

# AKUCHI



**TWAZEZA  
COMMUNICATIONS**

Working Towards a Better World



Story based on *Akuchi and the Fishing Boat* by Diana Mwango.

Editor: Kimani Njogu

Illustrations: Maurice Odede

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# **NOTE TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS**

This comic book is part of a collection of Entertainment-Education (EE) materials that include story books, comics, video games, films and a Teacher's Guide. Their aim is to help children to develop values that will help them grow and become good human beings.

Akuchi is about thankfulness. It is about being thankful or grateful for what one has. Thankfulness causes us to appreciate those around us and the role they play in helping us grow into better people. By being thankful, we learn to become polite and more sensitive to the feelings of others. We develop empathy and other interactional skills.

Thankfulness can be expressed in different ways including saying 'thank you', 'I really appreciate your help with this' among others. Being thankful means that what others have done for us is appreciated however big or small.

We would like to encourage the use of this comic to teach children about thankfulness. For example, children can learn how to express thankfulness, learn new words and improve speaking, writing and reading skills. They can also use the comic book to develop artistic talent. The creative use of the comic can provide many opportunities for learning in the classroom and at home. Try to spend quality time discussing the images, words and emotions found in each page. Used creatively, each image can be an important learning point. Encourage learners to try out their artistic ability by coming up with other images and stories. Learners can write their own comic and share among themselves.

This comic book should be read alongside other materials on values including the companion book to this title, *Akuchi and the Fishing Boat* by **Diana Mwango**. Look out for more titles under the **AHADI Readers** series.

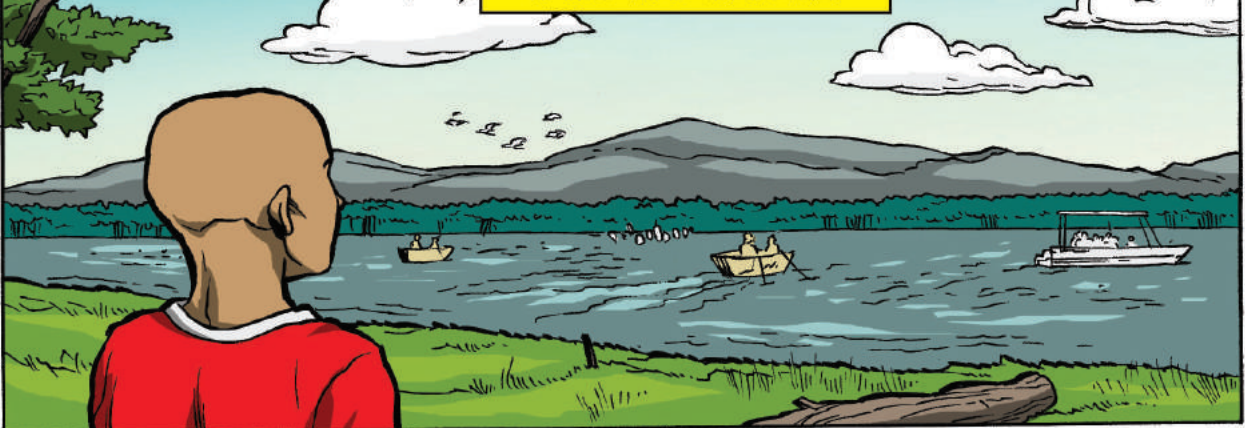
If this book makes a difference in your home or classroom, write to us. We would like to hear from you.

**Prof. Kimani Njogu,**  
Series Editor,  
[info@ahadi.org](mailto:info@ahadi.org)  
Nairobi



LAKE NAIVASHA.

AKUCHI STANDS AT THE SHORE WATCHING AS THE BOATS SLOWLY SAIL AWAY.



NEARBY, AKUCHI'S FATHER AND UNCLE ESAU WERE REPAIRING THEIR OLD BOATS, WHICH WERE MADE FROM PAPYRUS REEDS. THEY WERE TYING THEM WITH ROPES TO STOP THEM FROM LEAKING.



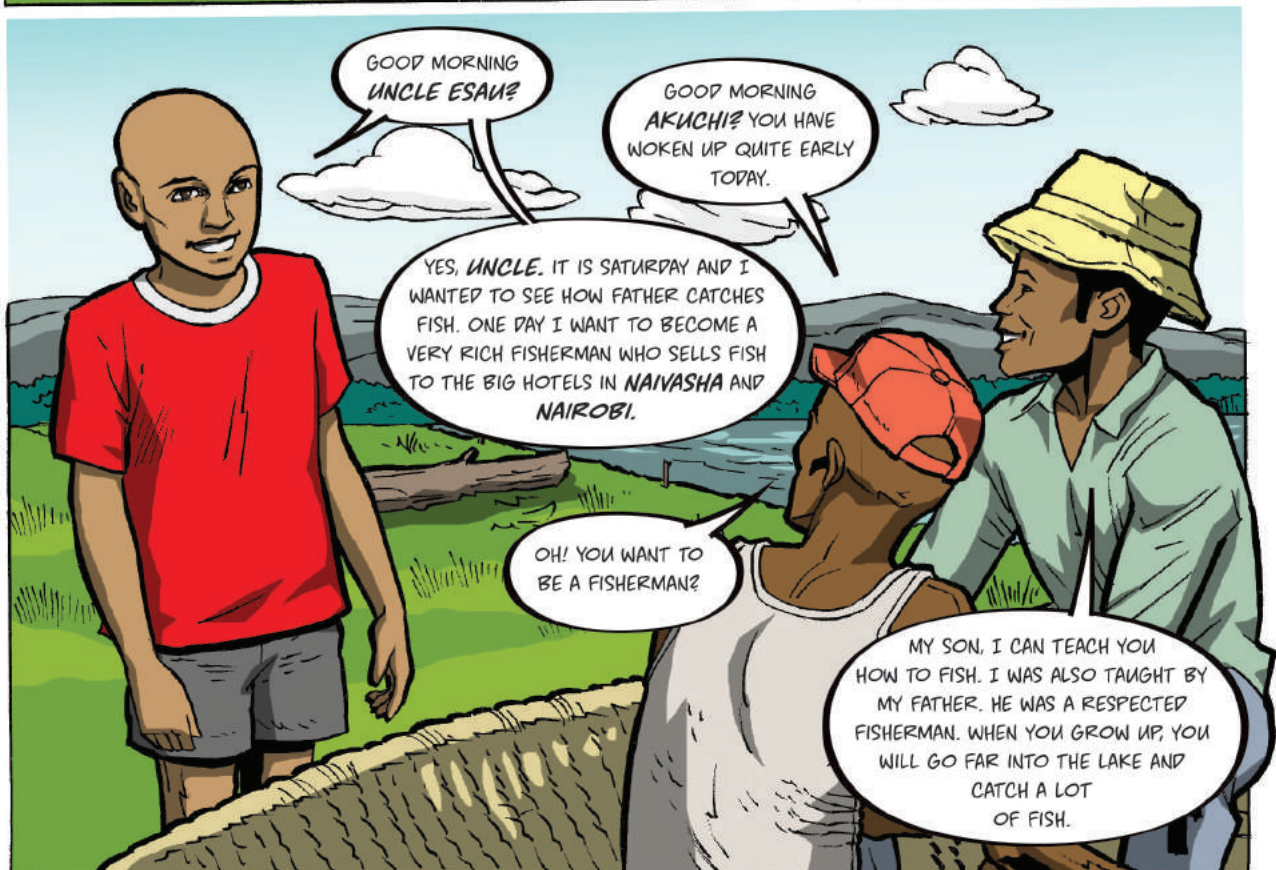
GOOD MORNING UNCLE ESAU?

