

African Emergency

You know, Uganda really is a most beautiful country. We have **bustling** cities, **vast** mountains, **fruitful** lakes and peaceful rural farmland. And, although Uganda sits on the Equator, it is not as hot as you would think! We have as many as 12 hours of daylight a day, which means we can play out for ages after school, and temperatures are a **bearable** 25 to 32°C.

My name is Afiya and I live in a small village on the edge of Lake Nyanza; you may know it better as Lake Victoria. I share my house with my Father, Mother and little brother Kansozi, who is 7 years old and very annoying! Father works on our small coffee **plantation**, which is funny really because we don't like coffee – we prefer to drink sweet chai, I think you call it tea. The coffee is **exported** to other countries, just like the cocoa beans and sugar cane that other farmers grow. Mother looks after our small mud house with its thatched roof. We keep livestock and grow our own food, like plantains (bananas) which are delicious when cooked and mashed up. Mother is a wonderful cook. My favourite dinner is chicken stew served with rice and chapatti, followed by mandazi, a type of doughnut, for dessert – yummy!

Kansozi and I go to the school in the next village. People here in Uganda think that a good education is important, just like most parents around the world, but at our local school there can be as many as 100 children in a class and it can get very hot and stuffy, not to mention noisy at times! It can also be expensive to buy the books and equipment we need, but our mother and father work very hard so we can afford it.

At the end of a school day, Kansozi and I enjoy fishing on the shores of Lake Nyanza. The lake is a great **source** of **income** for local fishermen, so it is usually full of noise and activity. My favourite fish to catch is the tilapia fish – mother cooks it in a **scrumptious** peanut sauce! As beautiful as the lake is however, it can also be deadly. The reality of this was driven home one day when Kansozi became ill – seriously ill.

He fell ill **alarmingly** quickly. One day he was fine, the next he had developed a fever, his head hurt unbearably, he felt chilled even in the warm, midday sun and he was **vomiting** violently. Mother and father knew from experience what it was. Mother looked visibly shaken but was trying to stay calm for Kansozi's sake. Father rushed off to fetch one of the village elders for advice. The nearest medical centre was 10 miles away in the next town, so I was scared that Kansozi wouldn't get the help he so desperately needed. How were we going to get him there? Would it be too late to help him? Then something **extraordinary** happened.

Unbelievably we heard the sound of a motorbike outside. I rushed to the door to see who it was. A young man **dismounted** and walked **reassuringly** towards me. He introduced himself as Michael and asked to see my brother. It turned out that he had

some medical training. He knelt beside a very poorly Kansozi and began his examination. He **confirmed** what we already knew. Kansozi had malaria. My heart sank. I had seen so many friends and family fall ill with this dreadful disease. Some had survived, many hadn't. An infected mosquito must have bitten Kansozi whilst we fished by the lake, or just as easily, whilst he was sleeping in his bed at night. Mosquitos love to be near the water and our village was **plagued** by them.

Michael gave Kansozi some medicine to help **reduce** his fever and to make him feel more comfortable. Then, to my complete amazement he told us that he was taking Kansozi to the medical centre on his motorbike! This was the quickest way to get him there and Michael would be with him the whole way.

Before I knew it, my brother was loaded onto the motorbike and whisked away down the long, dusty track. Father suddenly snapped back into action and ran off to borrow our neighbours old truck. We piled in and followed on behind, at a much slower pace.

By the time we had arrived at the medical centre, we were in for another surprise. Gone was the old, **dilapidated** building I had remembered from my last visit. In its place stood a new, solid looking building with a proper roof and windows. Normally the sick and injured had to sit outside, in all kinds of weather, until they were seen. Not now; now there was a freshly painted waiting room, which had electric lighting and taps with clean running water! Kansozi had already been taken through to a ward. He was attached to a drip and a doctor was **administering** antimalarial drugs.

