



WE ARE ALL EARS!

A COLLECTION OF SHORT STORIES

Written and Illustrated by Students
as part of the 2019 Zongo Story Project

Nima Maamobi Gale Community Library







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Zongo Story Project Co-Founders
Emily Williamson and John Schaidler

Volume Designer and Editor
Emily Williamson

Program and Community Coordinators
Emily Williamson and Ibrahim Saani

Nima Maamobi Gale Community Library Staff and Teachers
Kathy Knowles, Melody Darteh, Gloria Acheampong,
Hassana Ibrahim Adongo, Winifred Obeng Kyeremeh,
Samuel Baah, Francis Akologo, and Martin Adjei Legend

Special Guests

Enock Happy Nkrumah - Teacher, Kamal Shaibu Larry - Artist, Hawa Ali - Artist,
Martin Adjei Legend - Play Director, Ruby Goka - Writer,
Adama Yakubu - Oral Storyteller, Abdul Kadir Usman - Oral Storyteller and Actor,
Hajia Hanatu - Oral Storyteller, Nicholas Wayo - Artist,
Francis Akologo - Actor and Dancer, Kofi Ofose - Graphic Novelist,
Baba Ngida West African Traditional Band - Singers and Drummers

**A huge thank you to our donors and supporters
who made this program possible!**



WHY ARE STORIES IMPORTANT?

ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE

“Stories give us knowledge and understanding.
We tell stories because they make us do the right thing.
Stories help us acquire imaginations.”

-AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

“Stories help with reading and spelling.
We tell stories to entertain ourselves.
Stories help us remember the past.”

-ALI AWUDU

“Stories are fun.
They make you intelligent.”

-BRIGHT NANA OFUSU

“Stories make people happy.”

-SALAMATU MOHAMMED

“Stories help us learn so that we can do something great in the future.
Reading stories makes us confident.

Stories can strengthen us.”

-KEKELI DENNIS DOMI

“Stories give us lessons about the world.
They teach us how to behave and respect each other.”

- SADIYA HEKIMA NAJAH

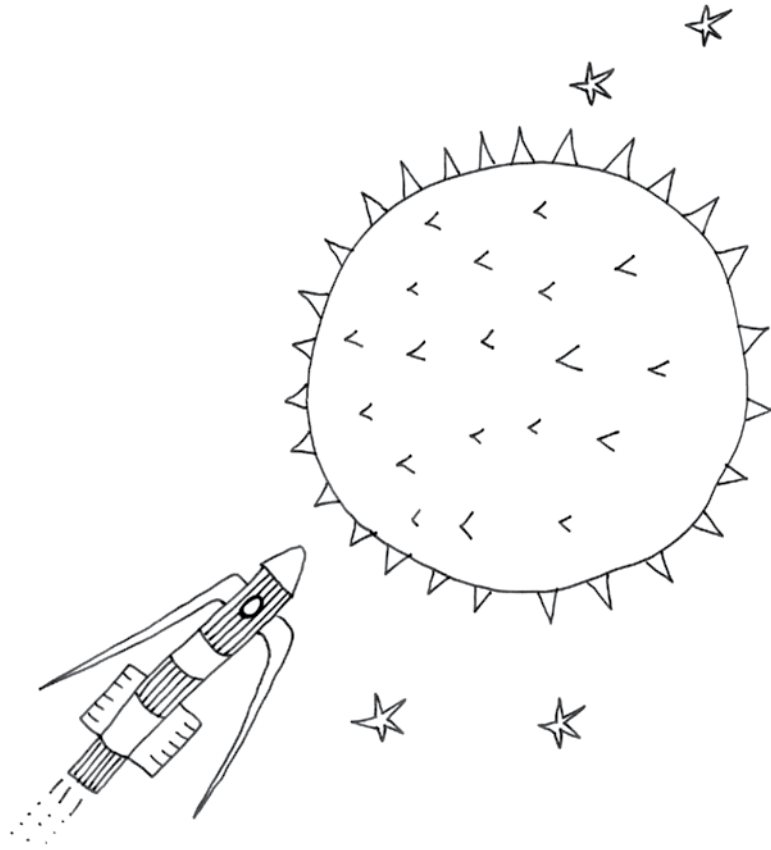
“We read stories to give us ideas for our own stories.”

-NADIATU BASHIRU HARUNA

“We tell stories to give others imagination.”

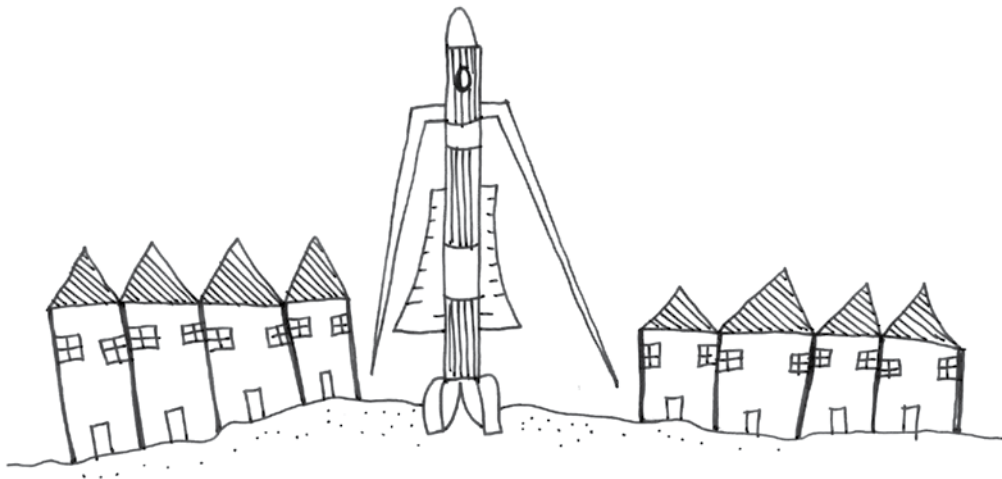
-RAHINA HAMZA SIDIBE





TAKE-OFF

ILLUSTRATED BY NATHANIEL OFUSU ASANTE



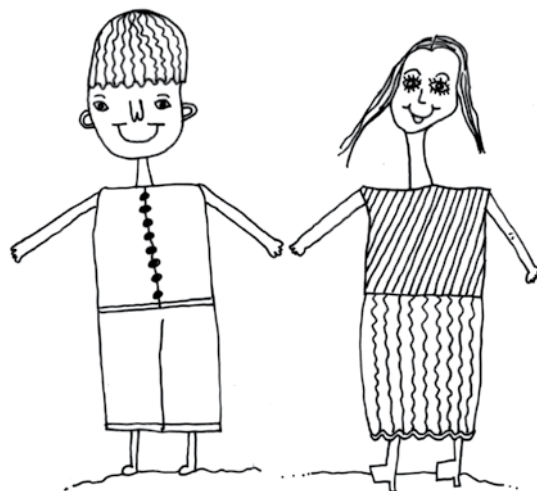
PAA KWESI'S JOURNEY

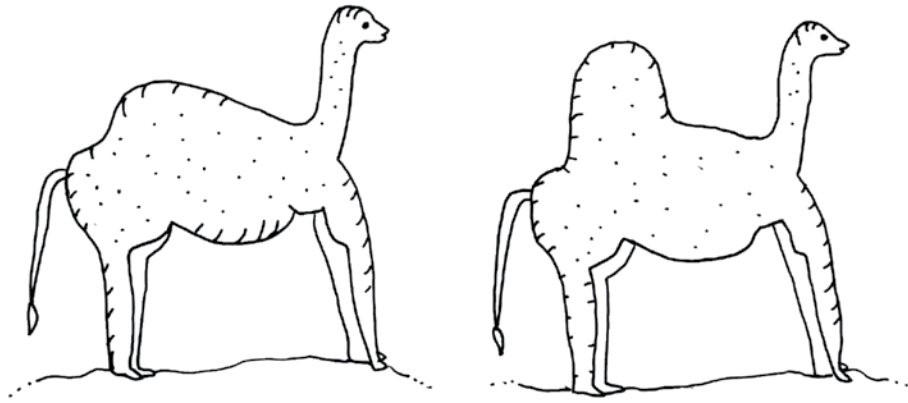
WRITTEN BY ABIGAIL AMPOMAH
ILLUSTRATED BY HAMID SULLEYMAN

Once upon a time, there was a man called Paa Kwesi. He was a very poor man. He was also a beggar. One day, he asked himself, "Why am I so poor? I am tired of begging." He decided to go to the Wise Man who could make him rich. The following morning, Paa Kwesi woke up early. He took his bath, drank his koko (spicy millet porridge), and started his journey. He walked all day long.

That evening, he saw an old house. He thought to himself, "Let me go and knock on the door. If I see someone, I will tell him that I want to stay there for the night." A man and his wife answered the door. Paa Kwesi said, "Please, I want to sleep here for the night." They agreed. The next morning, they asked, "Where are you going?" Paa Kwesi said, "I am going to see the Wise Man." The man responded, "Is that so? Our daughter is mute. If you go, ask him what we can do for our daughter. We want her to be able to talk." Paa Kwesi said, "Okay, no problem. I will do that for you." He thanked them for their hospitality and started his journey again. On his way, he approached a very big mountain. He wanted to jump over it, but it was too big. He saw a good witch sitting nearby. Paa Kwesi asked her, "Please, kind witch, I am going to see the Wise Man. Will you help me over the mountain?" She said, "No problem," and flew him over the mountain on her broomstick. He thanked her and she said, "I don't want to fly. I want to walk. If you get to the Wise Man, tell him my problem." The man agreed.

He finally arrived at the house of the Wise Man. Paa Kwesi told him all about the problems of the mute girl and the witch, but didn't want to both him with his own. The Wise Man told him what to do. He said, "Give the good witch this golden hook and you will see what will happen." Paa Kwesi followed the Wise Man's instructions. Indeed, when he gave the witch the golden hook, she started walking! She was so overjoyed that she gave Paa Kwesi the gold hook in return for keeping his promise. Then, Paa Kwesi went to the home of the mute girl and her parents. He wasn't sure what he would be able to do for the girl. But, when he saw her, Paa Kwesi immediately fell in love. He kissed her hand and she started talking! Her parents were so happy. They got married the next week and used the golden hook to feed themselves, their family, friends, and neighbors the rest of their life.





HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY ALI AWUDU

Once upon a time, two friends called Camel and Horse lived together in a village called Kotokumasi. They lived a very happy life. Everyday, Camel and horse worked together carrying heavy loads for people in the village.

One day, the king invited Camel to carry his heavy loads. Horse didn't think much of it. But, the next day, the king invited Camel to carry his heavy loads again. Horse thought to himself, "Why does the king not invite me to carry his heavy loads? I am just as strong as my friend Camel." These activities continued. Camel continued carrying heavy loads for the king and forgot about his friend Horse.

Horse was jealous, sad, and angry.

He decided to teach Camel a lesson that he wouldn't forget. He took a big stick and hit Camel's back over and over and over again. Camel cried out in pain. A huge hump grew on Camel's back. This is how the camel got its hump.

THE SEA SNAIL

WRITTEN BY FAWZIYA SULLEYMAN MARGA

ILLUSTRATED BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN

My character is a sea snail. He lives in the seawater. The food he likes best is grass. He has a tall back. The body of the sea snail is like a ball. He has small eyes. He also has a long nose. The color of the sea snail is brown and green.

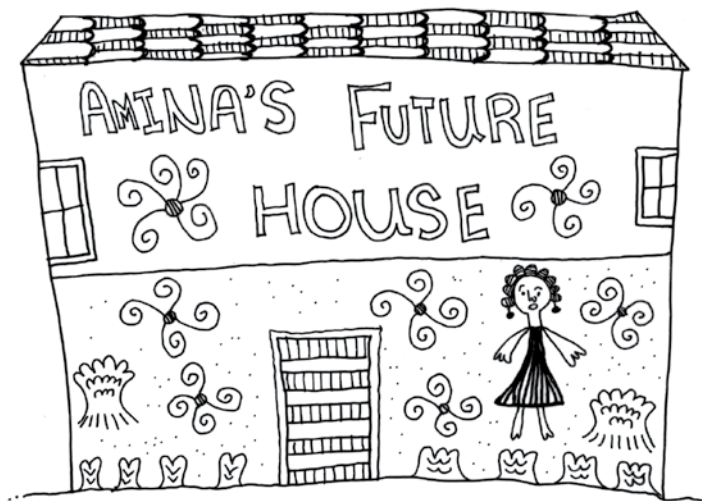


AMINA'S FUTURE HOUSE

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY AMINA MOHAMMED

Once upon a time, there was a nice house in Kumasi. The house was big and full of pictures. Amina owned the house. Her sister Naim stayed with her. They were always happy and loved each other very much. Many people were jealous. There were so many people who wanted to live in Amina's beautiful, big house.

The only problem that Amina faced was that the water, electricity, and repairs were very expensive. One day, a rich man came to her door. He said, "I want to buy this house!" She happily sold it and used the profit to build an even bigger house in Accra. Her new house was orange and green. It had even more pictures inside. After Amina finished building it, she invited all of her family to come live with her. This is Amina's future house.



ALICE AND AKOSUA'S DISAGREEMENT

WRITTEN BY SAYIDA HEKIMA NAJAH

Once upon a time, there lived a woman named Alice. Her world was a beautiful island. There was everything on this island. There was a forest, houses, market, a church, a mosque, hospital, fish pond, and pool. Alice and her parents lived together in a town called Nsawam. Alice was a hard worker. Alice had a friend named Akosua. Akosua was very lazy. When Alice would wake up in the morning, she would pray and thank God for everything he has done for her. But, Akosua never prayed when she woke up.

Alice always advised her friend, "Akosua, you need to pray. Please, you need to change. But, Akosua would stubbornly ask her, "Why should I change? Why should I pray?" She said, "If I go to church and do good deeds, then God will love me." Alice and Akosua never agreed, but stayed together peacefully on their beautiful island.

LAILA AND GUY CASH

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY AMINA MOHAMMED

Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Laila in a village called Samikrom. She was from a very poor home. She had one brother and two sisters. Her father was a watchman and her mother sold sachet water. They stayed in a chamber and hall. The children slept in the hall while the parents slept in the chamber. There was no electricity in the house. The children used a box iron to iron their clothes. Laila had only one school uniform. Sometimes, she would go to school barefooted and on an empty stomach. Laila was very brilliant. She had an aggregate of 8 and received admission to Royal Senior High School. Her parents managed to pay for her school fees for the first term.

Guy Cash had a lot of money. He rarely ate from the school dining hall. He could afford the most expensive lunch. His father was a drug dealer. He dealt in cocaine and heroin. He gave Guy Cash a lot of money. He was an average student. Laila who helped him with his academic work. Guy Cash gave Laila money and gifts. He bought her two pairs of sandals and three shirts. He took Laila to his parents house in Accra. His parents were glad to see her. They gave Laila 500 cedis. Laila showed the money to her parents. They were grateful to Guy Cash's parents.

Laila and Guy became close friends and Guy's academic work improved tremendously. One day, Guy stole some cocaine and sniffed. He became addicted. His academic work deteriorated. Laila did not know that Guy was sniffing cocaine. One day, Guy asked her to go and buy him cocaine. She was shocked, but Guy persisted. Eventually, Laila found a place and bought cocaine for Guy. Guy continued to give Laila money to buy him cocaine. He no longer cared about his academic work.

One day, Laila bought adulterated cocaine by a mistake. Guy shouted at her. "Laila, you stole my money!" He even wanted to stab her with a knife! Guy forced Laila to sniff both the genuine cocaine and the adulterated one. Laila also became addicted.

There are many lessons that we can get from this story. It is not good to take in cocaine or other drugs. It is not good to follow bad peers. Girls should be able to go to school and should be well-educated.



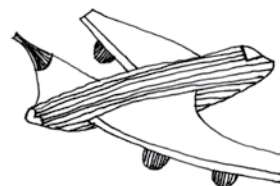
AZUTIGA TRAVELS

WRITTEN BY AMINA MOHAMMED

ILLUSTRATED BY MUFIDA ABDUL RAZAK AND ZSP ARCHIVE

Azutiga was an orphan. He lost his parents in a fatal lorry accident. He lived with Uncle Anaffu Tee in the Upper Eastern Region of Ghana. He had been taking care of Azutiga since he was five years old. His uncle struggled to make enough money for them both, but loved Azutiga very much. Azutiga attended Paga basic school. He was good at Mathematics and English. He was also a good footballer. He was the goal keeper for the school team.

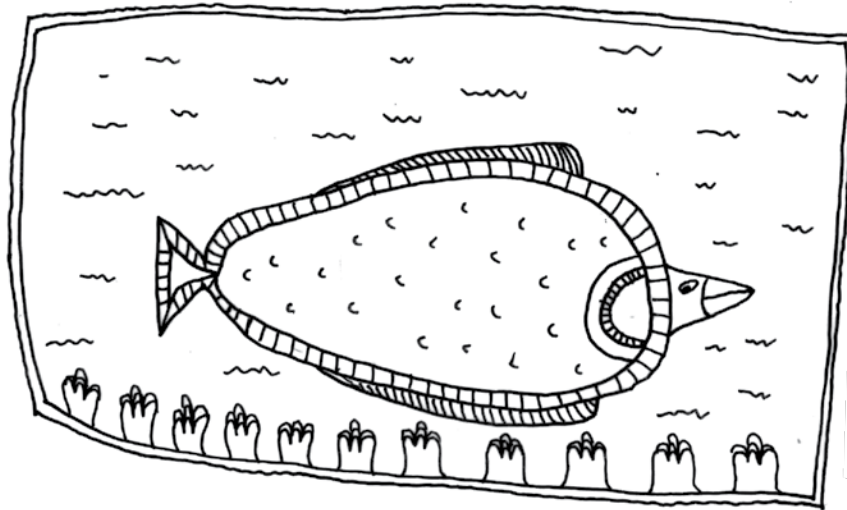
When Azutiga was in JHS 2, a mobile telecommunications company called MTN organized a Mathematics competition for pupils in JHS in Ghana. Azutiga easily beat the contestants in the Upper Eastern Region. Azutiga and winning pupils from other regions were invited to Accra. At first, Azutiga was scared, but his uncle encouraged him. Azutigo won the competition! His uncle, the head teacher, and pupils of Oaga were all so proud of him. He brought honor and fame to himself, his school, and Paga town. After that, MTN acquired a passport for Azutiga. They also obtained a visa for Azutiga from the British High Commission. He was going to fly to London on-board Ghana airways flight number GH163.



On the day of departure, Mr. Edward Azure, his head teacher, and his Uncle Anaffu Tee, went to the airport to see him off. Azutiga took his bag inside the airport. The bag was scanned. The bag was put on the conveyor belt and soon it disappeared. He showed his passport ticket and boarding pass to a lady. The lady examined it. She smiled at Azutiga and said, "I wish you a happy flight." The plane was about to fly. All of the passengers were asked to fasten their seat belts. The plane taxied on the runway and lifted its huge body off the ground. Azutiga looked through one of the windows. The buildings on the ground started to become smaller until they were like tiny ants. He watched through the window as the plane crossed the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Ocean.



Officers of MTN were at the airport in London to welcome Azutiga. They took him and his luggage to a plush hotel. The following day, they took him to visit the sites. First, they took him to Buckingham Palace where the Queen of England stays. Then, they went to visit the University of London campus. Finally, they went to the banks of River Thames that flows through the city. Lying in his plush hotel bed that night, Azutiga remembered his Uncle Anaffu Tee. He never would have gotten here if it hadn't been him.



HOW THE MUD-FISH GOT ITS SCALES

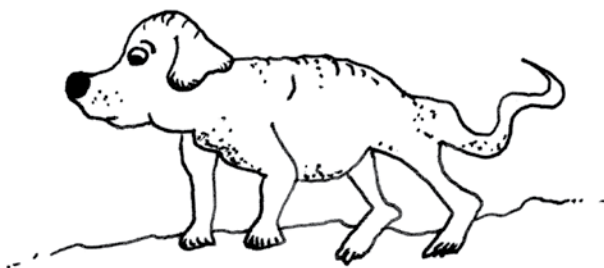
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY AMINA MOHAMMED

Once upon a time, there was a mud-fish who lived in the salty sea. She didn't have scales like the freshwater fish. She only had skin. Because of that, the mud fish was always sad. She wanted to be like the freshwater fish who had colorful, shiny scales. She also wanted to end her life like the freshwater fish and be edible to all people. After all, an old wise woman once told her, "Without scales, you are not edible for people who live in the city because your skin will spoil too quickly."

One day, a man who cared about this mud fish picked out of the salty sea and brought her to his house. He removed the shiny scales from a freshwater fish who was about to lose its life. He used his special powers to attach these scales to the mud-fish. It worked. She was so happy that she could now live her life like the freshwater fish. That is the end of my story. That is how the mud fish who lived in the salty sea got its scales.

MY GOOD-LOOKING DOG

WRITTEN BY AYISHATU FUTA
ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE



My character is a dog. He is a good-looking dog. He is white and brown in color. He is as big as my older brother. He is friendly to people he sees all of the time. He barks loudly whenever he sees a stranger in the house.

KOKI GOES FISHING

WRITTEN BY AMINA MOHAMMED

ILLUSTRATED BY RIZQIN FATAWU AND NADIA FUTA

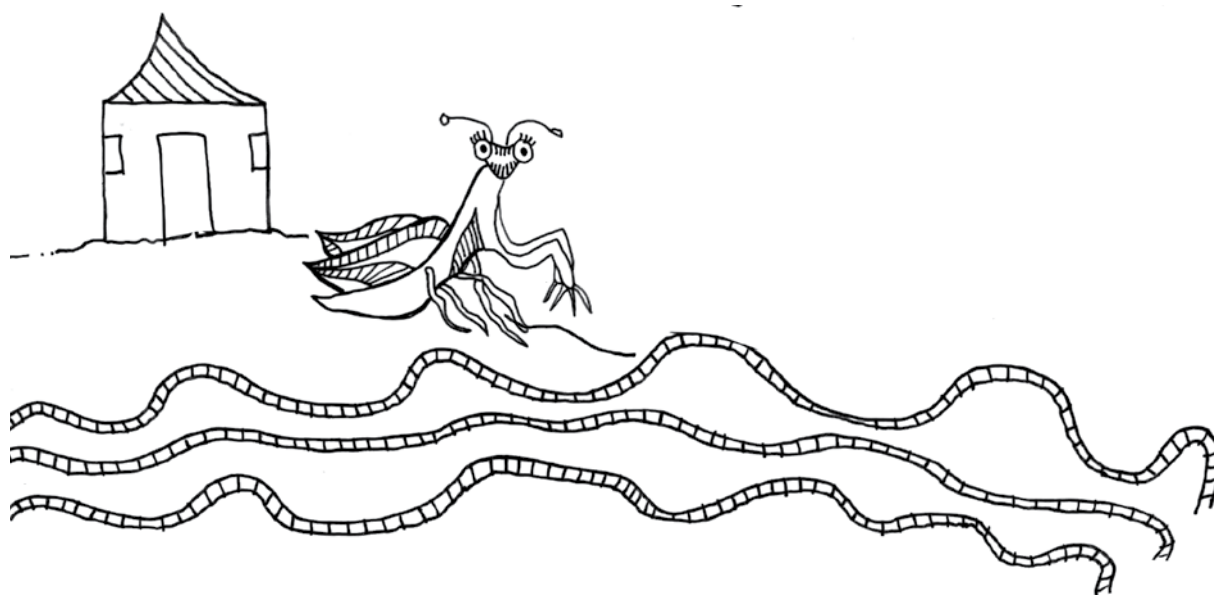
Once upon a time, there lived a spider named Gizo-Gizo, his wife a praying mantis named Koki, and their son Kojo. They stayed in a village called Dobidin in the central part of Ghana. On weekends, Gizo-Gizo, Koki, and Kojo would work on the farm or fish in the big river nearby.

One Saturday morning, Gizo-Gizo and Kojo traveled to the city for a funeral. Koki was alone in the house. She decided to go fishing. Her husband would be so pleased to come back and see the catch she had brought home. She decided to not invite her best friend snake. She wanted to go alone. She picked up her small bag containing her fishing hook and jack knife.

On her way to the river, Koki searched for bait such as worms and larvae. She found enough to get a good catch, that is, if she were that fortunate.

At the riverside, she went to a place where Gizo-Gizo keeps his canoe. She boarded it, removed the chain that had been used to anchor it, and paddled into an area where the water was calm and not too deep. She chained the canoe to a big rock and was ready to start fishing. Luckily for her, there were several types and sizes of fish in the place she had chosen. Within a matter of thirty minutes, she had caught five big fish and five little fish including herring, electric fish, black fish, eel, mackerel, and sardines. After two hours, she left with her basket full. She had so many fish that she decided to sell half of them. This fetched her thirty Ghana cedis. Koki was very pleased with herself.

When Gizo-Gizo and Kojo came home from the city, she was busy preparing fish soup for supper. They were as pleased as she was happy. Gizo-Gizo told her though that next time, please do not go fishing alone.



THE KING AND THE KIDNAPPER

WRITTEN BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

ILLUSTRATED BY KEMI MOHAMMED

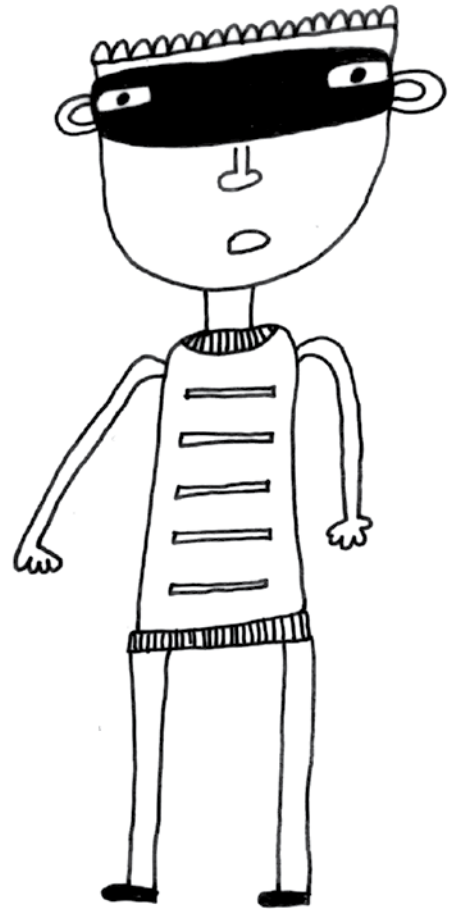
Once in a kingdom called Cape Coast, there lived a great king named Mohammed who loved his wife and children so much. He was very kind, but hated any enemy that came his way. One day, a certain thing happened in his palace. That night after they all went to bed, a kidnapper scaled the wall and entered in through an open window. He was trying to kidnap the king's favorite daughter named Sadiya.

As the kidnapper took her by the arm, Sadiya started screaming, "Help! Help! Help!"

The king woke up and chased the kidnapper through all of the rooms in the palace. They went through the sitting room, the kitchen, and even the washroom. At last, the kidnapper fell down! The king fought the kidnapper with all of his strength. Sadiya also joined the fight. They chased him away into the night. That was the end of the kidnapper.

Being a kidnapper is not good.

Have you seen the deeds of the kidnapper?



HOW THE ELEPHANT GOT ITS TRUNK

WRITTEN BY RAHINA HAMZA SIDIBE

Elephant got its trunk by earning it. He earned it in a battle with Buffalo. They were fighting over one trunk and Elephant won. Ever since, Elephant has been showing off his trunk to the other animals. He will never take it off.

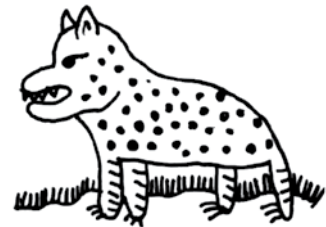
MIKI THE STUBBORN DONKEY

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

Once upon a time, there lived three donkeys whose names were Aki, Miki, and Spiky. They lived in Accra. Every evening before they went to sleep, their mother Mrs. Mandela would tell them a story about the wicked hyena who lived behind the stream. One morning, they all went out to graze. Miki said, "I'm thirsty." Mrs. Mandela said, "Don't go to the stream alone." The stubborn donkey retorted stubbornly, "I will go there on my own!" He ran to the stream.



Suddenly, a hyena jumped out of the bush. Miki trembled. They stared at each other and then hyena pounced on him! Hyena told donkey with a smirk, "You stupid and disobedient donkey. Your mother told you not to come here! You insulted her and then you decided to come anyway! I will teach you a lesson today!" Miki pleaded for mercy, but the hyena refused.

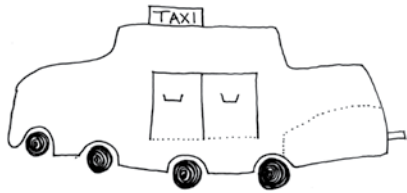


The hyena threw Miki into the stream. That evening, the family went to search for Miki. They found him washed up on shore breathing heavily. They took Miki home and put him to bed without anything to eat. You would think that Miki would have learned his lesson, but he didn't.

Later that month, Miki said to himself, "I am thirsty!" Again, he went to the stream alone for some water. Again, the hungry hyena jumped out of the bush! Miki started trembling. Hyena said with a cackle, "You again!" The donkey said, "Yes, please don't hurt me." The hyena refused to feel sorry for him. To teach him a lesson, Hyena took his claw and gave him a long mark on his face.

From that day forward, whenever Miki met someone on the road, they would ask about his mark. He would remember the time he did not listen to Mrs. Mandela. He had learned his lesson.

Children, you should be respectful of everyone. That is the end of the story. Thank you.



LORRY STATION

WRITTEN BY KHADIJAH FATAWU

ILLUSTRATED BY KHADIJAH FATAWU AND
SELASI DOMI KINGSLEY

This is a lorry station. It is in Accra. The lorry station is busy every day. There are different kinds of vehicles at the station such as buses, tro-tros, and taxis. There is so much shouting. There are smells like petrol, popcorn, and sweat.

MY WORLDS

WRITTEN BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

My name is Amar Bilal (RJ). I stay in two worlds.

I stay in a world called America. I live in California near an island. But, I usually go to the stadium for some free sports. I also go to the market to buy food for breakfast, lunch, and supper. I like making new friends. In America, we have a beach, an airport, a museum, and school. I like my house, the fresh air I breathe, and the green grass I play on. I like visiting many places in my country like waterfalls, rivers, mountains, gardens, zoos, and parks. I love this world because it gives me the things I want.

I also stay in a world called RJ. The world of RJ is very beautiful. It has a garden, beach, waterfall, and an airport. The world of RJ has animals and human beings. The world of RJ is big. The world can even take you to other worlds. World RJ is blessed with many places in it. We have Kakum National Park, museums, castles, dungeons and Umbrella Rock. The world of RJ is big. Even Aunty Gina visits my world as a tourist. I love the world of RJ because everything I need is inside.

That is all. Thank you.

MY EDUCATION

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY NADIA FUTA

The problem I face is about my education. There are no qualified teachers. They don't regularly give me homework. The teachers do not have patience to explain the assignments to me. They especially don't have patience during exams.



THE GREEDY SNAIL AND WEALTHY CAMEL

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

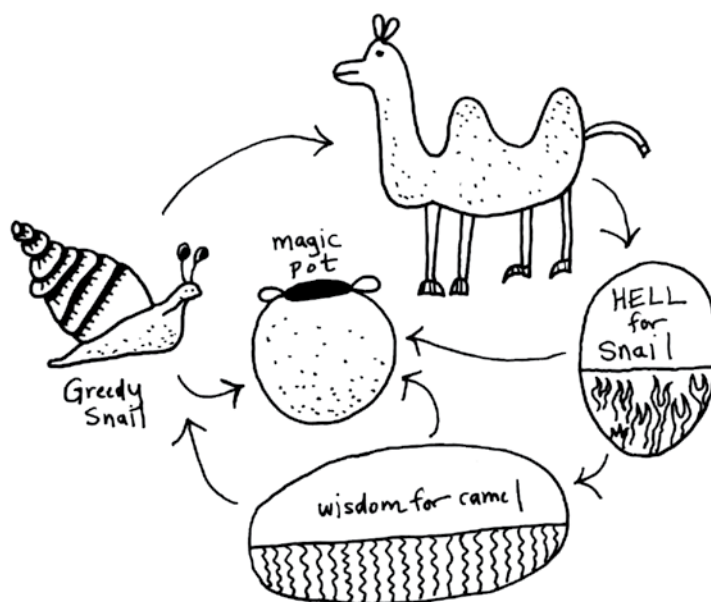
Once upon a time, there lived a greedy snail and a wealthy camel. They lived in a cottage near a river. Camel was always very generous with his wealth and gave greedy snail everything he wanted. Even so, greedy snail was not satisfied. He wanted to do everything for himself, including getting his own food.

On one occasion snail said, "Camel, I am going for a walk to find some food." Wealthy camel said, "Go and come home safely." Greedy snail left. He kept walking and walking. As he was walking along, snail started feeling very hungry.

Before he knew it, Magic Pot appeared in front of him. Magic Pot said, "Say a wish and I shall give it to you!" Snail said, "Magic Pot, I want you to produce some Jollof Rice with Chicken for me." It appeared before him carefully packaged in a to-go pack. Snail brought the food home. Because he was so greedy, he did not share the food with wealthy camel. He also did not tell wealthy camel about the Magic Pot. Instead, he told the camel that he had bought the food with his own money.

Everyday, snail would tell camel that he would go on a walk. And, every day, wealthy camel would say, "Go and come home safely." Everyday, he would meet the magic pot on the road and ask for Jollof Rice with Chicken. Everyday, he would bring home the food and eat it all by himself.

One day, greedy snail went to the Magic Pot and said his usual wish, "I want Jollof Rice and Chicken in a to-go pack!" But, this time, instead of Jollof Rice and Chicken, five stalks of cane flew out of the pot and started mercilessly caning greedy snail. Greedy snail learned his lesson. From then on, he never lied and always shared his Jollof Rice and Chicken with wealthy camel. Greediness is not good. We must try to stop it.



ABINA'S DREAM

WRITTEN BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

ILLUSTRATED BY FLORENCE AFIA FOSUWAA

Once upon a time, there lived a street Hawker named Abina. She lived with her parents in a village called Nanakrom. More than anything in the world, she dreamed of becoming a pilot.

But, she faced many problems with her parents. They did not want her to go to school. They did not want her to learn.

Her parents wanted her to go and sell water sachets on the street.

One day when she was going to sell, a kind woman called Akoss called to Abina from her car. Akoss asked, "Why are you not in school?" The girl told her everything. The woman felt pity for her and said, "I will take you to America!" And, she did. Abina was admitted to pilot training college.

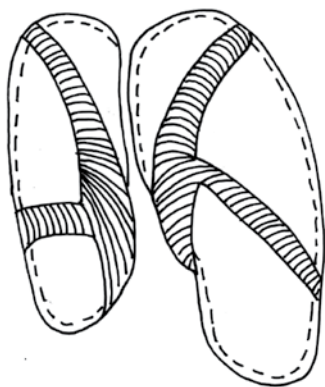
Today she is a pilot!

This story teaches us to never give up on our dreams.



MR. ISMAEL AND HIS MAGIC SLIPPERS

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY WALTER SIMS



Mr. Ismael loved his father very much. One day, his father died and left him a pair of magic slippers. Mr. Ismael loved wearing the magic slippers because they made him travel to the afterworld. Whenever he wore the slippers, he would go and visit his father.

SOUNDS OF NIMA

WRITTEN BY SELASI DOMI KINGSLEY

I can hear a bird crowing.
I can hear my sister sweeping.
I can hear the water sloshing.
I can hear the mate yelling.
I can hear a taxi passing.

THE INSULTING KING AND THE WHALE

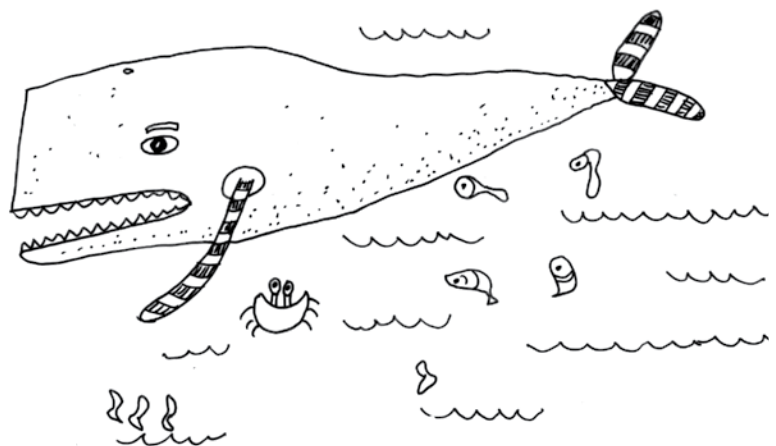
WRITTEN BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

ILLUSTRATED BY HAIRAT MOHAMMED SANI AND ZSP ARCHIVE

Once there lived a rude, abusive king in a village called Domeabra. He lived with his wife in a big palace. He was always insulting his wife. He would say, "You are a lazy woman! You are a stupid woman! You are a foolish woman!" His wife did not say a thing, but she knew that one day, the king's behavior would come back to him."

One morning, the king and his wife set out to look for some fruit in the bush. Suddenly, the ground shook and broke the earth into two. A huge river filled the crack. The wife saw the ground breaking and so carefully stood to one side. But, because the king was so busy insulting her, he didn't notice and fell right into the rushing river! The king fainted out of fright.

The water carried him all the way to a big ocean called the Atlantic. And as we all know, this ocean is filled with dangerous animals. A giant whale opened his giant mouth. He swallowed the king easily, just like how we swallow fufu (boiled, mashed cassava and green plantain). That was the end of the king and his insults. The end.



