

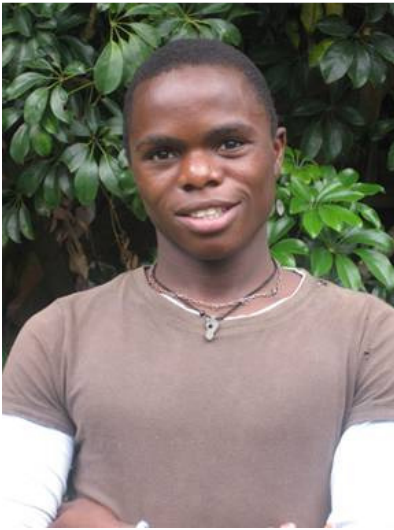
Three Grade nines

1. Emmanuel Mulenga is stretching out, getting tall. He has a sort of “duh” personality—always the last one to catch on to a joke. He’s a good athlete, but needs to “wake up” if he expects to graduate from high school.
2. Keith Chimuka is a short small fellow, quiet, inclined to get in trouble at school. Silent water runs deep.
3. Mike Siamusa is weak in school, low self esteem, poorly motivated. He is a good kid, quiet, reserved. One of the few who will wash dishes without being asked.



Five grade tens

1. Mike Chimuka gets A for Effort. He is not academically talented, but he earns decent grades by hours and hours slogging over books while the rest are watching TV or sleeping. He is honest, always neat, every hair in the right place. His wardrobe is perfect—everything folded or hung just so. He will take on jobs none of the others will touch, like helping change diapers and bathe babies—Kathi’s hero. He is a small fellow with a splendid muscleman physique in miniature.
2. Wezi is spiritual, charming, positive, honest, athletic, popular, well-behaved. He’s got it all together. He is not a clown, but his *blythe spirit* and relaxed, chirpy personality infects those around him with chuckles and grins. When everyone else says “amen” in church, he sings it—“Amennnnnn!” He is one of the top schoolboy soccer goalkeepers in the country, once coming second in a national competition. He follows British soccer clubs on TV—a strong fan of Arsenal even though the rest of the guys in our house support Chelsea. So he’s the centre of noisy arguments and teasing.
3. Gerald is the family singer. Gerald has personality and behaviour issues related to his addiction to marijuana. He has an unsteady reputation in school. I sometimes wonder if he will ever graduate. His heart is good, and his singing is sweet. If he could overcome his addictions he might be a professional musician some day.



4. Misheck is a handsome confident fellow, and powerful athlete. Some think he could become a professional soccer player. He also has a sharp intelligent mind, and I'd rather see him become a doctor. Like many athletic heroes, girls adore Misheck, and he got one of them pregnant. In Africa such an event results in family conferences and claims for damages. He got fined K2,000,000, about \$450, and has worked every holiday for a year and a half to raise the money to pay for his baby. Traditionally the baby is now his, and he is willing to bring it here and keep it himself—that's the way it's done in Tongaland. However the girl's family seems to have fallen in love with the infant, and have promised to keep little "Elvis" till Misheck finishes school and can better afford to care for his child.

5. We once had three kids named "Gift", so this Gift became "Small Gift".

No more!

He's a huge, big-boned fellow at that surprised, clumsy stage when he's trying to get used to his size. He's a quiet guy, a good listener and observer, honest, reliable, sensible, conservative, self-controlled, and tops his class academically. When he does decide to speak, you can tell he's thought about it first. In our house he is probably the one "Most Likely to Succeed".

