

Young Nation

It's story time



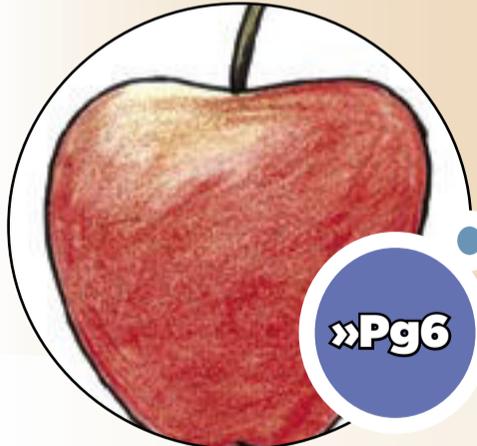
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What U Say



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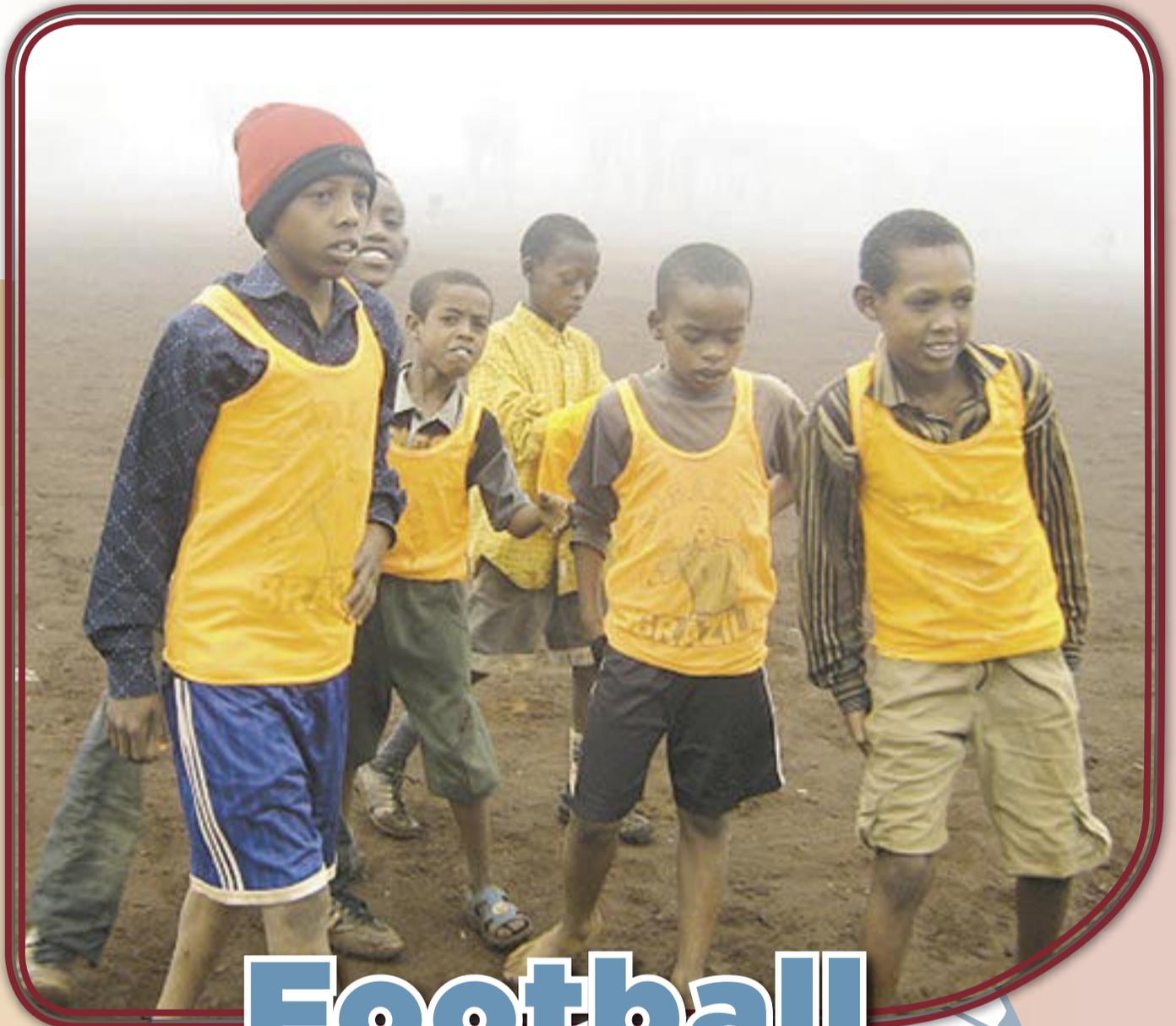
Did You Know?