GOOD MORNING AKUCHI? YOU HAVE WOKEN UP QUITE EARLY TODAY.

YES, UNCLE. IT IS SATURDAY AND I WANTED TO SEE HOW FATHER CATCHES FISH. ONE DAY I WANT TO BECOME A VERY RICH FISHERMAN WHO SELLS FISH TO THE BIG HOTELS IN NAIVASHA AND NAIROBI.

OH! YOU WANT TO BE A FISHERMAN?

MY SON, I CAN TEACH YOU HOW TO FISH. I WAS ALSO TAUGHT BY MY FATHER. HE WAS A RESPECTED FISHERMAN. WHEN YOU GROW UP, YOU WILL GO FAR INTO THE LAKE AND CATCH A LOT OF FISH.

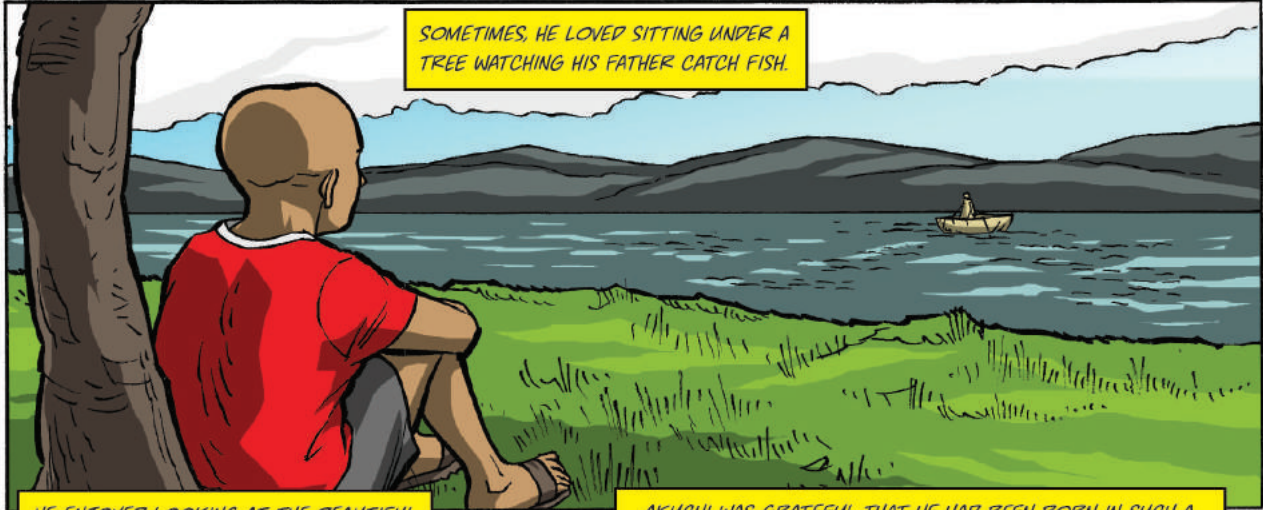




AKUCHI LIVED WITH HIS PARENTS AND UNCLE A FEW KILOMETRES FROM THE LAKE. WHEN HE WAS NOT IN SCHOOL, HE WOULD GO WITH HIS FATHER TO THE SHORES OF LAKE NAIKASHA.

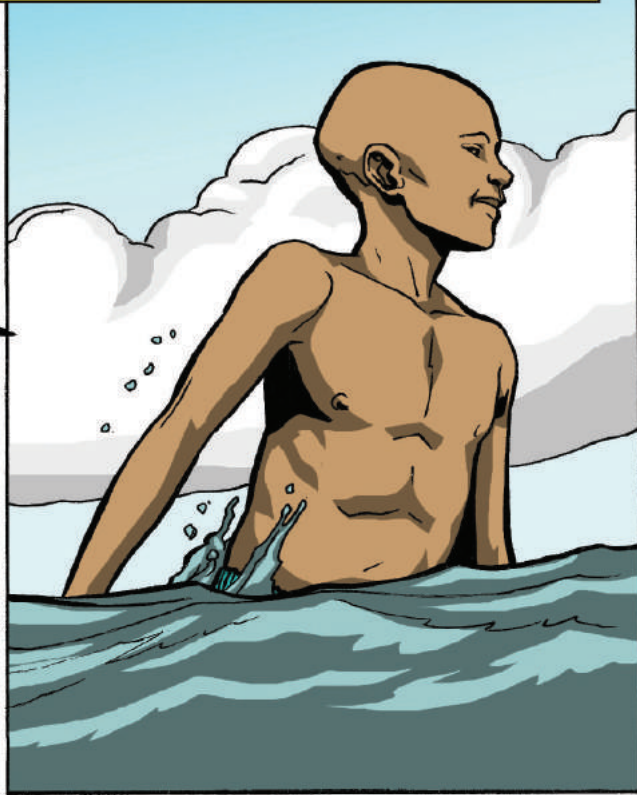


SOMETIMES, HE LOVED SITTING UNDER A TREE WATCHING HIS FATHER CATCH FISH.



