

Stories of My Life in Burundi and the US

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Table of Contents

1. How to make Fufu

Ugali chakula nikipendecho

2. My Burundi School Story

Simulizi yangu ya shule ya Burundi

3. My United States School Story (Aiken High School)

Hadithi yangu ya shule ya United States (Aiken High School)

4. (Snow Story) How I Like Snow

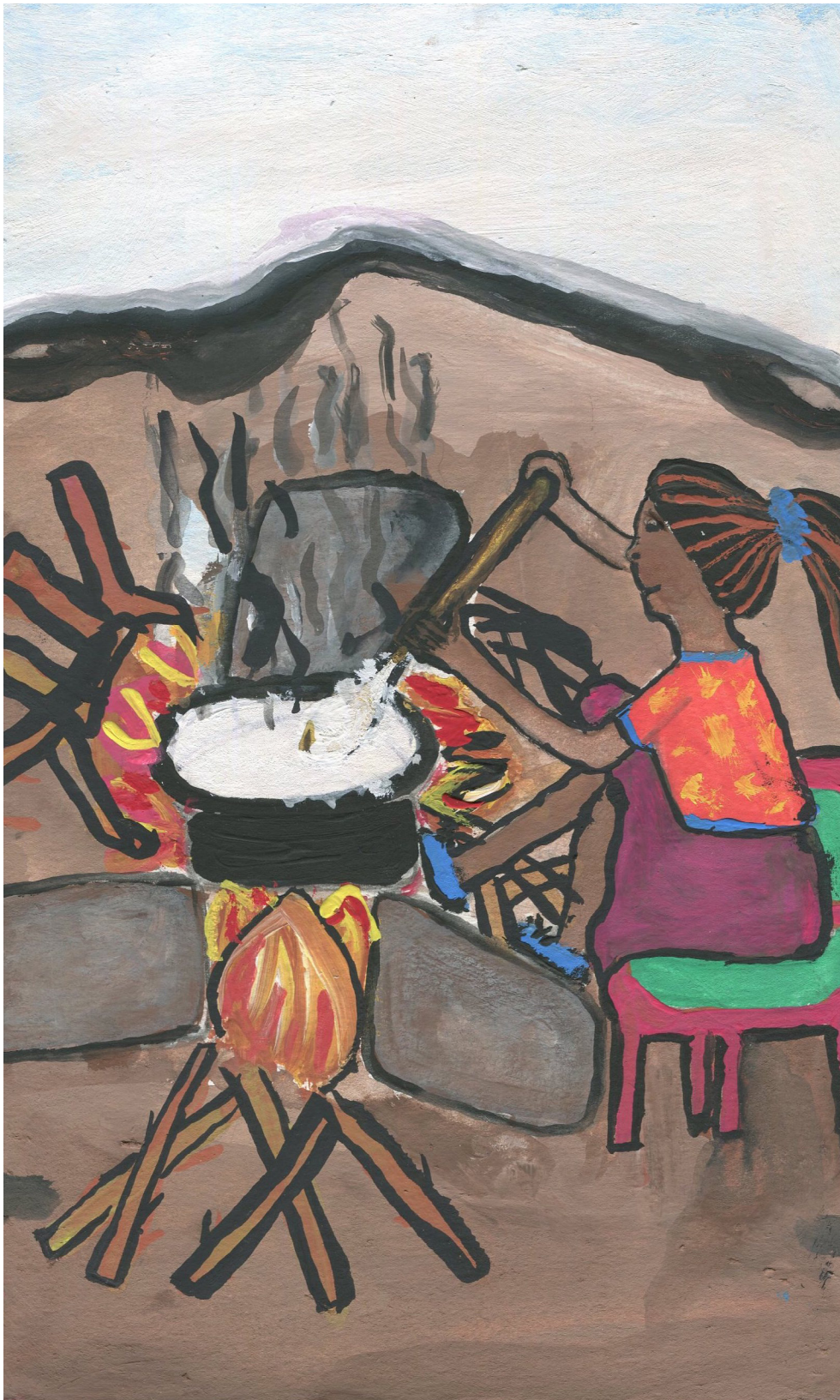
(Simulizi ya theluji) Ninapenda sana theluji

5. I Like How My Mom Used to Put a Baby on Her Back

Ninapenda jinsi Mama Yangu Alivyotumia
Kuweko Mtoto Mogongoni

6. My Mom and Dad Plant Corn and Beans in the Backyard of My House

Mama Yangu na Baba Yangu Wapanda Kona Na
Maharage Nyuma Ya Nyumba Yangu



1. HOW TO MAKE FUFU (UGALI in Swahili)

1. UGALI CHAKULA NIKIPENDECHO

I have eaten fufu all my life, when I was in Burundi and now here in the United States.

Fufu is a maize that is dried and finely ground into corn flour. To make it you need to have a pot, water, cornmeal, fire, and a large spatula or paddle called a mwiko, which is like a spoon. It helps you to make it well.

If you want to make Fufu you need to buy corn flour and then light the kitchen fire, add a pot of water and then boil.

Put the corn flour in the pot of boiling water,

When you are done grab the corn flour with the mwiko and start rolling it in the pot until it is like a loaf of bread.

Nilikula ugali maisha yangu yote nikiwa Burundi na mpaka sasa hapa marekani

Ugali ni mahindi ya kukauka amabayo yamesagiwa vizuri na kuwa unga

Ilikufanya unahitaji sufuria,maji,unga wa mahindi,moto ya kupikia,pamoja na mwiko ambayo itakusaidiwa kusonga ugali vizuri

ikiwa unataka kutengeneza ugali wa mahindi unahitaji kununua unga wa mahindi kisha washa moto jikoni,tia sufuria ya maji na kisha ikichemka weka unga wa mahindi kwenye sufuria ya maji ya moto ukimaliza chukuwa unga wa mahindi kisha mwiko nao utauzungusha kwenye sufuria ilioko maji na unga mpaka iwe kama mkate.

When you have finished, look for vegetables to eat with the fufu; like spinach, meat, fish, leaf vegetables, or common beans to eat with fufu because you cannot eat fufu alone. You should have like two or three different plates, one for fufu and another one for those other foods.

Fufu is not sweet or bitter, it is in the middle. When you have finished, put it on the table and then BON APPETIT start enjoying a delicious food.

