

The Good Nigerian Series

The Good Nigerian

Volume One

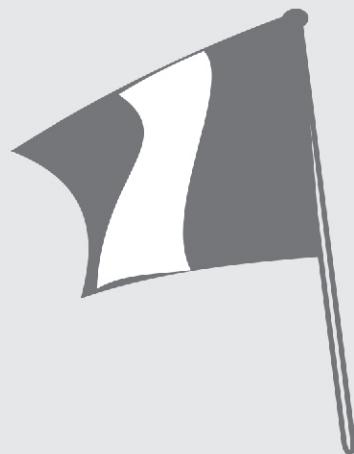


Kelechi Ngwaba

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Volume One



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UNIT ONE

MISS DONKAT

Miss Donkat taught in a school at the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. She had many pupils in her class and one of them was called Fatima.

Miss Donkat always taught her pupils why it is important to be good citizens of Nigeria. “If every Nigerian citizen behaves well and works hard,” she said, “then Nigeria will be prosperous and great.”

These children wisely believed their teacher and tried their best to be honest, law abiding and hardworking.

However, there were other influences on their lives as some of them lived with people who did not share the same views as Miss Donkat. A good example was Fatima's case.

Fatima and her parents lived in a public yard. One day, Fatima overheard a woman in the yard telling her mother how she sold her vegetables

to a man at a very high price. Besides, the change she gave to the man was not complete and luckily for her the man did not count his change. The woman laughed happily because she had made money from the man.

Within herself, Fatima wondered if the woman had been honest to the man. Next she wondered if what the woman had done was in line with what her teacher, Miss Donkat taught them about honesty.

The next day at school, she raised her hand just as Miss Donkat was about to start her moral lesson. When she was permitted to speak, she asked, "Is it only children that should be honest?"

Miss Donkat was shocked by the question. "Not at all. Fatima, what put that thought into your head?"

"Yesterday, I overheard a female trader telling another woman how she sold vegetables to a man at a very high price and without giving him his complete change."

"Did the man not count the change given to him?" Miss Donkat asked curiously.

"No, he just walked away."

Patiently, Miss Donkat told the class that she would put off a new lesson she planned to teach

in order to answer Fatima's question.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Where did Miss Donkat teach?
- 2 Why did the man not know that his change was not complete?
- 3 Why did Miss Donkat put off the new lesson she planned to teach?

EXPLANATION OF DIFFICULT WORDS

Prosperous	-	Success or wealth.
Influence	-	To have an effect on a person.
Views	-	Opinion.
Curiously	-	Interested in what is not your concern.
Patiently	-	Not being hasty.

UNIT TWO

Honesty

“An honest person is someone that is upright, truthful and who does not engage in fraud.” Miss Donkat said as she finally began her lesson for the day.

“Is it only children that should be upright?” she asked the class.

“No!” They replied in unison.

“Is it only children that should be truthful?”

“No!”

“Is it only children that should not engage in fraud?”

“No!”

“Good. It is not only children that should be honest. Whatever I teach you in class is not just for you to observe while adults do the wrong thing. What I teach you is for all of us, both young and old to do. So, do not think that old people are free to be dishonest.”

The children looked attentively at Miss Donkat as she continued. “Do you know that dishonest

people are bad people?"

"Yes," they replied.

"Good. Ibrahim why are dishonest people bad people?"

Ibrahim stood up from his seat. " They are bad people because they cheat."

"Clap for him," Miss Donkat instructed.

After the clapping had died down, Miss Donkat pointed to Adaobi. "Tell us why dishonest people are bad people?"

" They are bad people because they are greedy for money." Adaobi answered.

"Good, clap for her."

When the clapping died down, Miss Donkat asked, "did the market woman cheat the man?"

"Yes," the pupils replied.

"Was the market woman greedy?"

"Yes."

"That means that she is a bad woman. You see from being a dishonest woman we have seen that she is also a bad woman."

Next, Miss Donkat asked them one by one. "Is your mother a bad woman?"

And one by one they replied, "No."

"Do you want people to call your mothers bad women?" she asked them jointly.

Jointly they answered "No."
"Clap for yourselves!!" Miss Donkat shouted happily.

