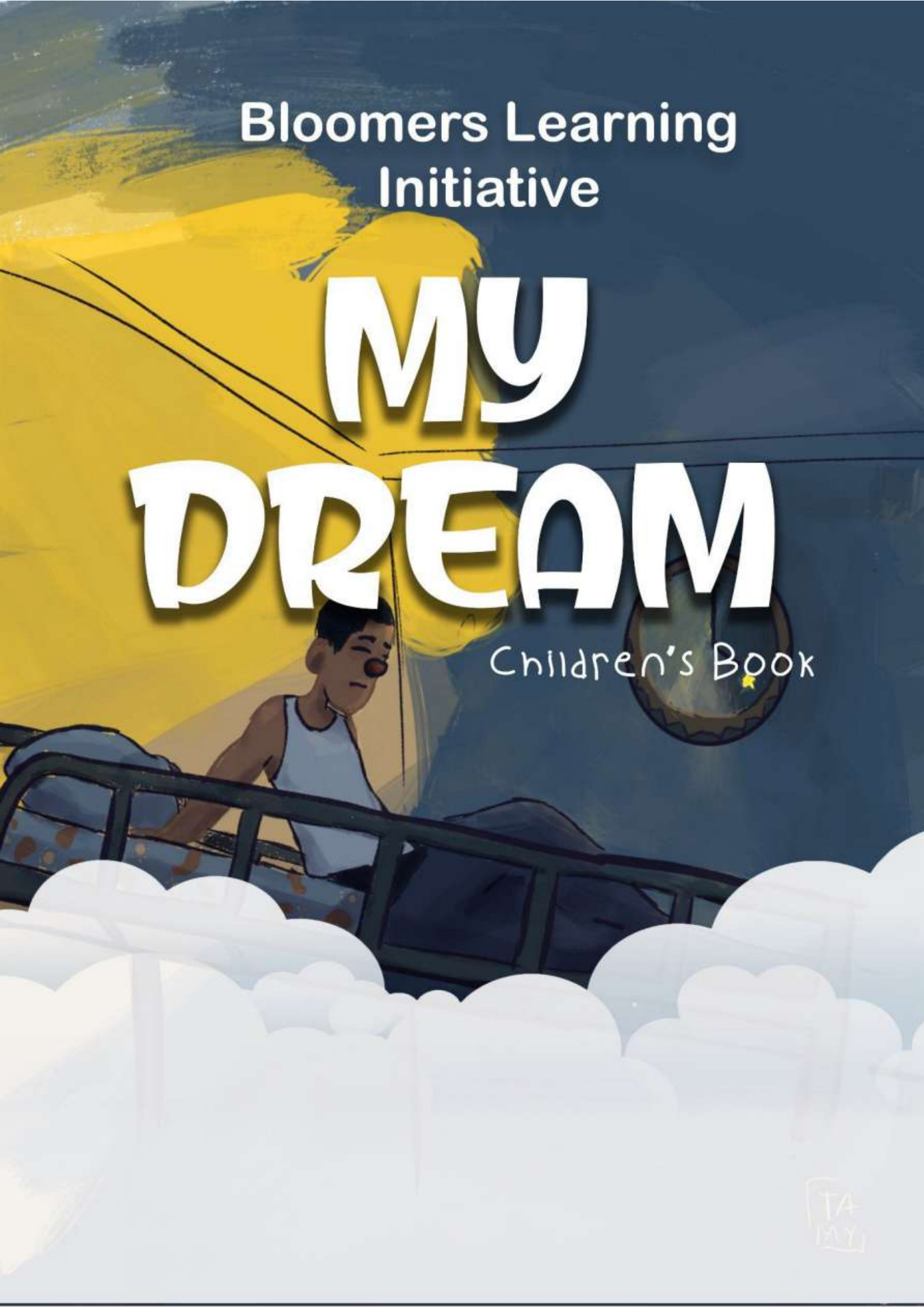


Bloomers Learning
Initiative

MY DREAM

Children's Book





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All pictures used courtesy of Bloomers
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ISBN: 978-99960-94-248

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TIRED EARS

By: Godwin Mhango

Yes, love is medicine for our wounds in life. Where can I find unconditional love to heal my pain? Should I say I was born before or after love? Every day I seek love. Is it my fault I was born? Who did I wrong in this cruel world? I was born with eyes, and I can see. But the ears I was born with have made life hard. Can my ears stop me?

