same things as she did. After that, they could not stop talking to each other.



The moral of this story is: “Don’t judge a book by its cover because you never know what is inside.”



Jordyn is a seventh grader at TEAM Academy who likes helping people and spending time with friends and family.

Chelsea is a freshman at Indiana University who studies International Studies and Russian.

# They Are Complementary

UWASE Amina

Mr. Kizito went to visit his garden. When he arrived, he found a pineapple arguing with an orange. Kizito asked them what the fight was about.

Kizito: Why are you arguing, my friends?

Pineapple: This orange says I am a bad fruit. He says that I don't ripen, and my taste is bitter.

Orange: This pineapple says I am useless. He insults me and says that my huge branches block the sunlight.

Kizito asked the whole garden for an answer.

Kizito: What should we do about this argument?

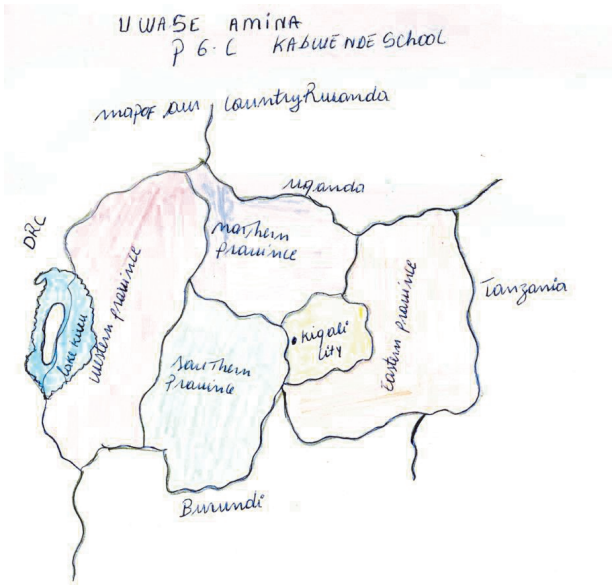
Cabbage: I think that the shade of the orange tree is good while the sun is shining. We like to have his shade as shelter.

Pawpaw\*: I think that we cannot argue about taste, because some people like to eat bitter fruits like the pineapple, but other people like to eat sweet fruits like the orange. The old men like pineapple, but the young men and women like oranges. Together, they please everyone, so they must respect each other because they are complementary.

Kizito thanked the pawpaw for his idea. From then on, the pineapple and the orange trees respected each other.

Dear friend, we are different in our colors and countries, but every person is useful to another. No one has created himself. Enjoy your origin.

\* A Rwandan “pawpaw” is called a “papaya” in the U.S.



UWASE Amina is 13 years old in P.6C. She lives with her mom, dad, and sister. She loves Rwanda's gorillas, and she loves the people in her village.

# Joseph's Soccer Story\*

Mark Isiofia and John Hurst

Hi! My name is Joseph, but everyone calls me Joe. When I was younger, I played soccer, and I was the best around. I loved to play, and I never wanted to stop. But one day something terrible happened.

I was running down the field during a game when I tripped and broke my leg. I went to the hospital, and the doctors told me I would never play soccer again. It broke my heart.

With the cast on my leg, I couldn't run or even go outside. All I could do was sit on the couch and eat all day.

But one day when I was fourteen, I was eating a pizza and watching a soccer game on TV. It made me feel sad because even though my leg was better, I had gotten too fat to play.

\* Rwandan "football" is called "soccer" in the U.S.

That was the day I decided that I was not going to be fat anymore.

I started running every day. At first, I could not run very fast but as time passed, I got faster. After a few months, I joined a soccer team again. At the championship game, a scout saw me and asked me to go professional. Now I am a star player for the New York Red Bulls soccer team!



Mark Isiofia is in 8th grade student at Rise Academy. He enjoys playing soccer.



John Hurst is a freshman at Indiana University. He loves to travel and has lived in India.

# My Dream

MANIRIHO Emmanuel

One night, I was deep in sleep. I dreamed that I bought a new car. The next day, I found a lot of money along the road and bought a house in town. I became a rich man. I went into a restaurant to buy bread and other delicious food. When



I paid, I didn't ask for change because I was very rich.



Then thieves stole my money from me. My neighbor, whom I had neglected, laughed at me.

I thought of a way I could survive. I returned to each place where I had

bought things without getting change and asked for my change. The store owners insulted me.

I found a rich man and told him that I had some treasure hidden somewhere. “Please, sir, can you lend me some money? I need to go far away to buy goods.”

Because he thought that I had enough money to pay him back, he gave me 100,000 francs. I bought an old barrel. When I showed it to him, he was angry. He insulted me. I lied and said that rebels robbed me on my journey. He forgave me, and I gave him back half the money.

Another day, I went to another man and borrowed a car from him. I told him that I only needed it for three hours, and I took



the car. Along the road, the policemen caught me because I did not have a driver's license. I jumped out of the car. They ran after me, arrested me, and put me in jail for 11 months with a fine of 1,000,000 francs.

When I woke up, I realized that it was a dream. I was very happy because I couldn't find the money. Also, I am afraid of prison. From then on, I decided not to lie because it is very bad.



MANIRIHO Emmanuel is 13 years old and is in P.6B. He lives with his father, mother, 2 brothers, and 2 sisters. The one thing he loves about Rwanda is the gorillas. He would like to know how many languages kids in the U.S. are learning.

