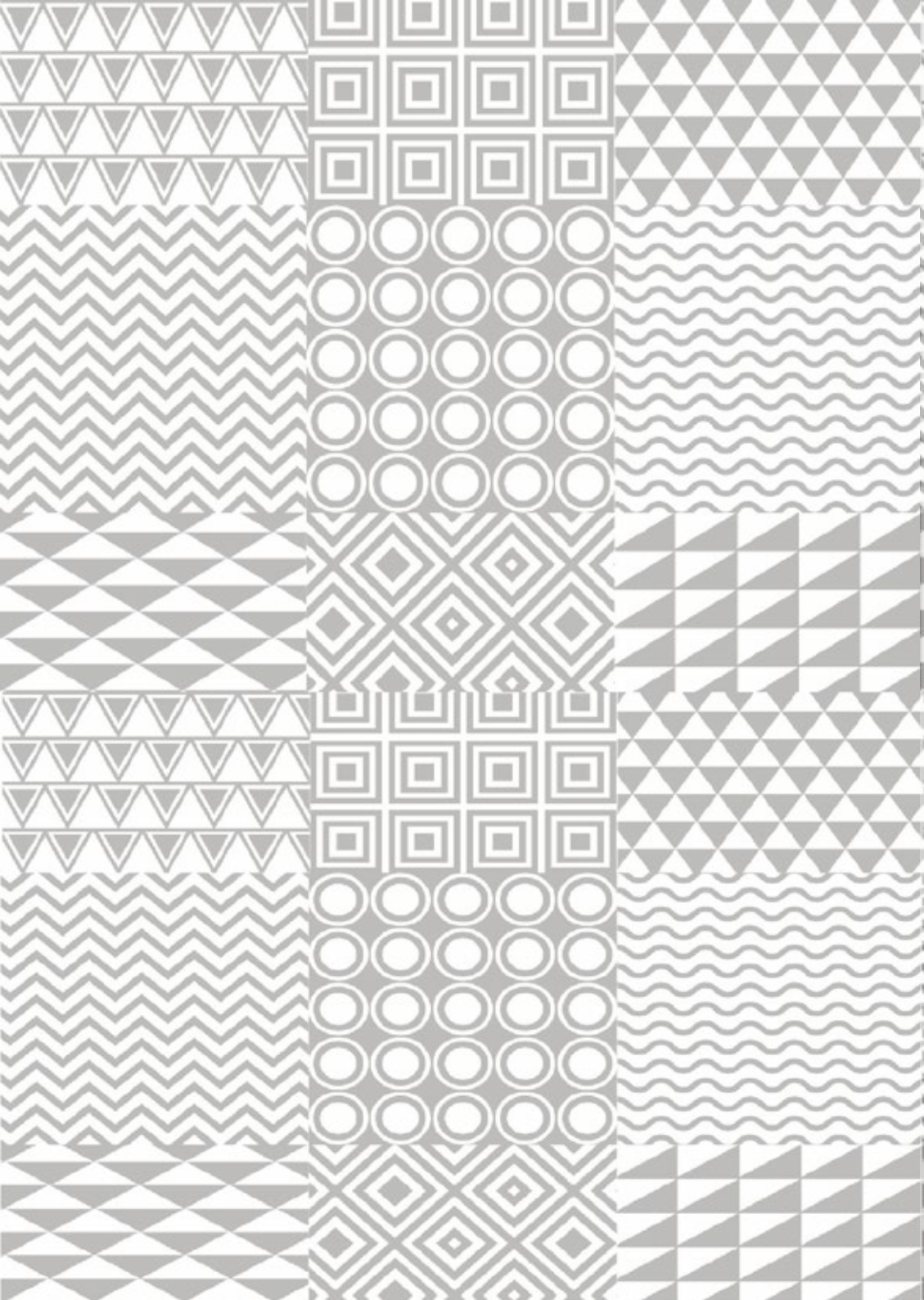


# EDUCATING LINDA

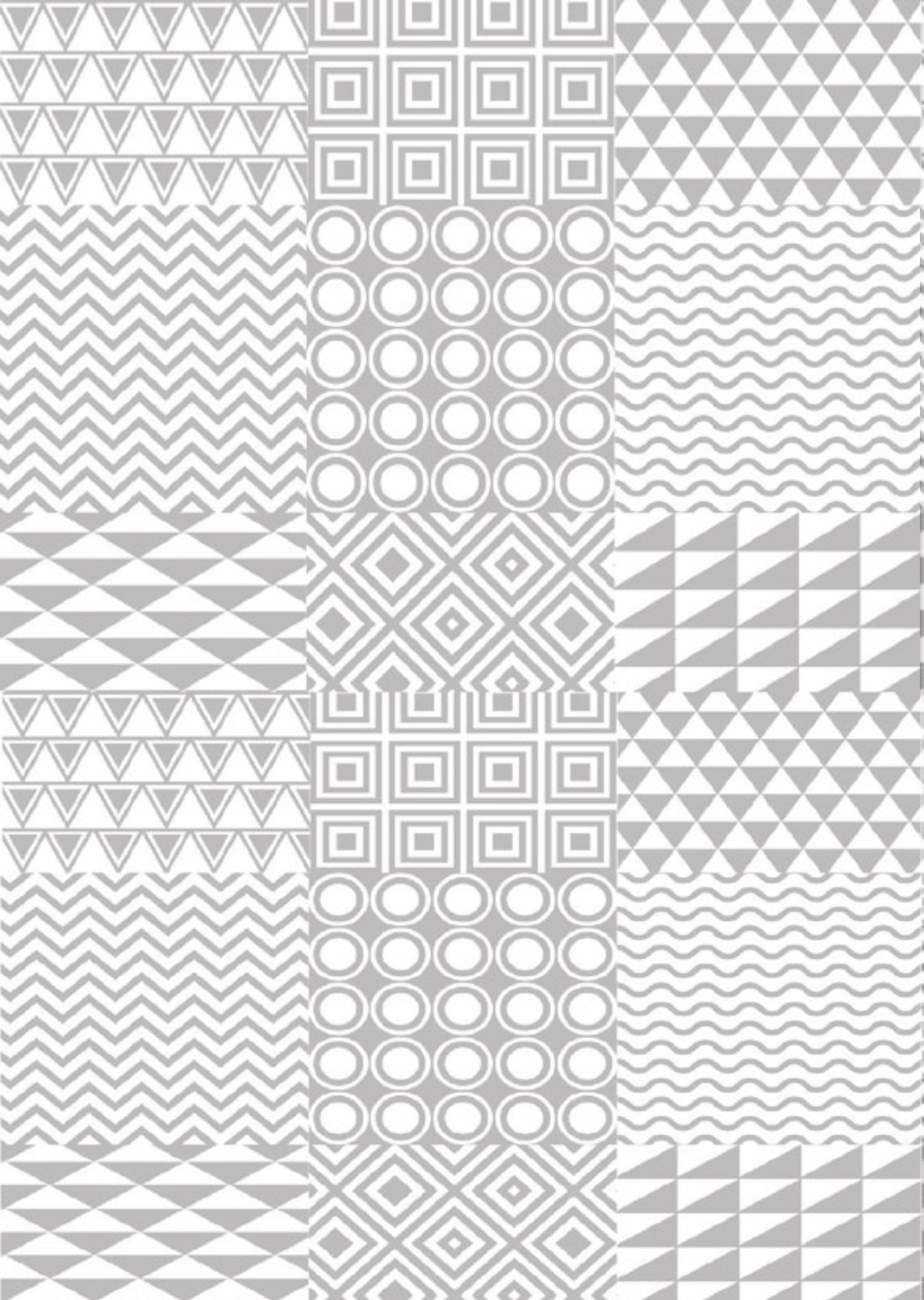
Story idea by: Dr. Rasha Kelej

Story and Illustrations: Dr. Thomas MUYOMBO









# EDUCATING LINDA



**Story idea by: Dr. Rasha Kelej**

**Story and Illustrations: Dr. Thomas MUYOMBO**



## **Senator, Dr. Rasha Kelej MESSAGE**

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

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

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

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

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

## **Senator, Dr. Rasha Kelej**

**CEO of Merck Foundation**

**Member of the Egyptian Senate (2020-2025)**

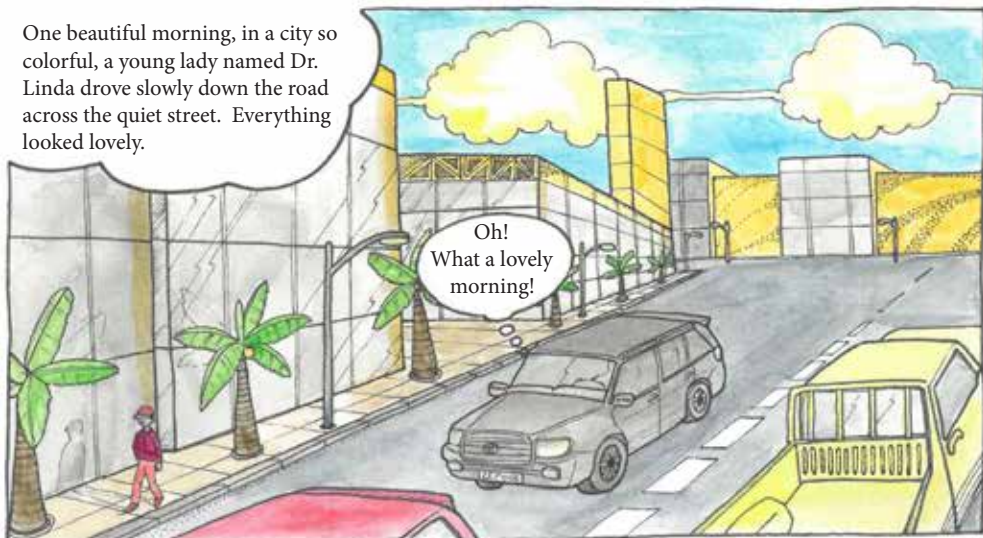
**Most Influential African (2019, 2020)**

**African Woman of the Year 2020**

**President of 'Merck More Than a Mother'**



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



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



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



Linda has won a Nobel prize in science this year for achievement. She is very happy and proud.



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



Dr. Linda was greeted by the Headmaster of the school and he assured her that everyone was waiting for her.

Hello Dr. Linda, welcome to our school.

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

He then took Linda to meet the students.

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

The Headmaster of the school welcomed everyone in the room.

Please, you are welcome to inspire all of us.

Let us all join together to welcome Dr. Linda.

The moment we have all been waiting for has come.

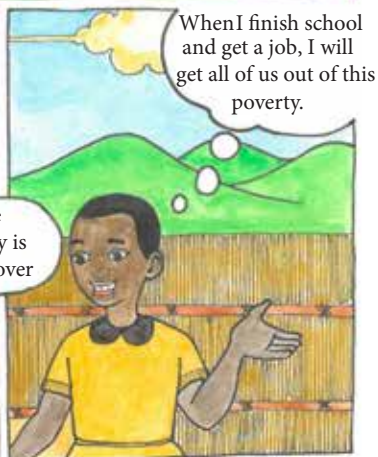
Let me tell you a story of a young girl, whose name I will reveal later.

