

Learning by Ear – Girls’ Rights

Episode 05

Title: Child Labour - A story of Girls’ Rights

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Characters:

SCENE 1 SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS

Narrator - 30s Male
Ciro - 14 Female
Cheptoo - 15 Female
Fatuma - 14 Female
Kid - About 10

SCENE 2 - SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS

Ciro - 14 Female
Cheptoo - 15 Female
Narrator - 30s Male

SCENE 3 - FOOTPATH TO FATUMA’S PARENT’S HOME

Ciro - 14 Female
Cheptoo - 15 Female
Fatuma - 14 Female
Narrator - 30s Male

SCENE 4 - FATUMA’S PARENTS’ HOMESTEAD

Elder Jacob - 60s Male
Teacher Mona - 35 Female
Ciro - 14 Female
Cheptoo - 15 Female
Fatuma - 14 Female
Janet-Social Worker - 30s Female
Narrator - 30s Male

01. INTRO

02. MUSIC: THEME MUSIC

03. NARRATOR

Hello and welcome to Episode **Five** of our “Learning by Ear” **Girls’ Rights** series. In the last episode, sadly, **Ciro’s** father passed away. Her Uncle, **Babu** was all poised to inherit **Mama** **Ciro’s** property. The friends; **Ciro**, **Fatuma** and **Cheptoo** as well as **Ciro’s** male cousin **Abdi** learnt that girls also have a right to inherit property.

In today’s episode, the girls are amazed to find out how common child labour is. Let’s join them as they debate this topic.

SCENE 1: SCHOOL PLAYING FIELD

04. SFX: PLAY FIELD NOISES

05. SFX: CHEPTOO CHEWING NUTS (studio)

06. CIRO

(ADMONISHING) **Cheptoo**, for **pete’s** sake, close your mouth when you chew.

07. CHEPTOO

(FULL MOUTH) You have no idea how tasty these ground nuts are. Here, **Ciro**, try some.

08. **FATUMA** You do not have to eat with your mouth open for you to savour them.

PAUSE

09. **CIRO** (SHOUTING) Watch out.. oh no.. watch out, a fly.. look Fatuma.. look what Cheptoo is chewing

10. **SFX: CHEPTOO CHOKING AND SPLUTTERING**

11. **SFX: LAUGHTER – CIRO AND FATUMA**

12. **CIRO** (LAUGHING) You chewed it... you chewed the fly....!

13. **CHEPTOO** (SPLUTTERING) What.. what... ooh no..yuk...yuk...I am going to be sick!

14. **FATUMA** (LAUGHING) A very huge fly, huuuuuuuge.

15. **SFX: MORE SPLUTTERING. CHOKING AND COUGHING**

16. **CHEPTOO** Ooh no... yuk... yuk... yuk....

17. **CIRO** (LAUGHING) I was only kidding.

18. **CHEPTOO** You mean.. you mean there was no fly.

19. **SFX: FATUMA & CIRO. LAUGH HYSTERICALLY.**

20. **CHEPTOO** Look at what you did. That was the last of my ground nuts.
21. **CIRO** Ok, Cheptoo, I will buy you some more. Where are those kids? Hey you... you.. you kids with the ground nuts basket...over here.
22. **SFX: FOOT STEPS APPROACH**
23. **CIRO** Give us some more ground nuts. Here is the money.
24. **SFX: COINS RATTLE**
25. **FATUMA** How come you kids are selling nuts during school time?
26. **KID** We don't go to school.
27. **CIRO** Why?
28. **KID** We have to sell the nuts and make money. Our parents send us out to sell. We must take money back home.
29. **FATUMA** But you should be in school?
30. **SFX: SCHOOL BELL**
31. **CHEPTOO** Kids, sell me some more nuts.

SCENE 2 SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS

32. NARRATOR **The other day, Cheptoo and Ciro meet at school. But where is Fatuma?**

33. SFX: BELL RINGS. DOORS OPEN AND SLAM

34. SFX: END OF SCHOOL DAY NOISES STUDENTS MUTED NOISES.

35. CHEPTOO (SHOUTING) Ciro! Ciro! Over here.

36. CIRO (SHOUTING) Cheptoo, over here. I'm coming.

37. CHEPTOO Have you seen Fatuma? I have looked for her everywhere.

38. CIRO Maybe she is delayed in her classroom again.

39. CHEPTOO I checked. I was told she did not come to school today.

40. CIRO Ooh no, what could have happened to our friend this time.

41. CHEPTOO Let's rush over to her home and make sure she is ok.

42. **NARRATOR** The friends, Ciro, Cheptoo and Fatuma attend different classes, but they always meet over the breaks and at the end of the school day. Fatuma is missing.....again.