# What Happened to Me

TUYIZERE Angelique

My name is TUYIZERE Angelique. I like to play football\* and volleyball. One day, my mother sent me to the market. She told me to buy sweet potatoes to eat and gave me a bag to put them in. On the way, I passed Kabwende School, where I saw some children playing football.



The children called to me. They knew



\* Rwandan “football” is called “soccer” in the U.S.

that I was good at playing football. I put my bag down and began playing. My team beat our opponents two goals to zero.



During half time, I remembered the promise I made to my mother. I told my teammates to replace me, but they didn't. I continued to play until the match ended in the evening. After the match, the losing team started to throw stones at us. They took twigs from the trees and beat us with them. We ran away and I left my bag at the playing field.



When I arrived home without my bag, I lied to my mother. I said that some thieves chased me and stole it. During the night, I returned to where we played football, but my bag wasn't there. What could I do after that?

Dear friends, be honest and do what is right. In Kinyarwanda, we have a proverb that says, "Inzira ebyiri zananiye impyisi." This means that it is impossible for a hyena to follow two paths at the same time.



TUYIZERE Angelique is 13 years old. She is in P.6 and likes gorillas because they bring in money to the country. Someday, she would like to become a tourist guide. She would like to know what kind of classes are offered in schools in the U.S. and which classes are the most interesting.

# Let Us Save Our Environment

NIRAGIRE Julienne

Our environment is very important to us. We can either take care of it or do harm to it. We should take care of our environment and should not destroy it. Visitors to Rwanda and Kabwende Primary school come to see the mountain gorillas which live in Volcanoes National Park.

Here in Rwanda, the visitors chose to create a friendship with us at Kabwende. This is because our school has good teachers and the students are polite.

I would like to give a message to Nancy, Beth, and Lauren. I want them to tell the people of their country to help us protect our environment because destroying something for no reason only creates loss.

Tell the people of America that the people of Rwanda want to save their environment and would like to make our country like yours.

One important thing is that we have the mountain gorillas which live in Volcanoes National Park and attract foreign visitors. The gorillas are calm animals that are not dangerous to people.

Remember that we stay alive because of our environment. My motto is, “Let’s save our environment.” Thank you very much.



NIRAGIRE Julienne is 13 years old and lives with her brother. She is in P.6C. and loves Rwanda’s environment. She also likes when people visit her family.

# My Big, Strong House

Ke'son Brown and Max Breitinger



My big, strong house keeps out the bad.

It keeps me safe so I'm not sad.

I feel the love of Mom and Dad,

But sometimes they make me mad.

They want me to work hard all day;

I want to go outside and play.

My parents always make me study.

Does this happen to everybody?

All this work and all these chores!  
I'm tired and my arms are sore.  
They say hard work is all I need.  
Their love will help me to succeed.



But it's too much love for only one.  
I just want to have some fun.  
To taste the rain and feel the sun,  
I will run until I'm done.  
  
I leave my house and run away.  
My parents cannot make me stay.  
But once I leave, I am alone.  
Now I must find a brand new home.



I meet new people on the street.  
They are not sweet or nice or neat.  
They do not work hard like they should.  
I'd be at home now if I could.



The air is cold and it is snowing.  
I do not know where I am going.  
I have no place to lay my head.  
I need a home to go to bed.

In my house, I have plenty to eat.  
It's warm and I have a place to sleep.  
I miss my house. It's big and strong.  
The trip back home is hard and long.

So now I run the other way.  
It was a cold and lonely day.  
My big, strong house keeps out the bad.  
It keeps me safe, so I'm not sad.



Ke'son Brown is 13 years old and attends Rise Academy. He loves to play basketball and read books.

Max Breitinger is a junior biochemistry major at Indiana University. He likes to play soccer, guitar, and piano. He is a pre-medical student and hopes to become a doctor.

# How We Get Clean Water

MUSANGANIRE Honorine

One day they told me to go fetch water. When I arrived at the river, I saw children polluting the water and told them that they should not do that because everyone comes here to get water. I also told them that we need the water for many things.



For example, when you need water to drink, you get it from this river. We also need water for washing our clothes, cooking food, and bathing. After hearing these examples, the children accepted that they were wrong and asked for forgiveness.



The leader of our sector\* invited everyone to participate in a meeting that would teach them how to use clean water. They learned that they should boil water before drinking it in order to avoid diseases caused by dirty water. After the meeting ended, the people followed the suggestions for using clean water in their daily lives.

\* There are 416 local governing sectors in Rwanda.

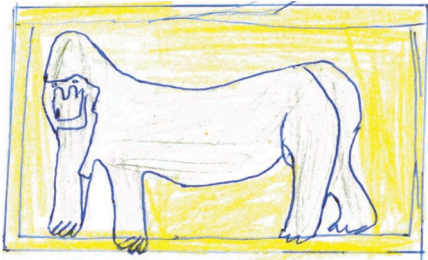


MUSANGANIRE Honorine is 13 years old and is in P.5. She lives with her mom, dad, 5 brothers, and 2 sisters. She loves Rwanda's volcanoes and wants to travel when she grows up. She also wants to be a doctor. She wants to know if students have similar classes in U.S schools.

