

LEARNING BY EAR

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

EPISODE TEN: "YES, WE CAN!"

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SCENE ONE: MASIKA SINGING A LULLABY TO A CRYING ZAWADI

CHARACTERS:

- ZAWADI (BABY, no actor)
- MASIKA (m, 40)
- YAKUBU (m, 41)
- NARRATOR

SCENE TWO: MAMA DAVID'S HOUSE

CHARACTERS:

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

SCENE THREE: MORNING AT KAREMBO'S SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

CHARACTERS:

- HEADTEACHER(38, female),
- STUDENTS IN CLASS / AT SCHOOL (AROUND 14 YEARS OLD)

- NARRATOR

SCENE FOUR: YAKUBU, BETTINA AND MASIKA AT MASIKA'S HOUSE

LISTENING TO RADIO.

CHARACTERS:

- MASIKA (m, 40)
- YAKUBU (m, 41)
- BETTINA (f, 34)
- RADIO PRESENTER (28)
- DR. MUNGA (m, 45)
- KAREMBO (f, 14)
- NARRATOR

INTRO/ NARRATOR:

Hello and welcome to ‘**Learning by Ear**’ and to the tenth episode of our radio drama:”**The unwelcome evening guests, a family’s fight against malaria**”.

Last time we left the story in the middle of a heated argument between Mama David and Bettina. Back at school, will Karemba and her club dedicated to fighting malaria, achieve anything? Join us as we shout in our battle to win against malaria: "YES, WE CAN!"

First of all we go to Masika's house as he tries his best to get Zawadi off to sleep.

MUSIC INTERLUDE

SCENE ONE: MASIKA SINGING A LULLABY TO A CRYING ZAWADI

A-SFX: BABY CRYING LOUDLY

1. MASIKA: (SINGING LULLABY BUT ZAWADI DOESN'T STOP CRYING)

Now, what is it you want Zawadi? **(FRUSTRATED)** And what is taking your mother so long at Mama David’s house?

B-SFX: BABY STILL CRYING..

2. MASIKA: Ok, come here, come here my little African King... aha let me carry you.

(ZAWADI STOPS CRYING)

C-SFX: HARD KNOCKING ON DOOR

3. MASIKA: (ANGRY AT THE SUDDEN INTRUSION) Can't I have a moment of peace in this house!?

D-SFX: DOOR OPENS WITH SOUND OF OLD HINGES

4. YAKUBU: (PANICKY VOICE) Masika! Masika! You must help me. Please!

5. MASIKA: Sssh! Hey, Yakubu, please keep your voice down, I'm trying to get this baby off to sleep. What is it?

6. YAKUBU: My little daughter. She is so ill. She doesn't eat, doesn't sleep. She's lost so much weight, Masika. Please, help!

7. MASIKA: How can I help? I'm not a doctor! Take her to the hospital. I don't know what she's suffering from but if it is malaria then you had a hand in it. I told you that using the insecticide-treated nets for fishing was a mistake but you just laughed at me. You see, I took the net back home.

8. YAKUBU: Don't you have any medicine here that we can give her just for the moment? Like, for example, Zawadi's medicine.

9. MASIKA: I have, but I don't think it's a good idea. Don't you know it's dangerous to share medicines? As I said, only a qualified doctor can find out. Go to Doctor Munga at Ribo hospital.

10. YAKUBU: Ok... ok. I'm sorry but one more thing. Can you please lend me some money? I don't have a single cent left. I'll pay you back as soon as I get can.

11. MASIKA: Of course, just a minute.

E-SFX (HANDS OVER BANK NOTES/ NOTES SHUFFLING)

12. MASIKA: By the way, I will need some help with the fish ponds, so if you are interested, let me know. But now, hurry and get your girl to the hospital.

13. NARRATOR: Many of us like to share medicine without a prescription, not knowing that this can be very dangerous, and even more so when it concerns children. Masika acted correctly and probably saved the young girl's life. A few houses away, Mama David and Bettina were still arguing, while their children stared at them.

