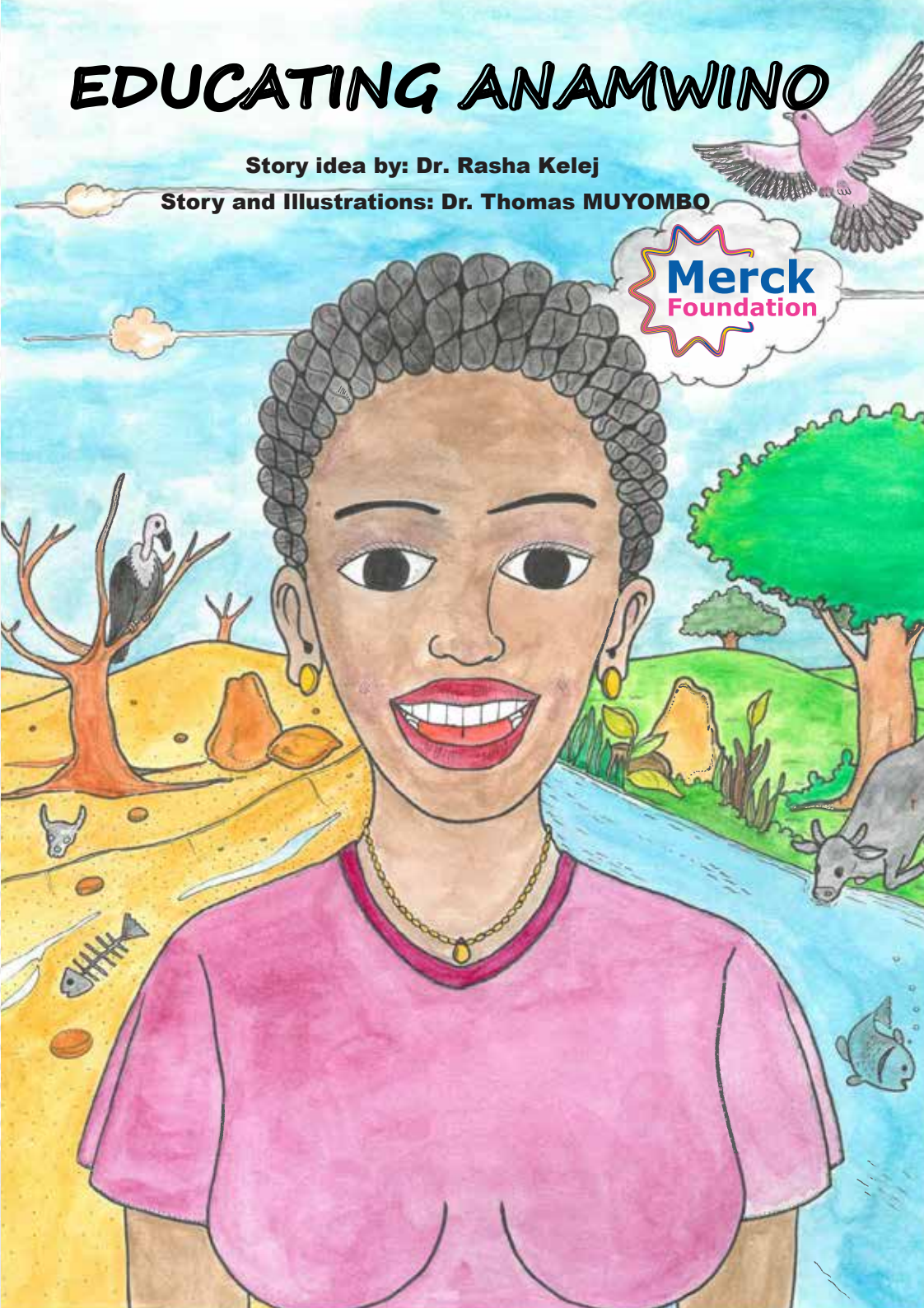
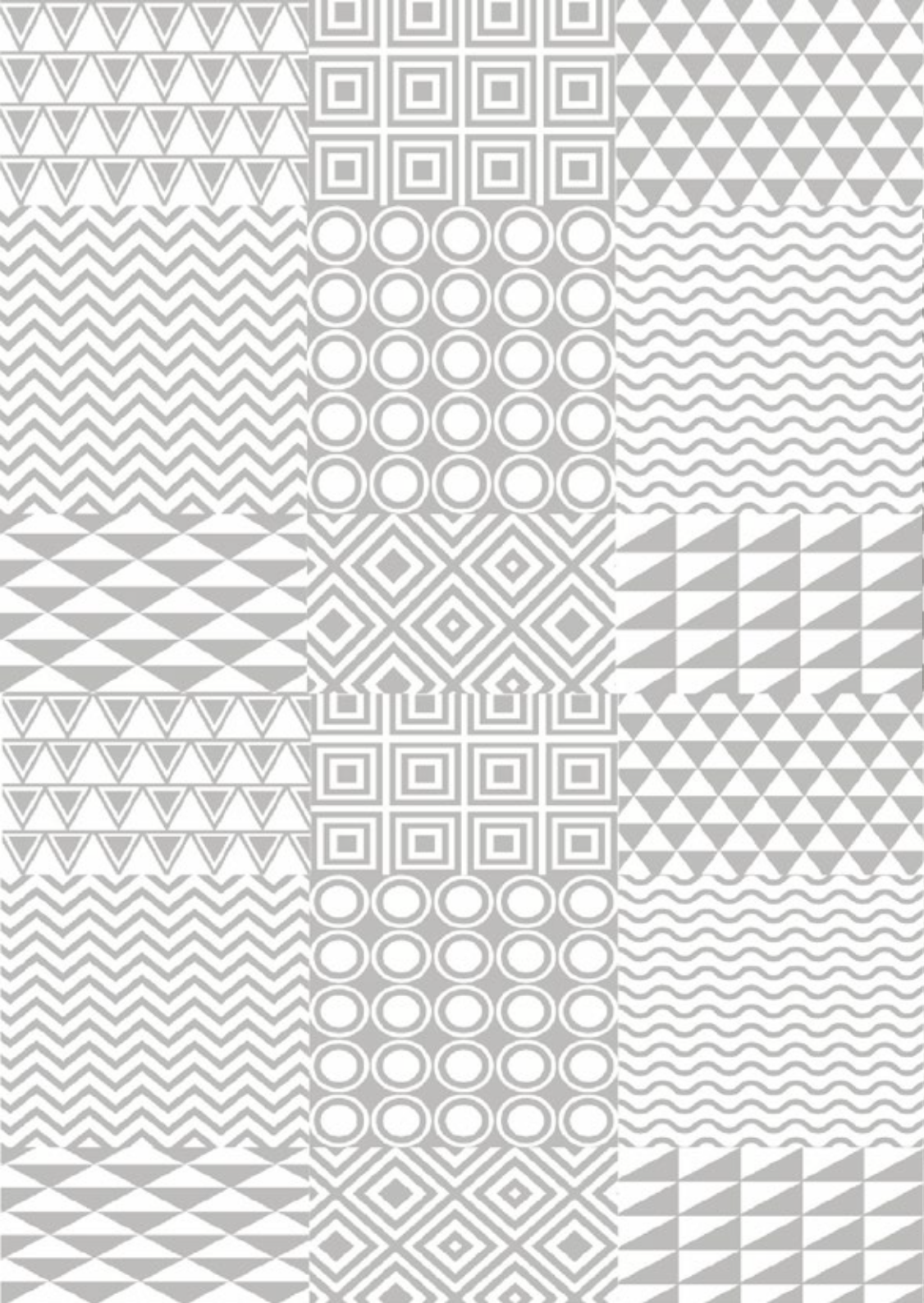