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Football for peace

Story by KIBIWOTT KOROSS

Watching them play football on weekends when they are not in school you would never know that they come from communities that frequently fight over water and pasture. These are the children from Marsabit district of northern Kenya.

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Happy Birthday Wishes



CHRISTIAIN AWUOR

Happy birthday! As you turn one, you bring joy and happiness in our lives. May you be successful in life. Best wishes from dad Aggrey, mum Mary, brother Clinton, sisters Keithy, Everline and Faith, grandmother Pheobi, aunts, uncles and friends.

MATTHEW GANGLA

Happy birthday! As you turn three, remember that God loves you in a mighty way and we also love you. You are indeed the source of joy and laughter in our family. Best wishes from your parents Pauline and Jeff, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.



CYRILLE SITIALO OSUNDWA

Happy birthday! We wish you luck and God's blessings. You are a blessing to us, indeed. Best wishes from your dad Stanslous, mum Phyllis, uncles, aunts, sisters Marrietta and Valerie, cousins, grandparents, friends and classmates.

EHUD MBURU KANYINGI

Happy third birthday! May God's favour be upon you. Best wishes from dad Robert, mum Irene, sisters Faith and Joy, friends, aunts, uncles and grandparents.



GLORIA KINYA

Happy birthday! May your dream to be a dental surgeon come true. Best wishes from dad Mugambi, mum Lucy, brother Christopher and cousins, aunts and uncles.

RUTH WANJIRU MBURU

As you turn nine, remember that we love and cherish you very much. You are one of the best things in our lives. May God bless you and fulfil your dreams and wishes. Best wishes from dad, mum, Shiku, Cucu, uncles, aunts and cousins.

BLISS NYAKIO MWANIKI

Bliss, today you are five. We thank God for your good health. May you grow up in wisdom. Loving wishes from dad Lewis, mum Penina, Josiah and K' Mhuri families.



BRIAN WEKESA

Happy birthday Brian. You are now 12 years old. May you live to blow 1001 candles. Wishes from dad Timothy Wekesa, mum Mildred, sisters Brina, Bilha, and brother Bob.

SHANTEL WANJIRU MWANGI

Happy birthday! God gave me a very precious gift which was you. May you grow to be a God-fearing girl, obedient and hard-working. Best wishes from mum Nancie, cousins Harriet and Joy Kamau.

OM-MERIDA BARASA

Happy first birthday! May you grow up to be a wonderful girl. Best wishes from dad Fred, mom Mary, brothers Allan, Elvis cousins Annet, aunt Yayo and grandpa Lumerida.

GEVIRA RICHARD MDENGE

Happy birthday! Remember that you mean a lot to us. May you grow strong physically and spiritually. Best wishes from dad Fredrick, mum Lilian and brother Galvin.

Send your birthday wishes to the Editor; Young Nation, P.O. Box 49010, Nairobi. Email: yn@nation.co.ke



Editor says...

After two weeks, the teachers strike is finally over. This is a welcome development for thousands of children in public primary schools. In your 'What you Say' column this week, children share their views about the teachers strike.

It is obvious those children in public schools lost learning time but this does not mean they cannot do well in their exams at the end of the term. All you need to do is plan your time well from now on. You need to do your homework, and set aside time for private study. But above all you should not forget to play because this relaxes your mind and body.

Now here is yet another chance to take away lots of prizes. Look out for our colouring competition on Page 8. Take your time and give us a beautiful drawing and we won't disappoint you. All the best as you get down to learn in your first term.

Liz

Mulu the bully

Every pupil in Bidii Primary School knew Mulu. But the pupils and the teachers knew him for all the wrong reasons. In class, he never paid attention. He also failed to complete most of the teachers' assignments. As if that was not enough, he never adhered to any of the school rules.

