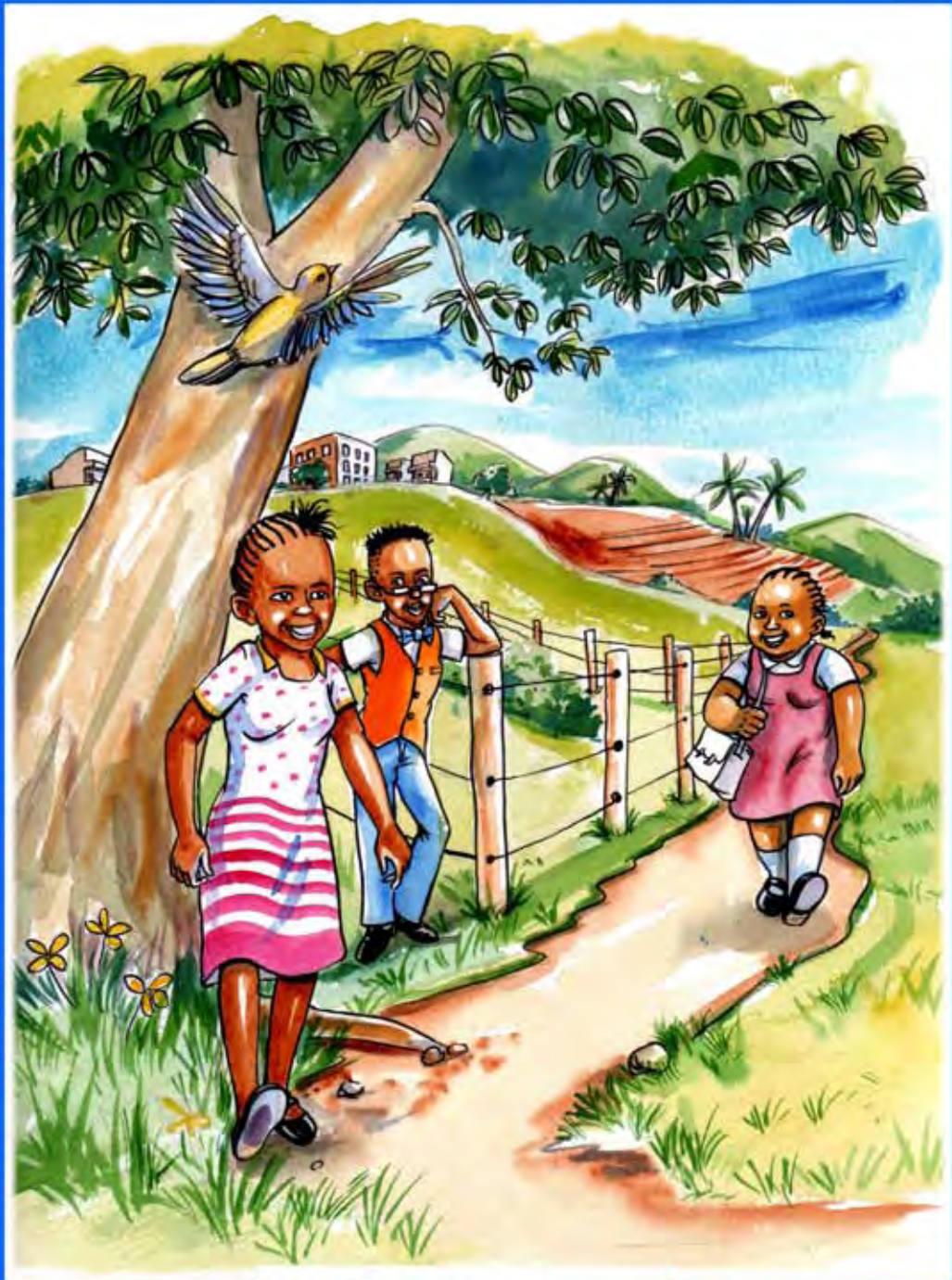


# The

# Border

Vol. 1



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



This comic book is a collaboration between two projects: APHIA II Western and Scouting for Solutions.

**Editorial Board**

Margaret Brawley  
Rael Odengo  
June Omollo  
Annie Thairu  
Fiona Walugembe  
Kimani Njogu

**Appreciation goes to:**

Rose Adera  
Maina Kiranga  
Wamalwa Masibo  
Abel Mugenda  
Peninah Murunga  
Madiang Oluoch  
Richard Okello  
Janet Shauri  
Monica Waga  
Alfayo Wamburi  
Joan Waminja

The students, youth and Scouts in both Kenya and Uganda who gave us feedback on the comic book.