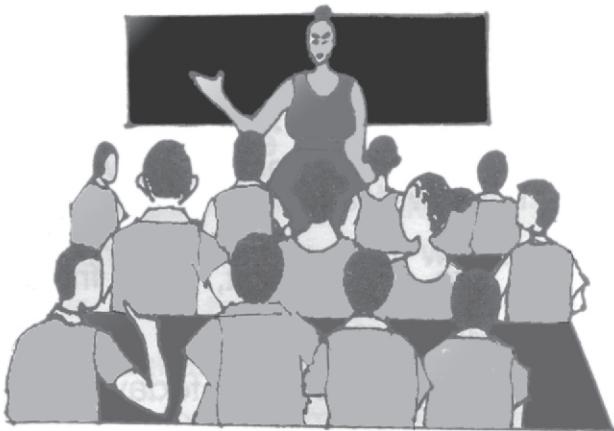
When the class became quiet again she continued, "I will now tell you why it is not good to be a dishonest person.

- 1) If you are not honest, people will not trust you.
- 2) If you are not honest, people will say bad things about you.
- 3) If you are not honest, God will be angry with you.
- 4) If you are not honest, your friends will run away from you.
- 5) If you cheat someone today, the person will either report you to the police or will not do business with you another day."

The school bell rang and Miss Donkat knew her time was up for the day.

"Well, I guess my time is up. Bye for today and remember to come early to school tomorrow."

The pupils hurriedly packed their bags before running to their parents' cars.



QUESTIONS

- 1 Who is an honest person?
- 2 Who should be honest?
- 3 Why is it not good to be dishonest?

EXPLANATION OF DIFFICULT WORDS

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| Fraud | - | An act of deceiving. |
| Dishonest | - | Characterized by lack of honesty or trust-worthiness. |
| Guess | - | To arrive at a correct conclusion about something by conjecture, change, or intuition. |
| Business | - | Occupation or Trade. |

UNIT THREE

LAW ABIDING

The next day, during time for moral lesson, Miss Donkat said, “I have been telling you for a long time now that a good Nigerian should be honest, law abiding and productive. Yesterday, we spoke about honesty and today, we will speak about obedience to the laws of the land. What do I mean when I say someone is law abiding?” Kolawole stood up to answer. “It means the person obeys the law.”

“Good,” replied Miss Donkat. “Now Musa tell me, when Kolawole says that a law abiding person obeys the law, what laws is he talking about?”

“Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,” Musa answered.

“Yinka, can you tell me who makes the laws?”

“The Federal Government of Nigeria.”

“Clap for yourselves.” Miss Donkat instructed.

The clapping died down before she started her lesson for the day.

“One Monday morning, a young man woke up with a start. He looked at his watch and exclaimed, 'God ! I will be late for work!' Quickly, he jumped out of his bed, ran a cold shower, dressed up and entered his car. Again, he looked at his watch. It was 7:50 a.m. He had only ten minutes to get to his office otherwise he would be late for work. Driving leisurely, he could get to his office in twenty minutes but now he had only ten minutes to get to his office. So he had to speed. As he sped along the roads of the federal capital territory, he came to a junction where the traffic light showed red, ordering him to stop. Looking left and right, he did not see any oncoming vehicle, so, he ignored the traffic light and sped on. He had barely driven 200 metres from the junction when a police car drew level with him and ordered him to pull off the road. He was driven in his car which was now impounded, to the police station. There, he spent two hours clearing himself and was finally given a slip by the road safety officer attached to the police station. With that slip he was asked to go to the bank and pay a fine of N2000 to the government. When he got to the office, it was almost 10:30 a.m. and a query was already waiting for him on his table.”

The story was over and now it was time to answer Miss Donkat's questions.

“Funmi, where was the young man going to?”
“He was going to work.”

“Adaobi, was the young man speeding?”
“Yes, he was speeding because ...”

Miss Donkat shook her head in disagreement before asking again, “Adaobi, was the young man speeding?”

Adaobi realized her mistake. “Yes, he was speeding.”

“Fatima, why was he speeding?”
“He was speeding because he wanted to get to his office before 8:00 a.m.”

“Ibrahim, how many minutes did he have to get to his office?”
“Ten minutes.”

