

## **LEARNING BY EAR**

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

#### **EPISODE THREE: "SYMPTOMS AND REMEDIES"**

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#### **SCENE ONE: MORNING AT MASIKA’S HOME**

##### **List of characters:**

- BETTINA (f, 34)
- KAREMBO(f, 14)
- NARRATOR/Into-Outro

#### **SCENE TWO: MORNING AT MAMA DAVID’S HOUSE**

##### **List of characters:**

- MAMA DAVID (f, 43)
- DAVID (m, 14)
- NARRATOR/Into-Outro

#### **SCENE THREE: HEADTEACHER’S OFFICE**

##### **List of characters:**

- KAREMBO(f, 14)
- H/TEACHER (f, 38)
- NARRATOR/Into-Outro

**SCENE FOUR: AT MASIKA’S HOME...KAREMBO ALONE AT HOME**

**List of characters:**

- KAREMBO(f, 14)
- MASIKA (m, 40)
- MAMA DAVID (f, 43)
- DAVID (m, 14)
- BETTINA (f, 34)

**INTRO/NARRATOR (same voice):**

Hallo and welcome back to ‘Learning by Ear’. You are about to hear the third episode in our continuing story about “The Unwelcome Evening Guests - a family’s fight against malaria.” In the last programme, Masikas family welcomed home a new child – ZAWADI, and thanks to the headteacher, Karemba got to learn more about preventing malaria by using a mosquito net that had been treated with an insecticide. How long will they use it and what will happen if they don’t sleep under the net? So let’s see what happens in today’s episode entitled "**Symptoms and Remedies**".

**MUSIC INTERLUDE**

**SCENE ONE: MORNING AT MASIKA’S HOME**

**A-SFX: COCK CROWS, BIRDS SINGING**

1. **BETTINA:** (CALLS OUT)  
Karemba! It’s 5.30 in the morning. I need some water to bathe Zawadi. You’ll have to prepare breakfast for your father and you also need to get ready for school.
  
2. **KAREMBO:** (WAKING UP)  
Mmmh, Oooh, mum I don’t feel very well today.
  
3. **BETTINA:** Yes, I know. Nobody likes to wake up this early, but I need your help.
  
4. **KAREMBO:** Nooo, it’s not that I don’t want to help. I have such aawww (**CRIES IN PAIN**)...

all my body aches, my joints, my head... my...

5. **BETTINA:** You are not fooling me Karemba. Remember, I was once your age too. Now, get up and fetch the water! You know, I also need to get ready and take Zawadi to the clinic for his first inoculation injection.
6. **KAREMBO:** **(unhappy)**  
I am telling you the truth. Here, feel my temperature. Please believe me Mum.
7. **BETTINA:** Okay, I believe you... **(SHOUTS)**  
Now, go!
8. **B-SFX: ZAWADI/BABY STARTS TO CRY**
9. **BETTINA:** Now look what you've done! You woke up Zawadi..sssh husssssh, my baby.
10. **KAREMBO:** I'm sorry. I'll go. Hey, mum how did you like sleeping under the net?
11. **BETTINA:** I have never slept so peacefully. It was a really good idea. Now, go before your father wakes up and finds nothing has been done.
12. **NARRATOR:** There's a wise saying that goes, 'prevention is better than cure', and recognizing early symptoms of malaria can help stop the disease from

becoming a killer. But, unfortunately for lots of people these symptoms are ignored. Bettina, Karembu's mother doesn't believe her daughter. She doesn't take her seriously. She insists Karembu gets up and does all that is asked of her. Later, at school, things get worse, but first let's drop in on their neighbour, Mama David.

## **SCENE TWO: MORNING AT MAMA DAVID'S HOUSE**

**13. C-SFX: TEA BEING POURED IN CUP**

**14. MAMA DAVID: (CALLS OUT)**

David! Tea is ready. Hurry up, or it will get cold.

**15. DAVID: (GRUMBLING)** Mama, I've told you before, I'm not a kid anymore. I can pour my own tea.

**16. MAMA DAVID:** I know you can. But if you are such a grown-up man like you say you are, why is your room looking like a pigsty?