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

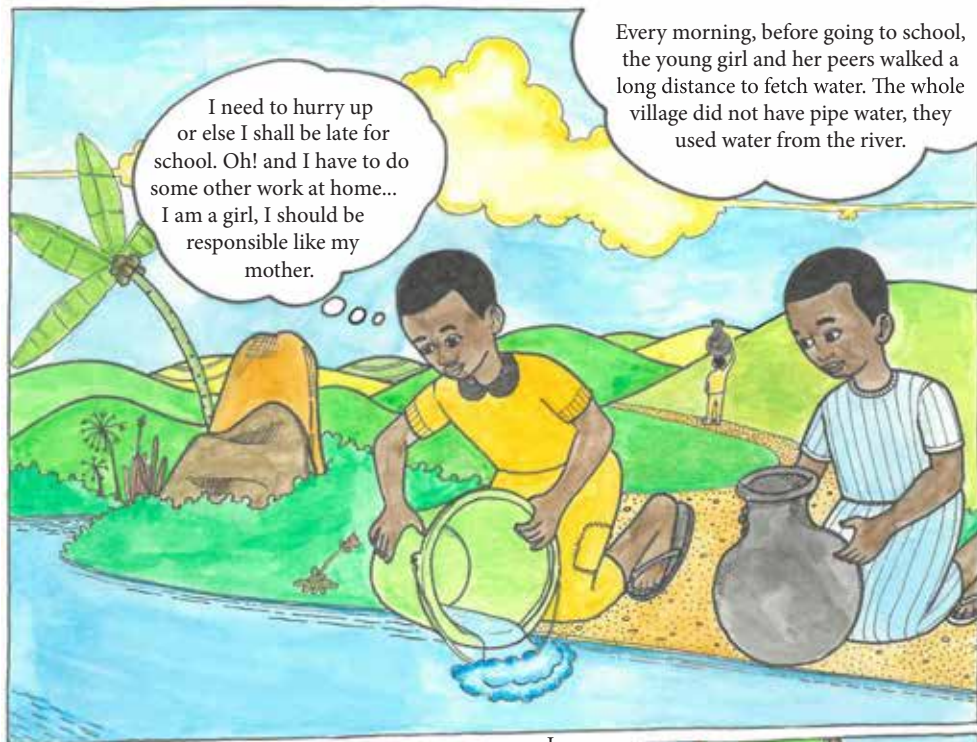
Everyone kept quite and listened to Dr. Linda as she began the story. All the students really wanted an inspiration.

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



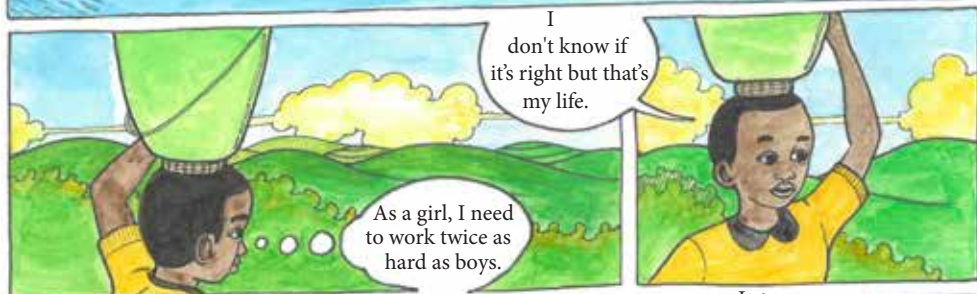






I need to hurry up or else I shall be late for school. Oh! and I have to do some other work at home... I am a girl, I should be responsible like my mother.

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



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

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



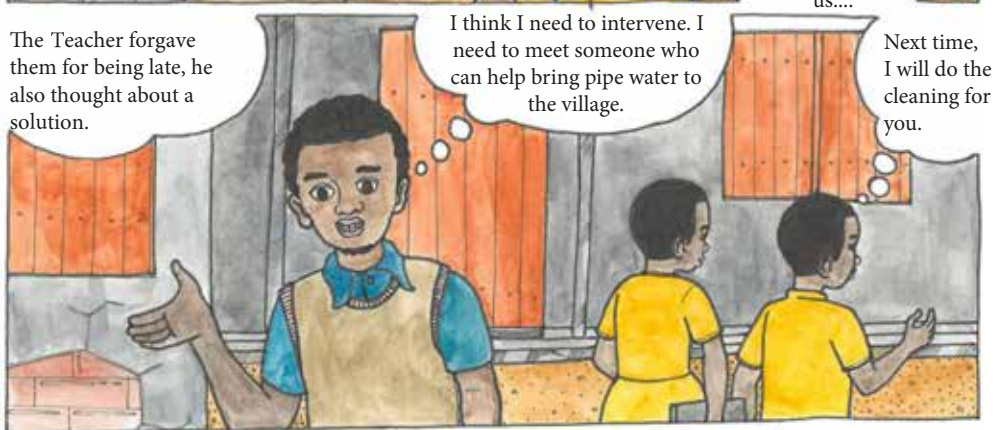
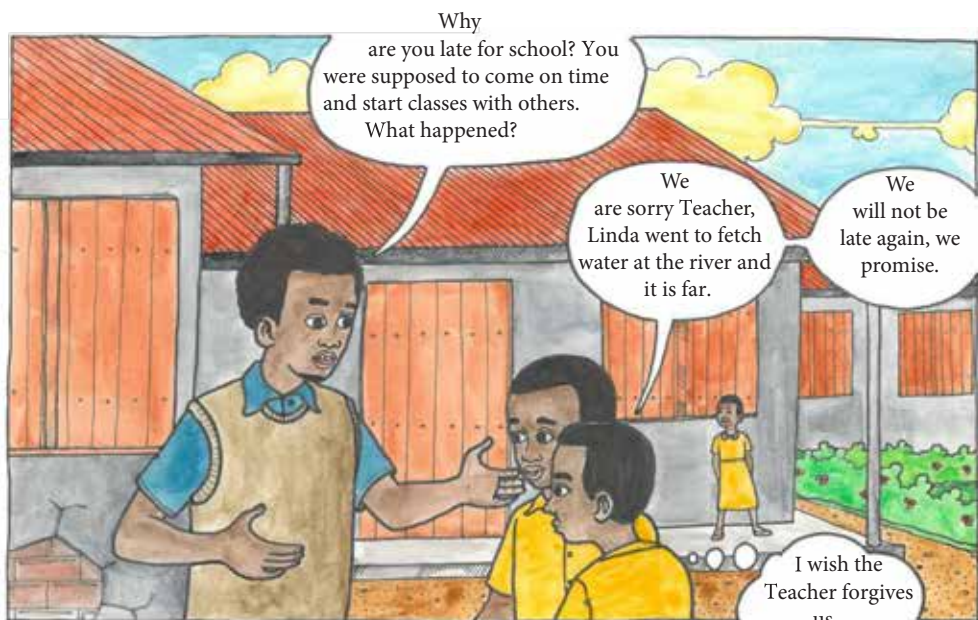
My brothers can't help, they are boys.



