

Typical Happenings in Rural Areas

English translation:

A: Can you tell me about your friends in Gutu, Masvingo? What do you do when you are free, when you are not doing any work or going to the fields?

B: My friend's name was Alleta Vengai. When we used to go to school, she would come to my house after school and we would read our books and play together. When we finished [reading], we would do something else, hanging out and telling each other stories, and sitting.

A: What else did you do?

B: Sometimes she would help me when I went to fetch water. We would chat along the way and relax. If it was time to cook, we would cook and relax afterwards.

A: Okay. You talked about fetching water. What exactly will you be doing? What is fetching water?

B: We fetch water from the well so there is need to have two people, so that we can pass [the water jug] to each other and also get out of the well without any problem since there is a lot of trees.

A: Okay. So, how far is the well from your house?

B: Ah it is quite distant because water is scarce [in my area].

A: So, is it like at your house you do not have a tap, well or any source of water?

B: In the rural areas, you do not find any tap. Even the wells are hard to find because we have a lot of gum trees. The roots of gum trees take water from the ground such that the wells dry up quickly.

A: So, is it only the girls who go to the well?

B: Some boys do go but they are very few.

A: Why are the few boys who go to the well? Would you know by any chance?

B: I would say boys are often told that household chores are not for boys. It is only meant for girls.

A: Do you think that is the right thing that there is work for boys and work for girls?

B: No, that is not right because we help them with herding cattle sometimes.

A: So, which chores are for boys?

B: Boys usually plough the fields, search for the cattle during the dry season, and herd the cattle during the rainy season.

A: Oh okay. Alright, so you went to primary school at what age?

B: I went when I was 9 years old.

A: Nine years, okay. What did you learn at that time and what kind of sports did you do?

B: We used to play *nhodo* when we were in grade 1.

A: Okay. Can you explain how you play *nhodo*?

B: *Nhodo* can be played by 2 or 3 or 4 players. You take stones and count for example portions of 10 stones. Then you put in hole so that each player should get back those 10 stones, such that whoever does not reach 10 will be defeated by the other player who takes his/her other stones.

A: Mmm. So there is a time for holiday. You know it, right?

B: Yes.

A: Holidays such as Christmas, Easter and the like. Can you tell me what you do in Gutu, your hometown? How do you celebrate Christmas?

B: When we celebrate Christmas, it will be different from the rest of the days. It is a day when Jesus was born so people celebrate and rejoice. People visit each other.

A: Do you eat any food that is different from the food that you eat on a daily basis?

B: Yes, we have such food.

A: What do you usually eat?

B: Food like cakes and rice—it is not usually eaten in the rural areas, and also spaghetti and macaroni.

A: It seems to be a very interesting holiday. Can you tell me about what you like in Gutu? For example, if people ask you what you like in Masvingo, what would you say?

B: I would say before we get our home, in Bikita, I love to see people who will be mining quarry.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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