HE ENJOYED LOOKING AT THE BEAUTIFUL BIRDS SWIMMING IN THE WATER AND PICKING FISH WITH THEIR LONG BEAKS. THEY MADE FISHING LOOK EASY.

AKUCHI WAS GRATEFUL THAT HE HAD BEEN BORN IN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PLACE. WHEN HE WAS TIRED OF SITTING UNDER A SHADE, HE WOULD LOOK FOR A SHALLOW SPOT AND SWIM, HIS EYES ALWAYS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR HIPPOS.





THAT MORNING, HE SAT NEAR HIS FATHER AND UNCLE. HE WATCHED AS THEY WEAVER THEIR BOATS USING THE PAPYRUS REEDS THAT GREW ON THE SHORES OF THE LAKE.



MY BOAT LOOKS AS GOOD AS NEW. NOW IT CANNOT LEAK.



LET ME HELP YOU FIX YOUR BOAT SO THAT WE CAN GO FISHING BEFORE THE SUN BECOMES TOO HOT.

THANK YOU MY BROTHER. YOU KNOW I AM NOT VERY GOOD AT USING PAPYRUS. I WISH I HAD A WOODEN BOAT. EVERYTHING WOULD BE MUCH EASIER.



DON'T WORRY, *ESAU*. THESE BOATS WILL DO JUST FINE. WE NEED TO GET SOME FISH FOR THE CHILDREN TO EAT. WE CANNOT GO HOME EMPTY-HANDED.

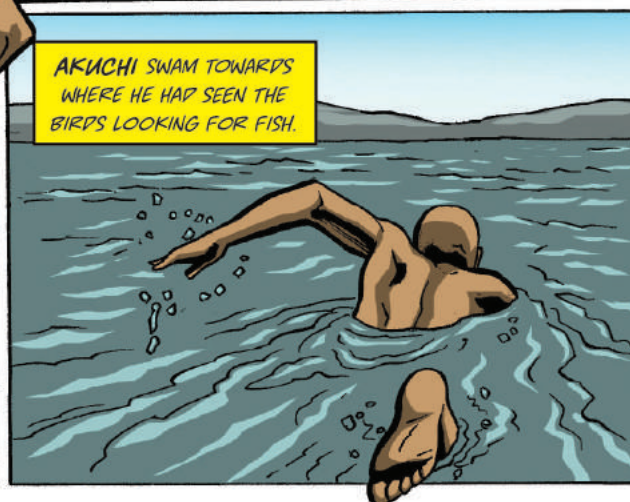
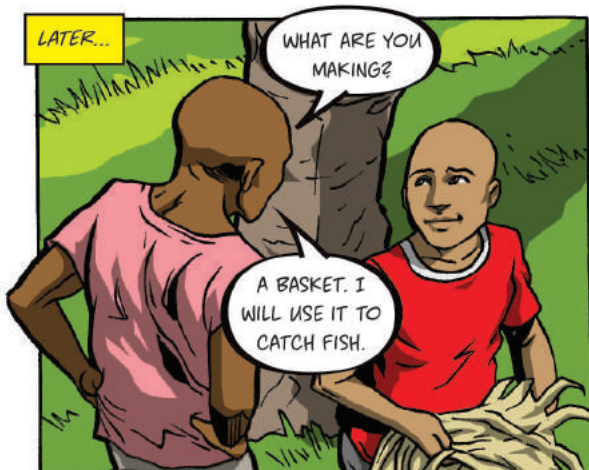


SOON, UNCLE ESAU AND AKUCHI'S FATHER PUSHED THEIR BOATS INTO THE WATER AND OFF THEY WENT.

AKUCHI PICKED UP THE SMALL PIECES OF PAPYRUS REEDS THAT HIS FATHER AND UNCLE HAD LEFT BEHIND.

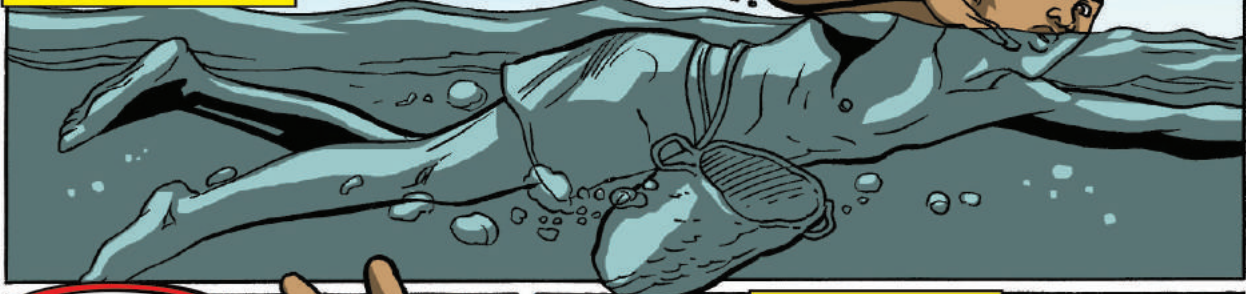
I WILL USE THESE TO MAKE A BASKET FOR TRAPPING FISH.







AFTER A WHILE, AKUCHI FELT  
SOMETHING SLIPPERY  
MOVING IN HIS BASKET.



I CAUGHT ONE!  
I CAUGHT ONE!



