

Classmates from school:



"Masara" means "joy"



Dalila means "gentle"



"Dene" means "water lily"



"Adesimbo" means "noble birth"



"Mandisa" means "sweet"



"Hakika" means "truth"



"Hadiya" means "gift"



"Runako" means "handsome"



"Gathii" means "wanderer"



"Sabola" means "hot"



Pepukayi" means "wake up"



"Safwani" means "sincere"



Teachers:

Biology teacher

Visiting scientist Dr. Mardea



Characters in this play (each name has a meaning):

A family:



← Father "Abeeku" means "born on Wednesday",

Mother "Adowa" means "Born on Tuesday",



← Son "Ekow" means "born on Thursday",

Daughter "Efia" means "Born on Friday",



← Grandpa "Atu" means "born on Saturday",

Grandma "Ama" means "born on Saturday"



← Uncle "Sisi" means "born on Sunday";

Classmates from school:



"Dhakiya" means "Intelligent"



"Dafina" means "precious"



"Gamba" means "warrior"



"Kunto" means "third child"



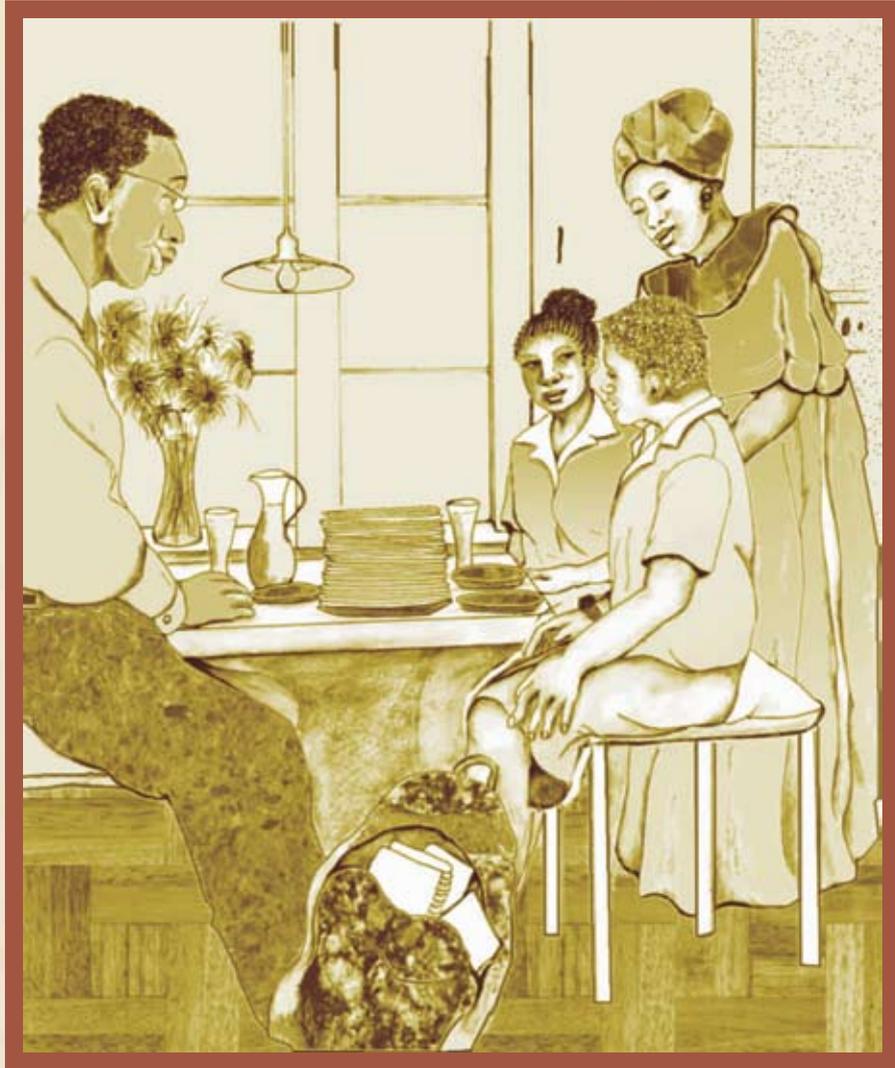
"Thandiwe" means "beloved"





