

Working Title: Elimu ya Zainabu
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At Mary's house

Zainab: "Habari za leo? Mother finished Mary's dress. Here it is."
Ashura: "Nzuri. Habari yako? Mary has a stomach upset. She's resting. Give the dress to Cecilia."
Cecilia: "She should see the doctor. She was sick last week too. But...it is expensive."
Zainab: Pole sana.
Richard: "I want some potatoes."
Ashura: How many?"
Richard: "One kilo."
Ashura: calls out: "Cecilia, get one kilo potatoes."
Justa: "How hot it is! So bad for the vegetables."
Ester: "Most of my eggplant got spoilt yesterday. No one wanted to buy any."
Ashura: "You should have seen my spinach! I would have had to pay the customers to buy it!"
Zainab: "What do you do with the spoilt vegetables?"
Ashura: "I throw them away or then cook them. If I have nothing else."
Ester: "Sometimes Mama Lishe will take them, and pay almost nothing for them."

Zainab comes home

Zainab: "Mary has a stomach upset again. They eat the rotten vegetables they cannot sell." Farida looks concerned.
Zainab: "How nice it used to be to go to grandma's house! I really miss it."
Farida: "Yes, it's beautiful on Lake Victoria. Not like here at all."
Zainab: "Was there cold water to drink in grandma's house?"
Farida: "Cold water?"
Zainab: "Yes, in those nice, big, clay pots?"
Farida: "Funny you remember that. That's how they stored water in the village."
Zainab: "Did they keep vegetables in those pots?"
Farida: "No."
Zainab: "If the pots keep water cold, maybe they could keep vegetables cool too?"
Farida: "The only way to know is to try it out."
Zainab: "Shall I wash those old pots we have in the compound?"

Next day, at Richard's school

Hadija: "Copy carefully what I write. These are important questions that are likely to be in the exam. You must all do well."
Hadija: "Last year, 90 percent of your seniors passed the Std 7 exam. This year we must get 95 percent. Any questions?"
Richard: "How can vegetables be kept fresh? Some women in our village are having problems."
Hadija: "Is this a question for a geography class? You should be serious about the syllabus and not waste time on other things."
Naughty boy: "The women should use a fridge!"
Hadija: "Exactly."

Shuleni kwa Zainab, mambo ni tofauti

Francis: “Hamidu, what is the next planet?”

Hamidu: “Earth.”

Francis: “No. Try again. That planet is almost the same size as Earth.”

Hamidu: “Mercury?”

Francis: “No. Grace, can you name it? And tell us something about it.”

Grace: “Venus. It is the hottest of all planets.”

Francis: “Correct. Hamidu, come up to the board and draw Venus.”

Francis: “Any questions?”

Zainab: “Sir, how can we keep vegetables fresh?”

Francis: “Ask people that question and think about it yourself. That is part of your homework.”

Next day, the students share ideas

Student A: Put the vegetables in a vessel and put the vessel in a bigger, hollow plate full of water.

Student B: Dig a hole under a shady tree, put a wooden box in the hole and put the vegetables in the box.

Back in the village

Old Villager: “All this diahorrea. Was not like that when I was young.”

Middle aged man: “You were strong. Now it is all disease. If not diahorrea, then cholera.

Zainab: “I know a way to keep food fresh and bring down disease.”

Richard: “So do I. - get a fridge.”

Zainab: “It is not practical and it’s too expensive. My grandmother knew a better way.”

Daniel: “That old woman on her tiny farm! What would she know?”

Old Village to Zainab: “Run along and get water. That’s your job.”

Zainab and Farida find an answer

Zainab: “We tried different things to keep the vegetables fresh. We also tried grandmother’s way.”

Farida: “I think we have now found the best way.”

Zainab: “Put the vegetables in a clay pot with a lid. Put this pot inside a bigger pot. Put sand between the two pots. Add some water to the sand two times a day to keep it cool.”

Farida: “Sisters, it is your turn to try it out.”

Sharing with the villagers

Mary: “This really works! The vegetables stay fresh.”

Justa: “Saves money!”

Ashura: “And keeps us healthier.”

Old woman: “Hongera sana, binti.”

Farida: “But it was all Zainab’s doing!”

The Minister of Education visits Zainab's school

Minister for Education: “Mwalimu Nyerere said: “ You should not only aim at teaching your pupils how to pass examinations...You must be teachers who teach people to change Africa.”

Minister for Education: “I am happy to meet a teacher and a mother who encourage children to ask questions, try things out, solve real problems and help other people. This is quality education!”