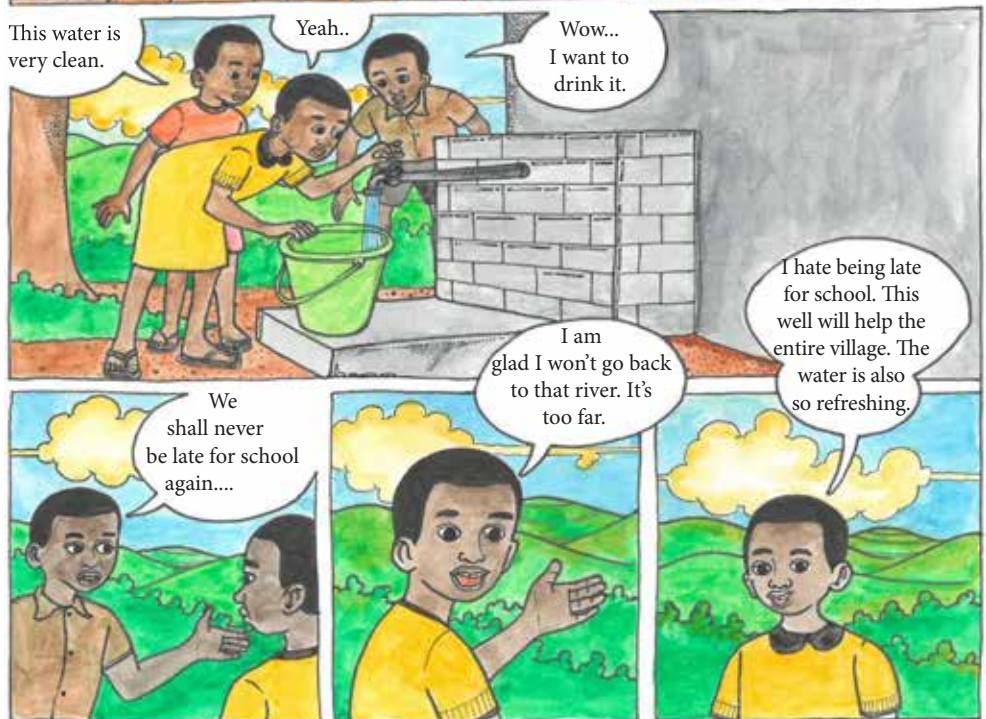
After doing all the work, she would join her brothers to go to school.

Lets hurry up, we are late for school.

Yes you are right.







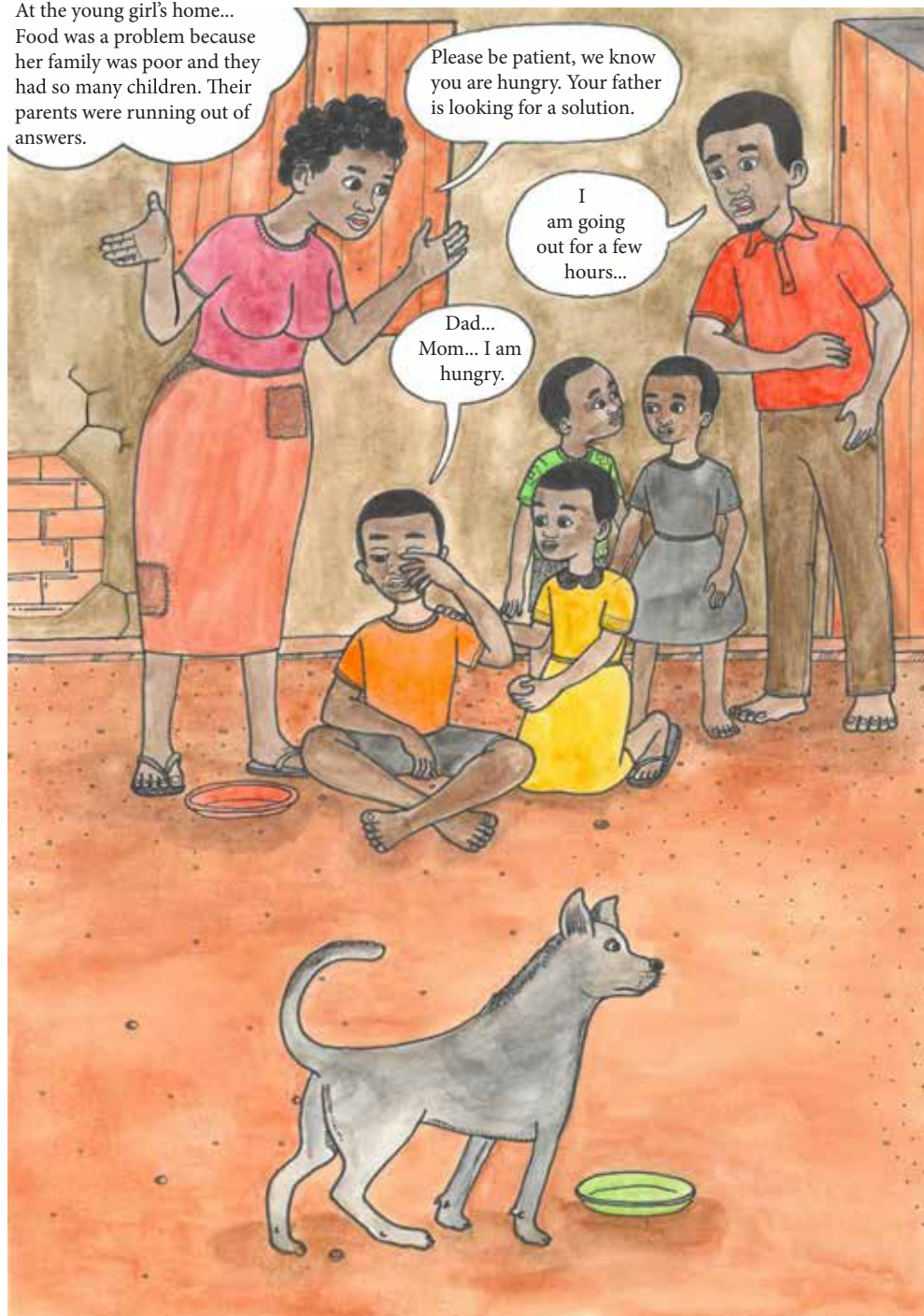
At the young girl's home...

