

The Fishing Hobby and Other Stories



STANDARD 4
READER 2

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Temeka, Member of Parliament

by Lionel Damola

New Words

government, decided, tour, enough,
outboard motor

Phrases

Member of Parliament (M.P.), make a living,
health care

Temeka lived in a village. The village was on an island. On the island there were six villages all together. Temeka lived with his wife called Kapilei. Temeka was an important man in the village. He had just become a Member of Parliament.

A Member of Parliament is someone who works as part of the Government. The people of his island chose him to be their Member of Parliament. Temeka's job was to listen to the people and find out what they needed on their island. He would then need to work hard to see if he could help them.

Temeka wanted to do his new job well. He decided he would go on a tour around the island, going to all of the villages to talk to the people. He thought this would be a good way to find out what was needed on his island.

Next morning Temeka woke up early. Kapilei was already awake. She was getting Temeka's breakfast ready. She was also putting some food in a basket. He would need this on his long journey. While Temeka was having his breakfast, he told his wife why he was going to all the villages on the island. He wanted to see other villages on the island, he told her. He wanted to ask the people what they needed.

Temeka said, “On our island there are about three thousand people. I am going to go to every village and hold a meeting with the chiefs and the people in each village. I want to find out about the schools.

I want to find out how sick people are cared for. I want to know how people make a living. I want to know where they get their food from and if they have enough food. There is so much for me to find out.”

Temeka finished eating his breakfast. He put his basket and bag into his canoe. He climbed into the canoe. Temeka started the outboard motor. He waved good-bye to his wife and started on his long journey.



In each village he held meetings. The chiefs and many people came to the meetings. They wanted to talk to Temeka. They wanted to tell him what they needed to make life better in their village. The people liked Temeka. They were pleased that he was listening to them. They hoped that he would be able to help them.

At last Temeka came back home. He had been away for three weeks. He now put together a plan. He wanted to have the

plan ready when he went to Honiara. He wanted to help the people he had met. It was his job to tell the other Members of Parliament what was needed on his island.

He had to work out what he was going to tell the other Members of Parliament. He needed to tell them that on his island all the school buildings were broken down. This meant that the pupils were not always comfortable when they were trying to learn. Books and paper were often damaged when it rained. The buildings needed to be repaired.

In three of the villages there was no health clinic. In these villages the people did not have good health care. They needed to have a nurse to help them if they were sick. They also needed to have a nurse to help them by telling them how to stay healthy.

Temeka found that people in the villages needed to know more about fishing and farming. He knew that there were Fisheries and Agricultural Officers in Honiara who could help them.

Soon it was time for Temeka to go to his meetings in Honiara. He was away from his island for a long time. When he came back he was very pleased. He had worked hard and had arranged for help for his island.

The schools were going to be repaired. Three new health clinics were going to be built and three nurses were going to work there.

Temeka had also arranged for a police post to be put on the island. The police officers at the police post would make sure everyone was safe.

Temeka had also arranged for some Fisheries and Agriculture Officers to visit. They would show the people in the villages the best way to catch fish, keep animals and grow plants for food.



Everyone on the island was very happy with Temeka's work. He had helped the people in the villages.

The people in Temeka's village made him a big feast. They wanted to say thank you to him for all his hard work.

The pastor in the village made a speech. "We are very pleased with you, Temeka," he said. "You have listened to us all. You have helped our island. Now we will have all the things we did not have before. Life in our villages will be better. We are pleased we chose you to be our Member of Parliament."

Timna's Family and the Weather

by Ellen Wairiu

New words

*plough, lightning, cloudy
thunder, neighbour*

Phrases

*potato vines, cool breeze
Meteorological Officer*

It was Friday evening and Timna and his family were eating and discussing the work they planned to do in the garden the next day. They got their tools ready and cooked some food. The family ate and talked about what each of them would do in the garden.

“I’ll plough some more land. This will make our garden bigger,” said Timna.

His two daughters said they would weed the newly planted garden. Their mother, Saely, said she would plant out some potato vines. Timna and Saely’s two sons said they would collect the potato vines for her to use.



