

LEARNING BY EAR - “Girls’ Rights”

EPISODE 7:

Title: Peer Pressure – A Story of Girls’ Rights

AUTHOR: Njoki Muhoho

EDITORS: Andrea Schmidt, Katrin Ogunsade

Proof reading: Michael Lawton

Characters:

Narrator - 30s Male

SCENE 1 -THE LOCAL TOWN

Ciro - 14 Female

Cheptoo - 15 Female

Fatuma - 14 Female

SCENE 2 - PLAYING FIELDS

Abdi - 15 Male

Cheptoo - 15 Female

SCENE 3 - CIRO PARENT’S HOME

Ciro - 14 Female

Mama Ciros - 40s Female

SCENE 4 - SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Narrator - 30s Male

Fatuma - 14 Female

Headmaster - 40s Male

Group of Students (boys and girls) (14-16)

SCENE 5 - HEADMASTER’S OFFICE

Fatuma - 14 Female

Ciro - 14 Female

Cheptoo - 15 Female

Abdi - 15 Male

Headmaster - 40s Male

SCENE 6 - VILLAGE FOOT PATH

Deutsche Welle, Learning by Ear 2011, – Girls’ Rights, Episode 7

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

SCENE 7 - GIRLS’ PARLIAMENT

Narrator - 30s Male
Fatuma - 14 Female
Ciro 14 Female
Cheptoo - 15 Female
Abdi - 15 Male
Teacher Mona - 35 Female
Janet-Social Worker- 30s Female
Group of Students (boys and girls), 14-16

01. **INTRO**

02. **MUSIC: THEME MUSIC**

03. **NARRATOR** Hello and welcome to Episode **Seven** of our “Learning by Ear” **Girls’ Rights** series. In the last episode, we tackled the topics of domestic violence and corporal punishment. In today’s episode, the girls experience peer pressure and its negative effects. Let’s join them as they debate this topic at the ‘Girls’ Parliament’.

SCENE 1: THE LOCAL TOWN

04. **SFX: CITY SOUNDS. CARS HOOT. MUSIC**

05. **FATUMA** (EXCITED) Cheptoo, thank you so, so much for bringing us to the city. Your Auntie has been very nice to us. I wish we could stay another day.

06. **CHEPTOO** Fatuma, what are good friends for. I am lucky that I have relatives in the city and that I can spend weekends here. I thought it was time I shared this life with you, my two friends. (PAUSE) **CIRO**, what are you staring at?
07. **CIRO** I am looking at your earrings and rings, Cheptoo. You seem to have them everywhere.. all over your ear lobes, nose and, is that a stud I see on your tongue? ... yeeeeeksss.
08. **CHEPTOO** Come on, don't be such a village girl, this is the in thing now. Look around you, most of the young people here look the same.
09. **FATUMA** But.. but... but.. you don't have to do it just because they are.
10. **CHEPTOO** Fatuma, Fatuma, you can take the girl out of the village but can not take the village out of the girl. Look at your skirts... you look like you are from a century ago.
11. **CIRO** Cheptoo your skirt is too short.
12. **CHEPTOO** It's a Mini...

13. **CIRO** Yes.. you are mini-minded.
14. **CHEPTOO** (EXCITED) Wait, Fatuma, let me fix your skirt...
15. **CIRO** (ALARMED) Cheptoo.. what are you doing!!!
16. **SFX: A LOUD RIPPING SOUND**
17. **CHEPTOO** (LAUGHING). There Fatuma, now you have a fashionable skirt, short and no hem!
18. **FATUMA** (screaming in protest): Oh Cheptoo, you ripped my skirt!!!

SCENE 2 PLAYING FIELDS

19. **SFX: PLAYFIELD NOISES**
20. **ABDI** Cheptoo... Cheptooo, over here.
21. **CHEPTOO** Abdi, what are you and your friends doing?
22. **ABDI** (ALARMED) not so loud, Cheptoo. Others will hear. Here.. have a puff.
23. **CHEPTOO** What is it?
24. **ABDI** Well, it is a cigarette... and a special one. (GIGGLES)

25. **CHEPTOO** You...will be caught..
26. **ABDI** That! That only makes it more fun. Take a puff. Or are you chicken Kwak...kwak...
27. **CHEPTOO** (SHOUTING) hey.. stop it! Give me that ciggy.