THE MEAN MOSQUITO

WRITTEN BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

ILLUSTRATED BY AYISHATU FUTA, RAHEEMA SULLEYMAN, AND AMINA MOHAMMED

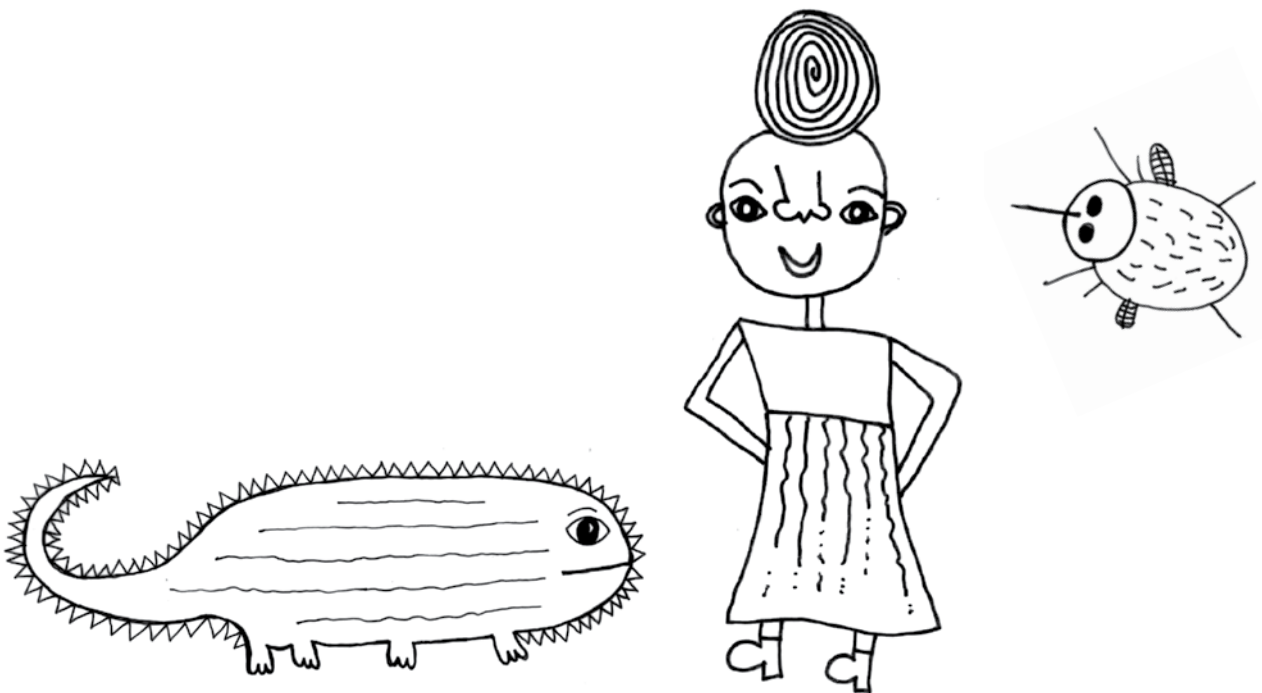
Once upon a time, there lived a mean mosquito. He lived in a pond where a kind lizard also stayed. One day the mosquito said, "I shall suck lizard's blood!" He rubbed his hairy hands together and made his plan. He organized a party for lizard. When she received the invitation from mosquito, she was very excited. After all, lizard had never been to a party before. She would wear her best cloth.

When she arrived to the party, mosquito welcomed her by sucking her blood. Lizard fainted. The next week she was sick in bed. Mosquito had given her a bad case of malaria. Meanwhile, mosquito was happy and full!

One day, mean mosquito became hungry again. This time he thought, "I must suck the blood of a human being!" That evening, when everyone was in their beds, mosquito entered into a small girl's room. He sucked her blood while she was sleeping. But, instead of fainting like lizard, she awoke startled. She clapped her hands together. Clap! Clap! Clap! The little girl smashed the enormous, wicked mosquito. That was the end of mean mosquito.

Hippo and the little girl had a party to celebrate.
They wore their best cloth and drank sparkling strawberry champagne.

This story tells us to not take what is not yours.



KOKI THE THIEF

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY SAYIDA HEKIMA NAJAH

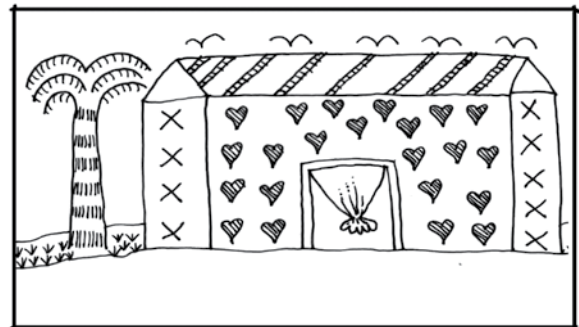
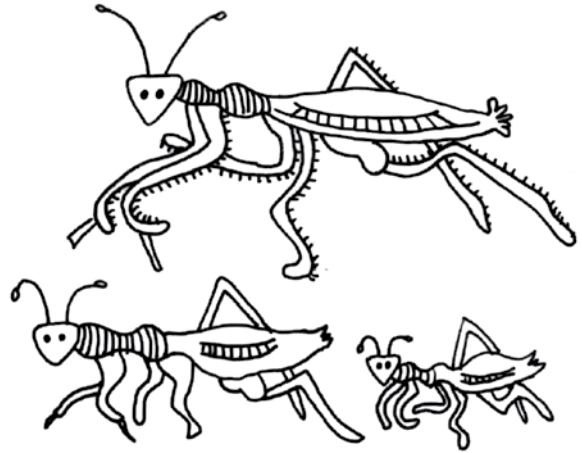
Once upon a time, there lived Gizo-Gizo, his wife Koki, and their children. They lived together in a village called Pokuasi. Gizo-Gizo was a very hard worker. Everyday, he was going to work cleaning the lagoon close to his house. Everyday, he would bring back money for Koki and her children. Koki on the other hand was greedy and thought of no one but herself and her children.

One day, after Gizo-Gizo left for work, Koki and her children went to Mr. Amar's foodstuffs store. When he wasn't looking, Koki stole oil, rice, tomato paste, and spices. When she got home, Koki made food with the stolen goods and ate it all with her children. She didn't even save one bite for Gizo-Gizo. She also hid the money Gizo-Gizo gave to her so she could do whatever she wanted with it. Koki continued this bad behavior everyday.

Finally, Mr. Amar saw that the things in his shop were almost finished. Mr. Amar went to his friend's house called his friend Hekimatics. As they were chatting, he told her about what was happening in his shop. Together, they planned how to catch the thief. They put super glue all over the floor of the shop.

But, that night when Koki snuck in, she saw the glittering of the glue on the ground and flew over it. She easily stole everything she needed to make light soup the next day. After that, Mr. Amar was angry and said, "Why can't we catch that person or insect who is doing this to me?" He became so frustrated that he decided to close down his shop.

But, Hekimatics said, "If you do that, the

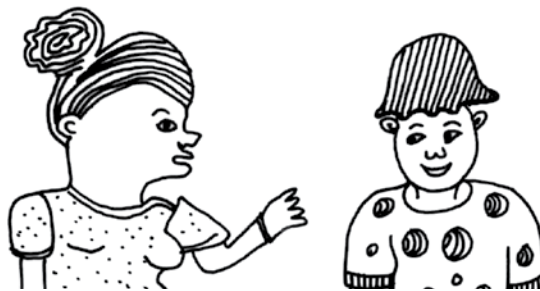


person or insect can continue stealing from other people's shops. Remember when we were in school Mr. Amar always said, "A good manager never gives up. So, let us try again. I have a strong feeling that we will make it." Mr. Amar agreed.

They set traps everywhere - on the ceiling, floor, and walls - next to her favorite foodstuffs. This time, Koki and her children didn't stand a chance. Indeed, the next morning, Mr. Amar found Koki and her children in the trap between the palm oil and sardines. Mr. Amar reported them to the Chief who sent Koki and her whole family away from the village.

Gizo-Gizo was so angry with Koki. He exclaimed, "You are no more my wife! I don't know you from anywhere! I am going to look for a beautiful, kind new Koki who will not steal. Koki and her children wept and ran into the forest. Because they were so embarrassed, they disguised themselves as leaves and were never seen again. Meanwhile, Gizo-Gizo found a new beautiful, kind, and smart Koki who looked like a butterfly. She was a teacher and helped students read and write. They lived happily ever after.

The moral lesson is that if something is ours, we can do anything we want with it, but if it is not ours, we should not try to steal it. We should also not be greedy like Gizo-Gizo's first Koki wife. For I assure you, if you do what is right in this life, you will be free. Today you are you, tomorrow you may not be you. For example, today Koki saw herself as hardworking Gizo-Gizo's wife, but because of her greediness, tomorrow she became just a leaf in the forest. There is a wise saying that says, "out of the ninety-nine days for the thief, one day will surely be for the master."



OLD WICKED WITCH AND WISE BIRD

WRITTEN BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

ILLUSTRATED BY HAMID SULLEYMAN

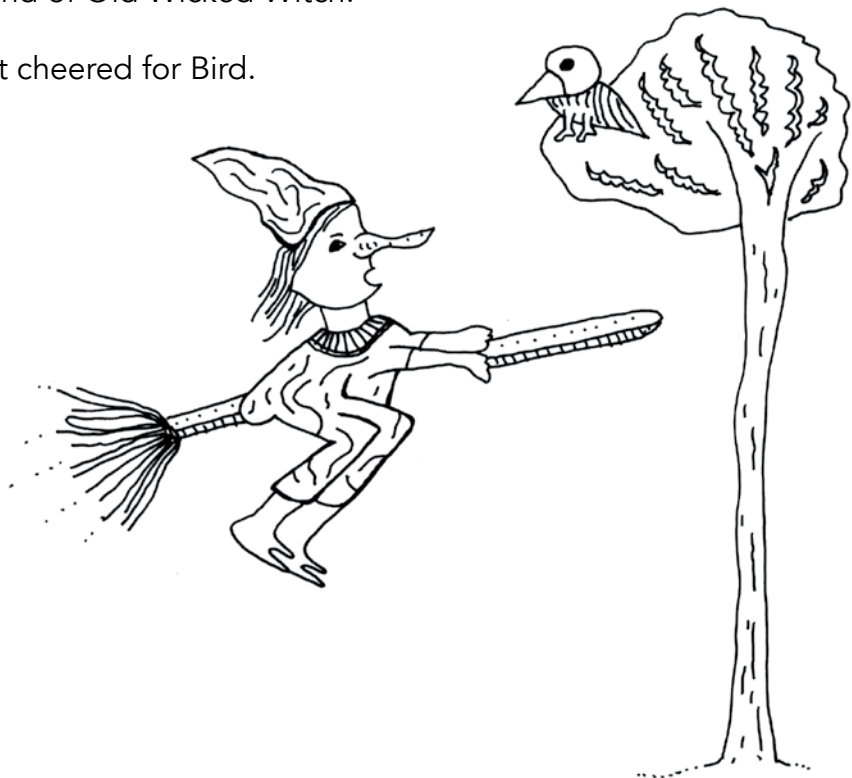
Once upon a time, there lived an old, wicked witch who lived in the Kakum Rain Forest. She was always eating up all the meat of animals in the forest. Because of her, the animals were always worried.

One day, Fox was going somewhere. Witch disguised herself as an old woman. When she saw him, she said, "Fox, please help me carry my heavy stones." Fox was kind and so helped the old woman. When fox looked away, Witch took a stone and hit Fox. Witch was happy to get meat for her dinner. Everyday Witch would carry out this same wicked plan. She tricked elephant, crocodile, and even monkey. They all became her meat for dinner.

One day, a wise bird was passing by. Witch saw the bird and quickly turned into an old woman. She said, "Bird, please help me carry my heavy stones." As bird was helping her, Witch took a stone and hit Bird's wing. Bird jumped and flew away. Witch was frustrated! She thought to herself, "What if Bird shares my secrets?" She needed to do something quickly. So, Witch set a trap. But, what she did not know was that Bird was on top of a tree peering down at her. Witch thought that she would catch Bird, but Bird had her own plan to catch Witch.

Bird built a giant toy bird. She ordered it to go and knock on the door of witch's hut. When Witch came out, she saw the giant toy bird! She was very happy to see that so much meat had arrived to her hut. Little did she know, Bird had placed a bomb inside the toy. Witch took a stone and hit the bird. The toy bird bomb blasted everywhere. Witch got caught in the explosion. That was the end of Old Wicked Witch.

All of the animals in the forest cheered for Bird.
They named her their queen.
They lived happily ever after.





ABI THE CHICK

WRITTEN BY ABIGAIL AMPOMAH

ILLUSTRATED BY MARIAM BASHIRU

The name of my chicken is Abi.
He always brings me golden eggs.
If you say, "Pick me a pen!," Abi will pick it for you.

THE HUNGRY CHICKEN

WRITTEN BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

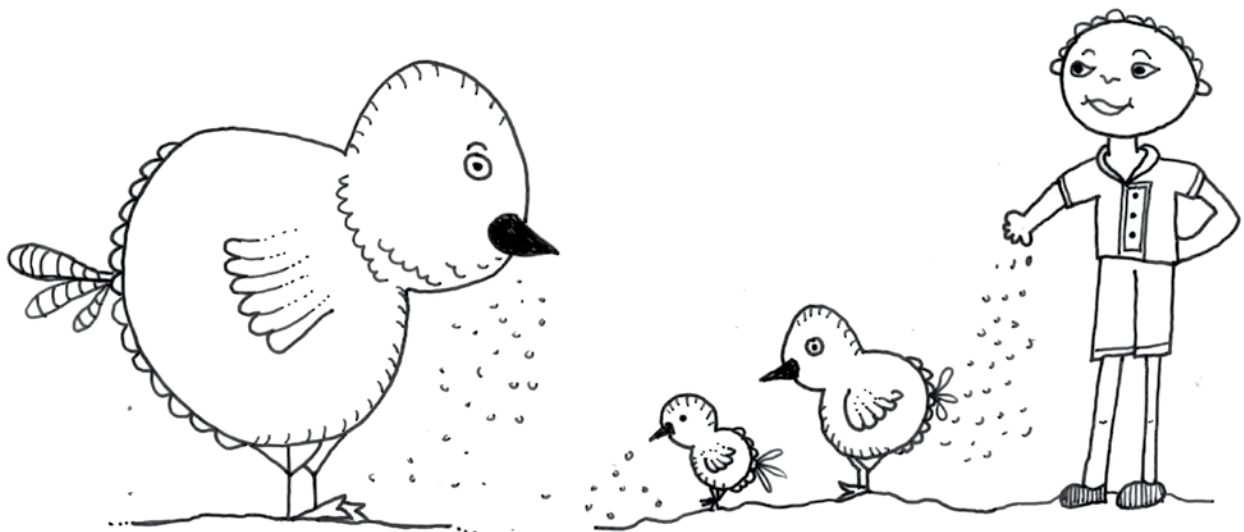
ILLUSTRATED BY SADIYA HEKIMA NAJAH

Once there was a chicken named Rabiatu. She lived on a farm near the village of Yendi. Farmer Amani did not take care of her. She wasn't given food to eat. She wasn't given water to drink.

She became lean.
She became weak.
She could not walk.
She could not lay eggs.

One day, kind Farmer Sani came to the farm. He felt sympathy for Rabiatu. He bought her and looked after her very well. Now, she has become so beautiful. Every rooster who sees her falls in love. She married handsome rooster called Abdul.

They had many chicks and lived happily ever after with Farmer Sani.





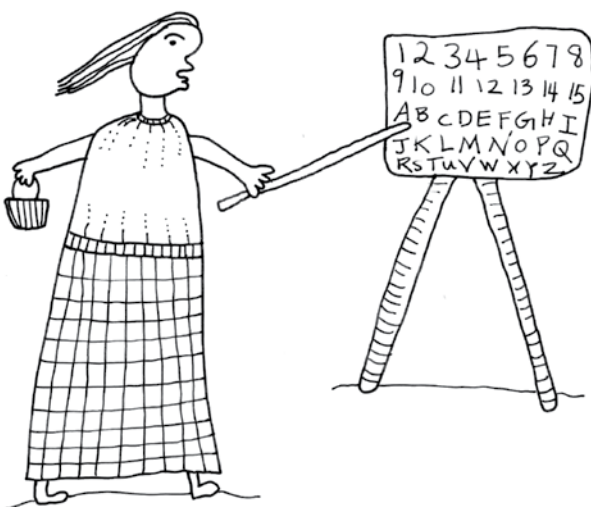
How KOTOKA AIRPORT CAME TO BE

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

Once upon a time, the land of Ghana started turning into a desert. The people were very worried. The President of Ghana, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, said, "We must build an airport to save the country!" All of the ministers agreed that this was a fine idea. They pooled their money together. The next day, the President announced, "We shall start building at once!"

First, they built the radio station tower. Then, they built the airport terminal. As the building continued though, the President became worried. He asked himself, "If I buy an aeroplane, where am I going to put it? We don't have a hanger." The President scheduled a meeting at Jubilee House with the ministers. One of the ministers who liked the President's character very much said, "I will build a hanger at the airport for you!" President Nkrumah was overjoyed. The minister kept his promise. They built the hanger for the airport. As time went on, the airport was almost finished, but they still needed a runway. President Nkrumah announced, "I will build the runway myself!" And, he did.

The airport was finally finished. Everything was set, but there was just one remaining problem. What should they call their new airport? President Nkrumah announced, "I will name the airport after a soldier called "Kotoka." And, they did. This is why the name of our airport is Kotoka International Airport. The people were all happy that if they needed to, they could escape the desert.



MY TEACHER

ILLUSTRATED BY JAMILA YAKUBU

DISOBEDIENT KOFI

WRITTEN BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

ILLUSTRATED BY FATIMATU MOHAMMAD

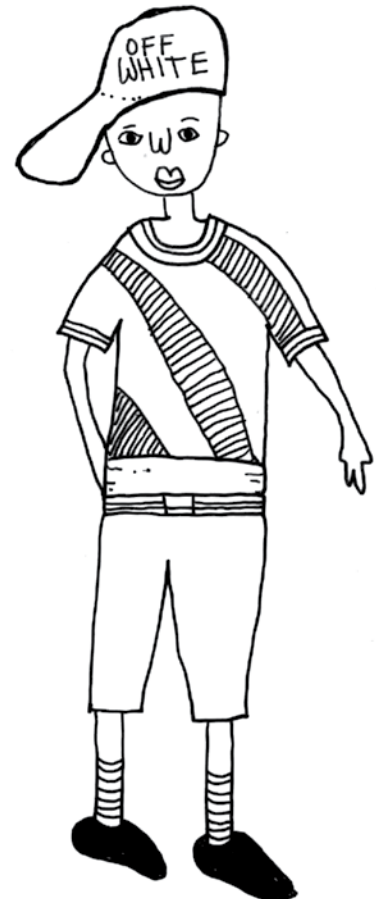
Once upon a time, in the town of Winneba, there lived a disobedient child named Kofi. Everyday, he would fight with other children. He would insult everyone in the streets. He even insulted his parents. One day, he went to the forest hunting for an enormous rodent called grass cutter.

He walked.
And walked.
And walked some more.

Finally, he reached the center of the forest where there was a stream. He saw an old woman sitting next to the stream. He really wanted to insult her. She really wanted to eat him. After all, she was actually a wicked mermaid who liked to eat stubborn children just like him. The old woman said, "Little boy, come help me fill my bucket with water." Kofi did as he was told, but mumbled insults as he walked to the stream. She followed him.

She got closer.
And closer.
And closer still.

She grabbed Kofi and chewed him up like he was a small snack of Milk Biscuits!
That was the end of the stubborn little boy.
The wicked mermaid dove into the water for some rest.



THIS IS RJ

WRITTEN BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

ILLUSTRATED BY HAMID SULLEYMAN

This is RJ. Every morning, he wakes up. He takes his bath. He brushes his teeth. He puts on his clothes. He goes to school. After classes, RJ goes to the Maamobi-Nima library. He is always wanting to read. Today, he read his favorite book called "The Lazy King." After reading, he goes home to eat, bathe, brush his teeth, and go to bed. These are the main adventures in RJ's life right now.

THE MAGIC STONE

TOLD BY HAJIA HANATU

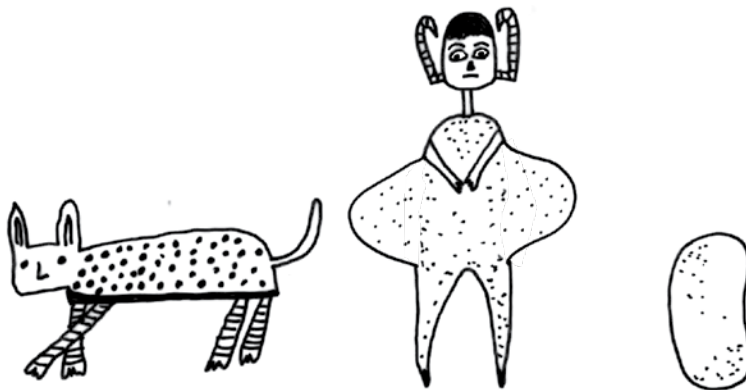
RETOLD BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

ILLUSTRATED BY HAMID SULLEYMAN

Once upon a time in lush bush of the Ashanti Region, there lived wicked, greedy Hyena. Hyena was always jealous of the meat other animals would bring home. One day, hyena called a meeting with Lion, Leopard, Fat Forest Monster, and many other animals. She created a competition. She announced to the animals, "Every Saturday, one of us must go catch meat and bring it back for us to enjoy." Hyena thought that Fat Forest Monster would be too slow and would never be able to bring back meat. Secretly, she hoped that the animals would laugh at him and then they would all chew him up for dinner. Because the animals liked a good competition, they agreed. So, every Saturday, they took turns bringing back meat. Hyena brought meat home. Lion brought meat home. Leopard brought meat home.

Finally, it was Fat Forest Monster's turn. He was very worried. "What will I do?," he wondered. "I am too big and slow to catch any meat." He decided to try anyway. On his way, Fat Forest Monster saw a hunter. He gave Fat Forest Monster a magic stone. The hunter told him what to do. He explained, "Call to the stone. Tell it what kind of meat it should fetch for you. When you are finished, praise the stone and set it aside." Fat Forest Monster carefully followed the Hunter's instructions. He made a wish, "Bring me meat of a Deer!" To his surprise, a big, fat deer came out of the forest. Monster sent the food home. Except for hyena, the other animals were very happy. Then, Fat Forest Monster told the stone, "Thank you for your efforts! You are Number One! You are everything in this world!". The stone went back to its resting place. Every time it was Fat Forest Monster's turn to fetch meat, he would bring back different kinds of meat. Hyena could not understand how he could catch the meat. She said to herself, "This time, I will follow Fat Forest Monster to see how he does it!"

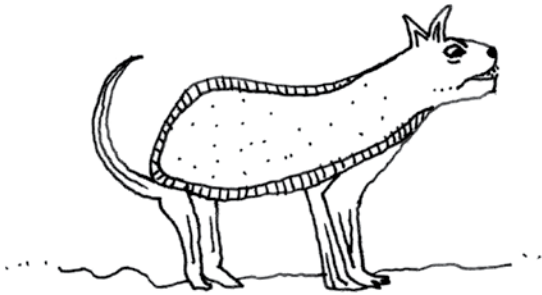
The next day, Hyena followed him. She saw Fat Forest Monster talking to a magic stone. Hyena was jealous, but felt good that she knew his secret. That evening, Hyena entered into Fat Forest Monster's house took the stone. She said, "Hey stone, bring me some bush cat meat to eat!" The stone gave the meat to hyena. After eating though, Hyena forgot to praise the stone. It stuck to her leg. She cried out, "Wayooooo, wayooooo!" Fat Forest monster woke up and said, "Stone, thank you for the delicious meat. You are my President! You are my everything in this world." Hyena felt ashamed. That is the end. The morals of this story are many. Do not be jealous. Do not take what is not yours. Be grateful for what others do for you.



HOW THE BUSH CAT GOT ITS SPOTS

WRITTEN BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE



Once upon a time in the Digya Forest, there lived a bush cat. He had no spots on its body. One day, the bush cat was going to catch a mouse. The cat fell into a big puddle of mud. The mud splattered all over the bush cat's body. It stained his fur, but made a beautiful design. This is how the bush cat got its spots.

AGYA KWAME AND AUNTY AMA

WRITTEN BY ALI AWUDU

ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE

Once upon a time, there lived a Great Farmer called Agya Kwame. He was kind and very careful with his work. He was always very careful to only use organic substances on his crops. His wife Auntie Ama sells the juicy, sweet mangoes he grows in the market.

One day, when Aunty Ama and her children went to the market, King Nana Abeku arrested her because he had heard a rumor that Agya Kwame had used dangerous substances on his crops. Aunty Ama cried out, "My husband would never do such a thing!" Even so, she was taken to the palace and held captive until they found out the truth.

Finally, the king's spies came to know that it was all lies! King Nana Abeku apologized and said that he would never listen to rumors again. The farmer, his wife Aunty Ama, and their children lived happily ever after.



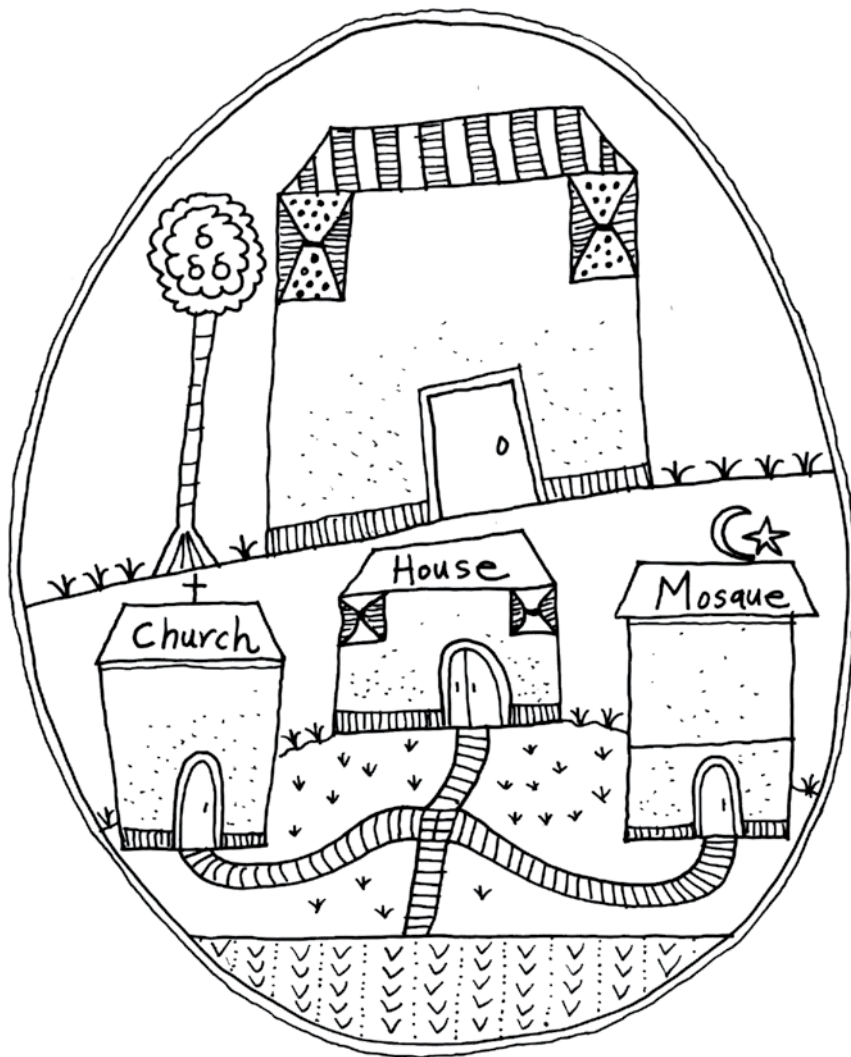
MY WORLD IS TAMALE

WRITTEN BY AMINA MOHAMMED

ILLUSTRATED BY BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA

The name of my world is Tamale. Amina and Abass live here. There are also other human beings, a mosquito biting one of these human beings, animals who have houses, a snake, a tree called Wawa, a school full of children, a boy catching water from a pipe, and a woman selling fruit in the market.

In addition to all of these things, there is also a woman in this world called Habiba. She lives in a white house with her children. They have many pets and the children love playing with them. Because of that, the pets are very happy. They have a nice tree outside their house and a school near them called Hase International School. Most of the time Habiba and her children stay in Tamale, but sometimes they visit other worlds such as World Fair.



GIZO-GIZO AND THE BOTTLE OF SPECIAL COLA

WRITTEN BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

Once upon a time, there lived a spider called Gizo-Gizo. He lived with his loving wife, a praying mantis named Koki. Gizo-Gizo was selfish and greedy. One day, he told Koki, "I am going to buy medicine." Koki said, "Okay my husband. Go and come." She did not know that he was lying. Instead of buying medicine, he went to buy a bottle of Special Cola to share with his friends. Koki waited and waited for her husband to return. Meanwhile, Gizo-Gizo was with his friends drinking Special Cola cheering for his favorite football team on TV.

Koki grew worried. She flew to the medicine shop to see what was going on. "Have you seen my husband?," she asked Tortoise the owner of the shop. He shook his head and said, "No, Gizo-Gizo has not been here." Koki became very annoyed. She knew exactly where Gizo-Gizo had gone - "The Drinking Spot."

That night, Koki beat him well. She even threatened to bite off head as some female praying mantis' choose to do. From that day forward, Gizo-Gizo respected Koki. He never lied to her again. And, whenever he wanted to drink a bottle of Special Cola, they would go to the "Drinking Spot" together.

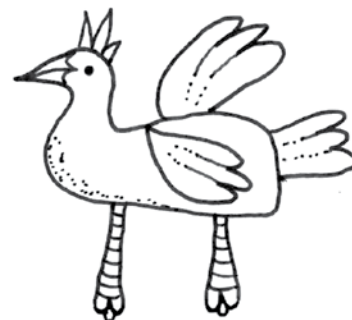
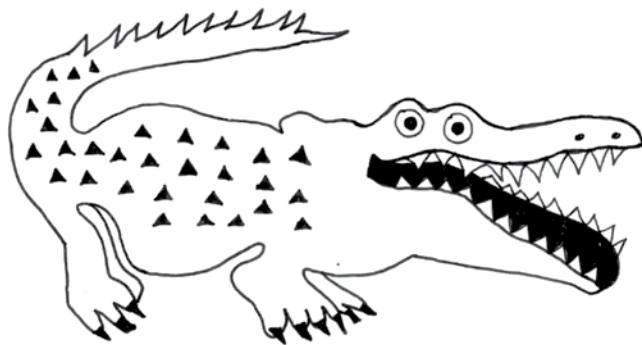
THE WORRIED CROCODILE AND WISE CHICKEN

WRITTEN BY BRIGHT NANA OFUSU

ILLUSTRATED BY ALI AWUDU

Once upon a time, there lived a crocodile and chicken. They were friends. One day, the crocodile was very worried so he went to the wise chicken to find out why. The wise chicken replied, "It is because you are wanting to feed your family." The crocodile thanked her and went home.

The next day, the crocodile came back to the wise chicken. He was feeling worried again, but couldn't figure out why. What could be the problem now? He had fed his family last night. This time, the wise chicken did not know why crocodile was so worried. The crocodile became annoyed and chased the chicken. He ate him up! That was the end of the wise chicken and the crocodile's worries. That is the end.



THE GOSSIPING GOAT

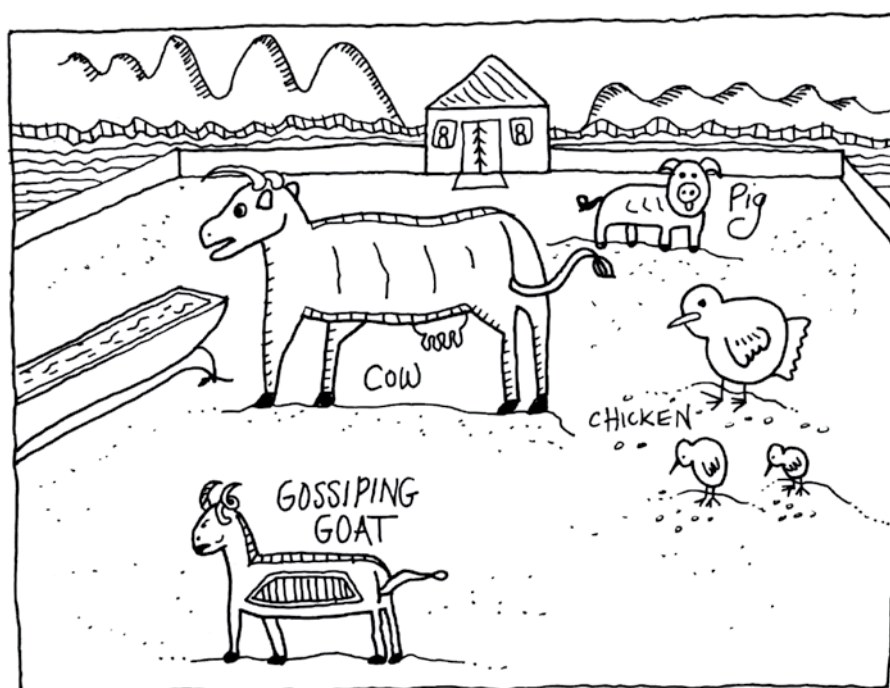
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

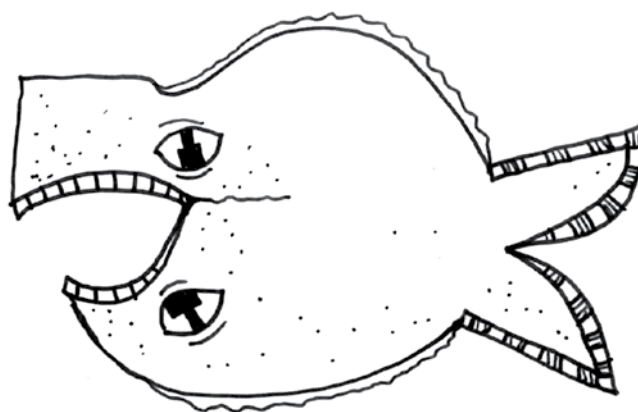
Once upon a time, there lived Cow, Pig, Chicken, and Goat. They lived together on a farm in the Central Region of Ghana. Cow, Pig, and Chicken did not like Goat because he liked gossiping too much!

One day, Pig was hiding gold in her sty. As Goat was passing by, he saw that Pig was counting her secrets. Goat ran to tell his greedy master named Rat. Rat said, "I will steal all of Pig's gold!" That evening, Rat snuck into Pig's room. He stole all of Pig's gold! The next morning, Pig went to count her gold, but it was missing! She started crying seriously. Cow saw that her friend was crying. She asked, "Pig, what is the matter?" Pig told her friend what happened. Cow felt so sorry for her. Cow said, "Do not talk. There is nothing we can do for now."

The next day, Chicken was counting her Ghanaian cedis. Gossiping goat peered into her pen and saw everything. Again, he told greedy Rat. That night, Rat stole all of Chicken's Ghanaian cedis. The next day, Chicken was crying to Cow and Pig. The three of them thought, "We need to do something to teach Goat and Rat a lesson that they will never forget." Chicken, Pig, and Cow made a plan to capture Goat and Rat. Pig bought cabbage, onion, and pepper. Cow bought cake and ice cream. Chicken bought millet and maize.

They added poison to the food and left it in a place where rat and goat would see. That evening, Goat and Rat ate everything! Gossiping Goat and greedy Rat were never seen on the farm again.





THE THIRSTY MONSTER OF NIMA

WRITTEN BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

ILLUSTRATED BY NAIM MOHAMMED

Once upon a time, there lived a terrifying monster who lived in Nima. Everyday, he would gulp down the dirty water from the gutter. He didn't care if rubbish, goats, cows, or even people got stuck between his big, pointy teeth.

One day, the monster was seriously thirsty.

As the monster started drinking, his actions brought about a fight with the people of Nima. They were tired of his disrespectful behavior. They started slapping him and throwing stones at the monster. He ignored them and drank *all* of their water. The people were very upset. "His actions have to stop!," they cried out. Led by seamstress Hajia Hadiza, the people of Nima made a plan. They sewed a big net.

At dawn, Hajia Hadiza and her people gathered at the cave in Maamobi where the monster lived. Hajia Hadiza pretended to scream in order to get the monster's attention. "Eeeeeeeeeee!," she cried out. The monster thought a second monster had come to Nima. He became jealous and so came out of his cave to fight the enemy.

The people caught him with their big net.

Next, they dragged his enormous body to the gutter.

They jumped on his belly.

All of the dirty water poured out of his mouth and back into the gutter.

Finally, they had their water back, but it was still dirty.

Hajia Hadiza taught them how to keep their water clean.

The people of Nima became free from monsters *and* dirty water forever!

BABA MUSAH AND THE POWERFUL DRUM

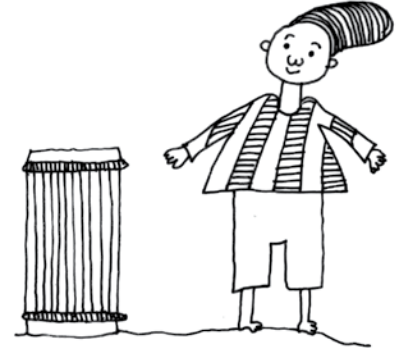
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY RABIYATU MUHIDEEN

Once upon a time, there lived a man called Baba Musah. He came from the northern region. Baba Musah had a powerful drum. He had found the drum in a forest in 2010 during the celebration of the Dagomba festival. This is how it happened.

Baba Musah was a hunter. Everyday he was going to the forest to look for bush meat.

On the day of the Dagomba festival, he went into the forest to look for bush meat as usual. He found a mysterious drum hanging from a tree. When he went home, the drum started talking. It said, "Since today is your festival day, I will protect your village and become your symbol of power." Baba Musah and all of the villagers were so happy. That night, everyone danced to the beating of their new drum.

That was the happiest day of Baba Musah's life.