“Shittu, why was the young man arrested?”
“He was arrested because he broke a traffic law.”

“Kolawole, who arrested the young man?”
“The Police arrested the young man.”

“Hadiza, where was the young man taken to?”
“He was taken to the police station.”

“Tunji, what happened to the young man's car?”
“The young man's car was im..im..p..poun..ded.”

“Impounded.” Miss Donkat pronounced the word again.

“Impounded.” Tunji repeated.

“Okafor, how much time did the young man spend at the police station?”

“He spent two hours at the police station.”

“Oghene, how much did the young man pay?”

“The young man paid N2000.00.”

“Etim, who did the young man pay the money to?”

“He paid the money to the government.”

“Adejo, what time did the young man get to his office?”

“He got to his office at about 10:30 a.m.”

“Ejiro, what was waiting for the young man on his table?”

“A query was waiting for the young man on his table.”

Miss Donkat was excited. “I am proud of all of you. Now clap for yourselves.”

When silence returned, Miss Donkat asked, “did you enjoy the story?”

“Yes,” they replied in unison.

“Can you see all the troubles the young man went through just because he disobeyed a

simple law?"

"Yes," they replied.

Yinka raised up her hand and when she was allowed to speak, she asked, "is it not surprising that such a simple offence should attract the kind of punishment the young man received?"

"Well," replied Miss Donkat, "it might seem surprising but that is why we warn that you all should be law abiding. There is no small law as disobedience of any law is punished."

Miss Donkat smiled at her pupils as they looked at her attentively. "Won't you clap for me?" she asked.

They clapped for their teacher excitedly. The clapping died down after sometime before Miss Donkat continued.

"The young man committed just one offence which is disobeying a traffic law. However, there are also many offences. These offences are so many that it will not be possible to name all of them. But other offences that make us break the law include, stealing, arson, fighting, rioting, killing, kidnapping, and so on."

"Excuse me Aunty," Fatima spoke even before raising her hands. Her excitement had made her forget her manners. "What is arson?"

Miss Donkat smiled. "Well, I will answer you now but next time do not talk in class without

permission, okay?"

"Yes Aunty," Fatima replied.

Miss Donkat now answered her question.

"Arson means burning property knowingly."

Ejiro raised his hands and asked the next question. "What is kidnapping?"

"Kidnapping means taking someone to an unknown place and holding that person till his people pay some money."

The pupils laughed. "How much money?" Some of them asked.

"It is not specified. It might be N5,000 or N10,000 or even N100,000. It depends on the purpose of the kidnapping in the first place. People are kidnapped for various reasons. That is why you should not play far way from home or with those you do not know. Do you understand?"

"Yes!" they chorused.

"Now I will continue with the examples of other offences ..."

At that point, Adaobi raised her hands.

"Adaobi, what have you to say?"

"Aunty, I think killing is the worst offence to commit?"

"Why do you think so?" Miss Donkat asked.

"I think so because it involves taking someone's life."

“But you did not wait for me to list out all the offences before you chose the one you feel is the worst.”

Adaobi nodded in agreement but her hands were up again.

“You still want to say something?” Miss Donkat asked.

“Yes Aunty. What does a traffic light look like?”

Miss Donkat smiled pleasantly. “How many of you know what a traffic light looks like?”

Some of the pupils raised their hands while others did not. Miss Donkat decided to make it clearer for all of them.

“As children you are not expected to remember everything but I am quite sure that you see traffic lights everyday on your way to school. Now, who can draw a traffic light for us?”

All the pupils kept their hands down. Miss Donkat repeated the question but still all hands were down. She decided to adopt a new approach.

“Tunji, Oghene and Hadiza, you were among those that raised their hands so three of you will come out and draw traffic lights for us.”

She ruled three lines across the black board and handed them a piece of chalk each and they began drawing.

They were given two minutes. Hadiza was the first to finish followed by Tunji and then Oghene. It was only Oghene that wrote STOP, WAIT, GO by the side of his drawing and Miss Donkat marked him better than the others. She then went ahead to explain how a traffic light works.

