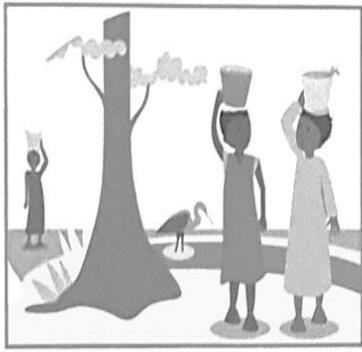


'Monday Morning in Malawi'



Mesi's day begins at five o'clock in the morning, when she goes to the river to collect water with her mum. Sometimes Mesi goes to the river with

her friend, Enestina.

Mesi carries the bucket of water on her head. At the beginning, she liked going to the river with her mum, but not anymore. Mesi didn't realise that the river was so far away from her home, and the bucket is very heavy when it is full. It gives Mesi a pain in her neck and in her head.



When she comes home from the river, Mesi helps her mum to make the breakfast. Her family eats porridge made from

rice every day. Sometimes there is not enough porridge for everyone, so Mesi's mum and dad don't have anything to eat. They would rather give the food to their children. Mesi loves her family very much. She knows that her mum and dad love her very much too.

After breakfast, Mesi and Enestina make the long walk to school.

'Mesi's Evening'



Mesi arrives back in the village after school just in time to see her mum walking towards their house with a big bucket of water on her head.

Mum looks tired. She is also carrying Tamara in a sling on her back.

'Hi Mum!' shouts Mesi.

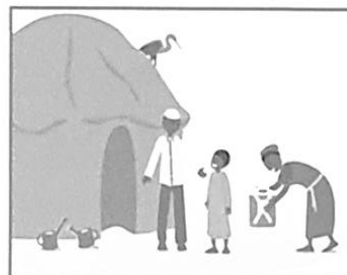
Mum turns around, slowly and carefully, not wanting to spill any water. 'Let me help you!' says Mesi.

'I'm ok,' says Mum. 'How was your day at school? Did you get anything to eat?'

'Enestina had a banana,' replies Mesi. 'She gave me some of that.'

Mesi and Mum walk together and chat until they reach the door of the house. Then Mum lifts the heavy bucket off her head and places it on the ground. Dad comes out of the house.

'Great!' he says. 'Mesi, will you come



and help me water the plants?'

'Sure!' Mesi replies, even though she is very tired. She and Dad grab the old watering cans and fill

them from the bucket that Mum has just put down.

'When do you think it will start to rain again,



Dad?' Mesi asks, as they walk towards their small row of plants.

'Soon, I hope,' Dad answers.

Mum is cooking rice for dinner when Mesi and her dad return. When they are finished, they join some of the other families in the village to celebrate. It is Enestina's mother's birthday. The families celebrate by singing and dancing, which they love to do.

Then, tired after a long day, Mesi and her family go to bed.