

LEARNING BY EAR - “Girls’ Rights”

EPISODE 9:

Title: “Girls’ sexuality” – A Story of Girls’ Rights

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Characters:

SCENE 1 SCHOOL PLAYING GROUND

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

SCENE 2 - VILLAGE PATH

Ciro - 14 Female
Cheptoo - 15 Female

SCENE 3 - PLAYING FIELDS – GIRLS’ PARLIAMENT

Ciro - 14 Female
Cheptoo - 15 Female
Fatuma - 14 Female
3-4 girls (13-16)

SCENE 4 - CIRO’S CLASSROOM. LUNCH HOUR

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

SCENE 5 - GIRLS’ PARLIAMENT

Ciro - 14 Female
Cheptoo - 15 Female
Narrator - 30s Male
Fatuma - 14 Female
Teacher Mona - 35 Female

Janet-Social Worker -30s Female
5-6 girls (song!) (13-16)

01. INTRO

02. MUSIC: THEME MUSIC

03. NARRATOR

Hello and welcome to Episode **Nine** of our “Learning by Ear” **Girl’s Rights** series. In the last episode, the girls had leadership challenges. However, by focusing on leadership qualities and not Gender, Cheptoo managed to be voted in as Head Prefect of the school.

In today’s episode, Ciro, Cheptoo and Fatuma debate girls’ sexuality. Join them and listen on!

SCENE 1: SCHOOL PLAY GROUND

04. SFX: PLAY GROUND NOISES

05. **CHEPTOO** Ciro, there is Fatuma.. she is heading this way. Fatu! Fatu! This way.. we are here
06. **CIRO** Fatuma.. what's with this new walking style?
07. **FATUMA** (GRUDGINGLY) What walking style?
08. **CHEPTOO** Girl, walk straight! What are you shy of? Your breasts?
09. **CIRO** Her breasts are growing and she is self-conscious and shy about it...Look.. **look...**
10. **FATUMA** Leave me alone... leave me alone..
11. **CHEPTOO** Fatuma, I might be just a couple of years older than you, but let me tell you, girl: Growing breasts is normal. Fatuma, this is normal. It is about becoming a woman. Don't feel shy. Be confident with yourself.
12. **CIRO** Yes, you should feel proud to be a woman. Now, look at me. Fatuma, throw your shoulders back, put your chin up.
13. **FATUMA** Ooh dear me... the boys tease me and make me self-conscious.

14. **CHEPTOO** They are not teasing you. They too need to understand this is a natural process. We all have a lot to learn about our bodies, don't we?

15. **BRIDGE MUSIC**

SCENE 2 VILLAGE PATH

16. **SFX: FARM NOISES; FOOTSTEPS**

17. **CIRO** Cheptoo, I am surprised you offered to walk me home. Your home is in the opposite direction.
18. **CHEPTOO** Ciro, you know me too well. There's something I wanted to talk to you about.
19. **CIRO** What?
20. **CHEPTOO** Nothing much.. well.. it's not easy
21. **CIRO** (LAUGHING) I don't believe Cheptoo you would ever be uncomfortable about anything.
22. **CHEPTOO** Well.... It's it's.. your cousin Abdi!
23. **CIRO** What has my naughty cousin done now...?
24. **CHEPTOO** I... I.. well.. he is not that bad.

25. **CIRO** (SHOCKED) I don't believe .. girl.. you like him.. all that fighting has been all pretence.
26. **CHEPTOO** Shhhh not so loud. We have been talking ... many times
27. **CIRO** You are dating my cousin and you didn't tell me... but you are both too young.
28. **CHEPTOO** We are both 15 years old.. you know...well... it's natural, we kind of like each other.
29. **CIRO** I am in shock: you and Abdi? Is that what you wanted to tell me?
30. **CHEPTOO** There is more...
31. **CIRO** Go on am listening.
32. **CHEPTOO** He wants us to .. you know what....
33. **CIRO** Do what (SILENCE) you mean that... oh no... you are having sex?
34. **CHEPTOO** Shshhhhh.. I told you, not too loud. I am confused.. I don't know what to do. Do you think we should...