You also need to measure when cooking fufu. You can add four cups of water, remember you would have to wait for the water to boil, then pour the flour into the water.

ukimaliza tafuta mboga za kulisha ugali huo kama vile mchicha, nyama yoyote uipendayo, samaki, mboga mboga au maharage ya kawaida kwasababu huwezi kula ugali wenyewe unapaswa kuwa na sahani mbili au tatu tafauti moja ya ugali na zingine za mboga kawaida ugali sio utamu au muchungu, iko katikati tu. ukimaliza weka mezani halafu BON APPETIT anza kufurahiya chakula kitamu. Mbele ya yote utahitaji kupima vikombe vingi vya maji na pia kumbuka kuwa utasubiriya maji ya chemke



When I was working at Artworks there were 4 teachers, one of them named Sarra walked me to the Artwork office to meet with one of the other Artwork teachers because there were things she wanted to tell me and I did not know where the office was.

As we were walking along we smelled the smell of pizza in the restaurant beside us and she said, “Mmmm this pizza smells good. Pizza is one of my favorite foods. How about you Fabiola?”

And I said I like hamburgers more than pizza. She asked me what Burundi food I like.

I said I like Fufu. She said what is fufu. I told her that fufu is the food that so many people from Burundi and maybe other countries eat, and my family and I eat it every day at lunch.

She said she wanted to see it and taste it because she likes trying new things.

“Fabiola, do you mind bringing me fufu?” and I said, “sure”.

First I think, how can I show her fufu so I can explain it well to her and I get an idea to google it.

I googled it and showed her and then she said, “Is this fufu?”

I said, “yes”.

She said, “I wish I could taste it. Could you bring it tomorrow?”

I say, “Yes, of course”.

The next day I woke up and quickly started preparing fufu, anchovies, and roasted tomatoes. When she saw it, the fufu was in one bowl and another one for fish, and another one for roasted tomatoes.

She said that we should share with others in the office because no one has eaten fufu before.

She went to the market and bought some little plates and spoons also.

I thought some would refuse because it was the first time. But they all ate it and said, “This is sweet” and thanked me. Sarra told me that she was very grateful for the new food she had not eaten since she was born.

Watu wengi huwa wanapenda kujaribu vitu vipya kama vile ku wakati nilikuwa natumika kwenye Artworks

kulikuwa walimu wa 4, mmoja wao aliyeitwa Sarra alinitembeza hadi kwenye ofisi ya Sanaa ili kukutana na mmoja wa walimu wengine wa Sanaa kwa sababu kulikuwa na mazungumzomaulum ambayo alitaka kuniambia ila sikujua ofisi ilikuwa wapi. Tulipokuwa tunatembea tukahisi harufu ya pizza katika mgahawa uliopo pembeni yetu na akasema, “Mmmm pizza hii inanukia vizuri. Pizza ni moja ya vyakula ninavyopenda. Vipi wewe Fabiola? ”

Nikasema napenda hamburger zaidi ya pizza. Aliniuliza ni chakula gani cha Burundi ambacho mimi upenda.

Nikasema napenda Fufu. Alisema ni nini fufu. Nilimwambia kuwa fufu ni chakula ambacho watu wengi kutoka Burundi na labda nchi nyingine hula, na mimi na familia yangu tunakula kila siku wakati wa chakula cha mchana.

Alisema antaka kuiona na kuonja kwa sababu anapenda kujaribu vitu vipya.

“Fabiola, kama hutojali unaweza kuniletea fufu nijaribu?” na nikasema, “ndio ninaweza”.

Kwanza nilidhani, ninawezaje kumuonyesha fufu ili niweze kumwelezea vizuri na nikapata wazo la kui-google.

Niliiangalia na kumuonesha kisha akasema, “Je! Hii njo fufu?”

Nikasema, “ndio”

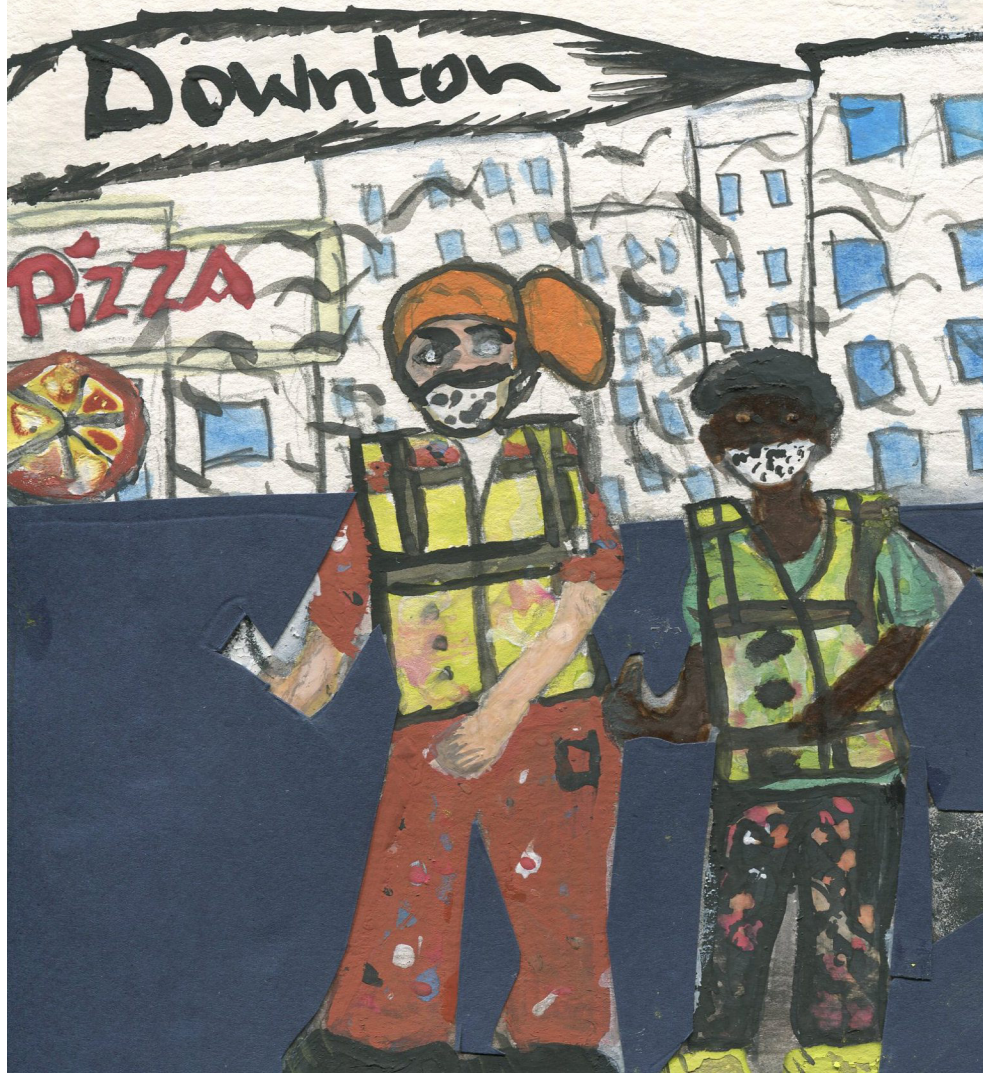
Alisema, “Natamani ningeweza kuonja. Unaweza kuniltea kesho? ” Ninasema, “Ndio, kweli”.