# Autobiography

MUKESHIMANA Alliance

My name is MUKESHIMANA Alliance. I study in P6 at Kabwende School. My favorite foods are cassava leaves, macaroni, and rice. My favorite animals are gorillas and cats, but I like gorillas more. One day when I went to visit my aunt in town, she showed me a film



about gorillas. I watched them play, but I did not understand that they were animals because I was a child and their actions were like a person's.

My parents asked me what they were, and I answered that they were like people. The gorillas smiled and laughed, and the females rocked their babies. I observed that their behavior is to love each other. In a dangerous

situation, when another animal disturbs the group of gorillas, the chief of the group—which is also called a silverback—appears first and protects the others.

Another day, I was walking along the road, and I met some children who were fighting. They were cutting trees into sticks. I tried to calm them. I forbade them to waste plants because they are food for the animals. They



agreed and stopped cutting the trees.

When I arrived home, my parents sent me to fetch water from the spring. It can take four kilometers to reach the spring from home. Sometimes, after the rain, we can find water in the nearby stream and do not have to walk so far. But in the summer, there is no water there, and we must go on a trip all the way to the

spring.

When I arrived there, I saw the boys who had taken the leaves of the potato plants and



prim fruits to cover their cans of water. I told them not to do that shameful act of wasting people's food.

I asked them to share their food with the poor instead of using food as can covers.

Dear friend, be the guiding light for other children. Set a good example for them. Here at school, I was elected to be the advisor for other pupils. Be like me.



MUKESHIMANA Alliance is 13 years old and is in P.6. She lives with her dad, mom, three brothers, and two sisters. She loves to play outside and watch movies about gorillas.

# Above It All

Michael Riera, Tim Murphy,  
and Elle Lindley



Michael is thirteen years old and lives in Queens, New York, in the United States. This month was a very bad month for him.

First, he broke his ankle and had to stay inside the house for a whole week. His mother stayed home from work in order to help him feel better.

As soon as he felt better and was able to go



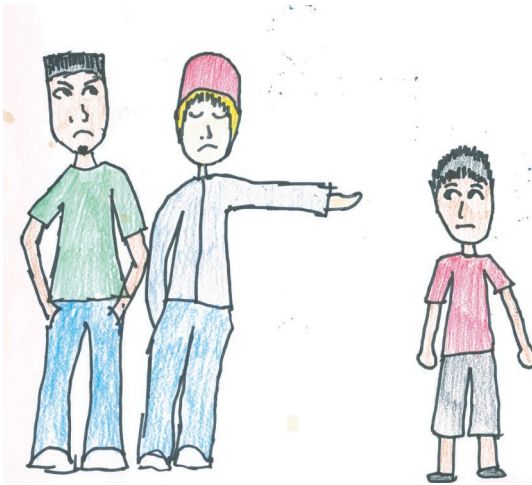
outside, he became sick and his eye turned pink. Once again his mom stayed home with him.



When he felt better, his mother let him go outside again. He was very happy that he was finally able to play with his friends. He had not seen them for over two weeks. On the day he finally went outside, a group of older boys

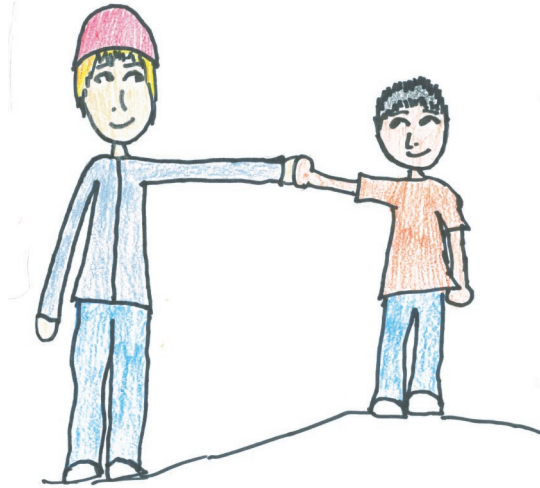
teased him. Since these boys were bigger than Michael, they wanted to fight him and take his money. He ran home where he was safe.

He talked to his friends about his problem to see what they would say. They told him to go back and talk to the boys about how they treated him. Michael found the boys playing on the street corner.



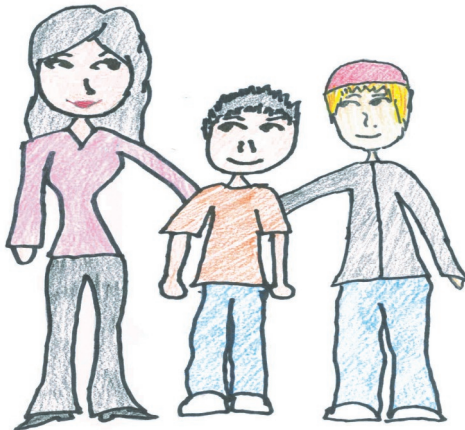
“Hey, I want to talk to you guys about what you did to me last week,” he said. “When you teased me last week, it really hurt my feelings and made me feel unhappy.”

After they talked for a few minutes, they



came to a friendly solution.

“We thought about what happened, and we realized that we were mean to you. We are sorry. Also, we want to know if you and your friends want to play basketball with us tomorrow,” asked the newfound friends.



The next day, Michael went to play basketball with his new and old friends. He saw them all together, and realized that even in the worst of times, there will always be positive outcomes in the future and caring people to learn from. Michael also realized that not all things in his life are negative. He has family and friends that care about him and who will always support him no matter what.