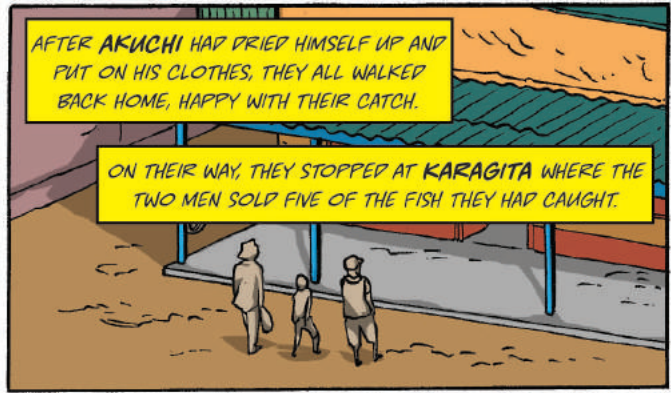
THE TWO MEN WERE SO  
HAPPY FOR HIM.



TODAY WE WILL  
EAT THE FISH YOU  
CAUGHT.



AFTER AKUCHI HAD DRIED HIMSELF UP AND  
PUT ON HIS CLOTHES, THEY ALL WALKED  
BACK HOME, HAPPY WITH THEIR CATCH.



ON THEIR WAY, THEY STOPPED AT KARAGITA WHERE THE  
TWO MEN SOLD FIVE OF THE FISH THEY HAD CAUGHT.

WHEN THEY GOT HOME, AKUCHI TOLD HIS MOTHER, ANNA, THAT  
HE HAD CAUGHT HIS FIRST FISH. SHE WAS HAPPY FOR HIM.

THANK YOU FOR  
THE FISH, AKUCHI. I  
AM SO PROUD OF  
YOU!





AKUCHI AND HIS SIBLINGS LIVED WITH THEIR PARENTS IN A SMALL HOUSE MADE OF WOOD.



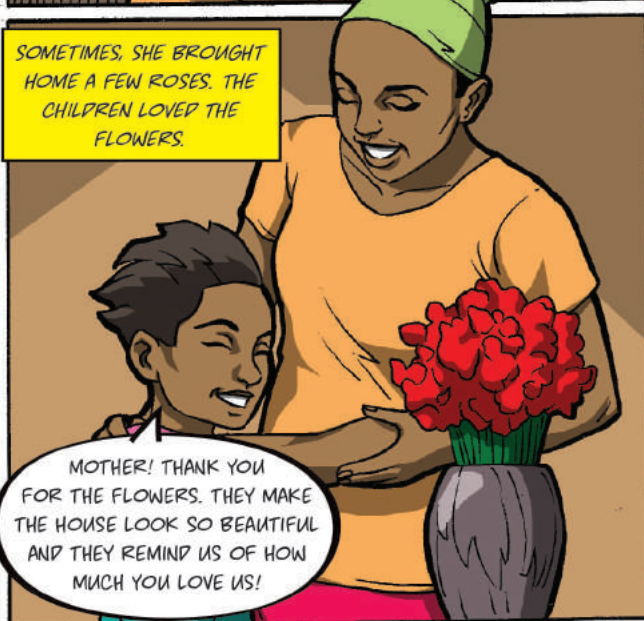
ANNA, THEIR MOTHER, WORKED IN A BIG FLOWER FARM. SHE PICKED FLOWERS.



FROM THE GREENHOUSES, THE FLOWERS WERE DELIVERED TO A BIG HALL WHERE OTHER WOMEN WOULD TRIM AND PACK THEM, READY FOR EXPORT.

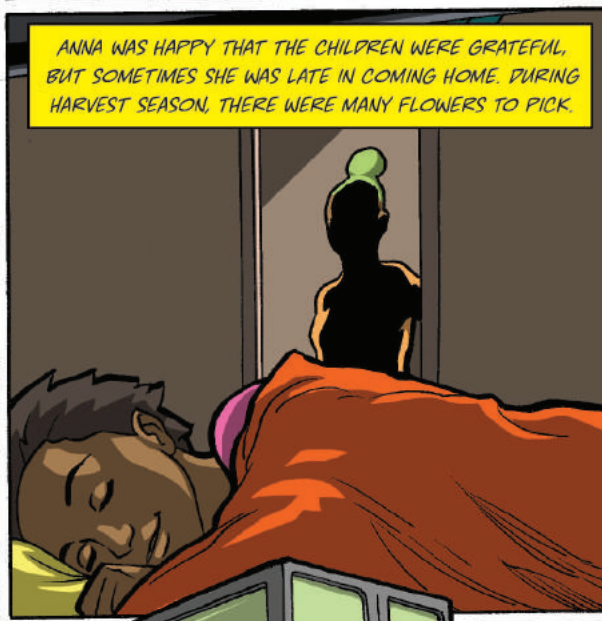


SOMETIMES, SHE BROUGHT HOME A FEW ROSES. THE CHILDREN LOVED THE FLOWERS.



MOTHER! THANK YOU FOR THE FLOWERS. THEY MAKE THE HOUSE LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL AND THEY REMIND US OF HOW MUCH YOU LOVE US!