Siku iliyofuata niliamka haraka nikaanza kuandaa fufu, ndagaa, na nyanya zilizooka. Alipoiona, fufu ilikuwa katika bakuli moja na nyingine ndagaa, na nyingine kwa nyanya zilizooka.

Alisema kwamba tunapaswa kushiriki na wengine ofisini kwa sababu hakuna mtu aliyekula fufu hapo awali. Alikwenda sokoni na kununua sahani ndogo na vijiko pia. Nilidhani wengine watakataa kwa sababu ilikuwa mara ya kwanza. Lakini wote walikula na kusema, “Hiyi ni tamu” na walinishukuru. Sarra aliniambia kuwa anashukuru sana kwa chakula kipya ambacho hakuwa amekula tangu azaliwe.

That day I felt so comfortable and happy to see they liked the food I love.

Siku hiyo nilijisikia raha sana na kufurahi kuona wanapenda chakula ninachopenda.



2. MY BURUNDI SCHOOL STORY

2. SIMULIZI YANGU YA SHULE YA BURUNDI

First of all Institut Amani (the name of the school I attended in Burundi) is a wooden school built with wood.

On top there are metal objects that cover it so that when it rains we don't get wet.

And outside there is a fence of those metal objects around the school to help to keep thieves from stealing things (school stuff).

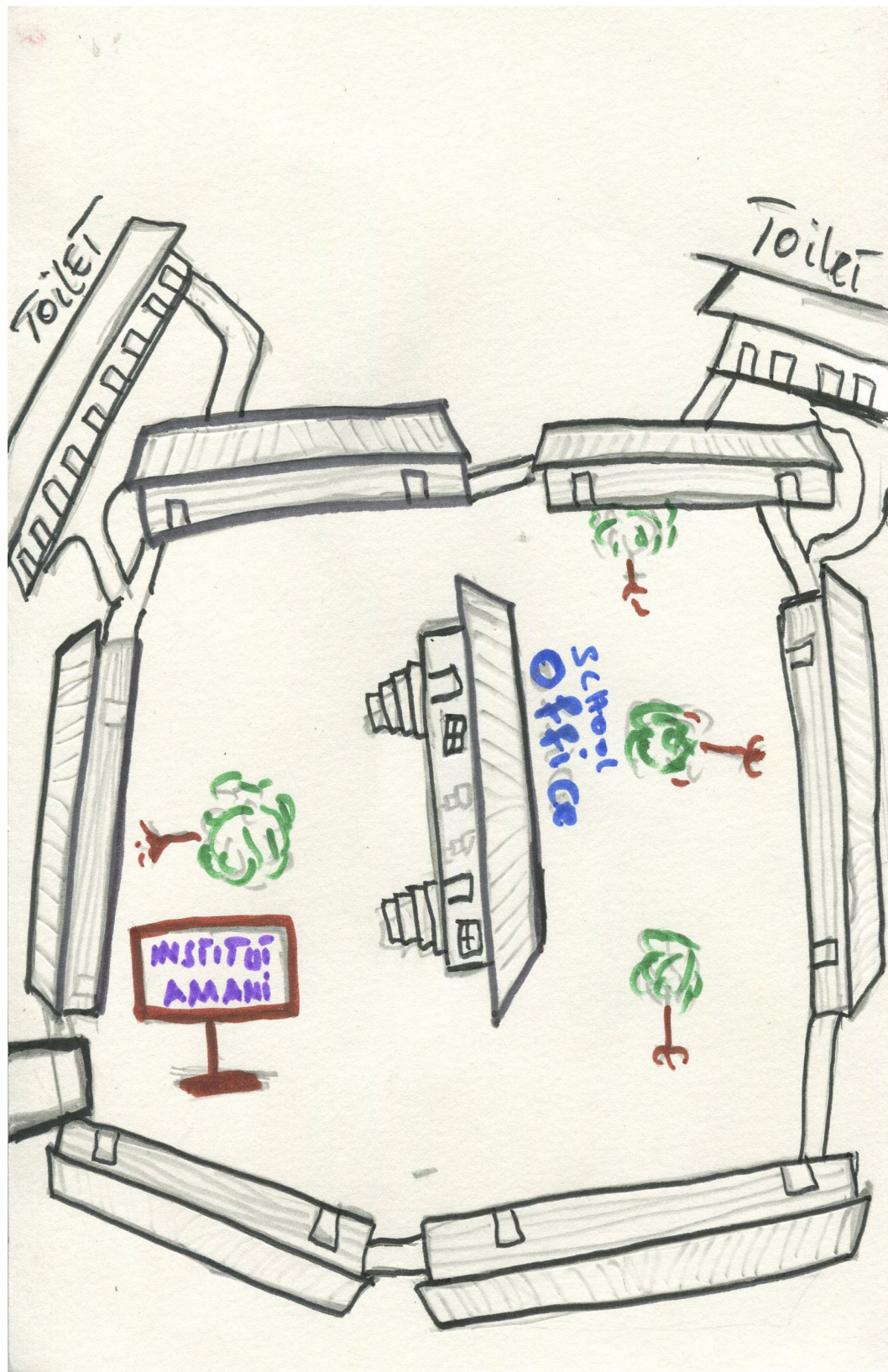
That school is about 3 to five minutes away from home. No one has a car, in fact when we see a car pass in our street we just start screaming and say "That car it for my grandmother, my mom's car", some say "my aunty's car", others say, "that's my grandpa's car", but I say, "That's my dad's car".

Kwanza kabisa Institut Amani (jina la shule niliyosomea nchini Burundi) ni shule ya mbao iliyojengwa kwa mbao.