I beg you to love and support us and our school to reach our destiny. My ears are tired to carrying my pain.

NO VOICE IS SMALL

By: Anthony Mtambo

Everyone has a voice regardless
With or without disability
Young and old.

Everyone has a voice
Poor or rich
Black or white
No Voice is small.

We have a voice
No voice is small
Hear our voice.



TAMMY

The Refusal

By: Zainabu Mhango

Pemphero was HIV positive. She was diagnosed with the disease whilst at primary school. She had gotten the disease through an accident. On a fateful day she and her parents got involved in a road accident as they travelled to visit agogo (grandmother) in the village. Pemphe-ro lost a lot of blood and so did the person sitting next to her. She had no idea if the blood stains on her dress were hers or belonged to somebody else.

A year later she started getting very sick and she was diagnosed with HIV and AIDS. It was shocking news because her parents had tested negative. They then recalled the accident and how Pemphero had lost blood. She had started taking medication immediately.

One day Pemphero and her parents went to collect medicine. Chafuntha, Pemphero's school mate saw them at Ziyaye clinic. This was a section for people with Tuberculosis and HIV and AIDS. Chafuntha told everyone at school that she had seen Pemphero at Ziyaye clinic. The whole school new about it. They all did not want to be Pemphero's friends anymore. Some did not want to stay close to her in class. They refused to be part of her. Pemphero reported this to her teacher.

What did the teacher do?

MY DREAM

By: Grace Jere

Education is about learning
Learning to know something
Education never stops

Education is about perseverance
Learning for deaf learners is not easy
Education never gives up

Education is about dreams
Dreaming is possible for deaf learners
Education will inspire Grace to become a nurse

Education is about service
Providing safe security is a possibility
Grace would like to be a soldier

Deforestation

By: Vitumbiko

Vitumbiko: Hi Zainabu

Zainabu: Hi Vitumbiko

Vitumbiko: Where are you going?

Zainabu: I am going to the mountain to burn charcoal.

Vitumbiko: What? My friend that is not good.

Zainabu: Why are you saying so?

Vitumbiko: We had a scout meeting with our chair lady. She talked very much on dangers of cutting down trees carelessly.

Zainabu: Ooh! What did she say?

Vitumbiko: She talked about deforestation. You cut down trees without planting more. Later on, when rain comes, this leads to soil erosion.

Zainabu: Wow! That is not good. I have stopped this behaviour of burning charcoal.

Vitumbiko: Thank you my friend because you have understood.

Zainabu: Thank you too for your good advice.

Deaf Culture

By: Thandiwe Jere

In deaf culture
Everything is done in signs
People label us differently.

In deaf culture
We use our brains and hands effectively
Some say we are failures.

In deaf culture we are able to communicate
We are able to adapt to any situation
Some say we cannot keep secrets

In deaf culture
We do everything except hearing
Therefore, associate our culture with yours

DISABILITY IS NOT INABILITY

By: Ndimyake Raphahy

Disability is not inability. People with disabilities can also participate in many things. For example;

Dorothy Gondwe likes football. But for her to do well in football she needs flags instead of a whistle. Grace Jere likes playing netball. But for her to do well in netball she needs flags instead of a whistle. Ndimyake Rapha likes dancing, for her to dance she needs vibrating instruments. They also like learning but for them to do well in class, modification of teaching and learning resources is needed.

Discrimination

By Nestar Sinkhutwa

Treating equals unequally
Giving learners bad names
Favouring other learners

Taking learners abled differently as failures
Pre-judging other learners
A habit by some teachers in schools

Discrimination lets down our education
Laws need to stop this act
Protect deaf learners
"Stop discrimination".