But all the pupils hated him for bullying them. Ever since he was in Standard Six, his classmates could not dare cross his path. If they did, he would beat them up and force them to do his homework. In the evening, he would give his big load of books to younger boys in his class to carry for him.

However, nobody knew where his home was. He claimed that his father was a pilot and was a rich man. Every day, Mulu went to school in expensive shoes, watches and lots of money.

When he joined Standard Eight, he beat and mistreated whoever did not take his instructions. If anyone tried to challenge him, Mulu would



force him or her to kneel down and apologise. But they never reported to their teachers because Mulu dared them to do so.

At the end of second term, the teachers organised a school trip to Nairobi. Many pupils registered and paid the Sh 300 required. Mulu was almost the last one to pay up. On the trip day, every pupil was curious and excited. But whenever Mulu neared them, their hearts throbbed with fear.

They were first taken to Parliament. Over lunch time, they were taken to a public park.

They all sat down to eat their packed meal. Mulu was walking all around holding a bottle of soda and shouting orders to his schoolmates.

At once a strong middle-aged man held Mulu by the collar of his shirt. He punched him hard on the stomach. Several teachers enquired what was happening. "This crook here stole my new car battery. He escaped and thought I would never get him," the man explained.

"But we thought he was a pilot's son?" one teacher asked. "Pilot?" the man laughed. "I have employed his father as my farmhand. This boy usually helps him. But last week he stole and sold my car battery to pay for this trip. He has been stealing for years. I must call in the police. This kind of behaviour must rot in prison," he added and they were all shocked. From that day on Mulu never bullied other children because they all laughed at him.

- ROBERT KIHU GITHIRE

Young Nation

Managing Editor:
Eric Obino

Editor:
Liz Gitonga-Wanjohi

Contributors:
Olive Munyi, Mworia Muchina, Fred Orido, Patricia Mundia, Samuel Muigai, Joash Osewe, John Muchiri

Creative Director:
Kamau Wanyoike

Designer:
Anini Andrew

Playing football for peace

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As a way of promoting peace amongst the warring communities, the children play football together regardless of which clan they belong to. The idea of playing football for peace is the brainchild of one woman, Fatuma Abdulrahman. She has brought together children from the Borana, Gabra, Rendille and Somali communities through a non-governmental organisation, The Horn of Africa Development Initiative (Hodi).

She says in the African community, women and children always take a back seat while mediating serious issues especially matters of war.

The Turbi massacre, where the killing of nearly 100 people by feuding clans in Marsabit district in the early morning of July 12, 2005, was what prompted Fatuma to look for long-term solutions towards promoting peace amongst the communities in Eastern and North Eastern provinces. She hopes to bring to an end the cattle rustling menace in the region.

The parents of the children cannot shake hands or even share a seat and the idea is to teach the children at an early age to appreciate their diversity. The football team has participated in major events. Recently, the girls under-17 team travelled to Nairobi where they played with Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA) girls team. "Coming from the region, I felt so bad to see everybody living his or her own



life," Fatuma says. "When the boys play against each other and a goal is scored, we celebrate in one voice to show that we can actually live together in peace."

Teams are picked randomly and carefully to avoid selecting children from one tribe. The teams are divided into three groups: the under-Seven, the under 12 and the under 17. Seven-year-old Joel Eperut from Samburu says he has been moved by the team spirit. "I don't know why our fathers fight always," he told 'Young Nation' adding that, "Aunt Fatuma has made us realise we are not different and so we should live in peace. We are all brothers and sisters."

According to Hussein Jillo, 10, from the Rendille community who joined the team three months ago, the idea

of playing football to promote peace amongst the warring communities is a great one and he hopes their parents would emulate the children. He adds that Hassan Omar from the Gabra community is now his best friend. "We spend most of our time together when playing or watching others play football."

When hundreds of armed raiders of the Borana community attacked the Gabra people living in the Turbi area, North West of Marsabit, 22 of the 60 confirmed dead were children, said Fatuma. The children suffer during war and they understand that peace is a good thing.

The youths assemble at Marsabit stadium every Saturday and on Sunday afternoon for practice. "We chose this

Above: Children cheer their team during a match, left: Ms Fatuma Abdulrahman with some of the children.