**17. DAVID:** I will clean it later, is there anything else?

**18. MAMA DAVID:** Yes, David, this smoke from the mosquito coils isn't good for your chest. You have to stop burning them. I don't like the smell or the smoke or the ash that is left over after.

19. **DAVID:** Then you must be a mosquito too. **(LAUGHS)**
20. **MAMA DAVID:** What did you just call me?! **(SHOCKED)**  
Did I hear you right? Did you call me a mosquito?  
Huh?
21. **DAVID:** No... No, Mum I just said that you should buy me  
a mosquito net then.
22. **MAMA DAVID:** Oh, how I curse the day I gave birth to you. I wish  
you would just be like Karemba. Why can't you be  
like her? Or just try and act like her?
23. **DAVID:** Well, actually, I like her. Er, sorry, I mean I'm like  
her.
24. **MAMA DAVID:** I just wish your father would still be alive today to  
hear you talk such rubbish to me. I know he  
would...he would...**(STARTS TO CRY)**
25. **DAVID:** I'm sorry, Mum, I'll be good, I... I'll clean up and if  
you want, I'll stop burning the coils, but I'm  
scared. I don't want to get malaria  
and...**(PAUSES)** die like Daddy.
26. **MAMA DAVID:** He didn't die of Malaria! He..he...**(CRIES MORE)**
27. **DAVID:** Mum, I know you don't believe in modern  
medicines, but you must accept that Dad died  
because he didn't get treated soon enough. I don't  
know. Maybe he would have survived if he had

gone to hospital sooner. And, just so that you know, the mosquito coils are safe for humans because they are made from pyrethrum which is...

**28. MAMA DAVID: (CHANGES TOPIC)**

Finish your tea and go to school.

**29. NARRATOR:**

The fight against malaria is being hindered by a lot of different factors. There are so many myths and misconceptions about the disease. Mama David firmly believed that malaria was nothing but an "evil spirit" that had to be cast out by a witchdoctor. As the day progressed, so did Karembu's fever. Meanwhile Masika, Karembu's Father, finding no one at home, remembered the insecticide-treated mosquito net and suddenly, had an idea....But first, let's join Karembu in the Headteacher's office.

### **SCENE THREE: HEADTEACHER'S OFFICE**

**30. KAREMBO: (SHIVERING IN BETWEEN LINES)**

Madam, I'm here to ask for permission to go home. I'm sick.

**31. HEADTEACHER:** That's obvious. You are shaking like a leaf in the. Sit down. I'll write you a sick note but it MUST be signed by a doctor.

**32. KAREMBO:** Yes... Madam, can I ask you a question?

- 33. HEADTEACHER:** Karemba... Karemba always asking questions, Okay, what's your question?
- 34. KAREMBO:** Madam Headteacher, do you think I have malaria?
- 35. HEADTEACHER:** Now that's a question only a doctor can answer, I can't. You know, the symptoms of malaria are similar to many other illnesses and it's not easy to tell them apart. So, the best thing is for you to be tested and then we will know. But don't worry, malaria can be treated. Just make sure you see a doctor, okay?
- 36. KAREMBO:** Okay, Madam. Thank you.
- 37. D-SFX: DOOR CLOSSES**

**NARRATOR:** Karemba went home and missed a half day of school. It is estimated that in places where malaria occurs frequently, children lose as much as 60% of their school time. Karemba had to walk home very slowly because she was feeling sick and dizzy. She arrived there feeling weak and tired. And then she was greeted with a surprise.

#### **SCENE FOUR: AT MASIKA'S HOME...KAREMBO ALONE AT HOME**

**38. MUSIC INTERLUDE**

- 39. KAREMBO:** (FAINT WEAK VOICE)  
Mum... Hello... anybody home? Hmm, seems like

no-ones here. . Ooh, my head. It feels like somebody is pounding with a hammer inside. , let me rest under the new mosquito net since mum and Zawadi are not here yet...