35. **CIRO** I don't know, Cheptoo. But it does not feel right. Are we ready for this? I'm also confused. It might sound weird, but let's call the 'Girls' Parliament' and debate the issue.

36. **CHEPTOO** Why not! Let's go to the 'Girls' Parliament'. But this time it should be girls only!

37. **BRIDGE MUSIC**

SCENE 3 PLAYING FIELDS

38. **SOUNDS: PLAYGROUND NOISES, GIRLS CHATTERING AND LAUGHING (studio)**

39. **CHEPTOO** Girls, girls.. thank you for sparing your break time for this urgently convened Girls' Parliament.

40. **CIRO** We have a new debate. It's on sexuality, our bodies and also...well.. you know... those things we are too shy at times to discuss with adults.

41. **CHEPTOO** Like sex!

42. **FATUMA** sssshhhh Surely, Cheptoo, do you have to be so blunt and ..and.. loud.
43. **CHEPTOO** That is the issue, you can't even mention the word without everyone getting nervous and uncomfortable. How are we going to learn if we can't even mention the issue?
44. **CIRO** You have a point, Cheptoo. The purpose of the 'Girls' Parliament' is to discuss the issues that affect girls and girls' rights. Where else will we do this if not here.
45. **GIRLS** Sure sure.. agreed.
46. **CHEPTOO** I will open the debate. Fatuma is shy about the way her body is developing, and my question is: well, can I have sex at my age?
47. **FATUMA** I am still so uncomfortable with this debate.
48. **CHEPTOO** Would you rather want we did not discuss the issue and we secretly made mistakes and suffered lots of confusion?
49. **CIRO** Let's move on, please.

50. **FATUMA** Ok, I agree that I have to accept that my body is growing. Fine, but Cheptoo should not be talking about sex.
51. **CIRO** Why? She only asked a question?
52. **FATUMA** At 15 she is too young to have such relationships. She should wait.
53. **CIRO** Remember what the Biology teacher told us about teenagers and the hormones that are here and there and everywhere.
54. **ALL** LAUGHTER
55. **FATUMA** So, what about Cheptoo and having sex at her age?
56. **CHEPTOO** I think I have my own answer now. I should wait. We are all too young to be .. what do they call it.... sexually active. But we can't ignore that there are changes happening in our bodies. So we must learn more and more about our bodies so we are better prepared.
57. **CIRO** Cheptoo, that is the best thing you have shared with us. We can ask for advice from our teachers. We should not feel shy asking questions.

58. **FATUMA** We should also feel free to talk to our parents. They know what we are going through.

59. **CHEPTOO** Ok girl, now I am convinced. I will wait longer before having sex. But we must hold these talks more often. Now I know I am not alone in this confusion. I am so glad we had this chat.

60. **BRIDGE MUSIC**

SCENE 4: CIRO'S CLASSROOM. LUNCH HOUR

61. **SFX: classroom**

62. **CHEPTOO** Ciro... There you are? We have been looking for you. We could not start lunch without you. What are you still doing in the classroom?

63. **CIRO** Leave me alone. Go away.

64. **FATUMA** What is wrong with you? Why are you being rude.. we just came looking for you.

65. **CIRO** Go away.

66. **CHEPTOO** Get up Ciro, I am hungry, let's go and eat.

67. **CIRO** I said 'go away'.
68. **CHEPTOO** Something is wrong. Isn't it. You don't want to stand up.
69. **FATUMA** What is wrong, Ciro.
70. **CHEPTOO** I think it's that time of the month. She has stained her skirt.
71. **CIRO** Go away.. I am so embarrassed. The boys laughed at me.
72. **CHEPTOO** But this can happen to any woman.. you should not feel bad about it. Don't feel bad about this, Ciro. We are women, it is likely to happen.
73. **FATUMA** I have an idea. Here, wrap this scarf around you and let's walk to the ladies' room and clean you up.
74. **CHEPTOO** We have so many challenges and worries as girls. We should call the 'Girls Parliament' to discuss the matter.
75. **CIRO** Can you first help me before we call all the others?

