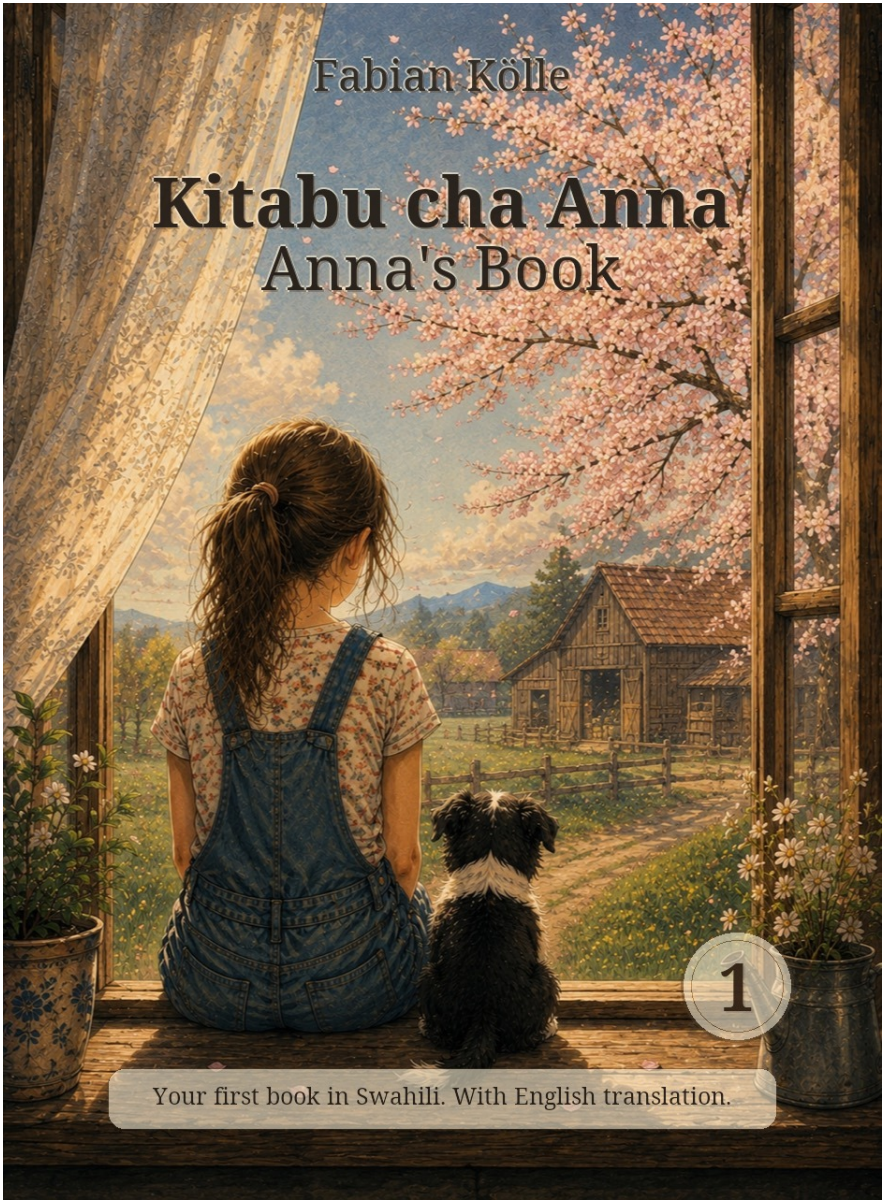
Fabian Kölle
Kitabu cha Anna
Anna's Book
1
Your first book in Swahili. With English translation.

Anna's Book

Volume 1

Language: English

Learning language: Swahili

EN SW

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This book was written for language learners. First try to read the Swahili text before using the translation.

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Preface

Learning a new language isn't easy. It has a small life of its own: curiosity, lightness, secrets, but also concentration, practice, mistakes, and days when you feel stuck. Sometimes you think you have understood how it works. Sometimes you feel frustrated because important words have slipped away. As soon as you know the basics, something new appears, and suddenly it feels as if you're starting again. That's completely normal. Every step forward counts. One day you'll look back and realise how far you have come. You can be proud of that.

When I began learning a new language, I wanted to read real, connected stories as soon as I could. I didn't want only grammar exercises and word lists. I wanted to read: to step into a story and improve almost without noticing. More than anything, I wanted to feel that the language already belonged to me a little.