Michael Riera is an 8th grader at Rise Academy in Newark, New Jersey. He loves soccer, reading, and spending time with friends.



Tim Murphy is a freshman studying Environmental Management at Indiana University. He likes sports, music, and photography.

Elle Lindley is a freshman at Indiana University studying French and Russian. She enjoys dancing.

# Let Us Protect Our Environment

HATEGEKIMANA Pacifique

In our village, there are many kinds of trees. We live near Volcanoes National Park. This environment provides good water, and the trees give us oxygen. The climate has an important role because it gives us the rain that makes it possible to successfully plant and grow crops, and it helps animals to live a good life.





In the forests on Mount Sabyinyo there are gorillas, buffaloes,

chimpanzees, and different kinds of birds.

There are also many different kinds of shrubs and trees, such as eucalyptus. Our advice is that everyone should help save the environment because it protects the animals which live there.



#### HATEGEKIMANA

Pacifique is 13 years old and is in P.6. He lives with his grandmother, mom, stepdad, and brother. He loves to study at his school in Rwanda. He would like to know how often American students go to school.

# Bad Parents and the Benefactors

INGABIRE Josiane

Once upon a time, there was a mother who hated her child. She gave him chores to do instead of his homework.



One day, the child left his home and went to get firewood in the forest. Upon arriving there he thought about how his mother made him do so many chores. He became upset and cried. While he was crying, he heard a strange voice saying, “Be quiet, be quiet.”

He collected his firewood and went back home. Once there, his parents asked him

why he had left and he replied that he had lost his way in the forest.

His mother beat him and the child ran back



to the forest where he met a monster.

It asked him, “Where are you coming from, child? And where are you going now?”

“My mother beats me, so I fled to the forest,” he answered.

“Do you have a father?” the monster asked.

“No, I only have a mother. My father died and my stepfather came to marry my mother. She only loves the child they had together.”

“I will let you continue on your journey and you will not die,” the monster said.

The child went ahead. Along the way, he passed people who were in a town farming and he told them about how his mother beat him. They welcomed him into their community. He continued his studies there and after a long time he became a doctor.

He thought about what would happen if his mother fell sick and came to get treatment from him. Would he help her or not? Would you? Did his mother realize her child's talent?

I am thankful to the benefactors who help unfortunate children and poor people without knowing them.



INGABIRE Josiane is 12 years old in P.6 and lives with her mother and brother. She loves Rwanda for its beautiful environment and the animals. She would like to ask how many courses and teachers American students have and also wants to know about their families.

# Don't Pick Up Everything You See

NYIRAMUGISHYA Angelique

A wife, her husband, and their child were walking on a path and they saw some potatoes on the ground. They picked up the potatoes and said, "Let's give these potatoes to our dog and see if it will die from eating them. Then we will know if there is a problem with the potatoes."





The dog ate the potatoes and didn't die. Seeing that the dog didn't die, the parents started to eat the potatoes.

While the parents were eating, the child came into the house and told them that the dog had just died. The parents thought that they were going to die and asked, "What can we do to save our lives?"

They said to each other, "Let us repent for our sins and ask God to forgive us. We must seek the forgiveness of our neighbors."



The wife said to her neighbor, “Forgive me because I beat you.”

The husband said to his neighbors, “Forgive me because I committed adultery with your wives.”

After this, the wife also said, “I forgot that I have also committed adultery.” She added, “I will not do this again.”

Finally, the child told his parents that the dog was actually still alive. He admitted that he had lied about the dog’s death because he wanted to know the sins of his parents. He also told them that he forgave them for their sins.



NYIRAMUGISHA Angelique studies in P.6 and is 13 years old. In Rwanda, she likes to pray, study, sing, and she loves volcanoes and gorillas. She wants to know if American teachers use computers in class or write on the chalk board.

# Save Our Home

Khafeeon Love and Lana Wingham



Hi! My name is Khafeeon Love and I am 12 years old. Welcome to Newark, New Jersey, my hometown in the United States!

There are 278,154 people living in Newark and they make a lot of trash. I am sad because I know that trash hurts the Earth, which is our home.





Garbage comes from many different sources. Garbage is made when people drop paper and wrappers on the ground, or kids throw away food from their lunch.

We can help eliminate trash by reducing and recycling! Reducing means using less and making less trash. Recycling takes something that has already been used and makes it “new” again!



This symbol means an item is recyclable!

One way to recycle is to have a bin like this one that is just for used paper. Once it is full, a recycling truck collects the paper



from the bin. The paper is then delivered to a special factory that makes it into new paper to be used again!

Many other items, such as plastic and aluminum cans, are also recyclable. Once a can is used, it can be cleaned, melted down, and made into a new can.



Another way to help the Earth is to reduce water use. In America, we do this by turning off the water when we brush our teeth and taking shorter baths or showers. Both of these actions help save water and keep the planet healthy!

We reduce, reuse, and recycle, and we save water because we care about the Earth and want to keep it clean. We all share the Earth as our home. What will you do to help our Earth?

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!



