

LEARNING BY EAR

“THE UNWELCOME EVENING GUESTS”
- ONE FAMILY’S FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA

EPISODE NINE: "T.E.A.M. - TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE"

SCRIPT: CHRISPIN MWAKIDEU

EDITOR: ANDREA SCHMIDT

ASSISTANT EDITOR: KATRIN OGUNSADE

HEALTH EXPERT: DR. HEIDRUN HÜBNER

SCENE ONE: EVENING AT MAMA DAVID'S HOUSE.

List of characters:

- MAMA DAVID (f, 43)
- DAVID (m, 14)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE TWO: BREAK TIME AT KAREMBO'S SCHOOL

List of characters:

- DAVID (m, 14)
- KAREMBO (f, 14)
- HEADTEACHER(f, 38)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE THREE: AT MASIKA'S HOME

List of characters:

- BETTINA (f, 34)
- MASIKA (m, 40)

- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE FOUR: BETTINA AT MAMA DAVID'S HOUSE.

List of characters:

- BETTINA (f, 34)
- MAMA DAVID (f, 43)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

INTRO/NARRATOR (same voice):

Hello and welcome everyone, welcome to the ninth episode of “The Unwelcome Evening Guests” - a family’s fight against malaria”, part of our ‘**Learning by Ear**’ series. Last time, we left David on his way to tell his mother about teaming up with Karemba to start an anti-malaria club. Karemba had decided to wage war against the mosquitoes by clearing all the grass around her neighbourhood and draining away the puddles and swamps where the mosquitoes lay their eggs. Masika, her father, also joined in the fight by putting fish in all the unused ponds. That left Bettina as the only family member who didn't know how to contribute to this fight. Will she find a role? So, join me now as we listen to "**T.E.A.M.-TOGETHER EVERYONE ACHIEVES MORE**".

First of all, David is about to break the news to his mother.

MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE ONE: EVENING AT MAMA DAVID'S HOUSE.

A-SFX: BOILING OR FRYING OF SOME FOOD

1. **DAVID:** Mum
 (POLITELY)
 Can I help you with anything?

2. **MAMA DAVID:** **(STUNNED)**
 Huh? Did you just offer to help me?

3. **DAVID:** Yes, Mum. I know how difficult it is to be a widow
 and raise a child all by yourself. I know, I don't
 always make you proud of me but I am proud of
 you.

4. **MAMA DAVID:** Hmm... That's very nice of you to say that. How was school? And how is Karembo? You know, her parents still won't talk to me? They blame me for what happened but all I ever wanted to do was to help the sick girl.
5. **DAVID:** School was fine. Today, Dr. Munga from the district hospital came to speak to us about malaria. I never knew that the medicines they still sell in the kiosks to treat malaria, have become ineffective because the malaria parasites have grown resistant to them.
6. **MAMA DAVID:** That's why I always trust our traditional herbs. .
Anyway, on...
7. **DAVID:** **(CAUTIOUSLY)**
Karembo came to school today too, she is better now, totally cured and she intends to start an anti-malaria club and she's asked me to join her. What do you think, Mama?
- (SHORT SILENCE)**
8. **MAMA DAVID:** **(TAKES ONE DEEP BREATH)**
Come here, my son. Open the window. Now, I know it's dark... but just open it.
9. **B-SFX: WINDOW SLOWLY OPENING. CRICKETS SOUNDS**

10. **MAMA DAVID:** What do you see?
11. **DAVID:** Darkness. I see darkness. Mum, are you all right?
12. **MAMA DAVID:** Of course, I am alright. Just because I believe in traditional healing doesn't mean I'm crazy. Ok, what do we have at the back of our house?
13. **DAVID:** At the back? There's nothing there apart from the lemon grass which you like to use for making tea.
14. **MAMA DAVID:** Aha! But did you know that it is also called "fever grass" and it actually repels mosquitoes too! I learned about it from Mizanja.
15. **DAVID:** **(SURPRISED)**
Whaaat!! Mum, I had no clue! Oh, that's why you asked me to stop burning the mosquito coils, because the lemon grass was repelling the mosquitoes. Now, I understand. Mum, you are a genius!
16. **MAMA DAVID:** David, I am very happy that Karemba and you want to do something like that and I will support you in whatever way I can.
17. **DAVID:** You...?
(NOT BELIEVING)
Do you mean that?