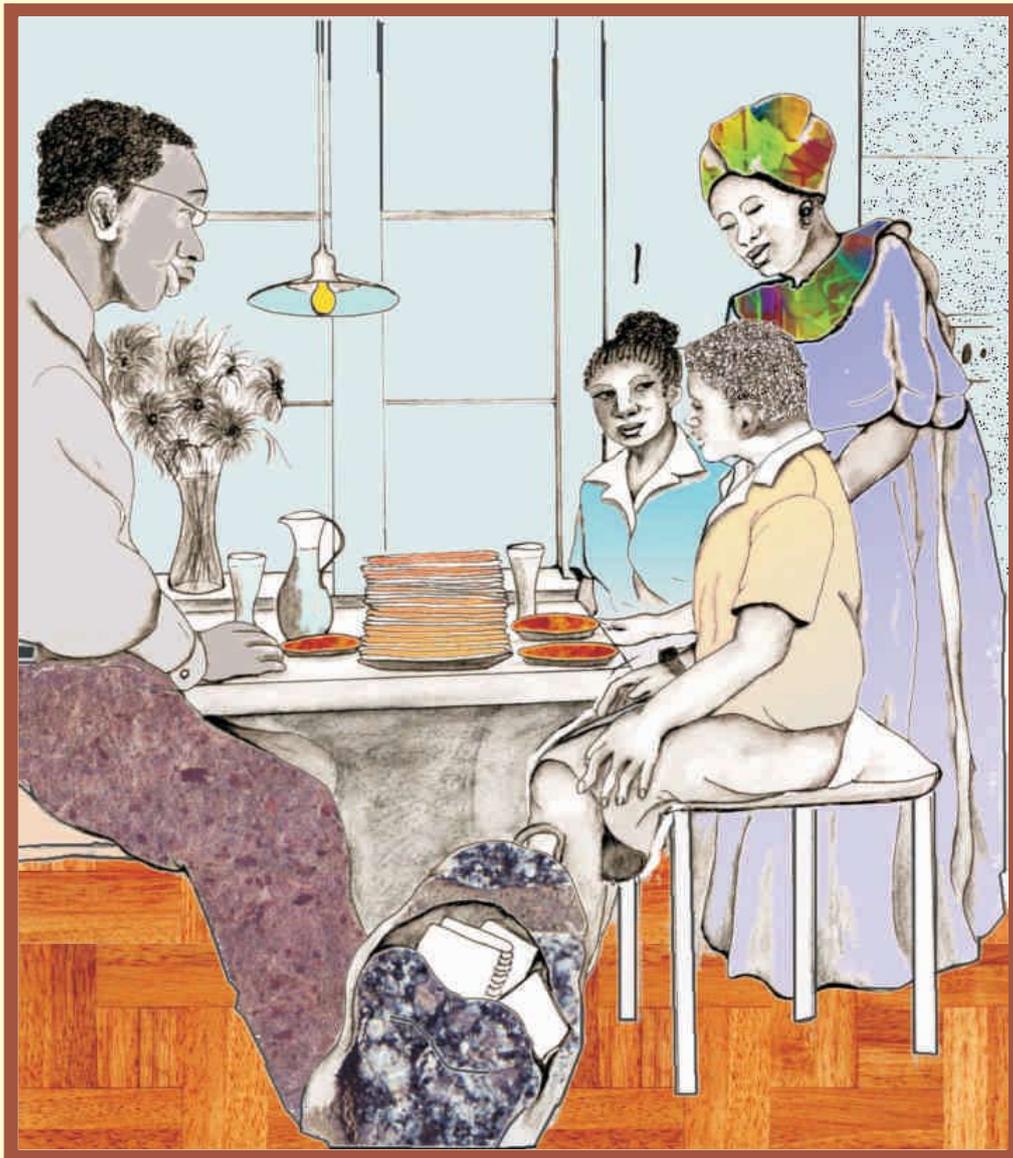
In this play, Efia, Ekow and their classmates discuss the role of biotechnology in conservation and use of plants, with their Biology teacher and Dr. Mardea.

Scene One



Friday morning

<i>Scene One:</i>	Friday morning
<i>Place:</i>	Home (dining room)
<i>Characters:</i>	Father, Mother, Son (Ekow) and Daughter (Efia)
<i>Situation:</i>	Breakfast time
<i>Breakfast:</i>	Beju (cassava pancake)



Ekow and Efia are having breakfast at home.



Wow! All these are made from cassava?

Scene One:
Friday morning

Place:
Home (dining room)

Characters:
Father, Mother, Son (Ekow)
and Daughter (Efia)

Situation:
Breakfast time

Breakfast:
Beju (cassava pancake)

Efia:

Mum! How did you make these pancakes? They are delicious!



Efia

Mother:

Well, you need cassava powder, sugar and grated coconut. You mix the sugar and grated coconut with cassava powder and then add the milk and mix it again into a thick paste. You pour this on to a greased hot pan and cook the pancake until it is golden brown. Et voilà!



