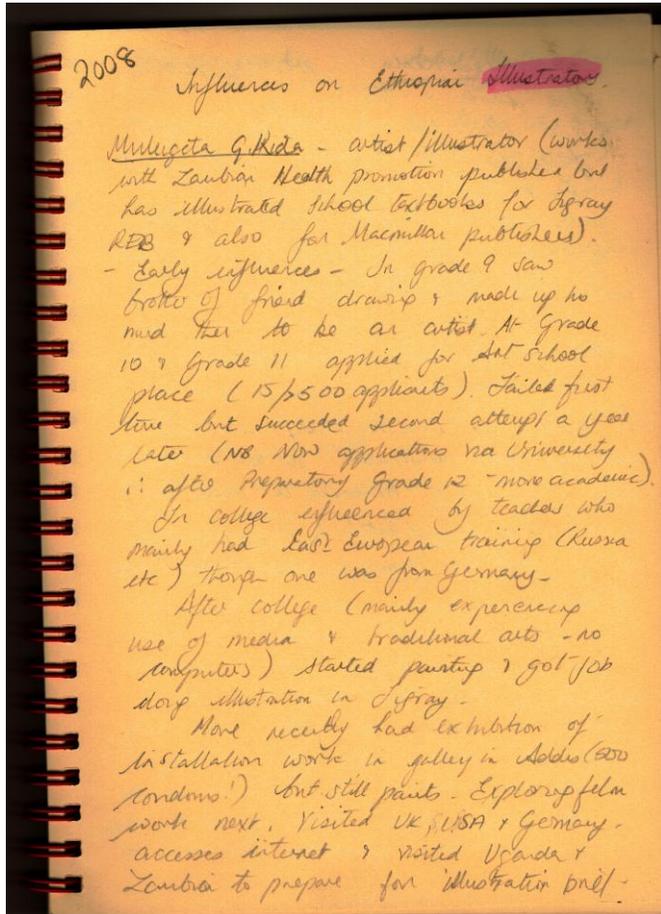


## Appendix 1

### Extracts from notes, emails and correspondence



June 2008 Addis Ababa  
Notes made following interview  
with Mulugeta Gebre Kidan.

Wed, 31 Dec 2008 08:57:59 -0600

> From: janekurtz

> Hi, Helen. I'm happy for whatever help I can give-- Ethiopia Reads has had trouble characterizing the publishing of SILLY MAMMO in a way that communicates how big a feat it was...first children's book (no...although close, I think), first bilingual children's book (doesn't sound impressive), first full-color children's book (somewhat better) :

09/12/2010

Dear Helen,

A brief P.S. as a result of yours. I agree that as aliens to Ethiopian culture we hesitate to impose our concepts on them. However they themselves are always anxious to know about and to adapt their thinking to new and progressive ideas, so I don't think we

should worry too much! I just think they should be careful not to lose the uniqueness and beauty of their own, particularly the Ethiopian Orthodox Christian artistic traditions.

In fact Ethiopia definitely benefitted from the imports of childrens' books from India, China, and to a lesser extent Russia, when local production was at a low ebb. These countries produce the most beautiful, colourfully illustrated educational books - I made a small collection of them - very adaptable to the Ethiopian culture and retailing at a very low cost because of the enormous editions they can print as a result of their own demography.

As far as printing technology is concerned I find it better to exploit the new digital technology now, and usually scan artwork into an application where you can modify and edit it, then send it to the printer electronically when you're satisfied with it -  
Eric

Notes taken from email sent from Michael Daniel Ambatchew in June 2010

### **Back in Time**

You have a really winner in this one. Congratulations! Obviously, there is room for improvement and I have some comments; I'd like to see better descriptions of the principal characters so I can visualize them, but the main comments are about plausibility;

Page 1 = Get her onto the plane in a more plausible manner you can't just walk through especially nowadays, work on another way.

Page 4 = Same with walking through Ethiopian customs. Hello this is Ethiopia!

Page 4 = a hotel shuttle bus might be more convincing than a taxi

Page 8 = locating Teddy and his uncle Tesfaye needs more working on in a country that lacks family names and all.

Page 10 = if we have pizza at home ☺

Page 14 = Father asked to look after baby rather than maid or babysitter is not common.

Page 14 = They prefer to take a minibus than the car, must be Brits!

Page 15 = You really have to think about which language people are speaking with to each other, just adding a word like Behuala sounds wrong. This is a big area you have to think about through out the novel. No easy answers ☺

Page 17 = huge stone gateway repeated

Page 18 = a CD which made lots of money for Ethiopia is unknown by most Ethiopians as government used to pretend they were dealing with the famine by themselves.

