



1.

My name is Molisha Katsekera and I am 14 years old. I live in the village of Namakasu in Malawi.



2. Namakasu has a weekly market, small hospital, school and a maize mill. People go to the maize mill for their maize to be made into flour to make our staple food which is called 'nsima'.



3.

I live with my father and mother, my 16 year old sister Ether and my 10 year old brother Ernest. My older brothers Aubrey and Wilfred stay in the village and usually eat the evening meal with us.



4.

My father is a businessman who has a tea room beside the market which he runs with my brother Aubrey who is 21. He sells tea, nsima and scones (small bread loaves) at the tea room.



5.

My mother cooks our nsima and draws water. With my brothers, Aubrey and Wilfred, she digs the land which we farm where we grow maize and groundnuts.



6.

I get up at six o'clock when the sun rises and my sister and I sweep the compound. It takes about fifteen minutes. Then I wash the plates from the meal the night before. We wash them in the morning because it is too dark to wash them after the meal. Then I draw two buckets of water for washing from the well and take a bath (wash).



7.

For breakfast I have tea with four dessert spoons of sugar and maize porridge. At twenty past seven I walk to the primary school.



8.

Each day at school starts with assembly. We sing the national anthem every day. Then lessons start. I am in the last year of primary school. My class is standard eight and there are 36 pupils in my class.



9.

I usually sit next to Karden and Crystal. My favourite lessons are English and Social Studies. At break-time I usually play 'Fly' with my friends. We use a ball made from recycled plastic bags to play 'Fly', just like the ones the boys play football with.



10.

I come home for lunch at one o'clock. We eat nsima and turnips.

11.

It is important to pass the exams at the end of primary school. I want to pass them so I can go to secondary school. My older brothers have completed the four years of secondary school and my sister Ether is in Form Two. So in the afternoon I walk from my house and go back to school and work with my class until four o'clock.



12.

Then I go home and wash the plates from lunch and play with my friends. After that I help my mother and sister to cook the evening meal and we eat 'nsima' all together just after the sun has set a six o'clock.



13.

At half past six I go back to school until twenty past eight. We use paraffin lamps to read in the dark. Then I go home and Esther and I go to the bedroom we share to sleep on the mat.