**Scriptwriter:**

Cajetan Boy

**Illustrator:**

Elijah Njoroge

© 2009 PATH

The material in this document may be freely used for educational or non-commercial purposes, provided the material is accompanied by acknowledgment line.

**ABUSI: A REGULAR TOWN, WITH ITS PEOPLE GOING ABOUT THEIR DAILY LIVES. LET'S MEET A FEW OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE.**



This publication is made possible by the generous support of the American people through USAID. The content is the responsibility of PATH and does not necessarily reflect the view of USAID or the US government.



EARLY ONE MORNING AS SHANI WASHES CLOTHES...





SHANI IS NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH PROBLEMS...





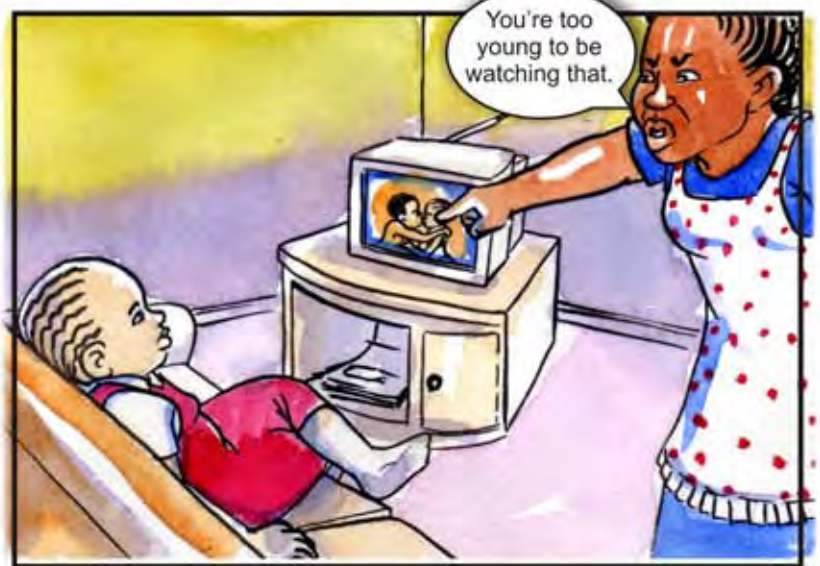




MERCY MAY SEEM LUCKY BUT NOT EVERYTHING IN HER LIFE IS GOOD.