On Saturday morning, everybody woke up early but the weather was cloudy. Soon it started to rain heavily with lots of thunder and lightning. The rain continued throughout the whole of Saturday. The family could not go out to their garden. They stayed at home. Timna wasn't happy but then he saw his wife Saely collecting some rainwater. He was pleased she was collecting water. Timna's neighbour,

Mr. Riri, had a tank. Mr Riri was very pleased because his tank was now filled with rainwater. Saely's old mother Ansa was also pleased because she wouldn't need to carry water from the well to water her Supsup garden behind the house.



On Monday the day was very calm. There was a lot of sunshine so Timna and his family went to their garden. The ground was soft because it had rained. This made it easy for Timna to plough a new garden plot.

They worked all day. Everybody was doing their jobs, as they had planned to do on Saturday. At the end of the day they returned home happily.

On Tuesday the weather was also fine and there was some wind. Timna didn't go out gardening. He decided to visit his friend in another village. He pushed his canoe out on to the sea. He put up a sail and sailed to his friend's village.



“Hello Unu,” said Timna.

“Hello, good to see you!” replied Unu.

“No. I had planned to go out fishing today but the weather is not good for fishing. The sea is starting to get rough,” Unu answered sadly.

They walked across the beach and saw another friend, Otalyn, sitting under a tree on the beach reading a book and enjoying the cool breeze. There were frigate birds flying high in the air. Some children were playing happily too.

On Tuesday night Timna listened to his radio. A Meteorological Officer was talking about the weather. This is what he said.

“The weather is part of our everyday life. When it rains it gives us water and plants need water too. When it is windy, travelling becomes easy because all we need to do is to put up a sail. Not only that but we also need a cool breeze on a sunny day as we do our jobs. The weather controls so many things in our lives.”

Timna thought about what he had heard. Yes, so far this week the weather had certainly controlled what he had done. That night it rained again but this time Timna’s family were very happy because it watered their new garden.

On Wednesday morning the weather was fine. The sea was calm and it was low tide. Saely and her daughters went out to the reef to collect some shellfish. Timna and his sons went to visit their garden and dug up some potatoes for the evening meal. Some village women went out to their gardens while

some men went out fishing. That evening Saely and her daughters baked the potatoes and the shellfish in a big motu. The moon shone brightly in the sky. Timna's family had a delicious meal outside their kitchen hut. They shared their meal with their neighbour Mr. Riri. They enjoyed eating and telling stories under the dim light of the moon.

On Thursday morning Saely was the first one to wake up. She went outside and looked up at the sky. It was going to be another fine and beautiful day. She cooked the family's breakfast and woke everyone up. They ate and talked about what they were going to do. Timna and Saely decided to go to the garden. The girls planned to gather nuts in the morning. In the afternoon they thought they would go to their coconut plantation and collect some dry coconuts. The boys decided to stay at home and sharpen their knives and prepare their spears for a hunting trip the next day.

The weather was fine and everybody enjoyed what they were doing. But in the afternoon the weather changed. There were dark clouds in the sky. The wind started to blow harder. Timna and Saely quickly collected some vegetables from the garden for their meal and rushed home. The girls picked up their baskets of nuts and rushed back home too. Everybody arrived home safely before the rain began. It rained for the whole afternoon so the girls didn't go to the plantation. Timna and his family talked about the weather. Once again the weather had played an important part in what they had done that day.

A Fishing Hobby

by David Sokaika

New words

lucky, unlucky, sleepy, hobby

Phrases

a pair of, tug of war

Bin is a fisherman. Everyday he goes fishing. Fishing is his hobby. He sits in his canoe all day, but he never catches any fish. Other fishermen from his village are lucky. Some of them catch fish over twenty centimetres long. Some of the fishermen who are not so lucky have been known to catch a pair of old shorts or some rags on their hooks.

Bin is very unlucky. He has never caught a fish or anything else. He spends all his time in his canoe, while his wife spends all her time working in the garden. She grows many things for her family to eat.

One night Bin came home late when all his family were asleep. He woke his wife and asked if he could have something to eat. His wife looked at him with sleepy eyes. She had saved some dinner for him. She told him where it was.