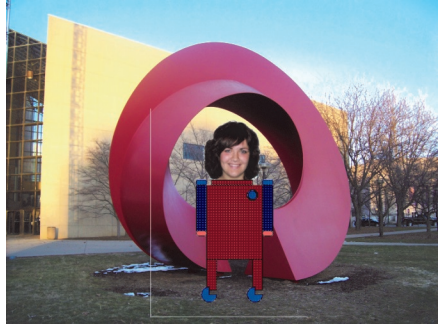
Khafeeon Love often goes by the name Khafee. She is 12 years old and is a student at TEAM Academy.

Lana Wingham is a sophomore at Indiana University. She enjoys reading, listening to music, and singing.

# Emma's College Adventure

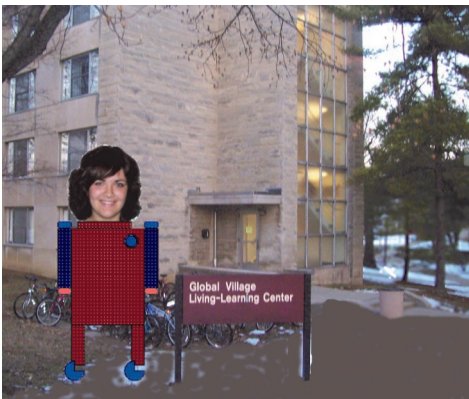
Jason Odoom and Brian Inlow

Emma arrived at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, on a hot, sunny day.



Months before, she graduated from her high school in Newark, New Jersey, and she decided to go to college in an entirely new place.

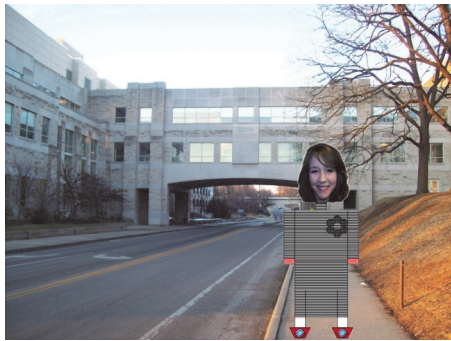
Emma wanted to study medicine at Indiana University so she could become a doctor. It



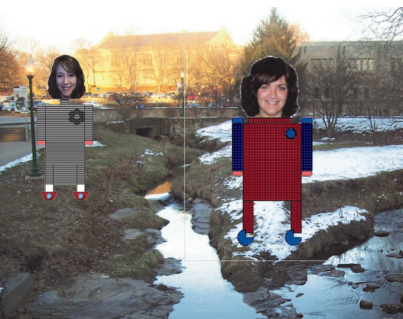
was now August, and it was time for school to start.

Emma and her family traveled to Indiana by car

for two days. They finally arrived at the university with lots and lots of luggage. Emma was happy to finally get out of the car and stretch. Her parents were sad that she was going to leave them, and Emma knew she would miss her family too. After saying goodbye, her family



drove away. She lived in the Global Village, a dorm for students interested



in diversity and other cultures: the perfect place for her. It was filled with pictures from different trips that students had taken, and it was the nicest place Emma had ever seen. She made her way

down the hallway and quickly found her room. This room would be Emma's home for

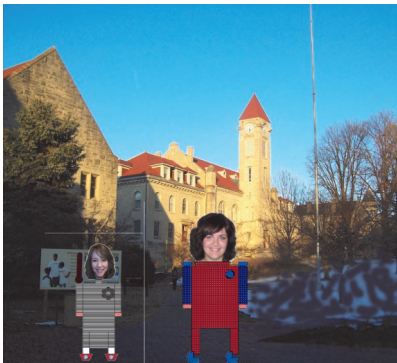
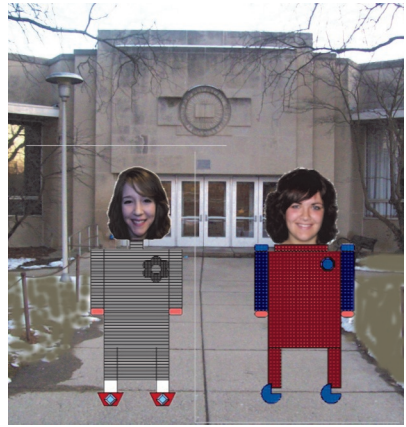
the next four years.

“Hi there,” said a girl. She had long black hair. “My name is Alisa. You are going to love it here.”

“Thank you very much,” said Emma.

“Do you want me to help you with your things?” asked Alisa.

“Yes, please.” They started unpacking and finished in ten minutes.



“Let me show you around,” said Alisa.

Emma followed her out of the Global

Village. The sun was shining, and it looked

beautiful. They went to the cafeteria first, then to the library. By the end of the day, they had

visited many places at Indiana University. They both had lots of fun. They were hungry, so on their way back to the Global Village, they got some food at the cafeteria. Emma had some fish and chips; Alisa had a salad with some cheese and water. It was her favorite food, even though most people do not eat it. It was the best salad she had ever had! After a long day of exploring Indiana University, Emma was tired. She and Alisa headed back to the dorm to sleep. They planned to go shopping the next day. It was going to be a long but exciting year.



Jason Odoom is a sophomore at Newark Collegiate Academy who loves working with computers and technology.

Brian Inlow is a sophomore at Indiana University, majoring in Chinese and International Studies.

# Soil Protection

MANZI Roger

Most of the people of Rwanda are farmers. They like growing many different crops, including food crops such as corn, beans, Irish potatoes\*, sweet potatoes, and sorghum; cash crops such as tobacco, soy beans, pyrethrum flowers\*, tea, coffee, and bananas; and trees that help the soil, such as eucalyptus and calliandra\*.