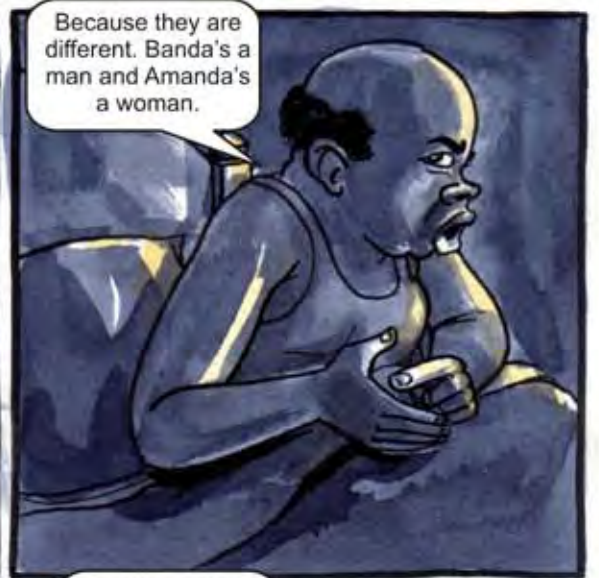








**MEANWHILE AMANDA AND BANDA'S PARENTS DISCUSS A PROBLEM ABOUT THEIR CHILDREN.**

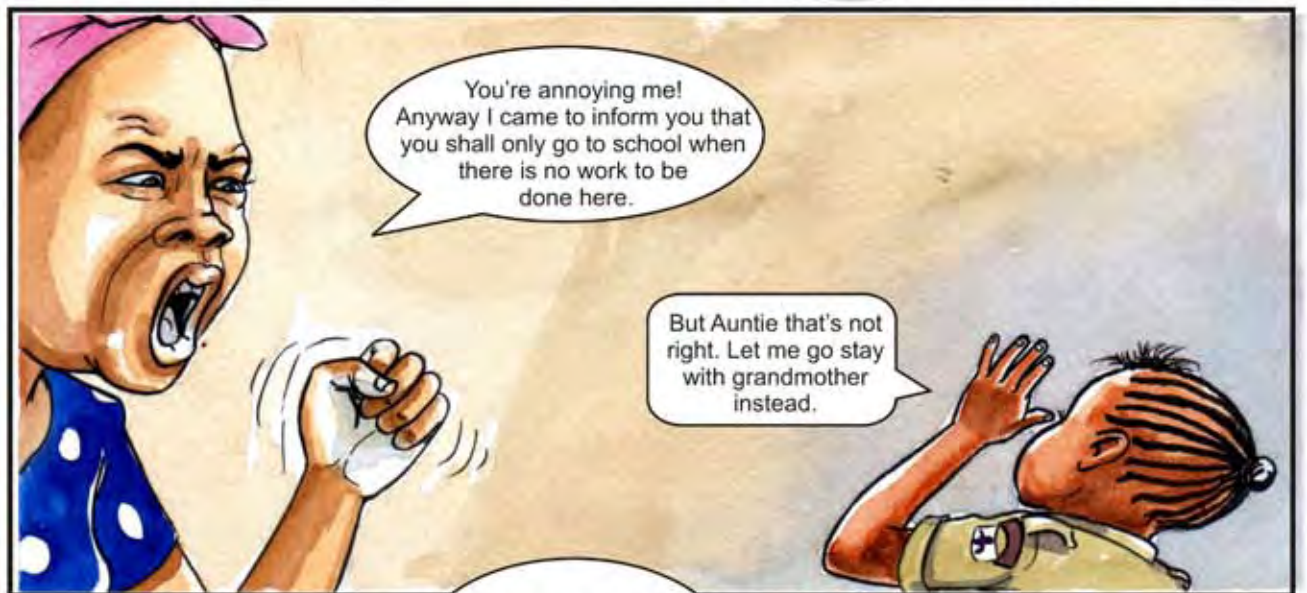




DAYS LATER...

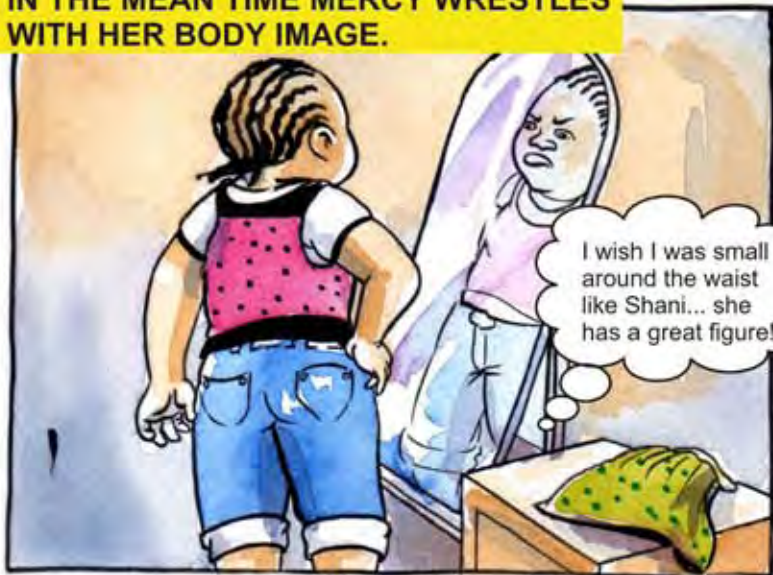








**IN THE MEAN TIME MERCY WRESTLES WITH HER BODY IMAGE.**



**NOT EVERYONE IN ABUSI GOES TO SCHOOL. MOTO MUST WORK FOR A LIVING.**









**BANDA AND AMANDA ARE TWINS  
BUT TREATED VERY DIFFERENTLY.**







**MEANWHILE AT MERCY'S HOME...**







**SHANI STRUGGLES AS SHE WORKS WITH HER AUNTIE AT THE PUB.**











**BANDA HAS A SECRET THAT HE DOES NOT WANT HIS PARENTS TO KNOW ABOUT.**











**THAT SAME AFTERNOON SHANI PRACTICES TYING KNOTS FOR HER SCOUTS BADGE.**







**AFTER BAND PRACTICE...**





Me too. But my Dad would kill me if he knew I'm skipping soccer for music.



My parents probably wouldn't care.

You must be lucky having such modern parents.

I'm not so sure about that.



My parents won't let Amanda do any of the things other girls do. She's treated as if her only role in life is to become someone's wife.

That's so old fashioned.



I know, but what can I do?

By the way, are you going to enter the Talent Search?



I haven't decided yet. You?

Of course. You should enter, you're very talented.

Thanks, so are you.