**40. E-SFX: DOOR OPENS.**

**41. KAREMBO:** Huh?! (**SURPRISED AT NOT SEEING THE NET**)  
Am I hallucinating or what? Where's the net? I thought Mum said she slept so well and...  
(**COMES TO REALIZATION**)...oh no! Dad...  
Daddy must have taken it.

**42. F-SFX: DOOR OPENS, MASIKA HEARD WHISTLING**

**43. MASIKA: ENTERS HAPPY, WHISTLING...**

**44. KAREMBO:** Hello Dad.

**45. MASIKA: (CAUGHT BY SURPRISE)**  
Karembo what are you doing here? Aren't you supposed to be at school?

**46. KAREMBO:** Yes I am... but I'm not feeling well. I told Mum this morning but she didn't believe me, and when I went to school it got worse I had to ask for permission to come home. Dad, where is the mosquito net? It's not hanging over the bed anymore?

- 47. MASIKA:** (IGNORES QUESTION)  
What is wrong with you? How do you feel?
- 48. KAREMBO:** I feel terrible... muscle pains, very bad headache, and I even started shivering from cold in class. I couldn't concentrate. Dad, where is the net?
- 49. MASIKA:** Oh, it seems you are developing a fever. Don't worry. You lie down I'll go and get you some chloroquine and some painkillers and tomorrow you'll feel fine.
- 50. KAREMBO:** The net Dad, where is it?
- 51. MASIKA:** Oh, the net. Aah, that net is just what I needed. Imagine I only cast it in the water once and I caught so much fish. I won't have to go to the lake for the next two days. Isn't that something?
- 52. KAREMBO:** But Daddy, that net was supposed to protect Zawadi from the mosquitos, and you took it and used it as a fishing net?
- 53. MASIKA:** I had no choice! (**ANNOYED**) What was I supposed to do? Protect Zawadi from mosquitoes and watch him die of starvation? Now lie down and stop lecturing me on how I should take care of you all. I'll be back with the medicine soon.
- NARRATOR:** Was Masika right to use the net for fishing in order to feed

his family? One thing is for sure. He has now exposed his son to the bites of the deadly anopheles mosquitoes - the 'unwelcome evening guests' as Karemba likes to call them. As evening fell Bettina came home and didn't even notice that the net was missing because Karemba was now sick in bed. Not knowing what to do, Bettina turned to Mama David for advice.

### **AT MAMA DAVIDS HOUSE**

- 54. MAMA DAVID:** Calm down... calm down Bettina... tell me how is Karemba feeling, exactly?
- 55. BETTINA:** **(PANICKY VOICE)**  
I just don't remember seeing her like this, not since she was really young! She's trembling under the blanket and her temperature seems very high. She doesn't want to eat... Mama David what should I do?
- 56. MAMA DAVID:** Relax... She will be fine, make sure you put a soaked cloth on her forehead and cover her with more blankets; the more the better so she can sweat the fever out. When she wakes up tomorrow, she will be feeling as healthy as a new born baby.
- 57. BETTINA:** What about medicine? My husband gave her some chloroquine already. Should we give her something else for fever?
- 58. MAMA DAVID:** No!... don't give her anything else. Just make sure

she eats something. Her body needs the food to fight the illness.

- 59. BETTINA:** Thank you! Thank you very much for your advice, I really didn't know what to do... Good night Mama David.
- 60. MAMA DAVID:** No problem. Good night and say hello to Masika and tell him I need some fish.

**61. G-SFX: DOOR OPENS, CLOSES**

**OUTRO/NARRATOR:**

With this, Bettina hurried back home and started to treat Karemba . Will it work and make Karemba well again? And what will sleeping without a net mean for young Zawadi? And how will this sickness affect Karemba's education? To find out more, please join us next week for the fourth episode of our story, „The Unwelcome Evening Guests - one family's fight against malaria”, and remember, you can listen to this episode again or send us your comments by visiting our website at:

[www.d w-world.de/l b e](http://www.dw-world.de/lbe)

Until next time, good-bye!

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