Photos by Kibiwot Koross

young blood because they are the future of this place," she said adding that, "I don't want them to be involved in fighting in the future. This is the best way to nurture them towards peaceful coexistence as they grow."

"Sporting activities is how they will learn to live together," she concludes adding that, "it has always been my wish to see all the warring factions get together. I'm sure that one day, this will come to true."





'Why we welcome the teachers move to end strike'

JOHN MUCHIRI spoke to some of the pupils in both private and public schools.



Austin Raila

I feel very bad that I've been spending most of my time at home ever since the strike started. I think the government should sack all the teachers who go on strike in future and employ new ones who have no jobs. Parents who can afford should take their children to private schools.



Evelyne Akinyi

I'm in a private school but I felt very bad when most of my friends could not go to school like I did for two weeks. I think teachers and the government should always reach an agreement about the pay without forcing pupils out of school.

Yvonne Achieng'

I'm in a public school and I feel very bad that I have lost a lot of time outside class. I usually do my revision every day at home but that is not enough. I blame the teachers because they want to use force in order to be paid.



Michael Mungai

I am in a private school but I was very angry at the teachers who were on strike. My friends just stayed at home and played video games just because of the teachers. They should have talked to the government in a friendly way and they would have been heard and paid.

Alphonse Omondi

My friend told me that the ministers are paid very well. They should pay teachers well too because they teach everybody in this country. Teachers should be patient enough and wait for the government to collect enough money to pay them. But I think the president should give out the money now or we will suffer for a very long time.



Herine Atieno

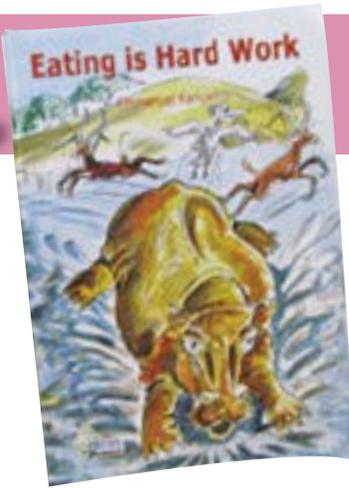
Teachers should look for jobs in private schools if the government is not paying them well in future. The government should also try and listen to what teachers want so that they can be able to teach. I'm in a private school and it's really bad that most of my friends did not go to school for eight days.

Dancan Omwanza

I think the president and teachers should sit down and talk about the salary. Teachers should understand that children are suffering. The government should promise to pay teachers well and make sure they do so very quickly. Children from public schools like me, should also stop playing all day but sit down and do a lot of revision.



Book Review



Title: Eating is Hard Work
Author: Emmanuel Kariuki
Publisher: Focus Publishers
Reviewer: JOHN MUCHIRI

This book revolves around the great wildebeest migration crossing the famous Mara River. Every year, we know that the wildebeest migrate from Kenya's Masai Mara national park into Serengeti national park in Tanzania. In the process, many wildebeests fall prey of the dangerous crocodiles in the river, and only the strong ones survive and make it to the other end of the river. However, very little is told about the crocodiles and other animals that live in the Mara River, particularly at the point where the migration takes place annually.

The author has developed the story well. The crocodiles prepare for the 'annual feast', as other animals like the hippos, hyenas, pythons and giraffes in the near grassland watch. The author talks of the main beneficiaries of this migration, mainly the crocodiles and the hyenas. However, other animals, like the hippos, suffer a lot during this migration. First, they are herbivorous, which means they can only feed on grass, and second, the water becomes

very filthy since the reptiles capture as many wildebeests as possible and store them in the water. This starts a big fight between

the hippos and the crocodiles, just after the migration ends, and they put each other on the test since both are equally strong.

Some animals have even classified themselves as upper class, middle class and lower class. The illustrations also show different scenes of the book, making it better for the readers to understand. There are thrilling parts in the story, for example during a conversation between the python and the hippo. The python talks of how he attacks potential prey. There is also suspense as the hippo plans to attack a boastful crocodile. However, the book ends unceremoniously, just after the main hippo has been badly attacked by the crocodile. It is not clear whether the hippo attacked back. Read on and find out more.