Hear our cry

By Elida Mwandenga

Education is the key to success
The success of learners depends on the
availability of infrastructure
Hear our cry.

Education is the key to success
The success of learners depends on the
availability of books
Hear our cry.

Teachers are a key to education
The success of learners depends on qualified
teachers
Hear our cry.

Food is a necessary tool for education
Karonga School for the Deaf needs a basic need
Please hear our cry.

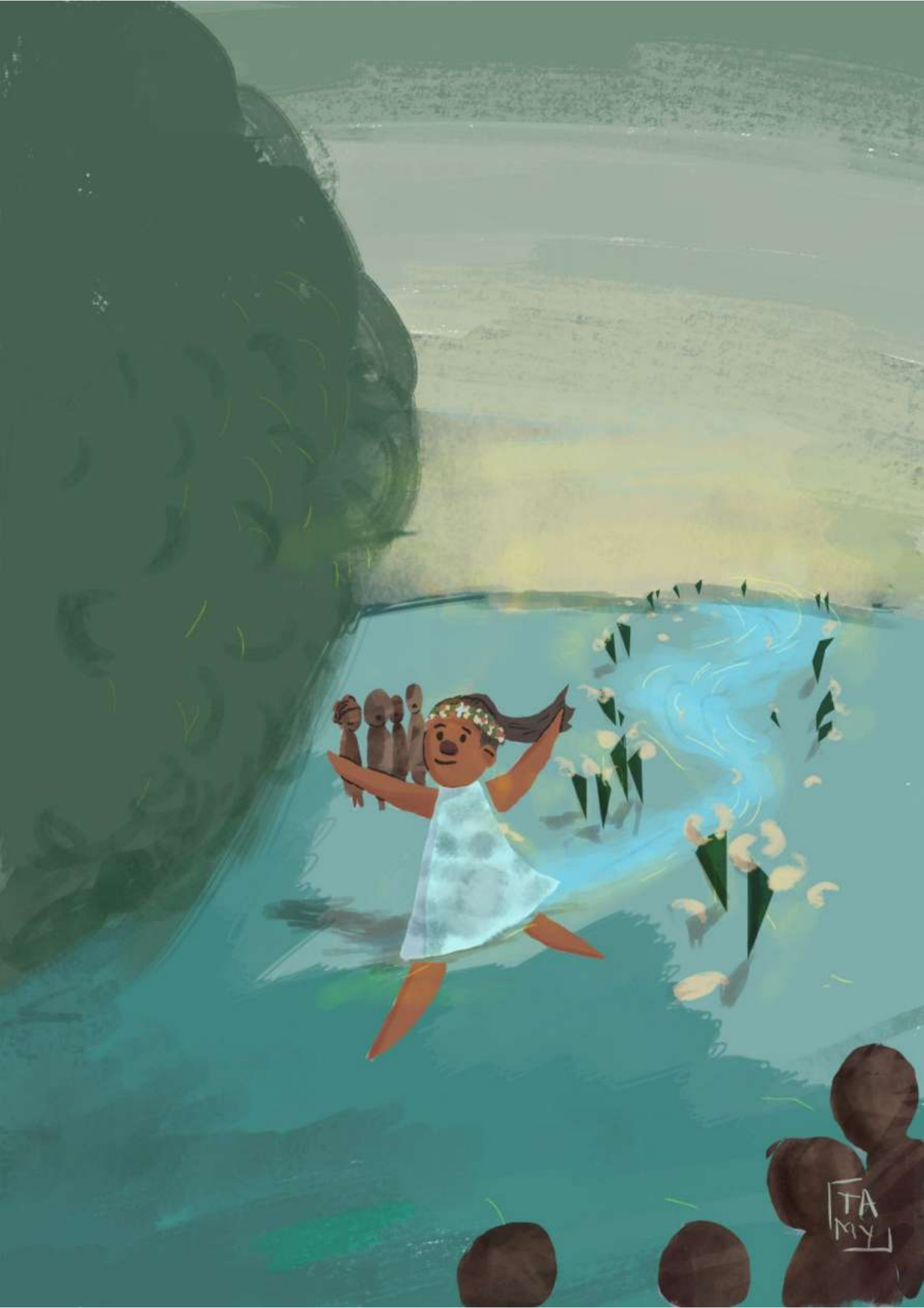
HUNGER IN LUMANGA

By Dorothy Gondwe

All living things cannot live without food. Mr Mkamanga comes from Lumanga village. He works at Lumanga Health Centre. Having worked at the health centre for twelve years, he discovered that the village is always affected by hunger. This is because Lumanga is always affected by floods which in turn affect crop harvest.

A lot of children suffer from malnutrition due to food shortage in their bodies. Many parents spend a lot of time in the hospitals than developing their country because of the malnutrition which affects the children.

The hunger in the village affects Vitumbiko and World. They do not go to school every day because there is always no food in their homes. Mr Nyirenda, the village headman is asking government to help them with food. He has decided to visit the officials in their offices. Is this the right solution?



HYGIENE THE SMART GIRL

By World Msukwa

