

**LEARNING BY EAR - “Girls’ Rights”**

**EPISODE 10**

**Title: “Careers for Girls” – A Story of Girls’ Rights**

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**Characters:**

**SCENE 1 CLASSROOM**

Narrator - 30s Male  
Ciro - 14 Female  
Cheptoo - 15 Female  
Fatuma - 14 Female  
Abdi - 15 Male

**SCENE 2 - TEACHER MONA CLASS**

Teacher Mona - 35 Female  
Ciro - 14 Female  
Cheptoo - 15 Female  
Fatuma - 14 Female  
Abdi - 15 Male  
Crowd of boys and girls in the classroom

**SCENE 3 - TEACHER MONA CLASS**

Narrator - 30s Male  
Teacher Mona - 35 Female  
Ciro - 14 Female  
Cheptoo - 15 Female  
Abdi - 15 Male  
Crowd of boys and girls in the Classroom (14-16)

**01. INTRO**

**02. MUSIC: THEME MUSIC**

**03. NARRATOR**

Hello and welcome to Episode Ten and the final Episode of our “Learning by Ear” **Girls’ Rights** series. Throughout the last nine episodes, the friends, Ciro, Cheptoo and Fatuma have encountered challenges and they've discussed and debated them in the ‘Girls’ Parliament’. Join the girls in this last episode, as they talk about career choices.

**SCENE 1: CHEPTOO’S CLASSROOM**

**04. SFX: DOOR OPENS**

**05. CIRO**

Cheptoo, there you are? What are you doing in the classroom over break time? We have been waiting for you in the playing fields.

**06. FATUMA**

Ssssh, Ciro, not so loud, she is studying.

07. **CIRO** Cheptoo studying... you? Ha ha
- (STARTS SINGING) Cheptoo is studying, Cheptoo is studying. She has become a book worm, a book worm, a book worm...
08. **CHEPTOO** (AGITATED) Ciro, Fatuma! Get out of here! Can't you see I am busy.
09. **CIRO** This is getting very suspicious. Isn't that my cousin I see in the corner? At that desk at the back? (LOUDLY) Hey Cousin Abdi, you too are studying over break time? Ok? This is odd, you are two people who never give up your break or your lunch hour to study.
10. **CHEPTOO** If you have to know, we have to complete these career forms.
11. **CIRO** (STARTS SINGING AGAIN) Eager beaver, a career for Cheptoo, Cheptoo is a bookworm.
12. **ABDI** Shut up Ciro! This is serious and you are interrupting.

13. **FATUMA** What's so difficult about choosing a career? Cheptoo, what do you want to be?
14. **CHEPTOO** A Biochemist!
15. **CIRO, FATUMA, ABDI** CRUDE LAUGHTER
16. **ABDI** A what? Do you even know what a Biochemist does?
17. **CHEPTOO** (INTERRUPTS QUICKLY) Biochemists are scientists who are trained in Biochemistry. Biochemistry is the study of chemical processes and chemical transformations in living organisms....
18. **CIRO** (JUBILATING) Wow, way to go, girl.
19. **ABDI** Anyway, you are a girl!
20. **CHEPTOO/CIRO** So what?
21. **ABDI** There are careers for men, and careers for women. That is the way it is.
22. **FATUMA** Are those the rules according to Abdi? Anyway, what is your career choice?
23. **ABDI** There are several, I am still deciding.
24. **CHEPTOO** (IRRITATED) Your chosen career Abdi.

**SCENE 2: TEACHER MONA’S CLASS**

**25. SFX: BELL RINGS**

**26. SFX: STEPS INTO THE ROOM. FURNITURE MOVEMENT  
NOISES. SOUNDS: STUDENTS MURMURING (partly studio)**

**27. TEACHER MONA**      Good morning class. Can you all settle down.

**28. CLASS**                      Good morning, Teacher Mona.

**29. TEACHER MONA**      Fatuma and Ciro, what are you doing in this class; you should be back in your own class rooms. Go now before you get into trouble with your Class Teachers. .