DO YOU KNOW TOMORROW?

WRITTEN BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

ILLUSTRATED BY MUFIDA ABDUL RAZAK

Once upon a time, there lived two twins named Kwame and Shito in a town called Tamale. They stayed with their parents in a small hut. Kwame had a white heart, but Shito had a heart black as coal. Shito was always jealous of Kwame.

One day, Kwame was playing with a toy gun. Shito saw the gun and became jealous. He complained to his mother who collected the gun and gave it to Shito. She was always defending Shito. Shito teased Kwame. "Look who has the gun now!", he joked. Kwame kept quiet. He knew jealousy and backbiting was not good. Shito started laughing at Kwame's silence. Kwame finally said, "Do you know tomorrow?" Shito continued insulting Kwame.

Years passed. Their mother died. Shito was crying. Kwame was adopted by a wealthy family in Accra. He left Shito alone in their old house. Shito was so lonely. But, because Kwame was such a selfless guy, he forgave Shito and invited him to come live with his new family. Shito apologized and finally changed his behavior. Now he Kwame and Shito do everything together.

ADWOA AND THE TALKING CALABASH

WRITTEN BY SAYIDA HEKIMA NAJAH

Once upon a time, there lived a girl called Adwoa. She lived with her wicked stepmother called Maame. Maame only gave her small rice to eat. Adwoa was always sad and lonely. She had no one to talk to about her problems.

One day, Maame asked her to fetch water. Adwoa was very hungry and tired. She sat under a tree for some time to rest. A beautiful calabash appeared in front of her. All of a sudden, it started talking to her. Adwoa was surprised at first, but then started responding. As they talked, Adwoa revealed to the calabash, "I am very hungry. My stepmother only feeds me small rice." The calabash told her to say, "Food, food, food, moooooorrrreee food!" Adwoa did as she was told. The calabash filled with all of her favorite food Jollof Rice and Chicken. She fetched the water for her Maame, said thank you to the calabash and went home with a full stomach.

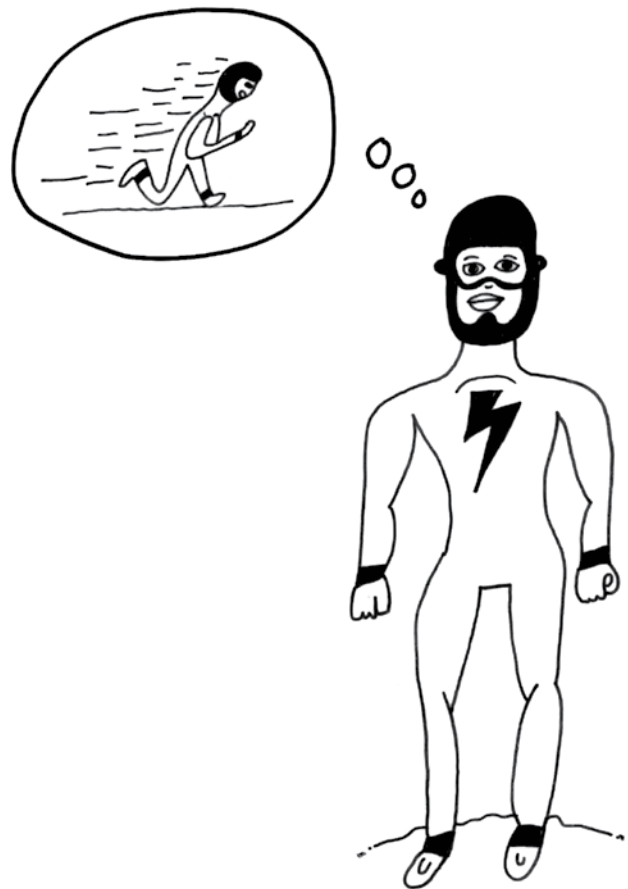
Now, whenever Adwoa feels hungry or lonely, she would go to the forest to meet her friend the talking calabash.

FLASH FIGHTS SCOTH

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY AMR BILAL BIM
HUSSEIN (RJ)

Once there was a boy named RJ who lived in Ghana. He was twenty-nine years old. He was very generous. He was also blessed with speed from God. RJ liked to help his people. His biggest enemy was Scoth. Scoth was very wicked and liked hurting people with knives, guns, and bad intentions.

One evening, RJ saw Scoth smashing a little boy for no reason. RJ grew angry. He used his super power to run towards Scoth with lightening speed. He kicked Scoth hard in the forehead. Scoth fell over, unconscious. RJ had saved the little boy. He took him home to his parents who were very grateful. This incident became breaking news. The president of Ghana gave him the title "Flash." This is how RJ got his name for fighting bad guys.



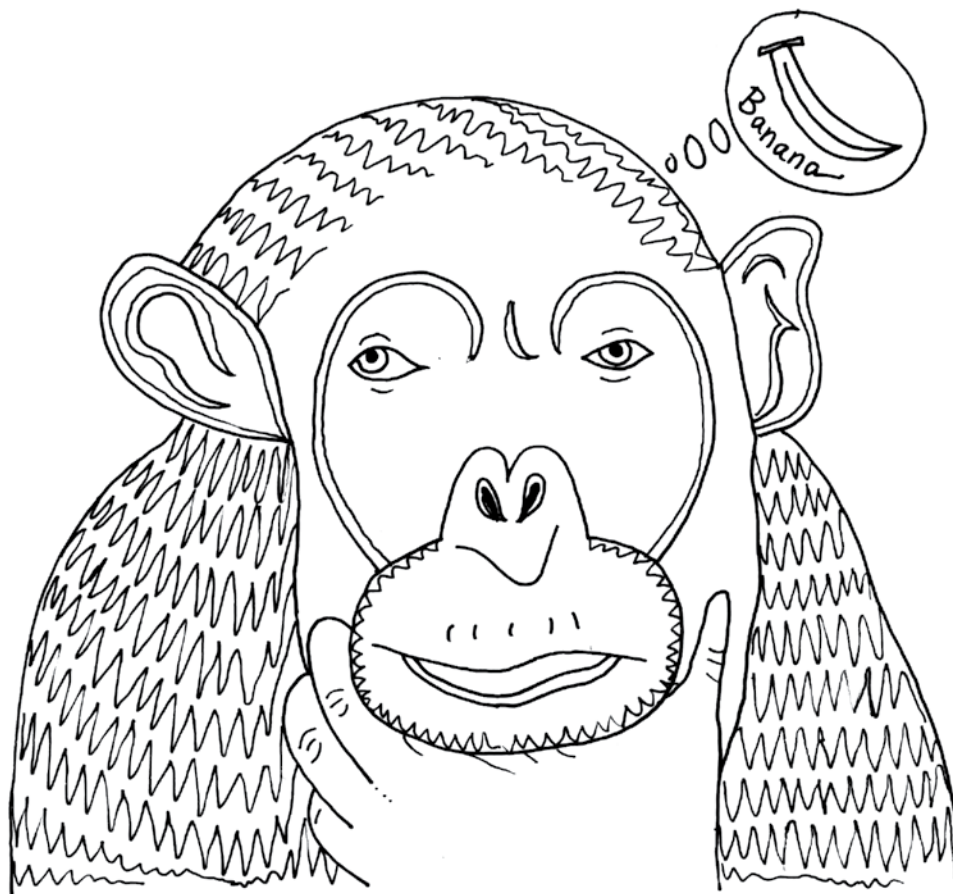
KOFI MEETS WICKED GORILLA

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

Once upon a time, there lived a kind monkey named Kofi. He was kind and respected his elders. He was always eating bananas and paw-paw.

One day, something happened! Kofi went to look for some mangoes and bananas to eat. As he was walking through the grove of trees, he saw a big wicked gorilla. The gorilla shouted at monkey, "Where are you going stupid monkey?" Kofi responded, "Please, I am going to look for mangoes and bananas to eat! Wicked gorilla cried, "I want to chew you up!" Kofi took two mangoes and threw them at each of gorilla's eyes. Gorilla toppled over. He was blinded by the fruit.

Kofi filled his belly with juicy mangoes and ripe bananas. He didn't mind the gorilla. He left him to find his own way back home. The end.



A BAD DAY FOR PRINCESS

WRITTEN BY AYISHATU FUTA

ILLUSTRATED BY NADIA FUTA

Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Princess who lived in the Nima palace. Her father was king and her mother was queen.

One day, Princess had a very bad day. She was helping her mother chop onions. She accidentally cut herself with the knife. A servant wiped the sore and put medicine on it.

Then, onions and smoke from the firewood entered her eyes. Her eyes became red and swollen. She could not see. Princess went to hide in her sitting room. She felt relief.

After that, she got a headache from the loud TV. She lay in bed for the rest of the day. A servant gave her paracetamol.

The next day, she felt better. Today, she would chop tomatoes instead of onions, stay away from the fire, and not watch TV too much.



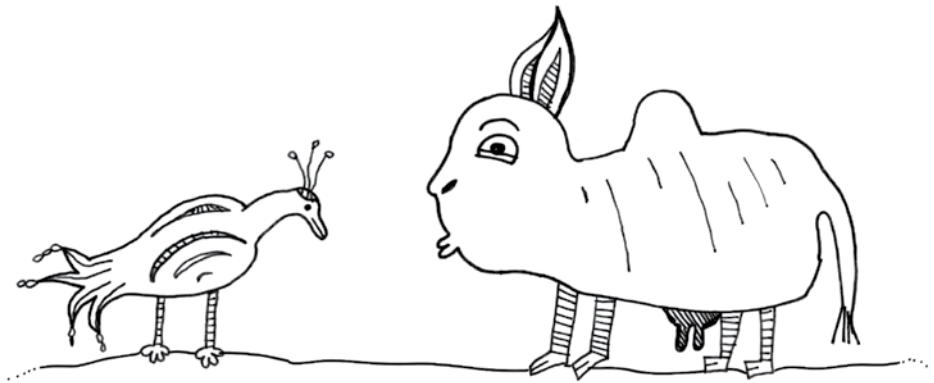
ELIZABETH THE HARD WORKER

WRITTEN BY BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA

ILLUSTRATED BY NADIATU BASHIRU HARUNA



There once lived a caring mother called Elizabeth Afelibisa. She comes from Sandema in the Upper Eastern Region and stays at Nima 441. She works near Frankie's at a place called Nima Government Clinic. She attends the Presbyterian Church of Ghana. She is a hardworking, respectful and humble lady. She is always pounding fufu with her son's help.



BEAUTIFUL BIRD MEETS JEALOUS COW

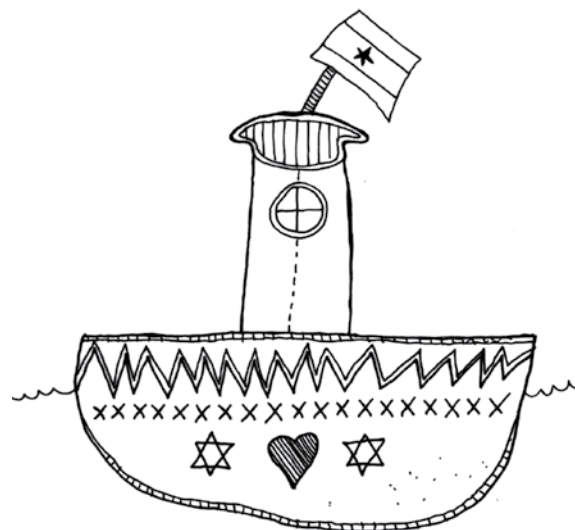
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA

Once upon a time, there lived a beautiful bird called Twinkle and a jealous cow named Darling. They lived together at a farm in the village. Twinkle was the most beautiful bird at the farm. Darling was feeling jealous because she was so beautiful. One morning, Twinkle and Darling went for a walk. Twinkle was very hungry and asked Darling to give her some food. When Darling heard this statement, she was very happy. It gave her the opportunity to do something wicked to Twinkle. She said, "No problem. I will give you my cabbage fish stew. I am coming."

Darling poisoned Twinkle's stew. When Twinkle received the stew though, she did not eat it. She had become suspicious of Darling's behavior. Darling was so disappointed that her plan didn't work. Day after day, Darling became more and more jealous. It was as if the more jealous Darling became, the more beautiful Twinkle became. One day, Darling did not wake up. Jealousy had eaten her up. Twinkle, on the other hand, lived a happy life surrounded by animals who loved her. The End.

MY BEAUTIFUL BOAT

ILLUSTRATED BY HAIRAT MOHAMMED SANI



BENEDICTA'S DREAM

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA

Once upon a time, there was a singer called Benedicta who stayed at Osu. She was twenty-five years old. She came from a poor home. She was so beautiful and had a soft voice. She liked singing so much. She would sing at weddings, naming ceremonies, and other special venues. She always moved gently, boldly, and confidently on stage. The people were always so happy to hear her beautiful voice. Fans would come from so many different places to hear her sing.

One day, people from outside were searching for the perfect singer. They would hold a competition. The chief in Osu called the gong-gong man to make the announcement. When Benedicta heard the news, she was so excited. Becoming a professional singer was her dream. She went to register. She sang beautifully in the first round of the competition.

Now it was the grand finals. She won that competition too! The people from outside took her to California. She became a famous singer and traveled the world.



SAMSON AND ANGEL

WRITTEN BY BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA

ILLUSTRATED BY FATIMA SURAKAR SALYLLA



Once upon a time, there lived a man called Samson. He was a very rich, intelligent, and wise guy. When he reached thirty years of age, he met a beautiful lady called Angel. He said, "Angel, I want to marry you. Will you agree?" Angel said, "Yes, I will agree." Samson and Angel got married. Angel gave birth to twins who they called Andrew and Andrea. They were very happy.



One day, Samson became very ill. Angel sent him to a neighborhood clinic close to their house, but they did not have a cure for his illness. So, Angel sent him to another bigger hospital at the center of town. They could still not figure out what was wrong. Finally, Angel sent him to the largest hospital in all of Accra. Still, none of the treatments worked. After that, Angel treated him herself. No results. Finally, Angel sent Samson to an herbalist near their house. The herbalist treated Samson very well. He was better after two days. Samson was so grateful to Angel for being so patient. This story teaches us to be patient in life.

FACES OF EMOTION

ILLUSTRATED BY BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA



MOTHER BIRD AND LION

WRITTEN BY UMAR FARUK ISSAK AND BURHAN MOHAMMED

Once upon a time, there was Mother Bird with her little children. They lived in a nest on a mango tree with so many leaves. Everyday, Mother Bird would go out to look for food for them to chop. One day, Lion caught her in his mouth! Mother Bird told him, "Please don't kill me. I need to take care of my children. If I die, my children will also die." The lion felt badly. He left Mother Bird alone and sauntered away.

The next day, Hunter caught Lion. He began to roar. Mother Bird heard the roar. She followed the sound and distracted Hunter by flying back and forth in front of his face. Hunter became dizzy and fell down. Lion ran away to safety. Mother Bird saved Lion.

The moral of this story is that it is good to be kind. One day, the kindness will come back to you.

RABBIT AND DUCK SAVE FOR A CAR

TOLD BY ADAMA YAKUBU

RETOLD BY BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA AND RABIYATU MUHIDEEN

ILLUSTRATED BY BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA

Once upon a time there lived two friends named Rabbit and Duck. They stayed in a village called Poolu. One day Duck said to Rabbit, "We should do sou-sou (an informal savings agreement between friends) to buy a car. Rabbit said, "Okay!" Duck said, "Rabbit, I will put the money we are contributing into your care." Rabbit agreed.

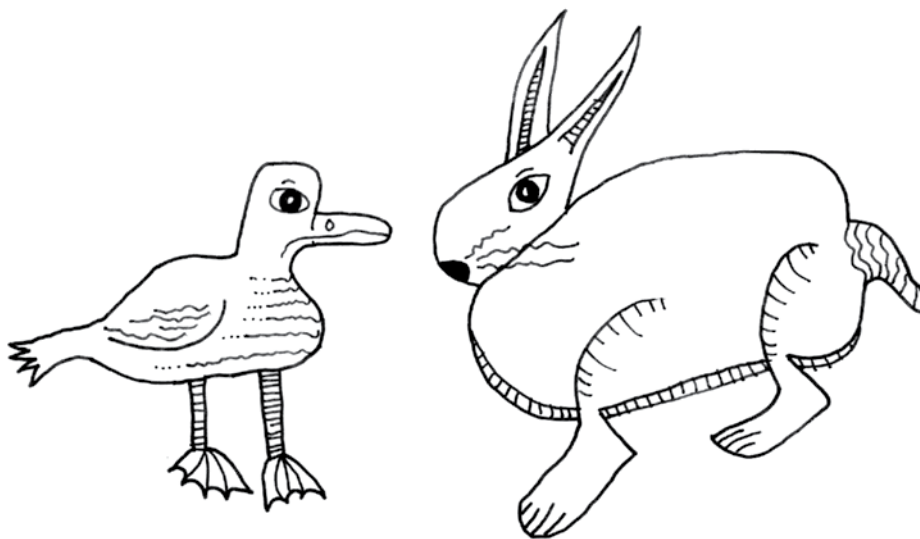
The next morning, they started doing sou-sou. Everyday, they would each contribute a small amount. When the money finally reached to buy a car, Duck told Rabbit to bring out the money. But, Rabbit told Duck, "Let's wait until tomorrow to buy it." Duck agreed.

The next day, Duck went to Rabbit's house to collect the money. Rabbit said again, "Let's wait until tomorrow." Everyday Duck would go to Rabbit's house. Everyday, Rabbit would tell Duck, "Tomorrow." One day, Duck said to himself, "I will teach Rabbit a Lesson."

The next day, Duck went to Rabbit's house. He said, "Rabbit, are you there?" Rabbit responded, "Yes, I am here." Duck said, "There is gold behind the river! Let's go get it." Rabbit was so excited.

When Duck and Rabbit reached the river, Rabbit said, "Duck, you know I can't swim. What should I do?" Duck said, "Don't worry. Sit on my back so that we will cross the river together." Rabbit sat on Duck's back. When they were crossing, Duck told Rabbit, "Say your last prayers. This is your punishment for being selfish and greedy about our money. I will throw you in the river!" Rabbit pleaded and Duck asked Rabbit, "Where did you put the money?" Rabbit answered, "I kept it in my room." Duck felt pity for Rabbit. They returned home together. The next day, Duck and Rabbit bought a shiny new red car!

This story teaches us that we should not be greedy and selfish.



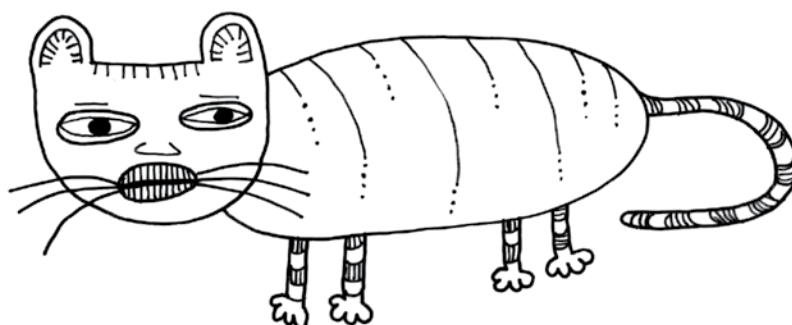
CRAB SAVES ELEPHANT

WRITTEN BY SALAMATU MOHAMMED

ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE AND HAIRAT MOHAMMED SANI

Once there lived an elephant and crab in a village called Intukka. They were best friends and lived happily together. One day, a wicked ant came and made a plan to kill Elephant! But, when Ant was coming to enter the nostril of the Elephant, Crab jumped up onto Elephant's trunk and killed the ant just in time.

That is the end of my story about Elephant and Crab.



BLACKIE THE CAT

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA

Once there lived a cat named Blackie. She had green eyes, a short tail, small mouth, and short legs. She likes to drink milk and eat a mouse each day. She always acted like a lion. She had many fellow cats friends. They all lived together in the forest.

One day, Blackie went missing. Her fellow cats went looking for him. Finally, they found her lost in a village called Ejisu. Blackie and her friends were very happy. When they reached home, they celebrated. They had a party for her with a mouse cake and special milk drinks.

Some months later, Blackie got married to a handsome white cat. They ran a chop bar together in the forest. A year later they gave birth to a female kitten. Some months later, they gave birth to a male kitten.

Blackie and her husband had just one problem. They did not have enough money to take care of their kittens. They decided to make rituals with a fetish priest in Ejisu, but failed. Finally, they went to church. They prayed and prayed. The next day, their chophouse had so many customers. They never had to worry about money again.

That is my story about Blackie.

THE MOSQUITO INVASION

WRITTEN BY BRIGHT NANA OFUSU

ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE

A very long time ago, there was a village called Idney. The people of Idney faced one problem. Mosquitoes were always invading their homes. They were biting the people and making them very sick. The people did not know what to do so they told their king what was happening. Their king was very wise. He said, "I will rack my brain for a solution." But, after a lot of thought, even the wise king could not think of what would free Idney from mosquitoes.

One day, a young man named Naa Ayeley announced that he could rid the village of mosquitoes. The king consented and Naa Ayeley began his journey to find a cure.

On his way, he met an old man on the road. When Naa Ayeley explained the problem, the man said, "You should urinate all over the village." Naa Ayeley returned to the village and the people did as the old man had said. It only made the mosquitoes come in their numbers.

Naa Ayeley did not give up. He started his journey again. This time, he met a lion on the road. When Naa Ayeley explained the problem, the lion said, "You should cut down all the trees." The king ordered all of the trees to be cut down, but the mosquito problem became even worse. The king lost confidence in Naa Ayeley. He said, "I will give you one last chance to fix our mosquito invasion."

Naa Ayeley was determined. On his journey for the third time, Naa Ayeley met an old woman on the road. "Why are the mosquitoes of Idney angry and biting everyone?" he asked. She said, "Where I stay there are no mosquitoes. Dirtiness brings mosquitoes." He listened carefully and went home to explain her advice to the king. Naa Ayeley organized a sanitation exercise for the whole village.

It took ten years to clean Idney. Idney became the most beautiful place in all of Ghana. The king and his people sang and danced with joy. Naa Ayeley's determination had saved them all. That is the end of my story.



A FIGHT AT SCHOOL

WRITTEN BY BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA

ILLUSTRATED BY KEMI MOHAMMED AND MUFIDA ABDUL RAZAK

Just yesterday (Friday), I had a fight with my friends at school. I was supposed to escort a girl called Amina home after school, but I couldn't find her. I looked everywhere. I finally gave up and started walking home.

Along my walk, I saw my friends taking Amina home! I was so angry and annoyed. I kept quiet until we reached Kanda Highway. I said to Amina, "Let's go home. It is late." I then turned to my friend Farida, "Who told you to take Hikima home from school?" Farida kept quiet at first. Then, she started to rain me with insults and beat me.

Then, another friend named Mariama started beating me too. When they were tired of beating me, they left me alone. I was so angry. I crossed the road with Amina to be far from them. When we were about to reach home, I saw Mariama holding up Amina's bag. When I told her to give it to me she said, "I will not! I will take Amina the rest of the way home!" I allowed her to do it because I knew what was coming for them. When Farida, Mariama, and Amina, and arrived home without me, Amina's mother insulted them all! That is the end of my story.



AN ACCIDENT

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY BRIGHT NANA OFUSU

One day, I traveled to a place called Kwahu in the Eastern part of Ghana for Easter. We stayed there for two weeks and then decided to return by bus. But, because the bus was running so fast on the road, we got into an accident. My mum, dad, Samuel, Rose, and I all hit our heads on the seats in front of us. I had a severe headache. I couldn't remember what happened. We were all sent to the hospital. After four days, we were cured and returned to our house safely. We thank God for what he did for us.





GIANT JUJUBEHO STEALS THE SUN

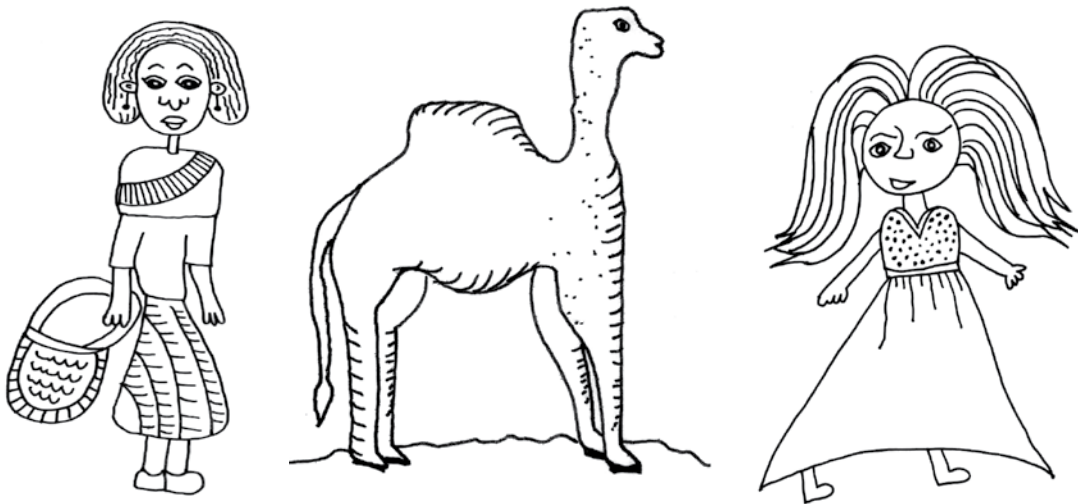
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA

In a faraway kingdom called Ada, there was a giant called Jujubeho. He was wicked and greedy. He wanted to rule the kingdom. The people hated him. One day, he decided to snatch all of their electricity. The people felt troubled, but they got used to doing their activities during the day. When Jujubeho saw that the people were still enjoying life, he decided to snatch away the sun! The whole village filled with darkness.

The people begged him for their sun. "Please!," they cried. "We can't see our food to cook. We can't see our children to care of them. We can't see the path from the house to the farm." Many men went to fight Jujubeho, but he squashed them with only his thumb. They lived in this darkness for one hundred years.

One day, a brave, strong girl named Jemaima asked, "Why do we have no sun?" When she heard about how Jujubeho had taken the sun away from the kingdom, she became angry. She said, "I will fight this giant!"

The next day, she set off for the Land of Giants. Jujubeho and Jemaima started to fight. Jemaima was so strong that she picked him up by his leg and threw him up into the sky. The giant's body continued going higher and higher into the sky! Finally, it hit the sun that had been locked in place. The sun was set free and returned to its rightful place in Ada's sky. The people were so proud of Jemaima that they crowned her princess of their kingdom. The giant was never seen again and the sun has shined brightly in Ada ever since.



HOW THE CAMEL GOT ITS HUMP

WRITTEN BY BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA

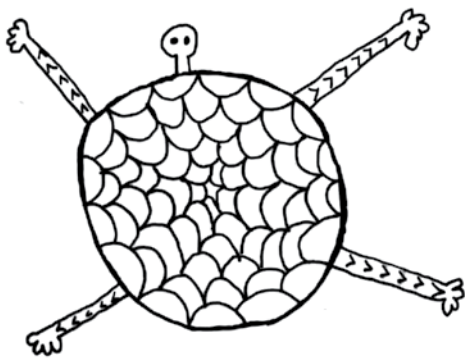
ILLUSTRATED BY NADIATU BASHIRU HARUNA, MUFIDA ABDUL RAZAK, AND ZSP ARCHIVE

A long time ago, in the Arabian Desert there was a town called Saudi. In that town, there lived two women called Aisha and Fadila. Aisha was old and Fadila was young. One day, Aisha bought a camel for Fadila because she loved her so much. Fadila was so happy. Then, Aisha told her, "Tomorrow, let us travel on your new camel to a land called Algeria-Algeria. Aisha agreed and they set off the very next day.

On their way, the camel became very hungry. There was very little food on the road. They did not know what to do. Finally, Aisha and Fadila saw some grass at the roadside. They did not know that this grass was sacred. Aisha gave it to the camel and then said to Fadila, "It is getting to be evening. Let us all rest under a tree in the Forest Banja."

When they woke up the next day, they saw an enormous hump had grown on the camel's back! It was only then that they realized the grass they had fed the camel yesterday was sacred. Aisha, Fadila, and the camel reached Algeria-Algeria safely, but the camel's hump never went away.

This is why up to this very day, the camel has a hump on its back.



A TORTOISE

ILLUSTRATED BY NADIATU BASHIRU HARUNA

BUILDING A SCHOOL

WRITTEN BY BRIGHT NANA OFUSU AND NAIM MOHAMMED

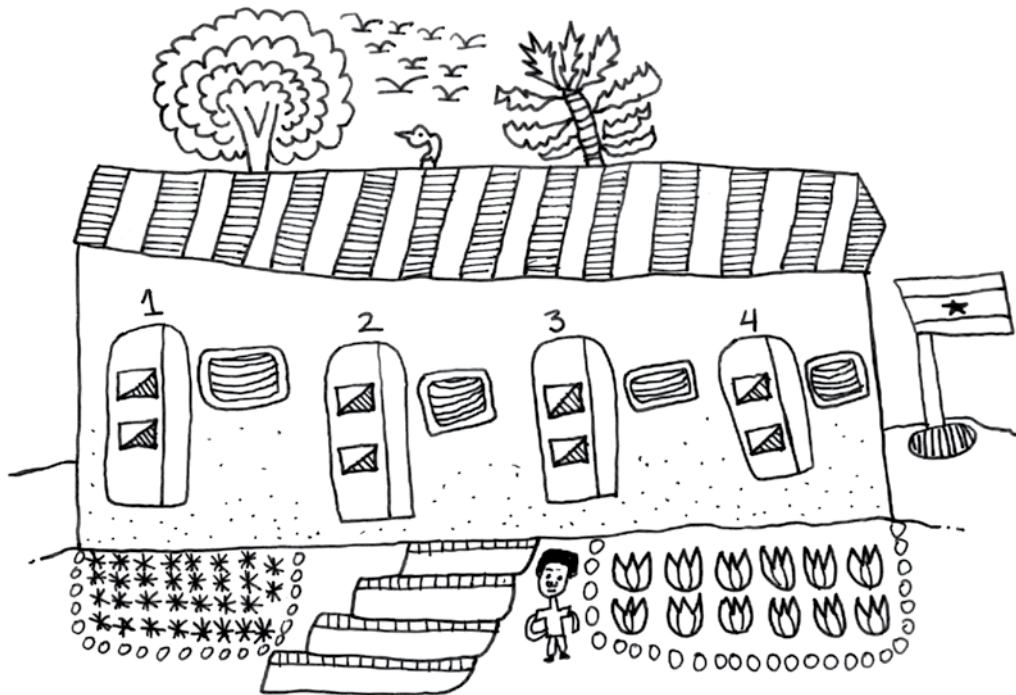
ILLUSTRATED BY HAIRAT MOHAMMED SANI

Once upon a time, there was a village called Samisao in the Eastern Region. The village had no school or educational facilities. The girls stayed at home. The boys went to the farm. The children who really wanted to learn were not happy. After all, they had dreams that they wanted to achieve.

One day, an intelligent teacher named Miss Edusam came to the village. When she heard there were no school facilities, she became very concerned. She set up her own school. At first, there were no desks or chairs. Children sat on the dirt floor, but at least the students were starting to get an education. She did not give up.

Miss Edusam kept raising money for the school. After many years, the school had all of the teachers and supplies it could ever need. The people of Samisao were so proud of her and named the school "Edusam".

Many people would ask, "Miss Edusam, why are the girls also going to school? The boys are more important." She told them, "Girls have just as much potential as the boys!" She gave them a short saying that goes like this, "If you educate a boy, you educate an individual. But, if you educate a girl, you educate a whole nation." So, from that moment forward, the parents of Samisao allowed both their boys and girls to attend school. Thanks to Miss Edusam, the people of Samisao lived happily ever after.



THE GOLDEN DRUM

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY BRIGHT NANA OFUSU



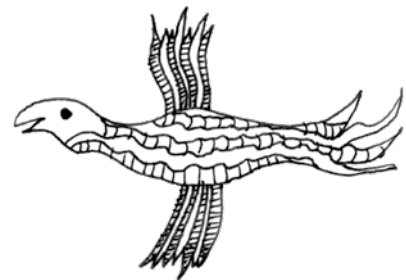
Once upon a time, there lived a man named Kaseem in the city of Accra. One year, his uncle bought him a golden drum for his birthday at the shopping mall. He loved the drum so much. He was always playing it. One day, the drum started talking! Kaseem was so surprised. He traveled back to his village to tell his Chief. The Chief told him, "Bring your drum and tell it to talk." Bright told the drum to say something, but the drum refused. The king told his people to banish Bright because he was telling lies. They were about to deport him, when the drum shouted, "Leave my master alone!" The king was so embarrassed that he fled the village and was never seen again. Bright became the new king of his village and his golden drum sat loyally by his side always giving him wise advice to help his people.

AMINU MEETS MR. EAGLE

WRITTEN BY BRIGHT NANA OFUSU

ILLUSTRATED BY NADIA FUTA AND ZSP ARCHIVE

My name is Aminu. I am from a country called Ghana. I stay at Alaska Bus Stop in a place called Nima. I go to the beach on Sundays with my friends or to the zoo to watch animals. I also go to the stadium to watch free sports. I also like to go to tourist centers like the Atlantic Ocean to see the big fish, whales, and sharks.



My name is Mr. Eagle. I am an animal. I fly in the air and I can lift animals such as deer, rats, mice, and many others. I look like an aeroplane because I am fast and have long, wide wings. People say I am as fast as the wind. I like to fly to different places and am very brave.

One day, Aminu decided to go abroad to see more interesting places. During his preparations for travel, he met Mr. Eagle. Mr. Eagle said, "No problem. I can take you anywhere you want." Aminu agreed. He climbed onto Mr. Eagle's back and they were on their way. They traveled day and night for an entire month. But, when Mr. Eagle landed, they were still in Ghana! Aminu cried and cried and cried. He announced, "I will never travel again."



HAJIA HABIBA'S CHILDREN GET SICK

WRITTEN BY BRIGHT NANA OFUSU

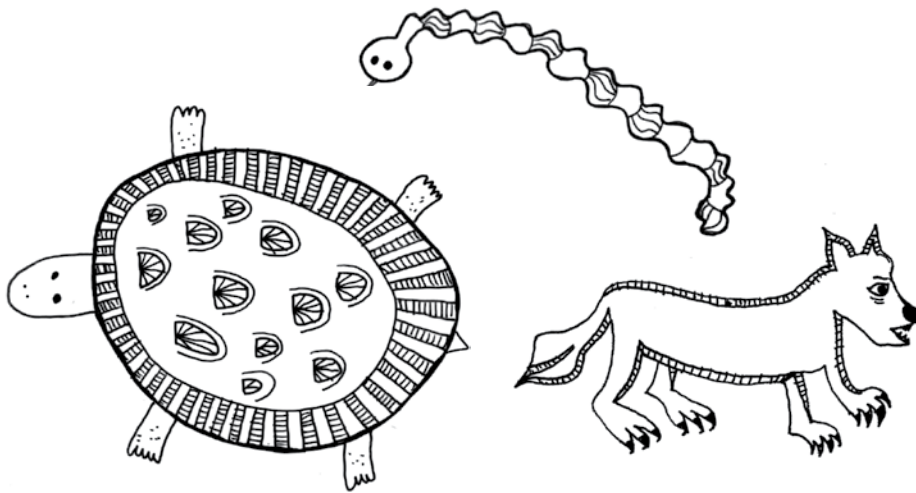
ILLUSTRATED BY RIZQIN FATAWU

Once upon a time, there was a woman named Hajia Habiba who lived a village called Minna. She was a Muslim and had given birth to four boys named Kojo, Kofi, Kwame, and Kwabena.

One day, her children woke up complaining of headaches and fevers. Soon, they started losing weight. They were always feeling thirsty. Hajia Habiba grew worried. She took them to the local clinic. The doctor explained that they were suffering from Marasmus, could not cure it. He sent them to the shrine. At the shrine, the chief priest told them to bring him an egg, brownish fowl, and a black cat. They did as he said. The chief priest did some rituals, but nothing happened. "What do we do now?" Hajia Habiba asked increasingly worried. The Chief priest said, "Bring me all your money." She didn't know what else to do so she brought it. He did some more rituals, but still nothing happened. At this point, the Chief Priest ran away with the money. No one ever saw him again.

Hajia Habiba felt helpless. She had no money left and her children were still very sick. She took them to the mosque. The imam told them to pray and pray and pray. The Imam also prayed. The neighbors also prayed. At last, the children were healed.





DOG AND TORTOISE GO TO SNAKE'S WEDDING

TOLD BY ABDUL KADIR USMAN

RETOLD BY BRIGHT NANA OFUSU

ILLUSTRATED BY HAIRAT MOHAMMED SANI, AMINA MOHAMMED, AND ZSP ARCHIVE

Once upon a time, there lived three best friends named Snake, Dog, and Tortoise. They lived a happy life together. One day, Snake announced, "Tomorrow, I will be getting married. I hope you will both attend." Dog and Tortoise said, "okay!" Dog told Tortoise, "Since you are slow, you start moving to the wedding place earlier than me." Tortoise said, "No problem. I will walk slowly until I reach there."

The next day, Tortoise began his journey after morning prayers. Dog began his journey at noon. He needed to run recklessly to beat Tortoise. As he reached Kawo Kudi, he crashed into a woman selling beans and rice. The food poured all over the ground. To punish dog, the woman tied him up. When Tortoise arrived, he asked, "Why have you tied up my friend?" The food seller told him everything that happened. Tortoise shook his head and said, "Dog, I am going to the wedding place. When I come back, I will resolve your problem."

This story shows us that we should be patient in all of the things we do.

THE SHY MOSQUITO AND HELPFUL SNAKE

WRITTEN BY SAYIDA HEKIMA NAJAH

Once upon a time, there lived a shy mosquito and a helpful snake. The shy mosquito lived in a tree and the helpful snake was always moving around from place to place. One day, when the shy mosquito was walking, she fell into a hole and got stuck. The shy mosquito saw the snake slithering by, but was too shy to call ask for help. Luckily, the snake saw her and helped her out of the hole. The helpful snake said to the shy mosquito, "Don't be shy. Ask for help! Be bold in your life."