Hygiene was a smart person. She always stayed healthy. She was protected from diseases. She was a wonderful person both at home and school. She was never absent from school, smooth running of schools without breaks because of outbreaks. This helped her have a good relationship with the community.

Hygiene was a role model in the community. One day she got an invitation by the Village Headman to speak about how she managed to maintain herself. Here is how she did it:

Hygiene: Amai ndi Abambo (Ladies and gentlemen)

Ukhondo ndi ofunika, (Maintaining hygiene is important)

We can do this by:

- Washing clothes
- Sweeping veranda
- Washing kitchen utensils
- Covering food
- Slashing surrounding
- Combing hair

Hygiene is really important. Keep the environment clean and to pave way for a brighter future.

The whole village clapped for her.



TAMMY

WAKE UP

By: Bonface Minga

Wake up! Wake up! A voice from our boarding mistress was heard. It is time, get ready for classes.

Wake up guys! Wake up! It is time to prepare for your future! At 5 AM each morning, the boarding master and mistress used to wake us up to get ready for school work.

First we could make up our beds, brush our teeth and wash our faces at Karonga School for the Deaf.

Teachers were ready to help us learn both academics and living skills. Learning is a circle, we had book worms like Chance Kyeyo and Lewis Nyirenda who passed their Primary School Leaving Certificate Exams (PSLCE). Waking up early helped them excel. So, let us wake up.