Kansozi was allowed home after about a week. The doctors were happy with his progress, but he had to take it easy and he still needed to take his medicine. We were told that his recovery was all thanks to the fast actions of Michael and the speed at which he had been taken to the medical centre. Father and Mother had **enquired** about the new, lifesaving facilities, where had they come from? Apparently, lots of wonderful people in Britain, including children the same age as my brother and I, had taken part in all kinds of crazy and wacky events, all to help raise money for us – unbelievable! This money had been used to help build a new, cleaner and safer medical centre. It also helped to pay for the training of Michael and his marvellous motorbike!

Last week we received another **potentially** life saving gift. A team of people from Britain had arrived, and they had bought mosquito nets with them, enough for everyone in the village. We were told to keep it over our beds each night, to try and prevent mosquito bites, just like the one that Kansozi had received. So each and every night, my whole family snuggle down to sleep under the safety of our net, and I always whisper a prayer of thanks to every single person who has helped to improve the lives of my **precious** friends and family. Thank you...thank you.

By Sue Chattoe

classroomsecrets.com

African Emergency –Y3m/Y4s/Y5e (Sapphire) – Text

Like this? Find more differentiated Africa resources [here](#).

In Uganda, how many hours of daylight are there?

What is Lake Nyanza better known as?

What job does her father do?

Why do you think education is important?

Would you like to be taught in a class of 100 pupils? Explain why/why not.

Why do you think the author chose the word 'bustling' to describe the cities?

Why do you think the Lake is an important part of village life?

Afiya described the peanut sauce as being 'scrumptious'. List 3 synonyms which mean the same.

List 4 symptoms of Kansozi's illness?

Why do you think Mother was trying to stay calm?

What illness did Kansozi have?

How is the disease spread?

What was different about the new medical centre?

How had Michael helped to save Kansozi's life?

What other life saving gift did the village receive from the fundraisers in Britain?

Why do you think people choose to raise money for others?

Identify some ways in which Afiya's life is the same or different compared to your own.

Write the meaning of each of these words.

bustling _____

vast _____

fruitful _____

bearable _____

plantation _____

exported _____

source _____

income _____

scrumptious _____

alarmingly _____

vomiting _____

extraordinary _____

dismounted _____

reassuringly _____

confirmed _____

plagued _____

reduce _____

dilapidated _____

administering _____

enquired _____

potentially _____

precious _____

List all of the vowels: _____

List all of the consonants: _____

Change the following verbs to the past tense.

shop _____

grab _____

hop _____

knit _____

admit _____

commit _____

What is the rule that you have used? _____

carry _____

worry _____

marry _____

hurry _____

bully _____

curry _____

What is the rule that you have used? _____

bake _____

hike _____

smile _____

vote _____

save _____

like _____

What is the rule that you have used? _____

treat _____

wheel _____

pour _____

look _____

steer _____

book _____

What is the rule that you have used? _____

African Emergency – Oral Teacher Questions

In Uganda, how many hours of daylight are there? **12 hours**

What is Lake Nyanza better known as? **Lake Victoria**

What job does her father do? **Works on a coffee plantation**

Why do you think education is important? **Varied answers**

Would you like to be taught in a class of 100 pupils? Explain why/why not. **Negatives could be drawn from the text and ideas expanded e.g. It could be hot, stuffy, noisy, your teacher might not know you that well or understand your particular needs. Positives could be lots of friends to choose from, having the opportunity to go to school.**

Why do you think the author chose the word 'bustling' to describe the cities? **It helps you to understand how busy, lively and full of life the cities must be.**

Why do you think the Lake is an important part of village life? **The fish can be sold to provide an income for families. It is also a source of food for the local people.**

Afiya described the peanut sauce as being 'scrumptious'. List 3 synonyms which mean the same. **Various answers including: delicious, yummy, tasty, mouth-watering, gorgeous.**

List 4 symptoms of Kansozi's illness. **He had a fever, his head hurt (headache), he felt cold (shivering) and he was being sick.**