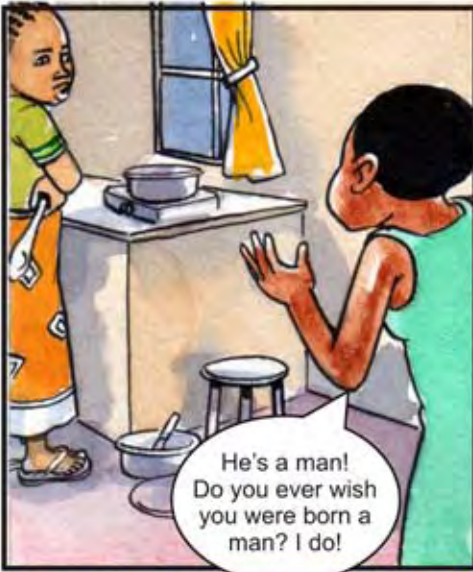
**AMANDA AND HER MOTHER PREPARE DINNER.**



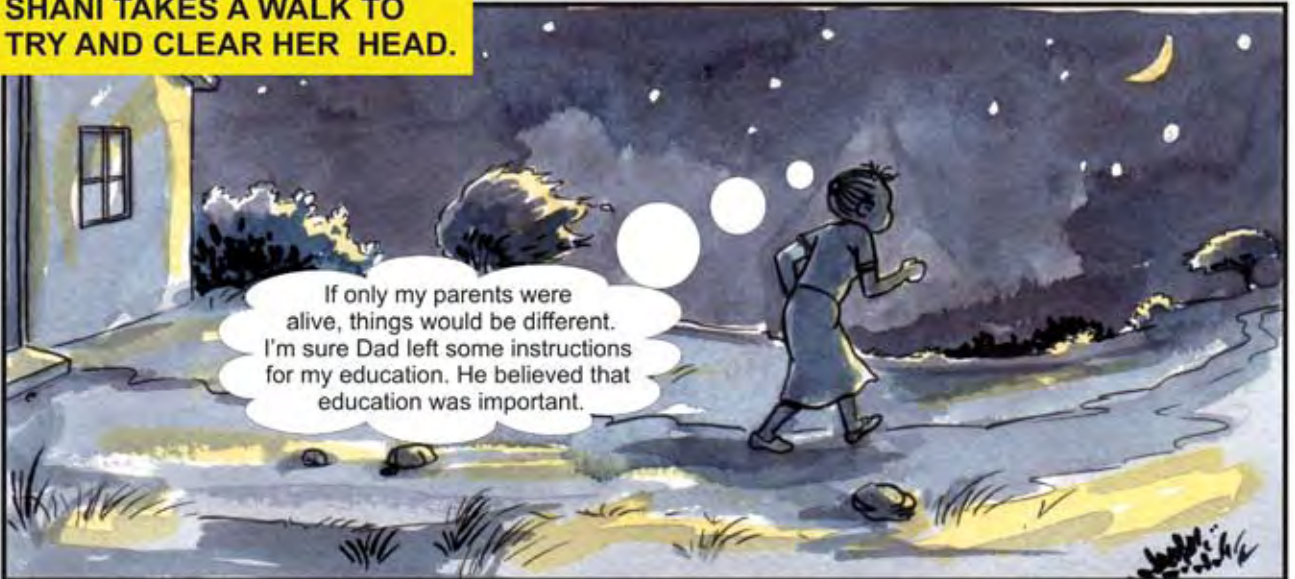








**SHANI TAKES A WALK TO TRY AND CLEAR HER HEAD.**













**AMANDA AND BANDA ARE TRYING TO EXCHANGE FAVORS BUT A MAJOR PROBLEM CROPS UP.**







Mercy! Will you please pay attention?

A girl is allowed to daydream especially during these boring class projects!

You could do better if you paid more attention.

I want to be a singer not doing some boring chemistry.





A basic education helps.

Eh, Amanda, you have to learn to relax, enjoy life a bit.



I enjoy what I do.

If you continue this way you'll end up being a miserable old spinster.



Maybe I want to be a spinster...and for your information not all spinsters are miserable.

Whatever!



Have you heard about Shani?

No I haven't seen her for awhile.



Her auntie won't let her come to school.

That's so bad. We should do something about it. So are you coming to the show?



I doubt it.

Why not? Your brother is going to be there.





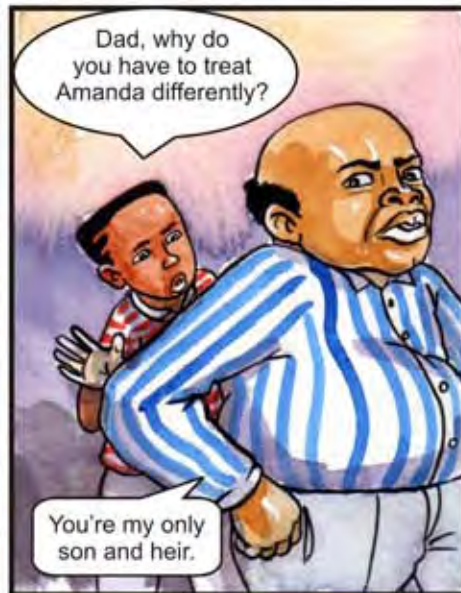
**SHANI CONTINUES TO ATTEND SCHOOL WHEN SHE CAN. AT LEAST THE SCOUT PROGRAM MAKES HER HAPPY.**











**ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN, MERCY CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE TO GET HER PARENTS ATTENTION.**











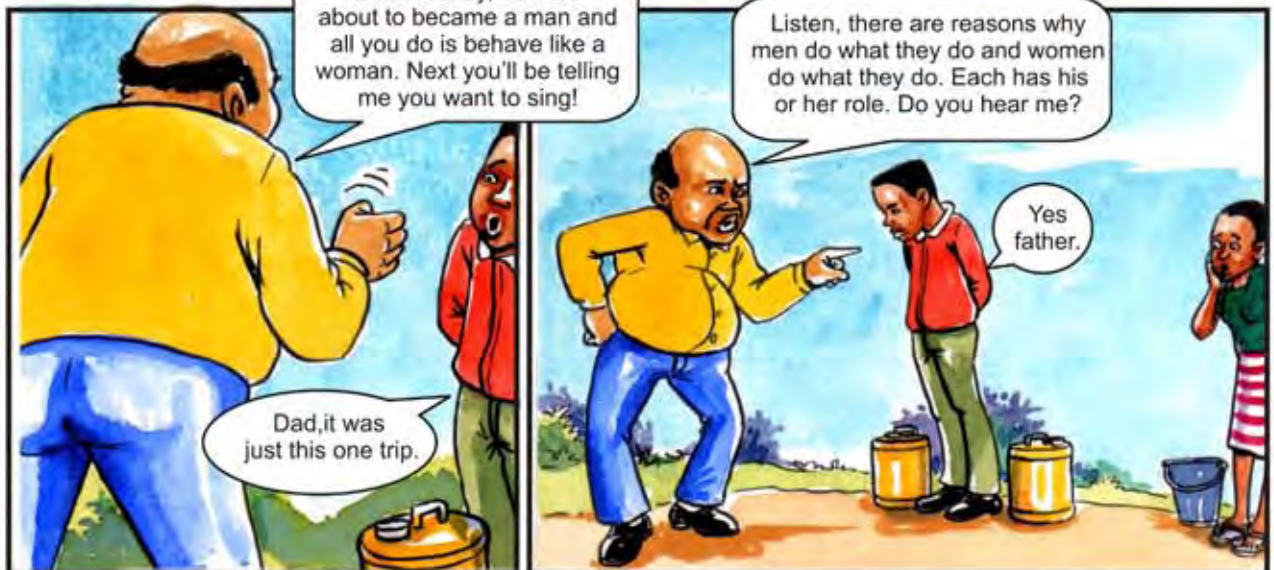
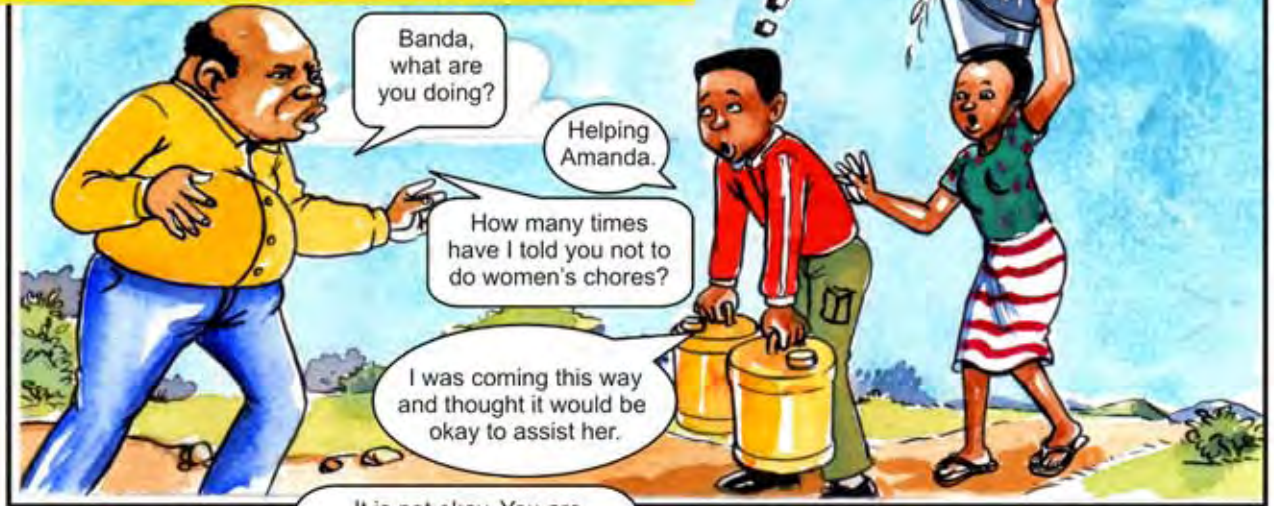


**MOTO CROSSES PATH WITH SHANI AGAIN.**





**BANDA HELPS AMANDA WITH HER CHORES ONLY TO RUN INTO THEIR FATHER.**





ON THE SAME DAY.