Ciro and Cheptoo decide to go check on their friend at home. She does not live very far from the school.

SCENE 3: FOOT PATH TO FATUMA PARENTS' HOME

43. **SFX: TWO SETS OF FOOTWORK ON PATH**

44. **SFX: STOMACH RUMBLES**

45. **CIRO** Cheptoo!! Stop it. One would think you have a regiment of drummers in your stomach.

46. **CHEPTOO** It's not my fault that the ground nuts give me gas.

47. **CIRO** Then stop eating them. You eat too much of them.

48. **CHEPTOO** Well, I give those kids business!... look... I think that is.... That is ... Fatuma.

49. **SFX: RUNNING FEET.**

50. **CIRO/CHEPTOO** Fatuma! Fatuma...!
51. **FATUMA** (VERY TIRED) Yeeesssss.
52. **SOUND: OUT OF BREATH AND PANTING**
53. **CHEPTOO** What's wrong with you girl? Why were you not in school today? Why are you carrying such a heavy load?
54. **CIRO** Fatuma, you look so tired... you are so dirty.
55. **FATUMA** I have been working.. I am so exhausted....
56. **CHEPTOO** (FIRMLY) Stop right there girl... who said you should work... look at you, you are such a mess.
57. **CIRO** Cheptoo, can't you see she is suffering.. Fatu.. you look so hungry.
58. **CHEPTOO** Here, have my ground nuts.
59. **CIRO** Don't touch them, you will pass air like a steam engine.
60. **CHEPTOO** Hey.. the girl is hungry.
61. **FATUMA** Leave me alone, I need to move... my feet are killing me and this load is heavy.

62. **CIRO** Cheptoo... here, let's lift the load from her. Shall we help her carry it?
63. **CHEPTOO** Me, carry that?.... Fatuma wanted to carry it.. let her do so.. I'm not taking that heavy dirty load.. anyway, what is it? Rocks??
64. **FATUMA** Please help....
65. **SFX: HEAVING AND SIGHING (studio)**
66. **SFX: LOAD LANDS ON GROUND WITH THUD.**
67. **FATUMA** phew....(SIGH), that is better.
68. **CIRO** Come girls, let's sit down over there. Fatuma needs to rest her feet and I think she also owes us an explanation.
69. **FATUMA** It's my parents. They told me that we no longer have enough money for food and for education. So, they told me as the oldest girl, I have to work so we can get food for the family.
70. **CHEPTOO** What about your school?

71. **CIRO** Yes, what about school and friends like us?
72. **FATUMA** What is the point of going to school if there is no food at home and money for school fees or school uniforms? I need to help feed my brothers and sisters.
73. **CHEPTOO** But that is what parents do. They give you food and schooling.
74. **CIRO** Fatuma, you are not your parents?
75. **FATUMA** Tell that to my parents.
- SILENCE
76. **CIRO** Now what do we do?
77. **CHEPTOO** Mmmmm ... I have an idea. Let's help Fatuma get home. Then, tomorrow, after planning with Teacher Mona and Social Worker Janet, we will convene the 'Girls' Parliament'.
78. **FATUMA** What's the point? You can debate as much as you want, but my parents will remain the same.

79. **CIRO** (EXCITED) I have the perfect plan. Lets hold the Girls' Parliament' at your parents' home.
80. **FATUMA** How? How will you pull that off?
81. **CHEPTOO** Leave it to me.
82. **NARRATOR** The girls have a big challenge on their hands. How do they convince the parents that child labour is bad? They have realised that holding the debate among themselves only does not always solve the problems. They have to involve the other concerned parties. In this case, the parents.

SCENE 4: FATUMA'S PARENTS' HOMESTEAD

83. **SFX; FARM NOISES**

84. **ELDER JACOB** Teacher Mona and Social Worker Janet, much as we welcome you to our home, I am wondering why you have visited us this time. Fatuma is no longer getting married. We agreed we stop that and we did. Why are you here now?