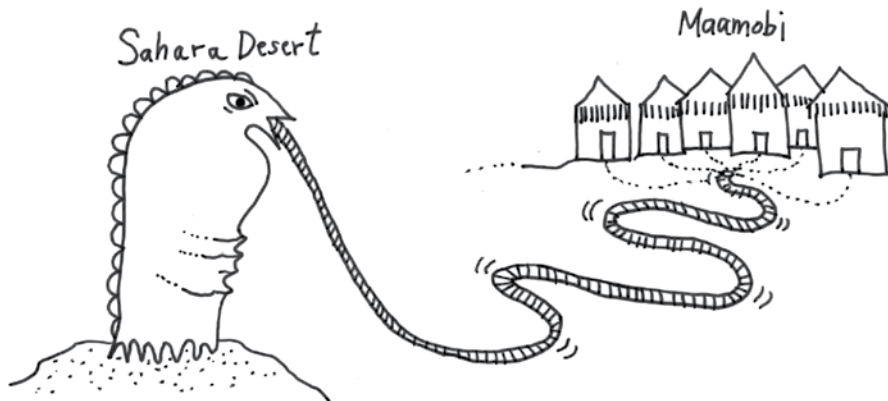
This is why mosquitoes today are so confident. They even enter our homes without asking.

THE THIRSTY MONSTER

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY BRIGHT NANA OFUSU

Once upon a time, there was a place full of water called Nima. One day, a monster was feeling thirsty. He went to Nima and drank up all of their water! After he finished, he ran away to hide in the Sahara Desert. Meanwhile, the people did not know what to do. How were they going to get their water back? Finally, a young girl named Raheema thought of an idea. The people listened to her plan and liked it.

They followed Raheema to the place where the monster was hiding all of the while dragging a large hose behind them. They placed the head of the hose in the monster's mouth. The girl tickled the monster's belly. Water gushed into the hose all of the way back to Nima! The girl became so well known in Nima for her wisdom and bravery. They were all happy. That is the end.



ADVENTUROUS PIG'S ADVICE

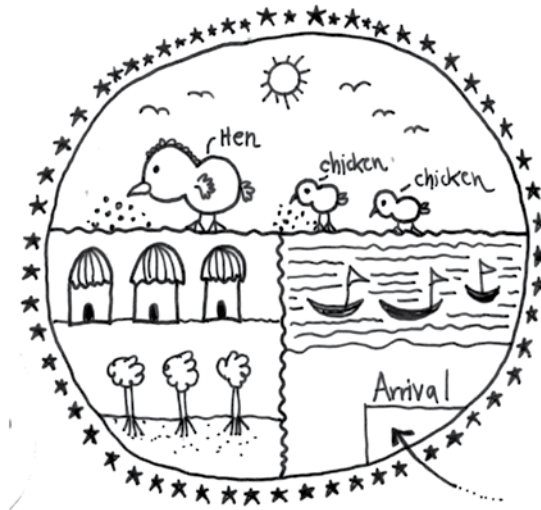
WRITTEN BY SAFAYATU JAMIU MOHAMMED

ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE

Once upon a time, there lived an adventurous pig and scared lion. The pig was always wanting to meet new people and animals. Lion on the other hand did not like being around too many people or animals.

One day, adventurous pig gave him some advice. He explained to the lion, "I want you to meet different animals, bit by bit." The lion agreed. First, the adventurous pig introduced him to small animals first like frogs and lizards in Wa. Then, he took him to Techiman and introduced him to roosters, goats, and even cows. Finally, pig took the lion to Mole National Park and introduced him to elephants, leopard's and other lions. At the end, they all became friends. Lion wasn't scared anymore. They all lived happily ever after. The end.





WORLD FAIR

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY BRIGHT NANA OFUSU

Once upon a time, there was a world called World Fair. There were so many things to do there. There were villages, churches, schools, rain forests, markets, farms, zoos, and deserts.

One day, something frightening happened in World Bright. Everyone who lived there decided to travel to World Dream. On their way, they had an accident. Only six people survived. They were Ama, Kofi, Kojo, Kwaku, and Kwabena. They were taken to the hospital for their very bad headaches. Finally, they were set free. They decided to never travel again.

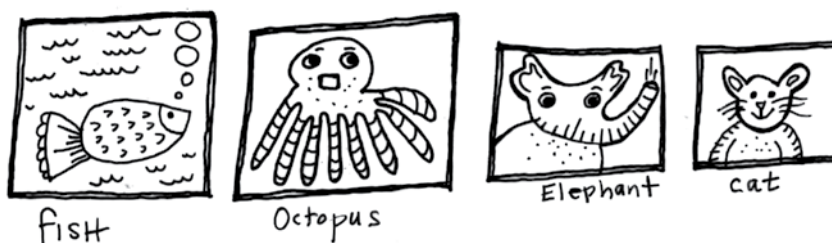
HOW THE ANIMALS BECAME SAD

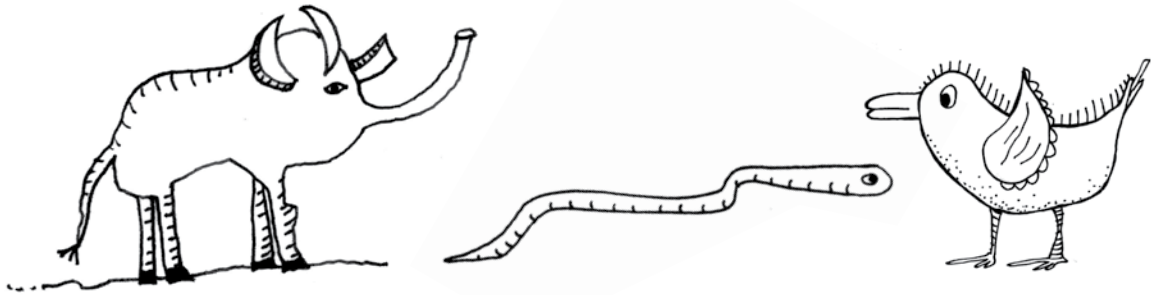
WRITTEN BY BURHAN MOHAMMED

ILLUSTRATED BY EMELIA LAAR YENULOOM

Once upon a time, there lived many animals in the animal kingdom. There were monkeys, lions, gorillas, snakes, birds, and leopards. They were living together peacefully.

One day, Humankind started hunting them. Humans made cages for them. They kept them for people to come see and know about them. The humans called the place a zoo. The animals were very sad. Up until this day, they are still living in cages, but are making a plan to teach the humans a lesson.





THE FOREST ELEPHANT, WICKED SNAKE, AND KIND BIRD

WRITTEN BY BRIGHT NANA OFUSU

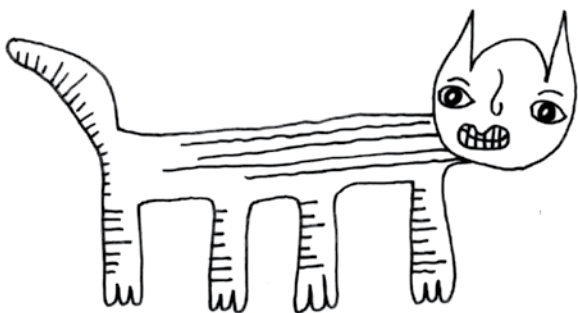
ILLUSTRATED BY NADIA FUTA AND ZSP ARCHIVE

Once upon a time, there lived many animals in a forest near Nima-Maamobi Library. The animals were all very kind except for a wicked snake. Everyday, the forest elephants, monkeys, grass cutters, and bush cats would go to the river to drink water.

One day, the wicked snake fetched plenty of water into a big bowl. He mixed it with deadly poison and stored it in his room. The next day, snake poured the entire bowl of poisonous water into the river. That day, only a lone forest elephant was feeling thirsty. He drank from the river. All of a sudden, he felt a pain in his throat and collapsed. The forest elephant knew that he would not be able to live long with this poison in his body.

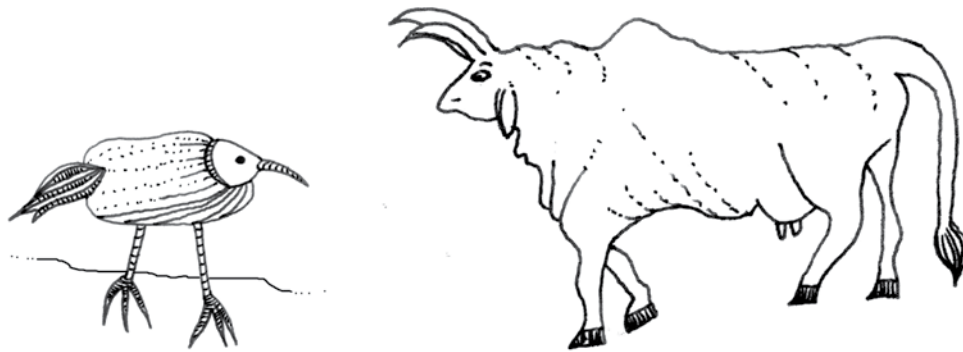
At that moment, a kind bird swooped down and asked, "What has happened?!" The forest elephant told the bird that he suspected the wicked snake had poisoned the river. The bird listened carefully and said, "I have an idea! I will travel to the Black Desert for medicine." The forest elephant asked, "Where is the Black Desert?" The bird responded, "It is on Nima Highway." So, the bird flew all of the way to the Black Desert.

When the bird finally arrived, she saw something on a golden stool. She laughed to herself and said happily, "I have found it! The medicine!" She flew with the medicine all of the way back to the forest at Nima-Maamobi Library. The bird healed the forest elephant just in time! The animals decided to never drink from that river or talk to the wicked snake again.



MY CAT

ILLUSTRATED BY SELASI DOMI KINGSLEY



BEAUTY AND JEALOUS COW

WRITTEN BY EMELIA LAAR YENULOOM

ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE

Once upon a time, there lived a beautiful bird called Beauty. Everyday Beauty would wake up and get out of bed. She would take her bath. She would put on glamorous clothes and go for a walk. When she would come back, she would toast some bread and butter in a frying pan. Afterwards, she would eat some grapes. She was beautiful, but she was also lonely. She wanted a friend. Sometimes, she would go into town looking for a friend. People would point at her saying, "That bird, she is so beautiful!" But, she had still not found a good friend who cared about her.

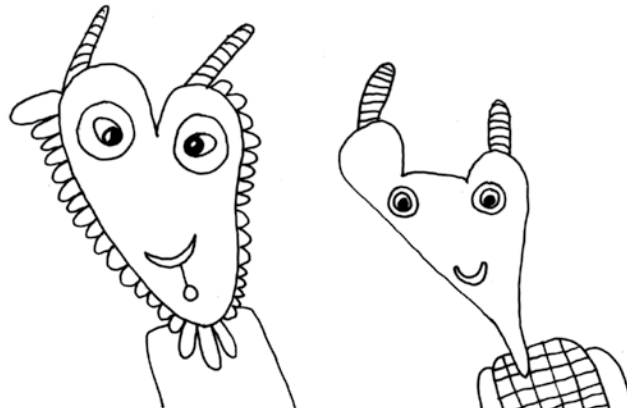
One day on her walk into town, she saw Jealous Cow. Cow looked at her scornfully and said, "You are a very ugly bird. I am so much more beautiful than you." The bird felt sad, but she did not say a word. It was the first time someone had told her she was not beautiful. The bird went quietly home.

Meanwhile, Jealous Cow knew how beautiful Beauty was. She wanted to be beautiful like her. Cow got an idea. She went to the market and saw some beautiful feathers. They were just like Beauty's feathers – light, fluffy and so many colors. Cow bought all of them.

In the morning, Cow super-glued the feathers to her body and walked proudly into town. All of the people in town were cheering for Cow. But inside their hearts, they were laughing. "How funny she looks!," they thought. As Cow was walking home, she saw Beauty on the road. Cow said scornfully, "You are ugly! Look how beautiful I am!" This time Beauty was not silent. She told Cow how she was feeling. She said, "Cow, I feel sad when you call me ugly. And you know something? You do not need to dress like me to be beautiful. There is no need to be jealous. You are a cow and I am a bird. We are different, that is all."

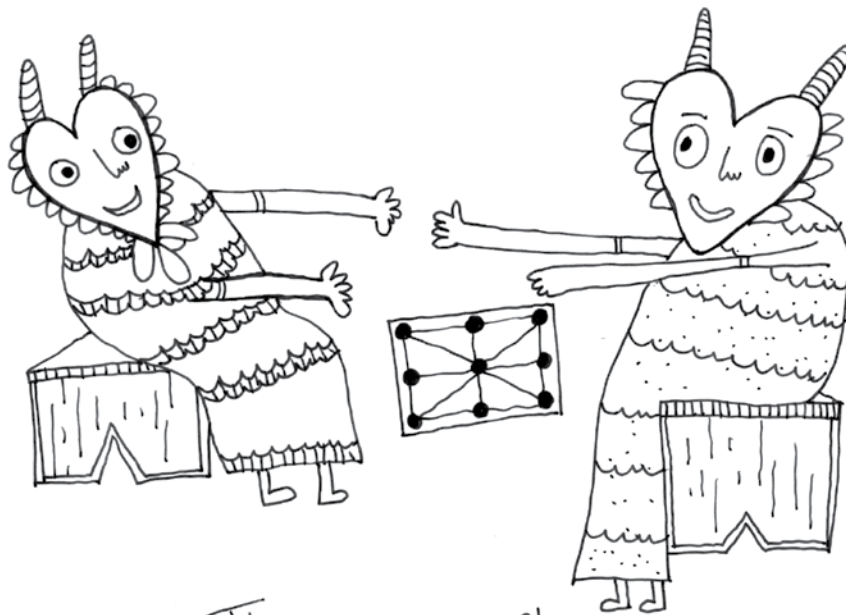
Cow looked at the ground shyly and responded, "Beauty, you are right. I am sorry." Beauty happily jumped on the cow's back. They lived together happily ever after. Beauty had found a true friend.

This is why today, you always see birds sitting on cows' backs.



Two Monsters

ILLUSTRATED BY WALTER SIMS AND NADIATU BASHIRU HARUNA



They are playing.

GIZO-GIZO AND KOKI GET MARRIED

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY BRIGHT NANA OFUSU

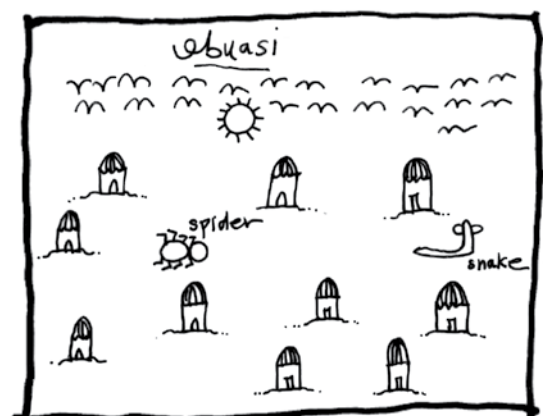
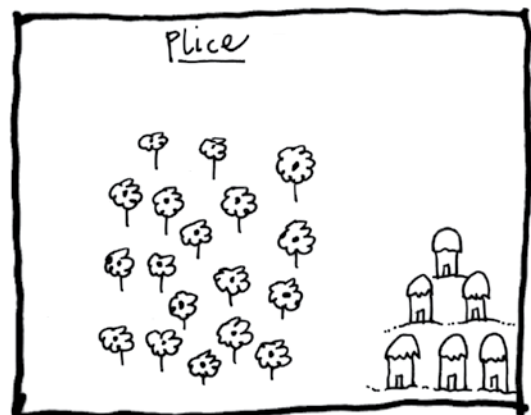
Once upon a time, there lived a praying mantis named Koki and her best friend, a bee named Perry. Koki has a head shaped like a triangle, two big eyes, and a long body. She is very kind and intelligent. She has three special powers. She can fly, she can see things other animals can't, and she can disguise herself as a leaf, flower or butterfly.

Perry has six legs and five eyes. She also has special powers like her friend Koki. She can fly, sing, and produce honey. Koki and Perry lived together in a village called Plice. The village was very clean.

In a different village called Obuasi, there lived two other best friends - a spider named Gizo-Gizo and a snake named Staby. Gizo-Gizo has a round head colorful round body with eight hairy black legs. He is lazy, selfish, and greedy. Staby has no legs, two small eyes, a long tongue, and lays eggs. He can disguise himself like the forest.

One day, Gizo-Gizo said to Staby, "I want to marry a praying mantis." Staby asked, "Why do you want to marry a praying mantis and not a spider?" Gizo-Gizo explained, "Most of the spiders I know are wicked and ugly, whereas the praying mantis' are kind, loving, and beautiful."

The next day, they went on a search for Gizo-Gizo's future wife. They arrived at the village Plice. They saw Koki reading a story book under a tree. Gizo-Gizo thought, "This praying mantis is so beautiful. I will marry her." Gizo-Gizo approached her. They discussed the possibility of marriage and Koki agreed. She had always wanted to marry a handsome, smart, spider. Koki told Gizo-Gizo that he needed to talk



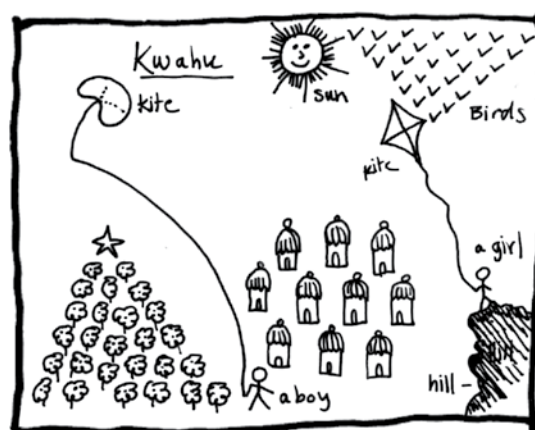
with her father named Antonio. Gizo-Gizo bravely went to Antonio's house, but the father sacked him before he could say a word. "Why should my daughter marry a spider?," he cried out. Gizo-Gizo became sad.

The next day, Koki urged Gizo-Gizo to go see her father again. Last night, she had convinced him that the marriage would be perfect. Gizo-Gizo entered the house again and Antonio greeted him saying, "I have agreed for you to marry my daughter Koki, but you need to take care of her very well. Gizo-Gizo agreed. They prepared for the wedding and got married in the most beautiful, hilly village called Kwahu.

But, after the wedding, Gizo-Gizo became lazy. He was always eating, sleeping, and watching too much television. They did not have enough money. Antonio grew angry. "By the end of this month, you better get rich or I will take my daughter back to my house." Gizo-Gizo did not know what to do. Finally, he went to a fetish priest for sakawa (a Ghanaian term for illegal activities combining internet fraud with traditional rituals). The fetish priest told him to bring a white fowl and cow blood. But, in order to get the white fowl and cow blood, Gizo-Gizo needed some money.

He turned off his television, ate only a small amount of food and slept little. Slowly, He earned enough money to not only buy the white fowl and cow blood, but also enough to take care of his wife, family, and everyone in his whole village. When Gizo-Gizo brought the fetish priest the white fowl and cow blood, the fetish priest just laughed and said, "Look! You do not need me to do any rituals. You are already rich!"

Koki and her father Antonio were so happy Gizo-Gizo had changed his ways. They all lived happily ever after.



MY WORLD CALLED TOGO

WRITTEN BY FATIMA OSMAN MARGA

ILLUSTRATED BY MARIAM BASHIRU

The name of my world is Togo. Human beings live here.

Once upon a time, there lived a fourteen year old girl named Hikima. She lived in Togo with her parents. Hikima was a very good girl. Her mother's name was Kada. She was a seller in the market. Her father's name was Lateef. He was a driver. When Hikima was at home, she washed her family's bowls and fanned the charcoal. When she finished, she would do her homework. Then, she would pray and thank God for everything in her life. After that, sometimes, she would read the storybook her mother had bought her. Every night, she dreamed about becoming a nurse.

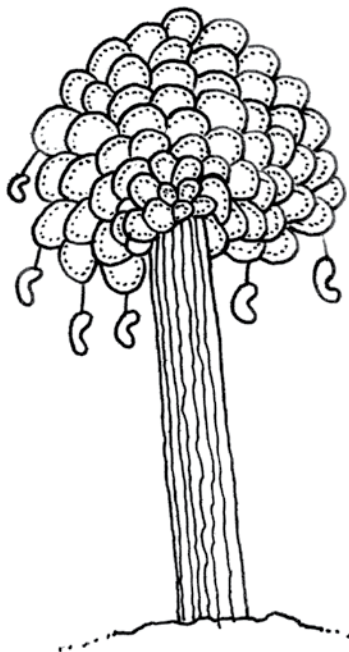


This is what life is like in my world of Togo.

THE MAGICAL MORINGA TREE

WRITTEN BY ABDUL HAKEEM NAJAH

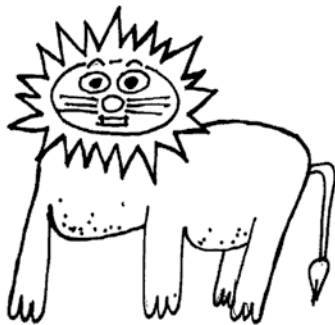
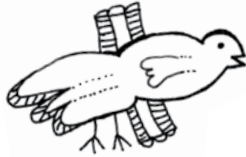
ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE



A long time ago, there was a magical Moringa tree in the Achimota forest. It provided the animals everything they needed. One day, the Moringa tree decided to shower Leopard, Crocodile, and Bee with money. Leopard was lazy. When he received the money, he decided that he would never work again. Crocodile and Bee decided to invest their money in new businesses. They would work hard all day while lazy leopard would lay in bed.

One day, Leopard realized that his money was about to finish. He ask Crocodile and Bee for money. "Give me some cedis to chop!" he demanded. Crocodile and Bee looked at him and said, "We will not give you any money. You are lazy and you did not work to make your money grow." Leopard felt ashamed. He went deep into the forest and was never seen again.

The lesson of this story is that you should not be lazy. You should work hard.



MOTHER BIRD, HUNTER, AND LION

WRITTEN BY BURHAN MOHAMMED
ILLUSTRATED BY ALI AWUDU, BLESSING ANAAMLIE
AFELIBISA, AND KEKELI DENNIS DOMI

Once upon a time, there lived Mother Bird with her little bird children. They lived in a nest on a mango tree with so many leaves. Mother Bird would always go out and look for food.

One morning, Lion caught her! She pleaded with him, "Please don't kill me. I need to take care of my children. If I die, my children will also die." The lion felt sympathy for her. He left Mother Bird alone and sauntered away to find a different catch.

The next day, a hunter caught Lion. Lion began to roar. Mother Bird heard his screaming. She followed the sound and distracted the hunter by flying back and forth in front of his face. Hunter became dizzy and fell. Lion ran away to safety. Mother Bird saved Lion.

The moral of this story is that it is good to be kind. One day, the kindness will come back to you.

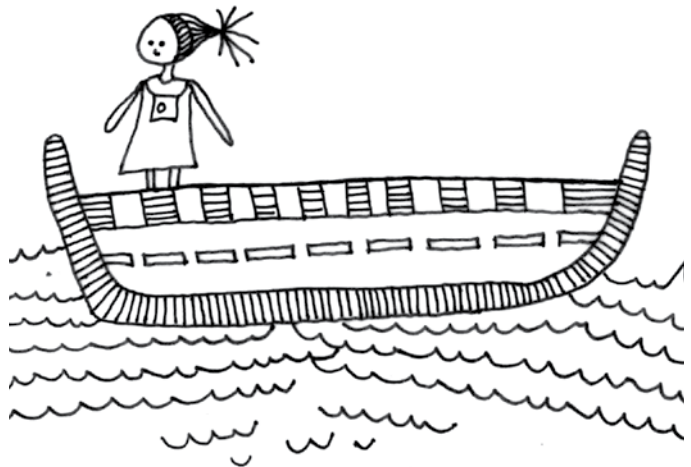
ASIAH TRAVELS TO DUBAI

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY NADIA FUTA

On Asiah's way to Dubai to visit her father, she saw many things.

She saw scary things.
She saw beautiful things.
She even snapped pictures along the way.

But, her tour was very adventurous because traveling on the sea is not easy!



BIRDS EVEN HUG COWS SOMETIMES

WRITTEN BY FAWZIYA SULLEYMAN MARGA

Any living thing has feelings. Birds are animals that even hug cows sometimes. When a beautiful bird meets a jealous cow, either they should fight or be friends with one another. In any friendship or relationship, there must someday be a misunderstanding between the two friends. If there is no misunderstanding, then it is not a relationship or friendship. In my view, when I study this statement and think what would happen in our contemporary life with human beings, I would take a beautiful bird as a lady and a jealous cow as a man. When there is no trust, the man will always be jealous of his wife, even if the lady does not cheat or choose another man. On any note, I would say that if a beautiful bird met a jealous cow, they could be friends or rivals depending upon the day and situation.

WORRIED CROCODILE MEETS WISE CHICKEN

WRITTEN BY BURHAN MOHAMMED

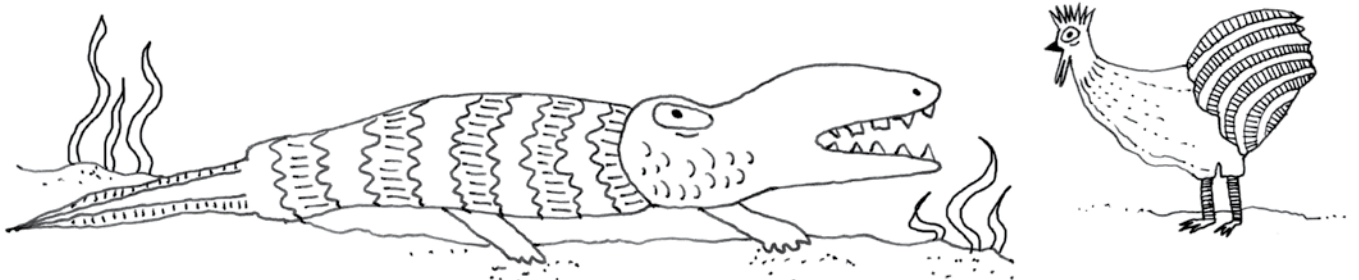
ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARHIVE

Once upon a time, there lived a worried crocodile with his family. They were always hungry because they did not have enough money to buy food to chop. Eventually, crocodile's wife and children left him because there was nothing to eat.

One evening, crocodile went walking in the forest. He was thinking deeply about how to satisfy his hunger. He met a wise chicken along the road. The worried crocodile licked his lips. He really wanted to eat the wise chicken. Crocodile asked the chicken politely, "May I eat you up?" Chicken replied slyly, "Tomorrow, come to my house. Climb to the top of my chimney. I will put lots of meat inside it for you." Worried crocodile was feeling less worried and so agreed to the chicken's request.

The next day, crocodile arrived at chicken's house. He smelled roasting meat and spices. He eagerly climbed up onto the iron roofing sheets. Chicken called up to him, "Come down the chimney and I will give you your meat!" Crocodile excitedly dove into the chimney head first. Little did crocodile know, chicken had put a big pot of boiling water on the fire. He fell straight into the pot. He ran away screaming.

Now, even if he is feeling worried, he never eats chicken



Snake, Tortoise and Monkey

WRITTEN BY EMELIA LAAR YENULOOM

ILLUSTRATED BY EMELIA LAAR YENULOOM, NADIA FUTA, AND KEKELI DENNIS DOMI

Once upon a time, there lived Snake and Tortoise. They were enemies.

One day, snake and her children stole tortoise's eggs. Tortoise was angry with snake so she went to see her wise cousin Monkey. When tortoise told Monkey what happened, Monkey was also angry. Monkey said, "I have an idea!" He took a big bag of fast-drying cement. He covered the ground close to the eggs.

That night, Snake and her children came to steal the eggs again. Tortoise and Monkey heard them shouting and went to see what was going on. The cement had caught them! In order to free them, Monkey had to take a cutlass and cut off the snakes' legs. They learned their lesson and never tried to steal Tortoise's eggs again.

This why snakes don't have legs

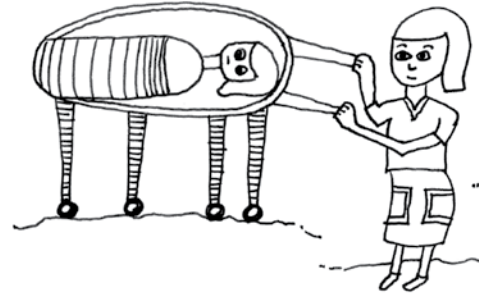


THE DAY I WAS BURNED

WRITTEN BY EMELIA LAAR YENULOOM

ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE

I am nine years old, but a long time ago, I was five years of age. I went to a neighbor's room. We were playing hide and seek. I hid under a plastic chair. They put a water heater on the plastic chair. After that, I raised my head. My head hit the plastic chair. The scorching water poured all over my head. It burned me so badly. My neighbors took me to the hospital. They took me straight to the operating theatre (what they call surgical operating rooms in Ghana). They were cleaning my sore. I collapsed.



I don't remember what happened after that. I woke up the next day in a hospital bed. When I was in the hospital, I found a new friend. When I was feeling sad, my friend's mother would give me chocolate. The doctors told me that I was weak, but that they liked my manner. They assured me, "Don't worry. You are strong. You will be fine." Today, I still have light scars on my face from that day. I cannot forget what happened. But, the doctors were right.

I am fine.

I am strong.

A GIRL AND WOMAN NAMED ZAKIYA

WRITTEN BY FAWZIYA SULLEYMAN MARGA

ILLUSTRATED BY MUFIDA ABDUL RAZAK



Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Zakiya. She came from Wa, but she stayed at Bubushei with her family called Zongo. She was ten years old. Zakiya was dark in complexion, had a small mouth, small nose, and big ears. She was three feet tall. Zakiya was a good girl and always shared with other people, even her little brother. The food she liked best was rice and egg stew. Her favorite color was yellow. She went to school at Pride of East. Her favorite game to play was Ampe. She likes to read notes and storybooks.

Now, Zakiya has grown up. She stays at Nima and has a pet named "Cando." She is always going to Nima Market to buy foodstuffs and fruit. She likes to cook light soup for her family.

POGA THE STUBBORN DOG

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY EMELIA LAAR YENULOOM

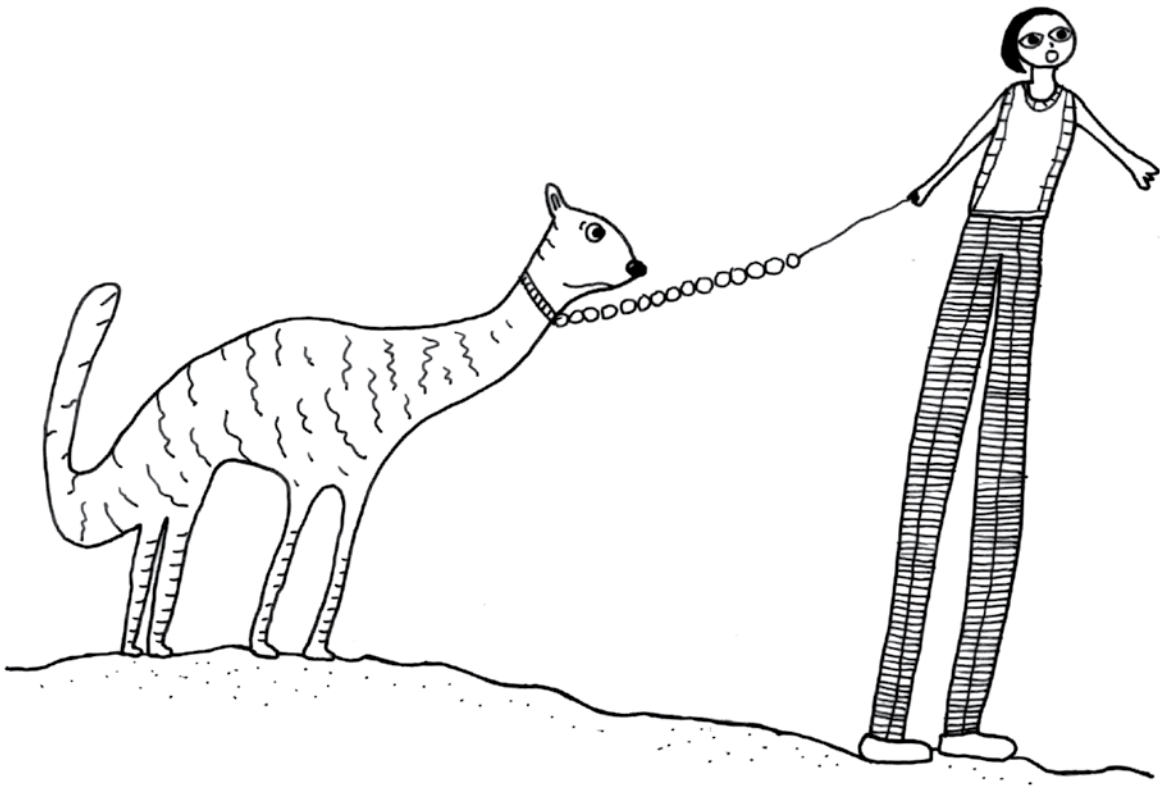
Once upon a time, there lived a dog named Poga and his owner - a hunter named Agya Konto. Poga was a lazy, stubborn dog. He always liked sleeping. Agya Konto was kind and patient. He had a wife and two children.

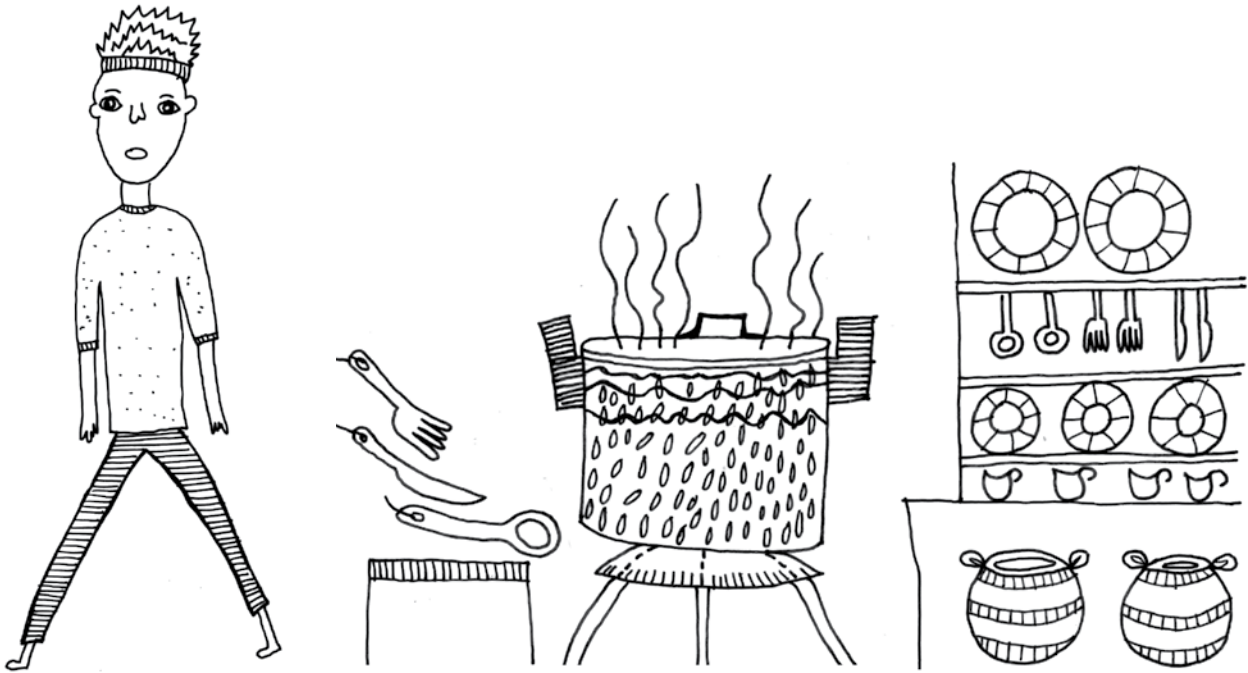
One day, Poga went hunting with Agya Konto in the forest. Suddenly, Agya Konto realized that Poga was gone. He had gone home to sleep. Because of this incident, Agya Konto bought a leash so Poga could not run away.

The second day, they were going hunting again. While Agya Konto was wrestling a big python, he left Poga tied to a tree. Poga ran away. This time, Poga went to a butcher's shop to steal meat and bones off the floor.

On his way home to sleep off his big meal, Poga crossed a stream and saw his reflection in the water. Poga thought it was another dog. Poga jumped at the reflection to attack the other dog. No matter what he did, he could not catch the other dog. Poga felt ashamed and quietly went home. "Maybe I'm not as smart as I thought," Poga thought sadly. "I think I need my Agya Konto."

From then on, he always followed Agya Konto. The end.





KWAKU THE STUBBORN BOY

WRITTEN BY EMELIA LAAR YENULOOM

ILLUSTRATED BY RABIATU AGYARKO AND RIZQIN FATAWU

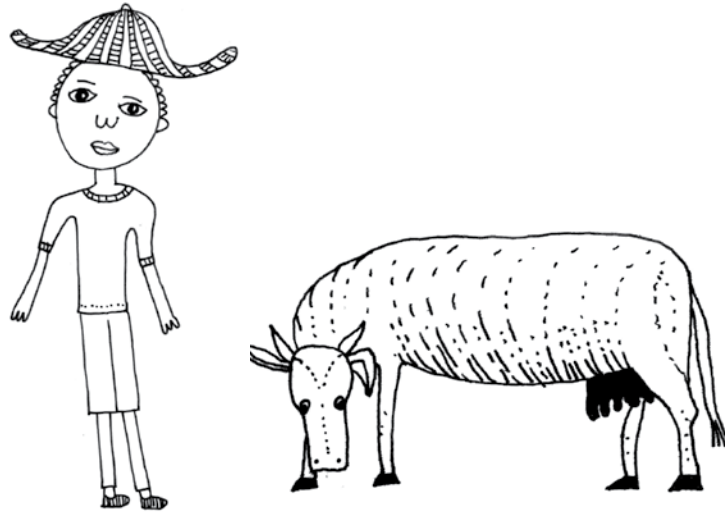
Once there was a boy named Kwaku. He was a stubborn boy. His mother's name was Comfort. If his mother sent him to do work, he would insult her! He would say, "I don't know you! You are not well! You are a goat!" Comfort shook her head sadly at Kwaku's bad behavior.