Why do you think Mother was trying to stay calm? **She knew how serious the illness could be but she didn't want to scare or panic the children.**

What illness did Kansozi have? **Malaria.**

How is the disease spread? **Through the bite of an infected mosquito.**

What was different about the new medical centre? **There was now a waiting room, electric lights and running water. The building had a proper roof and windows.**

How had Michael helped to save Kansozi's life? **He was able to start his treatment straight away and he got Kansozi to the medical centre quickly.**

What other life saving gift did the village receive from the fundraisers in Britain? **Mosquito nets.**

Why do you think people choose to raise money for others? **Varied answers.**

Identify some ways in which Afiya's life is the same or different compared to your own. **Answers could discuss differences and similarities in food, housing, jobs, what happens during medical emergencies.**

Write the meaning of each of these words.

bustling – energetic and noisy activity

vast – extremely large

fruitful – useful or productive

bearable – to tolerate or put up with

plantation – land used for growing and cultivating crops like tea, coffee, cocoa beans

exported – selling or shipping of goods to a foreign country

source – foundation or starting point

income – amount of money earned from work

scrumptious – lovely, delicious

alarmingly – frighteningly

vomiting – ejecting contents of stomach

extraordinary – very unusual

dismounted – get off something

reassuringly – to give confidence

confirmed – proved to be true

plagued – troubled or annoyed by

reduce – bring down or lower

dilapidated – having fallen into ruin

administering – to give

enquired – asked about

potentially – possible but not yet happened

precious – loved or treasured

List all of the vowels: a e i o u

List all of the consonants: b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t v w x y z

Change the following verbs to the past tense.

shop **shopped**

grab **grabbed**

hop **hopped**

knit **knitted**

admit **admitted**

commit **committed**

What is the rule that you have used? **If a verb ends with a short vowel followed by a single consonant, double the last letter before adding –ed when changing it to past tense.**

carry **carried**

worry **worried**

marry **married**

hurry **hurried**

bully **bullied**

curry **curried**

What is the rule that you have used? **If a verb ends in a consonant then –y, change the –y to an –i before adding –ed.**

bake **baked**

hike **hiked**

smile **smiled**

vote **voted**

save **saved**

like **liked**

What is the rule that you have used? **If a verb ends in a silent –e which is not pronounced, then drop this letter before adding –ed.**

treat **treated**

wheel **wheeled**

pour **poured**

look **looked**

steer **steered**

book **booked**

What is the rule that you have used? **If a verb ends in a double vowel then a consonant, simply add –ed.**

Past tense tells you what has already happened in the past. Present tense tells you what is happening now. Future tense tells you about what will happen in the future.

Underline the verb or verb chains in these sentences and identify the verb's tense.

Boats **sailed** on the lake. **Past**

Fish **swim** in the water. **Present**

Cars **raced** down the dirt track. **Past**

Afiya **ate** her dinner. **Past**

It **will** rain tomorrow. **Future**

Kansozi **wanted** chicken stew. **Past**

I **am** happy. **Present**

You **will love** the new hospital. **Future**

Match the past tense verb to the present tense equivalent.

I was	we are
we were	I eat
we went	I see
I ate	we go
I saw	I am

Highlight the present tense verbs in this passage, then rewrite the passage in the past tense.

We **sit** down on the grass. The sun **is** hot and the sky **is** a wonderful shade of blue. Lots of visitors **are** shopping. There **are** many stalls. My favourite one **sells** sweets. Suddenly we **see** a mysterious man. He **rushes** towards an expensive looking red Ferrari. He **jumps** in and **races** off.

We **sat** down on the grass. The sun **was** hot and the sky **was** a wonderful shade of blue. Lots of visitors **were** shopping. There **were** many stalls. My favourite one **sold** sweets. Suddenly we **saw** a mysterious man. He **rushed** towards an expensive looking red Ferrari. He **jumped** in and **raced** off.