The soil is very important, and we must take care of it so plants can grow. We make the soil

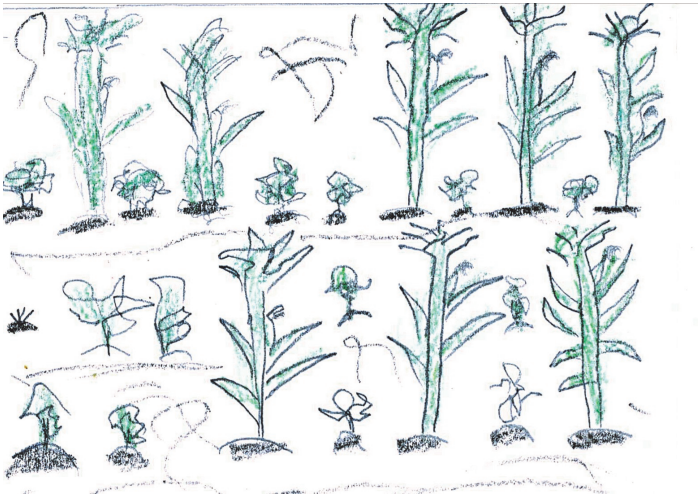
\* The term “Irish potatoes” is sometimes used to distinguish them from sweet potatoes. In the US Irish potatoes are simply called “potatoes.”

\* Pyrethrum is used as a natural insecticide in Rwanda.

\* Calliandra is a native flowering plant in Rwanda.

healthier using natural fertilizer, which is made out of compost from dead plants and manure, which is dung from animals.

To make the crops grow well, we carry the fertilizer to the fields in baskets or a wheelbarrow and add it to the soil, but the crops need other things. We fight against



diseases and insects. In the rainy season we till the land, and during the sunny season we water the soil.

A good harvest helps us buy school supplies, kitchen items, and furniture, like



chairs, and also helps to pay our school fees.

When the crops grow extra well, we get money for buying clothes, building houses, or buying seeds.

One of my favorite crops is Irish potatoes. Sometimes when I am eating with my brothers, I play a game of trying to get the big potatoes. If they are not in front of me, I try to turn the plate with the big potatoes toward me.

Everybody should join me and take care of our soil by respecting all steps of its preparation.



MANZI Roger is 13 years old and in P.6A. He loves Rwanda's environment and the gorillas, and wants to be a driver when he is older.

# Life in School

Zaire Culver and Jeff Wise

Each day, I wake up, take a shower, and put on my clothes. My mother signs my homework so that my teachers know that it is complete.

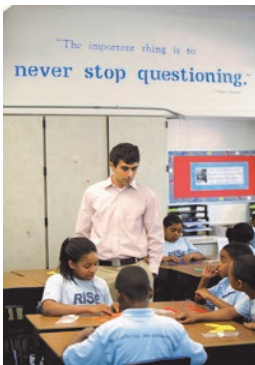
Then, my mom gets ready for work, and my father drives me to school. I see four hundred other students walking into the large school building in Newark, New Jersey, my hometown.



School begins at 7:25 in the morning. First, I go to a class where teachers check my homework. I also eat

breakfast during that class. After that, I go to my foreign language class where I study

Spanish. We begin class by acting out the meanings of words in order to remember them. During class, we learn new vocabulary words and study Spanish literature. Many Spanish speakers live in the United States, including New Jersey. It is important that I learn the language if I need to talk to someone who cannot speak English.



After Spanish class is over, I go to writing class. We learn different skills to write our essays for the class. We write persuasive essays to try to make the reader agree with what we are arguing.

After writing class, we go to reading class. My favorite books to read are about sports and fantasy.

Before I eat lunch, I go to history class. For me, history is more exciting than my writing

and reading classes. I especially enjoy learning about world history and how each person across the world is affected by war and conflict. Later, we eat lunch in the cafeteria. Sometimes we eat sandwiches, pizza, or pasta. Sometimes I have juice to drink; other times I drink water or milk. When lunch ends, I go to science class. Last year, we dissected starfish. A starfish is an animal from



the ocean that is shaped like a star. When you dissect something, you cut it open and look inside it. To me, dissecting a starfish was exciting, but gross.

After science, I go to math class. This year I'm taking algebra. Mr. R. is my favorite teacher and math is my favorite class. Math pushes me to continue working until I am able

to solve a problem.

When school ends, we are able to play sports. Three days a week, I practice basketball. It is my favorite sport. In basketball, two different teams play against each other to try to score the most points. Players try to throw a ball into a hoop, which is ten feet high. I could play basketball for hours every day and never grow tired of it.

Finally, I go home and finish my homework. The next day, I do the same thing all over again. Each day might appear similar, but each day brings something new.



Zaire Culver is an eighth grade student at Rise Academy in New Jersey.

Jeff Wise is a student at Indiana University-Bloomington studying Political Science.

