



Writers' Clubs March -June 2005

Khotso,

Welcome to **Volume I: Bokoro Writers Club Stories** by the students of Bokoro High School, Butha Buthe, Lesotho. The Writer's Club is part of our HL Literacy Program and will draw you into the history and lives of the Basotho people up in the mountains in the north of Lesotho. They are quite wonderful and worthy of your time in reading them. All original spelling and phraseology has been preserved.

Bokoro High School – Twinned with Ridgemont High School, Ottawa

Location: Khukhune, Butha Buthe

Principal: 'M'e Mary Grace Mokefane

Number of Students: 223

Background: Bokoro is located in the village area of Khukhune. It the only high school in the area and is somewhat isolated. Mary Grace Mokefane was made principal of Bokoro High School in 2000-2001. The school had only 65 students enrolled at the time and Mary Grace was transferred from Pitseng to improve the school and draw back all those students from the area that had been sitting at home. Bokoro is unique in that many of the students are older and have subsequently developed strong characters.

Writer's Clubs in each Help Lesotho Twinned school develop and foster literacy skills. Lesotho has a rich oral tradition, as do most African countries.

Congratulations to the Authors and Happy Reading!

Table of Contents

1. My Life After her Death: A True Story, Author Jampolo Daniel Manyooko.....	3
2. I have interviewed my grandfather, Author Sello Maliehe	6
3. One time back, Author Mr Sello Matsoso	7
4. I have interviewed my grandmother who is 78 years old, Author Tefelo	8
5. Long ago, Author Thabang Qophe	9
6. The Bush-Men, Author Mohohla ‘Manioa.....	9
7. My grandfather told me, Author Moliboea Lehaka.....	9
8. The story of our parents, Author Itumeleng Toti.....	10
9. In early years, Author Tsolonyane Malethola	11
10.He started being a shepherd, Author Zariel Letsasa	11
11. My Grandfather, Author Haleborse Lesihla	12
12. The Story about the Mine Worker, Author Nicholas Letsekang Mpotso.....	13
13. In the ancient time, Author Ntlaba Makhetha	14
14. In days of our grandfathers, Author Paul Tsehlana	14
15. When we were young, Author Phosina Motsoari	15
16. I have interviewed my grandmother, Author Mosito Madiehe	16
17. My grandmother was ninety years, Author Mpho Jane.....	17
18. Interview: Grandmother, Author Mpho Mpotjoana	18
19. An interview with my Grandmother, Author Mphonyane Motsikeli	18

1. My Life After her Death: A True Story, Author Jampolo Daniel Manyooko

Form E 2005

I was born at Maseru district at the military hospital called Makoanyane Hospital on 1983. I started up at my Mom's home district Leribe lest my father would harm me for we had some doubts that I might not be his son. I grew up under my grandmother's love and care whom his husband got killed some years back on the second world war. I felt at home there.

My mom used to pay me a visit severally within the months. After three years she bore a baby girl, who became the greatest love of my dad. My mom noticed all that, and I too had an agony that it should be like that. After seven years, I attended school there at Leribe called Saint Denis Primary School. I was good and thought to be genius. I showed up fine marvelous work until the end of the year and I attained the first position.

At the age of eight, doing class 2, my work was not satisfying at all as compared to the previous year. The reason was, I had not adequate food for morning and evenings and that led my downfall. Anyhow, I was still a hard worker and passed well at last.

On 1994, that was when my mom, Mary gave birth to a boy namely Peter. She took me to stay with them at Maseru, ready to be in class three. My mom loved me very much and cared for me. She taught me different things together with my younger sister who seemed to be clever than I was. Among things they taught me, I cannot forget on Sunday serving me Sundays food, the plate contained chicken thigh , rice with tomato sauce, beetroot, gravy and salads. They looked nice and charming. The first thing to taste was carrots salad mixed with mayonnaise. I made mouthful of that salad, I frowned looked around and noticed that everybody was exhilarated by what they are eating. I at last looked at where the door was and at jiffy, I got outside already vomiting. They laughed at me and I was worried for I had the spirit of knowing things which clevers knew better.

At the beginning of the new year's eve I felt I'm a changed somebody. I had a spirit of learning. To myself I said, "I must work hard to the perfection". I felt my work's going to flourish after saying that empowering words. BUT those turned out to be like wishes, I could not ride them on for they were not horses. I started my standard 3 at the military school named Makoamyme Primary School. I was examined with tests of subjects same as I did before but I appeared failing. The teachers there said I suit to be in class one for the level of education of rural is not the same with the urban's . I could not understand that. My mom came and try to show them my work and encouraged that I might cope up as time goes. They refused and wanted me back in class one. Wow! "I'm going to be in the same class with Agnes, my younger sister?" I said worryingly, "No, my son, you may be in the same class but what counts is the standard of your mental capability.

Perhaps I must explain fully why I was born at the military hospital and attended school of military school. The reason was my farther is a soldier. After doing Form C he joined force in 1976. He had relationship with my mom and in 1982 married her and fore him a son whom he and her name him Daniel "Jampolo" in Sesotho", that's me. My Dad was born at the district of Butha-Buthe, village named Ha-Tabolane his father and mother were still alive.