Mother

Ekow:

We have had cassava before, but I thought that we ate it as a root. Isn't cassava a root? Don't we have this plant in the garden behind the house?



Ekow

Mother:

Yes. Cassava powder is made from cassava roots. We have a few cassava plants in our backyard, but your Uncle Sasi has a cassava field. Maybe you should ask him about it.



Mother

Ekow:

OK, Mum. Can we go to Uncle Sasi's place now?
(*Ekow is giggling because he thinks they can escape the morning class.*)



Ekow

Father:

Well! Well! Well! I know the trick you are trying to pull.
Maybe you can go to your Uncle Sasi's in the evening after you finish your homework.
Now it is time to go to school.



Father

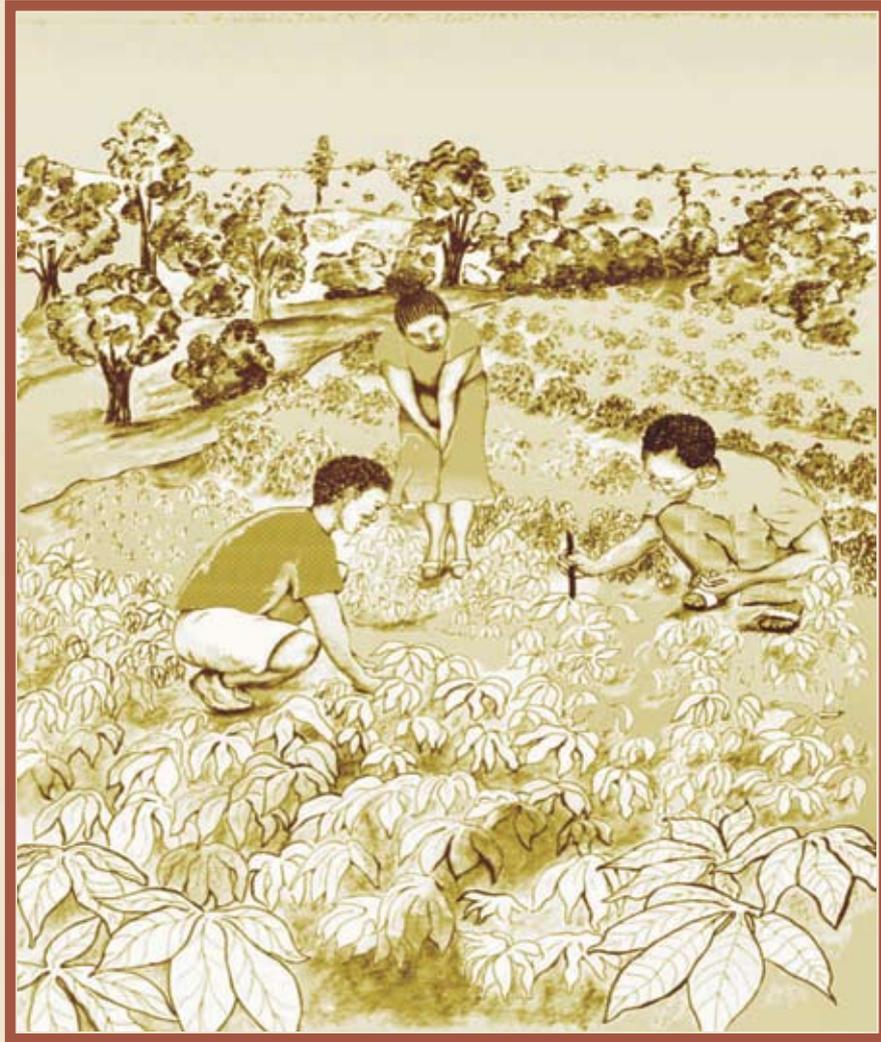
Ekow:

OK, Dad.
(*Ekow and Efia grab their school bags and leave for school.*)



Ekow

Scene Two



Saturday evening

Scene Two:

Saturday evening

Place:

Uncle Sasi's cassava field

Characters:

Uncle Sasi, Ekow and Efia

Situation:

Walking through the cassava field



Uncle Sasi's cassava field



Healthy leaves

CMD infected leaves

Healthy & diseased cassava leaves

Scene Two:

Saturday evening

Place:

Uncle Sasi's cassava field

Characters:

Uncle Sasi, Ekow and Efia

Situation:

Walking through the cassava field

Uncle Sasi:

Hello kids! How was school today? Do you have any special news?

Ekow:

Well, Uncle Sasi, no news from school but we have learned some new information about cassava from Mum. She also said that you have a huge cassava field and that you know a lot about cassava. Do you? Is it easy for you to grow it in your field? Do you make cassava powder?

