

Kaloke

EARLY MARRIAGE



KALOKE WORLD

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Who is who in Kaloke?

Min Sandra
(Sandra's
Mother)



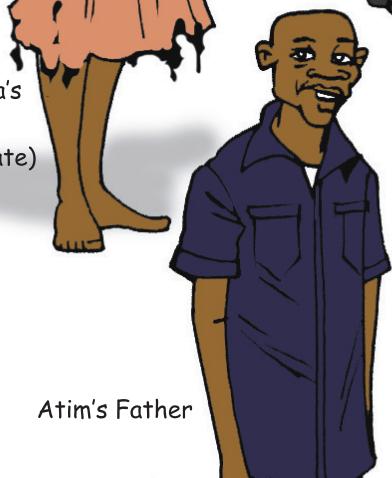
Ongaya
(Adulu's Father)



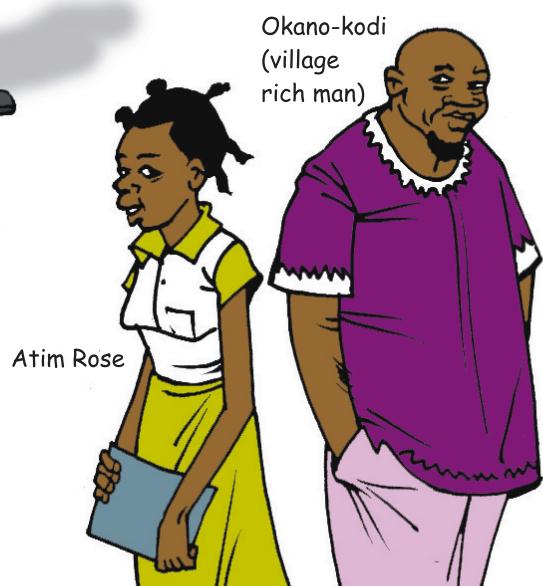
Openy
(Sandra's
brother)



Aloba
(Sandra's
former
classmate)



Atim's Father



Okano-kodi
(village
rich man)

Atim Rose

ITS EARLY MORNING IN TE-GOT VILLAGE AND THE SUN IS RISING. SANDRA AND HER MOTHER MIN SANDRA HAVE ALREADY BEEN WORKING FOR 2 HOURS DIGGING ON THEIR FARM. THEY TRY TO GET AS MUCH DONE BEFORE IT GETS TOO HOT FOR THEM TO WORK. SANDRA AND HER MOTHER ARE VERY CLOSE; THEY TALK FREELY AS THEY WORK.



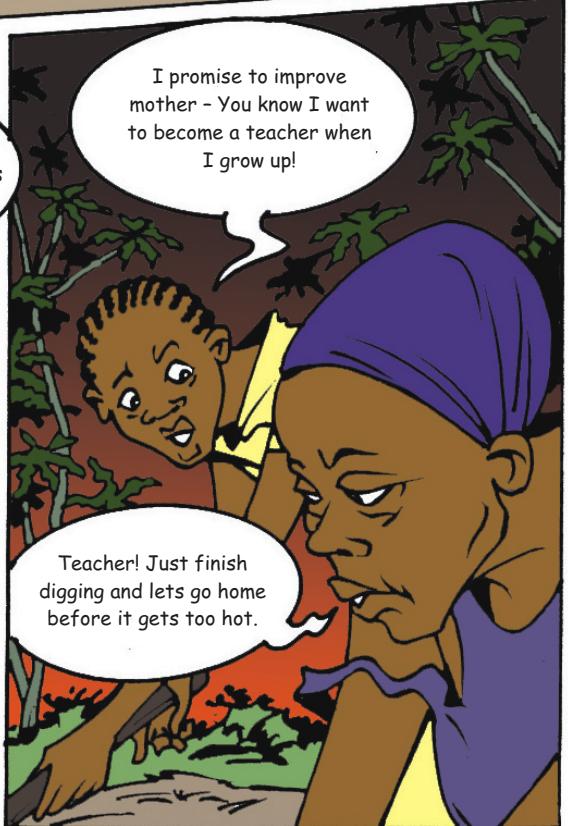
I am so happy the holidays will be ending soon

Why? Are you tired of being with your mother?



Oh mother you know I can never be tired of being with you BUT you have given me too much work in the garden this holiday!

