

## **LEARNING BY EAR**

**“THE UNWELCOME EVENING GUESTS”-**

**ONE FAMILY’S FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA .**

### **EPISODE ONE: ”IT’S A BABY BOY!!!”**

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### **SCENE ONE: EVENING (8.00PM) AT MASIKA’S HOME**

**List of characters:**

- KAREMBO (f, 14)
- MASIKA (m, 40),
- NARRATOR/Intro/Outro (same person)

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

**List of characters:**

- MAMA DAVID (f, 43)
- KAREMBO (f, 14)
- BETTINA (f, 34)
- MASIKA (m, 40),
- ZAWADI (INFANT, actor not needed)
- NARRATOR/Intro/Outro (same person)

## **CENE THREE: RADIO PROGRAMME**

### **List of characters:**

- RADIO PRESENTER (f, 28)
- DR. MUNGA (m, 45)
- KAREMBO (f, 14)
- MASIKA (m, 40),
- NARRATOR/Intro/Outro (same person)

## **INTRO/NARRATOR:**

Hello and welcome everyone, welcome to a new series of “Learning by Ear”. Today we begin a new radio drama entitled, “The unwelcome evening guests” all about one family’s fight against malaria. This is a story I’m glad I’m still alive to tell, for we have lost many loved ones in the battle against malaria.

It all started earlier this year, which, for a girl named Karemba, was her last year in primary school ...

## **SCENE ONE: EVENING (8.00PM) AT MASIKA’S HOME**

**(KAREMBO IS DOING HER HOMEWORK IN THE LIGHT FROM A KEROSENE LAMP)**

**A-SFX: SOUND OF CRICKETS, MOSQUITOS, OTHER NIGHT ANIMALS, burning sound of kerosene lamp**

**1. KAREMBO:** (Speaking to the lamp) Please, please lamp don’t go out. Please keep shining until I finish my homework... oh no!

**2. B-SFX: (SHAKES LAMP TO CONFIRM ITS EMPTY – MATCH STICK BEING LIT...)**

**3. KAREMBO:** Now, what do I do? With no light, there’s no way I can finish this work. Dad! **(CALLS OUT) DAD!!!**

**4. MASIKA:** **(RESPONDS SLEEPILY)** Yes... what is it?

- 5. KAREMBO:** I'm sorry to wake you up, but the lamp has just gone out and I can't finish my homework.
- 6. MASIKA:** Then go to sleep. It's late anyway.
- 7. KAREMBO:** But I have to finish it, I don't want to get left behind...
- 8. MASIKA:** Karemba, you have never been out of the top five since you started school. So I'm certain you will pass your final exams.
- 9. KAREMBO:** Yes, it's true, but if I don't work hard I will fall behind. Please give me a bit money so I can run and buy some kerosene before the kiosks close.
- 10. MASIKA: (GETTING AGITATED)**  
I don't have any money! I'm not manager of the Central Bank. I am a fisherman! You know that. The money I earn at present from selling fish has got to keep us going now and after your mother gives birth, (**HIS TONE CHANGES**)  
By the way, where is she? It's almost half past eight.

- 11. KAREMBO:** I don't know, I think she is still at Mama David's house.
- 12. MASIKA:** Ah! Women! Isn't the whole day enough for gossip? Go and call her at once! And while you are there, ask Mama David to lend us some kerosene.
- 13. KAREMBO:** Yes, Dad.
- 14. NARRATOR:** And off into the dark night she went. Mama David's house was just a short walk away from Masika's, so after it wasn't long until Karemba could see their lamp glowing in the distance.

**SCENE TWO: AT MAMA DAVID'S HOUSE.**

- 15. C-SFX: KNOCKS AT THE DOOR.**
- 16. MAMA DAVID:** Who is it?
- 17. KAREMBO:** It's me, Karemba.
- 18. MAMA DAVID:** Oh, Karemba, come in, come in my girl. I thought you would be in bed by now. My son, David, went to bed almost an hour ago.

- 19. KAREMBO:** Then he must have finished his homework earlier. I couldn't because....
- 20. MAMA DAVID:** **(SURPRISED)**  
Homework? What homework? David never mentioned any homework to me. Lazy Boy. That's why he keeps lagging behind. David is a disgrace to me, and to his late father too, may his soul rest in peace.
- 21. KAREMBO:** Aah, Mum... Dad says... you should...
- 22. BETTINA:** I know...I know. I should get home. Well, see you tomorrow Mama David, and thanks for the advice... Karembo you lead the way.  
**(TAKES DEEP BREATH)**  
Oh, this baby...I can't wait...
- 23. KAREMBO:** Hmm... **(EMBARASSED)** Mum, there's something before we go...we have run out of ke..ro..sene... and Dad said...
- 24. MAMA DAVID:** Karembo, my dear child, you shouldn't be ashamed about that. We have always helped each other out. Wait here, I'll be right back.

- 25. BETTINA:** (HUSHED WHISPER)  
Doesn't your father even have enough money to buy kerosene?
- 26. KAREMBO:** (ALSO WHISPERS)  
No, mum...He said all his wages have to
- 27. MAMA DAVID:** (CUTS IN THEIR CONVERSATION)  
Here you are, this should probably do you for a few days.
- 28. KAREMBO:** Thank you Mama David.
- 29. BETTINA:** Yes, thank you so much and sleep well.
- 30. MAMA DAVID:** You too...and don't forget what we talked about.
- 31. D-SFX: DOOR OPENS THEN SHUTS...LATER BOLTED**
- (KAREMBO AND HER MUM HEADING HOME)**
- 32. BETTINA:** Heey Karembu... slowly, walk slowly. You can see how heavy I am!  
(TAKING SHORT BREATHES)
- 33. KAREMBO:** Sorry mum, I'm thinking about finishing my school work. Mum, when's the baby due?