SCENE 3: CIRO PARENTS' HOME

28. **SFX: NIGHT SOUNDS**
29. **SFX: WINDOW OPENS SLOWLY. A CRASH.**
30. **MAMA CIRO** Who's there? Who is that?
31. **SFX: QUICK STEPS**
32. **MAMA CIRO** (SHOCKED) Ciro. ... what are you doing on the floor? Why are you fully clothed? Oh no, you have just arrived.. Through the window?
33. **CIRO** Sorry.. eehh sorry Mum. I fell.
34. **MAMA CIRO** (VERY ANGRY) Don't dare you lie to me. You sneaked out. Where have you been?
35. **CIRO** Eehh.. I was....I

36. **MAMA CIRO** (SHOUTING). Where were you? Tell me this instant otherwise I am going to tell your father about this...
37. **CIRO** I'm so sorry Mum, my friend Cheptoo and Cousin Abdi took us to a disco in town.
38. **MAMA CIRO** You are in big trouble, girl.. big... trouble. Let's continue this conversation in the morning.
39. **SCENE 4 SCHOOL ASSEMBLY**
40. **Narrator:** The next morning at school, the headmaster has called all students to the assembly hall. Listen to what he's going to say.
41. **SFX: STUDENTS MURMURING**

42. **HEADMASTER** (ANGRY) Silence everyone. SILENCE. I can not begin to express how disappointed I am with several of you here. Several of you have been misbehaving. You have done what is not acceptable at all. You were caught in a corner of our school compound drinking alcohol and smoking

43. **SFX; STUDENTS GASP**

44. **HEADMASTER** You did not only engage in drinking, which is illegal for children under age of 18 years, but you also brought the alcohol and cigarettes into our compound and encouraged others to partake.

Could the following report to my office for discipline actions: Abdi Kamau, Tunis Kabra, Cheptoo Joseph, Fatuma Jacobs, Ciro Fabio.

FADES OFF

45. **FATUMA** (LOUD WHISPER) Oooh No, Father Jacob will kill me!

46. **NARRATOR** There is trouble at school. Let's follow these naughty students to the Headmaster's office.

SCENE 5 HEADMASTER'S OFFICE

47. **SFX: Knocking on door, Door opens, students come in**

48. **HEADMASTER** (ANGRY) Come in! You are the shame of this school. I wish to get to the bottom of this before I send you off to bring your parents. Who brought the alcohol?
(FURIOUS) Out with it!!!

49. **CHEPTOO** It was Abdi and his friends

50. **ABDI** It wasn't me. It was James

51. **CIRO** I didn't drink. I only sipped when Cheptoo insisted and I didn't like it. I only watched them drink.

52. **HEADMASTER** And you Fatuma? You are very quiet.

53. **FATUMA** Cheptoo told me I was a backward village girl and I needed to lighten up. She is my friend, you know. She helped me when my parents..

54. **HEADMASTER** Stop there.. stop there all of you. Don't you realise what is happening here. You are putting pressure on each other!!! This has to stop this instant. You should be able to resist peer pressure. You are hereby suspended for two weeks. Go straight home and bring your parents here first thing in the morning. I will have your suspension letters ready for them by then. Now, get out of here!! Out.. out.. out you go.

55. **BRIDGE MUSIC**

SCENE 6 VILLAGE FOOT PATH/outside atmosphere

56. **FATUMA** Ciro, Cheptoo, what are we going to do? How will I face my parents? See what problems you got us into, Cheptoo
57. **CHEPTOO** (ANGRY) .. what? What problems I got you into? Me, why blame me. You got yourself into trouble.
58. **CIRO** Cheptoo, stop shouting. If it was not you and your .. what do you call it, 'in-fashion ways', we would not have been with those boys when they were drinking.

