



THE PORTLAND SCHOOL STORIES AND TALES

The Portland stories are tales told to the children by their parents, grandparents and elders while sitting around the fireplaces. The Portland teachers helped the children write down the stories as they were told.

NONO CHADRA, Primary one

THE WOMAN AND THE BEAST

One day, a woman gave birth to a child that she named “Solofia”
She built for her child a house at the swamp side of the area.
Every day, she brought food for her and sang a song every day

(Woman)-Solofia! Open the door

Solofia, Solofia open the door

(Child)- Mother, a beast came here. I am so scared.

And they kept singing as she opened the door.

One day the woman brought food and the door to her daughter’s house was open. She ran in and the young girl was not in! The house was empty. So the woman assembled beasts, from the one eyed to the tenth eyed beast. So she started asking each beast whether they took her daughter and when she reached the tenth beast she asked;

Mother: “Beast with ten eyes, did you eat my girl?”

Beast: “Yes I did.”

Mother: “Close your one eye”

So the mother struck the beast once on his belly and her daughter came out of the beast’s mouth. So they both went home happy to the woman’s house. The beast fell down and died. That was the end of the story.....



ATHIENO CHRISTINE, Primary five (Unsponsored)

OKETCH AND HIS ROPE

Once upon a time,

There lived Oketch and his wife. They went to harvest potatoes and forgot their rope in the garden.

Oketch sent his child to go and pick up the rope. The child found a singing bird on his way.

The bird started singing;

Child, child

Where are you going?

Whose rope is it... child?

Who is your father... child?

The boy replied:

“My father is Oketch”

“Oketch ... who?”

“Oketch, who is Oketch?”

The boy called the mother to see the bird and it sang the same song. The woman called the husband and the bird still sang the same song. Then Oketch stretched and caught the bird and started feathering it. The bird still continued singing.

Oketch slaughtered the bird and put it the pot to boil as sauce, but it kept singing. He kept the sauce but upon his return, the bird had flown away and left the soup and the feathers and that was the end of the story.



OKELLO ISAAC, Primary six (Unsponsored)

THE HARE AND THE KOMODO DRAGON

Once upon a time, there lived a hare and a dragon who were friends. They one day decided to go somewhere for a visit. On their way, they made a deal. They gave each nicknames for the day. The hare quickly chose to be the “visitor”. The dragon on the other hand chose to be an “in- law”.

When they arrived, the hosts welcomed the visitors. But the hare had inherited the title already. So only he was welcomed.

Hosts: “take some water for the visitors to wash their hands.”

Hare: “that’s all mine.”

Hosts: “take some food for the visitors.”

Hare: “that’s all mine.”

When the food arrived, the dragon had not yet washed his hands. So the hare started to eat. By the time the dragon got his hands clean, the food was over...

Hosts: “see off the visitor with a package.”

Hare: “that’s all mine.”

So they left to go back home. The dragon was so sad about the day because he had not eaten and he had to go home empty handed. So he got an idea. He managed to steal the package that the hare was given and replaced it with leaves and stones. When the hare got home he told his wife to pour out all the food she had cooked. On opening the package, to his surprise there was no food. The hare lost this time, and that was the end.



AWOR MARY GRACE, Primary four (Unsponsored)

THE GIRL AND HER UNCLE

There once lived a very beautiful girl,
But she was an orphan.
She lived with her uncle.

One day as she was going to the stream, she met a man, who told her,
“Young girl, what a beauty you are!” and the girl replied,
“Thank you, but my mother and father have to decide on whether I can go with you.”

So she went to the grave yard and started singing about the man she met earlier.
She kept meeting men of the same making and coming back to the grave to sing
about them. But she said to the last man after she got an answer,
“If you want to marry me, kill your people, collect their bones in a coffin, then
come back and marry me.”
So the beautiful girl stayed single from then on.



Grace's Art Piece



OPIO CONRAD, Primary four

THE CAT AND THE MOUSE.

Once upon a time,

There lived a cat and a mouse who became friends.

They found a bee hive one day, got the honey and put it in a pot and kept it.

The mouse went stealthily and licked some of the honey. The **cat and the hen** asked the mouse “where did you go earlier?”

Mouse: “I went to baptize my child”

Cat: “oh what name did you give your child?”

Mouse: “licked and licked to half way.”

Again the mouse went away, and when he came back the cat asked again, “where did you go earlier?”

Mouse: “I went to baptize my child.”

Cat: “and what’s the name you gave your child?”

Mouse: “licked and licked almost to nothing.”

And fourth time, the mouse went and came back. This time he licked all the honey to nothing left. He came back with the same story.

When they went together to check on the honey, the pot was empty. The mouse ran so fast in guilt. The cat concluded that it was the mouse that ate all the honey from the pot. This is why today when the cat sees a mouse, he chases it as fast as possible.