76. BRIDGE MUSIC

- 77. NARRATOR** The parliament has been summoned. Two mature women, Social Worker Janet and Teacher Mona have been invited to share their experience and their wisdom.

SCENE 5: GIRLS' PARLIAMENT

78. SFX: GIRLS CHATTING (studio)

- 79. CHEPTOO** Silence everyone! As you all know, this time we have invited all the girls to our Parliament. With guidance from Teacher Mona and Janet, let's discuss our bodies. Let's discuss issues about our bodies that leave us confused.
- 80. CIRO** Why don't we ever mention certain parts of our bodies by their real names?
- 81. FATUMA** Because we have been told that they are bad parts of our bodies.

82. **CHEPTOO** But they can't be bad if they are part of our bodies.
83. **FATUMA** I can never touch my private parts.
Teacher Mona, is that bad? I have been told it is bad to touch.
84. **TEACHER MONA** How then, do you clean that part of your body? Girls, I want you to learn one thing. There is no part of your body that is bad. Be proud of all your body. It is what makes you a woman.
85. **CIRO** When I am in my monthly periods, I feel dirty. I am also told not to cook food because I am dirty. Janet, is this correct?
86. **JANET** These are misconceptions that we must change. If women did not have menstrual periods, then they would not be productive, then no children would be born, and where would that leave the world? You are not dirty, you are women. Teacher Mona, do you want to add to this?
87. **TEACHER MONA** Yes, definitely, you should be proud to be a woman; however, you must obey the basic hygiene rules. You must

change your sanitary wear every few hours at the minimum. You must not give others reason to think you are dirty.

88. **FATUMA**

Sometimes others tease us about our bodies. Like when our breasts start to grow.

89. **TEACHER MONA**

Ignore those who tease and laugh at you. They do it out of ignorance.

90. **CIRO**

Teacher Mona, that is easier said than done. Why don't we also run sessions like these for everyone in the school?

91. **CHEPTOO**

Or sing this song I have been sort of writing and teach it to others.

92. **CIRO**

A song?

93. **CHEPTOO**

Yes, I call it the 'Girl Power' song.

94. **JANET**

That's interesting. Teach us all.

95. **CHEPTOO**

Here we go, after me. Sing after me.

96. **NARRATOR**

And so, a song is crafted. A song that builds the girls' confidence and reminds them to be proud of who they are. Let's see now if all the girls can sing the song Cheptoo composed.

97. GIRLS

We are girls, we are girls
We are proud to be girls
We are proud of our bodies
At times we get confused with the rapid
changes in our bodies
But we know it is nature taking its
course.
Do not panic, do not panic
Do not shy away, do not shy away
It is but nature, making me a beautiful
girl, a beautiful woman
I am like a flower, blossoming
I am a girl, I am beautiful
Who am I, not to be proud of me?
We are girls, proud to be girls

98. ALL

CLAPPING

99. JANET

and you just made it up.

100. CHEPTOO

That is fabulous. Are we not great!? We
must teach all the girls this song.

101. CIRO/FATUMA

We must!

102. THEME MUSIC

103. OUTRO

104. NARRATOR

What a joy to appreciate themselves and their bodies. And a song to constantly remind them that they should be proud to be girls and that they should also embrace their transformation to womanhood. In the next and last episode, the girls debate careers that are available for them. Join us and listen on to the 'Learning by Ear' series on 'Girl's Rights'. You can also visit our website at [dw world dot de slash l b e](http://dw.world.de/lbe) for more information on Learning by Ear programmes. Don't forget to send us your comments as well.