Juu kuna ma bati ambavyo hufunika nyumba ili mvua ikinyesha tusinyeshe we.

Na nje kuna lupango wa manjanja ili ya kuzunguka shule ambayo inasaidia kuwazuia wezi kuiba vitu (vitu vya shule).

Shuleni kwenda ni dakinka 3 ao 5 kutoka nyumbani na shuleni. Hakuna mtu aliye na gari, kwa kweli hata tunapona gari inapita katika barabara yetu tunaanza kupiga kelele na kusema "Hiyo gari ni ya bibi yangu, ya mama yangu", wengine wanasema "gari la shangazi yangu", wengine wanasema, "hiyo ni yangu gari la babu ", lakini tunasema," Hiyo ni gari ya baba yangu ".



But all of that was lying because no one has a car as we mentioned it was just like a miracle. I didn't know that women can drive. I was like 8 years old. I knew that boys and men are the ones who can drive because I always thought that driving a car is a hard thing to do for women or girls.

Well, so many parents don't have a chance to go to school but they encourage their children to not be like them. Because life was different between people who go to school and who don't and they have different jobs, too. Like my mom and dad used to be merchants. My mother used to sell cassava flour, mangoes, apples, cane, and nuts and my dad used to grind flour from cassava.

Just to make sure we don't miss something to eat when we go to school and when we come back. Our life was very good because I was getting good food, well dressed, and sleeping well.

Lakini yote hayo yalikuwa uwongo kwa sababu hakuna mtu aliye na gari kama tulivyokuwa tukisema. Sikujua kwamba wanawake wanaweza kuendesha gari. Nilikuwa na umri wa miaka 8. Nilijua kuwa wavulana na wanaume ndio wanaweza kuendesha kwa sababu siku zote nilifikiri kuwa kuendesha gari ni jambo gumu kufanya kwa wanawake au wasichana.

Kweli, wazazi wengi hawakupata nafasi ya kwenda shule lakini wanahimiza watoto wao wasiwe kama wao. Kwa sababu maisha yalikuwa tofauti kati ya watu wanaokwenda shule na ambao hawajaenda walikuwa wana kazi tofauti, pia. Kama mama yangu na baba yangu walikuwa wafanyabiashara. Mama yangu alikuwa akiuza unga wa muhogo, maembe, mapera, miwa, na karanga na baba yangu alikuwa akisaga unga kutoka kwa muhogo. Ili tu kuhakikisha kuwa hatukosi kitu cha kula tunapoenda shuleni na tunaporudi. Maisha yetu yalikuwa mazuri sana kwa sababu nilikuwa nikipata chakula kizuri, nimevaa vizuri, na nilikuwa nikilala vizuri.

At school we used to go in the morning at 6:00 am until 12:00. To have good grades there are some in the sixth grade who are going twice a day but they pay for it. They would go in the morning then they come back to eat, at eight o'clock they go to school again until ten pm. Non-high school students who are like 1st grade to 6th grade are taught all classes by a single teacher (one teacher for all classes).

High school is 12:00 to 5:00 pm, in the morning there are no classes. Many of these students do not go on to university because of the lack of money, that is, when they finish high school they get a diploma or a certificate and they are going to search for a job.

To school you always have to go early.

If you are late you will be beaten on the buttocks so that one day you will not be late for school. And if you are lucky they will give you a punishment or send you back home to fetch water and flush the toilet.

Shuleni tulikuwa tunaenda asubuhi saa 6:00 asubuhi hadi 12:00. Kuwa wanafunzi katika madarasa za chini ambao walikuwa wakienda mara mbili kwa siku ila wanajilipia pesa. Wakienda asubuhi kisha warudi kula, saa nane za usiku wanaenda shule tena hadi saa kumi jioni. Wanafunzi wasio wa sekondari ambao ni kama darasa la 1 hadi darasa la 6 wanafundishwa madarasa yote na mwalimu mmoja (mwalimu mmoja kwa madarasa yote). Shule ya upili ni 12:00 hadi 5:00 jioni, asubuhi hakuna madarasa. Wengi wa wanafunzi hawa hawaendi chuo kikuu kwa sababu ya ukosefu wa pesa, ambayo ni kwamba, wanapomaliza shule ya upili wanapata diploma au cheti na wataenda kutafuta kazi.

Kwa shule lazima kila wakati uende mapema.

Ukichelewa utapigwa fimbo kwenye matako ili siku moja usichelewe tena. Na ikiwa una bahati watakupa adhabu au watakurudisha nyumbani kuchukua maji na kusafisha choo.



And if you miss any classes or any work you will have to bring your parents. There are some who were bringing in parents who were not theirs. But if it is known it becomes very problematic to you and you will be punished and even your parents will punish you in front of all students so that next time you won't do that.

Just before starting going in classes we used to sing the national anthem of Congo and I know it and every student must know it. The reason we sing the national anthem of Congo is because we were all from Congo and also learned Congo history and Congo geography.

When we entered the classroom before the reading, not all, but most of the teachers were singing songs then praying before starting the lessons and when we left we prayed.

After all that, my family and I get the opportunity to come here to the United States.