I started standard one there at Makoamyme Primary School with my sister with low esteem. I was so stereotyped in couple of things, more things like, when I was asked to draw the picture of most used transport, I would draw a donkey while the others drew taxis and buses. Laughing, my teacher would implore "How come that you drew a donkey as the most used transport, my boy?" I was afraid to stand up at my chair and again afraid to be roughed by other colleagues but I said to myself "Let me show this teacher who tries to make pupils fun of me, who really am I." I drew donkey because where I stayed are used as main kinds of transport." I started majestically with pride that they see I know what I was talking about ... So I grew up using donkeys as transport because we sometime load mealie meal long way from the mill.
"That's brilliant Daniel, you can sit down."

I grew up, passed all classes that followed until I reach class 6 together with my sister. Still there was not peace between my mom and Dad. My father would come home drunk finding some wrongs my mom committed once we xxx him, the fight broke up just for simple mistake. My mom had no freedom and justice, we all wept and that meant nothing for there was nothing we could do. She would sometimes run away sought for place to hide at the neighbours, we'll see her at the morning. That was what she experience every weekend.

When I was doing standard 6, my attempt to learning decrease and finally suffering covered my bodily throughout. We were staying in the military camp on 1998. I was sixteen, thus, I was able to distinguish between rights and wrongs that is I judged which one is wrong between my mom and dad. It is true that my mom made some mistakes but my dad's were worse than hers.

I was doing standard six with my sister. It was time for elections which I could not understand better at time "Why should there be such things" that was question that I asked myself about political scourges. Even before final election could be announced people were on strike that there are cheating here and there. This started gradually till it had a shape that they don't want to be ruled by the elected person after election were declared. There was a fight, people broke up the supermarket's everything. The peace of people living in Maseru sank.

One morning I remember well that I was dressing ready for embarking to school when soldiers from abroad came. It is said that they had come to build fusion and peace amongst the Basotho nation. That wasn't like they are saying there was a fight all over the country and many died. Our fathers were caught and kept behind the bars. That shook my mom till she had heart attack for the loved his husband and imagined how life would be without him. When this disorder war decrease they were released. My mom continued suffering and she was taken to Rone Hospital there at Maseru. She was treated and stayed at the hospital for several months. We used to go and see how she was doing and she had no sense of living. Later on, she was taken at my father's home district Butha-Buthe. Still her life was on the thin line between life and death. Her sister took her and be under her care and support till she gave her life away. We could not believed it. We sob and mourn for her death and was burried at my father's place. That was the end of Part one. I, my sister and little brother Peter started a new life.

We changed school and stayed with my grandmother and father there at Butha-Buthe. I was doing standard six again because I failed and my sister on next class 7. My mom left us with strong words that on life we must expect both life and death for it is coming for us all and must work hard academically that we accomplish wisely in future.

I showed good work at my new school called Mhatloane Primary School. My sister got second class and went to high school. I was working hard too till standard 7 where I got first class and went to high school at Bokoro High School. I performed hopefully there. I cannot forget my younger brother, he too did well in his learning. We did well in academy and my sister too was on fear that I must catch her up so we had spirit of competition, collobrately we worked and save some tasks we both had during the corse of the week. She did well and passed her form C with second class. There came my time. I started well and during winter, I stayed at school. That was when again I taste the hardship of life because I had responsibility over myself and the money that my dad was sending for me was not satisfying at all. As a man, I undergo all those hardships till examination came. I did well too and second class of which my teacher were not expecting. They were expecting something beyond that. Anyway, that was a pass to another level.

There came another obstacle trying to astray me. My grandmother, my dad's mom send us back to my father for lack support we had on us. She did so hoping that perhaps if we are close to him, he will see our needs. I was going to do form D, 2004 which seemed so hard for my father to prevail paying the fees even before he can attempt. I predicted that from his talkings that it would be hard and difficult to learn that year. He paid the registration fee and was given the prospectus and he saw clearly how much he is going to have to pay.

That year seemed boring to me as it approached June examination because I knew that I didn't belong there because I only paid registration fee. I got expelled and stayed home. I talked to my father about being expelled at school. He did not make any attempt. I entreated him, "Dad, what if you can just have me a transport to go to abroad to find money so that next year I go back to school like other people." Surprising, he did not hesitate, "When do you want to go there," he asked. "Next week, I think". Then he gave me M150.00. I took it with passionately painful heart. I had that paroxym of leaving school at that age.

When the week for my departure arrived, I greet all the member of the family, especially my younger sister and little brother. Their faces exibited that they were not happy with the situation but there was no room for me for time waits for no man.

I left that horrible place full of hatrate with powerful aim that where I'm going, no one will care for me and what I want is known by me only. I took the bus to Butha-Buthe to see one of my mom's sisters son who worked at the contracts at Ganseng. I confrontly told him my problem and felt what I am saying. I slept there and on morning I went to my grandfather where my dad was born and greet them, they were too not happy with the situation but there was nothing for them to do.