# Uwiringiye's Friend

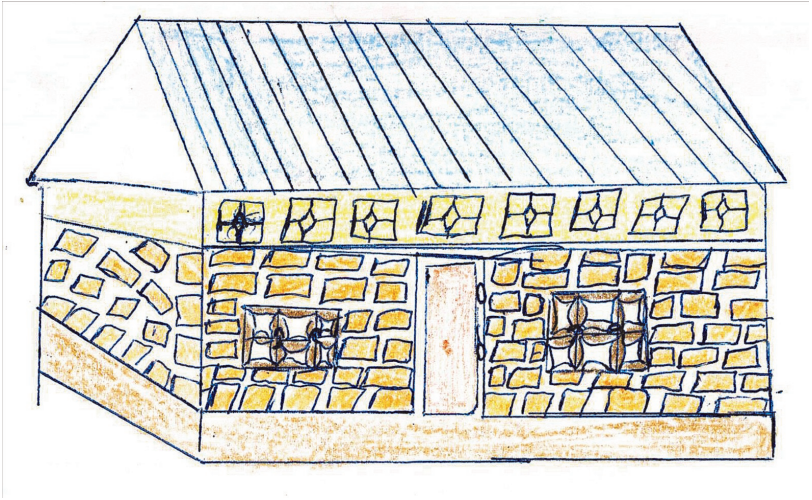
DUSHIMIMANA Olivia

Long ago, there was a husband and wife whose daughter was called Uwiringiye. One day Uwiringiye's mother died, and her father got married to another woman, who became Uwiringiye's stepmother. The stepmother treated Uwiringiye very poorly. Uwiringiye could not rest except when she was in the forest fetching firewood.

“Mother, why did you leave me alone?” she thought to herself. “My stepmother treats me so badly that I cannot rest,” she continued.

One day, while she was complaining, a bird heard her complaints and repeated them in a song. Uwiringiye felt happy that she had found a friend for herself. After she had finished collecting firewood she went home, without knowing that the bird was on her bundle.

When she got home, the bird flew away to the sycamore fig tree.



That evening, when Uwiringiye's father came home from milking the cows, he immediately heard the bird singing Uwiringiye's complaint. Her father, surprised by the song, asked his daughter, "What is that?" Uwiringiye kept silent, but the bird sang it again.

Uwiringiye's father called his wife, and she understood what had happened.

"Why do you treat this child like that, so that the ghost of her mother pleads for her?" her husband asked. The stepmother

apologized and promised not to treat their child badly again. From that day on, Uwiringiye felt safe at home with her family.



DUSHIMIMANA Olivia is in P.6 at Kabwende Primary School. She is 14 years old and likes to draw.

# Jada's Homework Dilemma

Zahnik Underdue and Nicole Thompson

Jada lives in a city called Newark. She is a student at TEAM Academy. She wakes up every morning at six o'clock. She eats breakfast, washes her face, and combs her hair. Afterwards, she takes her backpack and walks to school.



Her first class is mathematics. After math, she goes to science, French, writing, and reading. Jada likes learning about science and

reading, but she does not like mathematics. Reading is her last class before she can go home. Even though she thinks her teacher is mean and grumpy, she still likes her reading class because she loves to read.

One day, Jada waited as her classmates came into the classroom. They sat down around her, and she talked with her friends. Suddenly



the reading teacher, Mr. Smith, walked in. Everyone immediately stopped talking!

“It is time for class to begin,” he said. “Everyone, take out your workbooks!” All of the students quietly took their workbooks from their backpacks. Jada looked in her backpack, but she couldn’t find her book! Jada started to worry. If she did not find her workbook, Mr. Smith would be very upset. Jada raised her

hand.

“Mr. Smith?” she said. “I forgot my book in my locker.”

“Your locker?” Mr. Smith asked. He did not look happy. “You may go look for your workbook now.”

Jada quickly stood up and ran out of the classroom. She opened her locker. She searched and searched, but she still could not find her workbook. Then Jada remembered, her workbook was at home! Students were not



allowed to go home during school. How would she get her workbook for class?

Jada thought about how she should solve her problem. She thought, “Is it better to not break a rule, or is it better to have my homework?” She decided to try and go home to find her workbook. She was breaking a rule, but her homework was very important. She looked around. Nobody was watching her. She walked quickly down the hallway and out the school door. Jada’s home was close to the school. It only took her five minutes to get there.

Her mother was in the kitchen and was very surprised to see her. “Why are you home?” Jada’s mother asked.

“I forgot the book I need for class!” Jada said. Jada ran into her room. She saw her workbook on her bed. Jada grabbed it and rushed back to school.

Jada was just about to enter the school when she was stopped by Mr. Smith at the front door! Jada was now very scared. She tried to explain why she left. “I’m sorry!” she said. “I actually left my workbook at home. I really wanted to have my homework.”

To her surprise, Mr. Smith did not look angry. He explained, “I know it is important for you to have your homework. You tried to do the right thing, but you should have been honest about the situation.”

Jada reflected on what Mr. Smith said. He was right. She should have told the truth. “Okay,” she said. “Next time, I will tell the truth.”

Mr. Smith smiled. “Good!” he said. “I am glad you have your homework, but I cannot take it. You must tell the truth. Even though I cannot take your homework, you can still come to class.”

Jada said, “Okay. I am just glad that I can go to class and learn. I will do my best to make sure that I remember my homework from now on.”



Zahnik Underdue is a 9th grader at Newark Collegiate Academy.

Nicole Thompson is a freshman at Indiana University in Bloomington.

# A Bad Advisor

UWIDUHAYE Claudine

Once upon a time, there was a husband and his wife, and they were poor. The husband worked in the forest, cutting crops to bring back to the house. He also liked to pray.

