

HIDDEN POTENTIAL

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CAST

The Narrator

Naomi – shy student

Wemimo – Naomi’s friend

Joe –classmate tending to be a bully

Angelina – hardworking classmate

Phillip – choleric classmate

Bukky– Naomi’s classmate

Mrs. Ayoola – Naomi’s teacher

ACT I

Scene 1

Joe runs from stage right to stage left. He then runs back to stage right. As he is running back, something falls out of his pocket but he doesn’t notice it. Angelina walks from stage left to stage right. She sees the object that has fallen and picks it up. She then continues on her way.

Scene 2

It is a classroom scene. There are two tables facing each other, and six chairs. Joe, Naomi, and Wemimo are at one table while Philip, and Bukky are at the other table. There is a sheet of A3 paper on each table. Wemimo is writing on one while Philip and Bukky are taking turns to write on the other one. Mrs. Ayoola is at one side watching the students from a distance and writing in a notebook.

Joe: Naomi, where is my bakogan?

Naomi: I don’t know where it is.

Joe: What do you mean you don’t know where it is? I left it on the table before going for break. I left you in class, and I met you in class. I am not sure you even went out for break.

Naomi: I went out for break, but I didn’t see your bakogan. You took it when you were going out.

While Joe and Naomi are talking, Angelina walks into class, goes to meet Mrs. Ayoola before going to her seat. She sits down beside Bukky.

Joe: If I took it, why would I be looking for it?

Naomi: I don’t know.

Angelina: What’s the problem?

Joe: Naomi took my bakogan.

Angelina: But you’re not supposed to bring it to school.

Joe: That’s none of your business.

Angelina: Well, since it is none of my business, I guess you don’t need to know where it is.

Joe: What do you mean?

Mrs. Ayoola: You have two minutes more to work on the chart. Remember to select the person who will present your work on behalf of the group.

Angelina ignores Joe and focuses on what her group is doing. Joe and Naomi face Wemimo.

Narrator: Fortunately for Naomi and Joe, Wemimo had already put a few points down. Naomi gave some suggestions within the two minutes remaining, but refused to present on behalf of her group. Phillip presented on behalf of his group. *(The students mime the actions.)*

ACT II

Scene 1

Wemimo, Naomi, Angelina, Phillip, and Bukky are talking at the playground.

Wemimo: Naomi and I talked about handcrafts yesterday. It was interesting.

Phillip: Did you know that I won a prize for a painting I did last year?

Bukky: Yes, you have told us about it before.

Angelina: I can't draw, but I appreciate artwork.

Wemimo: I wasn't talking about paintings. I was talking about things like knitting and crochet. Naomi, tell us about it.

Naomi: Well, first I'd like to say that paintings could be used as a design for other artwork. Once you put a grid on your painting, you can use that pattern for knitting, embroidery or mosaic.

Bukky: What do you mean by 'grid'? *(They all leave stage as Naomi answers the question.)*

Narrator: Naomi answered Bukky's question and then went on to talk in depth about her hobby. Her classmates were fascinated by what she said.

Scene 2

They are all in class seated at their tables. Mrs. Ayoola is standing in front of them.

Mrs. Ayoola: We will be having a mini speech competition at the end of this term. The best three performances will get a prize. The best two students will represent the class in the interclass speech competition next term. We are looking for two people to represent the school in a competition coming up at the end of the second term. The competition is not compulsory, and you can talk on any topic of your choice. You are to talk for between three and five minutes.

The students talk among themselves as they leave the stage.

Scene 3

Narrator: Sixteen students entered the competition. Only nine students did not bother to register. Wemimo encouraged Naomi to enter the competition. After thinking about it carefully, Naomi decided to talk about taking a holiday in Jamaica. A few weeks later all the students were seated listening to their classmates give their presentations. *(Angelina comes out to the front of the class miming her speech.)* One by one, the students gave their short speeches. At last, Naomi gave her speech. *(Naomi comes out and mimes her speech)* She was confident as she spoke. After Naomi, Phillip spoke. *(Phillip comes out and mimes his speech.)* The last person to speak was Joe. *(Joe comes out to mime his speech.)* He spoke loudly and clearly, but he forgot what he wanted to say and had to sit down without completing his speech. *(Joe sits down as everyone discusses.)* A few minutes later, Mrs. Ayoola made the announcement they were all waiting for.

Mrs. Ayoola: Well done, everyone. We have three winners. In third position, we have Naomi. In second position, we have Phillip, and the winner is Angelina.

They all rejoice. Naomi is surprised but happy. They all bow and leave stage talking.