ACHIENG NOSIATA, Primary six

THE COW AND THE BUFFALO

Once upon a time,

There lived a cow and a buffalo who were friends.

One day, they went to visit a hen. But the hen shamelessly refused to offer them anything, much less water. So the buffalo had an idea on their way back.

“Let us make a well.”

The cow agreed. So they dug up a well. When they cow went to drink water from the well, she stained the well with her dung and urine.

The buffalo also set off to the well but reaching there, he saw the mess that the cow had left.

After some time, the cow had a child and went to the well again. The buffalo watching from a distance sprung up and out of anger, killed the cow. The calf was watching and out of anger also ran to look for the buffalo’s child and killed him. So the battle line was drawn between the buffalo and the calf. The calf ran as fast as it could and hid away from the buffalo. The sheep saved the calf by protecting her from the scary buffalo and the calf forever remained grateful.



REBECCA BLESSED, Primary Two

THE TALKING BONE

There lived a king with his two sons. One is big and one is small. The king told his sons to look for a flower. They went to the forest. The young son found the flower, but the big son said, give me that flower. The young son said, I don't want to. I am the one who found the flower first. The big son killed the young son.

One day a hunter came, he found a bone.

He blew it, it sang, "Hunter, hunter it is my bone you are blowing, My brother killed me because of a flower."

Then the hunter gave the bone to his wife, it sang, "Woman, woman it is my bone you are blowing, my brother killed me because of a flower."

The wife said to the hunter that the king was looking for his lost son. And she said, "we will go and take this bone to the king." Then they took the bone to the king. They gave it to the king and they told the king to blow the bone.

He blew it and it sang, "Father, father it is my bone you are blowing; my brother killed me because of a flower."

The king told his guards to call the big son. Then the big son came and the king told him to blow the bone and the bone sang;

"Brother, brother it is my bone you are blowing; you killed me because of a flower."

Then the big son said I killed my brother because he got the flower first. Then the king ordered his guards to kill the big son.



AMOLLO MARY JACINTA

THE HIDDEN MAMA

Once upon a time, there lived a hyena that was clever and his friend an elephant. One day the hyena told the elephant, "Our mothers are too old. Why don't we kill them?" Then the hyena caught his mother and put her in a sack and went to the tallest fruit tree and hid his mother there, and he got another sack and put in a mortar, pretending it was his mother. He lied to the elephant that he killed his mother. Foolishly the elephant killed and dumped his mother in the well.

The next morning the hyena was hungry and he went to the fruit tree where he had hid his mother and he sang;

"Foolishly elephant killed his mother, and dumped her in the well, I dumped a mortar instead. Mother please throw for me Siringita (fruits)." Siringita niwarara (lots of siringita) dropped to the ground and he picked and ate.

Then he went to the elephant, the elephant told him "you look healthy" and the hyena replied, "I drank water and ate some grasshoppers".

The next day hyena went to the tree and sang again the same song and the mother threw for him fruits again and again....

The elephant became curious because he was growing thin and thinner while the hyena was instead gaining weight. One day, the elephant went and hid from the hyena and he saw and heard everything that the hyena did and said. The elephant came and also sang the same song with a very loud voice, but hyena's mother refused to throw for him fruits. The elephant became so annoyed he cut down the tree and killed hyena's mother. Hyena came and asked him and he said, "I killed your mother".

Since then, the hyena and the elephant have never become great friends again.



PORTLAND NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL: THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

The Director, head teacher, teachers, pupils and the community of Portland Nursery and Primary School would love to send to you their sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed towards the construction and improvement of the Portland School.

We would like to thank Beatrice Achieng Nas for all her efforts in ensuring that the Portland School moved from the level of studying under the trees into a sturdy school building. Her tireless efforts are changing so many lives at the same time.

We would like to acknowledge Maarten Bastiaasen who helped her with fundraising for the construction. We also thank all those who donated towards the construction and completion of the Portland school, to include Mi Corazon and Ms Ingrid van Thiel-Sluiters, Bemmelen en Haalderen and Stichting LMStandard Supports of the Netherlands, Kara Lozier and The Mighty Fingers project/Kelly Sullivan.

Our children are learning a great deal, to include English speaking and writing, as well as art. Some of their work is included in this magazine.



PORTLAND NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

These are just a few of the students in need of sponsors.

A more complete list can be found at:

<http://pce-foundation.org/portland-school-students/>

Please contact us for details.



Angella



Brenda



Budesta



Hellen



Hellen



Kevin



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DO YOU HAVE FEEDBACK FOR THE PORTLAND STORY TELLERS?

Email: info@pce-foundation.org

Website: www.pce-foundation.org

