

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE EIGHT: "WAR AGAINST THE UNWELCOME GUESTS"

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SCENE ONE: MASIKA'S FAMILY IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT GOING HOME

List of characters:

- BETTINA (f, 34),
- KAREMBO (f, 14),
- ZAWADI (BABY, no actor)
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE TWO: SCHOOL ASSEMBLY PITCH

List of characters:

- H/TEACHER (f, 38)
- DR. MUNGA (m, 45)
- DAVID (m, 14),
- KAREMBO (f, 14),
- YAKUBU (m, 41)

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- MASIKA (m, 40),
- Narrator/Intro-Outro (same voice)

SCENE THREE: KAREMBO AND DAVID GOING HOME.

List of characters:

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

INTRO/NARRATOR:

Greetings and a warm welcome to **LEARNING BY EAR** and thank you for tuning in to episode eight of “The Unwelcome Evening Guests - a family’s fight against malaria.” In the last episode, we left the Masika family as they were just about to take Karemba home from hospital after she had suffered from malaria. At home, they have not yet patched things up with Mama David, who advised Masika's wife, Bettina, to take her children to the traditional healer, Mizanja. Apart from that, Masika faces an uphill task of convincing his fellow fishermen to stop using the insecticide-treated mosquito nets for fishing. After listening to a radio program about malaria, he had a question for Dr. Munga. Let’s join the family on their way home and stay tuned for today’s **“WAR AGAINST THE UNWELCOME GUESTS”**.

MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE ONE: MASIKA'S FAMILY IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT GOING HOME

A-SFX: TRAFFIC NOISE/HOOTING AND MOTOR ENGINES REVVING, DRIVING NOISE FROM INSIDE THE CAR

1. BETTINA/KAREMBO: (BOTH LAUGHING)

2. BETTINA: Masika, my dear husband, **(GIGGLES)** what were you thinking to even ask such a question? And yet you seemed so serious. **(IMITATES MASIKA'S VOICE)** Doctor, my question is, can fish be used to control the mosquitoes?

3. MASIKA: What was I thinking? I was thinking about you,

about my children. I don't want to see them suffer again. Besides, you don't know what the doctor said after you left with Karembo. But I learned something new, and it wasn't as silly a question as you think.

4. **KAREMBO:** So, what did you learn Dad? Are you going to share this knowledge with us?

5. **MASIKA:** Yes. The doctor told me that fish can actually reduce the number of mosquitoes because they eat their eggs which are normally laid on water. So, I'm going to put a type of fish called the Nile Tilapia in all the abandoned fish ponds and, who knows, I might even start selling them if they breed and then I won't have to go fishing anymore.

6. **KAREMBO:** Wow! That's an excellent idea. And I will feed them every morning!

7. **MASIKA:** Well, you won't have to; because I hope that they will feed on the eggs or the larvae of the mosquitoes. So, until we know that they have swallowed the very last egg, we don't have to feed them. What do you think Bettina? Let me help you with Zawadi, you look tired.

8. **B-SFX: BABY STARTS TO CRY IN LOW SLEEPY VOICE**

9. MASIKA: No, I'll carry him when we get off the van.
(TO CONDUCTOR)
Conductor! We are getting off at the next stop and we have some bags on the top.

NARRATOR: And so Masika's family got out of the van and unloaded their bags to head for home, but when they arrived...

10. C-SFX: FUMBLING OF KEYS, DOOR BEING OPENED

11. KAREMBO: It feels good to be back! I want to lay down and rest for a bit in bed.

12. BETTINA: **(NOTICES SCREEN ON WINDOW)**
Ah, I see my husband you bought a mosquito screen... wait a minute! Isn't this my wedding dress?
(ANGRILY)
Masika, how could you do this to me? My wedding dress is hanging on the window!

13. MASIKA: Take it easy... I only wanted to see if it would work, you know to keep out the unwanted guests. And look, it did! After I hung it up, the mosquitoes couldn't come in through the window. Besides, you are never going to wear that dress again, are you?

14. BETTINA: **(SCREAMING)**
That is not the point! You only think of yourself.

First, you took away the mosquito net, and now you are using my wedding gown as a mosquito screen and you did it while I was not here!

15. MASIKA:

My wife, you can always buy a new dress. You can never buy a new life. I will bring back the net and re-treat it with the insecticide. As for the dress, let's use it for now until we can afford a proper screen, because it is all we have at the moment.

NARRATOR: After that heated argument, two days passed and Karemba recovered fully after finishing her prescribed medicine and then went back to school. She was just telling her schoolmates all about her experiences when suddenly the emergency bell rang, and, as was the drill, all the students gathered at the Assembly Pitch.

SCENE TWO: SCHOOL ASSEMBLY PITCH

16. D-SFX: EMERGENCY BELL RINGS FOLLOWED BY NOISE FROM STUDENTS

17. H/TEACHER:

(ALLOUD)

Silence! Silence everyone.

(PIN DROP SILENCE)

You all know that our region is one of the worst areas affected by malaria. A few days ago I was at our district hospital where I saw one of our best students, Karemba, who had been admitted because of malaria. I'm glad to report that she is well again now and has returned to school. Today,

before we continue with our classes, a very important person has come to visit us. He will introduce himself and then explain why he is here.