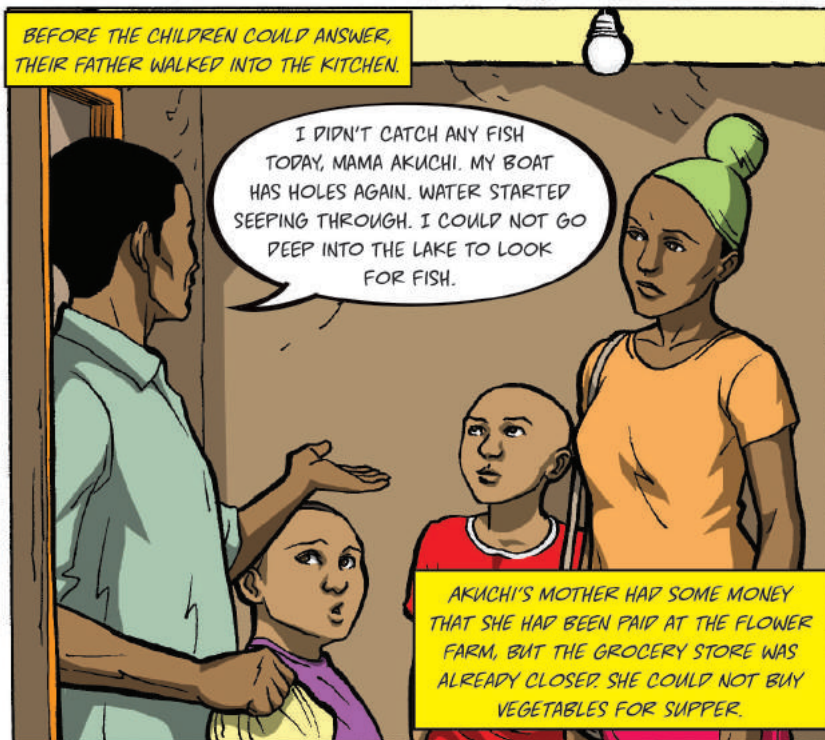
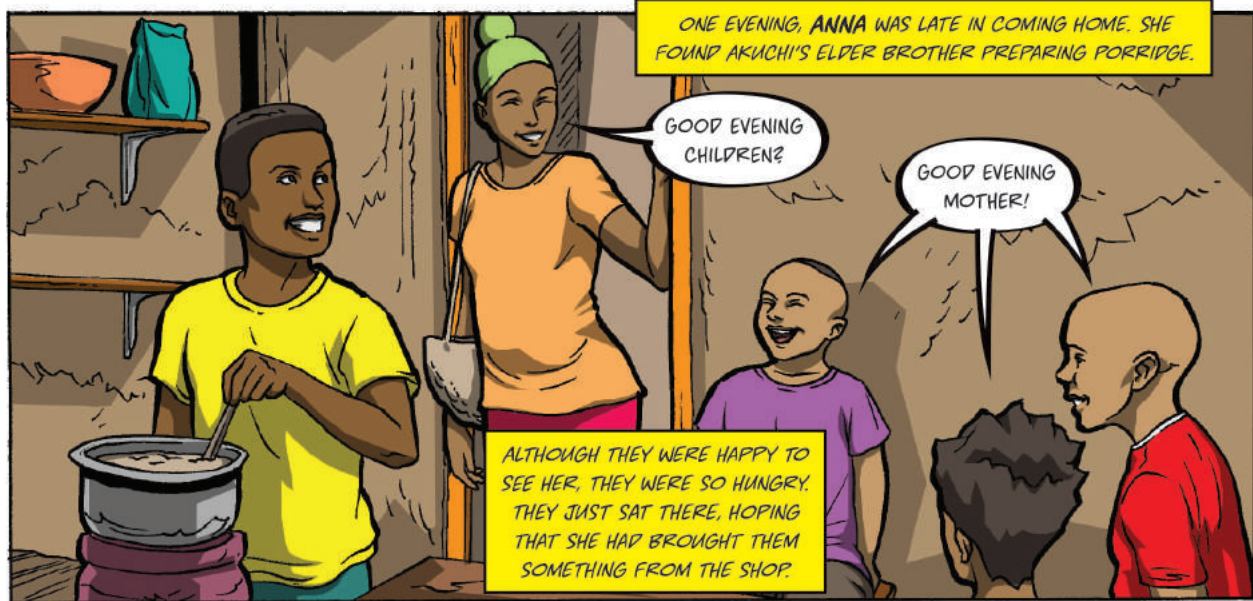
ANNA WAS HAPPY THAT THE CHILDREN WERE GRATEFUL, BUT SOMETIMES SHE WAS LATE IN COMING HOME. DURING HARVEST SEASON, THERE WERE MANY FLOWERS TO PICK.



SHE AND THE OTHER WORKERS HAD TO HARVEST AND PACK ALL THE FLOWERS, WHICH WERE THEN TRANSPORTED BY ROAD TO A BIG AIRPORT IN NAIROBI.









IN THE MORNING, SHE WOKE UP EARLY. KNOWING THAT THE CHILDREN MUST HAVE FELT HUNGRY AT NIGHT, SHE WENT TO THE SHOP AND BOUGHT A LOAF OF BREAD, SOME EGGS AND A PACKET OF MILK.

AS THE CHILDREN SLEPT, SHE PREPARED BREAKFAST FOR THEM.

WHEN THEY WOKE UP, THEY WERE SO SURPRISED TO SMELL THE EGGS FRYING.

OH! MOTHER! THANK YOU FOR THIS SURPRISE. I THOUGHT I WOULD GO TO SCHOOL HUNGRY!

YOU ARE WELCOME MY DAUGHTER. NOW SIT DOWN AND ENJOY.

SOON, EVERYONE INCLUDING AKUCHI, WAS UP AND THEY ENJOYED THEIR HEARTY MEAL.

ONCE THE CHILDREN HAD LEFT FOR SCHOOL, AKUCHI'S FATHER LEFT FOR THE LAKE TO TRY HIS LUCK.

I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE DELICIOUS BREAKFAST. I WILL GET SOME FISH TODAY.

WE SHALL EAT A MORE DELICIOUS MEAL IN THE EVENING!



IN SCHOOL, AKUCHI'S TEACHER TAUGHT THE STANDARD FOUR PUPILS ABOUT BUSINESS. THEN HE ASKED THEM TO NAME DIFFERENT TYPES OF BUSINESSES.

AKUCHI WAS EXCITED BECAUSE HE KNEW TWO TYPES OF BUSINESSES. ONE WAS SELLING FLOWERS AND THE OTHER WAS SELLING FISH.

TEACHER,  
TEACHER!

MY FATHER IS A  
**FISHERMAN** AND HE  
SELLS FISH TO GET  
MONEY.

STAND UP IN FRONT  
OF THE CLASS AND  
TELL US MORE.

MY FATHER, MY  
UNCLE AND I WENT  
FISHING RECENTLY AND  
SOLD THE FISH THAT  
WE HAD CAUGHT.

THERE IS ALSO A  
BOAT OWNER WHO  
CARRIES TOURISTS  
TO TAKE PICTURES  
OF BIRDS AND  
HIPPOPOTAMUS.

MY MOTHER  
ALSO WORKS AT A  
FLOWER FARM. THE  
BUSINESS HELPS TO  
CREATE JOBS.

THIS MORNING, WE WERE SO  
GRATEFUL WHEN WE WOKE UP AND  
FOUND MOTHER HAD MADE EGGS FOR US.  
SHE HAD BOUGHT THEM WITH THE MONEY  
THAT SHE EARNED FROM THE FARM. SO, I  
AM THANKFUL THAT SHE HAS A JOB. THAT IS  
WHAT BUSINESSES DO. THEY CREATE JOBS  
SO FAMILIES CAN HAVE A BETTER  
LIFE.