Page 20 = Black tea or tea with milk? ☺

Page 23 "What can either country gain from fighting" is not a reflection of Ethiopian mentality, as returning the Falklands to Argentina wouldn't sound logical to a Brit. ☺

Page 23 = Eritrea annexed by Haile-Selassie again is not a reflection of Ethiopian mentality, as Britains annexing of Wales, Scotland and Ireland. ☺

Page 29 = Ferenge not Ferengi

Page 31 = the word "Lasslassa" rings false, I know you are adding it to give local colour, but this relates to the whole language issue, why do you say food and not megib?

Page 32 = typo omit a in " he was a known to be"

Page 37 = did they have rockets then?  
Page 37 = to do instead of go  
Page 38 = were their serious shells then?  
Page 39 = more Indian soldiers than British if the truth be known!  
Page 43 = his English improved in such a short time speaking with Indians ☺  
Page 44 = fast loading rifles in those days (double check)  
Page 44 = hardly anyone among the British army got hurt. Likely? They were on a picnic ☺  
Page 47 = “Vicky realized she was too young to have a boyfriend” I doubt it kids always consider themselves grown up.  
Page 47 = Again father used to baby-sit.  
Page 47 = Teddy writes a book in a couple of days? Unlikely  
Page 49 = the ending is too abrupt as if you realized that dinner needing cooking and suddenly wrapped in up ☺

### **The Storyteller**

To start from the first quote this is a saying plagiarized whose original source you might be able to trace. Here are some other points you might wish to reconsider.

Page 2 = teff is not pounded between stones  
Page 2 = Haile is a name and Haile Selassie was born as Teferi and was later given the name at his coronation  
Page 3 = farmers don't grow much vegetables traditionally  
Page 3 = life changed for farmers immediately as they were told the land belonged to them and they no longer had to pay taxes to landlords  
Page 3 = literacy was the job of priests and not young scholars  
Page 5 and 6 = Sounds too much like Sholmo  
Page 7 = Yonas usually spelt with one n  
Page 7 = dog running circles round sheep sounds to British sheep doggish!  
Page 7 = dog barks at reflection and loses meat in original  
Page 9 = Haile attending mosque name too Christian ☺  
Page 13 = if he changes religion he would also change his name in Ethiopia  
Page 14 = anti-revolutionary would have been the language of the day rather than rebel!'



Michael Daniel Ambatchew reading from a Little Hands book at the launch of the 2009 anthologies. Michael provided the author with constructive criticism on her work throughout the period of her research and writing for Ethiopian children.

## **Appendix 2**

### **The Story of the Beans**

Written by an Addis Ababa student in March 2009 (Tarikena Gebre Senbet)

Once upon a time, a man was extremely very hungry. He went around in a village until he found a bean-farm of an ordinary dweller. He started eating the beans like an animal without even peeling the skin; he was too hungry to notice.

After a while, when he calmed down, he started peeling the skin off and eating the beans properly like a normal human being.

At last, he was extremely very full that he even began to peel the seed coat of the beans and ate the internal small structures. Then, suddenly out of the blue, the farmer and owner of the farm approached him with a dumbfounded look on his face. Little did the poor hungry man know that the farmer was watching him the whole time.

The farmer cleared his throat and said, “I have been observing how you eat my beans since the second you laid eyes on them. But my dear friend, I tell you, eat not in the first manner, eat not in the last manner, do eat in the second one!”

(copied exactly from the handwritten script)

## **The Bat**

Told to the author by Girma Alemayehu, 2009, and located in Civics and Ethical Studies  
Textbook Grade 7

Long ago there was a famine in the place where the bats were living. All the birds and animals living in the area were victims of hunger. To resist it, they started to borrow food from one another. One of the borrowers was a bat. It had borrowed a lot from many of the birds.

When all the other birds were able to pay back what they had borrowed, the bat was unable to do that, even after the bad days had passed. All the birds searched for it but it escaped by hiding itself. Because of this it changed its flight from day to night. Since then it has been known as “የ ሌሊት ወፍ” (nocturnal bird).

Based on a traditional oral story

## **The Monkey and the Tortoise**

(or why monkeys swing from tree to tree)

Retold by Girma Alemayehu 2009

A monkey lent a tortoise some money for food and the tortoise promised to repay him. The monkey waited but the tortoise didn't pay so one day the monkey went to collect his money. The tortoise saw him coming and lay on his back pretending to be a grinding stone. The angry monkey picked up what he thought was a stone and threw it high into the trees. Later he met the tortoise who told the monkey he'd put the money safe in the grinding stone but now it was lost. The monkey climbed up the trees to find it.