Uncle Sasi:

Yes, I do know quite a bit about cassava, but your biology teacher is the best person to tell you all about growing it.

One of the things I can tell you is that all these plants in my field are disease-free and healthy. There is a special word that describes this condition; it is axenic.

Efia:

What exactly does axenic mean? It sounds like a poisonous plant!
(Laughs)

Uncle Sasi:

The word axenic means that the plants are free of disease. I wanted to be sure that my plants will grow to be healthy plants, so I got the plantlets from a plant tissue culture distribution centre.

Ekow:

Culture? Do you mean cassava can be grown without soil? Even in a lab?

Uncle Sasi:

Yes, a cassava plant can be grown in a lab. The plant tissue culture method is used to produce several plants of the same type in a short time, starting with only a single plant. The plants that are produced this way are also called clones. Cloned plants are identical copies of the original plant. But you should discuss this at school with your teacher who can tell you more about this technique.



Uncle Sasi



Ekow



Uncle Sasi



Efia



Uncle Sasi

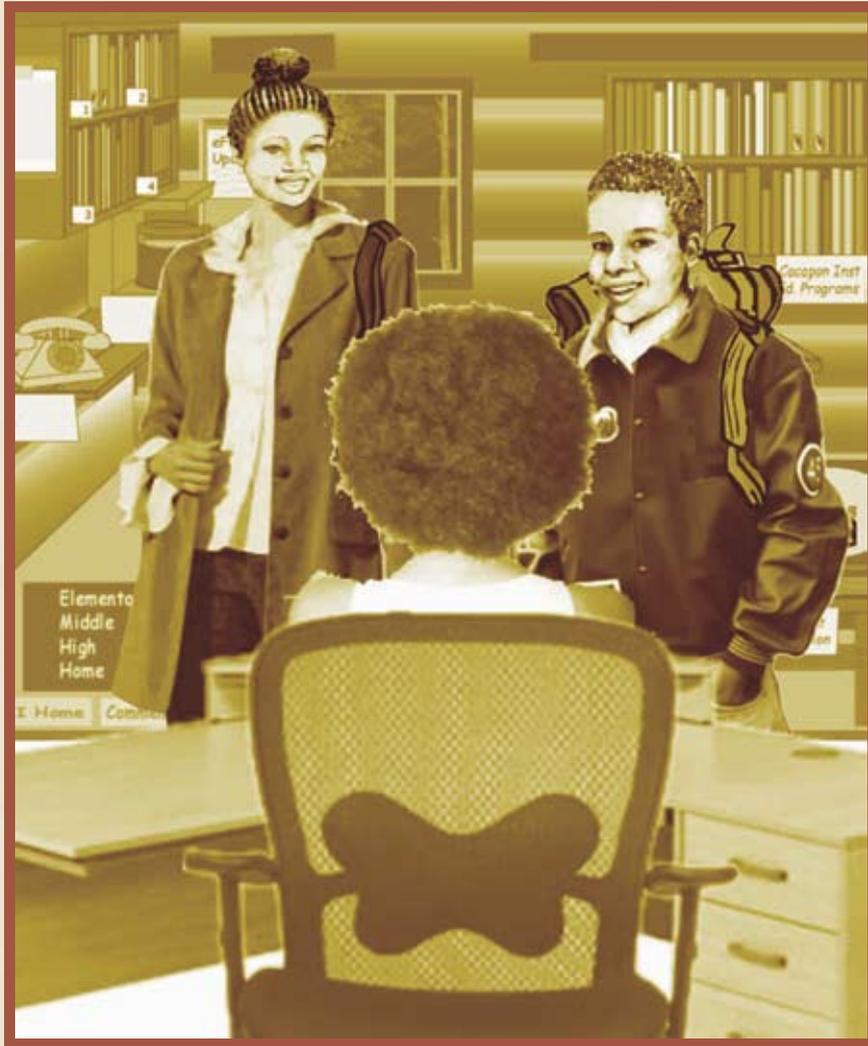


Ekow



Uncle Sasi

Scene Three



Monday morning

Scene Three:

Monday morning

Place:

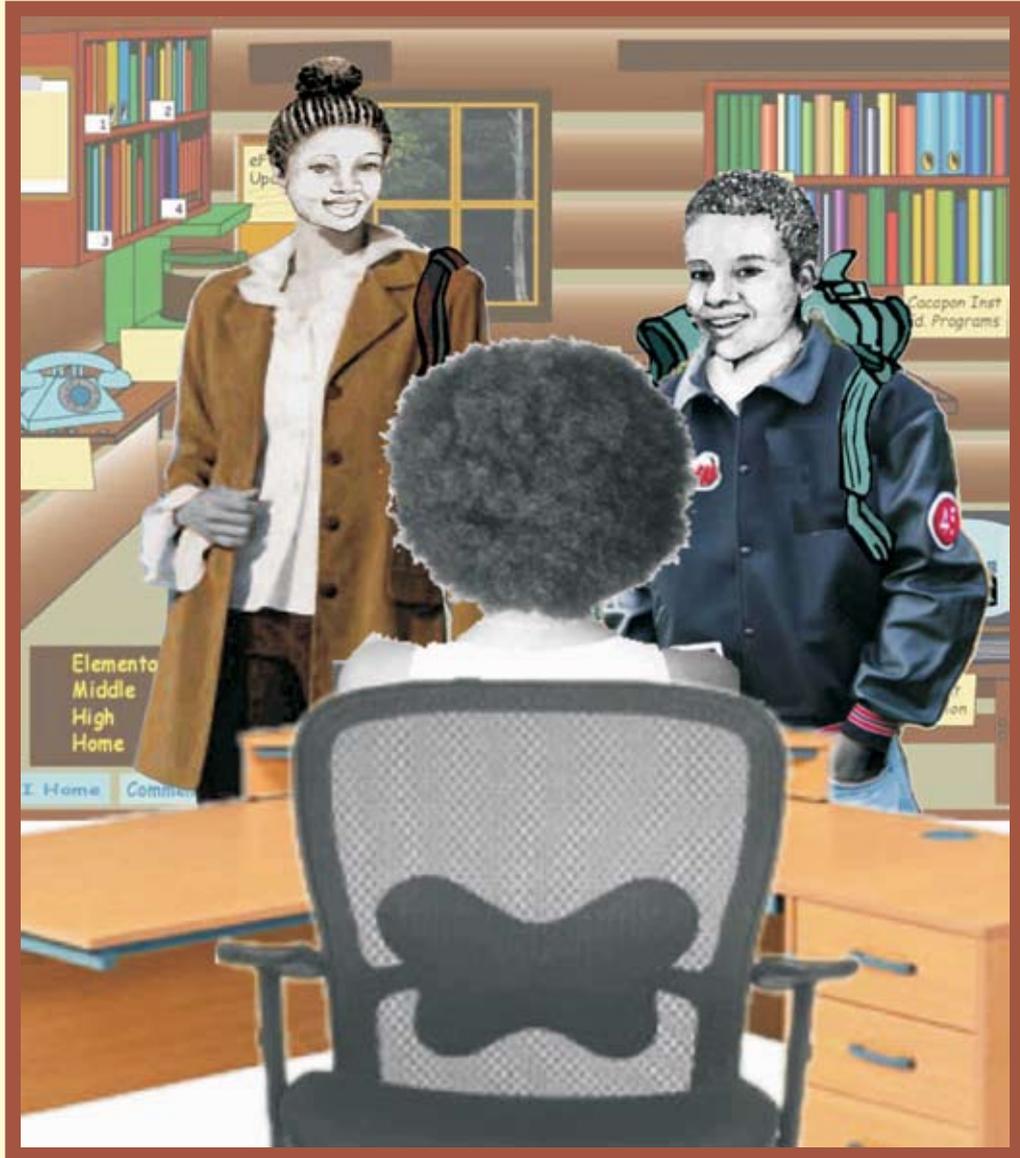
Teacher's room

Characters:

Ekow, Efia and the biology teacher

Situation:

Talking to the biology teacher



Efia and Ekow meet with their biology teacher



Scenes from plant tissue culture room

Scene Three:

Monday morning

Place:

Teacher's room

Characters:

Ekow, Efia and the biology teacher

Situation:

Talking to the biology teacher

(Ekow and Efia are standing and talking near the entrance of the biology teacher's room.)

Ekow:

We must ask our biology teacher about cassava tissue culture today.



Efia:

Yes, we have a biology class this afternoon. Maybe we can go and talk to our biology teacher now and ask her to tell us about plant tissue culture during our biology class.



(They knock on the door of the biology teacher's room and enter.)

Teacher:

Good morning Efia. Good morning Ekow. How can I help you?



Efia:

My brother and I visited our Uncle Sasi's cassava field on Saturday. Uncle Sasi told us that he got small cassava plants from a plant tissue culture distribution centre. When we asked him about plant tissue culture he said that you could tell us about it. Could you please tell us more about this technique during our biology class?



Teacher:

Actually, I was going to talk to your class about plant varieties. You have now given me a new idea. I will tell you more about tissue culture during the class this afternoon. See you in the classroom.