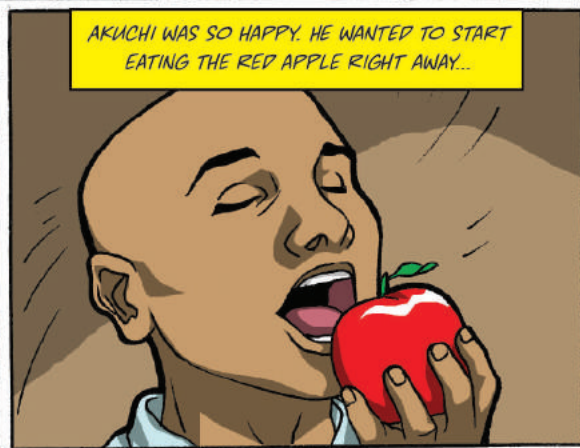
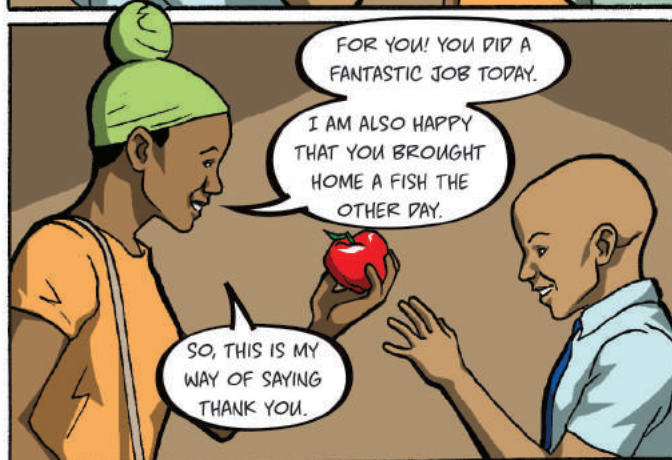
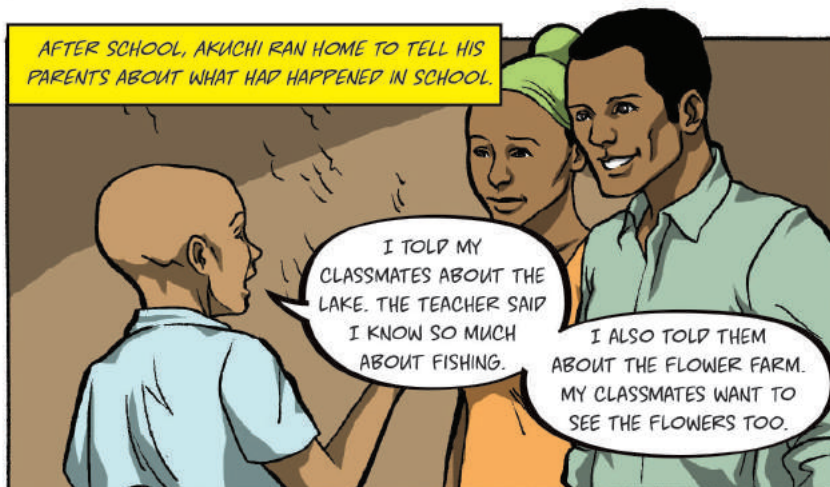
WOW! IMPRESSIVE,  
HOW DO WE SHOW  
APPRECIATION FOR HIS  
BEAUTIFUL STORY?

WE CLAP  
FOR HIM!

THANK YOU **AKUCHI** FOR  
SHARING YOUR STORY. YOU  
KNOW A LOT ABOUT FISHING AND  
FLOWERS. ONE DAY, I AM SURE,  
YOU WILL BE A SUCCESSFUL  
BUSINESSMAN.



AFTER SCHOOL, AKUCHI RAN HOME TO TELL HIS PARENTS ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN SCHOOL.





EVERY MORNING, AKUCHI'S FATHER WOULD GO TO THE LAKE SHORES TO REPAIR HIS OLD BOAT. IT HAD GROWN VERY OLD. IT COULD NOT MOVE FAST IN THE WATER. SO HE HAD TO PADDLE IT SLOWLY. THIS MADE HIM VERY TIRED BUT HE NEVER GAVE UP.



TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER FISHERMEN, THE TWO MEN PLANNED TO GO FISHING AT NIGHT. IT WAS EASIER TO CATCH MORE FISH AT NIGHT THAN DURING THE DAY.



AKUCHI WALKED BACK HOME AND HOPED THAT HIS FATHER WOULD CATCH LOTS OF FISH. HE WAS HAPPY THAT KAMAU HAD GIVEN HIS FATHER A CHANCE TO FISH USING HIS BOAT.





WHEN HE GOT HOME, HE MET HIS MOTHER PREPARING PORRIDGE. SHE POURED IT IN THE CUPS AND GAVE THE CHILDREN TO DRINK. AKUCHI WISHED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE SOMETHING BETTER TO EAT.



HOWEVER, HE TOOK HIS PORRIDGE WITHOUT COMPLAINING.



LET US HOPE THAT FATHER WILL GET ENOUGH FISH TONIGHT.

TAKE THE PORRIDGE AND SLEEP. TOMORROW WE SHALL EAT FISH.

YOUR FATHER WILL COME WITH ONE FOR EVERYONE. I WILL COOK THEM WITH SOME RICE AND VEGETABLES.



AKUCHI'S FATHER RETURNED HOME VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING.



HE LOOKED TIRED. HE HAD CAUGHT **EIGHT** FISH.

OH FATHER! WE NEED ONE MORE FISH!

IS THIS NOT ENOUGH?

MOTHER SAID, EACH OF US WOULD HAVE ONE FISH TODAY!