### **Why Dogs chase Cars**

Retold by Girma Alemayehu 2009

One day a dog took a ride in a minibus but he had no change so when the bus stopped he asked for the change of a Birr note. The taxi drove off without giving it the change so the dog chased after it.

### **The Boy and the Train**

Retold by Girma Alemayehu and Solomon Nigussie and located in Civics and Ethical Studies Textbook 2009

Everyday, as the train passed by, a boy waved at the driver who always waved back. One day the boy saw that the bridge ahead was broken. He waved his shirt to get the train driver's attention but the driver just waved back. He couldn't understand why the boy was waving his shirt so frantically. Then he saw the broken bridge but it was too late to stop the train. The train crashed.

### **The Human Hyena**

Told by Solomon Nigussie 2009

On a night, Solomon's father used to tell this story to his wife in their own language Afan Oromo. Solomon and his sisters used to hear it told but couldn't understand it so they would ask him to tell the story to them in Amharic.

His father would start by telling them that, in the village where he lived near the Blue Nile Gorge there was a woman who had the ability to change into the character of a hyena at night. His father's friend loved the woman but everyone in the village knew she

turned into a hyena at certain times and advised him against falling in love with her. He refused to accept this and would not believe that she turned into a hyena as he had only ever seen her in her daytime form.

Eventually Solomon's father planned to do his friend a favour. After the harvest of teff they had to enrich the soil with dung and flail the teff to separate the grain from the straw which was used for their animals. Solomon's father hid on the top of the pile of straw which was stored at the hyena woman's house. He then watched her as night fell and the hyenas began to call. He saw her remove her hair, turn into a hyena and disappear outside into the dark. His father took the hair she had removed and hid it. As soon as it was daylight she returned exhausted to her home and tried to find her hair. She could not find it so she covered her head with a shawl and went to sleep.

She continued to have a social life with the neighbours but always kept her head covered by the shawl. Solomon's father had told his friend everything that he had seen. He went to see the hyena woman and confronted her. She then removed her shawl to reveal the bare head. She admitted what had happened, explaining how one evening while she was out someone had taken her hair and hidden it. She told the friend that her condition was hereditary but promised to behave when she became a hyena in the night. Solomon's father agreed to give her back her hair.

### **The Selfish Baboon and the Clever Monkey**

A Yem Tale located in the Museum of Ethiopian Ethnographical Studies

A baboon and monkey were good friends until one day. When searching for food, the baboon offered to eat the food and let the monkey eat what was left over when he was

full. The suspicious monkey suggested they share equally but agreed to the baboon's suggestion as long as he could pierce the baboon's tail. He had found a dead leopard and he stitched its tail to that of the baboon. The baboon, unaware of this, let the monkey finish the meal while he went home. On his way the other animals were scared and ran away. The baboon was left all alone.

**List of Traditional Ethiopian stories found in print by the author**

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Located</b>
1	Sunrise and Sunset	Elizabeth Laird (1)
2	The Old Man from the River	“
3	The Landlord and the Ostrich	“
4	Achok goes Fishing	“
5	Ngap and Nyakwi	“ (1 & 2)
6	When the World Began	Elizabeth Laird (2)
7	How the Tortoise got her Shell	“
8	The Best Home	“
9	The Day the Sky Fell	“
10	The Enchanted Flute	“
11	The Best Dream	“
12	The Bull who gave birth to a Calf	“
13	The King of the Forest	“
14	Abba Bollo and the Necklace	“
15	The Jackal and the Rabbit	“

16	The Baboon's Headband	“
17	The Rat King's Son	“
18	The Shield of Kindness	“
19	The Shepherd Boy at School	“
20	The Man who grew Feathers	“
21	The Monkey's Birthday	“
22	The Fox and the Crow	“
23	The Clever Wife	“
24	Everything Changes, Everything Passes	“
25	The Baboon Child	Elizabeth Laird (3)
26	The Elephant's Head	“
27	The Two Travelers	“
28	The Ungrateful Snake	“
29	The Pot of Honey	“
30	Jahiti and her Sister	“
31	The Father's Plan	“
32	How the Dog lost her Voice	“
33	The Song from the Tree	“
34	The Elephant and the Cock	“
35	Obang and his Dog	“
36	Why the Hyena never runs Straight	“
37	The Landlord and his Ostrich	“
38	Fine Red Feathers	“