But I found very few books that matched my level. Perhaps you know that feeling too.

Many language learners eventually reach for children's books. Not because they are especially interested in children's books, but because there is so little literature written for people who are still learning. The problem is that children's books are written for children, not for language learners. Even when the pictures look inviting, the vocabulary can be surprisingly demanding, while the subjects don't always speak to teenagers or adults. They are often very short as well. You read slowly, and yet the book is over before it has really

given you much.

But you don't lack life experience. You have memories, interests, opinions, feelings, and a view of the world. Perhaps you study, work, have children, or enjoy travelling. Perhaps you're interested in politics, history, literature, or music. You don't need to discover the world all over again. You're learning a new language so that you can describe it in different words.

I wrote this book for you.

Anna's Book isn't a language course, and it isn't a textbook. It's meant to give you what I was missing then: a story you can read, even while ordinary novels are still too difficult.

It tells the story of Anna, who is ten years old at the beginning, in language that follows your learning path. At first, the sentences are short and simple. From volume to volume, the language grows very gradually. Anna grows older, and your language grows with her. You meet the same characters, places, and words again and again until they become familiar. Little by little, new words, new structures, and new ways of expressing yourself are added.

The story begins in the present tense, because that is the tense you meet most often at the beginning. Later, past and future forms gradually appear. If you haven't learnt them yet, you can simply keep reading. You don't have to understand everything at once. In time, these forms will become familiar too, just as the first pages will one day feel natural to you.

Above all, I want to give you confidence.

You shouldn't be afraid to turn the page. If you understand one page, you'll understand the next one too. And if something is unclear, you'll always find the translation directly below. That means you don't have to interrupt the flow of reading. You can stay with the story, so that reading feels like reading again.

One day Anna will be an adult. She will think, feel, and speak like an adult, and you'll accompany her on that path. One day you too will reach a level where you can read novels written for native speakers. When that happens, this book will have done its job. It won't have brought you to the goal. You'll have done that yourself. But I would be glad if it could walk beside you for part of the way.

And perhaps, one day, you'll begin another language. Then you'll open this book again. In French. In Japanese. In Italian. Whatever the language, Anna will be ten years old again. Ozzy will be a young dog again. And perhaps it will feel a little like meeting old friends.

I have great respect for everyone who has the courage to learn a new language. I hope this book makes that path a little easier for you.

I wish you every success with your learning, and a great deal of pleasure in reading.

Introduction



Mimi ni Anna. Nina miaka kumi. Ninaishi na familia yangu katika nyumba. Nyumba ina bustani. Katika bustani kuna mti mkubwa. Ninaupenda mti huo.

> I'm Anna. I'm ten years old. I live with my family in a house. The house has a garden. In the garden there is a big tree. I like the tree.

Pia tuna mbwa mdogo. Mbwa anaitwa Ozzy. Ninampenda Ozzy sana. Yeye ni mwepesi sana. Mara nyingi ninacheza na mbwa. Ninatupa mpira, na Ozzy anakimbia haraka nyuma yake.

> We also have a small dog. The dog's name is Ozzy. I like Ozzy very much. He is very fast. I often play with the dog. I throw a ball, and Ozzy runs after it quickly.

Mara nyingi ananirudishia mpira. Wakati mwingine haurudishi. Kisha ninakimbia kwenye bustani na kutafuta mpira. Ozzy pia anatafuta mpira. Tunauona, na Ozzy anabweka.

> He often brings the ball back to me. Sometimes he doesn't bring it back. Then I run through the garden and look for the ball. Ozzy looks for the ball too. We find it, and Ozzy barks.

Yeye ni mbwa mwenye akili. Wakati mwingine Ozzy anapata mpira haraka kuliko mimi. Kisha anabweka. Ndipo najua: mpira uko pale. Ninakimbia kwa Ozzy na kuona mpira. Hivyo mara nyingi tunacheza pamoja.

> He is a clever dog. Sometimes Ozzy finds the ball faster than I do. Then he barks. Then I know: the ball is there. I run to Ozzy and see the ball. That is how we often play together.

Pia nina kaka. Anaitwa Mats. Kaka yangu ana miaka kumi na nne. Yeye ni mkubwa kuliko mimi kwa miaka minne. Yeye ni kaka yangu mkubwa. Mats pia wakati mwingine anacheza na Ozzy.