Auntie, could you give me some money to go to the salon?

Do you have any idea how much it costs to feed and cloth you and pay your fees?

My father left enough.



And how would you know?

He told me so before he passed on.



Do you have any idea how much it costs to keep this place running?

What about his will?



Do you know what your Uncle and I have had to sacrifice in order to look after you?



I was only asking.

How can you be so disrespectful and ungrateful?

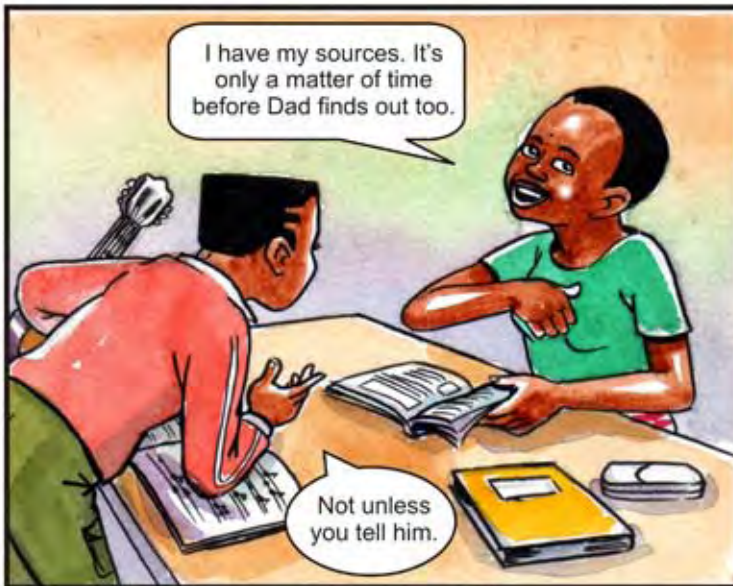
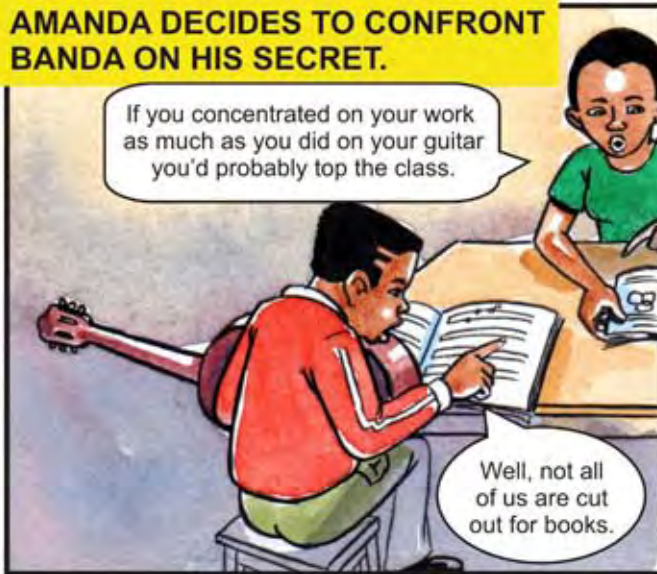
You misunderstood me.



I don't think so! We're here to help you, but you insist on second guessing us. Fine! If that's the way you want it, then that's the way you'll get it!



**AMANDA DECIDES TO CONFRONT BANDA ON HIS SECRET.**





THERE ARE BOOK SMARTS AND STREET SMART AS MOTO KNOWS.