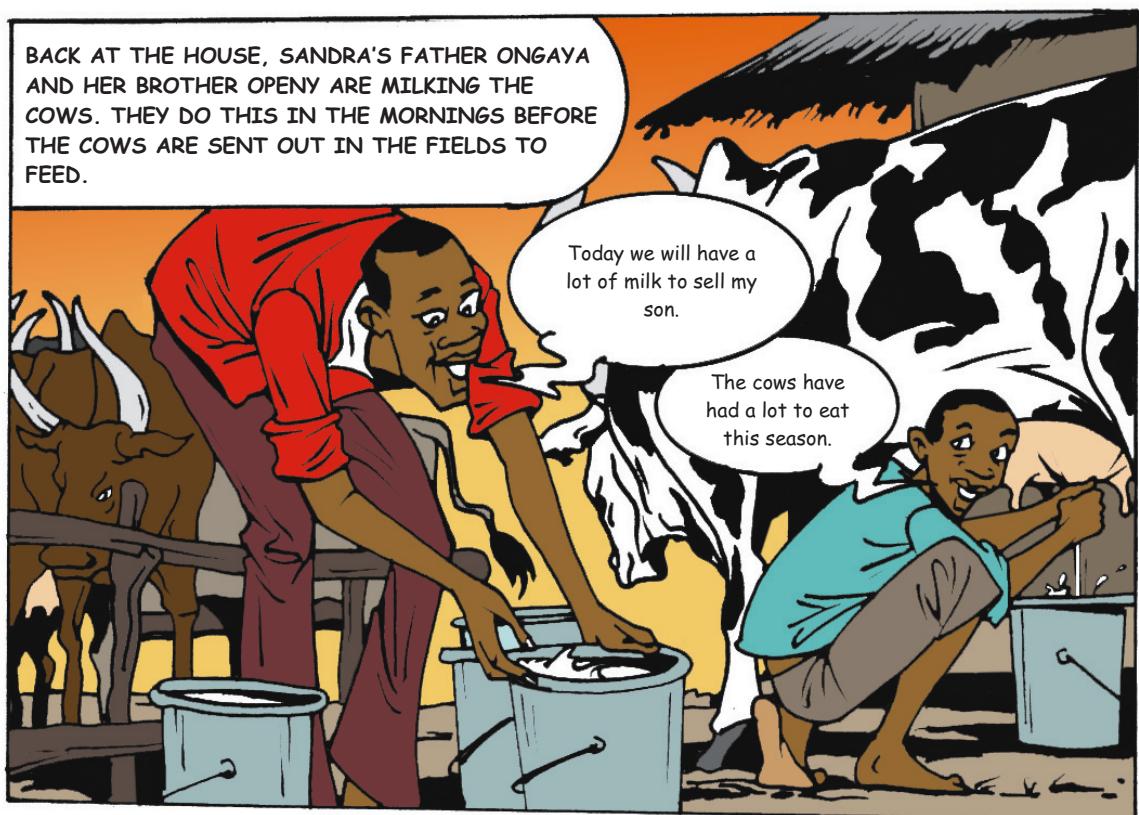
Hmm!
I wish your school results were as good as your excitement for school!!



I promise to improve mother - You know I want to become a teacher when I grow up!

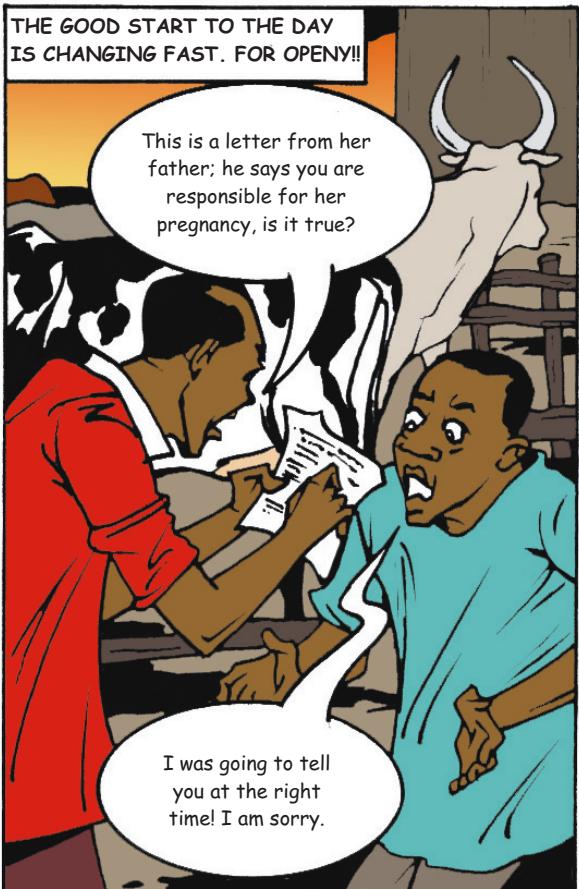
Teacher! Just finish digging and lets go home before it gets too hot.

BACK AT THE HOUSE, SANDRA'S FATHER ONGAYA AND HER BROTHER OPENY ARE MILKING THE COWS. THEY DO THIS IN THE MORNINGS BEFORE THE COWS ARE SENT OUT IN THE FIELDS TO FEED.