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MIL

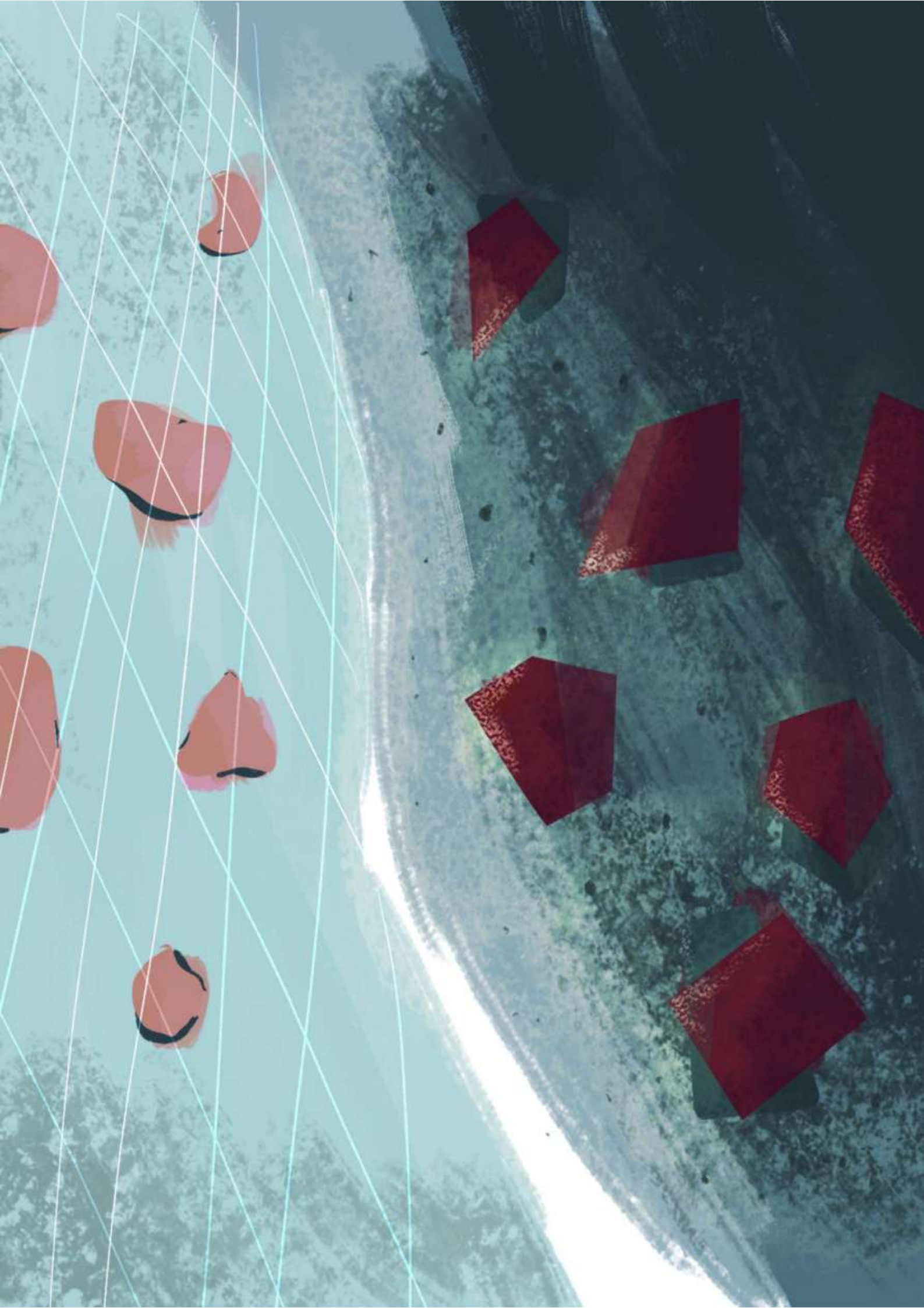
MERCY SAYS NO TO STIGMA

By: Joseph Simwera

Mercy is a hard working school girl at Karonga demonstration Primary school. She is in standard 7 and the only hard of hearing learner at the school. She likes facing challenges which could give her confidence and withstanding abilities to solve issues. She studied some discouraging behaviours at school such as stigmatisation, begging, fighting just to mention a few.

One day during assembly, she had opportunity to address these raised issues, where she stressed stigmatisation kills outstanding behaviour or performance of an individual. She gave more examples that could define stigmatisation.

Stigmatisation can be defined as the inner feeling of depression or acts of isolation and thoughts of blaming oneself towards something.



Chingwata has Diseases

By: Fostina Kaonga

In Chingwata village, children suffer from a lot of diseases. Some of the diseases are diarrhoea and cholera. Zainabu Mhango, the health surveillance assistant (HSA), visited the village to equip them with some of the ways of preventing the diseases.

She explained the malaria can be prevented by sleeping under a mosquito net and draining stagnant water.

On diarrhoea, she said food should be covered, food should be washed before and after eating and cleaning toilets including some personal hygiene practices.

ABOUT THE BOOK

This book has been written by the students from Karonga School for the Deaf under Bloomers Learning Initiative (B.L.I) with support from World Connect. The teachers; Mr. Mkandawire and Henz Mhlanga facilitated the trainings through which students from Karonga School for the Deaf were able to write poems and short stories on daunting issues that affect them. This book has been produced not only for entertainment, but to also act as a bridge in spreading important messages.

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