I returned to that man I was to tour with him. The next morning we started our journey and arrived at his place at dawn and slept some couple of minutes because he was going to his work. He took me to a place of which where one take the first step, his heart beat violently like errupted volcano. It was a forest like little place, the people living there were of different tribes, Basotho, Mapeli, Mazulu (the Zulus) and many more. What surprised me was that most of them had their front teeth off, perhaps they used in fighting.

For I knew my goal, I started life of those people when cooking they used to buy bones at any butchery with less price and a continue living. After a few days I was their friend and they love me because I was not critisizing the way they are earning their living. After some few days I got work at the certain English woman named Rica Stevenson. She loved me and was worried why should a

young boy like me work. She gave me quite easy work for that reason. The most hateful time during my presence at our place was of light. We had no houses to roof us and our roofs for that matter was the sky. We used furniture, blankets and big plastic to cover during the rainy times and cold. After I worked for a month I bought some fancy cloths I like since I became matured.

My Godsgift friend used to call me and encouraged me with strong words that strengthened me. I really want to thank him, his name was Maama. Anyway, even my sisters called me and knew how I'm living. On September 2004, my grandfather died and I had to be there for his demise. I was very happy to meet one I loved. My father was a little bit changed man. He no longer drinking beer for he had been sick of it.

After that miserable time, I felt lazy to return to work. As I was working on the streets I caught sight of my previous teacher who taught me at Bokoro High School. I went to him and was happy to see me after long. He asked me why did I left school. I told him everything and he felt pity for me and was again worried about me leaving school. He asked me strongly whether I've saved enough from what I have worked and I agreed. Then he promised to do me a favour of talking to his master. He did so and I was admitted for there was still a lot of time left for exams. When exams came, I did well and waltz freely through. My dear sir was very happy who restored my picture the position I could not believe. I passionately and generously want to thank him – Sir Eddie. He brought light into my life and supported me in every aspects. That was when I started being much involved in hip-hop and reggae music which are invented for the sake of injustice and lack of freedom to people like me. I was deeper than the ocean mentally, facially looked ordinarily yet rough. Ahead of me I saw spark of accomplishment and I worked hard to please all people who wished me good luck.

At last I got to form E with the spirit of doing well and with the same force like before. All what I have gone through in life are treasured in my heart and bravely they made me strong man of tomorrow. Now that I am, who am I. I really want to thank those who have contributed to my life especially to my brothers on background, one that I felt this piece of hardship with and those who are still swirling through those binds of life. I mean. "Weapon yourselves for tomorrow might be around your ways. When you have a dream you got to follow that. Make a room in your brain for words said by Martin Luther King."

For I recently learnt it myself that freedom is what is needed by mankind to sustain culture. Not after long you guys will mourn for freedom. Freedom is all about the music one listens to and how one reacts after the rhythm filled the brain. It will be difficult to sleep and learn quantities of poetry. The innovation of rap music brought freedom to everyone who understands it and I'm one of the victims of rap music. Now I'm a free man.

2. I have interviewed my grandfather, Author Sello Maliehe

My grandfather is now old because he is 99 years and his sense of sight is no longer working. So I asked him that how were they living in their times.

My grandfather said they were living in peace and they were helping each other when someone was in the problems.

I asked him that what kind of food they were eating. He told me that they were planting at their fields and they reaped much maize and also they were eating wild animals and green vegetations like “moetse oa pere, thake ea khomo and sempaile “.They had many cattle and they were milking.

I asked him that what kind of the food they were using. My grandfather told me that they were using animal transport. He said where he was living, there were no roads and it was impossible for the road transport to travel in their villages and there were few people had car transport. He said they were using animal transport like horses and donkeys.

He told me that they were using animals skins as their clothes. I asked him how. Then he told me that they were hunting the wild animals after they have killed them, they took their skins and dried them after that they started wearing.

I asked him that were they attending churches. He told me that they were attending it even though there were no people who were ready to read because there were no schools.

I asked him that were they attending schools. He told me that in his age of 6-15 years there were no schools and school started being there when he was 21 years and he did not go to school just because he was already grown up.

I asked him to tell me about his marriage. He told me at that time it was very difficult for Mosotho man to marry because they were afraid to talk to the girls. But for the boy who wanted to marry, they were telling their parents by taking all cattle of the village to the ground to graze. Then his parents will go to the family of the girl he wanted to marry and engaged.

He told me about their happiness they were enjoying. He said they enjoyed happiness nicely because there were no greedy people who liked fighting and when they were happy they show by riding horse singing.

Again he told me that the people were not dying like us who die each and every day. There were no diseases like this we have nowadays and they were respecting each other and everybody who had a baby.

So when I compare our lives with our grandparents’ lives I think this one of us better than that one of our grandparents because we know many things that they could not have known. We know how to write, we know how to speak English and we are educated but they are not.