Food was a problem because her family was poor and they had so many children. Their parents were running out of answers.

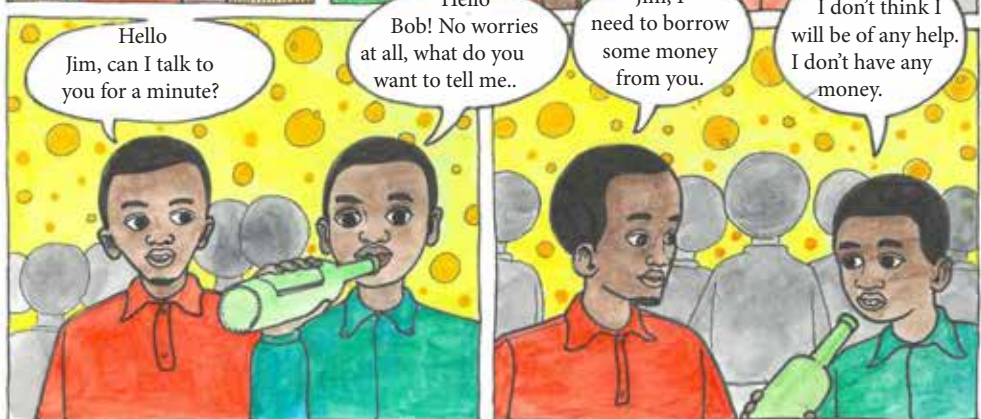
Please be patient, we know you are hungry. Your father is looking for a solution.

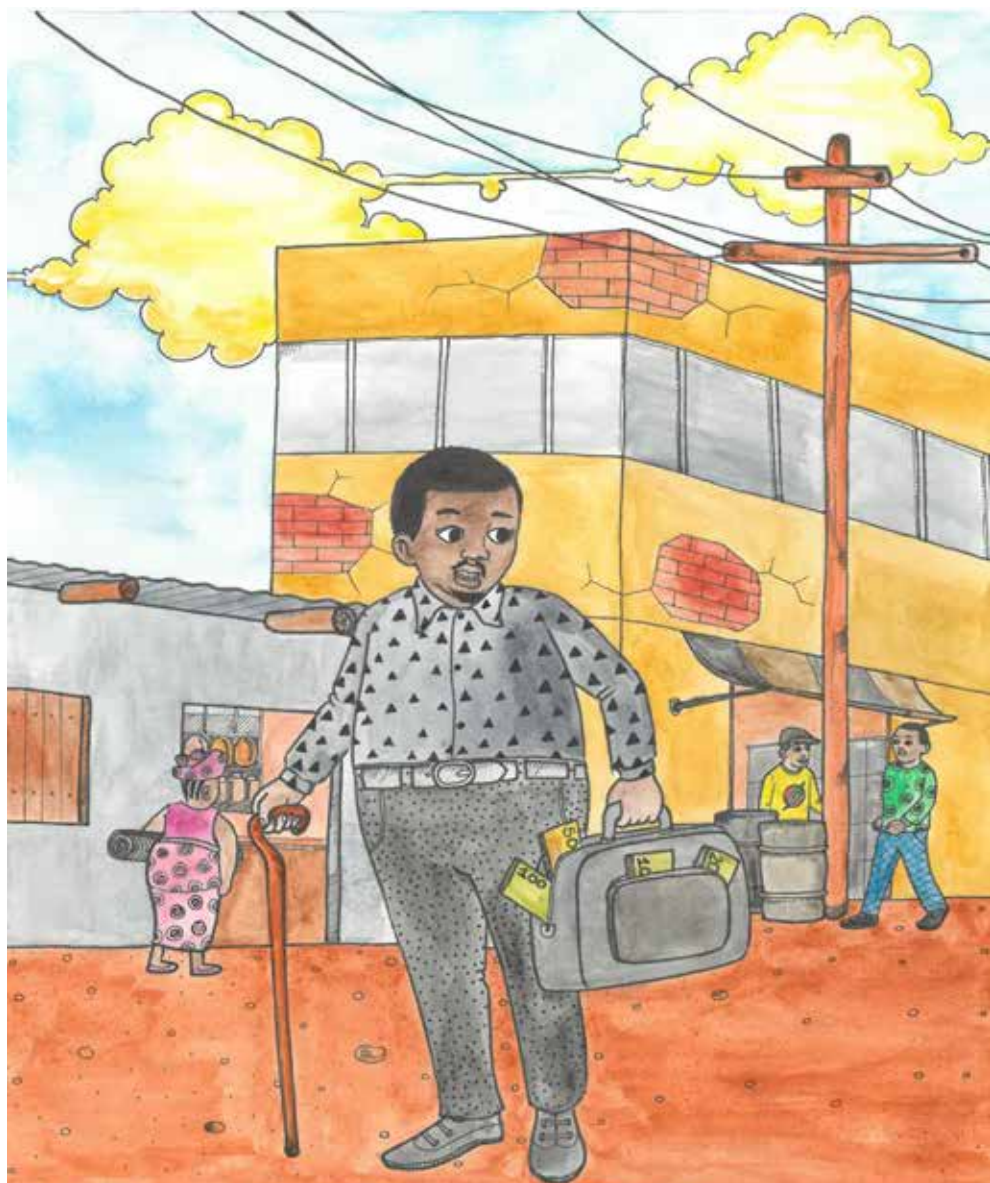
I am going out for a few hours...