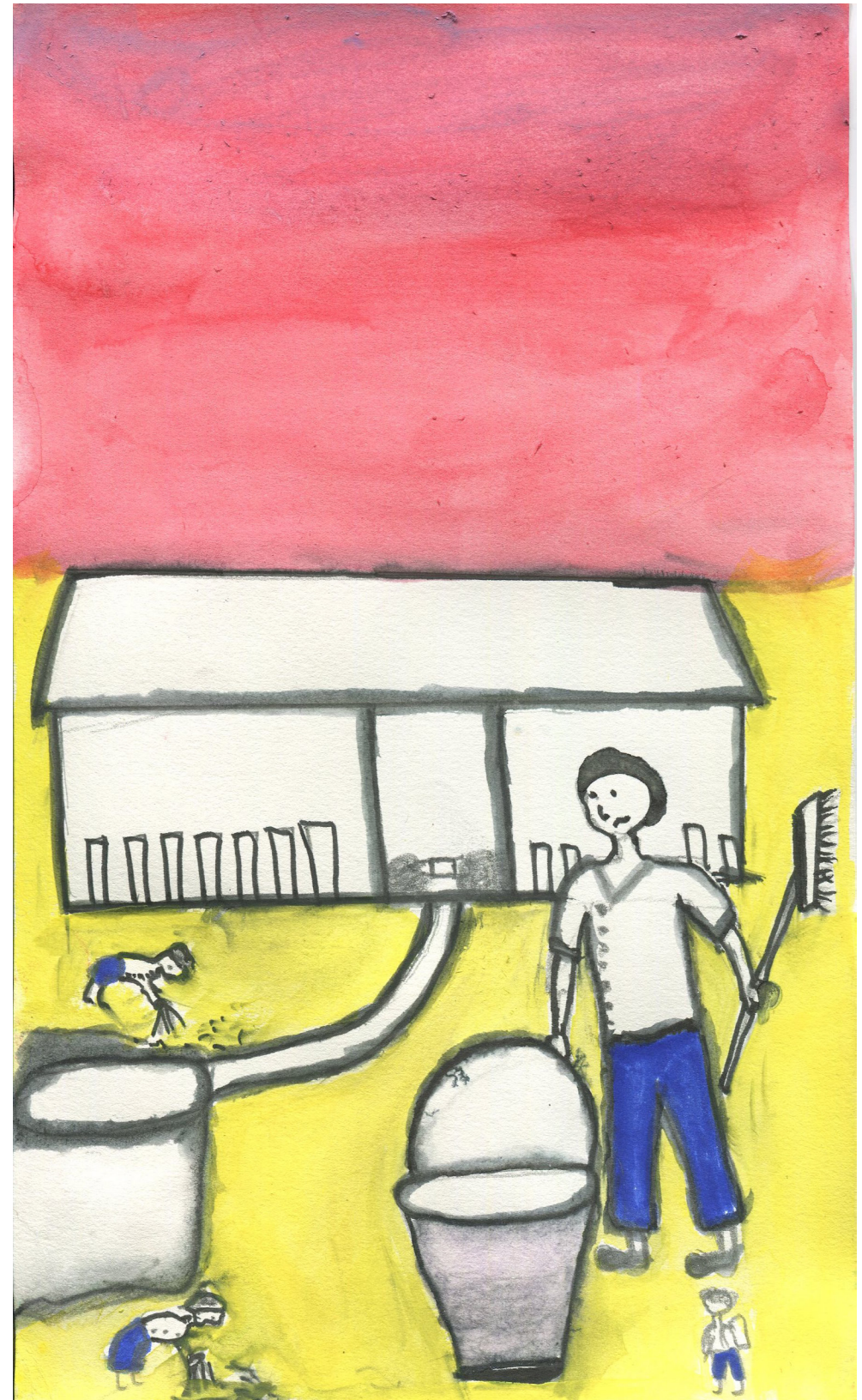
Na ukishinda masomo yoyote au kazi yoyote italazimika kuwaletea wazazi wako. Kuna wengine walikuwa wakileta wazazi ambao hawakuwa wao. Lakini ikijulikana inakuwa shida sana kwako utaadhibiwa na hata wazazi wako watakuadhibu wewe mbele ya wanafunzi wote ili wakati mwingine usifanye hivyo.

Kabla tu ya kuanza kwenda madarasani tulikuwa tunaimba wimbo wa kitaifa wa Congo na naijua na kila mwanafunzi lazima aijue.

Sababu ya kuimba wimbo wa kitaifa wa Kongo ni kwa sababu sote tulikuwa kutoka Congo na pia tulijifunza historia ya Congo na jiografia ya Congo.

Tulipoingia darasani kabla ya kusoma, sio wote, lakini waalimu wengi walikuwa wakiimba nyimbo kisha wakisali kabla ya kuanza masomo na tunapotoka tuliomba pia.

Baada ya yote hayo, mimi na familia yangu tunapata fursa ya kuja hapa Merika.



3. MY UNITED STATES SCHOOL STORY
(AIKEN HIGH SCHOOL)

3. HADITHI YANGU YA SHULE YA UNITED
STATES (AIKEN HIGH SCHOOL)



In 2019, I moved to the United States with my family. Life was a little hard when we got to the U.S.A. because no one in my family spoke English, only my big brother JEAN used to speak a little so that he helped us translate when we have a guest or when we don't understand what people are telling us.

My first day in America, it was very stressful and I was very tired because it was a long journey to get here. Our caseworker, which is someone who helped us, took us to Aiken High School with my two brothers.

I began school at Aiken High School.

My hardest part at Aiken High School was speaking English. I speak Swahili and French, Kirundi, and Kinyarwanda. I didn't know English.

Mnamo 2019, nilihamia Marekani na familia yangu. Maisha yalikuwa magumu kidogo tulipofika USA, kwa sababu hakuna mtu katika familia yangu aliyezungumza Kiingereza, isipokuwa kaka yangu mkubwa JEAN ambaye alikuwa akiongea kidogo ili atusaidie kutafsiri wakati tunaye mgeni au wakati hatuelewi ni watu gani wanatuambia.

Siku yangu ya kwanza huko Amerika, ilikuwa ya ziki sana na nilikuwa nimechoka sana kwa sababu ilikuwa safari ndefu ya kufika hapa. Mfanyikazi wetu wa kesi, ambaye ni mtu aliyetusaidia, alitupeleka shule ya upili ya Aiken na kaka zangu wawili.

Nilianza shule katika Shule ya Upili ya Aiken.

Sehemu yangu ngumu zaidi katika shule ya upili ya Aiken ilikuwa kuzungumza Kiingereza

Kwasababu nilikuwa Ninazungumza Kiswahili na Kifaransa, Kirundi, na Kinyarwanda. Sikujua kiingereza hata kadogo.

English was my favorite class with art class.

I really like this school because it has good teachers and good students as well.

I always get a breakfast and lunch at school.

Kiingereza ilikuwa darasa ambalo napenda pamoja na darasa la sanaa.

Naipenda sana shule hii kwa sababu ina walimu wazuri na wanafunzi wazuri pia

Kila siku napata kiamsha kinywa na chakula cha mchana shuleni.



When I'm late no one will beat me, punish me or send me home to bring my parents.

When I miss class they just mark me absent in my powerschool.

When I came to school other students helped me with everything I needed because they spoke the same language as me. Some helped me to get involved in different activities. Now, in my second year at Aiken, I am a very involved student.

Here there is a bus that we usually take to get to school.

I am thankful to Mr.Parker because he helps me a lot whenever I get confused with language.

Niki Chelewa hakuna atakaye nipiga, ataniadhibu au kunitumana nyumbani kuwaleta wazazi wangu.
Nina Pokosa darasa wananiwekea alama tu kuwa sipo katika shule yoyote ile nikichelewa.