- 34. BETTINA:** Kareembo! Shame on you, you mean you don't know? You will soon be a woman, so you ought to know these things. Well, I am in my last month. The ninth month. That means I could go into labour any time now.
- 35. KAREMBO:** And mum do you think it's a boy or a girl?
- 36. BETTINA:** How would I know? Children are a gift and whether it's a boy or a girl, we are all one family.
- 37. KAREMBO:** Home at last!... wait... I'll open the door...
- 38. E-SFX: DOOR OPENS...THEN SHUT**
- 39. BETTINA:** Heee! It's so dark, it's scary in here.
- 40. F-SFX: SOUNDS OF BUZZING MOSQUITOES.**
- 41. KAREMBO:** Yes, and our unwelcome guests seem as hungry as ever. How I hate their sound.
- 42. BETTINA:** **(DEEP PAINFUL CHILD-BEARING CRY)**  
Oooooooh! Oh, noooo, oh, noooo!
- 43. KAREMBO:** **(SHOCKED)**  
Mum, what is it? Are you okay?



**44. BETTINA:** **(IN APPARENT LABOUR PAINS)**  
Call your dad, call him. Tell him it's time,  
noooooooooow! **(ANOTHER CRY)**

**45. KAREMBO:** **(IN A SHOCKED VOICE)**  
Wake up Dad! Dad!! Wake up!

**46. MASIKA:** **(NOT HAPPY)**  
What is it this time?

**(YAWNS AND STRETCHES)**

**47. BETTINA:** Aaaaaaaaaah...hurry up!  
**(BETTINA LETS OUT ANOTHER PAINFUL CRY)**

**48. KAREMBO:** It's mum... she's not feeling well...she says  
it's time.

**49. MASIKA:** Goodness! Now? Why didn't you tell me  
before? Wait Mama, I'm getting up. It's so  
dark in here. Ah I'm ready, can you walk?

**50. BETTINA:** **(PAINFULLY SPOKEN IN BETWEEN BREATHS)** No...I don't think so.

**51. MASIKA:** Karembu watch your mother, I'm going to get  
transport to take her to the hospital. If

anything happens, call Mama David. She will know what to do.

**NARRATOR:** Luckily nothing happened. Things went fast, and in a flash Masika was back and took his wife Bettina to hospital. In all the excitement Karemba forgot about her homework and instead turned on her Dad's radio and...

### **SCENE THREE: RADIO PROGRAMME**

#### **52. G-SFX: RADIO BEING TUNED**

**53. PRESENTER:** Welcome dear listeners to our weekly program "Healthy Living". Today we have Dr. Munga of Ribo District Hospital who will tell us about malaria and its effect on our community. Welcome Doctor.

**54. DR. MUNGA:** Thank you and good evening listeners.

**55. PRESENTER:** Doctor, would you please start by explaining to our listeners, what this monster called malaria, actually is?

**56. DR. MUNGA:** **(CLEARS THROAT)**  
Uh, Malaria is a life-threatening parasitic disease which can be transmitted to people of all ages by a bite from an infected

anopheles mosquito, which requires blood to develop its eggs.

- 57. PRESENTER:** You say it's life-threatening?
- 58. DR. MUNGA:** Yes, if not treated promptly with effective medicines, it can often be fatal within days. Therefore be very careful if you have symptoms like fever and dizziness for more than 48 hours. Unfortunately, at present there's no vaccination against malaria.
- 59. PRESENTER:** Aha... well you mentioned that all people could get it, but could you please tell our listeners, who amongst us is more likely to be infected, and why.
- 60. DR. MUNGA:** **(CLEARS THROAT AGAIN)**  
Well, statistics show that about 40% of the world's population is at risk but the most vulnerable are pregnant women and children under five. This is because their immune systems are often weak and compromised.
- 61. KAREMBO:** 40%?!**(SHOCKED)**  
That's almost half the entire world!
- 62. DR. MUNGA:** **(CONTINUES)**  
That's not all, reports suggests that a child

somewhere dies from malaria or its complications every 30 seconds..**(BAD RECEPTION)**

**63. (SILENCE AS BATTERIES DIE)**

**64. KAREMBO: (DISAPPOINTED)**

Ah! The batteries! Just, when I was starting to learn something. Hmm so it's the anopheles mosquito that transmits the malaria parasite...40% of the world is at risk, every 30 seconds... what! Every 30 seconds a child dies!? That's terrible... oh, my God!

**(REALISES IT'S LATE)** It's almost midnight. I have to get some sleep.

**65. H-SFX: BLOWING OUT LAMP. MORE BUZZING SOUNDS OF MOSQUITOES. FOLLOWED BY A NUMBER OF SLAPS TO KILL THEM.**

**66. KAREMBO:** Leave me alone! You anopheles mosquitoes!!

**(MUSIC BRIDGE)**

**67. MASIKA: (EXCITED AND HAPPY)**

Karembo!! Karembo!! It's a baby boy and we have named him Zawadi!

**NARRATOR:** In her all her 14 years Karemba had never seen her father so happy Even in the dark she could sense his joy and how proud he was, but little did he know, little did they know that it was just the beginning.

To find out what happens, tune in next time for the second episode of “The Unwelcome Evening Guest’s”- one family’s fight against malaria. You can also listen to this episode again or write comments about this program by visiting our website at:

[www.d w-world.d e/1 b e](http://www.dw-world.de/1b)

Until next time, good-bye!

(END)