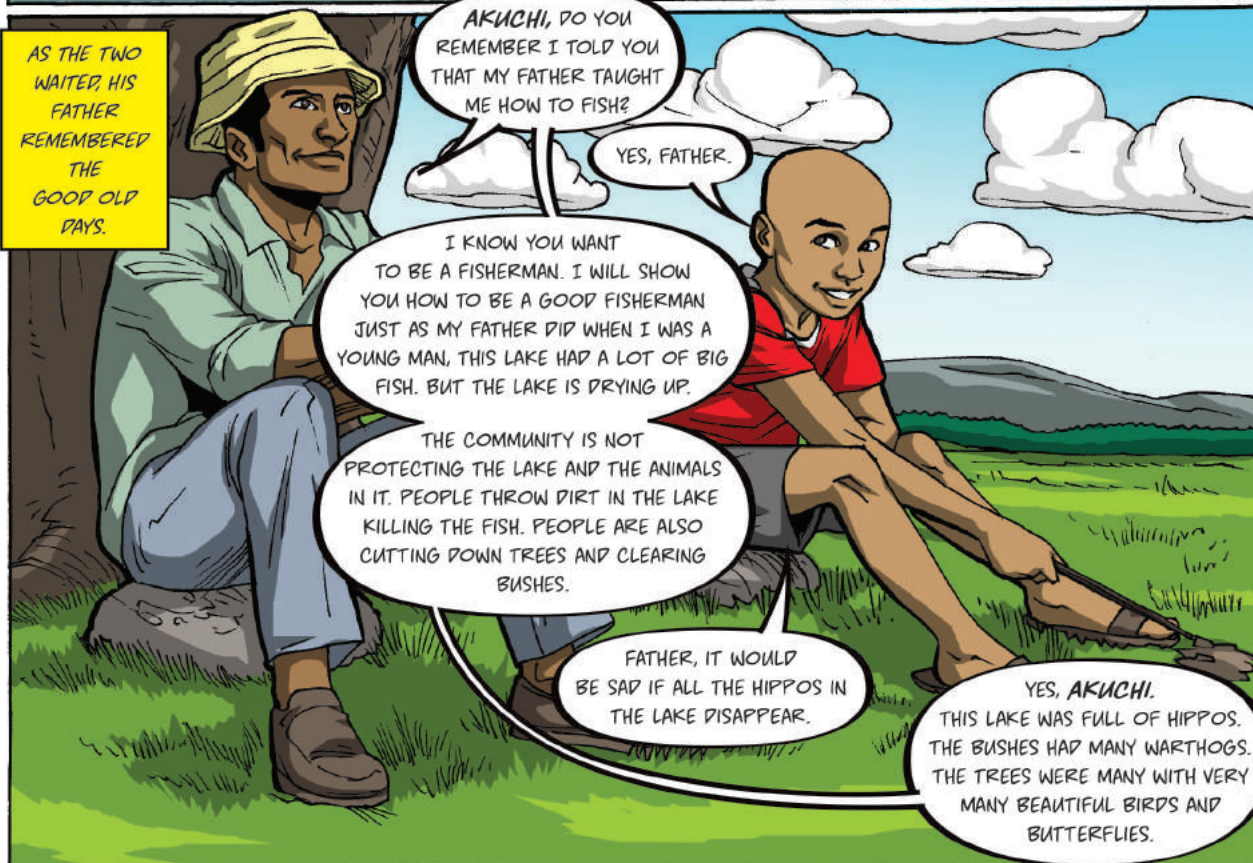
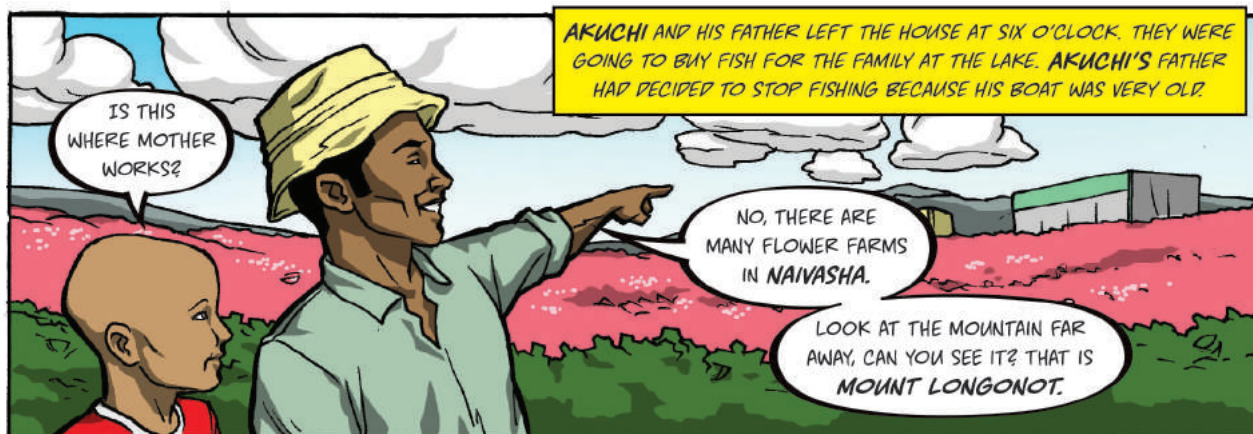
NO PROBLEM, I WILL SHARE ONE WITH YOUR MOTHER. YOU CHILDREN CAN HAVE ONE EACH.

I WILL ALSO SHARE MINE WITH **JUMA**.

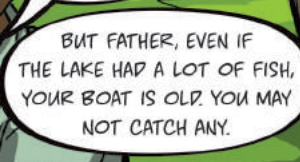
THAT IS VERY KIND OF YOU **AKUCHI**. YOU ARE A GOOD BOY.







