CHIMWEMWE
Fights Malaria
with LA tablets
One night, when Chimwemwe is sleeping, she is bitten by a mosquito because her foot is outside of the mosquito net. She does not know it, but the mosquito has infected her with small malaria parasites.
Mosquitoes that carry malaria breed in standing water like puddles, and after the rains there are many mosquitoes that can transmit malaria.
A week later, Chimwemwe wakes up in the morning feeling ill. Mama is worried.

Oh Chimwemwe, I think you may have malaria. A mosquito may have bitten you. We must take you to the clinic straight away.

Chimwemwe does not want to go to school because her head hurts. She feels very cold and does not want to eat. Mama checks for a fever and Chimwemwe’s skin feels very hot.

Malaria is a serious disease caused by parasites called Plasmodia.
The nurse will help to make Chimwemwe better.

Mama knows that if Chimwemwe does not get the right medicine soon, she will get worse.

If a child with malaria does not get the right medicine within a day (24 hours), he or she can become very sick and even die.
The nurse at the clinic thinks that Chimwemwe has malaria, but she tests her blood to be sure. The test shows the nurse that Chimwemwe does have malaria.

When the mosquito bit Chimwemwe, it passed some malaria parasites into her blood that made her sick.

Mosquitoes that carry the malaria parasites are active throughout the year. You can prevent malaria by sleeping under a net that is treated with insecticides that kill mosquitoes.
Chimwemwe weighs 17 kg, so I will give her 2 Tablets of LA right now to make her feel better.

When I was young, I had malaria, and the LA made me well again.

It is important to test a patient’s blood to be sure that she or he has malaria. It is important to do this before she or he is given malaria treatment.
The nurse shows Mama some LA tablets for Chimwemwe to take.

These are similar to the LA tablets that Chikondi took.

Chimwemwe will need to take the 2 LA tablets 2 times a day for 3 days.
Chimwemwe does not want to take the medicine, but the nurse says she must take it to get well. Mama also encourages Chimwemwe to take the medicine.

**Give Chimwemwe 2 more LA tablets before she goes to bed. Tomorrow and the next day, give Chimwemwe 2 more in the morning and in the evening. Even if Chimwemwe does not feel hungry, try and give her some food when she takes her medicine - it will help the medicine work better.**

Even if you feel well, it is important to finish the dose of LA so that you get healed from malaria. You are not healed if you do not finish the dose. Dose means all the medicine taken according to the doctor's advice.
That night, Mama makes sure that Chimwemwe takes 2 more LA tablets as the nurse said.

I took LA tablets for 3 days, and I had to take it with food.

Yes, when you take LA with food it works well.

The medicine works better if you eat some food or drink some milk at the same time.
Later, Tamanda comes to visit - she is a community health worker in the village.

The medicine kills the parasites, but Chimwemwe must finish all of the LA tablets over 3 days to make sure there are no parasites left. If Chimwemwe does not finish all of the medicine, she will be sick again.

Does Chimwemwe need to finish the medicine? She is feeling better already.

And every night when Chimwemwe is sleeping, make sure that she is fully covered by a mosquito net.

Mosquitoes that transmit malaria bite people mostly at night. If you sleep under a mosquito net at night, it will help protect you from the mosquitoes and prevent malaria.
The next day Chimwemwe is feeling well, but Mama still gives her the last 2 LA tablets.

This is good medicine. It also worked well when I had malaria.

Chimwemwe is happy she can go to school today. She will be ready to play with Chikondi and their friends again when she comes home.

Each dose of LA tablets kills many malaria parasites. You must take the LA tablets 2 times a day for 3 days. Please take malaria treatment as directed by your doctor, nurse or community health worker. If you still feel sick after completing your dose, go back to see the health worker.
Children can act out the story of how Chimwemwe fights malaria with LA. Choose someone to tell the story.

The others can pretend to be Mama, Chimwemwe, Chikondi, the nurse and Tamanda

Is there anyone who would like to be the mosquito?
Try to spot 7 differences between picture 1 (page 13) and picture 2 (page 14).

Answers on page 17
Which children are more at risk from malaria and why?
Quiz

1. Why did I think that Chimwemwe had malaria?

2. Why was it important to take Chimwemwe to the clinic straight away?

3. How many times a day and for how many days did I need to take the LA tablets?

Answer on page 18
4. Why did I test Chimwemwe’s blood?

5. How did the LA tablets make Chimwemwe better?

6. Why did Chimwemwe eat some food when she took the LA tablets?

7. What might happen if Chimwemwe did not take all of the LA tablets?

8. Where do mosquitoes breed?

9. When do mosquitoes mostly bite people?

10. How can you stop mosquitoes from biting you while you are sleeping?

11. What are some effects of malaria?
Answers to Spot the Difference

- Puddles of water
- Pail of water
- Cooking pots and pans on the left hand side
- Lid on drum
- Tyres
- Basin on the right hand side
- Child sleeping under a mosquito net

The children in picture 1 are more at risk from malaria than the children in picture 2.

Mosquitoes carry parasites which cause malaria. They breed in water that gathers in containers or puddles. People can get malaria if they are bitten by a mosquito. A mosquito net protects people from being bitten at night.

Composition Questions
Write a composition of a half or full page on one or all of the following topics:
1. The importance of preventing malaria in my family.
2. The importance of preventing malaria in my village.
3. Roles of pupils in prevention of malaria.
Quiz Answers

1. Because she felt ill, she had a headache, she was tired and she did not want to eat anything.
2. Because if Chimwemwe did not get the right malaria medicine quickly, she could become more sick and she could even die.
3. 2 times a day for 3 days.
4. To be sure that she had malaria before giving her the LA tablets.
5. The LA tablets killed the malaria parasites in Chimwemwe’s blood, which were making her sick.
6. Food helps the LA tablets work better.
7. The malaria might come back and Chimwemwe would be sick again.
8. In standing water.
9. At night.
10. Sleep completely under a mosquito net every night. Remove standing water like puddles from around the house.
11. Unable to go to school, unable to play or be with friends, unable to work, loss of appetite, reduced blood levels, e.t.c.

References

1. WHO Malaria Fact Sheet No.94 Reviewed March 2013
3. WHO List of Prequalified Medicinal Products. Available at: http://apps.who.int/prequal/
   For further information: www.malaria.novartis.com