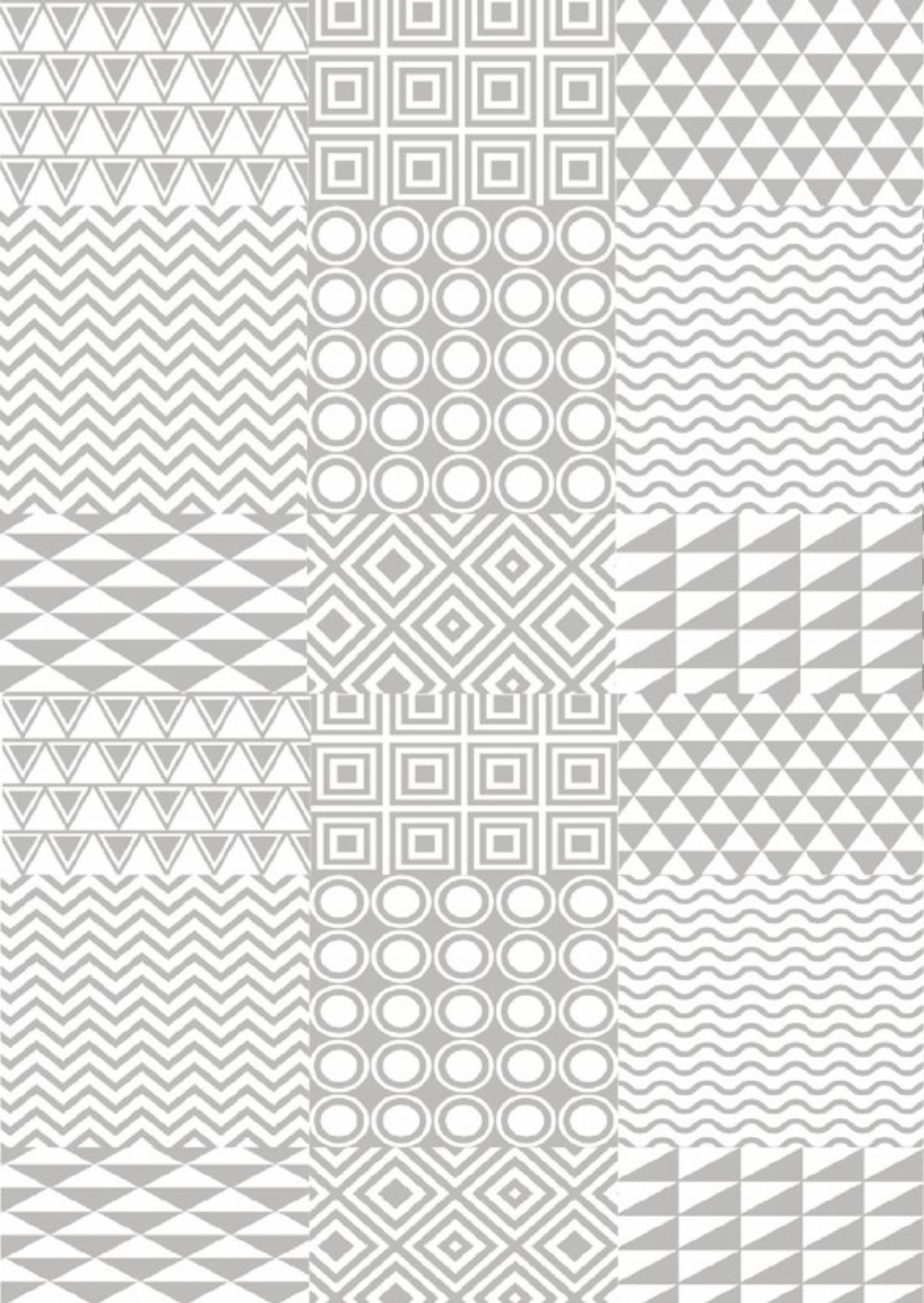
EDUCATING ANAMWINO

Story idea by: Dr. Rasha Kelej

Story and Illustrations: Dr. Thomas MUYOMBO







EDUCATING ANAMWINO



Story idea by: Dr. Rasha Kelej

Story and Illustrations: Dr. Thomas MUYOMBO



H.E. MRS. ESTHER LUNGU Message

Every human being is created to live a full life based on what God had envisioned for them. God loves us all and has good plans for each one of us. However, our own weaknesses cause us to suffer and in the process we 'punish' others who are innocent. In most cases, the girl child suffers most. Our cultural and traditional ways of life contribute to this because of the erroneous social constructs of gender. Gender biasness based on stereotypes in most African societies have negatively impacted on the girl child, especially through house chores, child labour and worse still, through early marriages. It is therefore, very gratifying to have this book which reflects these vices in our societies. The book will help to teach society the need to have gender balance so as to enable vulnerable groups such as girls to go to school and complete their education.

Dr. Anamwino, the major character in this story, would not have been the model to the young school girls, if she was married off by her poverty-stricken father, Ganizani. Chuma the local tycoon could have married her at the age of ten. This is a crime and punishable by law in Zambia. Any manifestation of this crime should be reported to the law enforcers, just as the young girl's classmates did. If we do not do so, we will be killing the dreams of our future leaders. Educate a girl and you will have educated the nation; it has been said.

It is therefore, important that schools make this book available to their learners, so that the message contained herein helps to liberate those entangled in this vice, especially the girls.

May I take this opportunity therefore, to inform all the citizens of this country, that child marriage is a crime and is punishable by law. No parent, guardian or family member has the right to impinge on the rights of their children or relatives. Education is an asset, and a virtue of life hence girls like Dr. Anamwino in the story should be allowed to achieve their dreams.

H.E. MRS. ESTHER LUNGU
The First Lady of the Republic of Zambia
Ambassador of Merck More Than a Mother



Dr. Rasha Kelej MESSAGE

"As the CEO of Merck Foundation and as an African woman, I am very proud to introduce this story to emphasize the importance of Girl Education. The story of a young girl called Anamwino.

Anamwino represents our African girls who struggle for their education every day. I strongly believe in girl education. When Girls are educated, their countries become more powerful, stronger & prosperous.