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



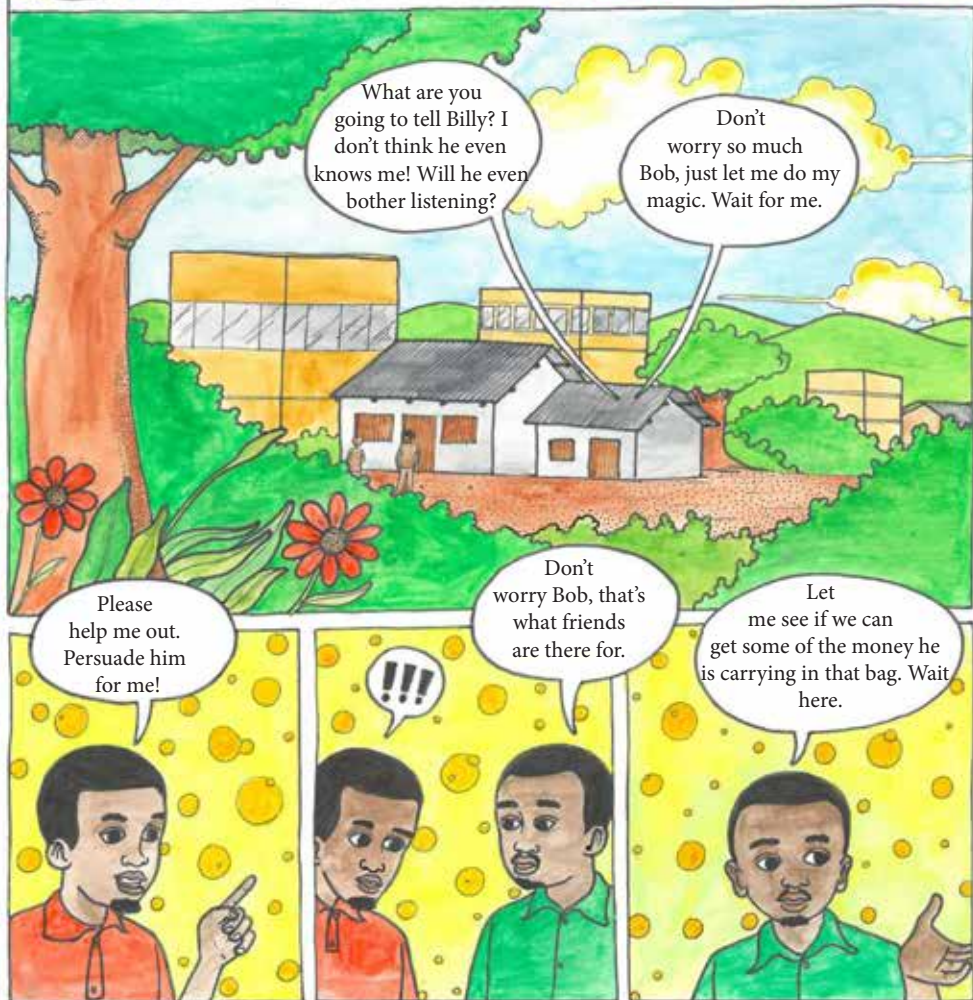


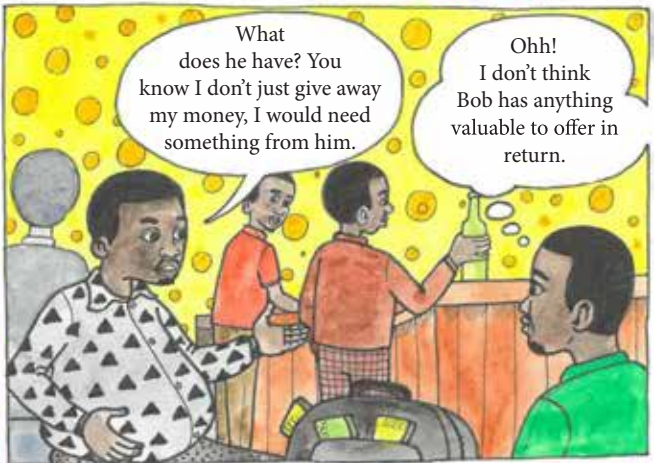




As Bob and Jim were conversing, Billy, one of the richest men in the village was coming to the same cafeteria. Billy was so rich that he moved around with a bag full of money. Everyone wanted to be friends with Billy because he had what they wanted: Money!







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

Billy made himself clear..

Jim explained more...





Billy decided to talk to Bob himself.

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

Jim, you said you trust your friend Bob?

Bob is a family man, he can be trusted.

He has children to look after.

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

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

Then so be it, come tomorrow and take her.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Take this money and buy food for every one.

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

??





We are now very rich...

Did you rob a bank? Where did you get all this money??



They bought food and everyone ate what they could.

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



I was so hungry.. I like this food.



Bob! where did you get the money from?

I gave my daughter away in marriage..



Which daughter did you give in marriage?? Do you have another daughter somewhere?

The following morning...



Now that you can talk, where did you get the money?

