

Beatrice's Goat

K-3

**Written by Page McBrier
Illustrated by Lori Lohstoeter**

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Story Summary

More than anything, Beatrice wants to be a schoolgirl. But in her small African village, only children who can afford uniforms and books can go to school. Beatrice knows that with six children, her family is much too poor to pay for these things. Beatrice receives a wonderful gift from people far away. This gift of a goat will help Beatrice's dream come true. Beatrice's goat, Mugisa, will help other families fulfill their dreams also.

Objectives

1. The children will develop an understanding of differences between educational opportunities available to children in various parts of the world.
2. The children will develop an understanding of Heifer Project and its contributions to poor families in the world.
3. The children will develop sensitivity to differences in the responsibilities children have in different parts of the world.
4. The children will develop an understanding of how one act of kindness can impact the lives of many.

Before viewing the video

Tell the children that the video they will be seeing is a true story of a girl whose life was changed by the kindness of others. Locate Uganda on a classroom map and have a book about Uganda available for reference. Tell the children to look at the illustrations as they view the video and think about how the African village children are similar and different from them. Initiate a discussion about how they think a goat or other livestock might be helpful to a poor family. Have the children talk about the things they do during the day from the time they wake up until the time they go to sleep. Ask them to think about how a day is spent in the African village as they view the video. Information about Heifer Project International can be obtained from their website, www.heifer.org. The class will be able to learn how donations from this organization have helped many families throughout the world who were impoverished.

Questions to ask after viewing the video

1. How did Beatrice spend her days before Mugisa came to them?
2. Why did Beatrice think she would never be able to go to school?
3. At first, why wasn't Beatrice excited about the gift of a goat?
4. What did the family need to do to prepare for this gift of a goat?
5. Beatrice worked harder than ever for the next few months. What were the new jobs she had?
6. Beatrice named her goat Mugisa? What does this name mean? Do you think it was a good name?
7. What were the first gifts that Mugisa brought to the family?
8. How does Beatrice help Mugisa take care of the two kids?
9. How did Mugisa's milk help Beatrice and her family?
10. Beatrice is counting the money she earns from Mugisa's milk. How does she plan to help her family with this money?
11. Mama has a surprise for Beatrice after counting the money. How does Beatrice become the lucky one?
12. How will Mugisa's kid help Beatrice's family?

Activities

1. Have the children write stories about what their daily life would be like growing up in an African village. Include drawings to illustrate what their room and home are like now and what it might be like in Beatrice's village.
2. Develop a chart with the class that demonstrates the ongoing benefits of livestock in sequential steps. For example, start with a goat that gives milk, gives birth to other goats, gives milk, and generates income for household needs. Do this for the other types of livestock that Heifer Project International distributes.
3. Create a diorama of an African village with typical huts and animals that provide sustenance for the families.
4. Prepare a bulletin board that uses various textures to illustrate a village scene in **Beatrice's Goat**. The children should gather materials that can be used for the huts, Mugisa, the school uniforms, cooking utensils, and school supplies.
5. Write a story about a simple act of kindness that each child has done and how it was helpful to someone else.