

## A Young Singer in Secondary School

### Transcript in Twi:

Interviewer: Bra, good evening.

Singer: Good evening.

Interviewer: Nti yɛfrɛ wo sɛn?

Singer: Oh, yɛfrɛ me Joseph Osei but ɔmo taa frɛ me Jola.

Interviewer: Nti woyɛ dɛn?

Singer: Oh, in fact me deɛ meyɛ singer. Ndwom to ara na kyerɛ sɛ yɛde te abrabo yi mu.

Interviewer: Ndwom ben na wotaa to? Ndwom, sɛ woto gospel anaa...?

Singer: Gospel, kyerɛ sɛ gospel but then gospel no a yɛto no yɛtumi de fa R&B, hip-hop kyerɛ sɛ beebi ara but ne nyina ara gospel, Nyame mu ara.

Interviewer: Ɔmo a ɔmo bɔ ndwom, hwan na ɔmo ndwom yɛ wo de pa ara?

Singer: Oh, nyipa a ne ndwom ye me de pa ara yɛfrɛ no Kirk, onni Ghana but woba Ghana deɛ a, ɛndɛ Nobel Nketia ɔmo nyina ara ɛndɛ ɔmo hyɛ hɔ ma me. Saa...

Interviewer: Nti bronya yi wodii no sɛn?

Singer: Bronya yi deɛ me dii pa ara. Even though na Inspre rehearsals wo ho me dii pa ara. Nyankopon adom nti, kyerɛ se yɛdi ma no yɛɛ dɛ.

Interviewer: Dɛn saa na woyɛɛ? Wopieɛ anaa na wote fie anaa na woreyɛ dɛn?

Singer: I mean, na there were a lot of dinners, I mean, parties, I mean...

Interviewer: Wokɔɔ no nyina ara bi?

Singer: Na me cousins baa down ebifiri France ebifiri ... Nti ɛyɛ dɛ. Yɛgyɛ yɛn ani pa ara.

Interviewer: Nti daben na mobɛbue school?

Singer: Yebeɓue school 19<sup>th</sup>. Wokaεε, woakae me awareho but εnyε hwee.

Interviewer: Aden? Aden nti na wo werε aho?

Singer: Oh, school deε εhɔ nyε dε o. School nyε dε. Eh, school nyε dε.

Interviewer: Aden na school nyε dε?

Singer: Asoma nko ara, oh.

Interviewer: Seniors no ara?

Singer: Aane, seniors no ara.

Interviewer: Omo taa twi wo?

Singer: Aane.

Interviewer: Wogyina sεn?

Singer: Oh, afei na makɔ form 1, oh. Afei na mewɔ form 1.

Interviewer: Nti wokɔɔ form 1 no wohwε a SS no εyε different from JSS anaa?

Singer: Oh, SS no deε, εyε very different. In fact...

Interviewer: Aden na εyε different?

Singer: In fact SS no, sε wo antumi antake decisions for your own self a in fact, you will get behind. Wobεba akyire koraa.

Interviewer: Aden na woreka saa?

Singer: Because εho no obiara mbεka nkyere wo deε wobεyε. You have your own self. Deε wopε na woyε. Oh, nti se wo ara woanhu decisions antake the right way a, I mean, you'll mess up things.

Interviewer: Endee meda ase.

Singer: Oh, enye aseda koraa. Bye.

### **English Translation:**

Interviewer: Bra<sup>1</sup>, good evening.

Singer: Good evening.

Interviewer: So what are you called?

Singer: Oh, I'm called Joseph Osei, but most people call me Jola.

Interviewer: So what do you do?

Singer: Oh, in fact I'm a singer. Music is what I'm into.

Interviewer: What sort of songs do you usually sing? For example, do you sing gospel music . . .?

Singer: It's mostly Gospel but with hints of R&B, hip-hop and a lot more, but it's all gospel, in God.

Interviewer: Who's your favorite singer?

Singer: Oh, my favorite is Kirk, who's not in Ghana. But in Ghana, I like Nobel Nketia and others like him.

Interviewer: So how did you spend this Christmas?

Singer: I really celebrated this Christmas. Even though I had *Inspre*<sup>2</sup> rehearsals, I still really celebrated it. By God's grace, we had a wonderful Christmas.

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<sup>1</sup> Bra = short form of brother.

<sup>2</sup> Inspre = Inspirational Youth Choir, a singing group.

Interviewer: What sort of things did you do? Did you go out or stay at home?

Singer: I mean, there were a lot of dinners, I mean, parties, I mean . . .

Interviewer: Did you go for all that?

Singer: My cousins come down, some from France, some from . . . So it was wonderful. We had a lot of fun.

Interviewer: So when do you go back to school?

Singer: We re-open school on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Now you've mentioned it, you've reminded me of my sorrow, but that's okay.

Interviewer: Why? Why are you sad?

Singer: Oh, school is no fun at all.

Interviewer: Why isn't school fun?

Singer: You get sent on errands all the time.

Interviewer: By the seniors?<sup>3</sup>

Singer: Yes, by the seniors.

Interviewer: Do they bother you a lot?

Singer: Yes.

Interviewer: Which form are you in?

Singer: Oh, I'm going to form 1; oh. I'm now in form 1.

Interviewer: So when you went to form 1, did you find SS<sup>4</sup> to be different from JSS?<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Any student in a higher form than a particular student is considered to be a senior to that particular student. There are three forms in the senior secondary school system.

<sup>4</sup> SS = senior secondary school (the equivalent of high school)

<sup>5</sup> JSS = junior secondary school. Three years between class 6 in primary school (equivalent of grade 6 in elementary school) and SS.

Singer: Oh, SS is very different. In fact . . .

Interviewer: Why is it different?

Singer: In fact in SS, if you don't successfully take decisions for your own self, in fact, you will get behind. You will really get back.

Interviewer: Why do you say that?

Singer: Because there, no one tells you what to do. You have your own self. You do what you want. Oh, so if you don't take the right decisions, I mean, you'll mess up things.

Interviewer: Well, thank you.

Singer: Oh, you're welcome. Bye.

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