One day, while he was gathering his crops, he heard a voice.



“Please don’t harm me with your scythe!” the voice said. The man looked around and saw a small animal.

“Who are you?” he asked, surprised.

“If you wish to become rich, I am to be shaken once, but if you shake me twice, you will become poor again,” answered the small animal. Immediately, the man shook the animal

once and then he went home.

At his home,  
everything had changed.

The husband and wife  
had good clothes, good  
food, good drinks, a

modern house with good furniture, and they  
were very wealthy.

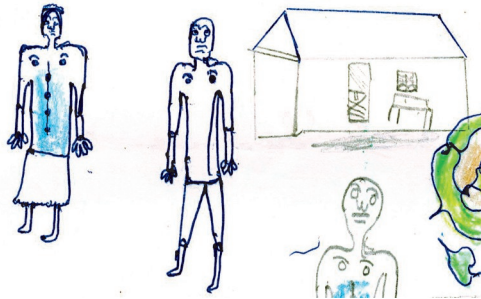


A few days later, the wife asked her  
husband, “Dear husband, we used to live in  
complete poverty so I would like to know  
where all this wealth came from.” The  
husband then told her what had happened.  
After hearing the truth, she told him that if he  
had shaken the animal twice, they would have  
become extremely wealthy, much more than  
they already were. They both walked toward  
the forest where the animal lived and shook it  
twice. Afterwards, they walked back home.

When they arrived at their home, they were

surprised because all their wealth had disappeared. They lived in great despair and had to go back to what they did to earn money before they became wealthy.

Fortunately, because the husband prayed earnestly, God was with him and gave him another chance. While he was on his way to work, he discovered a rock with food coming out of it slowly. It took the man the whole day to get enough food from the rock. He placed a basket underneath the rock and waited until evening to reclaim the basket and went home with a basket full of food. When he arrived home, his wife became very happy and wanted to know what had happened.



Again, her husband explained to her what had happened and she wanted to know where the rock was. He showed her the basket of food God had given them and they left to find the rock again. When they arrived, the wife advised her husband to take a big spear and use it to make a big hole in the rock. She wanted to get enough food in a short time without having to wait the whole day for the basket to fill up.

At once, they tried to pierce the rock through the hole that had given them food earlier that day. Unfortunately, instead of giving food quickly, the rock stopped giving them any food.

*A bad advisor is sometimes more respected than helpful.*



UWIDUHAYE Claudine is 14 years old and is in P.5. She loves the Rwandan gorillas and wants to be an agricultural engineer.

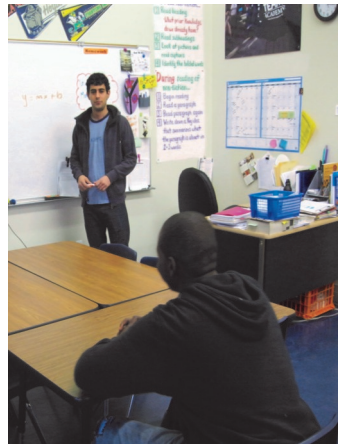
# Be the Change

Samir Rice and Jacob Lindsey



Newark, New Jersey, is a city in the United States of America that is very close to New York City. There are a lot of people and buildings in Newark. Newark is a big city, and it has many problems with crime and violence. Samir is a thirteen-year-old boy who lives in Newark. The problems in Newark do not stop Samir from making a positive change in his community.

One day when Samir was at school, his teacher, Mr. Robinson, gave him



some special homework. Mr. Robinson asked Samir to go out into the city and look for the problems facing Newark. Then Samir could



find a way to fix the problems.

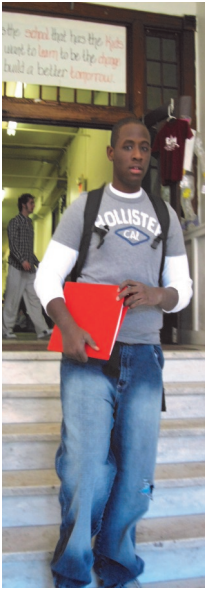
Samir walked down the street exploring Newark and saw some trash. He saw garbage in many places so he picked it up.

Samir saw more than just trash in Newark. He saw an opportunity to help the environment.

Samir walked a little farther, and he saw two girls fighting. Some people see a lot of violence in Newark, but Samir saw the



opportunity to teach people how to solve their problems peacefully. He talked to the girls, and they stopped fighting.



When other people look at Newark, they see poor people. Samir sees an opportunity for education. If students finish school and go to college, they can get good jobs and have better lives.

When Samir came home that day, his friend David came over.

David wanted to join a gang.

When many people think of Newark, they think of gangs. Samir saw an opportunity to help his friend David. Samir told David to join an athletic team instead. David decided not to join a gang and instead joined the



basketball team with Samir.

The next morning Samir talked to Mr. Robinson about the problems he found in Newark. “What did you learn from this project Samir?” asked Mr. Robinson.



“To others, Newark may not seem like a great place, but for me it is home. When I see Newark, I see an opportunity for positive change,” Samir replied.

*“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”*

-Mahatma Gandhi



Samir Rice is an 8th grader at Rise Academy in Newark, New Jersey. He wants to go to law school to become a lawyer.

Jacob Lindsey is a freshman at Indiana University majoring in Germanic Studies. He wants to become a teacher of English as a foreign language.