> I also have a brother. His name is Mats. My brother is fourteen years old. He is four years older than I am. He is my big brother. Mats sometimes plays with Ozzy too.

Wakati mwingine Mats anakimbia kwenye bustani, na Ozzy anamfuata. Kisha wote wawili wanakimbia. Wakati mwingine Mats pia anatupa mpira, na Ozzy anaurudisha.

> Sometimes Mats runs through the garden, and Ozzy follows him. Then they both run. Sometimes Mats also throws the ball, and Ozzy brings it back.

Ozzy anapenda sana Mats anapocheza naye. Lakini Ozzy pia hulala sana. Yeye ni mbwa mchanga na lazima alale sana. Ana miezi miwili.

> Ozzy likes it very much when Mats plays with him. But Ozzy also sleeps a lot. He is a young dog and needs to sleep a lot. He is two months old.

Ozzy hulala katika kikapu chake au bustanini. Kikapu chake kiko ndani ya nyumba. Kiko sebuleni. Wakati wa kiangazi Ozzy mara nyingi hulala bustanini. Mats anasema wakati wa majira ya baridi Ozzy hulala sebuleni.

> Ozzy sleeps in his basket or in the garden. His basket is in the house. It is in the living room. In summer Ozzy often sleeps in the garden. Mats says that in winter Ozzy sleeps in the living room.

Kisha bustanini ni baridi sana. Wakati wa majira ya baridi mbwa wanaweza kucheza bustanini, lakini hawawezi kulala bustanini. Sasa ni kiangazi. Wakati wa kiangazi Ozzy anaweza kulala katika kikapu chake.

> Then it is too cold in the garden. In winter dogs can play in the garden, but they can't sleep in the garden. Now it is summer. In summer Ozzy can sleep in his basket.

Anaweza pia kulala bustanini. Bustanini kuna joto la kutosha. Ozzy anaweza kulala mahali anapotaka. Analala chini na analala. Ozzy ni mtamu sana anapolala.

> He can also sleep in the garden. It is warm enough in the garden. Ozzy can sleep wherever he wants. He lies down and sleeps. Ozzy is very sweet when he sleeps.

Mara nyingi ninacheza na Mats ndani ya nyumba. Wakati mwingine tunacheza kujificha. Mimi najificha, na Mats ananitafuta. Au Mats anajificha, na mimi ninamtafuta.

> I often play with Mats in the house. Sometimes we play hide-and-seek. I hide, and Mats looks for me. Or Mats hides, and I look for him.

Ni rahisi kwangu kumpata Mats. Yeye ni mkubwa na ni rahisi kumuona. Ninajua maficho yote ndani ya nyumba. Mimi ni mdogo kuliko Mats. Ni vigumu kunipata. Wakati mwingine Mats anatafuta kwa muda mrefu sana.

> It is easy for me to find Mats. He is tall and easy to see. I know all the hiding places in the house. I am smaller than Mats. It is hard to find me. Sometimes Mats looks for a very long time.

Hapendi hilo. Kisha anaita, nami nasema: niko hapa. Anaita tena, nami nasema tena: niko hapa. Anakaribia. Kisha ananipata. Tunacheka.

> He doesn't like that. Then he calls, and I say: Here I am. He calls again, and I say again: Here I am. He comes closer. Then he finds me. We laugh.

Mchana tunakula pamoja. Mama, Papa, Mats na mimi. Tunakaa mezani sebuleni, tunakula na kuzungumza. Mara nyingi kuna viazi, karoti na tambi.

> In the afternoon we eat together. Mum, Dad, Mats, and I. We sit at the table in the living room and eat and talk. There are often potatoes, carrots, and noodles.

Ninapenda tambi zaidi. Mama mara nyingi hupika tambi, Papa mara nyingi hupika viazi. Mama hupika viazi mara chache. Havipendi sana. Lakini Mats anapenda viazi.

> I like noodles best. Mum often cooks noodles, Dad often cooks potatoes. Mum rarely cooks potatoes. She doesn't like them very much. But Mats likes potatoes.

Viazi na karoti hukua shambani. Ni shamba letu wenyewe. Tuna shamba la mifugo na mazao. Papa ni mkulima. Mara nyingi hufanya kazi shambani. Mama ana duka dogo.

> The potatoes and carrots grow in the field. It is our own field. We have a farm. Dad is a farmer. He often works in the field. Mum has a small shop.