3. One time back, Author Mr Sello Matsoso

One time back I was very confused about how our grandparents lived in ancient times. However I decided to question my grandfather, Mr John Benet on how life was like in those days. So he told me that people in those years were living dangerously because of rapid conflicts which used to occur among tribes or nations. People were forced to fight even if they do not like. My grandfather also told me that they were using donkeys as the mode of transport and his was taking a long time to reach far places. With the skins of these animals they were making clothes to wear and shoes to put on. However, he honestly told me that they did not know about cars. More so, their foods were senyakamahloana, Mokopu, Mothana-helele and many more others. He again said people were not so

many like us in these days, however, even the way many diseases are killing people now was not common in their times. My grandfather told me that they also were having friends like us and proposing ladies like we do these days. Moreover, my grandfather told me that they were building their shelters with stones and soil mixed with water and make roofs with grasses, doors made up of sticks. He told me about how the environment was so quiet and silent and boring in those years, people were not active like people of today.

4. I have interviewed my grandmother who is 78 years old, Author Tefelo

My grandmother said she got married when she was 22 yrs. Old and her husband was 25 yrs. old. During their time a boy would tell his parents that he wants to marry and the parents will tell him which girl to marry because they were looking for girls who are obeying their elders. So, after she had been chosen, she was happy because she was still loving the guy so it was an enjoyable thing to her.

In their time, they used to cook with firewood and there were no Paraffin, gas and electricity but life was more easy because they did not have to buy, they will just go out and come with firewood or sometimes village people will go to the forest and when they come back they will drink alcohol and eat food then go back home.

She told me that when she was young she was doing nothing, but because her parents were farmers, she tended to be a farmer when she was at her family and she was selling the vegetables as how to get money because her husband was not working.

She did not go to school because schools were not there and in some places where there were, people did not bother themselves because they were interested in farming and in hunting.

She used to go to the church as she was a Roman Catholic Christian and she said it was more enjoyable because Christians of their time were filled with holy spirit and faith to their God.

Because their parents used to hunt, they were eating meat, either fried or roasted one because there were so many animals in that time and the wild vegetables too were many and there were other source of their food.

In state of using cars as their mode of transport, they used horses and donkeys because there were no good roads and the cars were not yet there.

An enjoyable time in her life was when she was a still a girl because they used to sleep together with village girls and some young women and she enjoyed it a lot.

Even though their life was difficult because there were no cars and they were taking a long time to reach where they were going to. Availability of schools helped many people as to make them to know about technology and all important things as to make life easy and more interesting.

5. Long ago, Author Thabang Qophe

7 May 2005

Form E

Long ago our grandparents were living a different life to the one who were living today. My grandfather told me that during their time children were respecting their parents, therefore their behaviour were good every time, that is why they were able to reach the highest age. However my mistake is the girl have baby without father they kill a girl and even that the baby that is why many people have to have baby without their father, unlike children of nowadays are not respecting their parents what is why we saw a dangerous disease such as AIDS or HIV killing many people. However my grandfather told me that they ate green vegetable and meat for the animal and clothes which are made of animal skin like shoes, blankets, herds and others they use horses for long transport and their feet. On that time the school were not there he told me what is important to them is to rear the animals. They teach the boys how to work and respect other people. When times goes everything change our traditional disappeared freedom were not answered to the people of nowadays. AIDS is now killing many people, we buried people day by day.

6. The Bush-Men, Author Mohohla 'Manioa

Long ago in Lesotho, there were some bushmen or Baroa. These kind of people were living in the caves hunting wild animals like hares and getting carrots from the soil. They were using "segha" for hunting. Their main food was meat. And they were using river water for drinking.

Bushmen were of medium height, short but not too short, they were having shortness which was allowing them to stay comfortable under the caves.

As the time goes on, the declaration or scarcity of water came in Lesotho which decreases the number of bushmen whereby they died of thirstiness. The bushmen painted the rocks at Ha-Baroa and in Sehlabathebe national Park which are now attracting tourists to visit our country. Lesotho is now getting foreign exchange when tourists come to the country.

7. My grandfather told me, Author Moliboea Lehaka

My grandfather told me that life was difficult long ago because of many wars. Many people we die by that time. There was no peace by that time. He said by that time food are many there were no hunger. He said that they eat nyeko and drink leting. Leting is made of by sorgum. It is a beer. By that time there were many animals. Among them, some of used as the transport. Animals like horses, donkeys and mules are used as the transport because villages were near mountains. So no road or car at that time.

As he told me life was difficult by that time, he said that no shops where they bought clothes so they killed animals and made clothes with that skins. About church he said they did not went to church because there were no church by that time. They went to Molutsaaneng where they pray. Molutsaaneng is the place where its only gathers to go and pray. It find on the mountains. He said

there were no school by that time so they knew nothing about school but they used cercumsation as their school. There boys and girls taught how to role the family.

