

DIRTY WATER

Other books in the series

Filthy the fly

Wally the worm

I had a flower

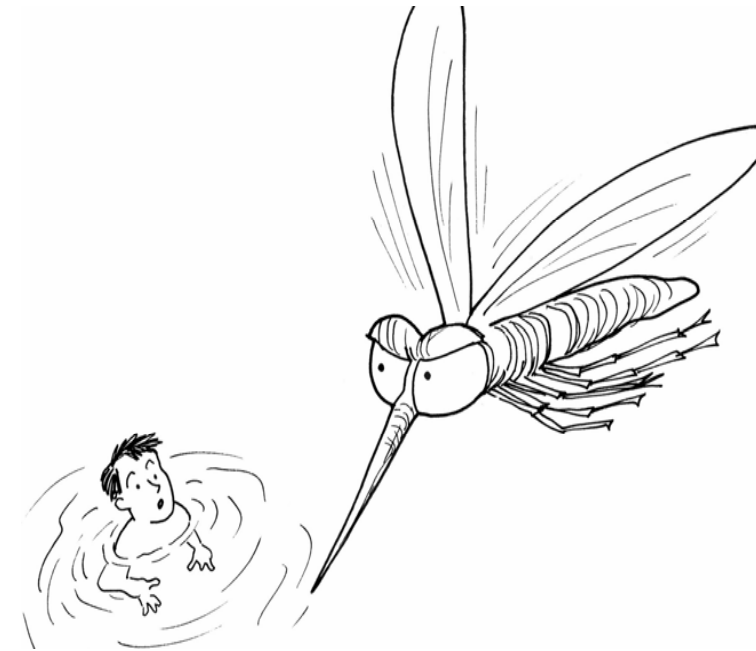
Sam and Dina

The Mango Minders

Old Chicken Eyes

Bad Medicine

Basim and Bloog



Musa and Ali were friends. Every morning they had to go to fetch clean water from the well. But the well was far away. There was a place in the river near rocks where the water ran fast. That was nearer home than the well but still far. The nearest place was very near the village where there were many people and where the cows drank. Musa did not like to work. He liked to play all day.

He said to Ali. "Let us take our water from the place where the cows drink. Then we can play more".

So they did and they played and then lay on the grass in the warm sun. Musa slept and had a dream. In his dream he became very small. The grass looked like tall trees. The rocks like mountains. Ants, as big as lions, ran after him. He ran and jumped into the river.

He tried to use a leaf like a boat but a man like a giant came to the bank. Urine like dirty yellow water came from the man and splashed near Musa. He jumped off his leaf and swam in the water. But the water was smelly. Great beasts like crocodiles lay on the surface. They were mosquito larvae. Mosquitoes, as big as planes, flew above the water. Great flies with dirty feet zoomed down on him. Musa swam under the water. It was no better. At the bottom of the river there was a city of dirty water. There old broken bottles like houses. There were worms as big as trains. Every where was dark and all the beasts seemed to be hunting for Musa. Musa ran out of the river. They were going to catch him.

Then he heard, "Musa, wake up. Wake up".

It was Ali. Musa woke. He was the right size again. He was happy. He took up his pot and started the long journey to the well.

Later Musa told all the other children about his dream. After that, no one ever collected water at that place again. Some went to the river near the black rocks but others made the journey to the well to collect water for cooking and drinking. The children together tried to make the river cleaner and especially to kill the mosquitoes and their larvae. We now hear that a new well is being dug near the village. Ali and Musa say that they will make sure it is kept clean. The other children will help them.