On a Monday, Comfort sent Kwaku to buy onions. Kwaku cried, "I won't go! You stupid lady!" His mother thought to herself, "I must punish this boy!" She caned Kwaku with a big stick. Whack! Whack! Whack! Everyone thought Kwaku had learned his lesson. But, Kwaku was as stubborn as a dog.

That Friday, Kwaku went wandering around town. He was insulting everyone along the way. "You are a cow! You don't have any sense! You don't have any character!," he cried out.

That night, Kwaku got home very late. After all, it took a long time to insult everyone in town. Comfort was waiting for him while stirring Kwaku's favorite meal of hot okra stew in a big cooking pot. Kwaku came running towards the delicious smells, but because it was dark, he tripped and fell right into the stew! At last, Kwaku learned his lesson.

This is why parents always say to be careful and to not insult anyone.



THE POOR PEOPLE OF AKOPA AND THE CATTLE HERDER

WRITTEN BY EMELIA LAAR YENULOOM

ILLUSTRATED BY ABDUL HADDY NAJAH AND ZSP ARCHIVE

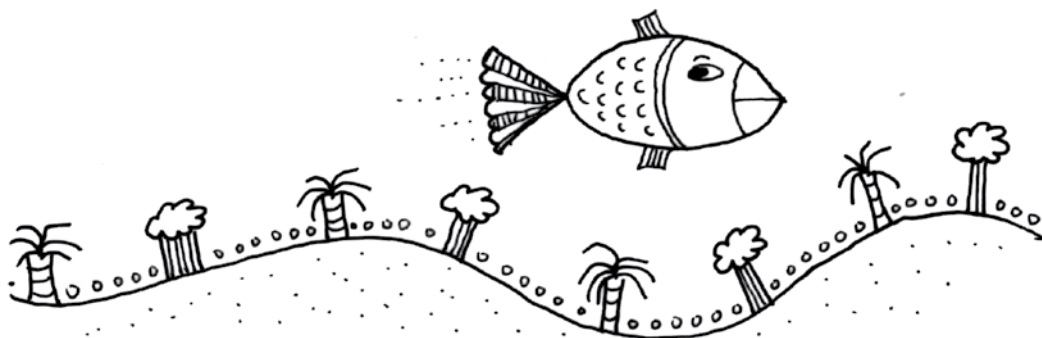
Once upon a time, there lived people in a village called Akopa inside a big, wild forest. The people were very poor. They would always go hunting and shoot wild cattle. Early one morning, the people of Akopa went hunting, but did not realize that the wild cattle belonged to a kind cattle herder named Jonathan. Jonathan was very angry for wanting to take his cattle, but eventually forgave them. That night, the people went home without any food to eat.

Even earlier the next day, the people of Akopa went hunting again. Jonathan the Cattle Herder met them on the road. The people of Akopa begged him for some of his cattle. Jonathan felt badly for them and said, "I will give you all of my cattle!"

The people of Akopa were shocked by the generosity of the cattle herder. They gratefully accepted and slowly sold the cattle one by one. Eventually, they became very rich and own so many cattle. They always remember Jonathan and share their cattle just like he did with them.

A CLEVER FISH

ILLUSTRATED BY SADIYA HEKIMA NAJAH



THE MONSTER WHO WANTED TO SWALLOW PEOPLE

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY
EMELIA LAAR YENULOOM

This is a big, frightening monster.
He comes from a town called Abolcabbra, but
lives in Nima.

One day, the Nima people were having a
wedding ceremony.
Some people were cooking.
Others were eating Miyan Kuka (Baobob Stew).
Still others were dancing.

All of a sudden, the big monster arrived. He
destroyed the canopy, decorations, tables,
and everything else! He wanted to swallow the
people. What could they do? Luckily, the Nima
people were intelligent.

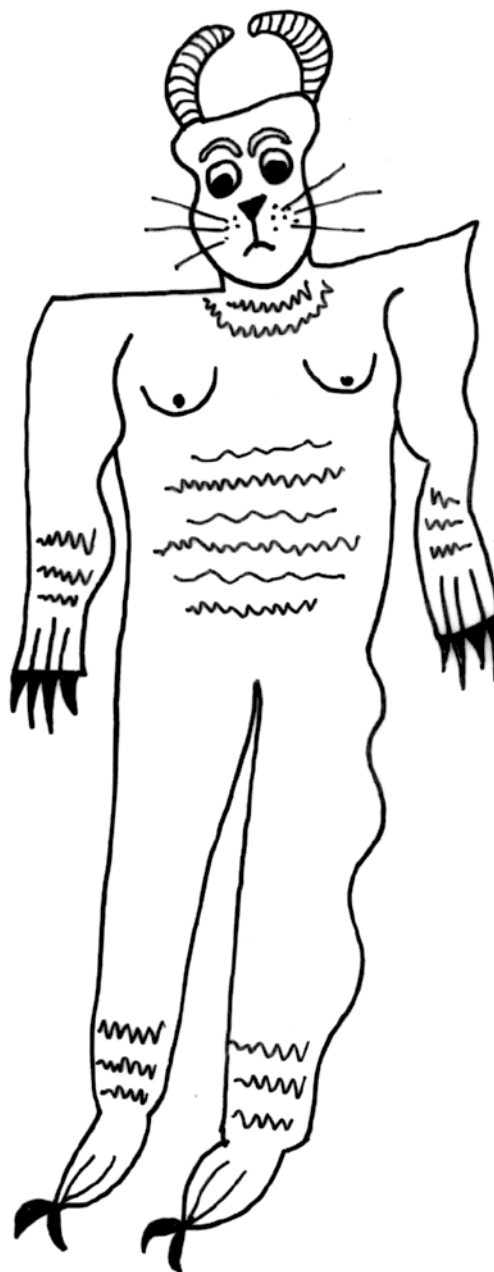
Hajia Anatu and her friends had an idea.

They found some rope and tied it into a loop.
Next, they found some heavy stones.

They used the rope to throw large stones at
the monster. One of the stones hit him directly
at his heart. At that very moment, the monster
realized all he had done wrong. He cried big,
sorrowful tears.

He apologized to the people for wanting to
swallow them. The monster had learned his
lesson. Hajia Anatu and her friends forgave
him.

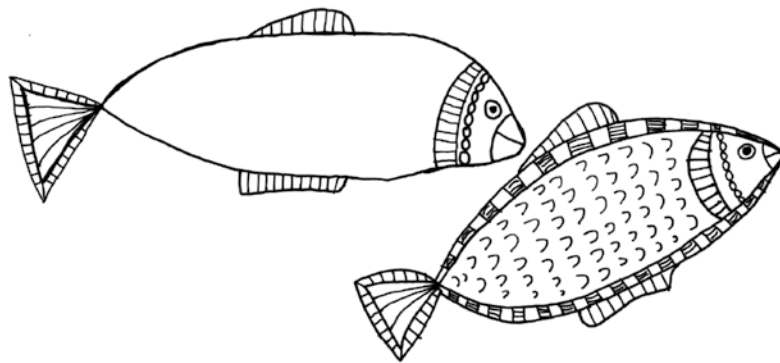
They all danced with joy long into the night.



THE BIG WIDE WORLD OF NIMA

WRITTEN BY EMELIA LAAR YENULOOM
ILLUSTRATED BY NADIATU BASHIRU HARUNA

Once upon a time, there was a place called the Big Wide World of Nima. There was everything inside like a cemetery, train station, school, grass, pool, canoes, and a big market. There were also all different people inside like teachers, doctors, librarians, musicians, Muslims, Christians, thieves, butchers, artists, herbalists, drug dealers, priests, tailors, pharmacists, and imams. You can find the whole world in this place. You are welcome.



HOW THE SALMON GOT ITS SCALES

WRITTEN BY EMELIA LAAR YENULOOM
ILLUSTRATED BY JAMILA YAKUBU

Once upon a time, there lived a beautiful salmon. She always washed with soap because she liked to keep her pink skin clean and shiny like diamonds.

One morning, the beautiful fish woke up and washed herself well. She was feeling very hungry so she went searching for shrimp. Little did the beautiful salmon know, the fisherman had poured DDT insecticide into the water. Luckily, the salmon smelled it and knew that it was poisonous. She thought, "I need to figure out how to protect myself!" She prayed and prayed and prayed. One month later, she grew the most beautiful peach, orange, and gold scales. Now, she was more beautiful than ever.

The salmon thanked Allah for her protection.
This is how the salmon got its scales.



THE MYSTERIOUS VILLAGE OF DOMEABRA

WRITTEN BY EMELIA LAAR YENULOOM

ILLUSTRATED BY EMELIA LAAR YENULOOM AND KEMI MOHAMMED

Once upon a time, there was a mysterious village in a distant place called Domeabra. People had heard rumors about it, but no one knew anyone who had lived or visited.

One day, three good friends named Abena, Nusra, and Abigail decided to travel to Domeabra. They walked over mountains and through deserts. They moved through the thick bush and across the Savannah. Finally, they arrived at an isolated lorry station in a valley. They took the tro-tro (a minivan shared taxi) to Domeabra. They met beggars, thieves, and armed robbers on the road. They stole all of their food and they had to return home.

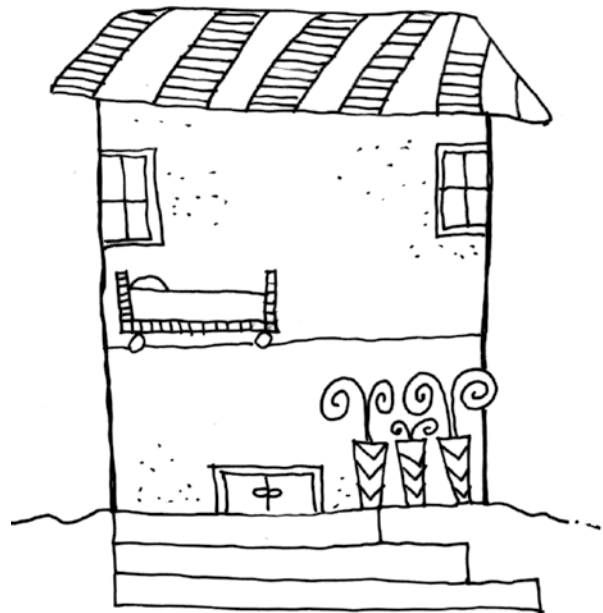
They never made it to the mysterious village of Domeabra.

Up to this day, no one knows what is inside that place.

MY FRIEND RAYANA

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY MUFIDA ABDUL RAZAK

Rayana lives in Algeria. This is her house. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Ali. She goes to school at Ran Brown School. She has a friend called Mufida. Her friend is very beautiful.



RABIATU AND THE WICKED WITCH

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY

BURHAN MOHAMMED, FATIMA SURAKA, ABIGAIL KONODU AMPOMAH, UMAR FARUK ISSAKA, SANI MUMUNI, MUFIDA SUMAEILA, SALIFU OSMAN MARGA, SHERIF OSMAN, FATIMA OSMAN MARGA, JAMILA YAKUBU, HAMID SULLEYMAN, RAHEEMA SULLEYMAN, YAKUBU IBRAHIM, MUFIDA ABDUL RAZAK, ABDUL HAKEEM NAJAH, ABDUL HADDY NAJAH, ALI AWUDU, KHADIJAH MOHAMMED, SELASI DOMI KINGSLEY, KEMI MOHAMMED, NATHANIEL OFUSU ASANTE, AYISHATU FUTA, KHADIJAH FATAWU, FAWZIYA SULLEY, FLORENCE AFIA FOSUWAA, NADIA FUTA, SALAMATU MOHAMMED, RIZQIN FATAWU, SADIYA HEKIMA NAJAH, RABIYATU MUHIDEEN, BRIGHT NANA OFUSU, AMR BILAL (RJ), AMINA MOHAMMED, NAIM MOHAMMED, EMELIA LAAR YENULOOM, BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA

Once upon a time, there was a young woman named Auntie Rabiatu. She lived in a small village called Domeabra meaning "If you love me, come." She stayed in a small compound house with her mother, father, and grandmother. Because Auntie Rabiatu looked like her grandmother, her parents and friends called her "Granny." Auntie Rabiatu was very kind and obedient. She always did everything her elders asked her to do. Everyday, her mother would go to the market and her father would go to the farm. Meanwhile, Auntie Rabiatu would help her grandmother feed the chickens at home. Her grandmother always liked to say, "We want them to grow big and fat so we can sell them at the market!"

Auntie Rabiatu had two best friends named King and Princess who lived at the palace. King and Princess liked Auntie Rabiatu because she was so respectful of others. Every afternoon, Princess and Auntie Rabiatu would dance together while the king trotted along beside them on his horse. Next to their village was a large forest. In the middle of this forest lived a wicked witch inside a cave. If she wanted to, the witch could turn herself into a human being!



One day, Auntie Rabiatu was selling fried chicken and rice at the market in the village. She saw a stranger approach her stall. Little did she know, it was the witch who had turned herself into a human being! The witch bought chicken and fried rice from Auntie Rabiatu. As she tasted it, the spices in the food made her turn back into a witch so everyone could see. The witch felt shy. "I will teach this woman a lesson," she thought. The witch made everyone in the village stop buying Auntie Rabiatu's fried rice and chicken. Auntie Rabiatu was very sad. "What did I do to deserve this?" she asked herself. Soon after this incident, the witch saw that Princess and King loved Auntie Rabiatu more than her. The witch became jealous and hated Auntie Rabiatu even more. The witch said aloud, "I really need to do something even worse to this woman!" So, she turned Auntie Rabiatu into a frog! Auntie Rabiatu was so frightened by the way she looked that she jumped into a nearby pond!



As time passed, Auntie Rabiatu's family, King, and Princess all grew worried. Where had Auntie Rabiatu gone? They called their pastor for help. The villagers thought that the witch was responsible for Auntie Rabiatu's absence, so they took the pastor to the witch's house. He prayed in front of the house while the witch hid inside. But, the prayers did nothing. They only made the wicked, jealous witch laugh at them.

Meanwhile, Auntie Rabiatu swam down the river in to get advice from the wise people of Ada. They suggested that Auntie Rabiatu go see a medicine man in a distant village. When Auntie Rabiatu arrived, the medicine man gave her a mysterious purple colored medicine. But, instead of turning Auntie Rabiatu into a human being, she turned into a leopard!

Auntie Rabiatu said to the man, "Being a leopard is better than being a frog, but I still want to be a human being!" The old man nodded and told her to look for a yellowish seed that grew on some rare trees at the edge of the desert.



When she arrived, Auntie Rabiatu looked everywhere for the yellowish seeds, but couldn't find any. She didn't know what to do. Finally, she decided to eat some leaves from the trees instead. As soon as she took a taste of the bitter leaf, it turned Auntie Rabiatu into an elephant! "What do I do now?!" she cried out. Not knowing what else could be done, Hajia Rabiatu returned to Domeabra.



Hajia Rabiatu went to her mother, father, and grandmother for help, but they looked at her confused. "What is an elephant doing in our village?" they wondered. So, Auntie Rabiatu hung her head sadly and left. She wandered aimlessly through the forest.

Suddenly, the witch jumped out from behind a tree! She could tell the elephant was Auntie Rabiatu and said to herself, "I want her as a sacrifice to my gods!" She captured Auntie Rabiatu and consulted her gods. But, the gods refused to take her. They shouted, "We do not want the life of an elephant! If you want protection and blessings from us, you need to sacrifice a deer."

The witch consulted a fetish priest to see how to turn Hajia Rabiatu into a deer, but the fetish priest felt mercy for the Hajia Rabiatu and let her escape!

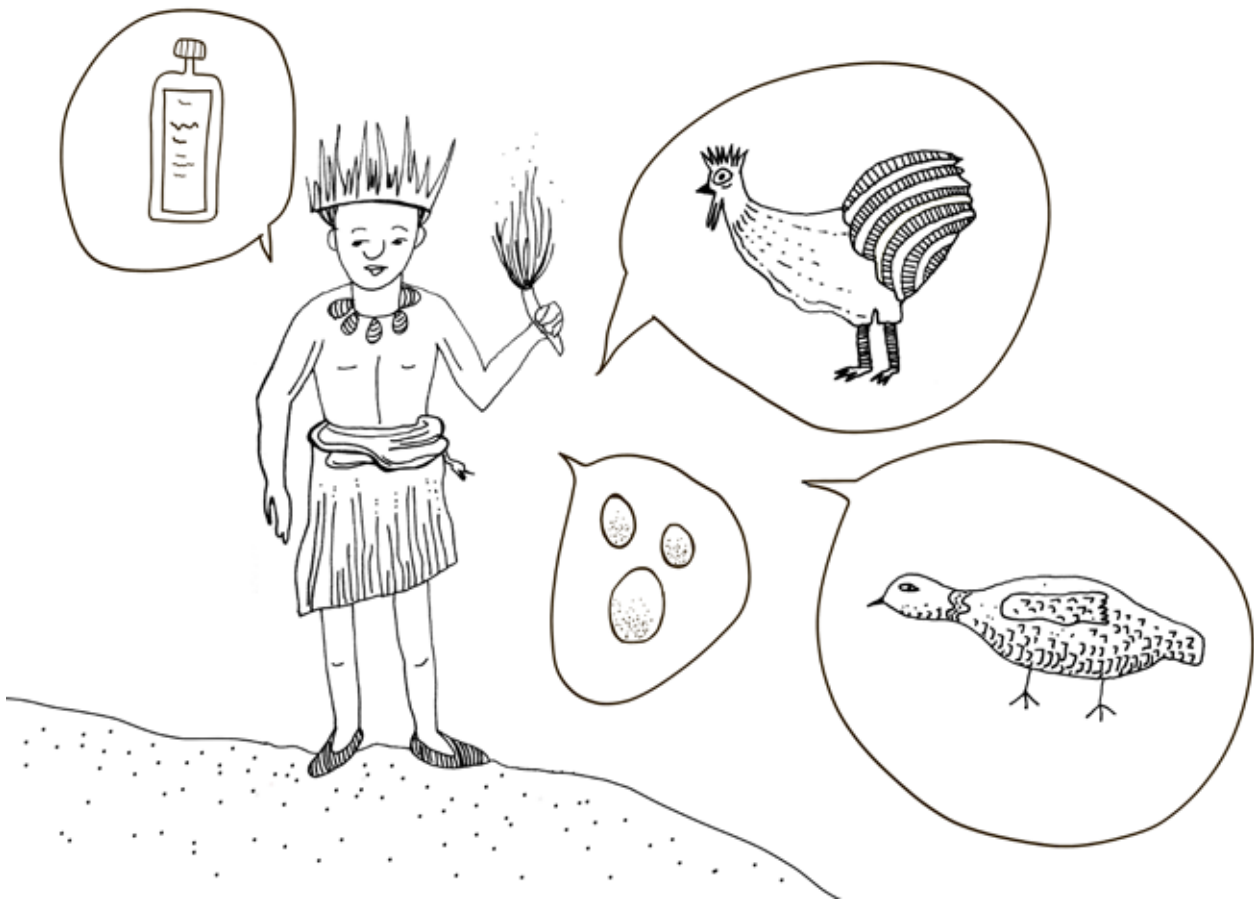
After that, Hajia Rabiatu got an idea. She went back to the fetish priest for help. The fetish priest agreed, but told Hajia Rabiatu that she needed to bring a blue fowl, yellow cock, eggs, and three bottles of Schnapps.

Using her trunk, Hajia Rabiatu respectfully placed each item at the feet of the priest. The fetish priest nodded and said, "Now, go some place and rest. Tomorrow you will turn into a human being again!"

But, the next day, Hajia Rabiatu was still an elephant. The fetish priest explained that the Gods were still annoyed with the witch and so refused to help anyone. Auntie Rabiatu sat down on the steps of the shrine.

She cried and cried and cried big elephant tears. She missed her mother, father, and grandmother so much. She also missed King and Princess.

Then, she had one last idea!



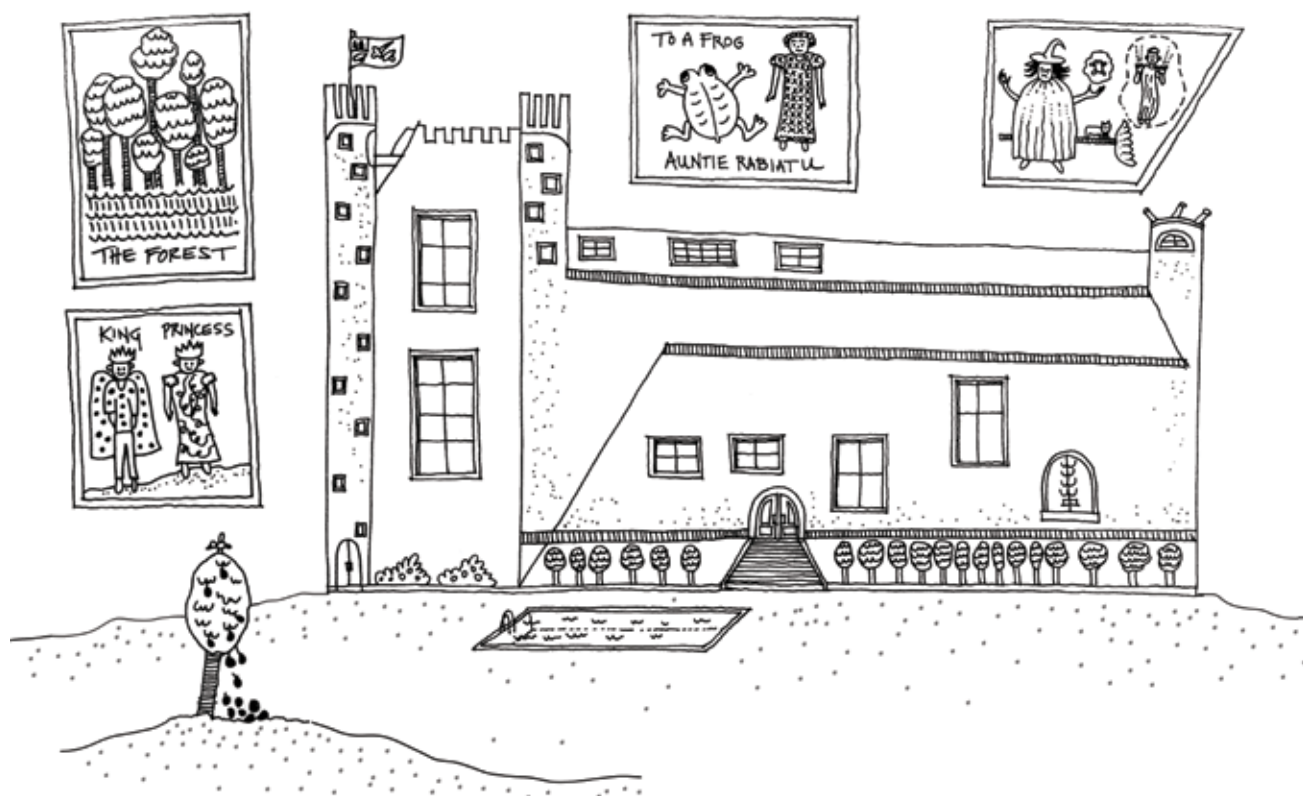
Auntie Rabiatu went straight to the palace to meet Princess. Princess recognized that the elephant was her when Hajia Rabiatu started to dance. Hajia Rabiatu narrated the whole story to the princess – from the witch turning her into a frog, meeting the old man, and travels to the desert, to the fetish priest and the angry gods.

Princess felt so badly for Auntie Rabiatu. That night, Princess narrated everything to King's Great Wizard. He followed Princess to the place outside the palace where Auntie Rabiatu was resting. He used a magical amulet to break the spell. Slowly, Auntie Rabiatu's large elephant body became smaller, her trunk became shorter, and her legs became skinnier. A minute later, Auntie Rabiatu was a human being again! She was so happy to be free and walk on her two feet!

Auntie Rabiatu and Princess ran straight to Auntie Rabiatu's compound house. Her mother, father, and grandmother were overjoyed to see her. Meanwhile, Great Wizard rushed to the forest and put a spell on the wicked witch. Now, the tables turned on her! She became an ugly toad! She was sacked from the village of Domeabra forever.

That night under the stars, Auntie Rabiatu, her mother, father, grandmother, Princess, King, and villagers danced long into the night.

The moral of this story is don't be jealous of others, rather be proud of yourself because jealousy can land you into trouble.



FAFA MOVES TO NIMA

WRITTEN BY FAWZIYA SULLEYMAN MARGA

ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE

Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Fafa. She had a cat named Fati. She was from Ho in the Volta region, but moved to Nima when she was ten. She and her siblings hated it when they first moved to Nima. Fafa was fair in complexion. She had a tall nose, small mouth, and small ears. Many people called her four eyes. The color she liked best was blue. Her favorite food was rice and stew. She loved to play the game Ludo. She was always helping people. She was very quiet. She went to school at Mount Zion. She was in Class Six and the best girl in her class. One day, it was Fafa's birthday. The girls in her class were playing Ludo, but they did not want to play with her. She was very sad. She went home and sat with her cat Fati. She knew that Allah and her family loved her very much. That was enough for Fafa.

FATI THE STUBBORN GIRL

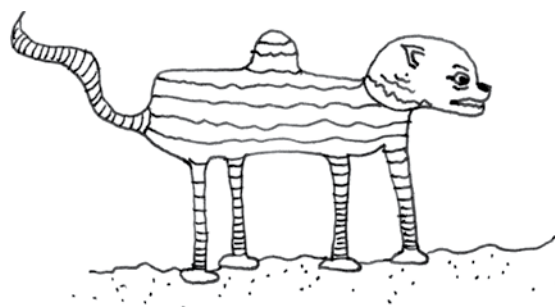
WRITTEN BY FAWZIYA SULLEYMAN MARGA

ILLUSTRATED BY RABIATU AGYARKO AND ZSP ARCHIVE

Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Fati Mohammed. Fati was very stubborn. Her father was the king of Nima and her mother was the Queen. One day, she did not sweep the compound like her mother had asked. Because of that, the king sent her to the market. He gave her a long list of foodstuffs to buy. Fati came back tired from carrying rubbers (plastic bags) full of everything on the list. The king and queen thought their daughter had learned her lesson.

But, to their disappointment, the next day Fati did not wash the dishes like her mother had asked. Because of that, the King sent her faraway to the Achimota Forest to get some fresh tiger nuts. As she was carrying the nuts back to the house, she met a mean hyena on the road. She started to scream. She only escaped the lion by feeding him tiger nuts all of the way home.

From that day on, Fati learned her lesson. She always listened to her parents and did her morning chores.



TWIN SISTERS

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY BRIGHT NANA OFUSU

Once upon a time, there lived two twin sister butterflies named Panyin and Kakra. They loved each other very much. One day, they went in search of the beautiful hibiscus flower. Panyin passed to the left side and Kakra passed to the right. They did not find the flower. The next day, they continued their search. This time, Kakra passed to the left side and Panyin passed to the right. Kakra found the beautiful hibiscus flower! She told her sister. Panyin became jealous! Because of her jealousy, she killed Kakra, left her by the roadside, and took the hibiscus flower for herself. When she got home, her mother asked, "Where is Kakra?" Panyin said, "Don't worry. She is in search of the beautiful hibiscus flower. She will be back." But, the next day, Kakra had still not returned. Her mother looked everywhere. At last, she found Kakra's dead body at the roadside. She knew it was Panyin who had killed her. The villagers threw Panyin and her hibiscus flower into the river. She was never seen again. This story teaches us to not be jealous.



HOW THE ELEPHANT'S TRUNK BECAME LONG

WRITTEN BY FAWZIYA SULLEYMAN MARGA

ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE

Once upon a time, there lived Elephant and his friends Dog and Camel. They lived together in the forest. Elephant had a short nose and short legs. He dreamed of one day becoming the best farmer in the forest. One day Elephant, Dog, and Camel decided to go to a farm for fruit.

Dog and Camel easily plucked banana, cocoa, and mango from the trees, but Elephant could not reach. That day, Elephant shared his secret to his friends. "I want to be the best farmer in the whole forest!" he said. Camel and Dog laughed and said, "This will not happen! Your nose is too short! You will never be able to harvest the fruit!" Elephant did not listen to his friends. He was persistent. The next day, he went to the Forest King. Elephant said, "I want to be the best farmer in the whole forest!" The king laughed and said, "This will not happen."

Elephant started going to the farm everyday. The trees grew very well under his care, but he was not able to reach the juicy fruit. "What will I do?" Elephant thought to himself. He went by the river to think. Elephant did not know that the water was sacred. He was feeling thirsty and took a drink from the river. Suddenly, his nose became long! Elephant smiled to himself. Now, he could easily become the best farmer in the forest! And he did. This is how the elephant's trunk became long.

ABOUT BURKISU

WRITTEN BY FAWZIYA SULLEYMAN MARGA

ILLUSTRATED BY FATIMATU MOHAMMED

Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Burkisu. She stayed with her parents in Maamobi-Nima. Her father's name was Sulley and her mother's name was Kande. Her father did not stay with them. Her mother is selling things at home. She had two sisters named Habiba and Mariam and two brothers named Ibrahim and Abdul.

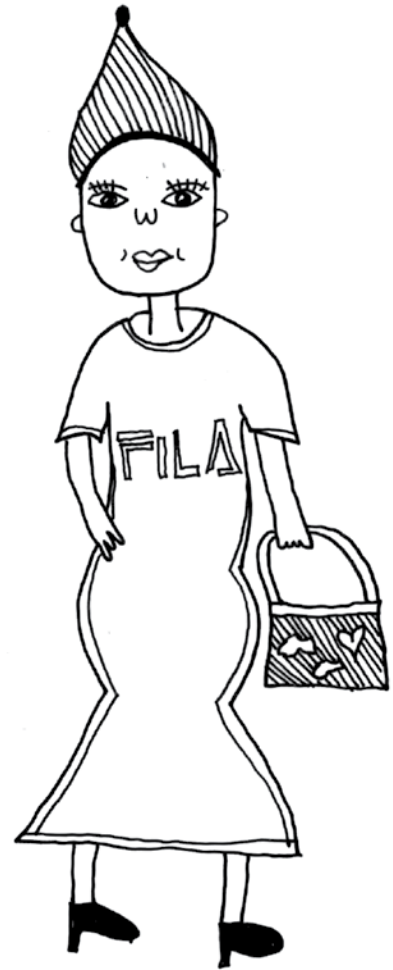
Burkisu was thirteen years old and dark in complexion. She had a small nose, eyes, and ears. Burkisu's best colors are pink and yellow.

Burkisu was the best student in her class. She always did her classwork and homework. She lives reading storybooks and her best subjects are math and science.

She also respects her elders and anyone who is older than her. On Sundays, she would help her mother in the house. When they finished their own cleaning, washing and cooking in their own compound, Burkisu and her mother would help their neighbors.

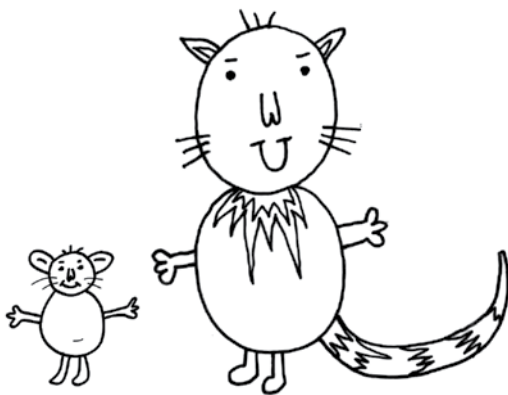
Last year, Burkisu traveled to her village. She came back in November 2018.

That is about Burkisu.

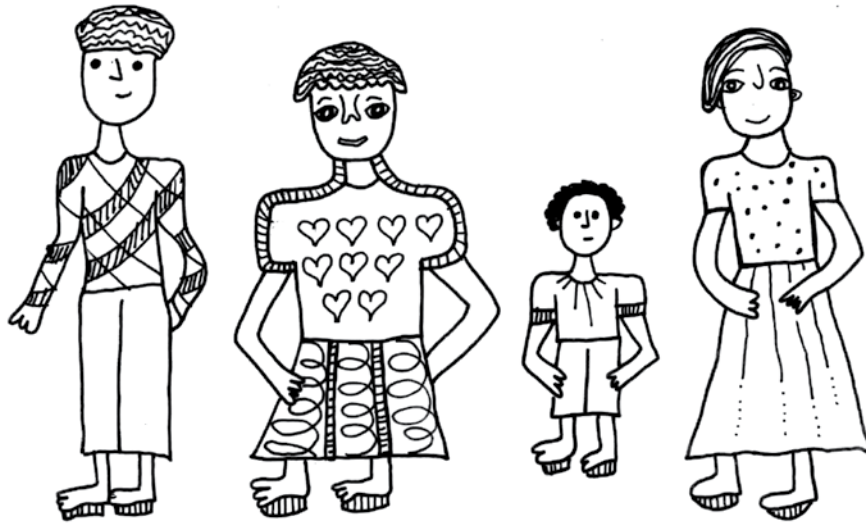


CAT AND MOUSE

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY KHADIJAH FATAWU



Once upon a time, there lived Cat who stayed on a farm. One day, Rat came and stole Cat's milk. Next, Rat's wife came and stole cat's bread. After that, Rat's son came and stole Cat's tea. Cat was so annoyed. She made a plan to teach mouse a lesson. She set a trap for Rat in front of some fried tilapia. That night, Cat caught Rat and all of her offspring. She had them for a snack before eating her fried tilapia.



NEW CLOTH

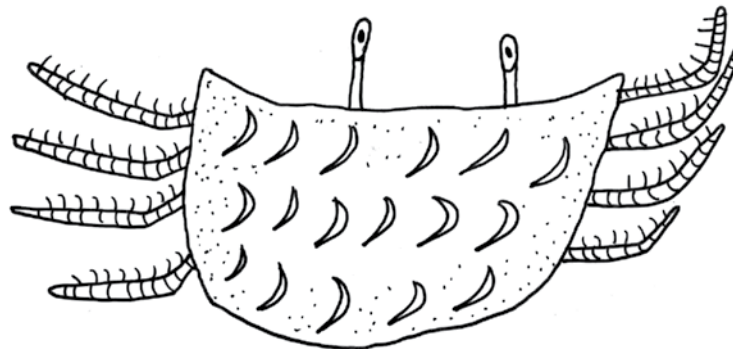
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY FAWZIYA SULLEYMAN MARGA

Once there was a beautiful woman called Faiza and her handsome husband called Dalad. She was always buying new cloths at the market to wear to weddings and naming ceremonies. She loved cloth so much. On her son Adamu's birthday, she would buy him new cloth to wear. Faiza's husband also loved cloth. On Fridays, she would buy him cloth to wear to mosque.

One day, Faiza gave birth to a baby girl. "What will I do about the naming ceremony?," she wondered. "I don't have enough money to buy new cloth for my whole family. But, because Faiza was so generous, she decided to buy cloth for her children and husband. Faiza would wear an old cloth on the day of naming ceremony. So, she went to the market and bought beautiful colorful purple, yellow, and white patterned cloth. Her husband and children didn't know. It would be a surprise. She gave them the cloth on day of the naming ceremony. They were so happy! Little did Faiza know, her husband had brought her a surprise too. He presented her four beautiful different cloths! The whole family was so happy celebrating the naming ceremony in their beautiful, new cloth.

CRAB

ILLUSTRATED BY HAIRAT MOHAMMED SANI



WICKED SNAKE'S PLAN

WRITTEN BY MUFIDA ABDUL RAZAK

ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE



Once upon a time, there lived a wicked snake, forest elephant, and kind bird in the forest. The elephant and kind bird were very good friends. Everyday, they would go to the market together. They would pound and eat fufu together. The wicked snake was jealous of their friendship. He wanted to punish the two friends. He made a plan.

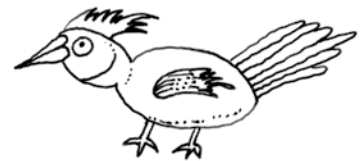
He put poison in the stream where the forest elephant always drank. The forest elephant drank from the water and fell over dying. The kind bird rushed to the desert. She plucked a magical leaf from a rare tree and flew all of the way back home. She gave it to the elephant just in time. Before long, elephant and bird were pounding fufu together again. Feeling shy that his plan did not work, the wicked snake slithered into a hole and was never seen again.

CHICKEN'S BIG SECRET

WRITTEN BY ABDUL HADDY NAJAH

ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE

Long ago, there lived Goat, Chicken, Pig and Cow on a farm. There were friends. They shared their secrets together, that is, except for Goat. Goat didn't share his own secrets with anyone. Instead, he would take their secrets and share them with the world.



One day, goat listened to a secret that Chicken was sharing with pig and cow. Chicken told his friends, "Yesterday, I didn't even have enough Gari Masara (powdered corn cereal) to feed my family." The friends felt sympathy for Chicken and said, "May Allah cover our secrets." They all promised not share Chicken's secret with anyone at the farm.

But afterwards, gossiping goat went to the other animals and spread chicken's secret everywhere! Pig, Chicken, and Cow learned about what Goat did. They decided to teach him a lesson.

They went to the king of all the farms to tell him what had happened. "Gossiping goat shared all of our secrets!" they cried. The king punished Goat by sharing all of goat's deepest secrets with the all of the farms in his kingdom.

Goat never gossiped again.