About his age he told me he is 85 years old. He said he have 85 because since he was young, he obeyed his parents not only his parents but everybody who are older than him. And he told me that he think he will be alive until he no longer did everything and no longer walk. Now he is blind. About jobs he told me that he was the farmer because he had many animals so he plough with animals in order to satisfied his family. He told me he had three children both are boys two were dead.

As he told me about this wedding he said because there no freedom by that time, his parents overuled his rights. By the time when he want to marry because they choose the girls which they like without talk with him. But he obeyed his parents and respect them. He married that girl even now he stay with her.

As he told me about the happiest time, he laugh first then he said even today I remember when we play seliculion. Seliculion is the game which played by girls and boys they sing very nice and dance that game is very interesting.

8. The story of our parents, Author Itumeleng Toti

Interviewed from: 100 years grandmother
Interviewed by Itumeleng Violet Toti on 02 May 2005
From: Tsime Ha Motsei Botha Bothe
Land: Lesotho

I interviewed my grandmother about their life. She told me that she born “ka lerole”. She does not know the date and the year but it was after the first world war. She told me that all the man on those days were called the “soldier” because they were all taken to the war.

Apart from man being taken to the war, each family was to have many children so that if the family can happen to be attacked they may fight for their families.

She told me that Lesotho get independent in 1966 and before that they were under boers and Basotho people were ill-treated and others were killed if they were coming with the idea that they were to be given freedom.

She told me also that they respected and liked their cultures unlike these days, where we said to have freedom as children. They were also believing in God that’s why they are living for a longer period of time.

She also explained to me that they were co-operative they normally say “kopano ke matla bana ba thari e utso letsoele le beta poho Basotho” which mean “unite is power “
She gave me this example if one was poor and did not have cattle, when it was time for ploughing they worked together to plough all the fields at the place so that all of them will survive.

My grandmother added that they we put on the clothes for Sesotho namely “Thethana, mose oz khomo and tseea” which is different from how we dress this days.

9. In early years, Author Tsolonyane Malethola

“Grandfather’s History” In early years life was very interesting because there was a place called “Thakaneng” where boys and girls were to sleep. These children were sleeping there because in those years it was not good for a teenage girl and boys to sleep in the same house with their parents because it was said that by so doing “Bahloba Khoale”. And in those years it was nice because young children were not getting involved in sexual activities before they get married like as it is the case these years.

In our early years the food that we were eating was not good compared to this days, because we were eating food like “nyekoe”, this is where by sorghum, bean and pumpkin are cooked together and “setjetsa” is where by pumpkin is cooked together with maize meal. Also we were eating dried meat poured with salt to prevent worms. Again the clothes they wore at that time were so poor because they were putting on clothes like “Thethana” as dresses and men were putting on “tsea” as their trousers. Talking of mode of transport, it was very poor because they were to use horses and donkeys to transport some goods, which is not the case compared to these days.

At that time they did not attend school and they did not go to church because there were no schools at that time. In addition to that, boys were forced to go for initiation schools where they are going to be taught about culture, and the same thing applied to the girls even though it was in teen cases.

The work that they did was to look after the animals or else they would take the tools and go to the fields to plant some vegetables. Then they would sell to other people who would give them money. Apart from that they would fasten other people wires so that they can pay them.

The happiest time in my life was when my parents were allowing to be involved in marriage. But what I can realize is that life today is better because there are cars to transport goods, there are good clothes to put on, also there are schools and churches for people to pray. Live in the past was very, very difficult compared to these days even though children were well behaved.

10.He started being a shepherd, Author Zariel Letsasa

I would like to interview the shepherd and ask 10 questions

1. When did you start being a shepherd ?
2. Did you look after your father’s animals or were you hired to other people with animals ?
3. Did they pay you with money or the animals you were looking after ?
4. For how many years had you being a shepherd ?
5. What do you work for this years ?
6. Who looks after your animals when you still hired ?
7. What first thing you do when other animals are missing ?
8. Did you go to school ?
9. For what good reason did you decide to have animals ?
10. How do you protect your animals from many kinds of diseases ?

He started being a shepherd when he was very young. Mr. Tieho started being a shepherd when he was twelve years of age. He was looking after the animals from the people with them because his

father did not have them at first which means he was hired. He was paid with the cow at the end of the year or sometimes with five goats or five sheep. Mr. Tieho had been shepherd for seven years and this year is his eighth year hired as a shepherd and this year he is not working to be paid with animals but to be paid with some money which he will buy some things that will help him.

He said that his animals that he is paid with are on his younger brother's shoulders to take responsibility of seeing that they are all surviving and he said he did not go to school because his parents are so very poor to send him to school to be educated.

The reason for Mr. Tieho to rear the animals is because he did not go to school to be learned so that he can get a kind of work which needs educated people so he said the life is very difficult to unlearned people to get some jobs to fight against poverty. This is why he rear the animals so that he can kill one of the sheep, eat it with his parent or sell the meat to earn some money.

He said to be a shepherd is very difficult work because every time he must count the animals before they can be driven in the kraal in evening and in the morning before going to the fields to graze and to check them every day if that they are still living well or others are sick and he said sometimes it might happen that some animals are missing, so he must make sure that they are all together before going home. Again when other animals are attacked by disease, he must invite the doctor of animals to have some of the chemical to fight against the disease.