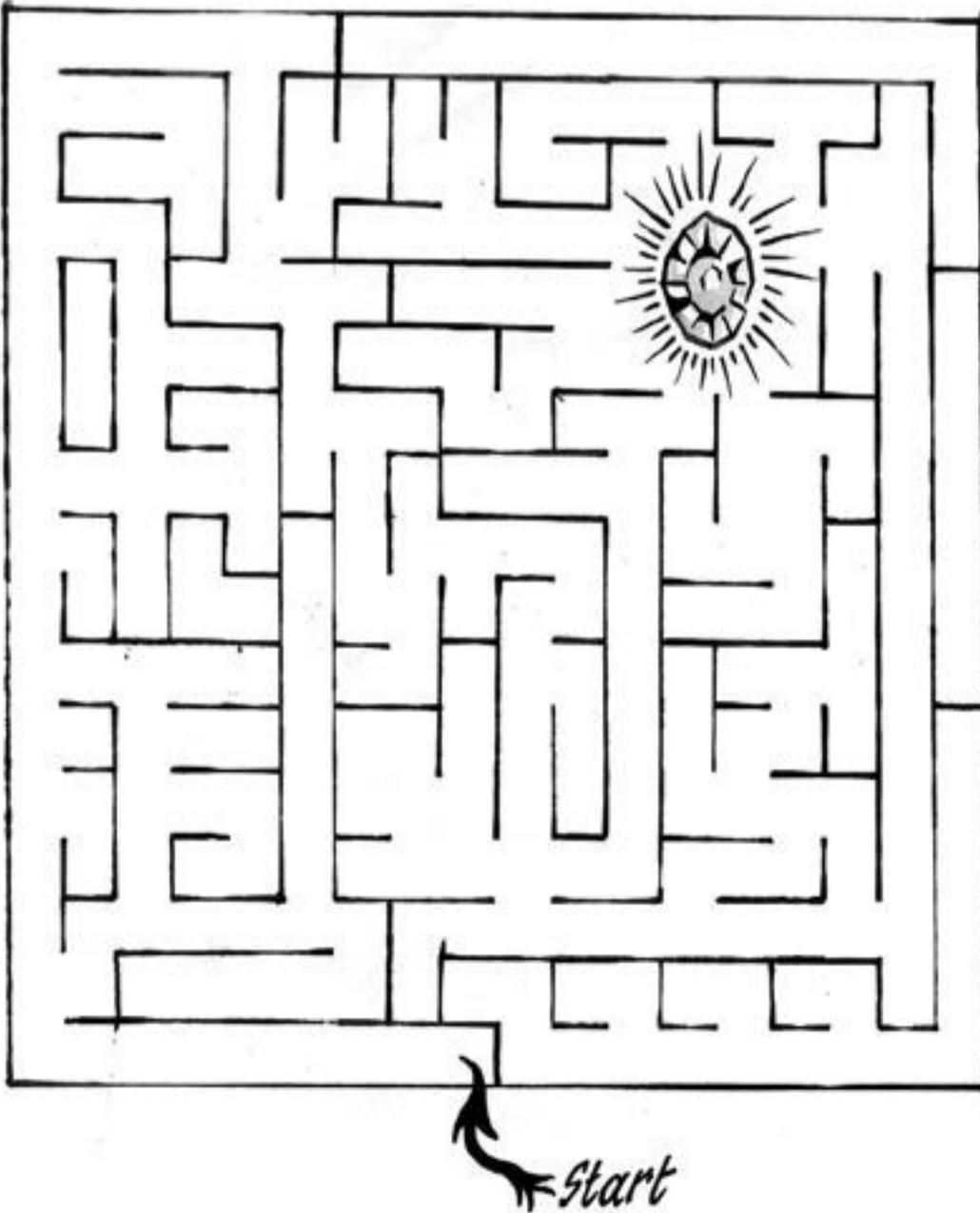
jmuchiri@nation.co.ke

PHOTOS BY FAITH NJUGUNA

Sara is star-struck by the super model. Join the dots to see what the model is carrying.



Can you fetch the diamond?



Which one of these things is the odd one out?





Children and the law

By Patricia Mundia
Law Student at Catholic
University of East Africa

Talk about your rights

Rights are the privileges or liberties that a person has. They are protected by the law and they guarantee that people live peacefully in a society. Commonly known rights include the right to life, liberty, expression, worship and protection against torture. Children's rights include the right to parental care, education, non-discrimination, healthcare etc. Unfortunately, these rights are sometimes abused and that is why they need to be enforced.