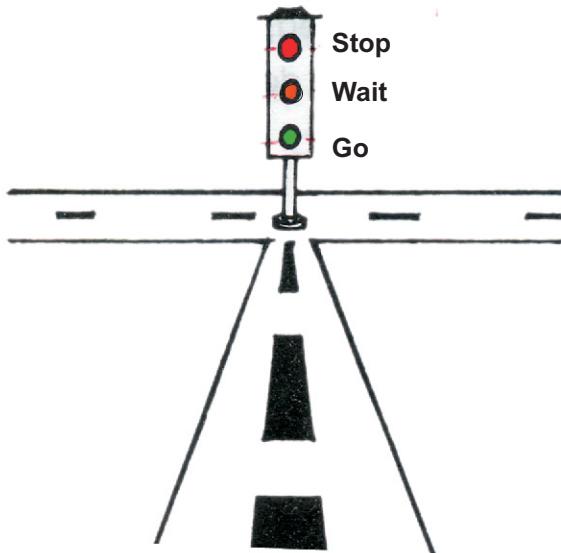
At that point, the school bell rang. Miss Donkat was stunned. She had so much to teach but time was up. Her moral lessons were becoming so interesting that she thought of shifting it to the first lesson period everyday so as to give them more time. She had so much to tell them about obedience to laws but time was already up.

“Well, my dear pupils, it appears time has caught up with us as usual. Just bear in mind that it is important to be a law abiding citizen of Nigeria, Okay?”

“Yes Aunty!” they replied together.

“I want to give you a homework which you will submit tomorrow. I want you to write on the worst offence. Your write-up should not be more than one page of the twenty leaf exercise book you use for your moral lesson homework.”

She began packing her books while the pupils put their note books into their bags. It was time to go home.



QUESTION

1. Narrate Miss Donkat's story in unit three.

EXPLANATION OF DIFFICULT WORDS

Impounded	-	To seize.
Query	-	To ask questions.
Unison	-	In perfect agreement.

UNIT FOUR

PRODUCTIVITY

The next day, the pupils eagerly waited for their moral lessons to start. Finally it was time for the last period and the lesson started. First, Miss Donkat asked for their assignments which they submitted. After that, Miss Donkat started the days lesson. Her topic for the day was productivity. This was the last topic she would treat as a result of Fatima's question two days earlier.

Fatima had only asked a question on honesty but since she had always told them to be honest, law abiding and productive, she wanted to make herself clearer with this opportunity.

"Listen attentively to the following two stories. Story one goes like this. A young man called Peter came back to his village after a long journey. He had been away for seven days and all his family members were happy to see him back. Early the next morning, his friends came to visit him. Like his family they were happy to see him too. 'Come, let us go and drink to celebrate your safe return,' his friends urged

him.

'Of course we will go and drink but it will be in the evening. I want to go and inspect the crops planted in my farm in my absence.'

'But nothing will happen to your crops,' said one of his friends.

'Well I know that nothing might happen to my crops but I find it necessary to check my farms every morning so as to be sure that all is well with my crops. I want my harvest to be very plentiful. Go and return in the evening then we can go and share some drinks.'

With that his friends walked sadly home. The thought of waiting till evening was not pleasant to them but they had no choice."

Miss Donkat paused briefly and looked at her pupils to assess if the story had been understood. She was satisfied with the expression on their faces and so went ahead with the second story.

"Story two goes like this. A young man called John came back to his house at the Federal Capital Territory Abuja after a week's journey. On getting home, his family was happy to see him. Early the next morning, two of his friends came to visit him . 'Ah John, we are happy to see you. How was your trip?'

'Fine. It went well.'

'Have you reported to the office since you came back?'

'No, I am just getting ready to go to work.'

'But since you have not yet reported for work and they do not know you are back, why don't you forget about work today so that we can go out and have some drinks.'

'That would have been nice but you see I just have to be in the office this morning. Why don't we shift our outing till when I come back in the evening?'

'Okay if you say so,' replied one of them. 'We will see in the evening then.' The two friends left for home very disappointed."

Just like she did after the first story, Miss Donkat assessed her pupils to see if they understood the second story. She was satisfied and so went on with her lesson.

"Musa and Okafor will tell us the stories again. Musa will narrate story one while Okafor will narrate story two."