Education is the only thing that no one can take away from you. So, for all families out there, support your girl education like what happened in this story. Let's join hands to help them to reach their potential and advance our Africa.

I realize there's need for more support as there are many brilliant girls out there who are struggling financially and socially to meet their educational needs. Therefore, we started "Educating Linda" pan African program which is going to be tailored for each country to contribute to the future of these girls as part of "Merck More Than a Mother". I strongly believe that empowering women starts with education, to enable them to be healthier, stronger and independent.

I hope this story would inspire every girl to fight for her right of education and encourage our communities to support education of young unprivileged but brilliant girls, so that they can reach their potential and pursue their dreams".

Senator, Dr. Rasha Kelej

CEO of Merck Foundation

Member of the Egyptian Senate (2020-2025)

One of the 100 Most Influential Africans (2019, 2020)

President of Merck More Than a Mother

One beautiful morning, in a city so colorful, a young lady named Dr. Anamwino drove slowly down the road across the quiet street. Everything looked lovely.



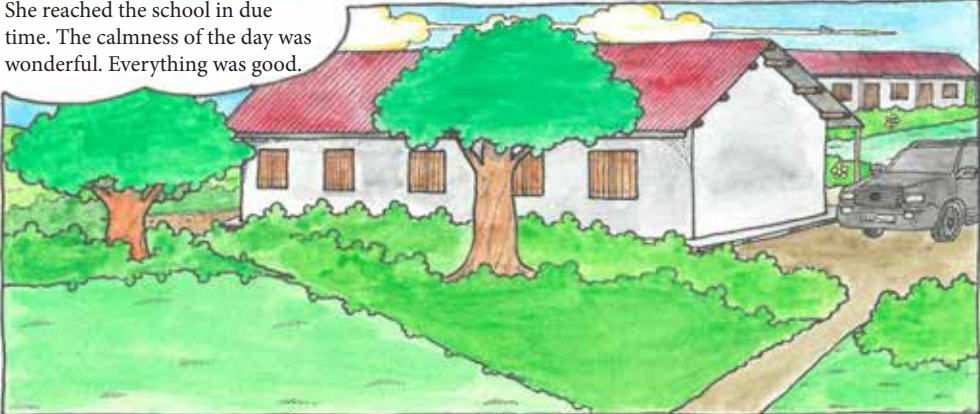
Dr. Anamwino was heading to a small village, far away from the city.

Anamwino had been invited to give a motivational talk at a school in her village.

Anamwino has won a Nobel prize in Science this year for her achievement. She is very happy and proud.



She reached the school in due time. The calmness of the day was wonderful. Everything was good.



Dr. Anamwino was greeted by the Head Teacher of the school and he assured her that everyone was waiting for her.

Hello Dr. Anamwino, welcome to our school.

Thank you, Sir, I am glad to be here.

He then took Anamwino to meet the students.

The Head Teacher of the school welcomed everyone in the room.

Please, you are welcome to inspire all of us.

Thank you, I will be very glad if I can.

The moment we have all been waiting for has come.

Let us all join together to welcome Dr. Anamwino.

Let me tell you a story of a young girl, whose name I will reveal later.

After greeting them, Anamwino proceeded by telling them a story.

Everyone kept quite and listened to Dr. Anamwino as he began the story. All the students really wanted an inspiration.

Please Dr. Anamwino, tell us anything, we want to be inspired to become like you.



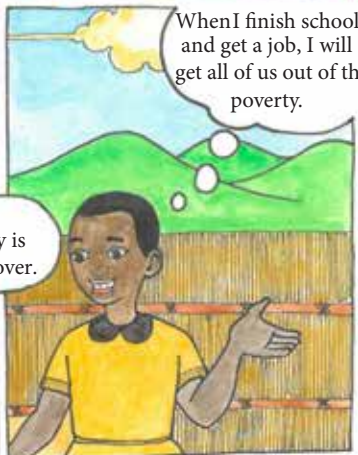
She narrated.....
Once upon a time, in a village so far away, there lived a young intelligent girl who stayed with her family.



My dear children, when did they say you are going back to school?

We are going back tomorrow.

The holiday is surely over.



When I finish school and get a job, I will get all of us out of this poverty.

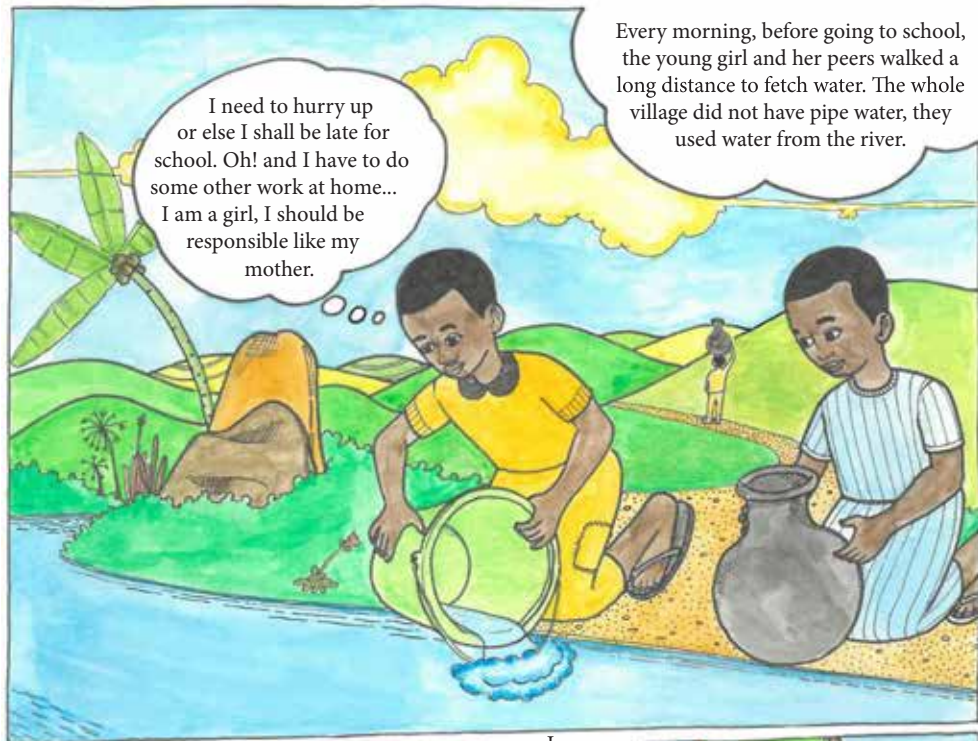


And I wish to change the community through scientific inventions.