Early the next morning, Kalulu and his younger sister Helen, found their father sleeping on the floor in the sitting room. They woke him up and asked if he had caught some fish. He opened one eye, shook



his head and went back to sleep again.

Later his wife woke him up. She asked him to come and help her in the garden.

“You are wasting your time going to sea. You should be helping to cut down the tall trees in the garden instead of sitting in your small canoe doing nothing!” she said.

Bin lay on his back listening to his wife without saying anything. When she left, he stood up, collected his fishing gear and went out to his canoe.

While at sea, another fisherman, Sam, paddled towards him.

“Hello Bin!” he called.

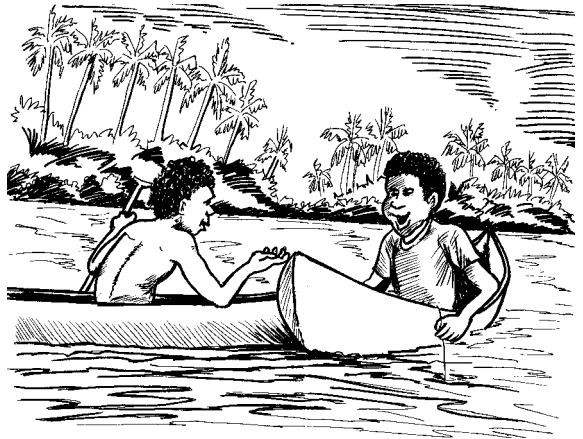
“Hi,” Bin replied.

“How is your day?” Sam asked.

“Quite good,” he answered.

“Have you caught any fish?” asked Sam.

“No, I don’t even know what it feels like to have a fish hooked onto my line. I have never caught a fish,” Bin replied.



“You are here almost every day of the week, for fifty two weeks of the year. In all that time have you never played tug-of-war with a fish?” Sam asked.

“That’s right. I have never caught anything,” said Bin.

“Well I am luckier than you are. Sometimes I catch empty cans or sea weed on my hook,” said Sam. “My wife tells me to give up my hobby. She doesn’t know that I love sitting in my canoe doing nothing.”

Sam and Bin smiled at each other and carried on fishing.

Healthy Food for School Children

by Ellen Wairiu

New words

sugar, energy, snacks, protective
healthy, group, mixture

Phrases

junk food, body building,
a piece of fruit

What is healthy food?

Healthy food is food that is good for the body. All food can be put into three main food groups: energy foods, body building foods, and protective foods that keep us healthy.

What food should children eat?

It is important for children to eat many different types of food every day. Children need to eat foods that give them energy so they can play and learn at school. Some good energy foods are bread, kumara and ripe bananas.

Young people need a lot of body building food because their bodies are still growing. Fish, eggs, nuts and meat are excellent body building foods for children.

Eating some types of food helps children to stay healthy and protects them from sickness. Foods that help to keep people healthy include paw paw, guava, oranges, pineapple, green coconut, mangoes and most vegetables.

Why is breakfast important?

Breakfast is a very important meal. Breakfast food gives children the energy they need to work, learn and play. Children should choose foods from all three food groups for breakfast.

Many children eat only bread and sugary tea for breakfast. They should also eat some body building foods like fish or egg and some fresh fruit to help them to stay healthy.

What is a healthy meal?

Healthy meals always include a mixture of foods from the three main food groups.

An example of a good food for lunch or breaktime would include a sandwich, a piece of fruit, a boiled egg, a piece of cooked root crop and a fruit drink.

Is it okay to eat snacks?

School children enjoy and need to have healthy snacks between meals. Fresh fruit, peanuts, ngali nuts and cut nuts, boiled eggs and sandwiches are all good examples of healthy snacks.

Some snacks that children like to eat are not healthy foods. These snacks are sometimes called junk food. It is not good to eat junk food every day because it often contains a lot of sugar or salt. This is not good for growing bodies. Potato chips, lollies, cordial, soft drinks, chewing gum and ice blocks are some unhealthy snack foods that should not be eaten every day.