**MERCY'S DISHONESTY IS STARTING HER DOWN THE ROAD TO TROUBLE.**







**BANDA FACES THE MUSIC FOR HIS SECRET LATER THAT DAY.**







**SHANI IS ALSO HAVING A BAD DAY...**



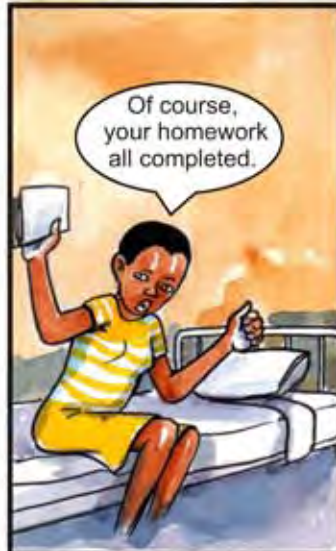








**LATER THAT NIGHT IN AMANDA'S BEDROOM...**







**BUT BANDA HAS A LOT OF THINGS IN HIS MIND**

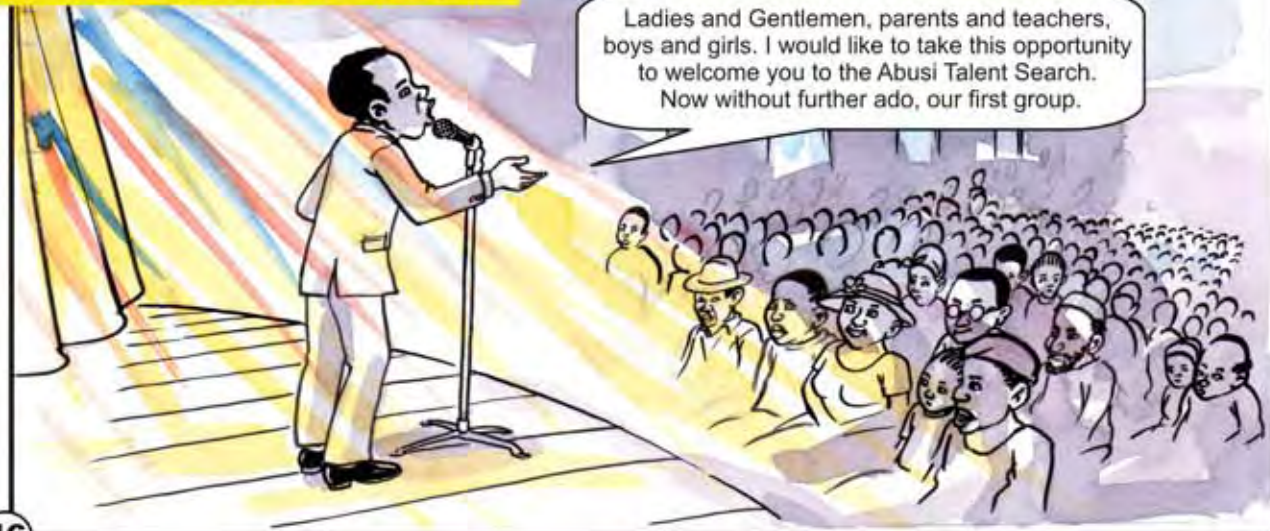




THE BIG DAY OF THE TALENT SEARCH HAS FINALLY ARRIVED BUT DOES MOTO HAVE OTHER IDEAS?



AT THE ABUSI TALENT SEARCH







I thought we were going somewhere private.



Banda isn't bad. Maybe his playing in a band is not a bad thing.



I told you we were going to have fun.



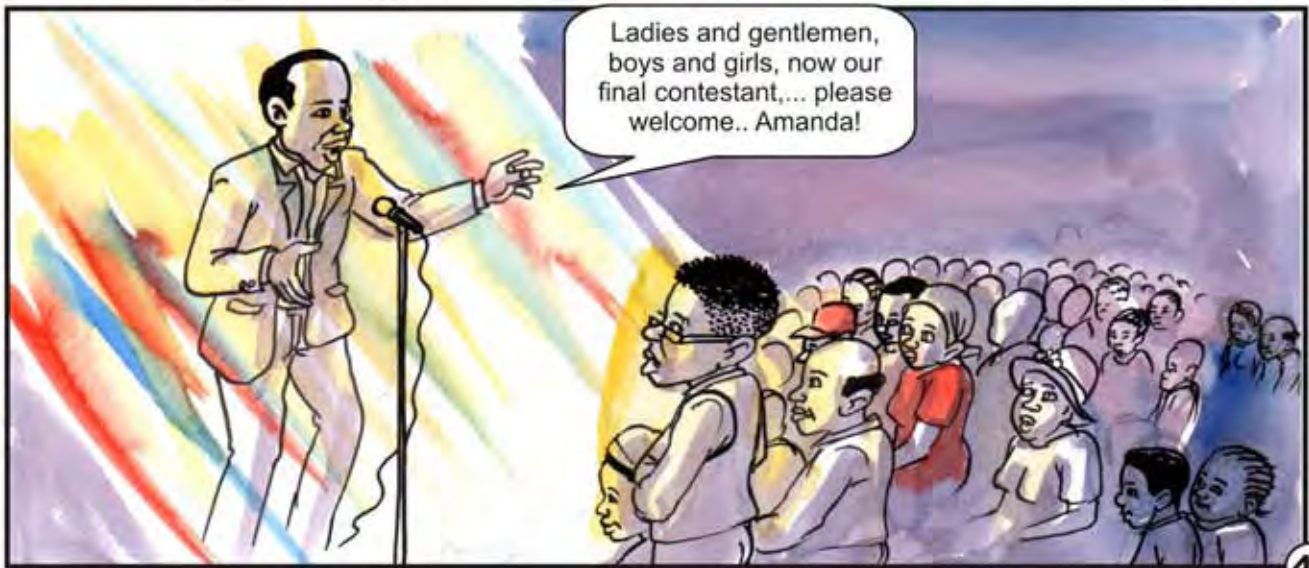
You call this fun? This is for kids. You need to grow up!