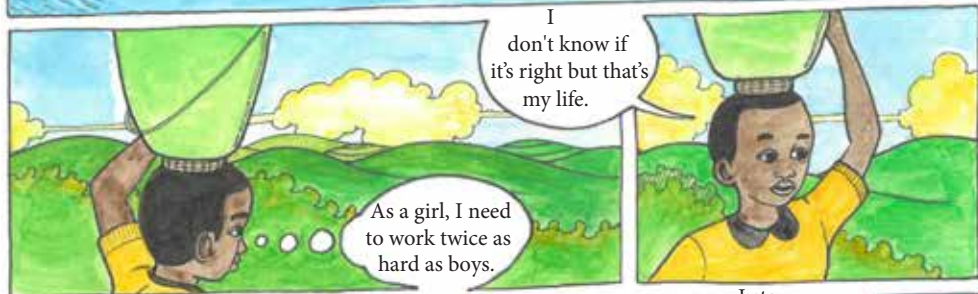
My dream is to study hard and become a Scientist.

The young girl had a dream at a young age ...



I need to hurry up or else I shall be late for school. Oh! and I have to do some other work at home... I am a girl, I should be responsible like my mother.

Every morning, before going to school, the young girl and her peers walked a long distance to fetch water. The whole village did not have pipe water, they used water from the river.



I don't know if it's right but that's my life.

As a girl, I need to work twice as hard as boys.



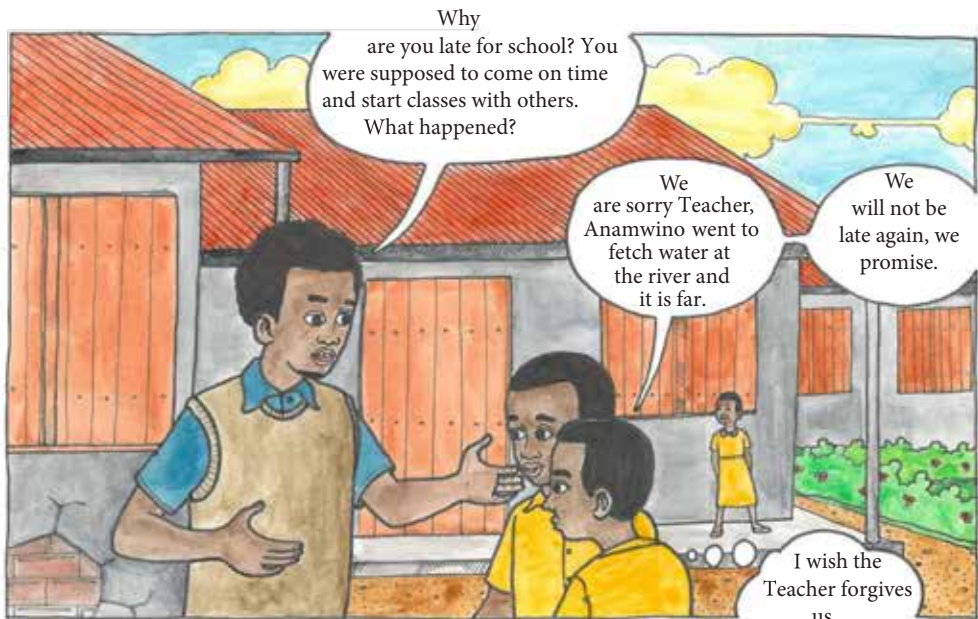
My brothers can't help, they are boys.

After doing all the work, she would join her brothers to go to school.

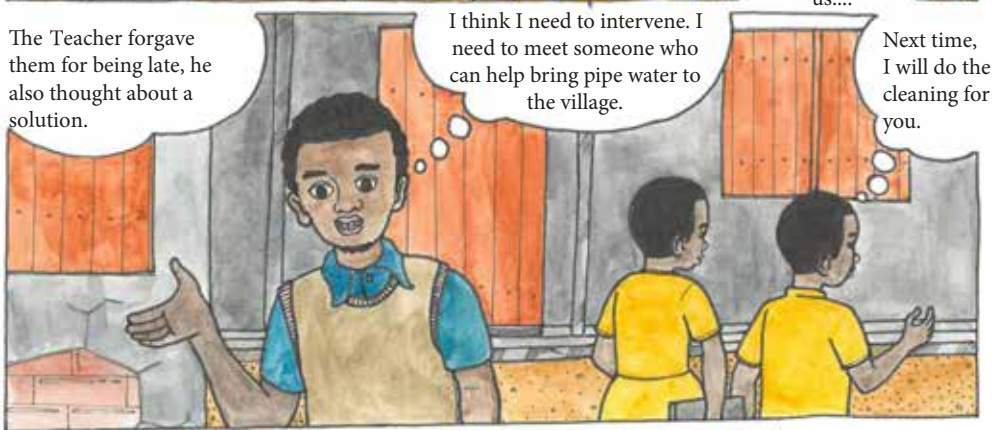


Lets hurry up, we are late for school.

Yes you are right.

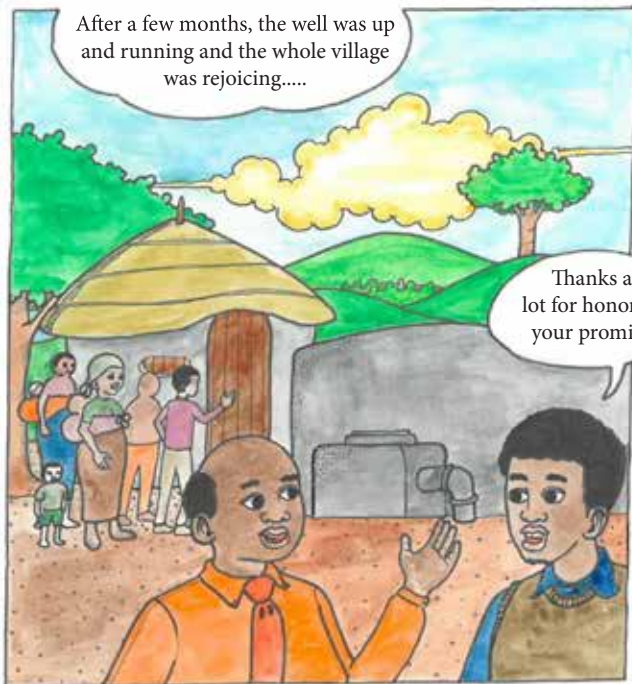


The Teacher forgave them for being late, he also thought about a solution.



The Teacher approached the Leader of a local NGO and convinced him to build a well in the village.





After a few months, the well was up and running and the whole village was rejoicing.....

Thanks a lot for honoring your promise.



It is our pleasure to fulfil our obligation .



I can't thank you enough.



This water is very clean.

Yeah..

Wow... I want to drink it.



We shall never be late for school again....



I am glad I won't go back to that river. It's too far.