The Kabili Family

by Ellen Wairiu

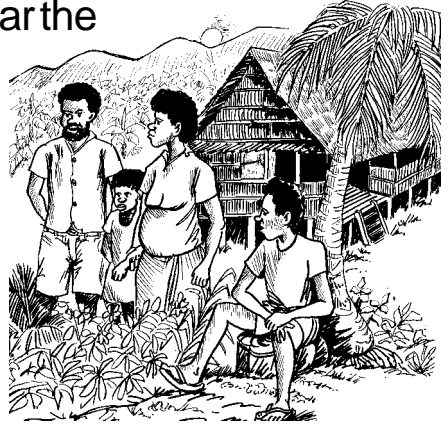
New words

*careful, underweight, favourite
worried, patients, nutritious*

Phrases

*protective food, nutritious food
a variety of food, balanced diet*

Mr. and Mrs. Kabili lived in a village near the beach in Central Province. They had an eleven year old son called Ansah and an eight year old daughter called Ansie. The children enjoyed playing with friends but their bodies were unusually small for their age. Other children who were the same age were taller and bigger than them.



The Kabili family had a large garden behind their house. They planted some root crops such as sweet potatoes and tapioca and other vegetables too. There were lots of different types of fruit trees but Ansah and Ansie didn't want to eat the fruit.

Even though they had a variety of foods in their garden the family didn't eat many different foods. Mrs. Kabili liked to cook the same meal every day which was made up of potato, tapioca with boiled cabbage and rice. This meal was the children's favourite.

One morning Ansah was very sick. He was unable to go to school and he stayed in bed for a week. Ansah's parents were worried. They did their best to help him get better by feeding



him with rice, but he just seemed to get worse.

Mr. and Mrs. Kabili became so worried that they decided to take their son to the clinic. It was a two-hour journey by canoe so the family prepared some supplies.

Mrs. Kabili cooked some rice and put it in a plastic container. Ansie packed some of her brother's clothes, his clinic card and some water into a coconut leaf basket.

Early the next morning, father pushed his big canoe into the sea and set off. They arrived at the clinic at seven o'clock because Mr. Kabili was a strong paddler.

When the clinic opened an hour later, Ansah and his father were the first to go in. The nurse asked all the patients who had arrived early to put their cards on the table and wait outside until she called them.

After fifteen minutes the nurse called Ansah's name and his father carried him into the room. The nurse asked Mr. Kabili some questions about his son and then she asked the boy to stand on the scales. The nurse was very concerned that an eleven year-old boy only weighed twenty-two kilograms.

"What types of food do your family eat at home?" enquired the nurse.

“Our main diet is potato, cassava, cabbage and rice,” replied Kabili.

The nurse explained that Ansah was underweight and needed to eat different types of food to become healthy. She advised the family to eat a variety of foods at every meal so that they would have a balanced diet.

“What is a balanced diet?” questioned Kabili.



The nurse told him that people need to eat foods from the three food groups to have a balanced diet. The Kabili family had been eating foods from the energy food group and a few foods from the protective group. The nurse explained that Ansah was not growing properly because he wasn't eating enough body building foods.

The nurse suggested that the family add fresh or tinned fish or meat to their normal meals because these were good body building foods. She gave Mr. Kabili a chart that showed pictures of foods in the three food groups.

“When your meal has at least one food from each of the three

groups, it's a balanced meal. Cabbage is a protective food, fish is from the body building group and potato, cassava and rice are energy foods," said the nurse.

On their way home Mr. Kabili thought of ways he could help his family have nutritious food to eat. He thought of fishing early in the morning for their breakfast and then fishing in the evening for dinner.

When they reached home Mrs. Kabili and Ansie were waiting for them in the canoe shed. They were anxious to hear what was wrong with Ansah.

Mr. Kabili showed his wife the three food group chart and explained that their children were growing very slowly because they did not have a balanced diet. The Kabilis decided to make sure that the children ate more body building foods every day. That evening Mr. Kabili went fishing and caught one mamula. Mrs. Kabili collected some slippery cabbage, shallots and tomatoes from the garden. She scraped two dry coconuts and milked the cabbage with the fish. She also cooked potatoes and rice.

That night the family began to eat balanced meals and they were always careful to include foods from all the food groups. As time passed, they were very pleased to watch their children grow strong and healthy.



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