Nilipofika shuleni wanafunzi wengine walinisaidia kwa kila kitu nilichohitaji kwa sababu walizungumza lugha sawa na mimi. Wengine walinisaidia kushiriki katika shughuli tofauti. Sasa, katika mwaka wangu wa pili huko Aiken, mimi ni mwanafunzi anayehusika sana.

Hapa kuna basi ambayo kawaida zinatuchukua kufika shuleni.

Namshukuru Mr.parker kwa sababu ananisaidia sana kwa chochote nitakachanganyikiwa na lugha.

I'm also thankful to Ms. Appatova, Ms. Ananda and Ms. Bello because If I speak English now it is because of them. They used to teach me English wich was my favorite subject.

Also Ms. New she helped me a lot.

During her class I did not know anything that was going on but she used google translate or made me sheets that were written in my language so that I could understand what was going on.

I am really thankful to every teacher who has helped me so far.

I know English now even if it is not yet perfect.

Aiken High School has a very nice school that has beautiful people, like amazing teachers, outstanding students, supportive security, caring nurses and the happiest principle also.

Ninamshukuru pia BiAppatova, Bi Ananda na Bi Bello kwa sababu Ikiwa sasa ninazungumza kiingereza sasa ni kwa sababu yao Walitumia kunifundisha kiingereza ambayo ilikuwa somo langu pendwa

Pia Bi New alinisaidia sana

Wakati wa darasa lake sikujua chochote kinachoendelea lakini alitumia kutafsiri kwa google au alinitengenezea karatasi zilizoandikwa kwa lugha yangu ili niweze kuelewa kinachoendelea.

Na namshukuru sana kila mwalimu ambaye amenisaidia hadi sasa na ujuzi. Najua Kiingereza sasa hata kama bado haijakamilika.

Shule ya upili ya Aiken ni shule nzuri sana ambayo ina walimu wa kushangaza, wanafunzi bora, usalama wa Kusaidia, wauguzi wanaojali na mkubwa wa masomo mwenye furaha pia.

My big brother Jean Ndiokubwayo graduated last year at Aiken and I hope next year I will too. And next year, after me, my little brother Merci Heri will too.

My favorite classes are English, Art, Music and Agriculture class. Every day when I'm going to school I always enjoy meeting my friends and communicating with them in English.

We have a dental clinic for free for every student and we have got some amazing nurses, too. Whenever you feel sick just tell your teacher or anybody, they will take you to the nurse.

I'm glad because they are always taking care of us, they always make sure that every student is healthy and safe.

Ndugu yangu mkubwa alihitimu mwaka jana katika shule la Aiken high school na natumai mwaka ujao nami pia. Na mwaka ujao baada ya mimi ku graduate kaka yangu mdogo Merci Heri naye pia.

Darasa ninazo zipenda zaidi ni darasa la Kiingereza, Sanaa, Muziki na kilimo

Kila siku ninapoenda shule huwa ninafurahi kukutana na marafiki wangu na kuwasiliana nao kwa kiingereza. Tunayo kliniki ya meno bure kwa kila mwanafunzi na tumepata wau-guzi wa kushangaza kwahiyo ukijihisi mgonjwa mwambie tu mwalimu wako au mtu yeyote watakupeleka kwa muuguzi. Ninafurahi kwa sababu kila mara wanatujali daima huhakikisha kuwa kila mwanafunzi ana afya na salama

I'm not saying that Aiken is a better school than other schools. There might be some school that is better than it is, but for me Aiken High School is more than just a school and it is my favorite one.

Sisemi kwamba Aiken ndio shule bora kuliko shule zingine Kunaweza kuwa na shule ambayo ni bora kuliko hiyo lakini kwangu mimi shule ya upili ya Aiken ni zaidi ya shule tu na ndiyo ninayopenda zaidi.



4. (SNOW STORY) HOW I LIKE SNOW

4. (SIMULIZI YA TAZAMA) NINAPENDA SANA THELUJI



In Burundi there are only two seasons,
rainy and dry season.

I did not know that there are countries that have four seasons,
but when I was told that I would come to the United States I
wanted to know many things about this country.

And I really love the summer here.

When I was in Africa I used to hear people talk about snow.

I wanted to see it because I only saw pictures and I really
wanted to see it raining.

When we got here people told us a lot about the snow and that
they have clothes for snow like when they go out there to protect
themselves from the cold.

And they told us that there were snow coats and shoes to wear in
the snow.

Katika Burundi kuna misimu miwili tu,
msimu wa mvua na wa kipwa.

Sikujua kwamba kuna nchi ambazo zina misimu minne lakini
nilipoambiwa kwamba nitakuja Merika nilitaka kujua mambo
mengi juu ya nchi hii.

Na napenda sana majira ya joto hapa.

Nilipokuwa Afrika nilikuwa nikisikia watu wakizungumza juu
ya theluji.

Nilitaka kuona kwa sababu niliona picha tu na nilitaka kuona
mvua ikinyesha.

Tulipofika hapa watu walituambia mengi juu ya theluji na
kwamba wana nguo za theluji kama wanapotoka nje ili kujikinga
na baridi.

Na walituambia kwamba kulikuwa na mavazi za theluji na viatu
vya kuvaa kwenye theluji.

I really wanted to see it just to see if there was anything else.
Then one day my brother was about to go to work. When he came outside he just saw a little snow falling.

Then later he came back to tell us it was snowing outside.
My little brothers and I were fighting to get out to see snow but because the door was small my younger brothers decided to let me go ahead because I was older than them.
I put my hands on it and touched it and put my tongue out so that the snow drops fell on my mouth.
I felt like I had a roof in the sky without wings.

Nilitaka kuiona tu ili kuona ikiwa kuna kitu kingine chochote.
Ndipo siku moja kaka yangu alikuwa karibu kwenda kazini alipofika nje aliona tu theluji ndogo ikianguka.

Halafu baadaye alirudi kutuambia kulikuwa kunanyesha theluji nje. Kaka zangu wadogo na mimi tulikuwa tunapigania kutoka nje ili kuona theluji lakini kwa sababu mlango ulikuwa mdogo wadogo zangu waliamua kuniruhusu niende mbele kwa sababu nilikuwa mkubwa kuliko wao.

Niliweka mikono yangu juu yake na kuigusa na kuweka ulimi wangu nje ili matone ya theluji yaanguke kwenye kinywa changu.

