

Children of Zimbabwe - A short drama to illustrate the lives of schoolchildren in Zimbabwe.

5 children are needed to play the roles of the students in school. The Narrator could be taken by another child or by the Leader. Children 1 and 5 are new pupils.

NOTE: 3 cards could be prepared with the words: Love, Peace and Reconciliation written on them for the conclusion of the drama, in order to discuss their meanings.

Narrator(or Leader): The scene is a high school in Zimbabwe, where most of the children speak Shona. Shona is the language that most Zimbabweans speak. In this short play some new pupils have just started at the school.

[**Child 1** comes down the corridor and meets a group of Shona-speaking pupils (**children 2, 3 and 4**) who are older than her. She greets them in Shona.

Child 1: Kwaziwai! (kwuz – WHY)

Child 2: Are you new here?

Child 1: Yes. I'm so excited to be at school.

Child 3: Haven't you been to school before?

Child 1: No. I had to care for my brother and sister after my mother died. But now we are all living with my uncle and aunt and I can come to school.

Child 4: I didn't come to school until I moved from my village to the city. It was too far to walk every day and I had to help my mother to grow food for us. She had no money for the school fees. Now we live with my grandparents and their church is paying for us to come to school. I am so happy to be here!

Narrator: Another girl approaches the group.

Child 5: (*smiling*) Salibonani! (sah-li-bo-NA-nee)

Child 2: E-ei what are you saying?

Child 3: We don't understand you, can you speak in Shona?

Child 5: Oh no. I am from Matebeleland. I speak Ndebele. (n-de-BEEL-ee)

Child 2: What? (*Speaking in a snooty way*) We are in Harare my dear, if you don't speak Shona we aren't going to talk to you.

Child 4: In my village some people speak another language as well as Shona. But we are all Zimbabweans. Remember that in our country we speak so many different languages, but we can still be friendly!

Child 2: (*to Child 5*): I'm sorry. Are you new to this school, too?

Child 5: Yes, I am. I'm so glad to be able to keep on studying. I want to be a doctor and find a cure for AIDS. My mother is very ill with that and we have to take care of her.

Child 4: I want to learn other languages and help people to understand each other.

Child 2: I like doing art and wish I could have my own art studio one day!

Child 3: Let's all be friends and learn from one another. (*They all link arms together.*)

Child 1: I'm glad we can be friends and that we can all come to school and learn. (*They walk away with arms still linked together.*)

Narrator: These children have shown love, peace and reconciliation (*Show the cards*) - with no discrimination in any way, even in the way we use our languages. We are all one family and all God's children. How can we all show love and compassion? (*Let the children suggest what actions they would like to take.*)