18. MAMA DAVID: Absolutely! Now, close the window. Sit down at the table I'll serve you dinner.

19. C-SFX: WINDOW CLOSSES

NARRATOR: David could not believe what he had learned. The next morning he couldn't wait to see Karemba and share his knowledge with her. He waited until the bell for a break rang

SCENE TWO: BREAK TIME AT KAREMBO'S SCHOOL

20. D-SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGS...FOLLOWED BY BURST OF NOISE FROM STUDENTS.

21. DAVID: (EXCITED)
Karemba, you will not believe this!

22. KAREMBO: What, David? You look as if you've seen a ghost. Did you talk to your mother?

23. DAVID: (IN TRANCE)
Do you know about lemon grass?

24. KAREMBO: Yes. Everybody knows about lemon grass. It's used for making tea, right?

25. DAVID: Ah, at last! I know something that you don't know. Well, apparently it's not just good for tea. It's also good for repelling the unwelcome evening guests! Can you believe that?

26. **KAREMBO:** No. Where did you learn about this?
27. **DAVID:** **(HESITANT)**
Eh...eh, let's just say from a very reliable source.
Oh, and my mother didn't
28. **KAREMBO:** **(CUTS HIM SHORT)**
I knew it! She did not agree to let you join the club. But that's okay, I already put a notice up on the school board and lots of students have already signed up.
29. **DAVID:** No, no, Karemba. I wanted to say that my mother not only let me join your club, but she also offered to help us!
30. **KAREMBO:** That's wonderful David! Now, let us...
31. **E-SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGS, FOLLOWED BY NOISY STUDENTS**
32. **H/TEACHER:** Karemba! David! I want you two in my office, now!
33. **DAVID:** **(TERRIFIED)**
Karemba what did we do? I don't want to get punished.
34. **KAREMBO:** David, you are a boy! I'm the one who should be scared.

35. F-SFX: DOOR BEING KNOCKED.

36. H/TEACHER: Come in!
(STERNLY)
Ok, can either of you tell me who is behind that notice on the board, and who gave you permission to post it?

37. DAVID: It wasn't me, madam! It was...

38. KAREMBO: Me. I'm the one behind it. I thought I should do something after what I've been through. I will remove the notice on my way back to class.

39. H/TEACHER: Why? Why would you want to remove it after just putting it up?
(PAUSE)
It's an excellent idea! I don't know why we never thought of it before.

40. KAREMBO: **(RELIEVED)**
So, you are not angry with me for doing it?

41. H/TEACHER: I am angry at how you did it. But then, again this is something that will help every student. So, I have decided that the whole school will join this club.

42. KAREMBO/DAVID: (HUGE SURPRISE)
The whole school!?

43. H/TEACHER: Yes, and this includes the teachers. Don't you know the English proverb, “many hands make light work”? So, you start thinking about how and what you want to achieve. I will talk to the Ministry of Health on your behalf, should you require any assistance.

44. KAREMBO: **(IN DISBELIEF)**
I... don't know. This is such a huge task. I never thought...

45. H/TEACHER: Don't worry. We will all work together as a team. That's all for now.

46. G-SFX: DOOR SLOWLY CLOSES.

NARRATOR: And so it was. Karembu's entire school joined in the fight against malaria. Karembu divided them into groups, and the campaign started with the goal of eliminating the mosquitoes or, as Karembu, liked to call them the unwelcome evening guests. Meanwhile, at Masika's home...