SCENE TWO: MAMA DAVID'S HOUSE

14. MAMA DAVID: (EMBARASSED) David... my son... eh, how was school?
Karembo it's good to see you. How are you feeling?

15. BETTINA: (STILL ANGRY) Karembo, what are you doing here?

16. KAREMBO: I just stopped by Mama David's house to pick some grass.

17. BETTINA: Grass? What grass? And what do you need grass for?

18. DAVID: (SCARED) I don't mean the normal grass. I mean the lemon grass.

19. MAMA DAVID: Did you tell Karembo about it?

20. DAVID: Yes, Mum, I did. This is one way to chase away the

mosquitoes that is safe and environmentally friendly. I think we should share this knowledge with the other villagers.

- 21. BETTINA:** What is going on here? Can somebody please explain it to me?
- 22. KAREMBO:** Mum, David told me today that the lemon grass can also be used to repel mosquitoes. So, I came round to their home to take some and replant it in our garden. David and I are going to need all the information on malaria, because our head teacher just made us in charge of the anti-malaria club.
- 23. DAVID:** Which happens to involve the whole school!
- 24. BETTINA/MAMA DAVID: (SURPRISED)** What!?! The whole school?
- 25. KAREMBO:** If we are to defeat malaria then we all must all take up arms and combat these deadly mosquitoes with all that we can. We have to share our knowledge and information.
- 26. MAMA DAVID:** Hmm... Karemba, you are fourteen but you speak like an elder. You even make us look like fools. Here we were arguing again yet you and David are working as a team and we are still arguing.
- 27. BETTINA: (TONES DOWN HER VOICE)** That's true children. . I had come seek advice from David's mother about how I could help in this war on malaria but I ended up making things worse. I'm sorry.

28. MAMA DAVID: (ALSO TONES DOWN VOICE) And I'm sorry too.

29. DAVID: Mum, why don't you and Karemba's mother also team up and tell other women about this lemon grass?

30. KAREMBO: Oh, yes! And maybe there are other types of flowers or plants like the lemon grass that we can plant around our homes to keep the mosquitoes away.

31. BETTINA: I don't know. **(UNSURE)** I think too much damage has been done to our friendship.

32. MAMA DAVID: The children are right. I know that there are other plants and flowers that keep away not only mosquitoes but other insects too.

33. DAVID: (EXCITED) So, does that mean that you are friends again? And do you all believe we can win this war?

(SHORT SILENCE)

34. BETTINA/MAMA DAVID/KAREMBO: (ALoud) Yes, we can!!

(THEY ALL LAUGH)

35. BETTINA: (REALIZING SUDDENLY) Oh my! We need to go, Karemba, I left your father alone with Zawadi and I'm sure by now he's hungry.

36. KAREMBO: Mum, I'll just take some of the lemon grass from the back. Then we can go. Is that all right, Mama David?

37. MAMA DAVID: Of course, my child, take as much as you want.

38. BETTINA: I'll pass by tomorrow so we can plan how to begin our work.

39. MAMA DAVID: Sure. And give my best regards to Masika, I hope he will start selling fish to me again.

40. NARRATOR: Bettina and Karemba headed home after agreeing to work together with other mothers to prevent their children from the malaria transmitting mosquitoes. Karemba and David created dramas, songs and poems about malaria and presented them before the community.

SCENE THREE: MORNING AT KAREMBO'S SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

F-SFX: SCHOOL BELL RINGS.. NOISY VOICES FROM STUDENTS.

41. H/TEACHER: Silence! Now you all know that the final exams begin tomorrow. I expect it to be so quiet that I will be able to hear a pin drop during the entire exam period.

G-SFX: MURMURINGS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE DISSATISFIED

42. H/TEACHER: Ok, today before we go to class I want to note that Karemba has worked tirelessly with David.

H-SFX: WHISTLES / CHEERINGS FROM STUDENTS

43. H/TEACHER :(ANGRY) Heeeeeeey! The Department of Education has suggested we start up more clubs in all of the schools around Ribo. So, let's give them a well-deserved round of applause.