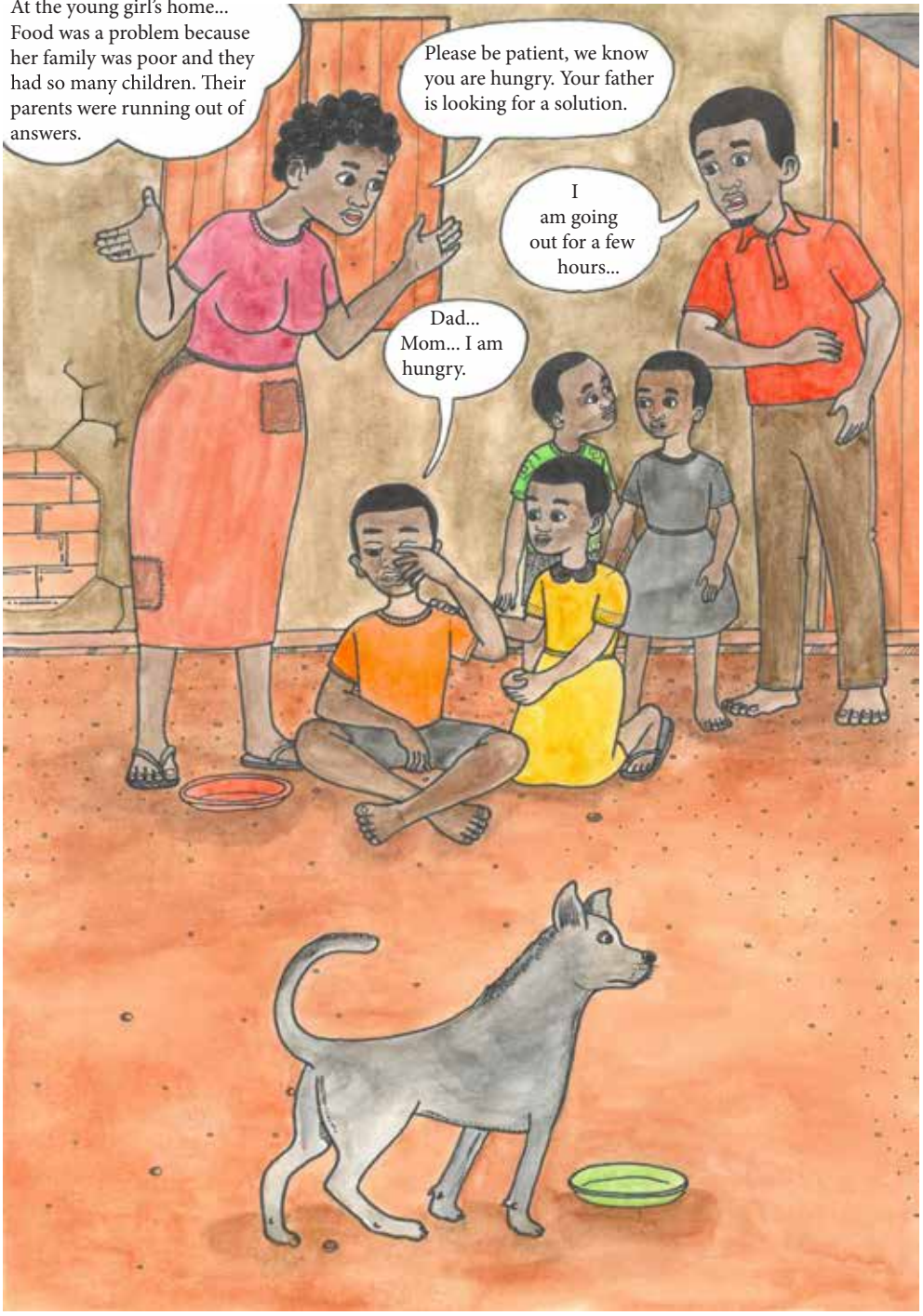
I hate being late for school. This well will help the entire village. The water is also so refreshing.

At the young girl's home...
Food was a problem because her family was poor and they had so many children. Their parents were running out of answers.

Please be patient, we know you are hungry. Your father is looking for a solution.

I am going out for a few hours...

Dad...
Mom... I am hungry.





Let's patiently wait for your father. He will come back with something.

Let me see if I can get something...

But mom, when shall we get out of this poverty?

I am also hungry. I want food.



Just wait for me, I will be back as soon as I get something.



Their father went to a cafeteria to meet a friend.



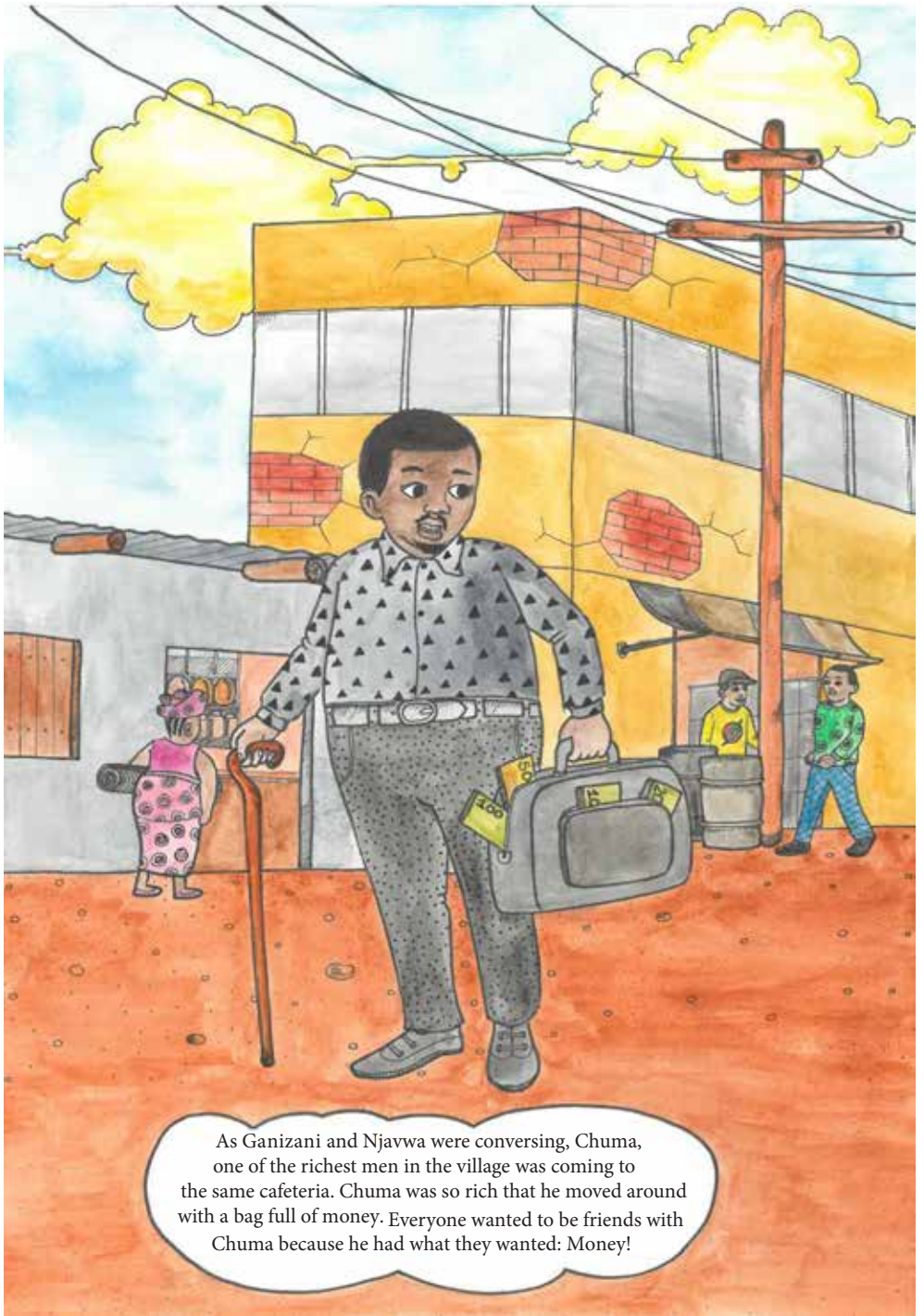
Hello Njavwa, can I talk to you for a minute?