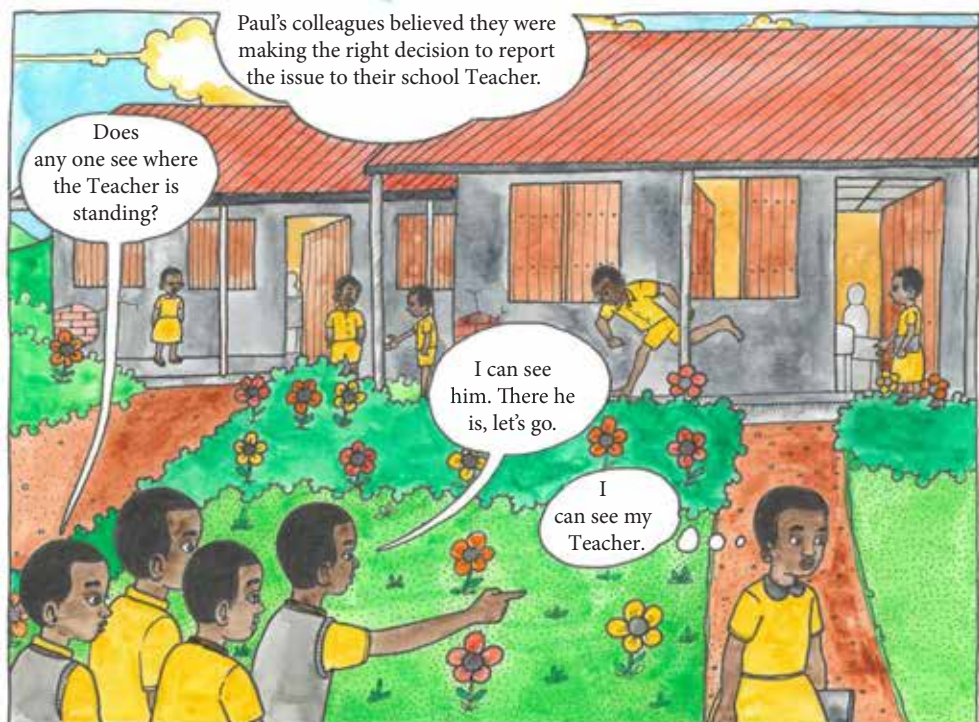
I told you already, I gave away our daughter.



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









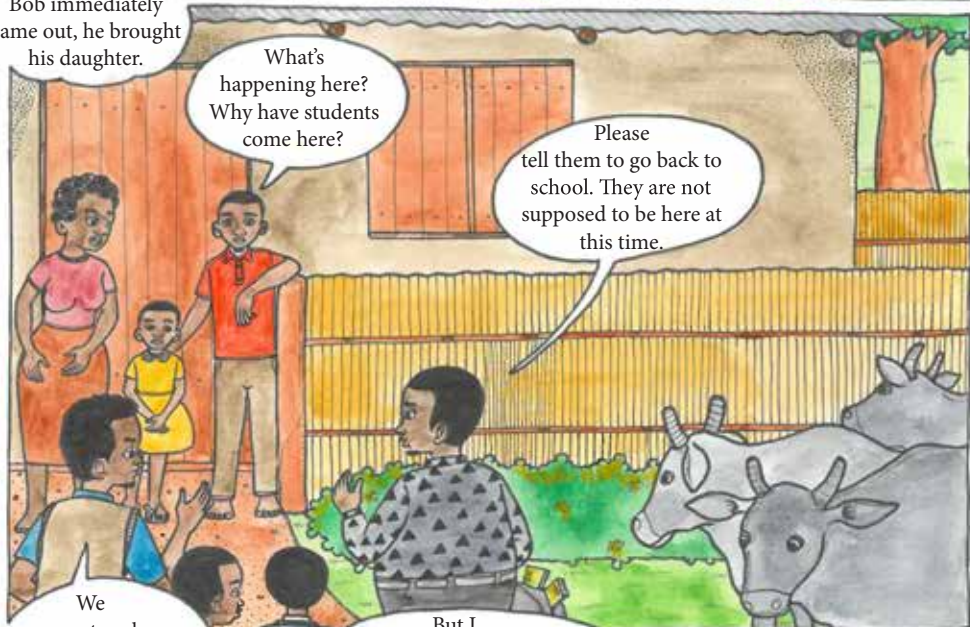
The school Teacher and his students went to Paul's home to try and stop his father from giving his sister away.







Bob immediately came out, he brought his daughter.



We came to ask why the young girl is not at school.







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

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

I am really sorry, forgive me.

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



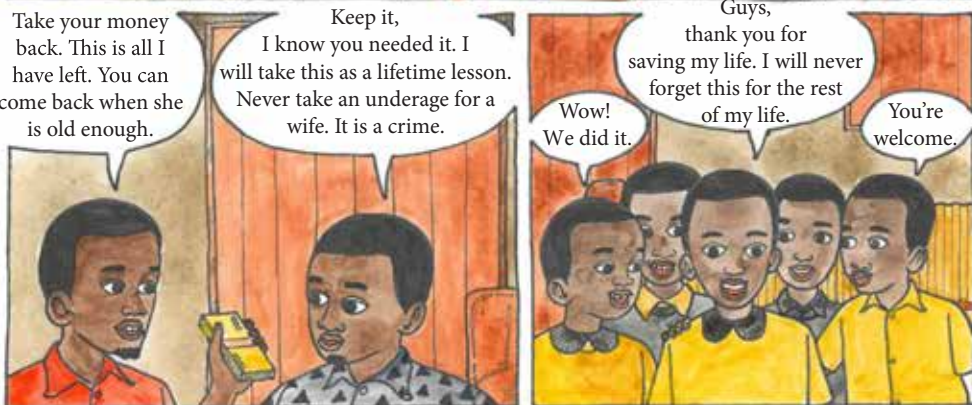
Take your money back. This is all I have left. You can come back when she is old enough.