85. **TEACHER MONA** Elder Jacob, we are here again because of your daughter Fatuma. I brought some of the girls from the school. Girls, please greet Elder Jacob
86. **CIRO/CHEPTOO** Good afternoon Elder Jacob.
87. **ELDER JACOB** Good afternoon, girls. What do you want from me?
88. **CIRO** I am Ciro, Fatuma's friend.
89. **CHEPTOO** Elder Jacob, my name is Cheptoo and we were concerned about our friend Fatuma who did not come to school today, so we came here to see you and also pay our respects to her parents.
90. **ELDER JACOB** Oh Good, good... you are indeed good friends.
91. **CHEPTOO** We are good friends, Elder Jacob. That is why we want to beg you to talk with us about Fatuma's fate.
92. **ELDER JACOB** Fate? She is working for her life, not dying. Or are you saying Fatuma should not work? I tell you, children should work to help support their family.

93. **CHEPTOO** Yes. I float the motion that ‘Child and girl labour is wrong and should not be practised’.
94. **ELDER JACOB** Float a motion??
95. **JANET** Elder Jacob, I’m Janet, as you know, the local community Social Worker, I believe the girls have just got you involved in a motion.
96. **TEACHER MONA** For me, as a teacher, I insist girls should be in school. They miss their education now and their lives are ruined forever.
97. **ELDER JACOB** What is going on here? Am I under ambush? Easy for you to say when you have food on the table. We have no food!! She has to work!
98. **JANET** That is your job as a parent; to provide for your family and child. It’s not for the child to do so.
99. **ELDER JACOB** She is not a child.

100. **JANET** So long as she is of school going age, she is a child. Your child. Your responsibility. According to UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund, many children in sub-Saharan Africa are engaged in child labour. This is a form of child abuse.
101. **ELDER JACOB** (ANGRY) Abuse?! You come here to accuse me of abusing my own child?
102. **JANET** Oh no. Elder Jacob, we are not accusing you, we are here to share knowledge and we are thinking of Fatuma’s welfare. As I was saying, UNICEF’s Convention on the Rights of the Child, protects the right of the child. By pulling Fatuma out of school and making her work all day, you are in contravention of this convention.
103. **ELDER JACOB** I have a headache now.
104. **TEACHER MONA** You will get a bigger headache when Fatuma, after missing her education, can not support herself or you, or her family later in life. Elder Jacob, invest in her education now and gain a lot more later. It is an investment.

105. **ELDER JACOB** (SHOCKED) What? My Fatuma?
106. **CIRO** Elder Jacob, please let Fatuma come back to school. She is our friend and we miss her.
107. **CHEPTOO** Hey hey... everyone stop! Just stop there. Has anyone bothered to ask Fatuma what she wants? Fatuma, you are very quiet. Tell us, what do you want?
108. **FATUMA** (FIRMLY) I don't like working. I feel like my name should be changed to 'donkey'. I want to be in school with my friends. I miss school. I don't want to be stupid and never get a job (CRIES)
109. **ELDER JACOB** ooh no.. my child, I did not know that is what you feel.
110. **TEACHER MONA** Elder Jacob. Think of the happiness and the future of your child. Let's find out with the social worker how you could bring food on your table. It should not be Fatuma's job to do so. I declare we put an end to child and girl labour!

111. **JANET** I'm always ready to give you advice, if you wish. For now, may I propose we close the debate with the statement 'No more labour for the girl child'
112. **CHEPTOO** I second. No child should be used for labour. Fatuma comes back to school.
113. **CIRO** Teacher Mona, we should also see the parents of the kids who sell ground nuts at our school compound.
114. **CHEPTOO** (SLOWLY) It's true, I should not have been buying those nuts. No wonder they gave me gas.
115. **TEACHER MONA** It is settled then. Fatuma comes back to school. And as for you girls, go find the parents of the kids who sell nuts. We must see their parents too.
116. **ELDER JACOB** (EXCITED) well... well... eeggh.. I would like to offer to talk to those girls parents..if....if...if... you will have me.
117. **CIRO/CHEPTOO/FATUMA** yeaeeeehehhh..... (CLAPPING)
118. **JANET** What are we waiting for, let's go. No more child labour!

119. Outro

120. NARRATOR

And that's all from Learning by Ear for today! Please join us again to find out more about girl's rights. If you want to listen again to this episode or tell your friends about it, please visit our website at dwworld.de/lbe. Your comments are most welcome.