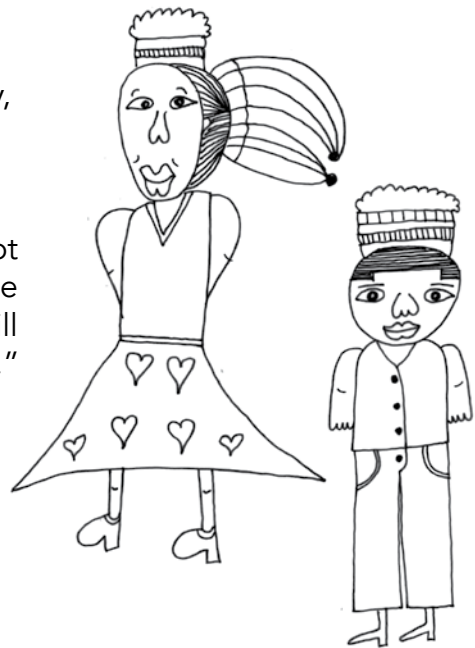
AFIA THE CAKE BAKER

WRITTEN BY FLORENCE AFUA FOSUWAA

ILLUSTRATED BY NADIA FUTA

Once upon a time, there was a woman called Madam Paulina. She and her brother were cake bakers. One day, a lady named Afia ordered a big birthday cake. When Paulina gave her the beautiful big pink cake, Afia told her, "I don't have money now. I will pay you tomorrow." The next day, Madam Paulina called Afia, but she did not pick the call. Two days later, Afia called to apologize. She said, "I was not close to my phone when you called. I will come to your house later this afternoon with the money." Madam Paulina waited until night came. She had yet to set eyes on this lady Afia. She waited. And waited. And waited some more.

Finally, Madam Paulina called Afia. Afia said, "Sorry, I do not have any money to give you right now." At first Madam Paulina was angry. She talked to her wise friend Asiah. Asiah said, "Even if she doesn't pay you back, God will pay you in blessings." Madam Paulina's heart was finally at peace. The moral of this story is that you can't trust human beings, but you can always trust God.



Cake Bakers

THE BRITISH MEET A MONSTER

ACTED BY

RAHINA HAMZA SIDIBE, RABIATU AGYARKO, WALTER SIMS, BURHAN MOHAMMED, KEMI MOHAMMED, HAMID SULLEYMAN, ABIGAIL KONODU AMPOMAH, MUFIDA ABDUL RAZAK, SAFAYATU JAMIU MOHAMMED

RETOLD BY RAHINA HAMZA SIDIBE

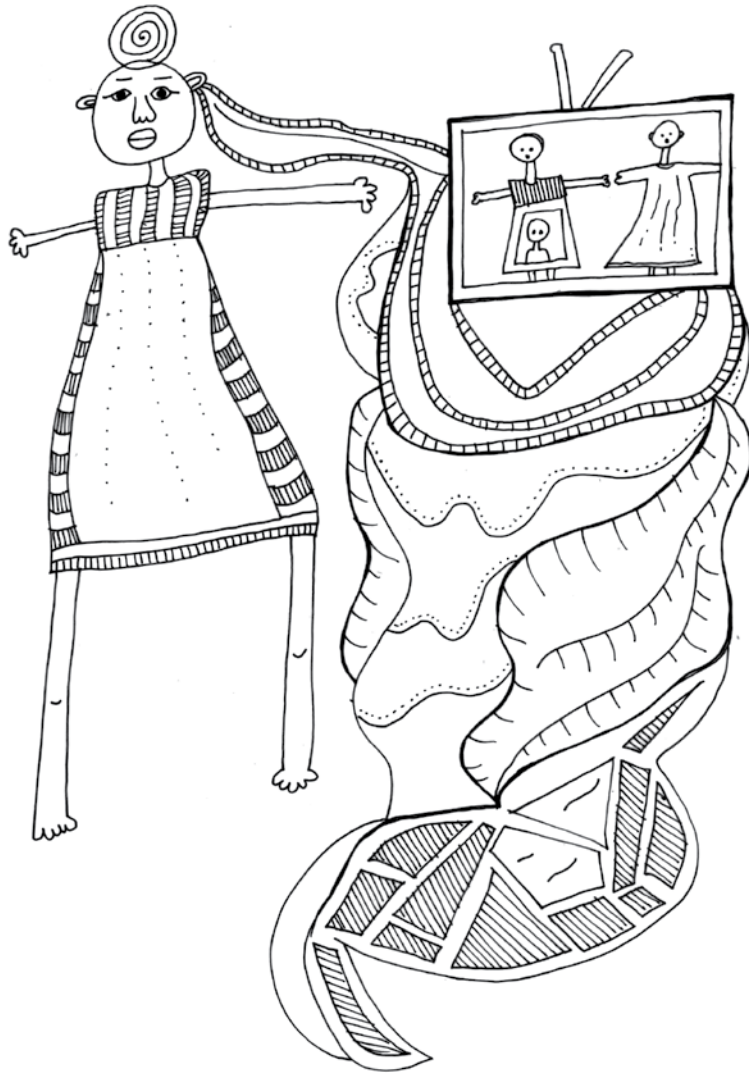
ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE

One day, in some place in England, the British were driving to party. They faced traffic on the road because a huge monster was blocking it. At first, the British tried to reason with the monster, but he wouldn't listen. The British became very scared. The monster started biting and killing them until only a few were left. Still, the monster refused to leave them alone. Finally, the British called the traffic directors. They talked to the monster and the monster finally agreed to leave, but only because he was full. The British who remained continued their journey to the party.



LISTENING TO TV

ILLUSTRATED BY KEMI MOHAMMED

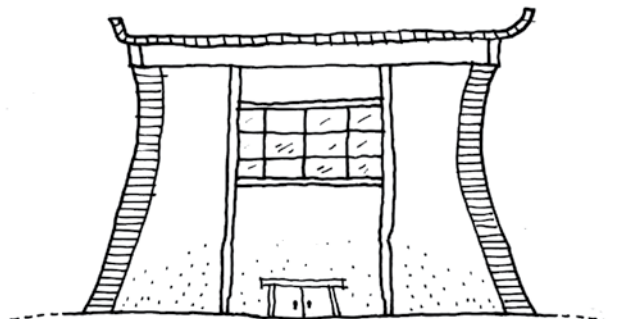


JUBILEE HOUSE

WRITTEN BY NATHANIEL OFUSU ASANTE

ILLUSTRATED BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN

Once upon a time, the John Mahama, the President of Ghana wanted to build a new President's Office. He called it Jubilee House. It was a nice place. When the President arrived in his car, soldiers escorted him to his office. There was a garden, garage, flowers, small buildings, the Ghana flag, and a main gate. There were soldiers who guarded the place.





BEGGING BY THE ROADSIDE

WRITTEN BY SAYIDA HEKIMA NAJAH AND RABIYATU MUHIDEEN

ILLUSTRATED BY REHEENA SULLEYMAN AND NADIA FUTA

Once upon a time, there lived a poor family in a suburb of Accra called Lapaz. The parents had four children. Their names were Salifu, and Abena, Kwame, and Kojo. They always found it difficult to get money to eat. So, their mother would ask her children to go and beg for money by the roadside.

One day, the children were begging for money at a busy intersection. At the red light, they approached a private car and asked the driver for money. After they collected it, the light turned green. Suddenly, a big truck hit Kojo, the youngest child. Before they realized what was happening, he died. The children cried and cried. They reported Kojo's death to their mother. Then, their mother cried and cried. She said in a trembling voice through her tears, "I will never let my children beg again. I will find work and take care of my children."

This story teaches us not to beg. It is better to find work to do.

WHY NO ONE STEALS GOATS

WRITTEN BY SAYIDA HEKIMA NAJAH

Once upon a time, there lived two boys named Kojo and Kwame. They lived in a village called Malerigu. These two boys were jobless, but smart. One day, a man named Al Haji Musah could see that they were clever so he hired them to weed at his farm. But, the pay was not good so Kojo and Kwame stopped working. Instead, they started stealing his goats! Everyday, they would roast maize and put it in Alhaji Musa's pen for the goats to eat. Then, late at night, Kojo and Kwame would steal the goats from their pen and sell them to the kebab workers and chop bar owners.

Al Haji Musa reported the missing goats to the police. The police came to Al Haji's farm to catch the thieves. When Kojo and Kwame arrived late that night, the police caught them. One week later, they were sent to court. Miss Serwaa was the magistrate. She said, "I don't know any young courageous and energetic young men who can't find work to do!" She sentenced them to twenty years in prison. That is why today, people rear goats and let them wander everywhere without anyone stealing them.

LUKMAN DEFEATS THE MONSTER

WRITTEN BY SAYIDA HEKIMA NAJAH

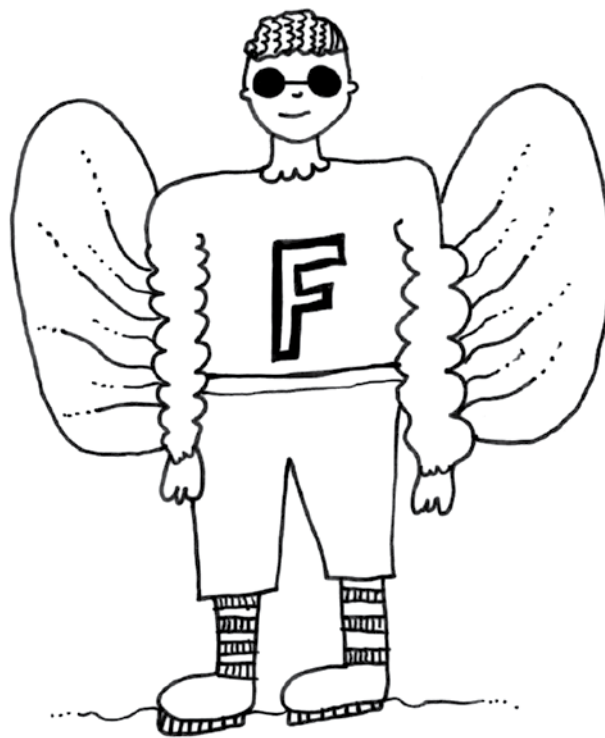
ILLUSTRATED BY FAWZIYA SULLEY

Once there was a village called Malerigu. The people only had one river from where they could fetch water for their daily activities. One hot afternoon, a big monster came to the village. It drank all of the water in the river. There was no water left in the entire village. The people began to get thirsty.

There was a very brave young man named Lukman. He said to the people, "Don't worry. I will fight the monster! Lukman visited a Malam to renew his protection. The next week, he went to the bush where the monster stayed. He fought and fought the monster. Finally, the monster was killed.

When Lukman arrived back in the village, he went to tell the chief the good news. To his surprise, the chief was not happy. He responded in a worried tone, "There was no need to kill the monster. Now, how are we going to get our water back?"

Lukman was not worried. He said, "I killed it because one day if the monster was to come back, it could come with even more powers that we cannot take away. The chief nodded in agreement and asked, "Okay, I understand, but what are we going to do about the water?" Lukman said, "Don't worry. I will go to another village and bring us water." He went and did as he promised. There was water and happiness in the village of Malerigu once again.



DRINKING PROBLEM

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY SAYIDA HEKIMA NAJAH

Two young women named Ama and Ekuya lived in a city called Accra. Ama and Ekuya drank alcohol. Their parents told them to stop, but they didn't listen.

One day when they were drinking too much, Ama fell down and fainted. She was admitted to Ridge Hospital. Ama could no longer remember her friend Ekuya. Ekuya cried and cried. From that day forward, Ama and Ekuya never drank alcohol again.



FATI THE BRILLIANT

WRITTEN BY SAYIDA HEKIMA NAJAH

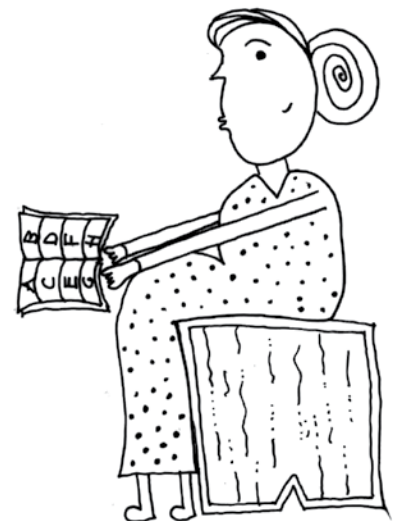
ILLUSTRATED BY NADIATU BASHIRU HARUNA

Once upon a time, there lived Mama Adowa, her husband Kweku, and their child Fati. They lived together in a small town called Ansuonoanu. Fati was a brilliant girl. One day, she wanted to be a doctor. Fati went to school at the Lord's Academy at Kete. But, her parents found it difficult to pay her school fees.

It was a Thursday when Fati was sacked because she had no money. She stopped schooling. Fati sold selling sachet water until she got enough money to go to school again. Life was not easy for Fati, but she did not give up.

A couple years later, the Mill Company set up a Quiz for JHS students. Fati would be the contestant representing her school. She studied really hard every night for a whole year. She won the competition! Fati was given a scholarship so she would never pay school fees again. When she heard the news, Fati and her parents stood up with joy.

Now, Fati is a doctor at 37 Military Hospital. She will never forget the challenges she faced to get to where she is now.



KUKUA'S SECRET

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY SAYIDA HEKIMA NAJAH

Once upon a time, there lived a girl called Kukua. She lived with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Mensah in the city of Koforidua in the Eastern Region. One day, she was playing at the farm with her friends Kojo and Kweku. While they were playing, her hand entered into a rat trap. She shouted! Her friends and parents rushed her to the hospital. She fainted. The doctor said sadly, "I can't do anything. We have to cut off her hand for her to survive." The parents permitted the doctor to do the operation. After a few months, she was finally allowed to go home.

One day, Akwasi, prince of her village, decided that he wanted to marry Kukua. He knew what had happened to her hand, but didn't say anything. He didn't want her to feel shy. But, because Kukua did not know that the prince already knew about her hand, she was worried. She thought to herself, "Who would want to marry someone like me with a missing hand? What would he think of her then? I have to keep my secret."

She decided to go somewhere far away and hide. But, while she was on her journey, the ghost of her grandmother appeared. The ghost said, "Kukua, put your injured hand in your mouth." She was scared, but did as she was told. When Kukua removed her hand, it was like she had never had the accident! And, even more than that, she had diamond bangles around her wrist!

She returned to the village filled with joy. She and Prince Akwasi planned for their marriage. At the wedding, Kukua and Akwasi danced all night long. The people clapped and called out to her, "Kukua Sika Oooooh!" The prince never asked Kukua how her hand had been cured. After all, he loved Kukua for her heart, not her hand.

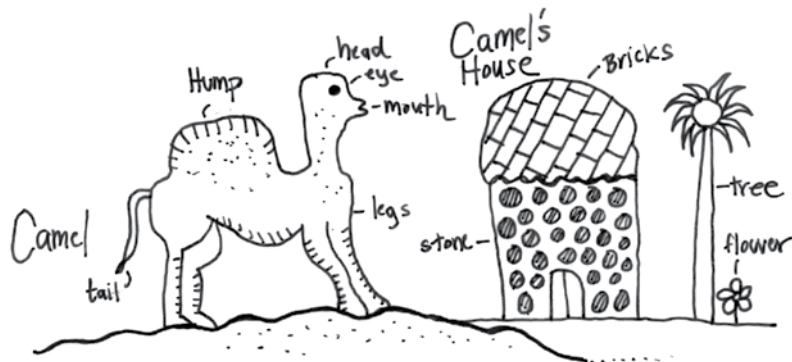


HOW THE CAMEL GOT ITS HUMP

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY BRIGHT NANA OFUSU

Once upon a time, there lived a lone camel in a fertile desert. One day, the camel decided to build a new house of stones and bricks. After three days, he finished the work. He was very pleased with his handiwork. The house was indeed very beautiful. As a reward, he went to find some fresh, sweet water to drink. When camel arrived home, a huge stone fell from the roof of his house and onto his back. It turned into a huge, sore hump.

He felt so shy about his appearance. The other animals laughed any time they saw him. Camel hid in his house and only came out for water. This is why the camel has a hump.



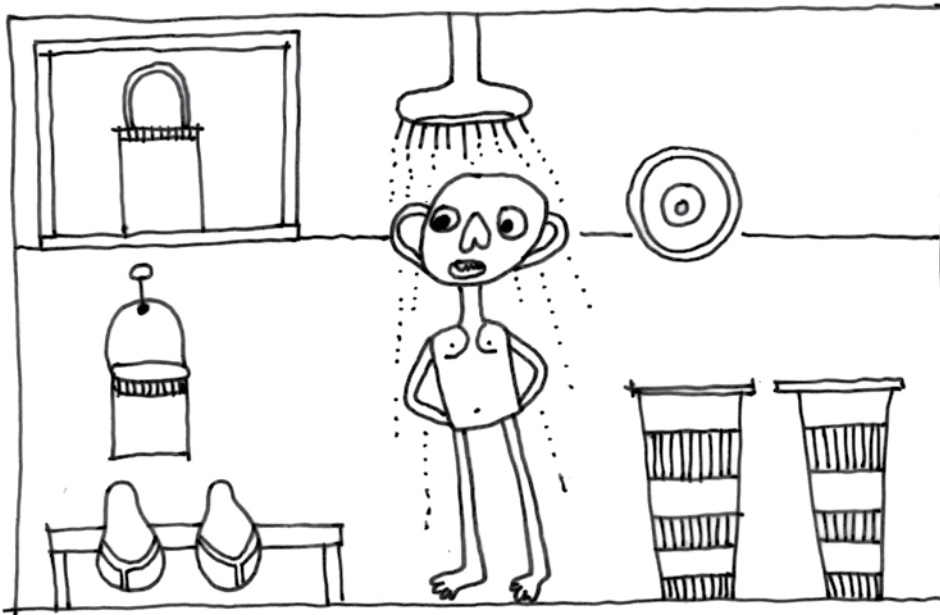
SHOPPING MALL

ILLUSTRATED BY ALI AWUDU



WASH ROOM

ILLUSTRATED BY NADIA FUTA AND BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA



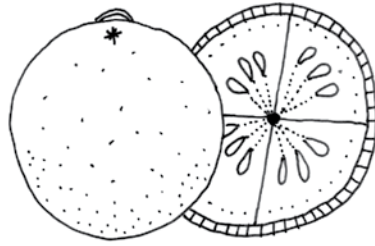
ADVENTUROUS PIG AND WICKED LION

WRITTEN BY NAIM MOHAMMED

Once upon a time in a village called Abusukapa, there lived an adventurous pig and a wicked lion. The lion was king of all of the animals. He was always insulting them. He was also very selfish. He would do anything to win a fight. The pig was adventurous and wise. He was not scared of lion. He knew how to handle lion's difficult character.

One day, a wise shark decided to host a wrestling program to see who was the strongest of all of the animals. The winner would get a prize. The lion decided to enter. Pig also decided to enter.

When the pig arrived, the lion was already boasting to the audience that he would win. When lion and pig started fighting, everyone on the scene knew that lion would be crowned winner. At first, the pig did not even want to win. He was in it for the adventure, not the prize. But, when the lion shouted, "You good for nothing pig! You are a stupid, low class animal." Pig got angry. His anger hit lion hard in the face and he fell over, stunned. Pig was crowned winner. And that, is how pig became the ruler of all of the animals.



SELLING FRUIT IN NIMA MARKET

WRITTEN BY FAWZIYA SULLEYMAN MARGA AND SALSALI ASIB MUMUIN

ILLUSTRATED BY HAIRAT MOHAMMED SANI

There is a woman named Fafa selling oranges, pineapples, mangoes, and lemons in Nima Market. She has two children named Kofi and Fafa. Because Fafa is such a good, kind woman, she has so many customers and always runs out of her fruit quickly.



THE FESTIVAL AT YENDI AND THE POWERFUL DRUM

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY SAYIDA HEKIMA NAJAH

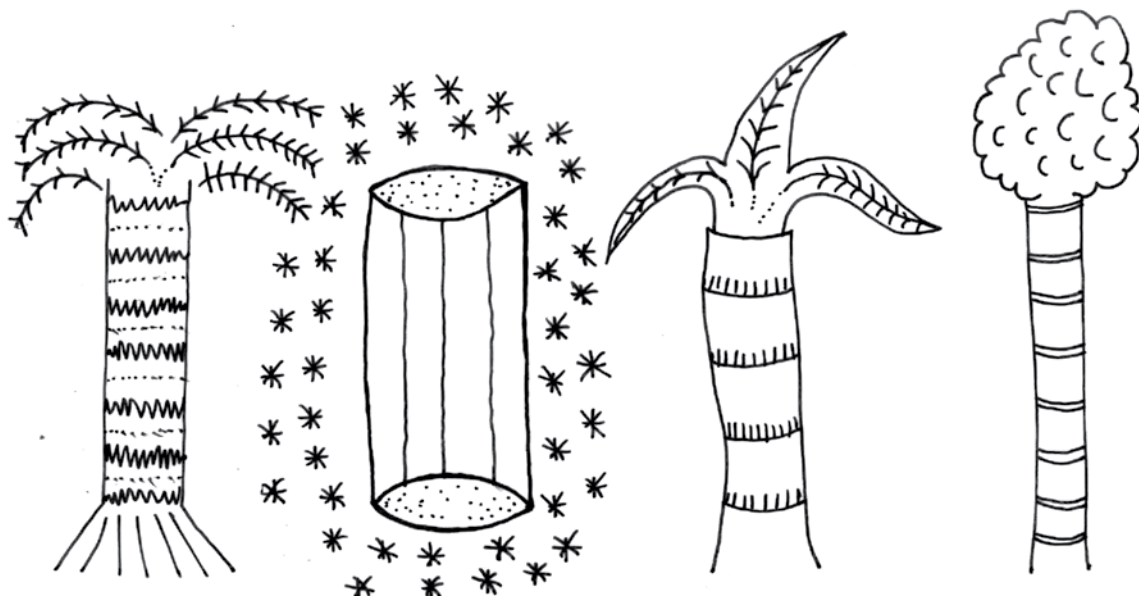
Once upon a time, there lived King Wasi and his people in a village called Yendi. Every year, they would host an annual festival. There was just one problem. The festival was so boring. There was no food, no music, no drumming, and no dancing. The people did not enjoy it. Many of them would even fall asleep, even the king.

One year, King Wasi decided to do something to make the festival more interesting. He sent a young man named Okomfo Wawa to find something to make the event more lively.

Okomfo Wawa wandered deep into the forest in hopes of discovering to make the festival more exciting. Finally, he came upon a dwarf playing a powerful drum. Okomfo Wawa asked if he could borrow the drum for their festival. The dwarf agreed. The dwarf explained, "Beat the drum like this 'pum-pata-pum-pum-pum!' The people will want to dance, then food will fall from the sky!"

Okomfo Wawa did as the dwarf told him. He beat the drum - 'pum-pata-pum-pum-pum!' The people started dancing happily and then all of a sudden the sky grew dark. Koasi (fried bean cakes) and koko (millet porridge) started falling from the sky. A couple hours later, light soup and fufu rained down on them followed by fresh mango and pineapple. And later that evening, the sky showered the people with Pinkaso, bowl fruit, groundnuts, and Sobolo (an hibiscus drink). The chief and his people were so happy.

Thanks to the dwarf, the powerful drum, and Okomfo Wawa, the festival was never boring again.

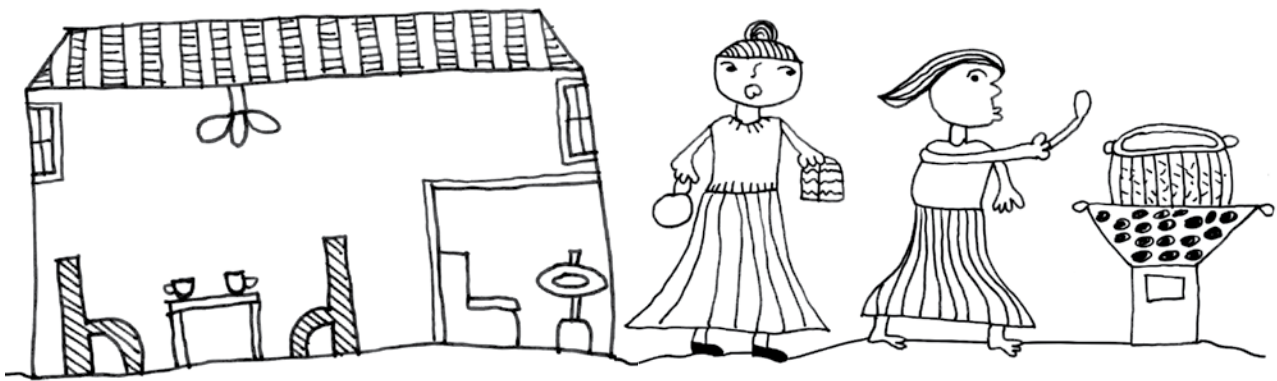


JAMILA'S EVERYDAY

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY KHADIJAH MOHAMMED

ILLUSTRATED BY JAMILA YAKUBU

Once upon a time, there was a girl called Jamila. Everyday, Jamila would get up early and do her chores. When she finished, her mother would give her tea bread and Milo (a malted hot chocolate drink) for breakfast. She would gather her books, pens, and pencils and put them carefully in her bag. Then, she would go to school. When Jamila came home, she would do her homework and help her brother fetch water. Later in the afternoon, she would help her mom make rice balls and groundnut soup. Finally, she would bathe herself and go to sleep. That is Jamila's everyday.



SHY MOSQUITO AND HELPFUL SNAKE

WRITTEN BY KEMI MOHAMMED

ILLUSTRATED BY KEMI MUHAMMAD AND ZSP ARCHIVE

Once upon a time, there lived a shy mosquito. The mosquito felt embarrassed when in the presence of other animals because he had made so many animals in the bush fall sick with his bites.

One day, mosquito was feeling hungry. He didn't know what to do because he didn't want to bite any more animals. On the road, he met a helpful snake who was enjoying Fufu and Light Soup. The snake said, "You are invited!" Before long, they became friends. The snake offered the mosquito some advice. He said, "You should consider biting humans instead of your friends the animals. Mosquito followed snake's suggestion. When mosquito is not eating Fufu and Light Soup with snake, he confidently bites humans!



AUNTY GLORIA, THE INVISIBLE

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY SAYIDA HEKIMA NAJAH

Once upon a time, in a city called Koforidua there lived a woman named Aunty Gloria. At any time, she could become invisible by simply closing her eyes. The people loved her so much because she was always catching people stealing things. Her biggest enemy was Dust. If Dust entered her eyes, she would not longer be able to become invisible.

In Koforidua, there was also a wicked, untruthful man named Mr. Kweku. He loved to steal from his family, neighbors, friends, and strangers too.

One day, he decided to steal all of the country's money. He started collecting it in a big pot. Aunty Gloria appeared in front of him and gave him a warning. She forced him to put back all of the money he stole. Mr. Kweku was so angry. But, before he could catch her, Aunty Gloria disappeared!

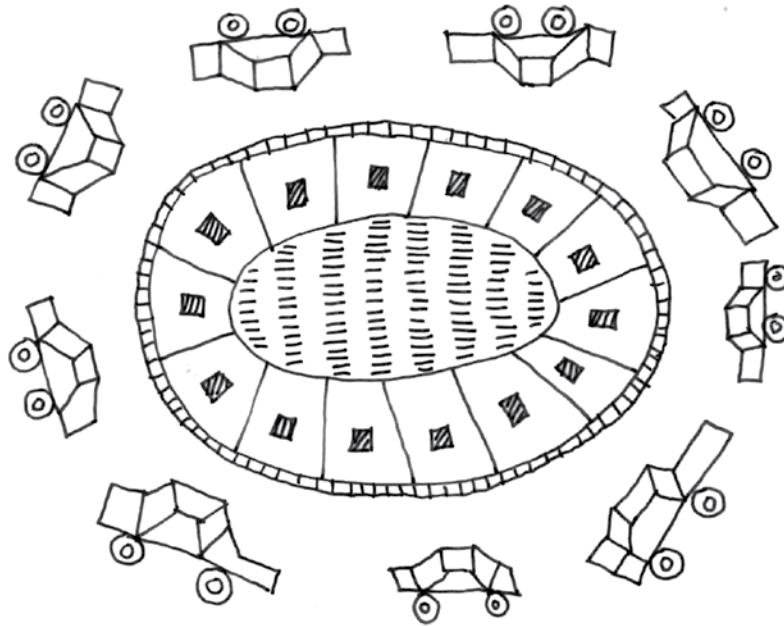
More than anything, he wanted to defeat Aunty Gloria. But, in order to do that, he needed to know Aunty Gloria's biggest enemy. He cried out, "The person who knows her enemy will be rewarded!" Mr. Kweku even planned to remove her symbol, but it never worked.

Up to this day, Mr. Kweku is wandering all over the world in search of Gloria's enemy. Unless he reads this story, he will never find out.



NIMA ROUNDABOUT

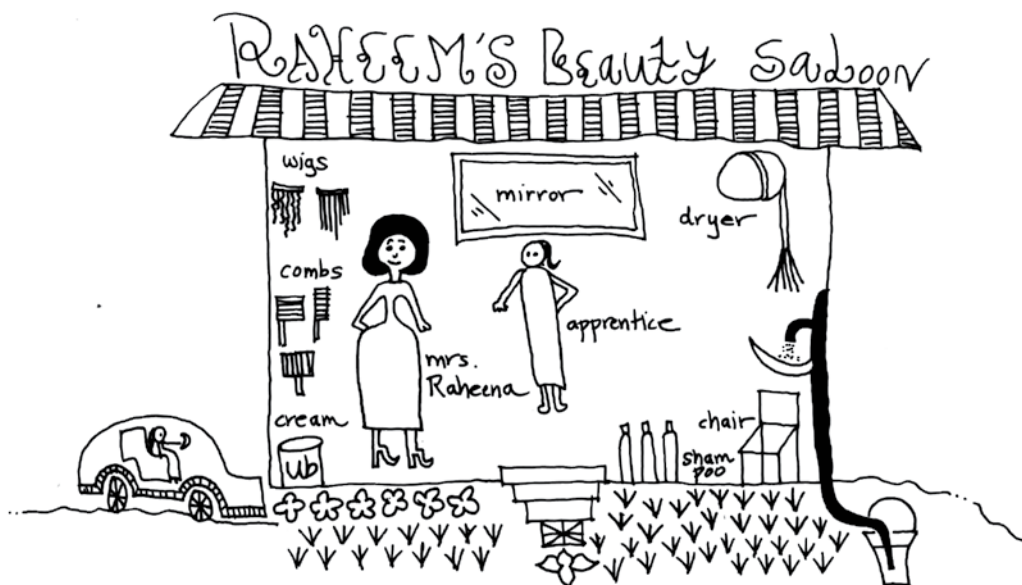
ILLUSTRATED BY ABDUL HAKEEM NAJAH



MY WORLD IS CALLED NIMA

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY RAHEEMA SULLEYMAN

My world is called Nima. My family and I live here. Anything can happen here. Some people do not like coming here. Other people really like it here. Some people say the place not nice. But, other people say, "The school over there is nice," "the mosque over there is also beautiful," or "the shop over there is very clean." There are no problems in Nima. Many people come to this world for parties and festivals. This is my future beauty salon



GIZO-GIZO THE DRUM CARVER AND HIS APPRENTICES

WRITTEN BY NADIA FUTA

Once upon a time, there lived a spider called Gizo-Gizo, his wife a praying mantis called Koki, and their son named Kojo. They lived in a village called Asesewa. Gizo-Gizo carved drums for his work. He had three apprentices: Crab, Lizard, and Tortoise. They didn't have a shop. Instead, they would sit under a big tree to carve their drums.

One day, there was a tourist who came to buy all of their most expensive drums. Gizo-Gizo greedily took all of the money for him and his family. Crab said, "Gizo-Gizo, won't you give us some of the money? We also have families." Lizard added, "Can't we also use some of this money to get a shop? Always carving in the bush is dangerous. We could be attacked by wild animals!" Tortoise stayed silent because he knew it was useless. Gizo-Gizo didn't give them even one pesoa.

A month later, Gizo-Gizo did not go to work. He covered his body with a blanket and pretended to be sick. His wife Koki asked, "Gizo-Gizo, why are you sleeping?" He answered, "My wife, I am sick. I cannot go to work." Crab, Lizard, and Tortoise also visited the house because they were wondering why their master had not come to work. As they entered the room, Gizo-Gizo pretended to shiver in his bed. "As you can see, I am very sick," he said with a groan. They responded, "If you are sick, then give us your tools so we may work." Gizo-Gizo shook his head and said, "No. My tools are also sick. They cannot go to work." The apprentices were upset. How could Gizo-Gizo be so selfish? It was all part of Gizo-Gizo's plan. But, the apprentices did not give up.

Crab, Lizard, and Tortoise bought their own tools. Everyday, they would carve drums while Gizo-Gizo pretended to be sick. And every night, Gizo-Gizo would sneak out and steal the drums they had carved! "Who is taking carved drums every morning?," they cried out. That night, Crab, Lizard, and Tortoise hid in the tree to wait for the thief. Finally, they saw Gizo-Gizo appear and start to steal their freshly carved drums. They jumped out of the tree. Crab and Lizard cried, "Shame on you! What a greedy, selfish, and lazy spider you are!" Tortoise added, "We don't need you any more. We have learned how to carve the drums on our own. We will leave you!"

Crab, Lizard, and Tortoise opened up their own drumming carving shop. Gizo-Gizo was so ashamed by his behavior that he went home and hid behind his wife Koki. For all we know, he is still hiding there.



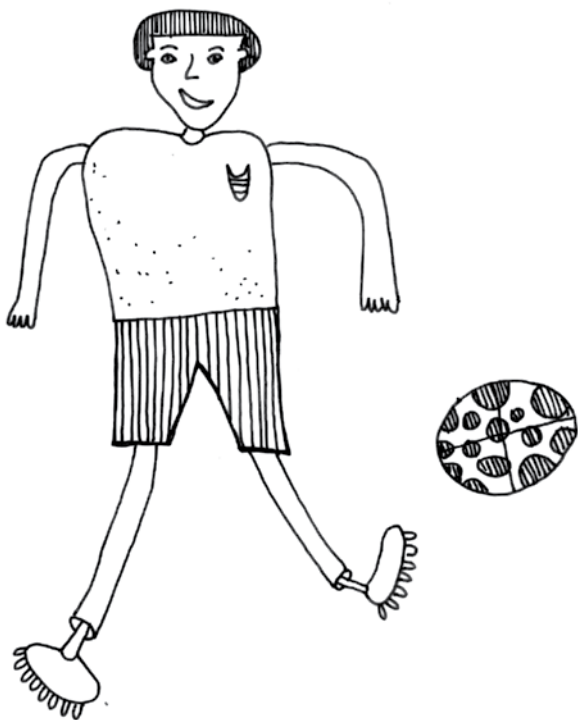
KWEKU, KOBINA AND THE NUT

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY NADIATU
BASHIRU HARUNA

Once upon a time there lived two little boys. Their names were Kweku and Kobina.

One day, Kobina saw a nut on the ground. Before Kobina could pick it up, Kweku took it. Kobina said, "Kweku, give me that nut!" But, he did not.

At that very moment, a tall boy named joined them. He separated the nut into two. He gave half to Kweku and the other half to Kobina. He put the fruit seed in his mouth and told them not to not fight again. That is the end.



THE FOOTBALL MATCH

WRITTEN BY MUKTARI MOHAMMED
ILLUSTRATED BY YAKUBU IBRAHIM

Once upon a time, there were two brothers named Musah and Issah who stayed in a place called Nima. Nima was dirty, rough, and full of greetings, shouts, and insults. Their house was small, but they loved it.

Musah and Issah liked football. One day, they were playing a competitive match. Issah checked Musah. Musah got hurt. He injured his knee. He couldn't walk again.

Since then, Issah has not smiled. He was always sad for his brother. He never played football again.

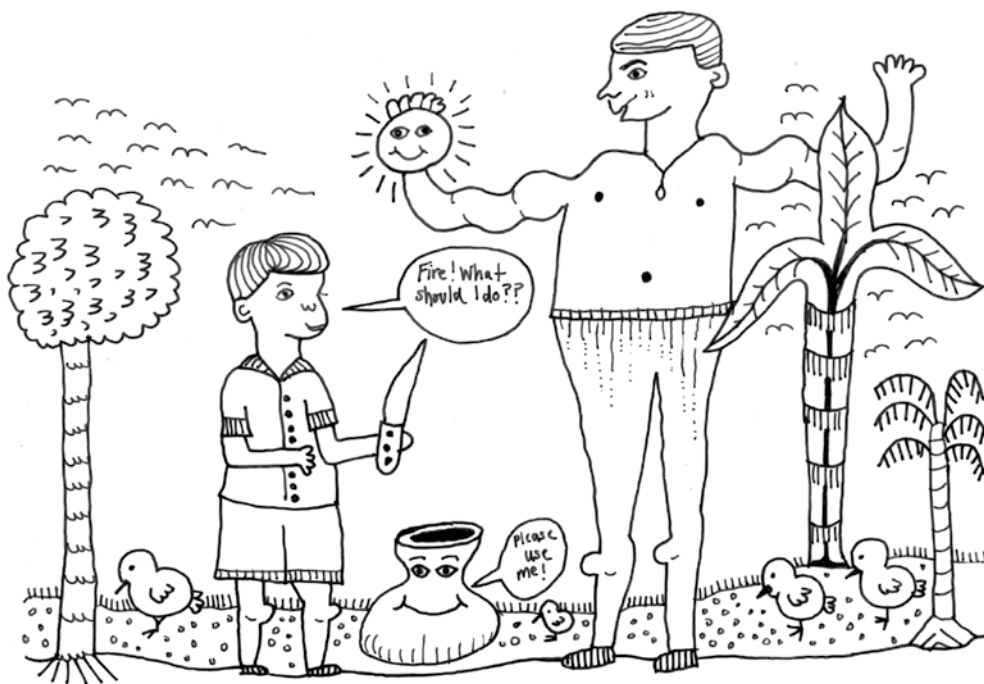
KYEI AND THE GREEDY GIANT

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY SAYIDA HEKIMA NAJAH

Once upon a time, there lived a boy called Kyei who lived in a town called Ada. The people of Ada have not seen the sun for 100 years because a greedy giant stole it. The people of Ada were not happy. The Chief of the town, Chief Issah, sent the gong-gong beater to beat the gong-gong for a meeting. After the gong-gong beater had announced a meeting, the people of Ada gathered at the palace. Chief Issah said, "We haven't seen the sun for 100 years. We cannot live without the sunlight!" Kyei asked fearfully, "What are we going to do?" Chief Issah said, "We have to bring back the stolen sunlight from the greedy giant. All of a sudden, the people of Ada said, "Erghhhh! That greedy giant!"