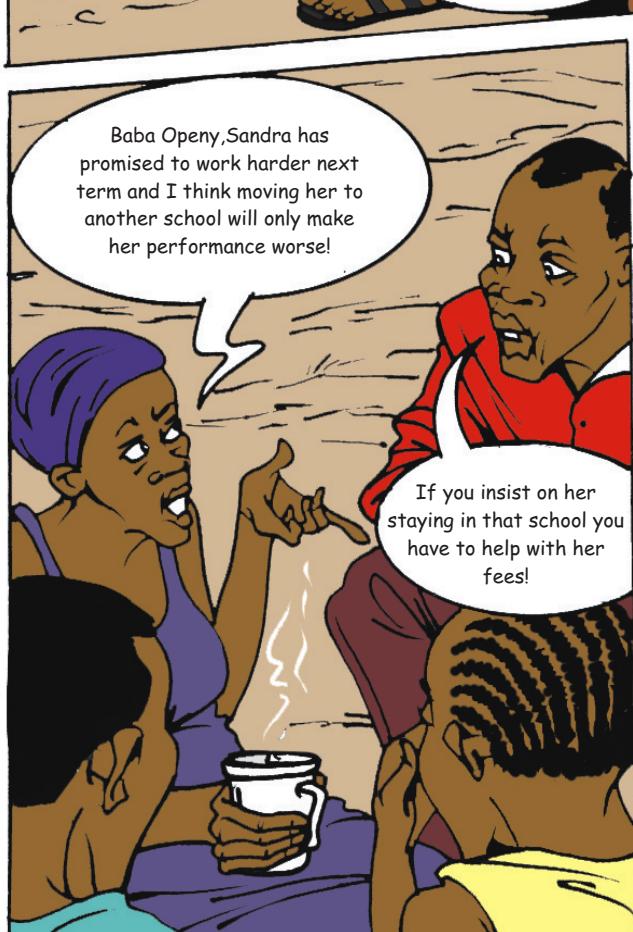
JUST THEN A LOCAL BODA BODA MAN OCOLA COMES BY THE FARM. HE HAS A LETTER TO DELIVER TO ONGAYA



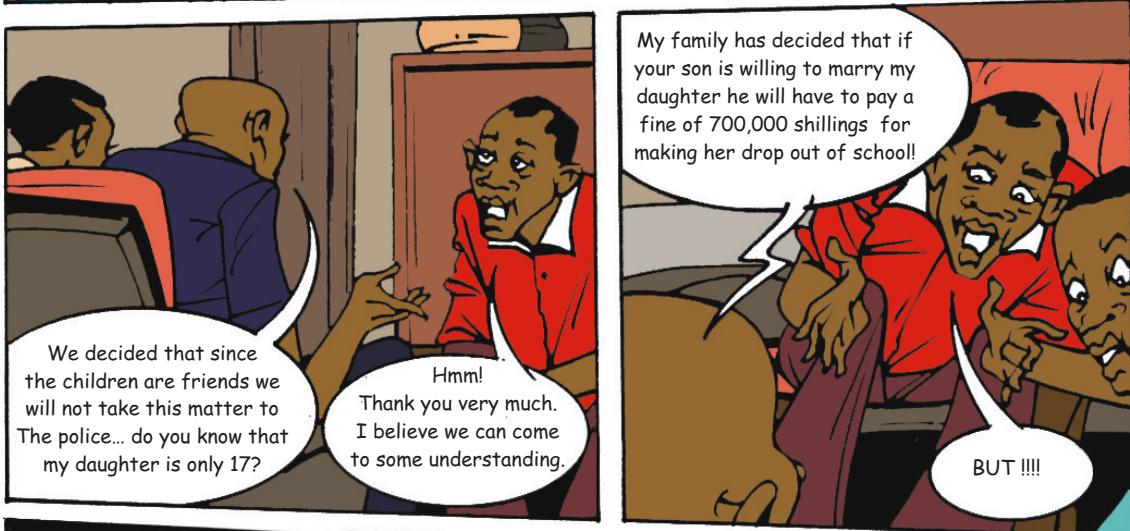


THE FAMILY SITS OUTSIDE THE HOUSE AS THEY HAVE A CUP OF TEA THAT EVENING. ONGAYA BREAKS THE NEWS ABOUT ATIM TO OPENY'S MOTHER!