**30. CIRO**                              Teacher Mona, we have a career crisis. Abdi says Cheptoo can not be a biochemist because she is a girl.

**31. TEACHER MONA**      I see we have a problem. Class, what do you think? Are there jobs that girls can do?

**32. CLASS**                              Yess.. no....Yes...yeah

33. **CHEPTOO**                      Teacher, I think we need to convene a 'Girls' Parliament'
34. **TEACHER MONA**                Go ahead, set the motion.
35. **CHEPTOO**                      I propose the motion that 'There is no Career that a boy can do that a girl can not.'
36. **ABDI**                              I oppose that motion. Some careers are meant for boys and not girls!
37. **CIRO**                              Abdi, you are being ridiculous...you..
38. **TEACHER MONA**                Order, order... Ciro, this is a debate.
39. **CHEPTOO**                      I raise the point that girls are equally capable and they can choose any career. It is the interest, not the gender, that matters.
40. **ABDI**                              You are wrong. Women take care of others. They should take careers which involve nurturing people, such as nursing, teaching, counselling..
41. **CIRO**                              (INTERRUPTS) You sound like my great grandfather. Of course a girl can be an Engineer.

42. **ABDI** But that needs good passes in physics and Maths. Girls are not good at these subjects.
43. **CIRO** You and the others want us to believe that. But it is not true.
44. **FATUMA** Abdi, my best scores are in these subjects.
45. **ABDI** What's the point, your parents are ready to marry you off; even before you complete school. So, you see, you can't be an Engineer.
46. **FATUMA** I will be an Engineer.
47. **ABDI** Girl's don't like working outdoors. They don't like getting dirty. I don't see Cheptoo, who likes fashion and makeup and well-manicured nails, becoming an engineer. Can you imagine you and Cheptoo in overalls, building roads and bridges?
48. **CHEPTOO** (ANGRY) Abdi, you are really irritating me. You are such a chauvinist... you...

49. **TEACHER MONA**      Order, Order... keep your tempers down.  
It's important we get all these views out.  
Let's continue. Abdi?
50. **ABDI**                      Girls grow older, get married, then they  
have husbands and children to take care  
of. They have problems doing jobs that  
require them to travel or work late hours.
51. **FATUMA**                    Abdi, you are still set in the old days  
when men were hunters and gatherers,  
and went out all day leaving the women  
and girls at home to take care of each  
other. Haven't you noticed that times  
have changed and a lot of women in our  
country also leave home to go work?
52. **SFX: (STOMPING OF FEET), CLAPPING HANDS** (studio)
53. **GIRLS**                        Hear... hear...hear
54. **ABDI**                         But.. you.. the girls...
55. **CIRO**                         (INTERRUPTS) But what, Abdi? Look  
around this classroom, there are as  
many girls as there are boys. Why  
should it not be the same in career  
choices?
56. **SFX: (STOMPING OF FEET), CLAPPING HANDS**



57. **GIRLS** Hear.. hear... hear....
58. **CHEPTOO** Not to mention that these days, people are working more flexible hours.
59. **ABDI** But there are some careers that are difficult for girls!! You must agree.
60. **CHEPTOO** (ANGRY) We challenge all you boys to list those careers and tell us why we can't do them.
61. **TEACHER MONA** What a great idea. Let's get into groups and draw up a list of careers. We'll hear why girls are considered not to be suitable, and why they are indeed suitable for those careers. Get talking!
62. **ALL: LOUD AND ACTIVE MURMURINGS OF GIRLS AND BOYS**

**SCENE 3: CLASSROOM**

63. **ALL: HEATED MURMURINGS**
64. **TEACHER MONA** Order, Order, Order
65. **ALL: MURMURINGS CONTINUE**
66. **TEACHER MONA** (LOUDLY) Order!!!