Nilihisi kama nina paa angani bila mabawa.



One day I was on my way to go to school in the morning,
me myself as I am I walk in the snow like I am in the summer.

Then I slipped with my foot and then fell to the ground, But
because there were other students who were waiting for the bus
and some were going with me to the same bus stop I laughed.
But I was hurt. The reason I laughed was I was afraid they would
laugh at me.

When I went a little farther I looked and saw no one. Tears
welled up in my eyes without anyone knowing. Then I saw a
student who looked at me. She didn't say anything but I said to
myself that the tears are coming from my eyes because of the
cold. I do not know if the snow can make me cry.

Then later I enjoyed a little tree that was completely full of snow
and that's when I liked snow.

Lakini siku moja nilikuwa njiani kwenda shule asubuhi,
mimi mwenyewe nilitembea kwenye theluji kama vile mimi
hutembea katika msimu wa joto.

Kisha nikateleza kwa mguu wangu kisha nikaanguka chini, La-
kini kwa sababu kulikuwa na wanafunzi wengine ambao wali-
kuwa wakingojea basi na wengine walikuwa wakiendelea nami
kwenye kituo kimoja cha basi nilicheka. Lakini niliumia. Sababu
nilicheka nilikuwa naogopa watanicheka.

Nilipoenda mbali kidogo nilitazama na sikuona mtu. Machozi
yalinitiririka bila mtu yeyote kujua. Kisha nikaona mwanafunzi
ambaye alinitazama. Hakusema chochote lakini nilijisemea
kwamba machozi yanatoka kwa macho yangu kwa sababu ya
baridi. Sijui ikiwa theluji inaweza kunifanya nilia.

Halafu baadaye nilifurahiya mti mdogo ambao ulikuwa umejaa
theluji kabisa na ndio wakati nilipenda theluji.

5. I like how MY MOM USED TO PUT A BABY
ON HER BACK

5. Ninapenda jinsi MAMA YANGU ALIVYOTU-
MIA KUWEKA MTOTO MGONGONI



When my mother gives birth and the baby is only recovering from the navel she then carries the baby on her back. And not just my mother, all people from Burundi and Congo are carrying children on their backs. Some countries do the same, but in the United States I have not seen it. That is, everyone has their child in a baby car seat or in a children's bicycle.

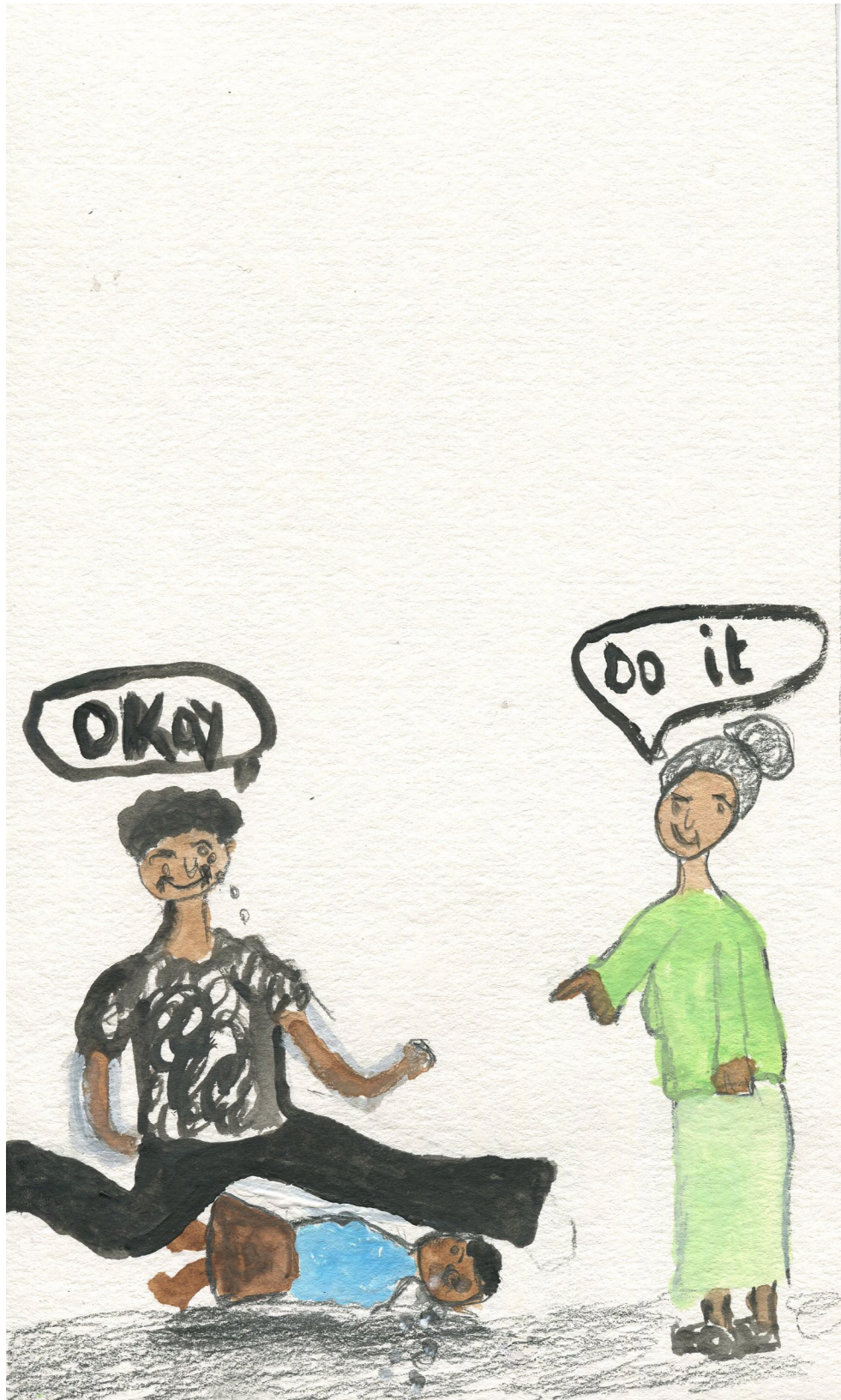
To put a baby on your back you need a couvres or a razor which is a large cloth that we use to carry the baby on our back.

Carrying a baby on her back was helpful when my mom was working because she was working. Because I was so young, I was seven years old, she didn't want to bother me with any job of picking up a baby. She was carrying Asifiwe who is my younger brother.