I am grown up. That's why I have fun that's not risky.



Well, then I'm off.

As you wish. I'll just stay here and enjoy the music.



Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, now our final contestant,... please welcome.. Amanda!





AS AMANDA SINGS ON, SHANI WISHES SHE COULD BE AT THE TALENT SEARCH, BUT HER AUNTIE HAS WORK FOR HER TO DO.







They are under arrest for dealing in illicit brews.

What's going to happen to me.

Where are you taking my parents?



You must have some relatives you can stay with.

What about me? I have my grandmother but she lives far away.



Then what are you doing here?

He is my uncle. My father and mother are dead.



I see. Do you have anywhere to stay?

Just here.



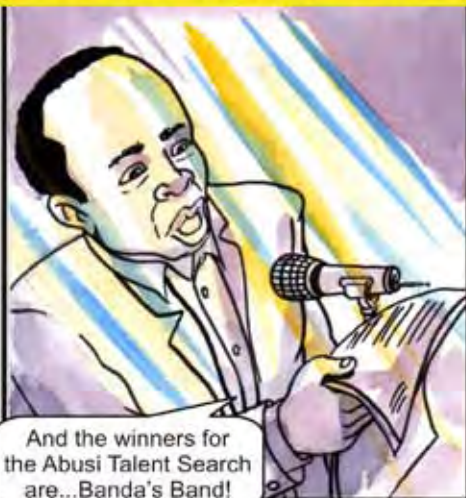
Sorry, we can't leave you here alone. We'll have to take you to the child welfare office.

For how long?

Until we have a responsible adult to look after you.



**BACK AT THE TALENT SEARCH, THE EMCEE IS GIVING PRIZES.**



And the winners for the Abusi Talent Search are...Banda's Band!



Banda!

Mercy!

Yeah!



You may not have won anything, but today you and Banda have made me the proudest parent in Abusi!



Excuse me ladies and gentlemen, the judges have decided on a second award for the best solo performance. Her wonderful lyrics and voice prove she is worthy. The winner is....Amanda.



Amanda!

Amanda!

Amanda!



Maybe I should give this girl a chance. Maybe I should also give Banda a chance.



Thank you. I wish to thank the person who wrote the lyrics for the song....Shani.



## DRAW YOUR OWN CARTOON STRIP!!

Using the spaces provided below, draw your own cartoon using the dialogue provided at the top of the first two columns. In the third column, put in your own words and a picture to conclude the story. You can discuss and collaborate with your friends in drawing the cartoon strip. Once you are finished, cut off your cartoon strip and send it to:

Kenya  
The Editor  
The Border Comic  
PATH  
PO BOX 76634  
Nairobi, Kenya 00508

OR

Uganda  
The Editor  
The Border Comic  
Uganda Scouts Association  
PO Box 1294  
Kampala, Uganda

Please be sure to indicate your name(s), age(s) and address very clearly below the cartoon strip. The most interesting cartoon could appear in a future issue of THE BORDER. It could be YOURS!

-----tear off and send-----

**Alice is Worried:** *'Oh, it is very late, it is raining and I do not have the money to get home before it is dark. What shall I do?'*

**Suddenly, Ogopa the boda-boda arrives:** *'Young girl, it is late and you haven't gone home? This place is bad at night! Come with me to my house, and then I will give you a free ride home. What do you say?'*

**(Write here what you think Alice should say or do then draw below)**

Name(s).....

Age(s).....

Address.....





ACS Plaza, 4th Floor  
Lenana Road  
P. O. Box 76634-00508  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254-20-3877177  
[www.path.org](http://www.path.org)



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**APHIA II  
WESTERN**

KENAFYA Building  
Okwemba Road  
P. O. Box 1330  
Kakamega, Kenya  
Tel: +254-736877171  
[www.aphia2kenya.org](http://www.aphia2kenya.org)



Uganda Scout Association  
Baden Powell House, Buganda Rd.  
P. O. Box 1294  
Kampala, Uganda  
Tel: +256-414236087 or +256777340464  
[www.scouts.or.ug](http://www.scouts.or.ug)



Kenya Scouts Association  
P. O. Box 41422-00100  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254-20-3870794 / 20-2020819  
[www.kenyascout.org](http://www.kenyascout.org)