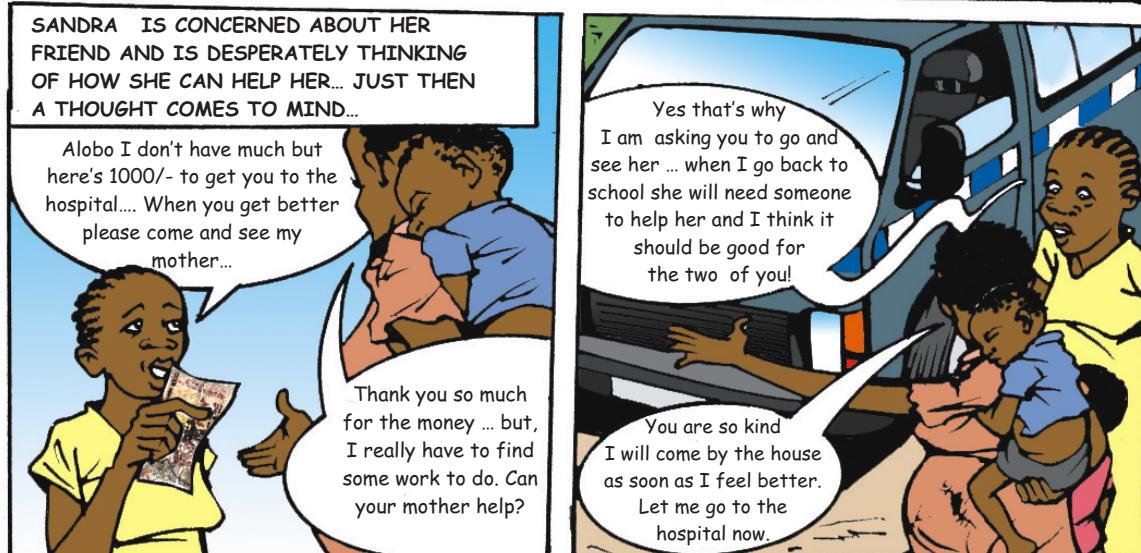
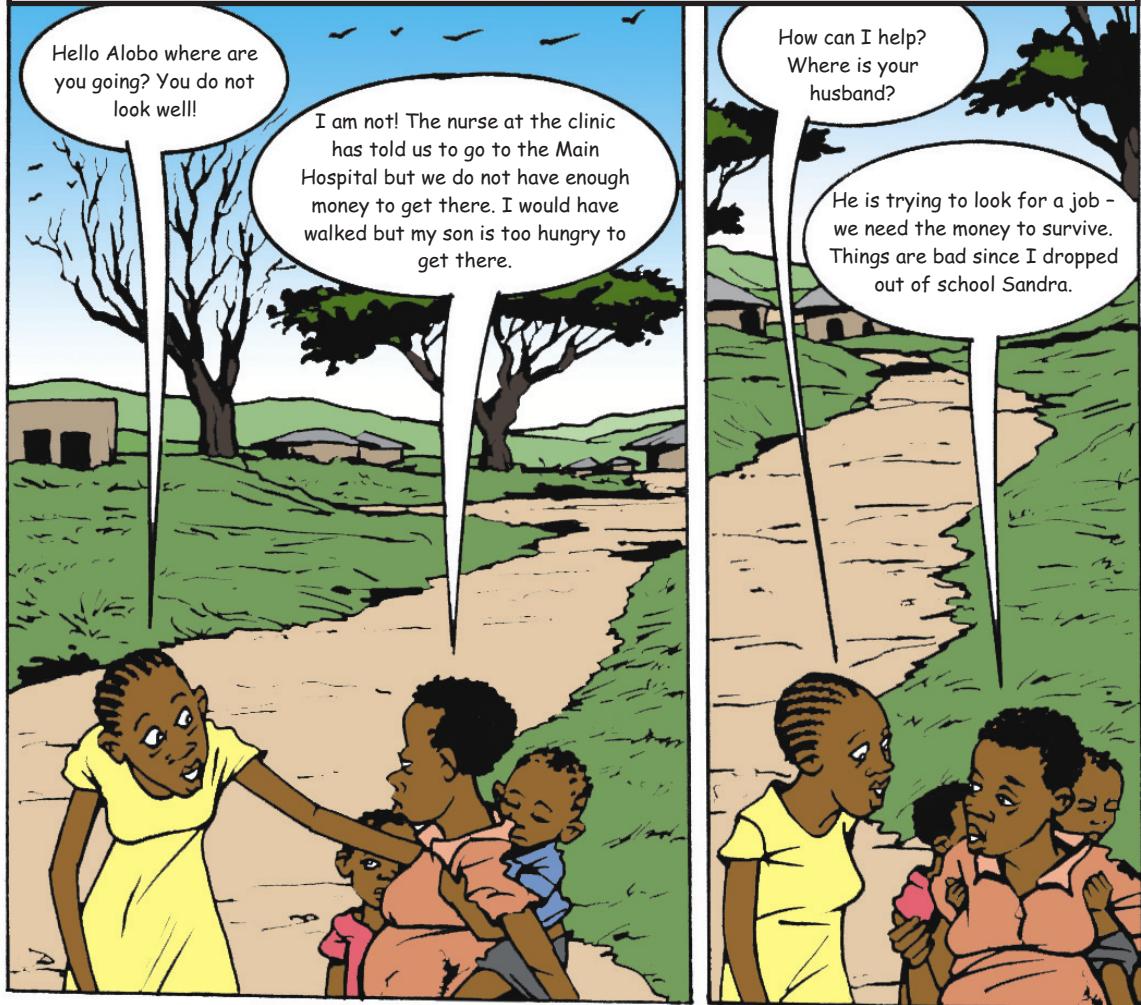