39	The Dog Fight	“
40	The Rat King’s Son	“
41	The Mother in Law	“
42	The Grateful Animals	“
43	The Wicked Stepmother	“
44	Nine and One make Ten	“
45	The Longest Pole in the World	“
46	The Father’s Shield	“
47	The King’s Birthmark	“
48	The Lazy Family	“
49	Three Boxes for Three Sons	“
50	The Miracle Child	Elizabeth Laird (4)
51	The Story of the Beans*	Students in Addis Ababa (5)
52	Anko the Monkey	“
53	The Envious Neighbour	“
54	Life	“
55	Be Wise, Don’t be Silly	Merga Yonna (5)
56	The Wise Monkey (also known as The Crocodile and the Monkey)	“
57	The Bat*	Girma Alemayehu (6)
58	The Monkey and the Tortoise*	“
59	Why Dogs chase Cars*	“
60	The Boy and the Train*	“ and Solomon Nigussie

61	The Human Hyena *	Solomon Nigussie (6)
62	The Hare and the Princess	Jon King (7)
63	The Clever Son	Schlomo Bachrach (8)
64	The Thief and the Chair	“
65	The Greedy Dog	“
66	The Crocodile and the Monkey	“
67	The Foolish Servants	“
68	The Women and the Pot	“
69	The Wise Father	“
70	The Visitors	“
71	Mamo the Fool	“ (also Shama Books)
72	The Woman and the Lion	Schlomo Bachrach (8)
73	Nine Brothers	“
74	The Donkey’s Tail	“
75	The Young Lion	“
76	The Two Travellers	“
77	Abayneh and Abaynesh	“
78	Do Monkeys wear Hats?	“
79	Salt and Earth	“
80	The Singer and his Gold	“
81	Bogale’s Colt	“
82	An Important Lesson	“
83	Fire on the Mountain	Jane Kurtz (9) & (13)

84	The Rich Man and the Singer	Mesfin Habte-Mariam (10)
85	The Farmer and the Leopard	“
86	Mammo the Fool (see above)	“
87	The Clever Baboon	“
88	The Husband who wanted to mind the House	“
89	The Women who wanted to govern the Land	“
90	The Farmer and the King	“
91	The Three Thieves	“
92	The Wise Father	“
93	The Adventurous Mouse	“
94	The Clever Wizard	“
95	The Quarrel between the Hyena and the Monkey	“
96	The King’s Questions	“
97	The Faithful Servant	“
98	The Divided Students	“
99	The Meeting of the Young Mice	“
100	The Coward and his Luck	“
101	The Man and his Daughter	“
102	The Two Thieves	“
103	Billichio and the Cannibal	“
104	The Man and the Snake	“
105	An Act of Kindness	“
106	Too Much Praise	“

107	The Clever Temari	“
108	The Puzzle	“
109	The Farmer and the Merchant	“
110	Sinziro	“
111	The Three Wise Men	“
112	Two Tales of Aleka Gebrehanna	“
113	The Hair of the Lion	“
114	The Woodcutter of Gura	<a href="http://www.afro.com/children/myths/myths.html">http://www.afro.com/children/myths/myths.html</a> (11) (12) (13)
115	The Jackal's Lawsuit	“
116	The Game Board	“
117	The Marriage of the Mouse	<a href="http://www.1-language.com/library/africatales/mousemarriage.htm">http://www.1-language.com/library/africatales/mousemarriage.htm</a> (12) (13)
118	The Donkey who Sinned	Courlander H. and Leslau W. (13)
119	The Goats who killed the Leopard	“
120	The Contrary Woman	“
121	The Messenger Donkey	“
122	The Hero of Adi Nifas	“
123	The Judgment of the Wind	“
124	The Goat Well	“
125	Dinner with Tota	“
126	Justice	“
127	How Abunawas was Exiled	“

128	Tecle's Goat	“
129	The Storyteller	“
130	Ojje Ben Onogh	“
131	The Lion and the Hare go hunting	“
132	May it not Happen	“
133	The Farmer of Babbia	“
134	Fire and Water, Truth and Falsehood	“
135	The Battle of Eghal Shillett	“
136	The Golden Earth	“
137	The Over Confident Donkey and the Rooster	Meskerem Assegued (14)
138	Why Hyenas are found all over Ethiopia	“
139	Diving for Honey	“
140	The Mountain with Fiery Eyes	“
141	The Lion and the Goat	“
142	The Turtle's Burden	“
143	Degu, the Lion	“
144		

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