11. My Grandfather, Author Haleborse Lesihla

My grandfather is 93 years old right this year of 2005. He has been living in the area of Tsimbe in the district of Botha-Bothe and his wife died when she was 88 years old.

My grandfather is oftentimes friendly to me and to others, if someone asks for help my grandfather would just assist where he can be able to help someone in problem. I have not seen my grandfather frown to me or to others he is always friendly to everyone even if I misbehave he would just make me aware of the misbehaviour, he would not frown instead he would tell me to keep within the bounds of reason. My grandfather is also kindly.

Moreover, my grandfather likes to tell me stories, most of things I liked from him are the stories because the stories make me to learn more and more about what had happened in those years back. My grandfather by telling me the stories this helps me to gather more knowledge about real life.

Furthermore, he is a guider, my grandfather knows how to guide someone because he experienced life, so he knows how to have a better life. He usually tells me to do very well in school so as to have bright future, he also told me to learn to forgive by practising forgiveness. He likes to advise people to develop cooperation so as to have a sense of unity and develop friendship and tolerance for others.

My grandfather even told me how he got to be in this years, he said that if children respects their parents God will make them live longer, so he got to be in this year because he believed that God has made him to live longer by giving his parents a proper respect.

During my grandfather's boyhood the environment was good because there were not too many cattle and sheep compared to now. Today's environment is bad as there are no longer the attractive plants because they have been destroyed by too many cattle and sheep.

My grandfather used to travel for long distances using the donkeys and horses but now people are using cars to travel for long distances. And they used to wear animals' hides for clothing while these days we are using clothes made up of cloth even though some are made up of animals' hides they have been mixed with some materials to look attractive.

Developing questions

1. How was the environment in those days?
2. How did you get to be old?
3. How did you guide children?
4. What clothing did you wear?
5. What did you use to travel for long distances?

12. The Story about the Mine Worker, Author Nicholas Letsekang Mpotso

One day I was with Mr. Paul. He is my neighbour who is working at the mines. Mr. Paul said that he wakes up very early at about 4:30 in the morning, when he left his house at 5:00 he use the bus to go to work. He arrives at work at 6:30 because he travel a kilometre from home to the work. When he arrive at work he just put on the clothes for working and start to work at seven o'clock. He said they use Makalanyane (something which they use to go down to the mines). When they go down where they are going to work on their work, no one is helping others. He/she just do his/her work and rest until the time for going out has come. They just work for seven hours before they can get the lunch. They get the lunch at one o'clock when they come out of the mine. After he eats he will come another day means the following day at seven. The mine has very bad injuries because sometimes the rubble can fall on other people and they can die. Mines are the very dangerous works and he said he feel very lonely when he is separated from his family because he love to be with his wife every time and love his children. He said he took a long time at work because at home is too far so he spent a lot of money on transport. He went home after two months when he has a lot of money. At the end of the month, he wait for a week before he can get salary. But he did not tell me how much he get.

English story about what happen in my family

Many years ago there was a fight in my grandparents' house or family because of the field, before my father married when he was still attending school. My grandmother said it was in 1979 when the fight started after the owner of the field died. When he died he gave a field, the big one among all the fields he gave to my grandfather. Then the elder son of Mr. Mpotso came and fight my grandfather about the big field which is given to my grandfather. It was the field which produced a lot of maize and it was near the river. The elder son with a big head went and plough when he was still ploughing my grandfather came with his people and they fight against the elder one with his son and he ran away and go to the chief and said how can the properties being given to the younger son yet even he is the elder one. On that time is like the elder son was lazy and my grandfather was strong. Always he was with his father doing the work so the father saw that the younger one is the one who is working hard for him so he decided to give him the field which produce good crop. When they were at the

Chief the younger said,” The field I have been given by my father because you, you’re always with your better half you do not want to work for him and still looking for his properties because you are the older one in my father’s house.” In Sesotho, the elder son should be the one who will take all his father’s properties.

13. In the ancient time, Author Ntlaba Makhetha

Form E

English

9 May 2005

In the ancient time our grandparent were living a different life to this one which we are living nowadays. My grandmother told me that during their time children were respecting their parents. That is why they were able to reach the highest age, unlike now children are not respecting their parents and that is why God is punishing them with the killing disease such as AIDS/HIV. However, she said even this fashion cloths were not there during that time, instead they wore clothes which were made of grass and animal skin for examples blankets, shoes, they know them when the English people arrived here in Lesotho. She said they were eating the natural food such as wild vegetables, maize, sorghum, fruits and animals. They were using horse and their feet as transport. Schools were not there but they had an initiation school where boys and girls were taught how to work and to respect other people. When times goes on things changed and out traditional disappeared.

14. In days of our grandfathers, Author Paul Tsehlana

What kind of food did you eat ?

What kind of pots did you use ?

Were you using wood or paraffin ?