Musa and Okafor stood up and within ten minutes they finished narrating the two stories. Miss Donkat was now perfectly sure that all the pupils had understood the two stories.

"I want you to tell me who is doing something productive between Peter and John?" She observed her pupils closely. "Did you understand my question?"

"Yes Aunty," they choroused.

“Good. Now I will call you one after the other. If you choose Peter, you will go to my right and if you choose John, you will go to my left but if you choose the two of them you will stand in the centre. We will start from Shittu. Choose the person doing a productive job between Peter and John.”

“Peter,” replied Shittu and so he went to Miss Donkat's right hand.

“Adaobi?”

“Peter.”

“Fatima?”

“Peter.”

“Tunji?”

“John.”

“Hadiza?”

“John.”

“Kolawole?”

“Peter.”

“Oghene?”

“Peter.”

She continued asking them until she had asked all the pupils. With the exception of Tunji, Hadiza and Okafor, the rest were in support of Peter. Miss Donkat called Peter's group, group A while John's group was called group B. No one chose both Peter and John so there was no group C. She gave the two groups five minutes to prepare their speeches and choose a speaker. Finally the five minutes was over and it was group B's

turn to speak. Tunji rose to speak. He had three minutes to do so.

“Good afternoon Aunty and my fellow pupils. Group B supports the view that John's job is productive because it is an office job. His job is more helpful to our country because the things he writes in the office are the things that help our country to survive. Peter's job is in the village and far away from government.” His time was not yet up but he had exhausted his points. He went back and stood with his group members as the other pupils clapped for him.

It was now group A's turn to speak and Oghene rose to speak on their behalf. “Good afternoon Aunty and my fellow pupils. Group A supports the view that Peter's job is productive because it involves producing food unlike John's job which does not produce anything rather he only goes and sits down in the office. Since Peter's job involves producing food, it is the productive job.” Like Tunji, he finished in less than three minutes and the other students clapped for him.

“You can now go back to your seats,” instructed Miss Donkat who waited a few minutes for them to settle down before she continued speaking. “My dear children, you are all right and wrong at the same time and this is because you do not know the meaning of productivity. Both Peter's job and John's job are productive jobs. Peter is a farmer and he produces food so he is helpful

to Nigeria. John works in an office. If he does not do his work his office will not function well and if his office does not function well so many things will be wrong as other offices may be affected and maybe, our Presidents office might be affected. The effect of John not doing his work might be slow but at long last it will be noticed. Now take me to be John. I am an office worker and my office is the classroom. If I do not teach you well will it have any effect on Nigeria?”

“Yes,” Tunji replied.

“And what is the effect?”

Tunji continued, “We will not be able to learn properly.”

“Please clap for Tunji,” Miss Donkat instructed.
The entire class clapped their hands.

Miss Donkat continued, “if I do not teach you well today will Nigerians in other towns and even Abuja know that they are losing something?”

“No,” answered Oghene.

“Why?” Miss Donkat asked.

Oghene continued, “they will not know that you are not teaching us well.” Again the class clapped but this time for Oghene.

Miss Donkat was satisfied. “You see what I mean now? For whatever job you are doing, do it well. If you do it well, you will be helping Nigeria and that way you are being productive to Nigeria. But if you do not do it well, you will not only be

unproductive but also harmful to Nigeria. So now, do you agree that both John and Peter are doing productive jobs and are also working like good citizens?”

“Yes Aunty!” they choroused a little bit too loudly.

It was clear the lesson had been understood and Miss Donkat was happy. “Now my dear children, I am going to tell you a story about...”

The dreaded school bell rang and it was time to go home again.

QUESTIONS

1. The two men in Miss Donkats story came back from where?
2. There friends urged them to come and do what?
3. Which of the two men was doing a productive job?

EXPLANATION OF DIFFICULT WORDS

Eagerly:	Marked by keen, enthusiastic.
Insistent:	To persist.
Pleasant:	Delight, joy.
Disappointed:	Defeated in expectation or hope.

REVISION ON THE GOOD NIGERIAN Volume One

Write Short notes on what you learnt in Units One to Four.

Unit One -----

Unit Two -----

Unit Three -----

Unit Four -----

COMING SOON