**SILENCE**

67. **TEACHER MONA** I now call upon Abdi to represent the views from the boys' side. What careers pose challenges to the girls, and what careers do girls shy away from. Girls, be ready with your rebuttal, you will respond to each point. Cheptoo, please present the girls' side. You should all be brief, concise and clear.
68. **ABDI** (CLEARS THOUGHT) Girls have challenges in working in careers that need mathematics. They are not good with numbers.
69. **CHEPTOO** How come women are good at managing housekeeping finances? Are those not numbers? We have been made to believe we can't work with numbers. We can and we will.
70. **ABDI** Women don't like working at night. It is also not safe for them anyway. They can't do jobs that require them to work nights, for example in hotels, airports...

71. **CHEPTOO** Boys, welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Offices too are open longer hours and, even in office careers, people have to work shifts. Already these examples prove you wrong: Many nurses and female Doctors work at night in hospitals. I believe it is the men who tell us we are insecure at night doing these jobs, as a way of stopping us. If men were honest and strongly believed we were in danger working nights, then they should provide the security!!
72. **GIRLS** Hear... hear... hear....
73. **CIRO** (SOTTO TONE) Maybe they are busy making us feel insecure!! How come we are not in danger from other women but only in danger from men!! You have such double standards.
74. **GIRLS** (LOUD SHOUTING) hear.. hear... hear...
75. **TEACHER MONA** Order, order. Continue Abdi.

76. **ABDI** Girls are not ideal for such dangerous sports jobs as driving Racing Cars, Boxing, Mountain climbing. You won't make good soldiers either, I am sure you would hesitate to shoot if you were sent to war.. you....
77. **CHEPTOO** Come off it Abdi, that is an excuse. Everyone and anyone can have an interest in any sport. And a woman can choose to be a soldier. Don't women participate in the Olympics? You mean women can go through the birth process but they can't play a sport which requires adrenaline? Open your eyes, don't be ignorant...
78. **TEACHER MONA** Order..Order... Cheptoo.. cool it....
79. **CHEPTOO** (CONTINUES).... Abdi... You make me so angry.. you.. you

**80. TEACHER MONA** Stop it!! Cheptoo, Abdi, we are here to learn from each other. We are here to convince each other that any career a girl chooses is a good career for the girl. We needed the boys to challenge us. To make us see... well... what I call the back of our heads... we need to hear this because whether we girls and women like it or not, these are the issues that surround us when we are choosing our careers. So, can we all thank each other for sharing our opinions openly and candidly?

**81. SFX: LOUD AGREEMENT**

**82. TEACHER MONA** Ciro, can you summarise this debate for us.

**83. CIRO** I have a better idea, teacher! We want to thank the boys for making us face up to many of the issues surrounding career choices for girls. Teacher Mona, we have a chant that we sing..

**84. TEACHER MONA** A chant?

85. **CIRO** Yes, the rhythm is easy, like a military song. Everyone stand up and get some space.
86. **SOUNDS; FURNITURE BEING MOVED.**
87. **CIRO** (BEGINS TO SING)  
We girls have a right to careers
88. **BOYS** You girls have a right to careers
89. **GIRLS** I can be an engineer
90. **BOYS** You can be a good engineer
91. **GIRLS** I can be a pilot
92. **BOYS** You can be a pilot
93. **GIRLS** I can do what I choose
94. **BOYS** You can do what you chose
95. **GIRLS** It's my choice
96. **BOYS** Your choice
97. **GIRLS** My choice
98. **BOYS** Your choice
99. **ALL** Our choice ...Your choice..one two three four... HURRAY!

100.**ALL**

CLAPPING. LAUGHTER

101.**Outro**

102.**NARRATOR**

What a great way to end! It is indeed a boys and girls career celebration. A girl can choose any career! It's up to her to have the interest and the passion and it's up to her to gain the appropriate skills and knowledge.

This was the last episode of our Learning by Ear Girl's Rights series, written by Njoki Muhoho.

There are many more exciting topics provided by Learning by Ear. Keep listening and don't forget to visit our website at [dw.world.de/lbe](http://dw.world.de/lbe) for more information. Please send us your comments as well. Good bye!