Mama yangu anapo jifungua na mtoto anapona tu kitovu basi hubeba mtoto mgongoni. Na sio mama yangu tu, watu wote kutoka Burundi na Kongo wamebeba watoto mgongoni. Nchi zingine hufanya hivyo, lakini huko Merika sijaziona. Huku ni, kila mtu ana mtoto wake kwenye kiti cha gari la watoto au baiskeli ya watoto.

Kuweka mtoto mgongoni unahitaji couvres au kikwembe ambacho ni kitambaa kikubwa ambacho tunatumia kubeba mtoto mgongoni. Kubeba mtoto mgongoni kulisaidia wakati mama yangu alikuwa akifanya kazi kwa sababu alikuwa akifanya kazi. Kwa sababu nilikuwa mdogo sana, nilikuwa na miaka saba, hakutaka kunisumbua na kazi yoyote ya nyangua mtoto. Alikuwa amembeba Asifiwe ambaye ni mdogo wangu.





One day my mother discovered that carrying a baby alone on her back could be exhausting and decided to put it on my back and freeze him in place with a razor or couvre.

A swaddle cloth is something like a large piece of cloth that you put on the baby's back and then wrap around the baby. And when the baby is 3 or 2 years old she will start to stop carrying the baby because he has gained a lot of weight. And there are times when the clothes you wrap around the baby fall off if you don't tighten them and the baby falls to the ground. It is a belief in my country that if it is his guardian who dropped the baby they will have to leave him there and jump over the child so that he does not get hurt. For example, if I drop our baby then anyone who sees me will tell me to jump over the baby.

Siku moja mama yangu aligundua kuwa kubeba mtoto peke yake mgongoni kunaweza kumchosha na akaamua kumweka mgongoni mwangu na kumfungia mahali kwa wembe au kochi.

Kikwembe ni kitu kama kipande kikubwa cha kitambaa unachoweka mgongoni mwa mtoto kisha unakifunga ili mtoto asianguke.

Na mtoto anapokuwa na umri wa miaka 3 au 2 ataanza kuacha kumbeba mtoto kwa sababu atakuwa amesha kuwa.

Na kuna wakati nguo unazomfunga mtoto huanguka ikiwa haukukikaza na mtoto huanguka chini.

Ni imani katika nchi yangu kwamba mutu mlezi wa mtoto akiangusha mtoto chini itabidi amutie chini na kumrukia mtoto ili asiumie.

Kwa mfano, kwa ajali niikiangusha mtoto wetu chini kutoka mgongoni basi itanibidi kumuruka eti itamkinga mtoto kuto kuumiya hata kama ulimuangusha sana.

6. MY MOM and MY DAD PLANT CORN and BEANS in the backyard of my house

6. MAMA YANGU na BABA YANGU
WAPANDA KONA NA MAharage nyuma ya
nyumba yangu



My mom and my dad were farming in Congo. After moving from Congo to Burundi, Burundi did not have a plot of land so they decided to become vendors.

Then came another project that they wanted to teach people skills to use for various jobs such as sewing sheets, making sculptures, sewing clothes, carpenters, woodworking, and building houses.

My mother loved selling peanuts, cane, shirts, flour, and apples. Both of them were doing the same work to pay for Jean's and my school fees.

They wanted to cultivate but they did not have a plot. Only my mother came and she was selling things that others had planted.

Mama yangu na baba yangu walikuwa wakilima nchini Kongo. Baada ya kuhamia kutoka Kongo kwenda Burundi,

Ndipo ukaja mradi mwingine ambao walitaka kufundisha watu ustadi wa kutumika kwa kazi anuwai kama vile kushona karatasi, kutengeneza sanamu, kushona nguo, seremala, useremala, na kujenga nyumba.

Mama yangu alipenda kuuza karanga, miwa, mashati, unga, na tofaa.

Wote wawili walikuwa wakifanya kazi sawa kulipa ili kulipia Jean na ada yangu ya shule.

Walitaka kulima lakini hawakuwa na shamba. Mama yangu yeye alikuwa akiuza vitu ambavyo wengine walikuwa wamepanda.

They continued to do so until we left there.
And came to the US
Then we saw the farm of Gilbert, who is our landlord. My
mother and father asked him if they were allowed to farm and
the landlord agreed.
Then this season, 2020, they decided to plant maize and beans in
the back of our house because there was a big plot.
How to grow beans and maize is very simple.
The seeds of corn are corn and the seeds of beans are bean.
When you finish
just like this you catch one grain of corn and then you just throw
it in the soil, that is it, the soil becomes high and the beans are
the same and then it will be in summer.
You will have to water every day and then you will see how they
will mature well.

Waliendelea kufanya hivyo mpaka tulipoondoka pale.
Na tulikuja Merika
Kisha tukaona shamba la Gilbert, ambaye ndiye mwenye
nyumba yetu. Mama na baba yangu walimuuliza ikiwa
waliruhusiwa kulima na mwenye nyumba alikubali.
Halafu msimu huu, 2020, waliamua kupanda mahindi na ma-
harage nyuma ya nyumba yetu kwa sababu kulikuwa na shamba
kubwa.
Jinsi ya kupanda maharagwe na mahindi ni rahisi sana.
Mbegu za mahindi ni mahindi na mbegu za maharagwe ni
maharagwe. Ukiwa nazo
unakamata punje moja ya mahindi halafu unatupa tu kwenye
udongo, ndio hiyo, maharagwe ni yale yale halafu itakuwa majira
ya joto.
Utalazimika kumwagilia kila siku na kisha utaona jinsi
watakavyokomaa vizuri.

In fact the maize was grown up and the beans we cooked, ate
and also we gave to our family, friends and others - we all
enjoyed the food.
And that garden, every day my siblings and I were going to see
how mature the plants were.

I always like beans and their leaves, everyone in my family loves
them also, so we can never end a week without eating beans.

Kwa kweli mahindi yalikuwa yamekua na maharagwe tulipika,
kula na pia tulipa familia yetu, marafiki na wengine - sote
tulifurahiya chakula.
Na bustani hiyo, kila siku mimi na ndugu zangu tungeenda
kuona jinsi mimea hiyo ilivyokomaa.

Daima napenda maharagwe na majani yake, kila mtu katika
familia yangu wanapenda pia, kwa hivyo hatuwezi kumaliza
wiki bila kula maharagwe.