Enforcement of rights refers to the steps taken to ensure that your interests are protected where there is danger of them being violated or where they have already been violated. In instances where the rights of a child

have been violated, the law provides that a child can seek action in the High Court through an adult.

When the application has been presented before the court and heard, the court will go ahead to make orders and give directions depending on the circumstances. For example, where the child is mistreated or abused, the court makes arrangements on where the child will be raised, who will raise them and how these arrangements will be followed.

Another way children can learn to enforce their rights is to speak openly about it. For example, we know that children have a right to leisure and rest and that they should be able to engage in extra curricular activities as well

because this helps to promote their growth in areas such as their health and spirituality. In situations where such opportunities are not given, it is good to ask for it politely while showing how it benefits you. Speaking out also means speaking for those who are disabled because most of them are not able to express themselves well (for example the dumb and deaf).

However, in enforcing rights violence does not need to be used. Dialogue has been known to settle the fiercest of disputes. This is because conversation means that both sides can be heard and allowed to present their side of the argument and afterwards an arrangement is made that favours both parties.

Know your rights

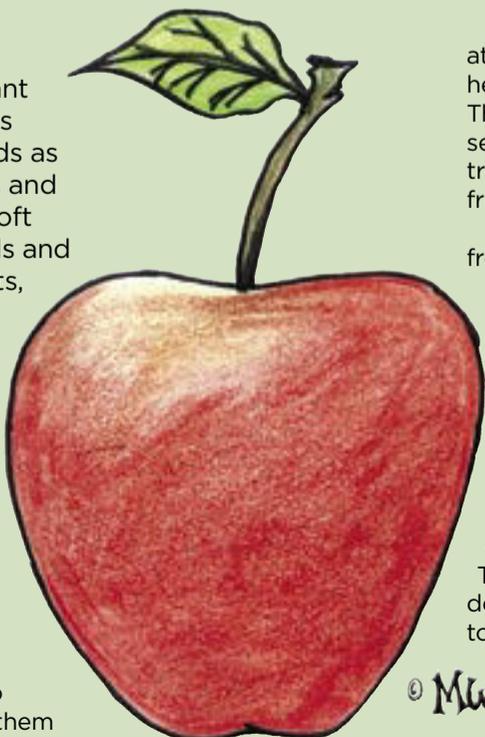
Did You Know?

Compiled by MWORIA MUCHINA

The heaviest apple fruit weighed more than a kilo

A fruit is the part of a plant that protects and feeds new seeds as they grow. Humans and animals often eat soft fruits. When animals and birds eat these fruits, the seeds usually pass through their digestive system without being harmed. So without knowing it, they later deposit the seeds in ground a long way where they germinate.

Fresh apple fruits are juicy and good to eat. This also makes them



attractive to animals, which help spread the seeds. The pips in apples are the seeds. Farmers grow apple trees especially for the fruits.

The apple tree originated from Central Asia, where its wild ancestor still grows up to date. In 2005 alone, at least more than 55 million tonnes of apples were harvested worldwide.

The apple tree, (*Malus domestica*) is one of the most widely cultivated tree fruits. The tree is small and deciduous, reaching three to 12 metres tall. A mature apple fruit is about five to nine

centimetres in diameter. The centre of the fruit contains five female reproductive organs of a flower arranged in a five-point star, with each of them containing one to three seeds.

But did you know that the heaviest apple fruit weighed 1.849 kilos? The fruit was grown and picked by Chisato Iwasaki at his farm in Hirosaki City, Japan on October 24, 2005. Apples are mentioned in many religious traditions, often as a mystical or forbidden fruit. The apple trees are susceptible to a number of fungal and bacterial diseases and insect pests like aphids.

pmuchina@nation.co.ke



MANDY WANJA,
P.O. Box 62, Siakago, Kenya. Age: 12. Hobbies: Watching movies, reading novels, listening to music and making new friends. Would like penpals from all over the world.