I-SFX: HUGE APPLAUSE

44. H/TEACHER: That's all for today. You may all go to classes now, but I'd like to have a word with the leaders of the anti-malaria club.

J-SFX: NOISES AS STUDENTS DISPERSE FOR CLASS

45. H/TEACHER: Karemba, David, I'm very proud of you and I've got some good news for you. Our local radio station has invited Karemba to appear on their programme "Healthy Living" this evening.

46. NARRATOR: Soon the entire village knew that Karemba was going to be on the radio and so in the evening they all gathered around their radios. Masika had even invited Yakubu.

SCENE FOUR: YAKUBU, BETTINA AND MASIKA AT MASIKA'S HOUSE LISTENING TO RADIO.

47. MASIKA: (TALKING SOFTLY) Yakubu, did you notice something?

48. YAKUBU: Yes, it just got dark.

49. MASIKA: Ah, that's not what I meant. Haven't you noticed how quiet it is? The usual (**IMITATES MOSQUITOES**) isn't there!

50. YAKUBU: Yes! Now, I get it.

51. BETTINA: It's almost time, Gentlemen... let's tune in.

K-SFX: RADIO BEING TUNED

52. RADIO PRESENTER: Today in the studio we have Dr. Munga but that's not all. We also have an unusual guest who will tell us more about herself and her struggles against malaria.

53. YAKUBU: (CALLS OUT) Masika! Bettina! The programme has just begun.

54. MASIKA: Sssh! Yakubu why do you always like to shout? We are sitting right next to you.

55. BETTINA: (CUTS THEM SHORT) Gentlemen, can we give the radio a chance, or should we just switch it off and listen to you.

56. RADIO PRESENTER: Welcome, Dr. Munga, please begin by telling us, what you think are the economic consequences of malaria.

57. DR. MUNGA: Thank you. Malaria is now considered a disease that comes with poverty. Infection leads to a reduction of community and household productivity affecting dramatically the ability to earn money.

58. RADIO PRESENTER: So, what you are saying Doctor, is that the rich and affluent in our society don't suffer from malaria?

- 59. DR. MUNGA:** No, of course not, they too suffer but they are in a better situation to deal with it. It is worth noting that malaria results in significant levels of household expenditure. Roughly 25% of the average income is spent on treatment and prevention of the disease. Statistics show that malaria costs Africa twelve billion US dollars annually in lost Gross Domestic Product.
- 60. YAKUBU: (SHOCKED)** What? 12 billion dollars? And what is this Gross Domestic Product?
- 61. MASIKA:** Sssh! It is one of the ways they measure national income and output for a [country's economy](#). For us it is important to know that we lose a lot of money because of malaria.
- 62. RADIO PRESENTER:** That is a huge amount, Doctor. Any other economic costs?
- 63. DR. MUNGA:** Yes, malaria is also a big barrier to development in many parts of Africa because investors are afraid of coming into malaria-prone areas and the same can be said of tourists.
- 64. RADIO PRESENTER:** Well, there you have it, the economic costs of this disease are immense that means it is imperative to fight malaria urgently. This brings us to our next guest. She is only fourteen years old, intelligent, and comes from a humble background. And because of her efforts her village has reported the lowest malaria infections in months! Welcome to the studio, Karemba.

65. KAREMBO: (SHY AND SOFTLY) Thank you...

66. MASIKA/BETTINA: (PROUDLY CHEERING) That's our girl!!

67. YAKUBU: (SARCASTIC) Now, look who is shouting...

68. RADIO PRESENTER: Before we go on with Karemba, we will have a short music break and then we will come back to talk with this cute girl who is doing an extraordinary job fighting malaria.

MUSIC INTERLUDE

OUTRO/NARRATOR:

And so Karemba told her story once again, bringing tears to her family and igniting a passion to fight mosquitoes and malaria in all those who were tuned in to their radios. Because of Karemba and all the other volunteers, the mosquitoes became a thing of the past in their village.

We hope you enjoyed the ten episodes of: **"The unwelcome evening guests" all about one family's fight against malaria.**

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