THERE HAS BEEN PEACE AND QUIET THE PAST FEW DAYS BUT TODAY THE FATHER OF ATIM, THE GIRL OPENY GOT PREGNANT, IS COMING TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH OPENY'S FATHER. THERE IS A BIT OF TENSION AS OPENY AND HIS FATHER WELCOME THE VISITORS TO THEIR HOME



THERE ARE STILL A FEW DAYS OF THE HOLIDAYS LEFT. SANDRA IS PLEASED THAT SHE MANAGED TO CONVINCE HER PARENTS TO LEAVE HER IN KWAN-BER GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL. THINGS ARE NOT SO GOOD FOR AN OLD FRIEND OF HERS THOUGH! ALOBO HER FORMER CLASSMATE DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL AND GOT MARRIED. SHE HAS TWO YOUNG CHILDREN - ONE IS A BOY AND IS EXPECTING ANOTHER CHILD. ON HER WAY TO THE HOSPITAL. ALOBO MEETS SANDRA.

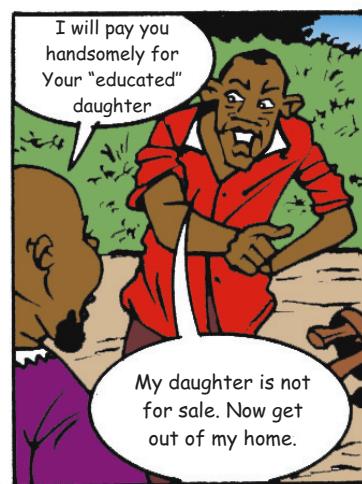
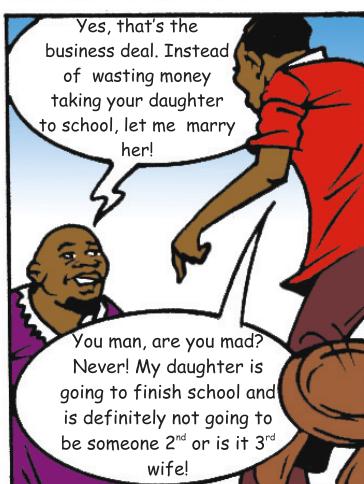
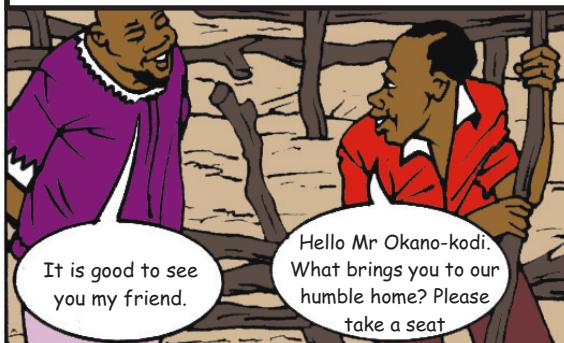


OKANO-KODI IS A WELL TO DO MAN IN TE-GOT TOWN. HE OWNS THE BIGGEST SHOP IN THE TOWN AND IS KNOWN TO HAVE MORE THAN ONE WIFE. MANY PEOPLE IN THE TOWN LOOK UP TO HIM AND HE IS USED TO GETTING HIS WAY WITH THINGS HE WANTS.

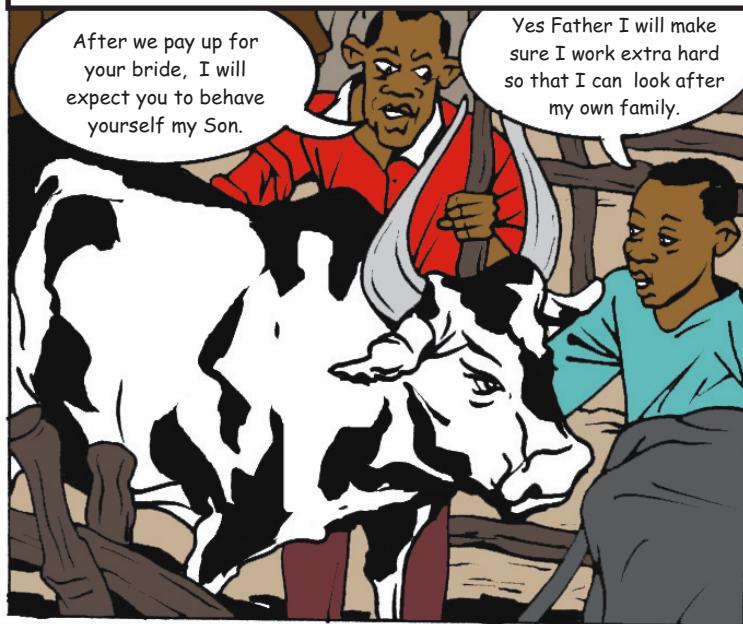
SANDRA HAPPENS TO BE IN THE SHOP TODAY... SHE HAS COME TO BUY SOME SUPPLIES FOR HER MOTHER.