59. **CHEPTOO** Now you blame me. Do you have anything to blame me for when it was you who were smoking and drinking? You giggled and enjoyed the experience!! Stop blaming me.
60. **FATUMA** You made us. You made me feel bad if I didn't. Ciro, tell her.
61. **CIRO** It's true, Fatuma.. you always need someone to tell you what to do.
62. **FATUMA** Even you now, Ciro,... you are all blaming me.
63. **CHEPTOO** We are friends. We influence each other and also get influenced by others. SILENCE. I think we have a topic for a Parliament debate. Why not call all those who have been suspended, and also ask Teacher Mona to join us after school.
64. **CIRO** Let's invite Social Worker Janet as well.
65. **FATUMA** Have you forgotten that we have been suspended.

66. **CHEPTOO** You see, I have an idea. Let's go tell our parents that we have been suspended for two weeks and they are needed at school tomorrow, but we will also tell them we have an idea. That we should discuss how peer pressure affects us in our Girls' Parliament...
67. **CIRO** (INTERRUPTS) We can invite them and the Headmaster to sit in and listen.
68. **FATUMA** That is such a good idea. We will make sure Teacher Mona and Social Worker Janet are there as they have always given us guidance when we needed it. Also, I have a feeling there might be some tempers to manage!
69. **CHEPTOO** You never know, if we help the other girls and ourselves in managing peer pressure, the Headmaster might be lenient with us on the suspension issue.
70. **CIRO/FATUMA** Aaaaalright! Lets go for it.
71. **CHEPTOO** But if the Headmaster insists, we might still have to take the two weeks suspension . After all, we are guilty
72. **CIRO/FATUMA** (LOUD SIGH) Oooh!

73. **NARRATOR** Will the school allow the three friends to facilitate a debate while they are on suspension? Listen on and find out if they are allowed to do so.

SCENE 7 GIRLS' PARLIAMENT

74. **SFX** AGGRESSIVE MURMURING
75. **CHEPTOO** Abdi, it is your fault...
76. **ABDI** It's your fault Cheptoo! You and my cousin Ciro!!
77. **TEACHER MONA** Stop, stop.. stop it.. all of you!! Janet, you are the social worker, guide us on our debate today before these young people start a physical fight.
78. **JANET** Boys and girls, this is not a time to fight. I have a topic for you: after all, you always float debates on issues that affect you all. Our topic is 'Why are young people easily influenced by peer pressure'?
79. **FATUMA** Janet, what is peer pressure?

80. **JANET** Boys and girls, you are each other's peers. You are agemates and influence each other both positively and negatively. What has been happening is that some of you have given in to the pressure so that you can be liked and fit in.
81. **CHEPTOO** So, what are you suggesting we do? We are in big trouble. We are being suspended from school.
82. **TEACHER MONA** First let's find out what kind of children are likely to become the victims of negative peer pressure. They are especially children who have little or no self-confidence, or feel lonely. Children who are isolated from their classmates and may also be depressed.
83. **JANET** Secondly, choose your friends wisely. Friends that will help you grow. Positive thinking friends.

84. **TEACHER MONA** Learn ways to beat peer pressure. You could do this by cultivating self-confidence, be pleased with your own achievements and don't imitate those who show off or pretend to be cool.
85. **JANET** Also find yourself by thinking about where you stand on issues such as alcohol, drugs, early sex etc. So, if confronted, you have an answer ready and can discuss the matter confidently.
86. **CHEPTOO** All this sounds great. So, girls, what do you think of alcohol and drugs. Maybe we could start there.
87. **CIRO** Cheptoo, have you forgotten we are being suspended from school. We still have to face up to that.
88. **FATUMA** I have an idea. Why don't we propose to the Headmaster that the whole school gets into small groups and debates these issues?
89. **TEACHER MONA** That sounds like an excellent idea.
90. **CHEPTOO** Lets go and see the Headmaster.
91. **THEME MUSIC**

92. **OUTRO**

93. **NARRATOR**

That's all from Learning by Ear for today. If you want to hear the programme again or tell friends about it, please visit our website at [d w world dot d e slash l b e](http://dwworld.de/slash/learnbyear). Your comments are most welcome.