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

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

Wow! We did it.

You're welcome.

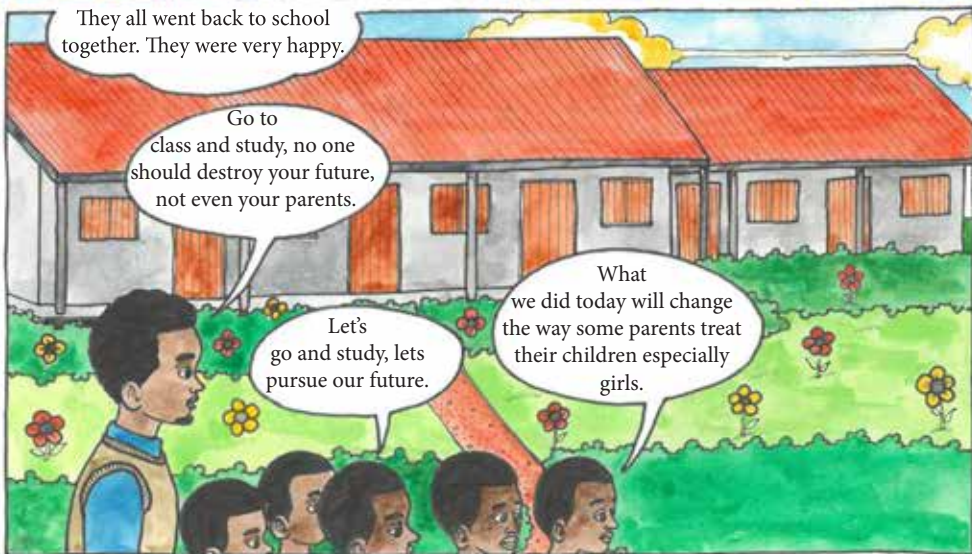


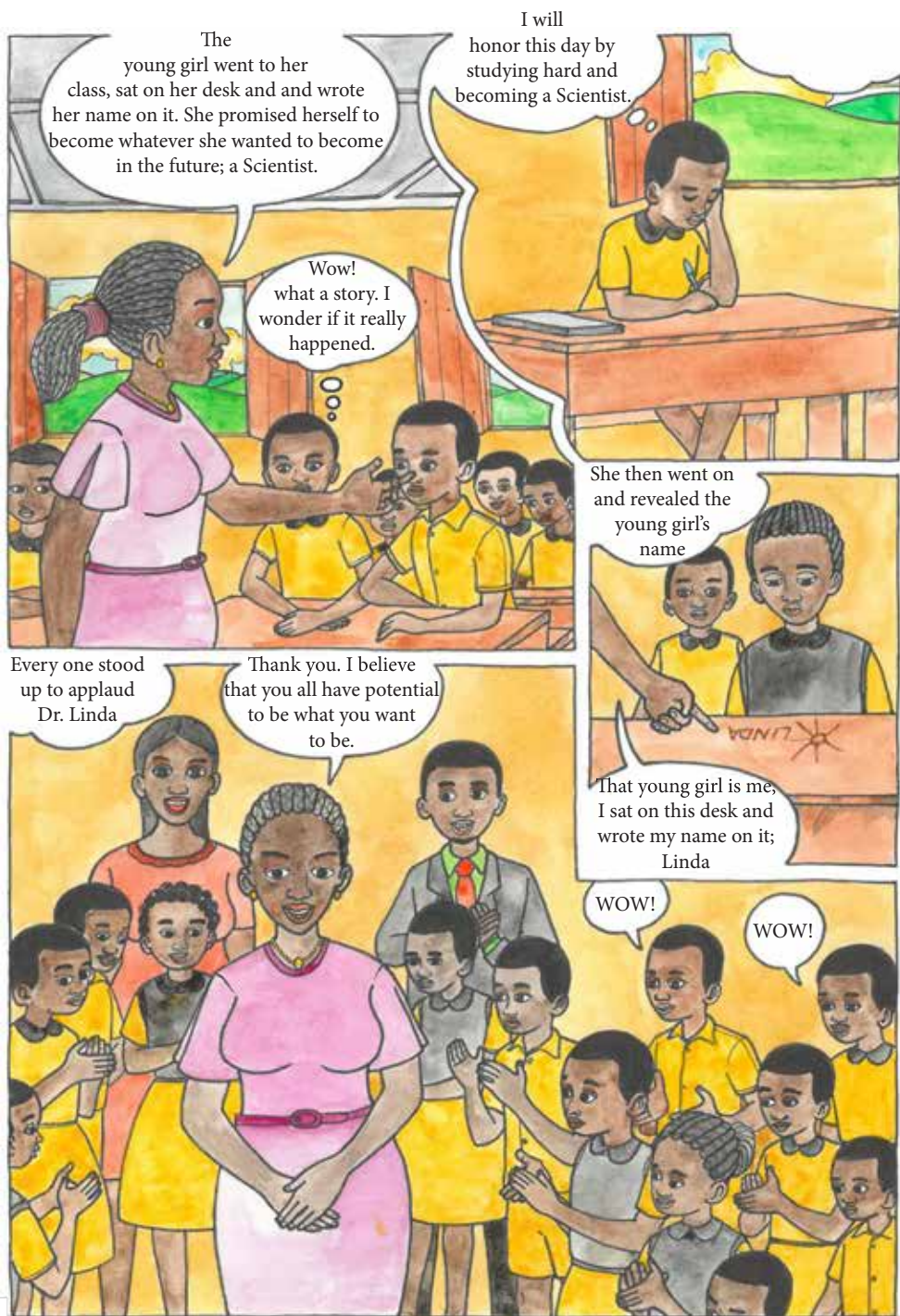
They all went back to school together. They were very happy.

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

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

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





THE END



## EDUCATING LINDA

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

The Author



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