How did you used to produce food ?

In days of our grandfathers, there was no improvement like during these days but they were interested to produce food like maize, beans, sorghum and pumpkin. In short, when they prepared this food to be ready for eating, meal was being added with pumpkin. They put it in pot for sometimes after the boiling, you could stir to mix them together then it would be ready for eating. They called it (seketsa) in Sesotho.

As we know well that clay soil is the soil which can stick together with its particles, they used clay soil to make the pots because when the fire hits it, it becomes harder and it will be possible to contain the liquid things.

How rich were they ! They had many animals like cows, horses, donkeys and sheep. As the cows are the matter of Basotho, they were being used to plough in the fields as Basotho wanted to produce food for themselves. Also Basotho took the animal to make different activities like paying Lobola when their children got married.

Also animals like horses and donkeys were used to collect the wood from the forests while horses were used to transport the people especially when man were sent by the chief.

As our grandparents were so rich but they did not know anything about the money which our life is depending on. Their life was on agricultural production.

To put everything in the nutshell, their support that they were living in peace because there were no criminals.

15. When we were young, Author Phosina Motsoari

Form E

English

I would like to interview the grandparents.

Questions

1. Bopueto bonne bo le joang mehleng ea lona?
2. Le ne le ja lijjo life?
3. Le ne le apara joang ?
4. Hobaneng ha le ne le qobelo a lio nyaloa ?
5. Le ne le ea ngakeng na ?
6. Le ne te sebelisa lipalangoang life ha le eta ?
7. Na AIDS e ne e se nise e le teng ?
8. Na le ne le kena sekolo ?
9. Bopuelo ba ka jeno ha bo tsoang le ba khale ?
10. Le ne le itsoere joang ?

Story

When we were young our life was nice because this many things which is happening were not there, things like fashion was not there because we were wearing our traditional clothes which were the same. We were eating the food which can protect our body from many diseases.

We were wearing clothes which were made up with the skin of the animals. Girls were wearing thithaha and the dress which made up with hide of animals.

We were forced to marriage because our parents said that they want the cattle. We were using the horses for transport when we go too far or when we took the long journey.

At that time we did not know AIDS because it was not there. No we did not even went to the doctor because we did not sick because of the food which we were eating.

There were some who attend the school in those days because our parents have lack of money. This life for today is different from the life for the last days because now many things happen and people are killing each other with the guns and people are killed by HIV/AIDS which were not there at that time. Only thing is that the chiefs were killing each other because of jealous. Now those tings are not here because there is freedom between the kings and they are friendly,

We were behaving well because at that time you did not see the girls with boys kissing each other like nowadays and the girls were not having the child and there were no many people who were killed by many diseases especially AIDS. And that time we were respecting our parents now children were not respecting their parents because of freedom which is used and you will see many girls with children and they kiss boys. Where their parents because of women's rights.

16. I have interviewed my grandmother, Author Mosito Madiehe

Form D

History: "An Interview"

31-03-05

My grandmother is now 88 years old. I have interviewed her and she tried so much to give me knowledge about life in last times ago and now I became to know everything.

I asked her how they were living, so she said that they were living in peace and they were helping each other in different ways. They were having many animals which they were using them to plough the fields but now we are using tractors to plough and we are spending much money on that.

She told me about the food they were eating, she said that they were hunting so they were eating meat. Also they were eating vegetables like "papasane, moetse-oa-pere and leshoabe" So all this are wild vegetables. Because they were ploughing at the fields, they were able to get maize in order to survive.

I questioned her about the clothes they were wearing, she said that in their times there were no types of clothes like this ones we are using now but they were using clothes made up of animal skins. The boys were wearing "Tsea" and girls were wearing "thethana". And all this were made up of animal skins. As they were hunting, they were using that skins of those animals they were hunted.

I also questioned her about the transport they used, she told me that in those times there were no transports like busses, taxis, trains and aeroplane so when they were travelling from place to place they were using horses and donkeys. But now we are using those taxis, buses, trains, and aeroplanes to travel from place to place and it causes us a lot of money.

She also told me how they behaved, she said that the behaviour was in good condition, both girls and boys, there were some laws made for girls and boys in order to behave well. She said that girls and boys were separated, there was no time for them to be together. And there was no prostitution but now girls and boys are sexual active and girls are becoming pregnant daily, but this was not there in their times.

I asked her if they were attending churches and school, so she told me that they were not attending churches because there were no churches at that time but if they were wanting to pray they were just praying at their home in their house. She also said that there were no school at that time because there were no teachers to teach because none of them was educated.

I also questioned her about her marriage. She told me that she got married when she was having twenty four years old, really she was old enough. She said that before she got married there was an

agreement between her parents and her husband's parents about their marriage so her marriage was so interesting because they even had something like a feast which is called "Bohali". But now girls and boys are marrying each other beside parent's agreement and their marriage becomes boring.

She told me about an interesting times, as to enjoy, girls were gathering together somewhere in one house, that place was called "Thakaneng" In that house there were doing everything together, freely, because there would not be any parents whom they can fear so it was a great advantage to them. Same thing applies to the boys, even them were having a special time like that.