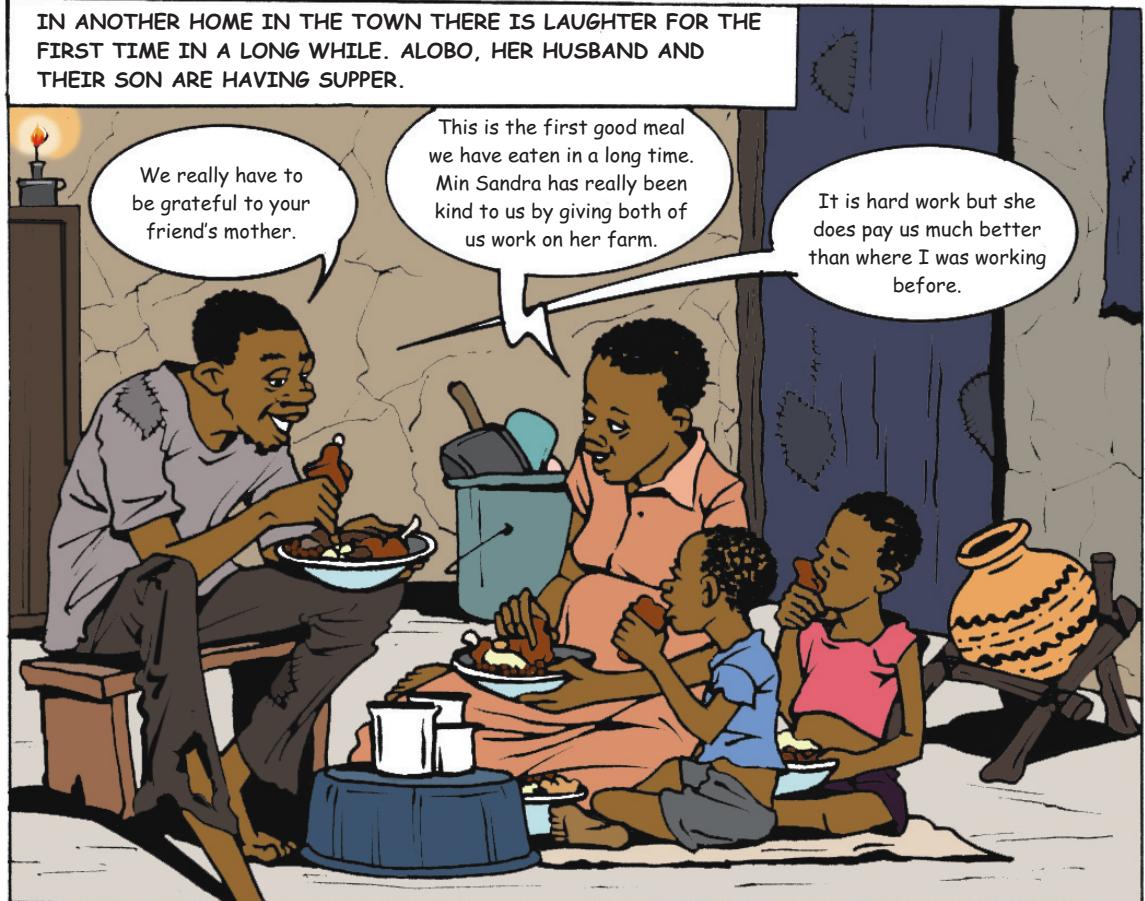
BACK AT THE FARM, MR ONGAYA IS ALL ALONE REPAIRING THE DAMAGED COW SHED. JUST THEN MR OKANO-KODI DROPS BY AS HE HAD SAID. HE IS IN AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD MOOD.



A LOT OF THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING IN THE ONGAYA HOUSEHOLD THESE LAST FEW DAYS. IT IS TIME FOR ONGAYA AND OPENY TO TAKE THE COWS THEY OWE FOR ATIM'S HAND IN MARRIAGE TO HER FATHER'S VILLAGE IN CERE. THEY PREPARE THE COWS FOR THE JOURNEY THEY WILL MAKE VERY EARLY THE FOLLOWING DAY.



IN ANOTHER HOME IN THE TOWN THERE IS LAUGHTER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE. ALOBO, HER HUSBAND AND THEIR SON ARE HAVING SUPPER.



IT IS 5AM IN THE MORNING AND ONGAYA AND OPENY ARE UP EARLY. THEY HAVE A LONG JOURNEY AHEAD OF THEM. TODAY THEY TAKE ATIM'S DOWRY OF 7 COWS TO HER FATHER'S HOME.

Cockadoodaloo!

I want us to go early so that we can be back home today evening!