Kyei asked, "But who will go?" The chief responded, "You, Kyei." "Me!," said Lukman. After the meeting, Lukman was afraid, but his parents Mr. and Mrs. Sulley told him to gather courage and fight the giant. When he was walking into the forest looking for the giant, he heard a voice saying, "May I help you? Should I help you?" He became scared and started crying. Then, he saw that it was a pot that was talking. The pot said, "Take me and I will help you fight the giant." Kyei picked up the pot and continued on his way.

When he reached the land of Giants, Kyei and the pot saw the giant holding the sunlight. Kyei began fighting the giant. The giant was too powerful, even for Kyei. He did not know what to do. The magic pot called up to him, "May I help you? Should I help you?" Kyei said, "Yes, please!" Suddenly, the giant became as tiny as an ant. It was easy for Kyei to take the sun from his hands and throw it back up into the sky. From that time on, there was always sunlight in Ada. Chief Issah and the people of Ada thanked Kyei. Kyei thanked the magic pot. That is the end of my story.





WICKED WITCH AND DOVE

TOLD BY ADAMA YAKUBU

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY NAIM MOHAMMED

Once upon a time, there lived Wicked Witch and Dove in the kingdom of Zebruah. Witch was so wicked that she went to the forest where she could do her magic in secret. She also liked to ask the animals for help with her firewood. Afterwards, she would chew them up.

Unlike Witch, Dove was gentle and wise. He was the king of all of the birds in the forest.

One day, Dove noticed that all of his people, meaning the birds, were dying. He decided to investigate the cause. He sat on top of a tree and watched as Witch had the birds carry her firewood and afterwards how she would chew them up.

Dove called for a meeting with all the birds of the forest. He informed them of Witch's evil deeds. Together, they made a plan to reveal Witch's true colors.

The next day, Dove deliberately fell into Witch's trap. Witch told Dove to carry her firewood. All of a sudden, thousands of birds from the forest flew towards Witch. They threw stone after stone at her. Witch ran away screaming. She was never seen again.

THE GREEDY GIANT WHO TOOK THE SUN AWAY

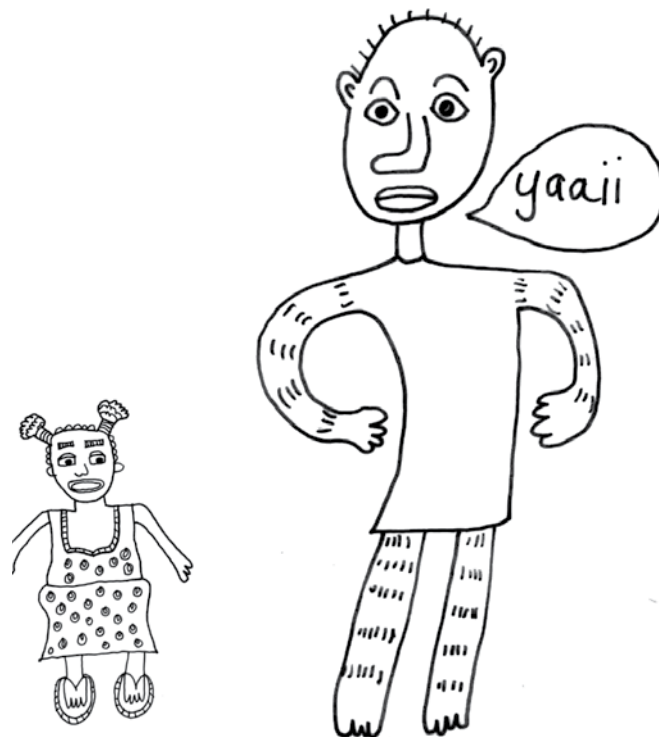
WRITTEN BY NAIM MOHAMMED
ILLUSTRATED BY NAIM MUHAMMAD AND

Once upon a time, there was a village called Ada. Everyone in the village was happy until a greedy giant took away their sun. The village was full of darkness. Because there was no sunlight, the people could never tell when it was day or night. Because there was no sunlight people's washed clothes never dried. Because there was no sunlight, people could not see the activities they were doing. Many people thought that the gods of the land had cursed them.

Naim, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mohammed, was very disturbed by the whole situation. She decided to embark on the dangerous journey to bring back the sunlight. Before she traveled though, Naim needed advice. On her way to fetch water at the river, she consulted a fetish priest. The fetish priest's appearance would even scare adults.

But, because the situation was so dire, Naim did not hesitate to ask him how she could get the sun back for her people. He gave her a black stone. He said, "Rub this stone in the palms of your hands. As you rub it, the giant will get weaker and no longer be able to hold onto the sun." Naim readied for her journey to the distant place where the Giant stayed. She followed the instructions from the fetish priest. As she rubbed her palms together against the stone, she saw the sun slowly return back to the village! And now because the giant was weak, he could never take the sun again.

Everyone in the village was so proud of Naim. She became so popular. The people in the village were so happy to experience a new beginning. Now, the sun brightened their days and dried their clothes.



THE TWO BROTHERS WHO LOVED TO LEARN

WRITTEN BY NAIM MOHAMMED

Once upon a time in a village called Samikrom, there lived two brothers named Kofi and Kwesi. Their father is a gate-man while their mother sold sachet water. They were poor. They lived in a chamber and hall. They slept in the hall and their parents slept in the chamber.

They loved going to school, but could not always afford it. Sometimes, their teachers would sack them for not being able to pay their fees. Kofi was in Class five and Kwesi was in class 4. They only had one school uniform and sometimes would go to school bare-footed and on an empty stomach. Their friends laughed at their appearance, but they paid them no mind. They wanted to learn and make their parents proud.

After school, they would follow their friend Fatima to her house. Together, they would study for the BECE late into the night. Finally, the day came when they would need to take the exam. They passed and received a high score of 6! Kwesi received admission into Aquinas and Kofi received admission to Accra Academy.

The moral lesson of this story is to not give up. Focus and follow your aims and you will achieve what you want in life.

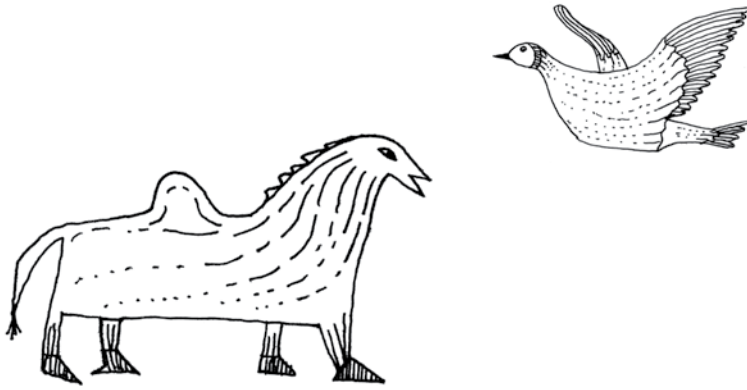
A PROBLEM I AM STILL FACING

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY MUFIDA ISMAIL

One day, I was in class. My mate was playing a game on his phone. I told him to stop, but the teacher saw me talking. When she came over, my mate took the phone and put it under my desk. The teacher asked me, "What is under your desk?" My mate did not talk. The teacher punished me. When I sat down, my teacher continued yelling at me.

This is a problem I am still facing.





HOW THE BIRD GOT ITS WINGS

WRITTEN BY NAIM MOHAMMED

ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE

Once upon a time, there lived Bird and Horse. They were very good friends and everyone knew it. Horse had long legs and was generous. Bird had short legs and was selfish. They did everything together. They ate together. They danced together. They even slept together in the same compound house. At that time, Bird could walk, but not fly. Everyday, Dear and Bird would go into the bush to find meat. Because Bird had short legs, he was not always able to get enough meat. But, Horse would always share his catch with Bird.

One day, when Horse and Bird went hunting for meat, Horse didn't get meat, but Bird did. But, because bird was so selfish, he did not tell Horse about it. Instead, he told him that he was not feeling well and wanted to go home.

Back at his compound, Bird secretly cooked the meat. Meanwhile, Horse was worried about Bird and decided to go check-on him. When Horse arrived, he saw Bird eating the meat! Horse became angry and sacked Bird out of the house. Bird felt ashamed. Horse and bird were not friends anymore.

Without Horse, Bird couldn't do anything. He became worried. He did not eat or bathe. He became sick. He was admitted to the hospital. The doctor said that because Bird has not been eating or drinking, his immune system had become very weak. They had to cut off his long legs. Bird was very worried. He shed tears for a week before the surgery.

The doctor cut off Bird's legs. Bird asked sadly, "Is there anything you can give me that will help me walk?" The doctor thought awhile said, "There is nothing that can be done unless I give you wings." Bird could not say anything. He just nodded his head. The doctor gave Bird medicine to drink and he grew wings in under a week. At first, bird could not fly, but step by step, he learned.

This is how birds got their wings.

GREEDY GIZO-GIZO

WRITTEN BY NAIM MOHAMMED

ILLUSTRATED BY NAIM MOHAMMED AND ZSP ARCHIVE

Once upon a time in the animal kingdom, there lived a spider named Gizo-Gizo and his wife, a praying mantis named Koki. Gizo-Gizo had a round head and colorful round body with eight hairy black legs. He was cunning, lazy, and selfish. He loved his wife very much, but loved money more. Koki had a head shaped like a triangle, two big eyes, and a long body. She was kind, intelligent, and loved her husband very much. They lived in a compound house that Koki managed well.

Gizo-Gizo's best friend was Sponky the elephant. He had long, floppy ears, a small mouth, and a big trunk. He was lazy just like Gizo-Gizo.

Everyday, Koki would plead with Gizo-Gizo, "Please, go and get some food for the family." But, Gizo-Gizo would always pretend that he was too tired. So, Koki would go have to go on her own. Meanwhile, Gizo-Gizo and Elephant would waste their days at the local Drinking Spot, the place where all the irresponsible animals go to drink and gossip about women. These activities continued.

One day, when Gizo-Gizo and Sponky were wandering around uselessly, they saw a cave. The place was quiet and dark. Many animals believed that a ghost lived there. It was also the place where Chief Lion hid his treasure. When Gizo-Gizo and elephant entered, they saw gold, diamonds, bauxite, and other jewels piled high. Gizo-Gizo made a spider web sack and put all of the treasures inside. He selfishly gave Sponky only a quarter of the treasure. Even though he loved his wife, he decided to not bother sharing any of it. He started recklessly spending his money at the Drinking Spot. Sponky started spending his own percentage at the Betting Place.

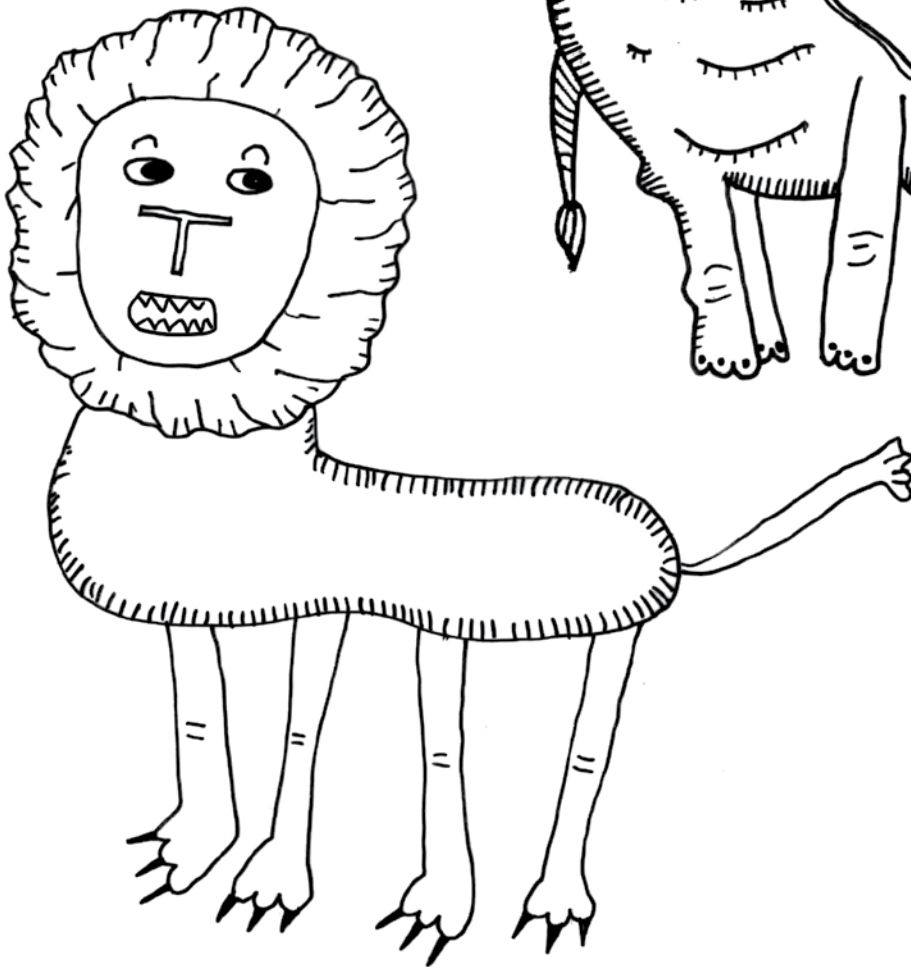
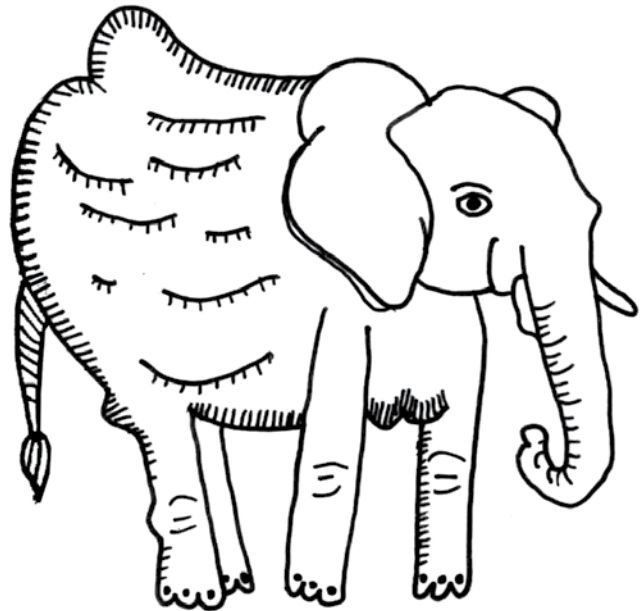
A few month's later, Chief Lion's child announced that his father's treasure had gone missing. Sponky heard the news through gossip at the Betting Place and went to tell Gizo-Gizo. Gizo-Gizo took what remained of the treasure and gave it to his wife so no one would know he was the thief.

While all of this was going on, a tiny and wise tsetse fly named Spongy looked on from above. He quietly flew to Chief Lion's house and informed him of everything he had seen.

Chief Lion accused Gizo-Gizo, Elephant, and Koki for stealing his goods. But, just as they were trying to catch them all, Koki used her magic powers to disguise herself as a leaf. There are rumors she found a new handsome, kind, and responsible husband elsewhere. Meanwhile, Chief Lion gave Gizo-Gizo and Elephant a caning they would never forget. They fled from the Kingdom and were never seen again.

The moral lesson of this story is to not take something that does not belong to you.





THE MAGIC SLIPPERS

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY NAIM MOHAMMED

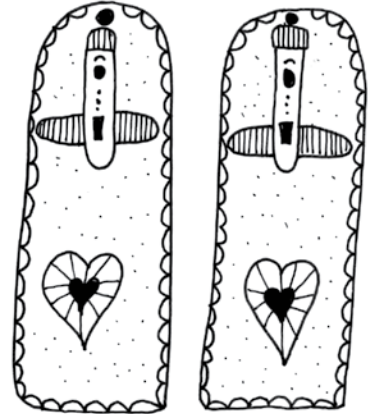
Once upon a time, in a place called Matse, there lived a wicked king called Agorkoli. The people were afraid of him. He did not bring peace to the town, always conflict. Through this conflict, the lives of many innocent people were lost. The people were not happy at all.

Until one day, Hashim, a loving prince from a nearby kingdom, had enough of King Agorkoli's wickedness. He ordered his men to go and fight the king, but to no avail. King Agorkoli won. Even though Hashim was defeated, he did not give up.

When it was Hashim's birthday, his granny gave him two slippers. Hashim was very happy. She explained, "These are not just ordinary slippers, they were magical." Hashim was confused, but his granny explained further. She said, "Whenever you wear these sandals, you will become extra strong. You will be able to defeat anyone who stands in your path. These words and slippers made Hashim very happy."

The next day, Hashim organized another fight between his men and the King Agorkoli's men. As the fight was about to begin, Hashim put on his magical slippers. He easily knocked over all of the men including King Agorkoli.

The people were so happy that they crowned Hashim their new king!



A LADY IN NIMA

ILLUSTRATED BY ABDUL HAKEEM NAJAH

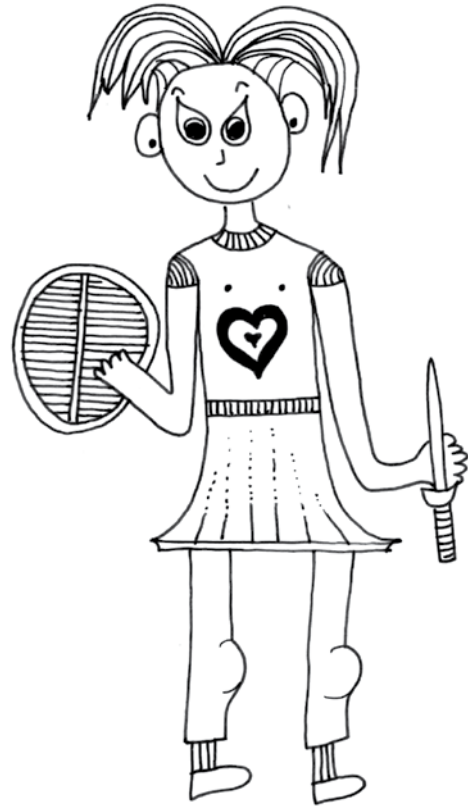
PHOEBE THE SUPERHERO

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY NAIM MOHAMMED

Once upon a time in a city called Abetifi, there lived a superhero called Phoebe. She liked fighting bad villains and saving her city. Everyone liked her. She was very strong. She could put on her superhero costume by blowing bubbles with her Mentos strawberry flavored chewing gum.

One day, when Phoebe was going to school, she met Dr. Minyat. He was a wicked doctor who was trying to rob an old woman. She quickly blew a bubble with her gum and changed into her costume. Phoebe fought the doctor and easily beat him to the ground with her strength.

The Abetifi police came and arrested him. The police and whole town were so proud of Phoebe.



THE WATER RESCUE

WRITTEN BY RABIATU AGYARKO AND RAHINA HAMZA SIDIBE

Once upon a time, a kind King and wise Queen ruled over the city of Waganda. Three small boys named Kojo, Kofi, and Kwame watched over the king and queen with their superior strength. The people who lived in Waganda did not understand how these “small boys” could be as strong as they claimed.

One day, when the three boys were at the market, they heard a report that a wicked Jinn had stolen them away to a distant land at the mouth of the salty sea. They announced, “We will go rescue the king and queen.” They went to the river and found a canoe. They started to paddle. They paddled for ten years before they arrived at the mouth of the salt sea. They used their strength to rescue the king and princess from the hands of the wicked Jinn. Twenty years later, the three boys, now men, arrived back home with the king and queen. The people of Waganda were so happy. They apologized for being wrong about the boys’ strength and praised them for their good deeds.

TALATA AND CHILDHOOD MARRIAGE

WRITTEN BY NAIM MOHAMMED

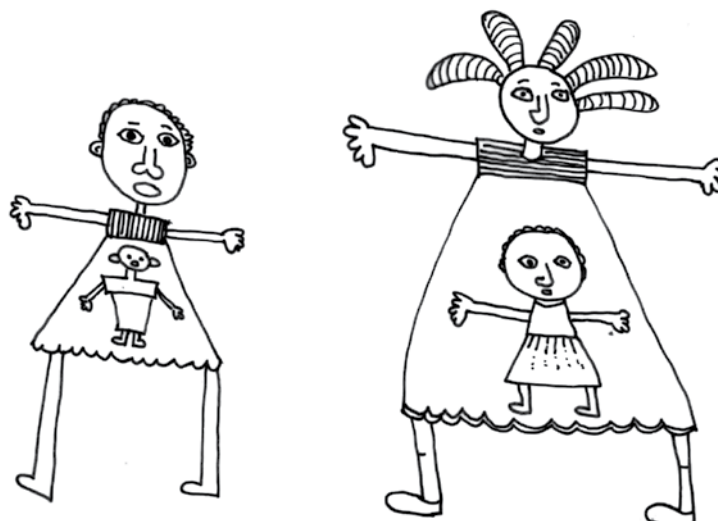
ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE

Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Talata who lived in a small village called Kopata. She was twelve years old and in class six. She loved to gossip and tease those who have been married off. After all, child marriage was very common in her village. She told herself, "That will never be me!" One day, her parents decided to marry off Talata to a neighboring chief's son called Issaka. Talata couldn't hold back her tears. She cried for a long time. Her mother saw her crying, but just gave her a sympathetic look and left the room. As they readied for the marriage, Talata decided to run away.

On her way, she saw an old woman at the side of the road. Talata greeted her and carried her load. Talata lied to the woman saying she was lost. The old woman said, "Don't worry. You can sleep in my house." One night, turned into a week and one week turned into a month. Everyday, she helped the old woman with her chores. They became fond of one another. One day, a Malam who knew Talata saw her at the woman's house and forced her back to Kopata.

The marriage date was set. She hated that her mother and father were just sitting quietly, watching. On their marriage night, Issaka drew close to Talata. Her heart was beating so fast. She cried out, "Please stop! I could be your daughter!" A couple days later, she started feeling uneasy in her belly. She was screaming because her belly hurt so much. Her mother took her to the hospital. She was pregnant. Doctor Asmau said that she would do his best to have the baby delivered safely.

Talata's waist was too small. She was only twelve years old. The baby died in her womb. It was such a painful experience for Talata. Doctor Asmau knew that there was something that needed to be done. She called the DOWVSU (Ghana's Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit). They arrested Issaka for defiling and marrying a minor. They also arrested Malam, Issaka's accomplice and her father for giving Issaka her hand in marriage. Talata left her home and went to live with her friend the old woman. She was cared for well. Later, she got married to a man who was her age. They had a beautiful baby girl. They lived a long happy life.

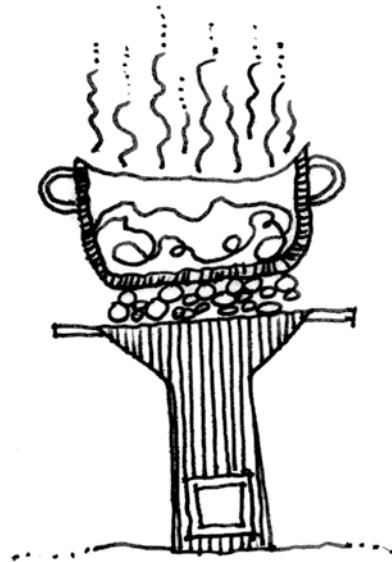


THE GROUNDNUT STEW

WRITTEN BY NATHANIEL OFUSU ASANTE

ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE

One day, I was playing hide and seek with my friends. I was not looking where I was going. I fell into a pot of boiling groundnut stew! I cried for help. I screamed and screamed in pain. My mother helped me get out of the pot, but for a long time I was not able to sit down. I was always lying around. Finally, now I am free. I can do everything again. My first thanks goes God and to my Grandma Mrs. Rose and to Bright for helping and praying for me. Thank you.



THE SHORT DRESS

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY RABIYATU MUHIDEEN

Once upon a time, there lived four friends called Ama, Aku, Kwame and Kojo. They attended the same school called Help Child International School. They were in Form Two.



It was a hot Saturday morning in Accra. Ama and Aku were having a disagreement. Aku had seen a woman wearing a short dress. Aku told Ama, "I will wear a short dress like this!" Ama responded, "I will not wear a dress like this. It is a bad dress." They continued walking and bickering.

They saw Kwame and Kojo. Aku said to Kwame, "Will you buy me a short dress?" Kwame said, "Yes." In her mind, Ama wondered, "Should I do the same?"

THE MISSING PRINCESS

WRITTEN BY NAIM MOHAMMED

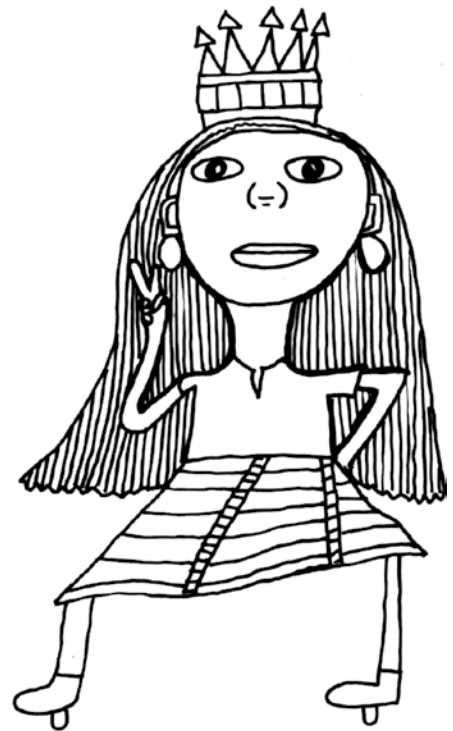
ILLUSTRATED BY RABIATU AGYARKO

Once there lived a princess named Sofia in a village called Zebrucah. When her mother gave birth to her, a wicked wizard cast a spell on her. The spell would cause her to go missing at any time. The queen was so worried. "When will my daughter go missing?" she asked herself with concern. The king brought hundreds of guards to protect her. One morning, the king came to her room and she was missing! He cried out, "Where could Sofia have gone?"

In another part of the kingdom, a man named Faruk was hunting in the forest. He saw a girl in dirty, torn clothes. He felt sorry for the girl and took her to his house. He told his wife Kande to take care of her because he needed to go hustle in Libya. After Faruk left, Kande started maltreating the girl. The girl cried and Kande just laughed at her.

One day, when the girl was washing Kande's clothing outside, she saw a little boy going to school. She admired him. She asked, "Aunty Kande, may I go to school like that little boy?" Kande refused and caned the girl until she cried. The girl missed her parents, but she knew they would never recognize her so she stayed quiet.

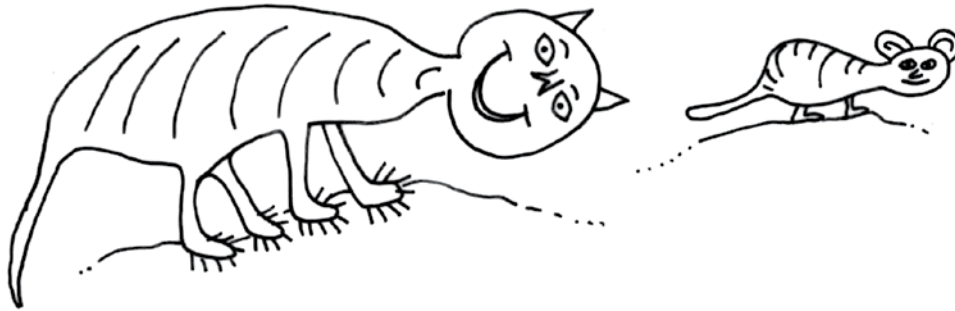
A week later, the girl was washing Kande's dishes. The girl accidentally broke a dish. As Kande was about to cane the girl, a heavy, shiny rain fell from the sky. All of a sudden, the girl became a princess! Kande started pleading for forgiveness. At this very moment, the king and queen's guard was passing by. He was flabbergasted! "Princess!" he cried out. He whisked her away to the castle. The king and queen were so happy to see her. She narrated the whole story to them. They told the guard to bring Kande to the palace. The king said, "Leave this village and never come back!" When the Faruk came back from Libya, he learned about all of the evil things his wife Kande had done. He hunted down the evil wizard and broke the spell. The king, queen, princess, and Zebrucah were so happy!



WICKED CAT AND CUNNING MOUSE

WRITTEN BY RIZQIN FATAWU
ILLUSTRATED BY KEKELI DENNIS DOMI

Once upon a time, there lived a wicked cat who was always chewing on little mice. One day, a cunning mouse came to Cat's room looking for food. Mouse saw Cat and Cat saw Mouse. Mouse quickly made a plan! When the Cat was coming towards her, Mouse poured sticky water all around. Cat fell into the water and drowned. That was the end of Cat!



LOST IN THE FOREST

ACTED BY

NADIA FUTA, MARIAM BASHIRU, HAIRAT MOHAMMED SANI, AMINA MOHAMMED, MUFIDA SUMAEILA,
FAWZIYA SULLEY, NAIM MOHAMMED, ALI AWUDU, SANI MUMUNI, UMAR FARUK ISSAKA

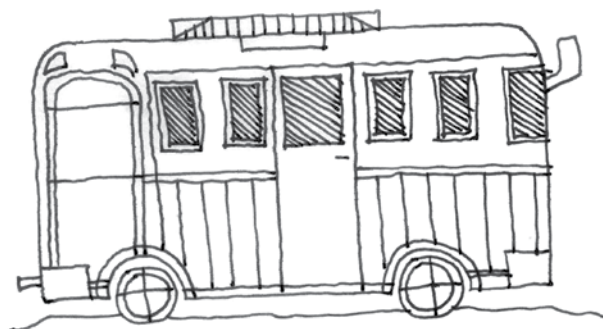
RETOLD BY NAIM MOHAMMED

ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE

One day, a tro-tro ran into a tree and caught on fire! Some of them suffocated in the tro-tro because they could not find their way out. Those who escaped the tro-tro became lost in the forest and could not find their way out.

They began getting hungry. They were caught with so many different kinds of animals like monkeys, wild pigs, hyenas, boars, and pythons. They were so scared!

Those who escaped the animals, started using cardinal points or the direction of the sun to find their way out. Others used maps on their mobile phones. Still others screamed for help. Finally, most of the passengers found their way out of the forest. They made it to the funeral just in time!



THE MAGICAL BAOBAB TREE

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY NATHANIEL OFUSU ASANTE

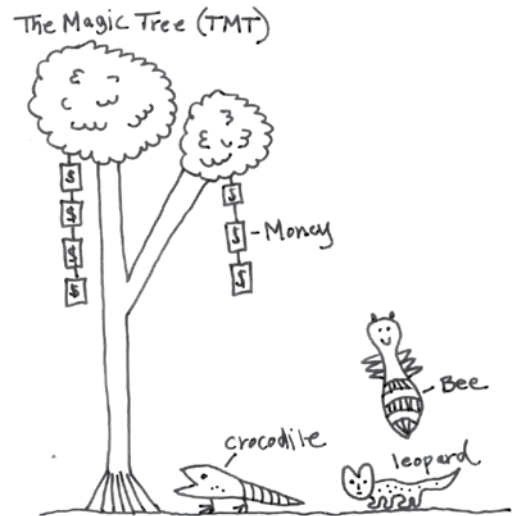
Once upon a time, there was a magical forest. In the center of this forest, there grew a magical Baobob tree. One day, Lazy Leopard, Lying Crocodile, and Generous Bee were in search of food. They saw the magical tree shining brightly with money dangling from its branches. They were shocked.

Lazy Leopard said, "I will lay under this tree to rest. Maybe the tree will shower me with cedis." As he approached the tree, hundreds of cedis fell on his belly. Lying Crocodile and Generous Bee also decided to approach the tree. They too were showered with money. They each took their riches and decided to do different things.

Lazy Leopard settled in the wealthy suburb of Accra called Legon. He chopped all of his money and spent the rest of his life begging.

Lying Crocodile settled in Aburi. He was always lying to people, but one day it came back to him. He spent the rest of his days in jail.

Generous Bee settled in Medina. He became a successful businessman and was always giving his money to those in need. He was highly respected and lived a happy, fulfilling life with his people.



YABA GETS SICK

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY SALAMATU MOHAMMED

Yaba was a young girl who lived in Nima. She liked eating too much sugar. She didn't listen to her parent's advice. She continued eating cakes, toffees, and Fanta minerals. One day, Yaba was feeling sick. Her parents rushed her to the hospital and were shy to tell the doctor what Yaba had been eating. Finally, Yaba learned her lesson. Now, she only eats one toffee on Fridays.

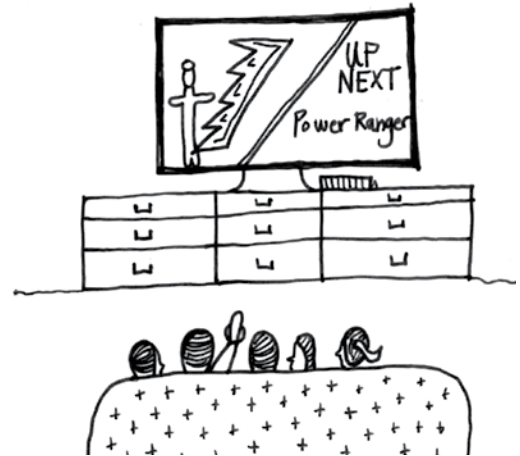
LIBABATU'S BEAUTIFUL SITTING ROOM

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY RIZQIN FATAWU

Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Libabatu who lived in Nima. She had a beautiful sitting room.

She would say, "I have a sitting room in my house so I am happy. I feel like a rich person." Whenever she didn't feel happy, she would go to her sitting room.

It helped her feel relaxed and changed her mood from sad to happy.



RABI AND HEKIMA GO TO A PARTY

WRITTEN BY RABIYATU MUHIDEEN

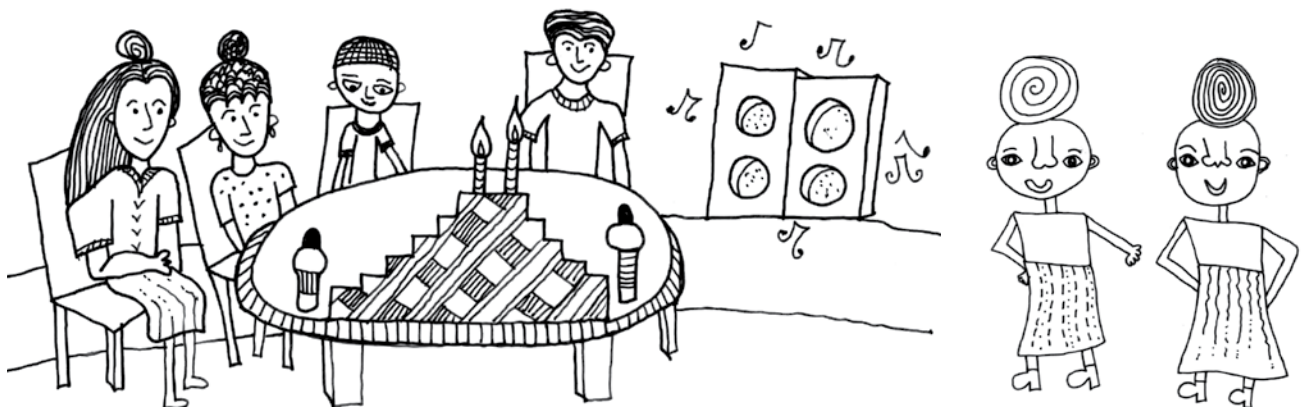
ILLUSTRATED BY BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA AND RAHEENA SULLEYMAN

Rabi was twelve years old. She was from at Tamale, but staying at Maamobi. She was in Form One. She loved modeling and someday wanted to become a fashion designer. Her best friend was Hekima who wanted to become a teacher.

One day, Rabi told Hekima that when she grows up, she wants to be a fashion model. The next day, Hekima told Rabi that she wants to be a teacher.

One day, Rabi and Hekima were invited to a birthday party. They were very happy to be invited and dressed in their newest and best cloth. They walked to the party together. Many women were jealous of their beautiful dresses because theirs were not as beautiful. Some women were so jealous that they wanted to ruin Rabi and Hekima's dresses. A woman named Hajia Kishi threw here Sobolo at them, but they ran away just in time.

This was not the kind of party they had been expecting or hoping for.



AFI THE CARELESS COOK

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY RABIYATU MUHIDEEN

Mr. Edem taught Mathematics in Accra Girls Senior High School. His wife Ama was a nurse at Ridge Hospital. They had two children named Afi and Musah. Afi was sixteen years old and had just completed her BECE. She was waiting for her BECE results. Musah was eight years old and in class three.

One afternoon, their mother asked Afi to prepare banku and groundnut soup. She bought all of the ingredients from the market. When she was putting the groundnuts in the soup, Afi's mother received a phone call. It was Afi's teacher who announced that Afi's results were posted. Afi was so excited. She ran to the school, carelessly leaving the soup unattended.

When Afi came back, the fowl had eaten all of the groundnuts! She did not know whether to cry or laugh. She stood there for some time, deep in thought. Afi had an idea. She had pocket money in her purse. She used it to buy groundnut paste. Afterwards, she used a stick to heat the fowls over the fire. That night, when her father tasted the food, he called to her mother. Afi was very concerned about what he would say. But, he announced, "This is the best groundnut stew I have ever tasted. Afi's mother responded, "Maybe it has something to do with Afi's high BECE results!" Afi was relieved, but knew she could not afford to be careless like that again.