Hello Ganizani! No worries at all, what do you want to tell me..

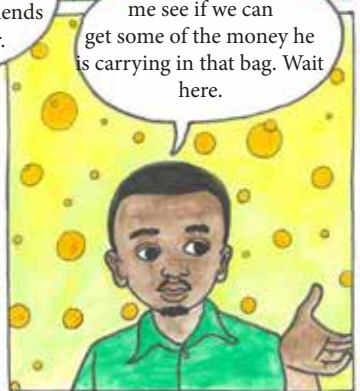
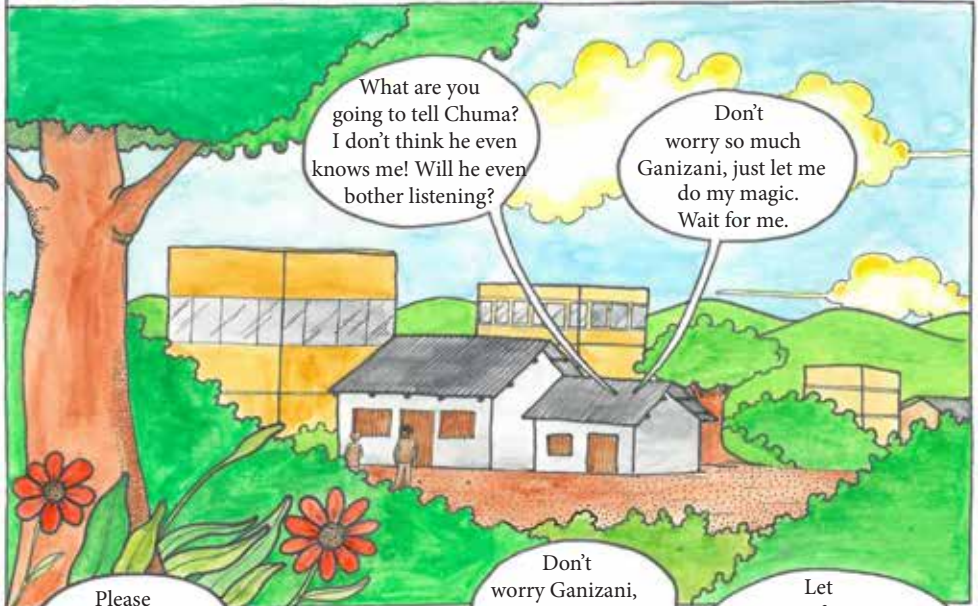
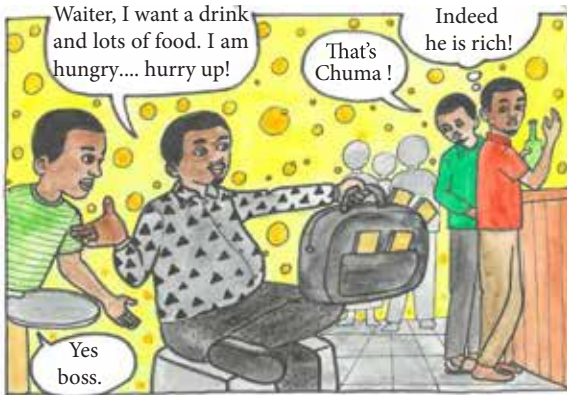
Njavwa, I need to borrow some money from you.

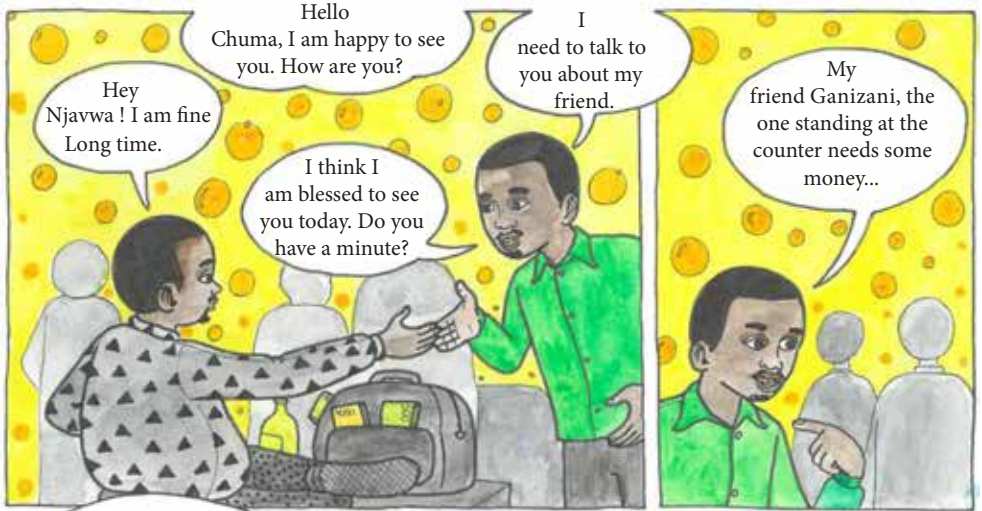


Oh! I don't think I will be of any help. I don't have any money.



As Ganizani and Njavwa were conversing, Chuma, one of the richest men in the village was coming to the same cafeteria. Chuma was so rich that he moved around with a bag full of money. Everyone wanted to be friends with Chuma because he had what they wanted: Money!





Meanwhile...Ganizani was waiting patiently at the counter...

Chuma made himself clear..

Njavwa explained more...



Chuma decided to talk to Ganizani himself.

I am an honest man, I will repay you your money.

Njavwa, you said you trust your friend Ganizani?

Ganizani is a family man, he can be trusted.

He has children to look after.

I would give you my daughter as a wife if she was old enough, I really need help.

I like that! Give me your daughter and I will give you money. I don't care if she is young.

Then so be it, come tomorrow and take her.

But you will have to pay cows as dowry for my daughter.