Let me check on the animals

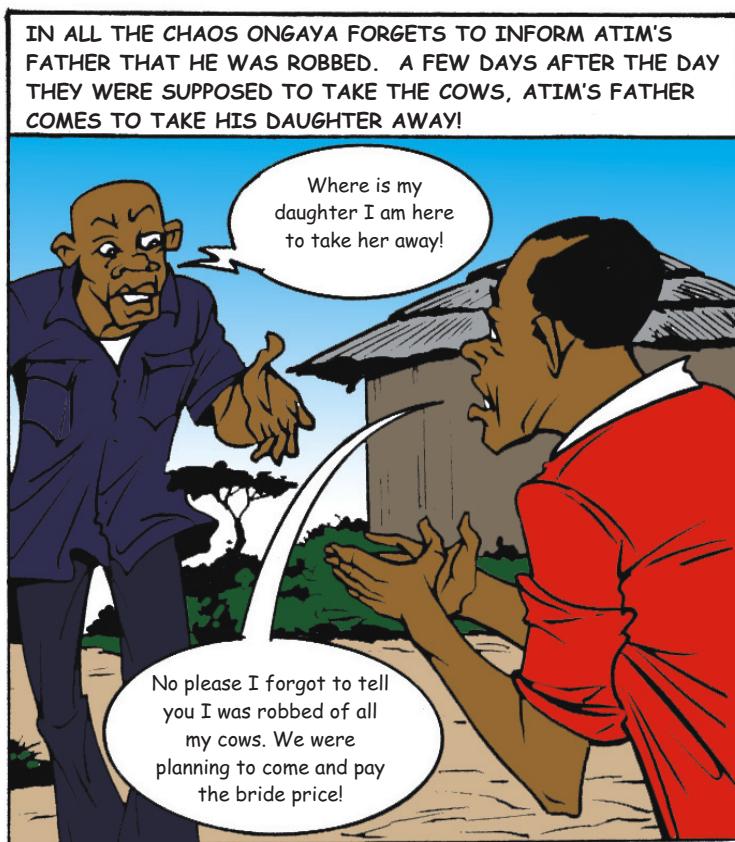
A FEW MINUTES LATER A LOUD VOICE CAN BE HEARD FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE COW SHED..... ITS OPENY. SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED.

Father, Father...
The cows. The cows.... they are gone!

Gone!
What do you mean gone?

Our cows have been stolen!!!! Any marks on the way??? Direction they took?? (later) Quick we have to report this to the police

LATER, THEY REPORT THIS TO THE POLICE.



ONGAYA MANAGES TO PLEAD WITH HIM AND PROMISES TO SORT THINGS OUT SOON! ATIM'S FATHER AGREES TO LEAVE WITHOUT HER BUT HE IS NOT HAPPY.

I will wait for you to sort yourself out BUT if I have to meet you again it will either be paying what we have agreed for the bride price or else it will be the last time you see Atim - I will take her back with me.

Phew that was close.
Sandra! Sandra! Come here at once!

You have to get married!
I need to "pay" for your brother's wife!



JUST THEN MIN SANDRA COMES INTO THE ROOM....

I am not asking.
It is an order!

Mother, Father wants me to leave school and get married!...I am not the one marrying Atim. Why doesn't Openy sort his own problems.

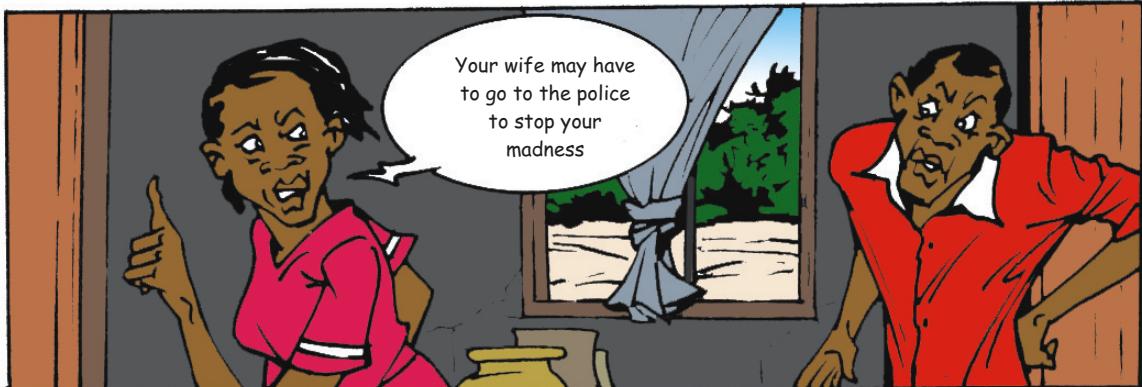
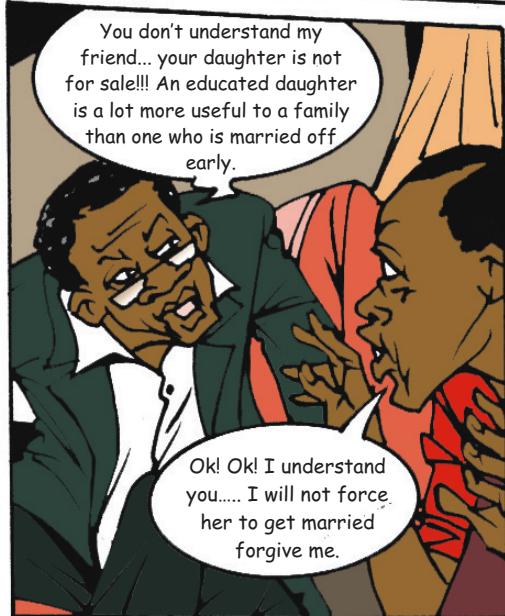
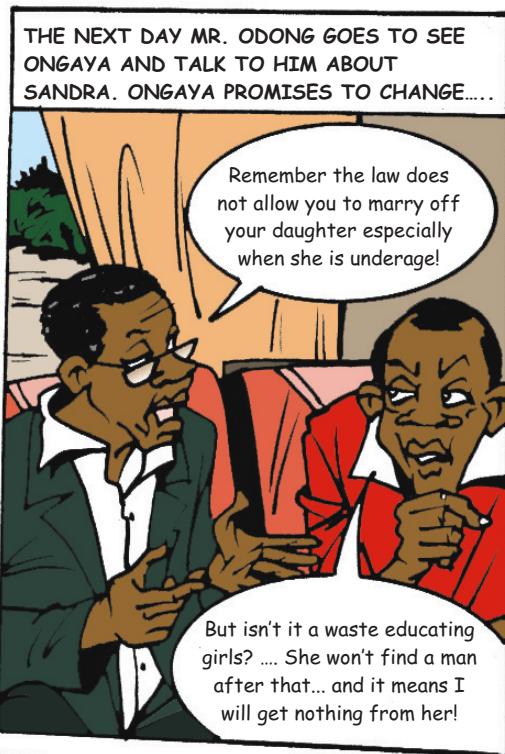
I know it is your mother spoiling you.
You know we need the money!