SCENE THREE: AT MASIKA'S HOME

47. H-SFX (RADIO PLAYING LOUD LOCAL MUSIC AS MASIKA LISTENS)

48. BETTINA: Masika, I need to talk to you.

49. MASIKA: **(NOT HEARING)**

Uh? Are you talking to me?

50. BETTINA: No! To this wall. Of course, I'm talking to you. Who else is here apart from you and Zawadi? Turn the radio down!

51. I-SFX (RADIO VOLUME LOWERED BUT PLAYS IN BACKGROUND)

52. BETTINA: I feel left out. You are doing well with the fish, Karemba also did a great job around the house and she's told me about this anti-malaria at school. So, where do I fit in? Is my place only in the kitchen?

53. MASIKA: Hmm, Mama Karemba, the best contribution you can make is to take care of our children and make sure they grow up healthy, both mentally and physically. You can leave the rest to me.

54. BETTINA: Why? Why can't I also take part? I want to and I know I can do something!

55. MASIKA: **(WITH EXCITEMENT)**
Oh, I just thought of something! Why don't you go to Mama David and make peace with her. The woman meant to help us and we shouldn't hold it against her.

56. BETTINA: **(REGRETFULLY)**
My goodness! I had completely forgotten about

her. She was very helpful when I was pregnant and I've let one incident spoil our friendship. Masika, give me some fish that I can give her as an apology. I'm going there right now.

57. MASIKA: And Zawadi?

58. BETTINA: He's under the mosquito net. He sleeps long and peacefully, just don't turn the radio up too loud.

NARRATOR: Hurriedly carrying some fish, Bettina left for Mama David's house. She was ashamed and embarrassment at what she had done. Would Mama David accept her apology? She would soon find out.

SCENE FOUR: BETTINA AT MAMA DAVID'S HOUSE.

59. J-SFX: CEREAL BEING POUNDED

60. BETTINA: Hallo there, Mama David. (**BIT UNSURE**) I see you are pounding hard on the maize. May I help?

61. MAMA DAVID: (**BREATHING HEAVILY**)
Hmm? What brings you here Bettina? I thought you said I was the village witch?

62. BETTINA: No! I never said that. Actually, I'm here to apologize for what my husband and I said. . Oh, and here are some fish from us.

63. K-SFX: SOMETHING BEING UNWRAPPED

64. MAMA DAVID: That's it? Two fish and you think everything will be back to normal? Eh?

(STARTS TO LAUGH)

Look at you! Hahaha, I got you. Come on Bettina, we have been friends for ages. Did you think I will hold a grudge forever? Here, help me with the pounding.

(BOTH LAUGH OUT)

65. BETTINA: Thank you so much. Now that we have cleared that up, I need to ask you for advice. You know about Masika's initiative for fighting mosquitoes and Karemba's anti-malaria club at school. I want to do something too, but I don't know what to do or how?

66. MAMA DAVID: **(THOUGHTFULLY)**

Ah, I see. Why don't you go back to Mizanja, He knows a lot of...

67. BETTINA: **(VERY ANNOYED)**

What? What did you just say? Mizanja! How can you say that, after what happened to Karemba?

68. MAMA DAVID: **(ALSO ANNOYED NOW)**

That was not my fault! I only suggested him because you asked me for help!

69. BETTINA: I wasted my time coming here! You are still the

same. You will never change!

70. MAMA DAVID: And I don't want to. Now, take back your fish and leave my home!

71. (AS THE ARGUMENT SOARS, KAREMBO AND DAVID ENTER)

72. KAREMBO/DAVID: (SURPRISED)
Mum!!??

OUTRI/NARRATOR: And that's where we leave the ninth episode with Karemba and David completely shocked at the sight of their mothers, arguing. Can they ever be friends again? And will the cases of malaria diminish after all the efforts of Masika, Karemba and the others? To find out, remember to tune in next week to the concluding episode of „The Unwelcome Evening Guests“- one family's fight against malaria.

To listen to this episode again or send us your comments, visit our website at: dw-world.de/lbe

Until next time, good-bye!

(END)