



The Rafiki Foundation, Inc.

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Stories from Rafiki Village Kenya

Our eight primary four students in Rafiki School were asked to read "The One Hundred Dresses" by Eleanor Estes. Their homework assignment was "Use a Venn diagram to compare yourself with the main character, Wanda, a young elementary student." Here's a sampling of their homework.



Lorine Khanira says

"I have more than one dress. Wanda has only one dress. I have friends. Wanda didn't have any. I have some-where to keep my clothes when they are dirty. Wanda does not have a place to keep her dirty clothes.

I have a mother here in Rafiki. Wanda does not have a mother.

We are both sad when we are mistreated.

We both walk to school."

Kevin Kwera says

"I do not have a problem with speaking English. Wanda has a problem speaking English.

I do not come to school with shoes caked in mud. Wanda goes to school with shoes caked in mud."

Charles Musyoka says

"I do not have a father. Wanda has a father. I have a mother here in Rafiki. Wanda does not have a mother.

I feel bad like Wanda does when we are both bad.

We both play in the playground."

Moses Obaga says

"I have many clothes. I have clothes to wear to school everyday. Wanda is poor and wears the same clothes to school everyday."



Ibrahim Juma says

"It does not snow where I live. Wanda lives in Boggins Heights where it snows.

We both forgive others when they make fun of us.

We are both friendly to other children.

I do not have an older brother. Wanda has an older brother."

In our Rafiki Bible studies, we have been teaching what it means to have a spirit of contentment with everything that God has given each one of us. When we begin to covet someone else's belongings, position, or personality, we are saying God has not provided for us. During the year, we as a Rafiki Village in Kenya have experienced many, many significant blessings from the hand of our Lord God as we watch the eighty resident orphan children, thirty-two "dailies" (day community students), and the fifty national employees grow in their understanding of God's Word and His ways. Nearly every day as I lead the Village devotions, the question is posed: When do you think most about God: when things are going well or when you are in trouble?

A caregiver mother shared the salvation story of her brother-in-law. "Madam Yeen-Lan, thank you for all the books you put into the employee library. One of the books saved my brother-in-law. I had borrowed it from the employee library. When my sister and her husband visited, they saw what I was reading. He was intrigued and asked to read the book. Last month, my sister told me that her husband has stood up in church to profess his trust in Jesus and is now a believer. And, he said the book he read from the Rafiki library led him to the Truth."

Dear friends and supporters, the eighty children around here at Rafiki Village Kenya are speaking! And when they open their mouths, some of the most interesting things come out.



It was 7:10 A.M. on Saturday morning. I was standing by the ChildCare dining hall about 175 meters away from Cottage Beersheba. I waved to six-year-old Brenda who was walking from that cottage in my direction. She waved

back. Minutes later, she was standing by me, "Madam, you have small eyes. But you can see very well." I didn't know what to say except to smile.

When I returned from sabbatical, eight-year-old Andrew asked me, "Madam, when you were in aeroplane up there, did you see Jesus?"



And then this report came from MiniMissionary Emily Sharp in a text message to me "Just saw Johnson and told him he looked smart. He said, yes, I look smart just like Madam Lam." Johnson is three.

In a conversation with eleven-year-old Kevin, he asked me, "Madam, where is your mother?" I replied, "She is in Singapore." Kevin probed, "Why did you not bring her to Kenya?" I told him my

mother is too old to travel. Kevin would not let me stop there. "How old is Mrs. Rosemary Jensen? Why is she able to travel?" The truth is, my mother is as old as Rosemary Jensen. But constitutionally, they are very different. God has different plans for different people.

The Country of Kenya

God also has different plans for different nations. We began the year with 300,000 internally displaced Kenyans and the loss of 1,333 lives following the unfortunate announcement of flawed presidential election results. A grand coalition government was hurriedly brokered to restore calm with Kenyan leaders promising never to repeat the tragedies. We are closing the year with a euphoric Kenya inspired by one whose father was Kenyan, elected to the highest office in one of the most powerful nations on earth. We teach the children here that their Christian identity transcends their ethnic diversity, and when they choose to obey God, it will be from His hand that blessings will flow.

The children will celebrate Christmas and welcome a new year. We send you our love and thanks for all that you have done to support us. We hope some of you will be able to come and see us in Kenya in the New Year.

Even though "life is too expensive" as the Kenyans here describe it, and "the bus fare has run away," we know God has a way and a means to bring many of you to visit with us. At this time we are nine Rafiki Overseas Staff [aka long-term missionaries] but we always need short-termers [aka MiniMissionaries] who are able to come and help us. When you come, the Rafiki Overseas Staff may take a break.

Your ordinary missionary in Nairobi,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yeen-Lan Lam".

Yeen-Lan Lam

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