Life now is much better than that of our grandparents, the world has now progressed. Now we are having many types of transport, we have machines like computers, we have cell phones and we can communicate with another person overseas. Now we have schools and people are being educated. Really life now is interesting.

17. My grandmother was ninety years, Author Mpho Jane

Form D

Interview

My grandmother was ninety years who told me that at old days there was a peace among them. Their life was easy when comparing with nowadays. No diseases like AIDS at old days.

They reared the animals like donkeys, cattle, sheep, goats and others. They use horse for transport because at that time there was no buses like now. They wore clothes made up of skin animals. Girls wore "Thethana" made up of stem of the plants while boys wore Tsea made of the blankets.

Apart from there, the thieves were not there because everyone has got their own. They use to cook the different kinds of food which we did not know because we say it is out of our time. They use the vegetable from the fields like papasane, thokojane and other many more. This vegetables help them to be healthy because it kills the diseases. The other one was Nyekoe Seghghabola and senkhoane.

About the marriage she said she was married when she was fifteen years old. Before marriage you must be coming from Basotho's school (circumcision) either a boy or a girl. Then is not you who choose the one you want. Your parents chose the best and respectable family and chose. Lebola (bohali) must be paid before you get married. It must be sixteen cows, horse, ten sheep and a hoe.

At that time, they use clay soil as a soap to wash. It was a good soap for them because they did not spent any money to buy. Also they use clay soil for many purpose like making maritsoana and flower pot. Sometimes they use a grass called (Ishi) to make moseme, sethebe, hats, and seroto. Nowadays no where you can see.

At that time no one was educated like now. In a district, there was some few schools.. The only one who was education was only from the Royal Family. Others may did only two or three classes. They did not like schools. They like only the animals, they look after them at the mountains even at home.

Long time ago there was once the short people living in the cave. They build their houses there. They ate other people if you can pass nearby. They called the cannibals baroa. They ate people without cooking.

There were no churches and schools. No priests because the people of that time were not educated. They knew nothing about the priests. They made their own God, they prayed “tlatamacholo”.

They taught how to behave. They help their children busy telling them the stories “tsomo”. They did not eat some of the food like eggs. Boys knew that they must know how life goes and went up the mountains for hunting.

18. Interview: Grandmother, Author Mpho Mpotjoana

I have interview with my grandmother to tell me more about how was life at first.

The first life was so interesting on our side just because at first there were no diseases which were killing many people. It is because of this, the girls were to play their games eg. Mantloane, Liketo etc. Even the boys were to play their games eg. Segatamajoang. But nowadays boys and girls are doing what they are not to do. They are having sex before marriage and this causes AIDS and they are killed before they can do anything good in their future.

There was no transport like the buses, but we were using donkey, mule, horses for transport and to carry maize, wheat, beans etc. after harvesting and we carry them to home.

And there were no schools and we were not worried about to write anything such as letters. But by amazing if farmer want to read his flock, he was to use the stone by this way. When the flock return to pasture, he was to stand near the kraal taking stone. Then the sheep/goats will enter one by one. When the first sheep enter he threw a first stone until he finish. If he want to know if they are still in a good mud, when he work up, he will stand near the kraal, then he will throw first stone and one sheep out until he is satisfied.

And life was very nice because there was no famine because one person is having a lot of food he was to share to the poor. And the food was eaten was this (potele, nykoe, seketsa) etc. They were nice food which you can forget if you were there at that time. The clothes were made of leather of cows etc. Such clothes was (thitliang)

Traditional houses were made up of stone which mixed with soil and cow’s waste. Their roof was made up of long, strong sticks and long grass on top. This grass called (qokoa) which is used to cover the house.

In marriage there was thing to be done before. If boy want to marry he was to wake up in the morning and go to the pasture with all cows. Then he will return in the evening. This is called (horaka moritsoana) in Sesotho. Then his parents will choose her girl his to marry. And this girl should be still a virgin and is good girl.

In other side, if that girl can refuse, her relatives will force her to be married by this way. They will tie her on the finger with rope which is called (Lesika) and it will cause her to agree because of pain.

19. An interview with my Grandmother, Author Mphonyane Motsikeli

In the past, the people lived a very tough life, but that is according to my opinion. The way in which my grandmother explains the situation of the past, it seems to her that it was very enjoyable. I also agree that it was enjoyable to those individuals whom lived during that particular period.

I was told that the way in which people conducted themselves, are far different, from the way people of today carry themselves. The people that existed in the past really did respect each other, especially the adults. I have also realized that, the women during the past were more respected than that of today. Although it is not appropriate to compare, but it is.

Most of the lifestyles of the past, is somehow different from today's lifestyle, but not totally different. The people of the past were not very cruel towards each other. I somehow admire their behaviour.

On my conclusion, I would like to say, it was a great pleasure having an interview with the old person. To somehow reflect on how we should conduct ourselves as youth.