ZIPPORAH ORACHI,
St. Therasas Girls' High School, P.O. Box 611, Kisii, Kenya. Age: 16. Hobbies: Dancing, making new friends, making jokes, reading novels, watching movies and exchanging ideas. Would like penpals from all over the world.

PANCY WANJIRU,
Murray Girls' High School, P.O. Box 1069, Wundanyi, Kenya. Age: 15. Hobbies: Watching movies, making new friends and travelling. Would like penpals from Mexico, USA and the Philippines.

FAITH MWIKALI,
Precious Blood Killingi, P.O. Box 122, Nonunion, Kenya. Age: 15. Hobbies: Listening to music, watching movies, travelling and meeting new friends. Would like penpals from all over the world.

NAOMI NJUHI,
Kamuthatha Primary School, P.O. Box 1575, Embu, Kenya. Age: 12. Hobbies: Singing, dancing, listening to music, travelling, swimming, reading novels and making new friends. Would like penpals from USA, Canada, Australia, Germany and Switzerland.

HAPPIE RACHAMI,
St. Theresa's Girls' High School, P.O. Box 611, Kisii, Kenya. Age: 16. Hobbies: Making new friends, making jokes, reading magazines, watching news and exchanging snaps. Would like penpals from all over the world.

ISAAC OUNDO,
St. Joseph Boys' High School, P.O. Box 485, Kitale, Kenya. Age: 16. Hobbies: Listening to music, playing basketball, dancing and exchanging photos. Would like penpals from USA, South Africa, Kenya, Britain and Germany.

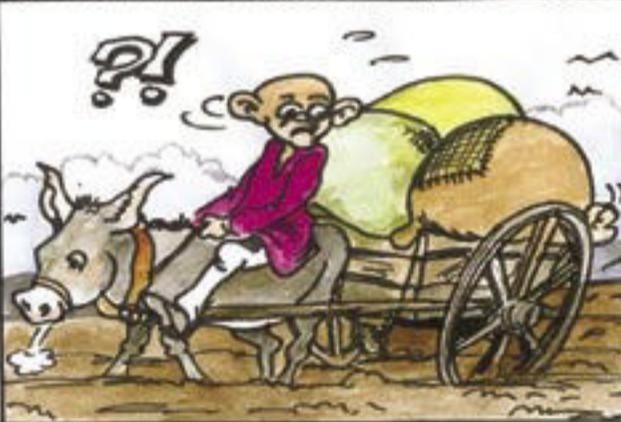
Power to read



Pupils of Forest View Academy in Nairobi during the school's 22nd graduation ceremony in Karen, Nairobi. The day was marked with song and dance.
PHOTOS/ANTHONY NJAGI

AFRICAN FABLES
by Mworld Muchina
The donkey's cart
pmuchina@nation.co.ke

A farmer was driving his donkey cart along a muddy road when the wheels got stuck in the mud..

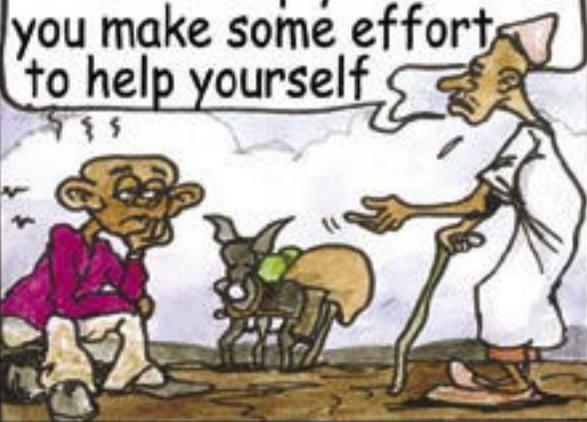


Instead of making an effort to get it out, he only cursed his bad luck while calling God for help



A passerby heard him...

Urge your donkey on. God will not help you unless you make some effort to help yourself



When the farmer pushed the stuck cart and urged the donkey on, the cart moved...



Soon, the farmer was riding along with ease having learnt a lesson



MORAL God helps those who help themselves



Cut along this line

Colour me Competition

Colour the drawing on the right and win a prize

Name:.....

Address.....

Tel:.....

Age:.....

School.....

Send your drawing to:
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Young Nation,
P.O. Box 49010 - 00100 GPO
Nairobi

DEADLINE FEBRUARY 15, 2009

