

90-year-old starts elementary school

28th January, 2015



A 90-year-old Kenyan grandmother has become the world's oldest elementary school student. Priscilla Sitienei, also known as Gogo, is from a small village in Kenya. She is studying at the local elementary school to learn to read and write. Ms Sitienei has spent most of her life working as a midwife,

helping to deliver babies. She wants to be able to read and write so she can pass on her midwifery skills and write down the special herbal remedies she uses when she delivers babies. She also wants to be able to read the Bible. Sitienei said she never had a chance to go to school when she was younger. She said she knows she is old but hopes she will set an example to younger people. She wants all the children in her village to study.

When Ms Sitienei first tried to enroll at the school, the head teacher David Kinyanjui did not think it was a good idea. Now he is very happy that Gogo is at the school. Mr Kinyanjui said Gogo is a "blessing and a motivator". He added: "I'm very proud of her. She is loved by every pupil. They all want to learn and play with her." He also said: "She is doing well considering her age. I can say I have seen a big difference in this school since she came." Gogo had a message for children everywhere, saying: "I want to say to the children of the world, especially girls, that education will be your wealth." She added: "With education, you can be whatever you want - a doctor, lawyer or a pilot."

Sources: *Telegraph / BBC / Inquisitir*

Writing

We should all study something for all our life. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

grandmother / elementary school / village / midwife / babies / skills / remedies / teacher / blessing / motivator / difference / message / education / doctor / lawyer

True / False

- The world's oldest elementary school student is also a grandmother. T / F
- The student lives in the capital city of Kenya. T / F
- The woman wants to be able to write about things in her job. T / F
- The woman wants all the children in her village to study. T / F
- The school head teacher always wanted the woman to join the school. T / F
- Not all of the students in the school like the old lady. T / F
- The head teacher said the woman made a big difference to the school. T / F
- The woman had a special message just for boys. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. student | a. gift |
| 2. local | b. cures |
| 3. pass on | c. register |
| 4. remedies | d. neighbourhood |
| 5. chance | e. taking into account |
| 6. enroll | f. pupil |
| 7. blessing | g. riches |
| 8. considering | h. opportunity |
| 9. especially | i. give |
| 10. wealth | j. particularly |

Discussion – Student A

- Why might the head teacher think it was a bad idea for Gogo to study?
- Why do you think the other pupils love Gogo?
- Who was your favourite elementary school teacher? Why?
- Do you think there are things Gogo can't do at school?
- What do you miss about elementary school?
- Do you agree that education is wealth? Why?
- What job did you want to do when you were at elementary school?
- What questions would you like to ask Gogo?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. studying at the local | a. remedies she uses |
| 2. helping to deliver | b. be whatever you want |
| 3. write down the special herbal | c. village to study |
| 4. she will set an example | d. by every pupil |
| 5. She wants all the children in her | e. of her |
| 6. Ms Sitienei first tried to | f. babies |
| 7. I'm very proud | g. children everywhere |
| 8. She is loved | h. to younger people |
| 9. Gogo had a message for | i. enroll at the school |
| 10. With education, you can | j. elementary school |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What did you think of your elementary school?
- What do you think of Gogo?
- Would you like to keep learning all your life?
- How important is it to be able to read and write?
- How would life be different if you could not read or write?
- In what ways are you an example to younger people?
- What can the children at the school learn from Gogo?

Spelling

- helping to ielervd babies
- cepaisl herbal remedies
- working as a ifmweid
- the local eyrlmanete school
- set an pmaeexl to younger people
- all the children in her gialvle
- Gogo is a blessing and a tmoarvito
- She is loved by every ppilu
- She is doing well sdonicinger her age
- eyleilscpa girls
- education will be your htwael
- a doctor, lreayw or a pilot

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. h
6. c	7. a	8. e	9. j	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Teachers

You think teachers are the best things about school. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): lunch, the classroom or the lessons.

Role B – Lunch

You think lunch is best thing about school. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): teachers, the classroom or the lessons.

Role C – The classroom

You think the classroom is the best thing about school. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): lunch, teachers or the lessons.

Role D – Lessons

You think the lessons are the best things about school. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): lunch, the classroom or teachers.

Speaking – School

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| • teachers | • the classroom |
| • lunch | • the lessons |
| • play time | • friends |
| • the school building | • holidays |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.