THREE DAYS LATER. ONGAYA IS VIOLENT. SANDRA AND HER MOTHER RUN AWAY FROM THEIR HOME AND GO TO THE LOCAL LC MR. ODONG TO TELL HIM WHAT IS GOING ON...

Are you telling me that Ongaya wants to marry off his daughter.... This does not sound like him.





SANDRA AND HER MOTHER HURRY OFF TO THE POLICE STATION TO RECORD A STATEMENT.

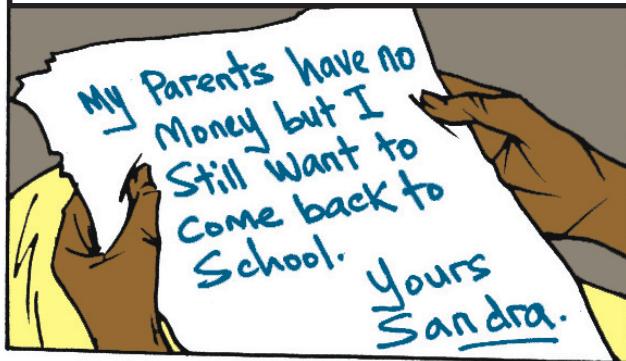


This is serious we will have to take the case to the family and children's court; we have to stop this habit of fathers marrying off their daughters early!

A WEEK LATER ONGAYA IS BROUGHT TO COURT TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF TRYING TO MARRY OFF HIS DAUGHTER SANDRA. SANDRA, HER MOTHER AND HER AUNTIE ARE ALL THERE TO LISTEN TO THE COURT'S DECISION.



IT HAS ALREADY BEEN 2 WEEKS SINCE SCHOOL STARTED AND SANDRA DECIDES TO DO SOMETHING DESPERATE SHE WRITES TO HER HEADTEACHER TELLING HIM OF HER PROBLEMS. SHE WANTS TO COME BACK TO SCHOOL BUT HAS NO FEES!



A MIRACLE DOES HAPPEN! THE HEADMASTER AGREES TO LET SANDRA COME BACK TO SCHOOL. MIN SANDRA HAS PROMISED THAT SHE WILL PAY HER DAUGHTER'S FEES IN INSTALMENTS SHE QUICKLY ARRANGES AND SENDS HER OFF TO SCHOOL.



LATER ON ONGAYA COMES BACK HOME EXCITED. HE IS WAVING MONEY AROUND....



QUESTIONS....for discussions

- 1. What are the main problems affecting the young girls in this story?**
- 2. Discuss whether you feel it is okay for Sandra to disobey her father by refusing to married off. Discuss whether it is better for Sandra to keep in school or get married.**
- 3. What would you do if you were or your sister was faced with a situation like Sandra's?**
- 4. What do think would be the consequences of Openy's marriage to Rose Atim? (Discuss consequences for both Boys and girls).**
- 5. Discuss whether you think it was okay to marry off Rose. How should young girls like Rose who get pregnant be helped/supported? What options are available in your community to help young girls like Rose who get pregnant while in school?**
- 6. Discuss different ways early marriage can be stopped in Your community.**





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