18. E-SFX: CLAPPING FOLLOWED BY APPLAUSE WITH WHISTLES ETC.

19. DR. MUNGA: Thank you. My name is Dr. Munga, I work at Ribo District Hospital and I will not take up much of your time. Your head teacher invited me here to share with you some basic knowledge about malaria and advise you about how to keep yourselves from being infected. I thought it wise to have a question and answer session. So, who can tell me how do we catch malaria? Raise your hand if you know the answer.

20. DAVID: We get it from mosquitoes.

21. DR. MUNGA: Correct, but that's only half-right. What kind of mosquitoes transmit malaria?

22. KAREMBO: **(THINKING)**
Eh, the female Anopheles Mosquito which requires blood to feed its eggs.

23. DR. MUNGA: Excellent!

NARRATOR: Step by step Doctor Munga talked to the eager students about how we get infected and who amongst us is more at risk and why. He explained to them how to take precautions and all the preventive measures

that they can take to help reduce the number of mosquitoes and how to avoid getting bitten. He spoke about drug-resistant malaria and the symptoms to look out for. Finally, he wished all the students success and challenged them to work hard because, as he said, they are the future doctors, engineers, lawyers and pilots.

Meanwhile, Masika was busy putting the Tilapia fish in all the unused ponds and swamps around his neighbourhood.

24. F-SFX: OCCASIONAL SPLASHES FROM FISH

25. YAKUBU: Hey!
(CALLS OUT)
Masika! What in the world do you think you are doing?

26. MASIKA: **(SARCASTICALLY)**
Playing dominoes! What does it look like I am doing?

27. YAKUBU: It looks like you are making a fool of yourself. You know very well that the fish will die in these ponds because you have no money to feed them.

28. MASIKA: Yes, you are right. I don't have enough money to feed them, but I don't have to. There's enough food in these ponds.

29. YAKUBU: **(SURPRISED)**
Really?... and where is this food? I can only see

mosquitoes everywhere.

30. MASIKA: Well, you just said it! The mosquitoes lay their eggs in the water. Those eggs are what these fish will eat, **(PROUDLY)** and once the fish mature I'll come back and just pick them up and sell them. But that's not the main reason. Once the eggs have been eaten the number of mosquitoes will decrease automatically.

31. YAKUBU: **(LAUGHS OUT)**
So, that's what this is about? Listen we have had malaria here since... since I don't know when. And neither you nor anyone can stop it. Well, good luck anyway. I'm going fishing.

NARRATOR: It is not an easy thing to introduce any change, but once someone becomes focused, like Masika was, then normally it doesn't take too long for others to join in.

After school that day, Karemba and David left to go home together.

SCENE THREE: KAREMBO AND DAVID GOING HOME.

32. G-SFX: STORM BUILDING FOLLOWED BY RAINFALL

33. DAVID: Karemba, here, come and share my umbrella, otherwise you will get soaked and catch a cold. It's so nice to have you back at school again. I was, I mean... we were all very worried.

- 34. KAREMBO:** Thank you David. Do you know what? I've got an idea. But I need your help.
- 35. DAVID:** Whatever it is, you can count on me. You know how much...
- 36. KAREMBO:** **(CUTS HER SHORT)**
Uh, uh! Stop it right there! Promise me that you will stop talking like that to me. You know that we are both still young. If we begin... a...relationship, it is bound to interfere with our studies. Listen, this is my idea: we form an anti-malaria club at school. You heard Doctor Munga. He said that the fight against malaria needs everyone's participation. So, we shall form a club and educate ourselves more about malaria. Then, we go out and share this knowledge and start helping our community, you know, by clearing bushes, draining swampy places, or anything that helps in this fight. So, are you with me?
- 37. DAVID:** **(HESITANT)**
Ah, I don't know, Karemba. You know my mother is very...
- 38. KAREMBO:** I know, but why don't you talk to her, and then let me know? Ok? It would be nice to have you as member of the team.
- 39. DAVID:** **(EXCITED)**

A member of the team! Sure! Well, I'll speak to her today as soon as I get home.

40. KAREMBO: And I will get to work as soon as I get home. I'm going to cut all the tall grass around our place, and I'm also going to drain all the stagnant water and puddles nearby. I have declared war against the unwelcome guests!

41. DAVID: **(IMPRESSED)**
Wow! You seem like someone on a serious mission. Who knows, you might even win the Nobel peace prize for your contribution.

(GIGGLES)

42. KAREMBO: Nobel or no Nobel, we can all make a difference, and for me it starts now. Thank you for sharing your umbrella. See you tomorrow at school.

43. H-SFX: RAIN LESSENS.

MUSIC INTERLUDE

OUTRO/NARRATOR: And as the rain stops we come to the end of the eighth episode of our story, "The Unwelcome Evening Guests - a family's fight against malaria." However, the story is not over yet. How will Mama David react when David tells her of Karemba's plan? Will Karemba get enough support and find enough students to start the anti-malaria club? Will Masika's idea of using fish to reduce the mosquito eggs be successful? This and lots more await you in the next episode.

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Until next time, good-bye!

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