AMA AND THE RICH MAN

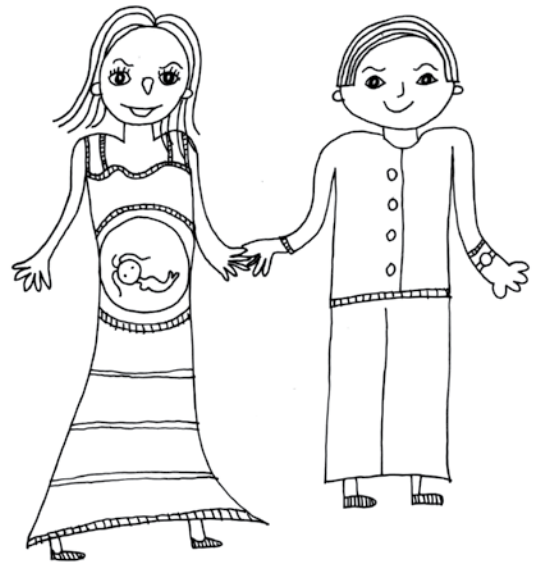
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY RIZQIN FATAWU

Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Ama. Her family was very poor. She lived with her grandmother. She was good in school. She wanted to become a designer when she grew up, but could barely get enough money to eat.

One day, when Ama was going to school, she saw a rich man in his car. The man also saw Ama. He said, "Hello my name is Mr. Asamoha. How are you?" He could tell Ama came from a poor family by the way she dressed. The man parked his car and asked Ama if he could meet her family. She agreed because he seemed kind, but was wary of the stranger. Before long, Ama, her family, and Mr. Asamoha became friends. They ate food together.

Ten years later, Ama and Mr. Asamoha got married and had a baby girl.

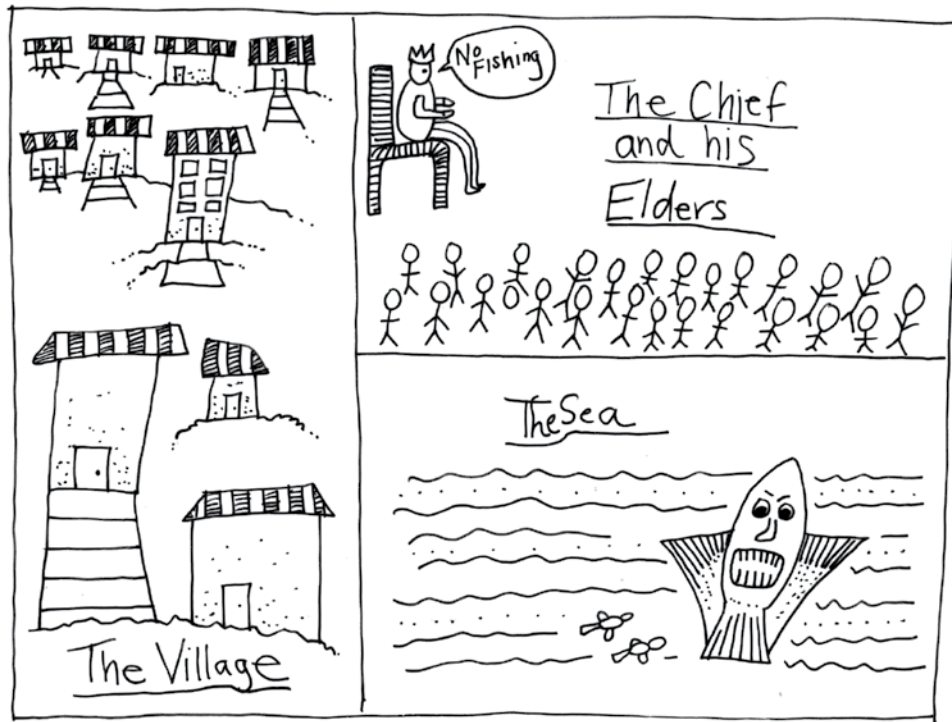
Now, Ama has started her own design business. She is always designs Mr. Asamoha's shirts. She also does henna (the Hausa word for henna) designs on women's hands and feet for marriage and naming ceremonies. They all all lived happily together.



SPITTING MOSQUITOES

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY SALAMATU MOHAMMED

There are thousands of mosquitoes living in Nima. Even though they are tiny, they are such dangerous animals. They like to suck your blood and poison you. They play in the toilets and spit in your food. I hate them. Thank you.



NO FISHING FOR A MONTH

ACTED BY

BRIGHT, NATHANIEL, KEKELI, EMELIA, HIKIMA, BLESSING, HAKIM, NADIA, HADDY, RJ

RETOLD BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN (RJ)

ILLUSTRATED BY KEKELI DENNIS DOMI

There was once a young fisherman named Kwame who lived in a town called Mampong. One day, his chief announced, "No one should go fishing in the river for a month." The chief explained, "If anyone breaks the rule, they might be sacked from the village, drown in the river, or meet wild animals such as sharks and crocodiles. Kwame did not know what to do. He needed fish to feed his family.

Kwame decided to take a chance. He paddled and paddled. He thought everything was fine, until all of a sudden, he was attacked by a huge sea monster. The sea monster swallowed him up. When his family and other villagers went to look for Kwame, he was nowhere to be found. Finally, they went to the chief for help. They said, "Please, Kwame went fishing in the river!"

The chief was angry that Kwame did not follow his rules. But, because he was a kind man, he said, "I will forgive Kwame if his family makes a sacrifice to the river gods and ancestors." Kwame's family agreed. They purchased an egg, white chicken, and ram and gave it to the Priestess of the village. She danced and sung. She slaughtered the chicken and ram and threw the egg on the ground. When the rites were finished, the village went silent. Would Kwame ever return? Then, they saw him walking up the road from the river. He felt so ashamed, but his family, the villagers, and the chief forgave him. Kwame learned his lesson. From then on, he and everyone else listened to the chief's words.

HOW THE DOVE GOT ITS WINGS

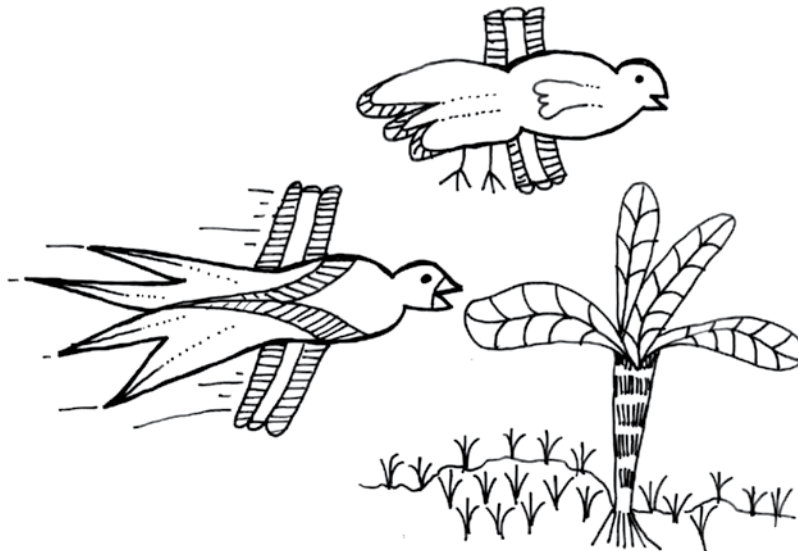
WRITTEN BY RABIYATU MUHIDEEN

ILLUSTRATED BY BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA

Once there was a Dove who lived in Nima. He was always sitting quietly and playing with his friend Eagle. Eagle could fly, but Dove could not. Dove was always looking longingly as Eagle took flight. One day, Dove said to him, "I wish I could fly like you." Eagle said, "But you don't have wings. How can you fly?"

The next day eagle said, "I will take you into the sky so you can fly." Dove responded fearfully, "I don't have wings. How can I fly?" Eagle said, "Don't worry. I will carry you on my back." When they reached the highest point in the sky, Eagle removed one of his wings and divided it into two. He then carefully attached one to each side of Dove's body. Eagle let her go and she soared happily through the Accra skies.

This is how Dove got its wings.



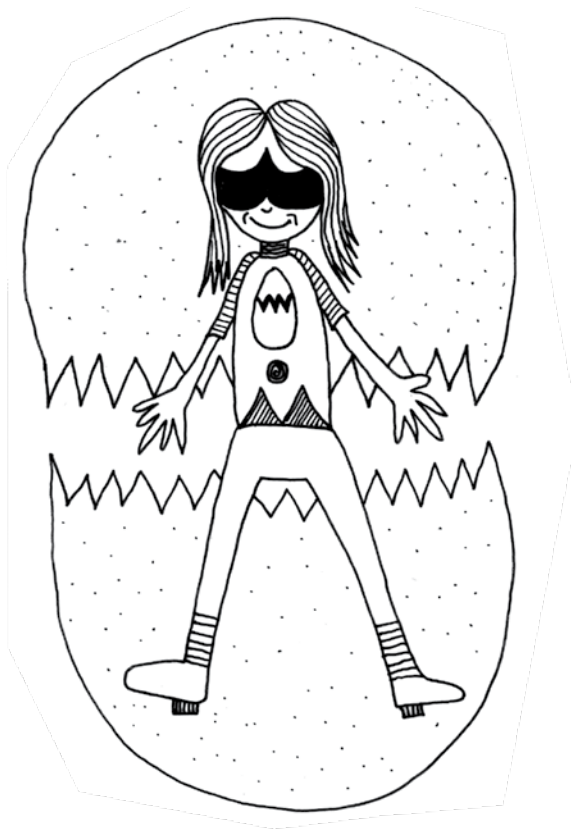
READY FOR CHANGE

WRITTEN BY YAKUBU IBRAHIM

Once upon a time, there lived a boy called Kalahari in Kotokoraba. He had been hearing his grandparents and parents talking a lot about change. They were saying, "Change is bad. This change, we don't want it." But, it seems to be coming anyway. At least, that is what our teacher at school says. She thinks we have to be ready for change and that is why it is important to be educated. What do you think about change?

EGG GIRL

ILLUSTRATED BY RIZQIN FATAWU



NOT SAFE IN MY COUNTRY

ACTED BY

RIZQIN FATALAWU, KHADIJA FATAWU, MUKTARI MOHAMMED, ISSAH MOHAMMED, SALAMATU MOHAMMED,
SHERIFU OSMAN, KHADIJAH MOHAMMED, RAHEENA SULLEYMAN,
FLORENCE EFYA

RETOLD BY RIZQIN FATALAWU

ILLUSTRATED BY SALAMATU MOHAMMED

One day, a couple of strangers had to leave their homes because it was no longer safe in their country. Late that night, they entered a small village called Kakra.

They knocked on the door of a compound. The people refused to answer. They knocked on another door of a compound. They answered, but would not let them inside. They knocked on a third door, but the people said, "Leave, leave! We don't know you."

They did not know what to do. They felt shy, lonely, and scared. Finally, they decided to go to the chief. The chief was kindhearted and finally gave them a beautiful house to stay in. Slowly, the strangers came to know their neighbors. After a time, they were not strangers anymore. Everyone received their freedom.

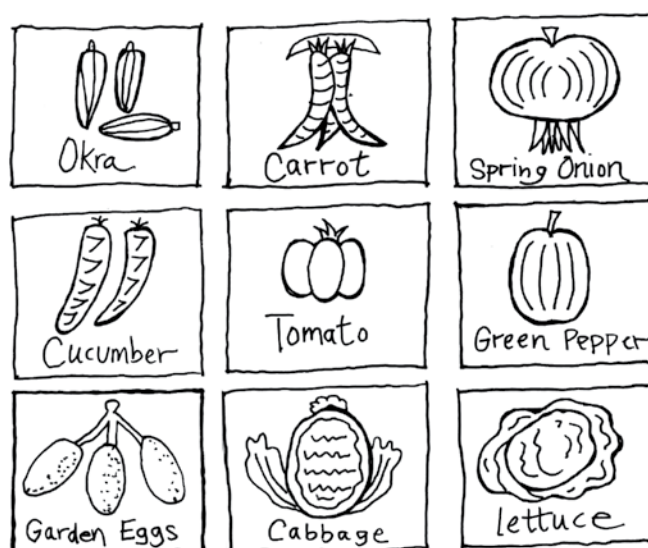
THE HARVEST

WRITTEN BY RIZQIN FATAWU AND BLESSING ANAAMLIE AFELIBISA

ILLUSTRATED BY AMR BILAL BIM HUSSEIN

Once upon a time, there lived a family called Adjei. They lived a poor home in the city of Kumasi in the Ashanti Region. Mr. and Mrs. Adjei had seven children. Every weekend, they would go the farm. They worked hard to plant, care for, and harvest their crops.

One year, they harvested so many crops like cassava, maize, tomatoes, garden eggs, okra, spring onions, and green peppers. "What will we do with all of these vegetables they wondered in delight. They decided to sell them to traders. They received money from the traders and enlarged their farm. The next year, they harvested even more crops. Little by little, they became very rich. In fact, they became the richest family in all of Kumasi.



A BAD DAY FOR ADAMU

WRITTEN BY SALAMATU MOHAMMED

Once upon a time, there was a butcher named Adamu. He had a shop in Nima market where he sold fresh goat meat. Adamu kept his goats and an old bicycle at his home. Every morning, Adamu rode his bicycle to cut grass for the goats to eat.

One morning, something bad happened! As he was crossing a small bridge on his bicycle, a sheep stood in the middle of the road. Because Adamu did not want to hit the sheep, he swerved right and fell into the gutter. Some people pulled Adamu out of the gutter. Adamu had cuts all over his knees and shoulders. Blood started pouring out of the cuts. He was so scared. His younger brother Musah took Adamu to the local clinic. The nurse carefully dressed the cuts. Adamu could no longer go to the shop to sell his goat meat and his bicycle was spoiled all because of a sheep in the middle of the road. It was a bad day for Adamu!

I WANT TO EAT YOU UP!

WRITTEN BY RIZQIN FATAWU

There was once a wise chicken and worried crocodile living in a forest with many other animals. One day, Wise Chicken went to the river to fetch some water. Worried Crocodile approached her and said, "I want to eat you up!" Wise Chicken cried out, "Oh, please don't eat me, you are my brother!" Worried Crocodile allowed her go.

The next day, Wise Chicken returned to the same river to fetch more water. Again, Worried Crocodile approached her. Worried Crocodile exclaimed, "Today, I want to eat you up!" But again, Wise Chicken cried out, "My dear brother, please don't eat me!"

Worried Crocodile was confused. He asked himself, "Why does she keep calling me brother? How can I be her brother? I live in the water and she doesn't." If indeed they were brother and sister, he should not eat her up.

Crocodile went to Clever Lizard for advice. He explained, "My dear friend. I need your help. Chicken comes to the river everyday. She tells me that I am her brother, but how can that be?" Clever Lizard shook his head and said, "My silly friend. Just like lizards, turtles, and crocodiles, chickens also lay eggs. So my dear, we are all brothers and sisters. Do you understand?" Worried Crocodile felt shy and said, "Thank you so much."

He decided to never eat any animal who lays eggs again. Little did Worried Crocodile know, that had been Wise Chicken's and Clever Lizard's plan all along! The End.

QUEEN ALICE AND HER SPECIAL BRACELET

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY RAHINA HAMZA SIDIBE

Queen Alice was a foreign girl. She lived in a palace far away in America. For her birthday, she was given a special bracelet. It had special ice powers. Whenever Alice became angry, ice would shoot out from her bracelet and freeze the person she was fighting.

One day, Queen Alice came across a wicked witch when traveling to Ghana on Delta Airways. The witch did not like her and Alice did not like the witch. When she was exiting the plane, the witch intentionally pushed Alice. Alice became so angry! Ice shot out of her bracelet. The witch became ice. That was the end of the wicked witch!

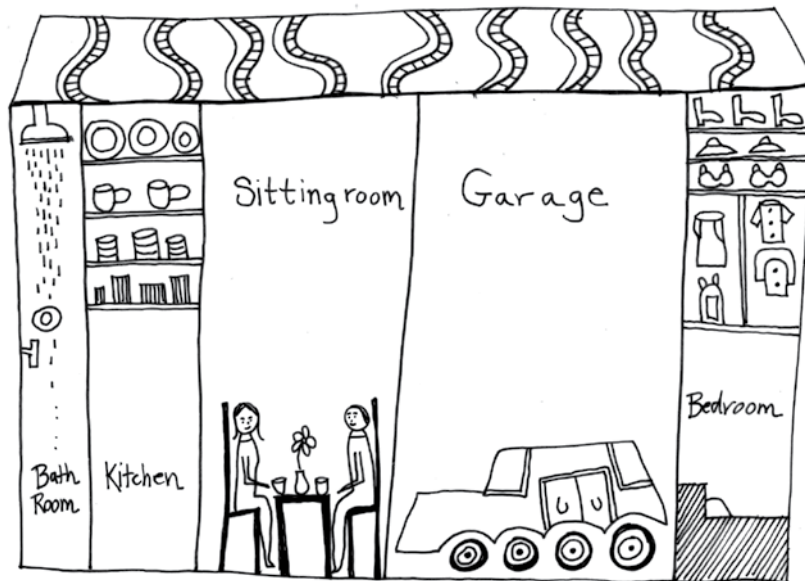


SLEEPING OUTSIDE

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY RIZQIN FATAWU

Once upon a time, there lived two people named Fatima and Abdul in a city called Tema. They were happily married and lived in a beautiful house. There was a third woman named Mariama who wanted to destroy them. She hated them so much and they didn't know why. "Why is she hating on us? What should we do?" Fatima and Abdul wondered.

One day, Fatima was walking home late in the evening. She saw Mariama sitting under a bridge. She realized Mariama has been sleeping outside. "She does not have a room to sleep in," Fatima thought to herself. She felt sympathy for Mariama and went to tell her husband the sad news. Fatima and Abdul decided to build a house for Mariama. Mariama was so happy. They all lived peacefully together for the rest of their lives.



AMA

WRITTEN BY RIZQIN FATAWU

Once upon a time, there lived a girl named Ama. She was 8 years old. She lived in a nice place called Nima. She was very good in class. Ama was in class 6. She liked reading in school and in her house. Ama would go to the library every day. She became the best reader in the class. Eventually Ama became a world class newswoman and shared what was happening in Nima with the rest of the world.

KOKI AND HER FRIENDS

GRASSHOPPER, BEE, AND BUTTERFLY

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY RABIYATU MUHIDEEN

Koki and her husband lived in a hut in a tall Kapok tree. They had three friends named Bee, Butterfly, and Grasshopper. Koki was a praying mantis. She was greedy. Her husband spider was hardworking, but almost never around. Grasshopper was a plant eater who was always destroying crops, but had good intentions. She was also forgetful. Bee was a flying insect closely related to Koki. She was very kind. Butterfly was the smartest of them all. She had large scaly wings with six legs. Her body was divided into three parts and covered in tiny sensory hairs. Koki, Grasshopper, Bee, and Butterfly did everything together. Everyday, they would eat, dance, and sing. They also worked and shared money among themselves.

One day, Koki was tired. She decided to lie to her friends Butterfly, Grasshopper, and Bee. "I am not feeling well," she complained. When they came back from work, they shared some of their money with Koki. She thought to herself, "Hmmm. Why should I work if my friends will always bring me chop money?" The next day, she decided to do the same routine. "I am still sick," she pretended. Butterfly and grasshopper felt sympathy for her. They went to work and when they came back, they gave her chop money again.

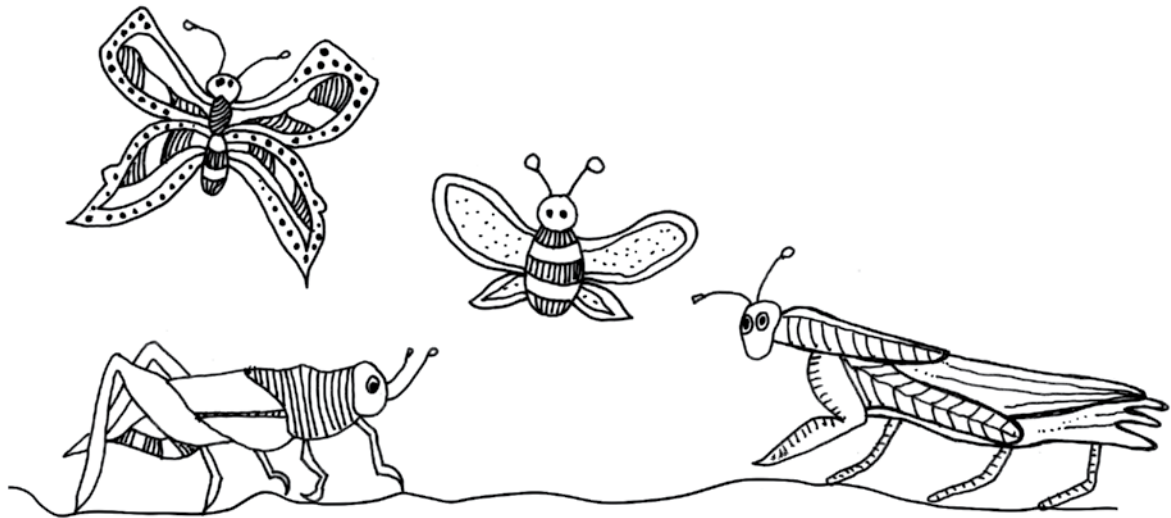
The third day, Koki still complained of a stomach ache. They went to work, but Grasshopper realized she had forgotten her purse at Koki's hut. Even from a distance, she saw Koki dancing in the trees! She realized Koki had been lying all along. He went to tell Bee and Butterfly. They were angry that Koki had been lying and cheating them. They decided to teach Koki a lesson. They went to her hut and said, "Koki, we have seen some money at the river." Koki was excited, but the river was far. "I can't fly very well when I am sick. How will I get to the river?" she asked. Butterfly answered, "Don't worry. I will carry you on my back. We will go together."

Koki climbed on Butterfly's back and carried her to the river. Bee followed along beside them and grasshopper waited patiently for their return. When they arrived, Butterfly did not land at the river's edge. Instead, she hovered over the water. "What are you doing?!" Koki cried. "I am going to fall off your back and drown in the river!" Butterfly and Bee said, "When we were working hard, you were lying and cheating us!" Koki didn't know what to say. Bee added, "If you do not tell us the truth, we will let you fall into the water. Stubborn Koki didn't say a thing and so they dropped her into the river!"

For three days, no one knew where Koki was except Butterfly, Bee, and Grasshopper. Gizo-Gizo was very sad. "Where had his wife gone?" He wondered. At last, Gizo-Gizo went to the river on a mission for his water cleaning company. He saw his wife's dead body washed up on shore. He wept and wept, but knew his greedy wife had gotten what was coming to her.

The moral lesson of this story is that we should not be greedy. We should be hardworking. If you do bad, it will come back to get you.



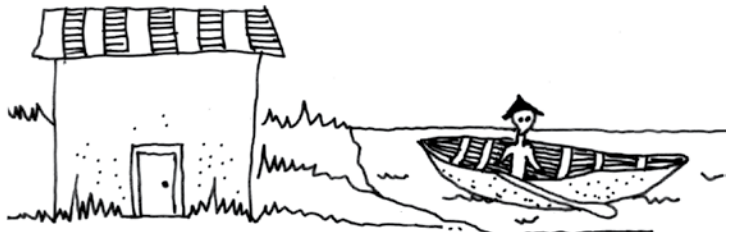


Gizo's Hut



Bee's House

Butterfly's House



Grasshopper's House

THE AGREEMENT

WRITTEN BY RIZQIN FATAWU

ILLUSTRATED BY RIZQIN FATAWU AND ZSP ARCHIVE

Some years ago, a spider named Gizo-Gizo, his wife - a praying mantis named Koki, and his friend Leopard lived together in a village called Ohakrom. Koki was good hearted and always wanted to take care of her family. Gizo-Gizo was cunning and deceitful. His friend Leopard was obedient and respectful.

One day, a famine struck the village of Ohakrom and resulted in many deaths. The people and animals of the village did not know what to do. Gizo-Gizo turned to his friend Leopard and said, "Let us enter into an agreement. Because there is no food for our families, let us take turns killing our children so the rest of us can eat small. They were desperate, so Leopard agreed. Because these friends lived in different areas of the village, they could never see the activities of the other.

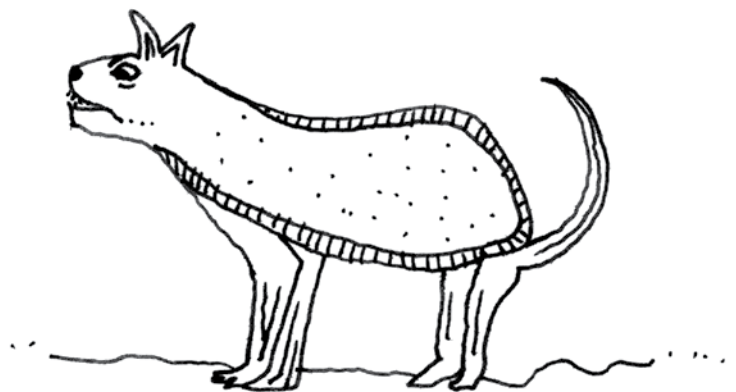
The first week, it was the Leopard's turn to kill one of his children. He did it according to the agreement and sent some of the meat to Gizo-Gizo. Because Koki did not know where the meat was coming from, she was pleased with her husband's efforts to find them food.

The next week, Gizo-Gizo pretended to kill one of his children, but didn't. Instead, he took some of the meat Leopard had given him the week before and sent it to Leopard's house. Every week it went on like this. Gizo-Gizo was enjoying the meat while Leopard sacrificed his children to feed them all.

Finally, when famine ended, Leopard paid Gizo-Gizo a surprise visit. He cried out, "Gizo-Gizo! All of your children are here. There is not one you sacrificed during the famine. Meanwhile, I sacrificed all of my children for us."

Leopard became so angry and started breathing fire at Gizo-Gizo. Koki too became very angry and threatened to bite off his head. Gizo-Gizo managed to escape the village and hide in a corner of a house in Nima. He never saw his wife Koki, his children, or Leopard again. This is why Gizo-Gizo is always found in our homes.

Children, it is wise to honor any promise that you make to friends. You should guard against dishonesty.

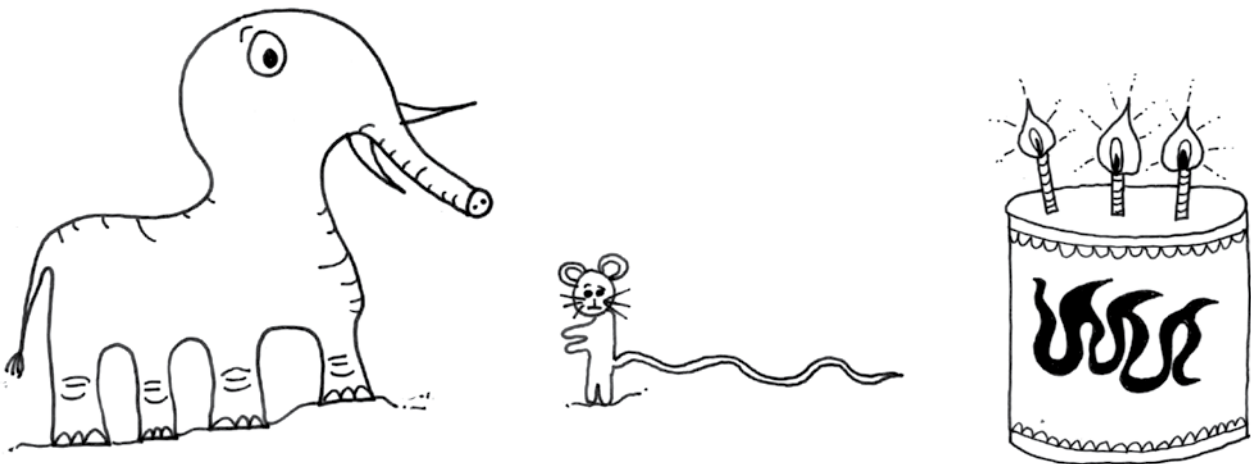


MOLLY GETS HUNGRY

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY SALAMATU MOHAMMED

Once upon a time, there lived an elephant named Bella and her pet mouse named Molly. They were best friends. Bella was big. Molly was small. They were best friends. Every morning, Molly jumped off her small bed to say good morning to Bella.

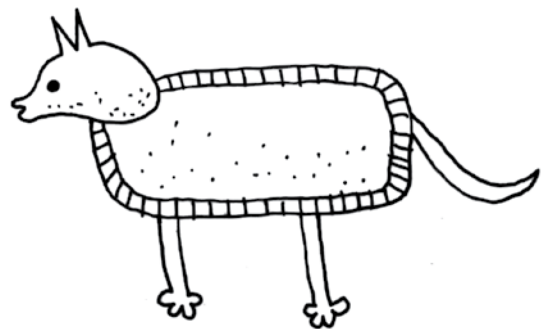
One day, they were going to a birthday party. Molly was hungry and feeling greedy. They greeted the people at the party. The people at the party greeted them. Elephant said, "My name is Bella." Mouse said slyly, "My name is 'All of You'." When a server brought them food, he announced, "All of you, come and eat!" Molly ate all of the food including the birthday cake! Bella was feeling shy that her friend had been so greedy. But, the next day, Molly felt very sick. Bella scolded her and said, "That is what you get for being greedy! Now you have learned your lesson that you should not go to a birthday party hungry!"



DOGS

WRITTEN BY SALAMATU MOHAMMED
ILLUSTRATED BY NADIATU BASHIRU HARUNA

Dogs are wild animals. They mostly live in our houses. They are our friends. They take care of us and prevent thieves from entering our houses. They are always helping human beings.



THE MAGICAL PALM NUT TREE DISAPPOINTS

WRITTEN BY SALIFU OSMAN MARGA
ILLUSTRATED BY ZSP ARCHIVE

One day, a magical palm nut tree showered a lazy bush cat, lying crocodile, and generous guinea hen with money. They were very confused. They did not know what to do with Ghana cedis. After all, they didn't need to buy things at the market. Everything they needed was in the forest.

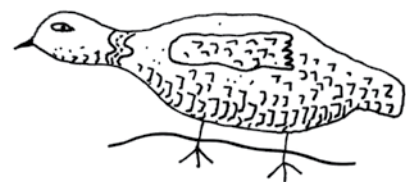
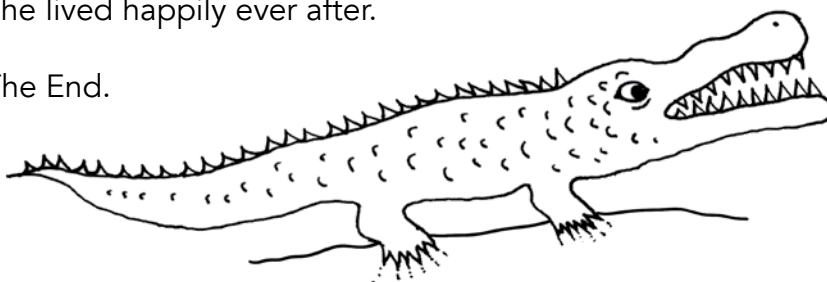
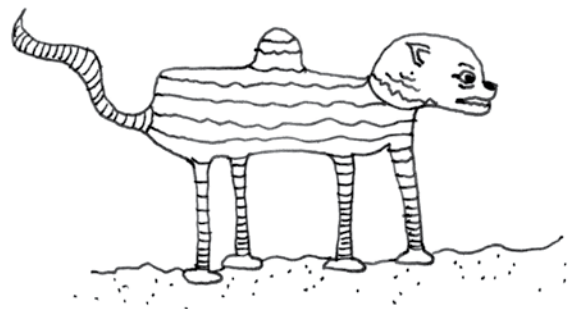
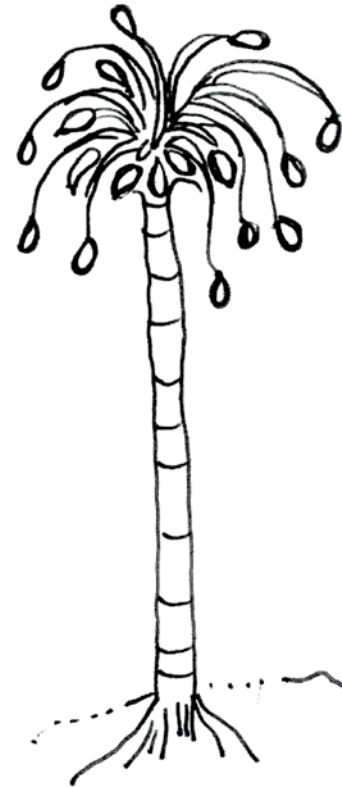
They said out loud, "I wish the tree could have showered us with things we need like goats, chickens, and flowers!" But, they tried to make the most of the cash the tree had given them.

Lazy Bush cat took his money and made it into a bed to sleep on. He dreamed of eating goats. Eventually, the money spoiled from the sun and rain. Now he has no place to sleep and is too tired to catch any meat.

Lying crocodile lied to his friend snake. He said, "Snake, this money will help you catch food! Snake was excited and took the money in exchange for a chicken. But later, snake realized crocodile was lying. Snake spoiled his name all over the forest. Lying crocodile never had a friend again.

Generous guinea hen gave her money to human beings because she felt like they could use it more than her. The humans were so grateful that they gave her all of the insects in the world. She lived happily ever after.

The End.

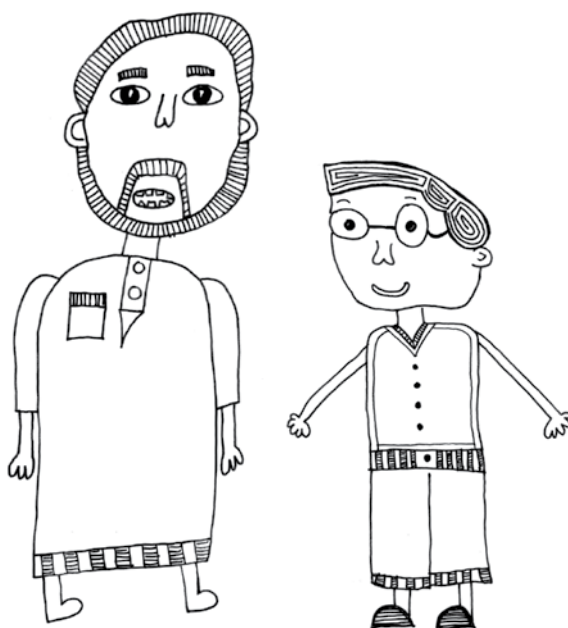


YUSUF AND HIS FATHER

WRITTEN BY SELASI DOMI KINGSLEY

ILLUSTRATED BY ABDUL HADDY NAJAH AND NADIATU BASHIRU HARUNA

Once there was a cat called Yusuf. His mother died when she was giving birth to him. Yusuf lived in a compound house in Kropa with his father. Yusuf and his father did everything together. They swept the room together. They danced together. They would sing out, "Our day, Kulikuli! Our day, Fanta! Our day, Kulikuli! Our day, Fanta!"



THE ENEMIES ARE WORRIED

WRITTEN BY SALIFU OSMAN MARGA

Once upon a time, there lived a woman named Fati who lived at Nima. She was fair in complexion. She had small eyes, small nose, and a big mouth. Her best friend was named Gloria.

On some Tuesday though, Gloria decided to make Fati her enemy. Fati did not mind her. Gloria was always sad when she saw Fati dressed in beautiful cloth. And, when Fati gave birth to a baby boy named Salifu, her jealousy grew.

Now Salifu has finished school and is studying to become a doctor. Gloria's jealousy became so much that she decided to do something to Fati. She went to a fetish priest and told him, "I want you to make Fati a foolish woman!" But, because Fati was always praying to God, it didn't work. Gloria spent the rest of her life sad and alone. So, don't be jealous of other people. You don't know where your worries will take you.

THE EXCURSION

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY NAIM MOHAMMED

It all started on a Saturday morning. The weather was cool for an excursion. I was a little anxious, but had no idea that I was going to face the biggest problem of my life. I packed my bag quickly and kissed my parents goodbye. I hopped on the bus and took the front seat next to my friends. We arrived to the Cultural Center around 11:15. We got down from the bus and were led around by a tour guide. We saw a lot of sculptures, art, bags, bracelets, and were taught how to carve drums. I had a small notebook with me and was writing down everything the tour guide said. My friends were laughing at me, but what can you say to someone who has never been on an excursion before?

Later on, we went swimming at the beach. Wild pigs chased us along the water's edge! We called this game, "Run for your life!" I couldn't wait for my friends. We were all yelling to our teachers. Finally, a man chased the pigs off with a stick. At that time, I knew we were safe. We went to a restaurant to have lunch and ate to our satisfaction.

When I came back home, I narrated everything to my parents. Then, I went to rest in my room. When I was about to take my notebook out of my bag, I saw a piece of artwork inside. I was flabbergasted! It looked like one that I had seen during the excursion. At that point, I knew one of my friends had played a prank on me. I felt like screaming, but knew something needed to be done.

I went to my big brother's room and told him about the incident. He mocked me. I wished



I could have cast a spell on him. He told me that if I did his chores for him, he would come up with a plan. When day broke, I quickly did his chores for him and rushed to his room. My brother gave me two options. He said, "You need to either sneak the painting back or go to jail." I couldn't utter any word. I just nodded my head. I asked myself, "When will this calamity end?" Of course I chose to sneak the painting back. I told my parents that my brother and I needed to visit a friend. We boarded a car and went to the Cultural Center. My brother distracted the tour guides while I sneakily put the painting back in its place.

That night, I slept so well and know I snored loudly. That is the biggest problem I have ever faced. But in a way, it made the excursion even that much more fun.

THE END

ILLUSTRATED BY KEKELI DENNIS DOMI