Let's shake hands for my new bride.. I dont know you Ganizani but I believe you are a good man.

I believe this is a good outcome of a conversation between gentlemen. Let's celebrate it.

I believe our future together will be better. You will be my son-in- law. You know!

After celebrating to their agreement, Ganizani was given bundles of money to take home and prepare for the dowry of his daughter which would be brought the next day.

I believe, I made the right decision giving my daughter to Chuma.

Let me sip my soda, if it finishes, I will buy another one. I now have a lot of money.

Ganizani thought he had made a very good decision but he was giving away a ten year old in marriage.

Take this money and buy food for every one.

At home... Ganizani's wife was astonished to see her husband with a lot of money.

??

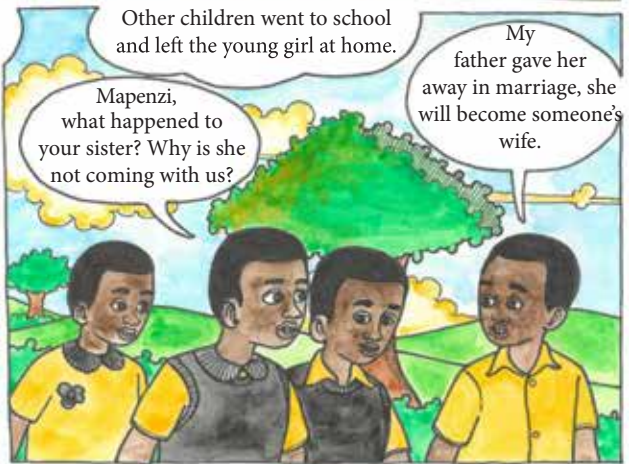


The young girl didn't know that her father had betrayed her rights; her future.



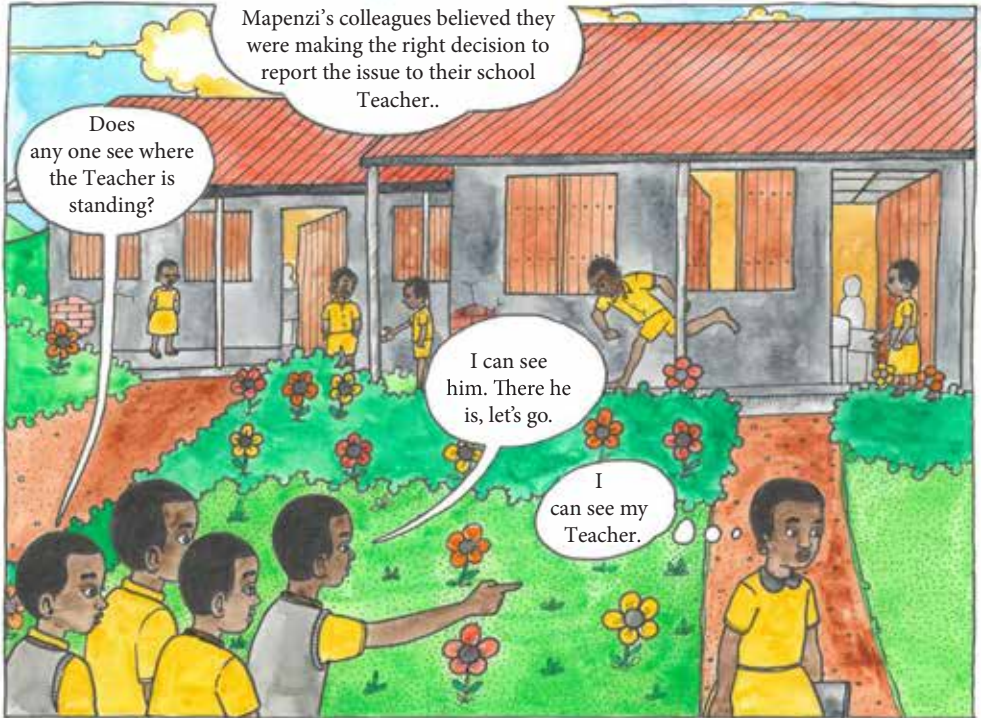
The following morning...





Are you serious? Your sister is too young to be someone's wife. She is supposed to be in school with us.





Mapenzi's colleagues believed they were making the right decision to report the issue to their school Teacher..

Does anyone see where the Teacher is standing?

I can see him. There he is, let's go.

I can see my Teacher.

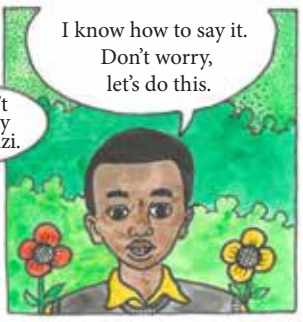


But guys, I don't want to sound like I am reporting.



Can we find a good way of reporting this? Otherwise my father will kill me.

Don't worry Mapenzi.



I know how to say it. Don't worry, let's do this.



They explained everything.

That's why she didn't come to school today.

It's absurd!



Are you guys serious?

Yes we are, and the man who will marry her is bringing the dowry today.



Now that's serious.
Let's hurry up before something stupid happens. Let's go and stop this madness. No underage girl is supposed to be given in marriage.

You are right Teacher. Very right.

Let's do this for her future and the future of all of us



You know that she is a very bright learner. Actually one of the best I have ever seen. There is no way someone should destroy her future.

The school Teacher and his learners went to Mapenzi's home to try and stop his father from giving his sister away.



You really made the right decision to come to me.



Meanwhile someone else was going to the girl's house.

It was Chuma... He had the Dowry.