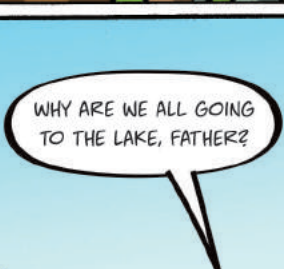




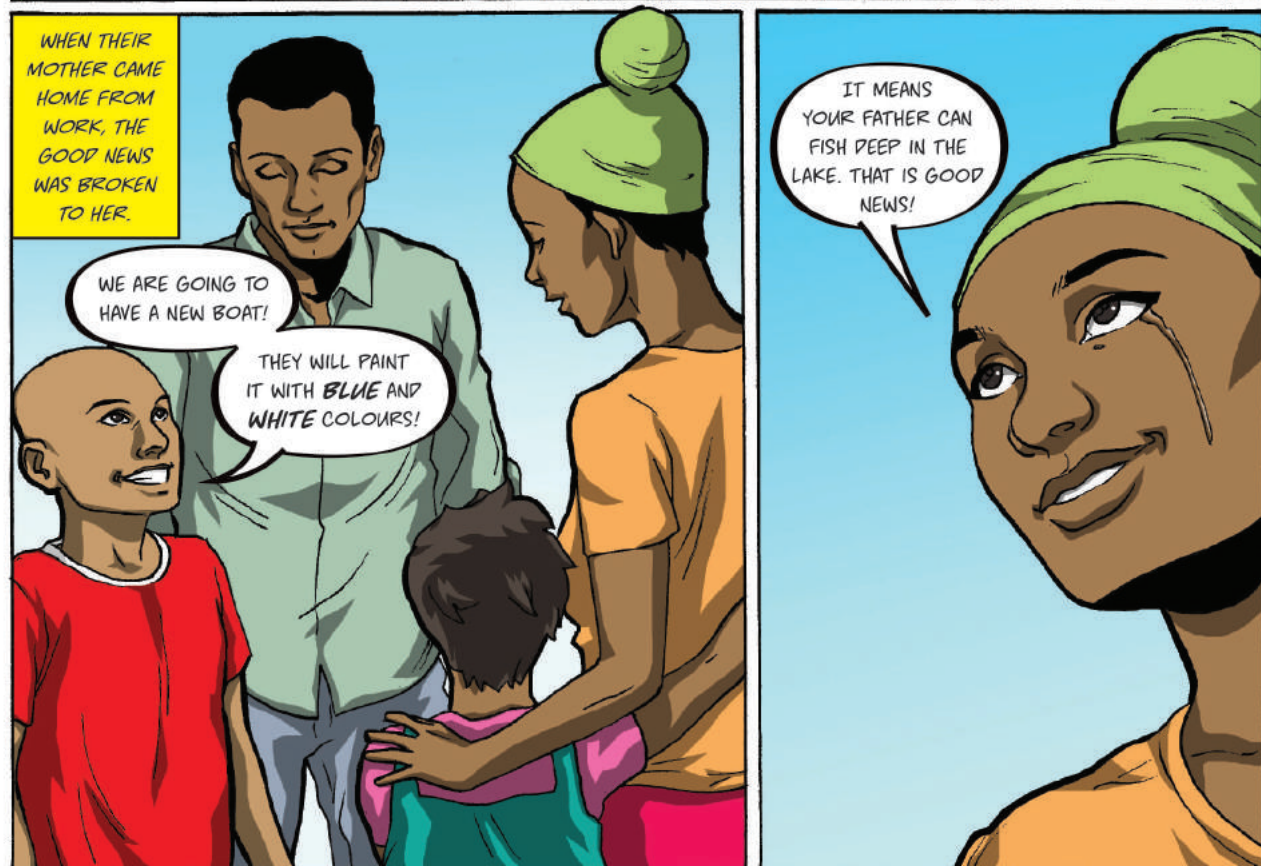
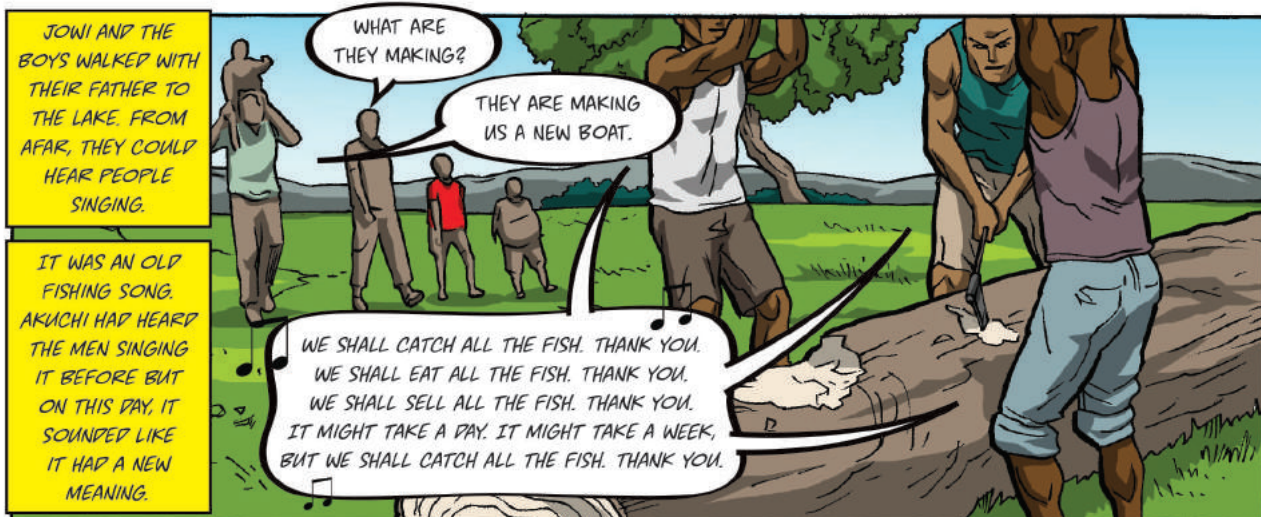
AS THEY TALKED ABOUT THE LAKE AND THE BOAT, AN OLD MAN APPROACHED THEM.



SATURDAY, A WEEK LATER









# **QUESTIONS**

*1. How did Akuchi show he is thankful?*

*2. Which other values do we learn from this story?*

*3. How will you show that you are thankful?*



### *Akuchi*

Akuchi, a young boy who lives in Naivasha, has a passion for fishing. He wants to become a fisherman like his father and his grandfather.

In this story, Akuchi learns about fishing, how to care for the environment and how this will play a key role in his achieving his dream.

This inspirational story teaches us why we should always be thankful for what we have.

Other comics in this series include:-

*Amira*

*Nuru*

*Mickey and Fatuma*



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