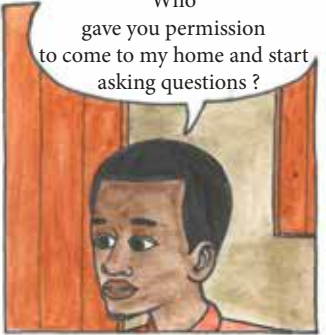
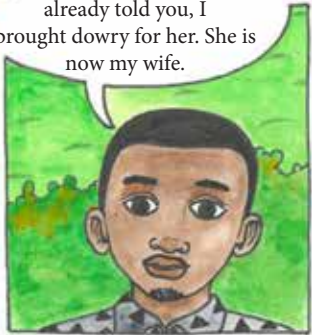
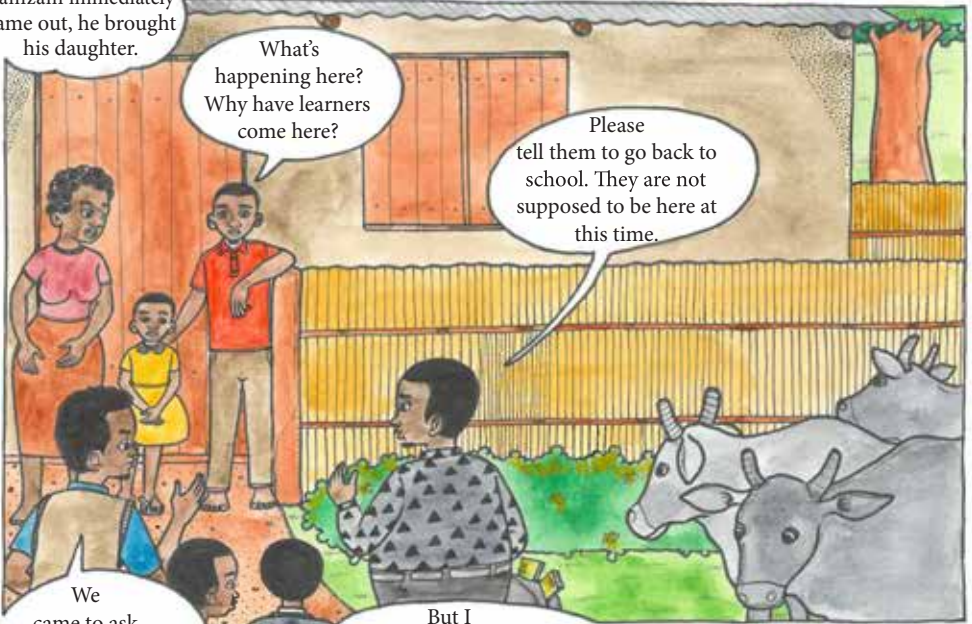
Chuma, is that you? What are you doing here?



I don't understand this.



Ganizani immediately came out, he brought his daughter.





The village Chief and his secretary immediately came...

This nonsense is punishable by law. Let me hope you are all joking. Child marriage is a crime.

I think, I have to reconsider and ask for forgiveness, I dont want anything bad to happen.

Are you really giving away that young girl ?

What about Chuma??

Thank God !

This was going to kill your daughter's future. You should feel ashamed.

I had fear of losing my dream of becoming a Scientist.

Thank God, her father has decided to reconsider his-poor decision.

Chuma, you should abstain from this barbaric habit.

I didn't know the magnitude of my mistakes...

I am supposed to take Chuma and Ganizani to my office to make a statement for this crime.

They should be punished to serve as an example to other parents who would do the same.

Let's go... I am not leaving you here. You are supposed to pay for this crime.

I am really sorry, forgive me.

Please forgive me, I now understand the seriousness of my crime. I will never repeat it, believe me.



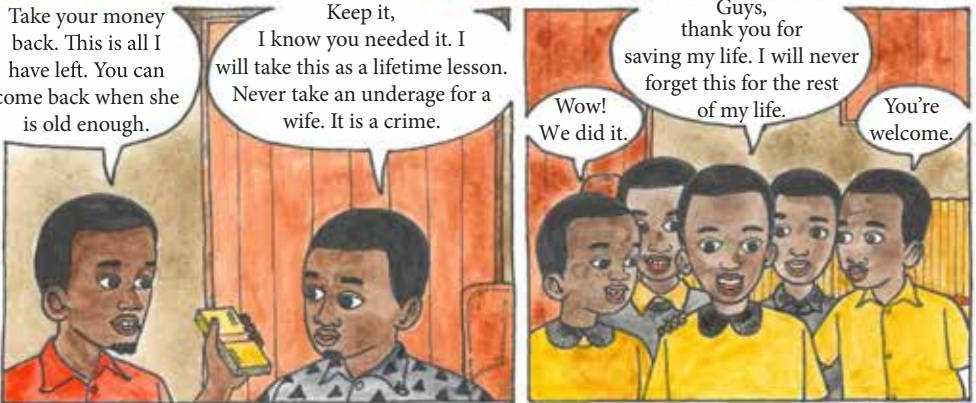
Take your money back. This is all I have left. You can come back when she is old enough.

Keep it, I know you needed it. I will take this as a lifetime lesson. Never take an underage for a wife. It is a crime.

Guys, thank you for saving my life. I will never forget this for the rest of my life.

Wow! We did it.

You're welcome.

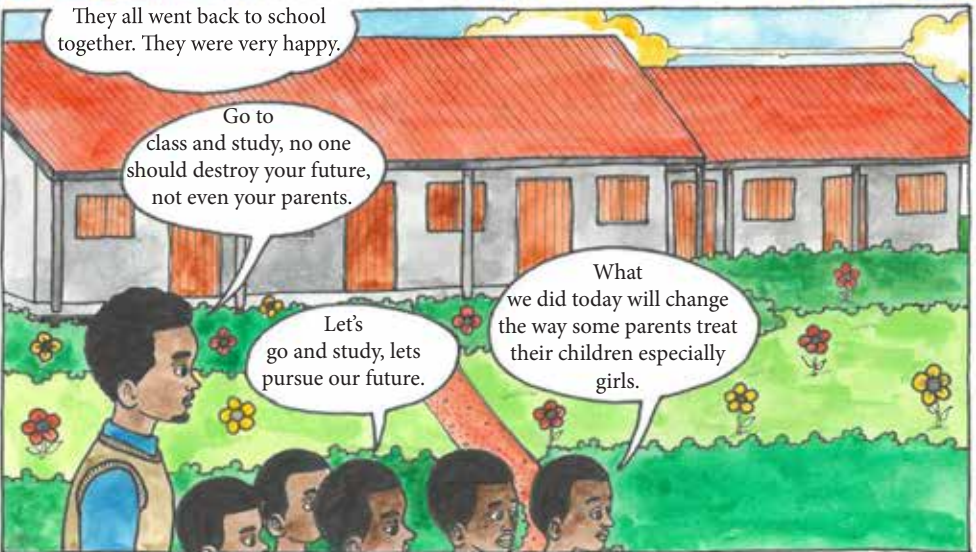


They all went back to school together. They were very happy.

Go to class and study, no one should destroy your future, not even your parents.

Let's go and study, lets pursue our future.

What we did today will change the way some parents treat their children especially girls.



The young girl went to her class, sat on her desk and and wrote her name on it. She promised herself to become whatever she wanted to become in the future; a Scientist.

I will honor this day by studying hard and becoming a Scientist.

Wow! what a story. I wonder if it really happened.

She then went on and revealed the young girl's name

Every one stood up to applaud Dr. Anamwino

Thank you. I believe that you all have potential to be what you want to be.

That young girl is me, I sat on this desk and wrote my name on it; Anamwino

WOW!

WOW!

THE END

EDUCATING ANAMWINO

Anamwino, a young girl, born in a remote village nearly lost her right to education and her nation nearly lost an award winning Scientist. Read the book for the full story.

The Author



Copyright © 2020 by Merck Foundation

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without prior permission of the publisher except in the case of brief quotation embodied in reviews and certain other non commercial uses permitted by the copyright law. For permission requests, write to the publisher address.

Published by Merck Foundation.

First Edition, 2020



 **MerckFoundation**  **Merck Foundation**

 **@Merckfoundation**  **Merck Foundation**

 **www.merck-foundation.com**