Anafanya kazi kama muuzaji. Anauza viazi na karoti zetu dukani. Pia anauza mayai na asali. Anauza maziwa na jibini. Anauza vitu vingi dukani.

> She works as a shopkeeper. She sells our potatoes and carrots in the shop. She also sells eggs and honey. She sells milk and cheese. She sells many things in the shop.

Papa anafanya kazi shambani. Analima mboga kama viazi na karoti. Mboga hukua ardhini. Zinahitaji maji mengi na jua. Wakati mwingine mvua hainyeshi.

> Dad works in the field. He grows vegetables like potatoes and carrots. The vegetables grow in the ground. They need a lot of water and sun. Sometimes it doesn't rain.

Kisha Papa huwapa mimea maji. Baadaye mboga zinakuwa kubwa vya kutosha. Kisha Papa anaendesha trekta shambani. Anatoa mboga ardhini. Kisha tunaweza kuzila.

> Then Dad gives the plants water. Later the vegetables are big enough. Then Dad drives the tractor across the field. He takes the vegetables out of the ground. Then we can eat them.

Au Mama anaziuza dukani. Papa pia huchukua maziwa kutoka kwa ng'ombe. Hutengeneza siagi na jibini kutokana nayo. Inachukua muda mrefu mpaka jibini liwe tayari. Papa lazima asubiri kwa muda mrefu.

> Or Mum sells them in the shop. Dad also gets milk from the cows. He makes butter and cheese from it. It takes a long time until the cheese is ready. Dad has to wait a long time.

Siagi huwa tayari haraka zaidi. Papa mara nyingi huoka mkate. Ninapenda mkate wake sana. Mara nyingi naukula na siagi na jibini. Kisha ninafikiria ng'ombe wanaotupa maziwa.

> The butter is ready faster. Dad often bakes bread. I like his bread very much. I often eat it with butter and cheese. Then I think of the cows that give us the milk.

Kando ya kijito - By the Stream



Leo ni Jumamosi. Ninaenda msituni na Mats. Ozzy pia yuko nasi. Anakimbia mbele yetu. Mats na mimi tunataka kwenda kwenye kijito. Tunataka kuona samaki. Nina begi.

> Today is Saturday. I go into the forest with Mats. Ozzy is with us too. He runs ahead of us. Mats and I want to go to the stream. We want to see fish. I have a bag with me.

Katika begi kuna mkate na chupa ya maji. Tukihisi njaa, tunaweza kula mkate. Tukihisi kiu, tunaweza kunywa maji. Mama anasema: Ozzy asile mkate.

> In the bag there's bread and a bottle of water. If we're hungry, we can eat bread. If we're thirsty, we can drink water. Mum says Ozzy shouldn't eat bread.

Hatupaswi kumpa Ozzy mkate. Ozzy anaweza kunywa maji kutoka kijitoni. Hahitaji maji yetu. Lakini pia kuna kitu kwa ajili ya Ozzy katika begi.

> We shouldn't give Ozzy bread. Ozzy can drink water from the stream. He doesn't need our water. But there's also something for Ozzy in the bag.

Kuna biskuti mbili za mbwa katika begi. Mats na mimi hatuwezi kula biskuti za mbwa. Hatutaki pia kuzila. Ozzy ndiye anayepaswa kuzila. Baadaye.

> There are two dog biscuits in the bag. Mats and I aren't allowed to eat the dog biscuits. We don't want to eat them either. Ozzy should eat them. Later.

Msitu hauko mbali. Mara nyingi tunaenda msituni. Kuna miti mingi mirefu huko. Tunaweza kusikia ndege. Ozzy anakimbia kati ya miti. Wakati mwingine anasimama.

> The forest isn't far away. We often go into the forest. There are many tall trees there. We can hear birds. Ozzy runs between the trees. Sometimes he stops.

Kisha anatutazama. Baada ya hapo anakimbia tena mbele. Kuna njia nyingi msituni. Mama anataka tubaki kwenye njia.

> Then he looks at us. After that he runs on again. There are many paths in the forest. Mum wants us to stay on the paths.

Hatupaswi kukimbia katikati ya msitu. Miti yote inafanana. Ni vigumu kuipata tena njia. Kwa Ozzy ni rahisi. Mara nyingi anakaa karibu nasi.

> We shouldn't run into the middle of the forest. All the trees look similar. It's hard to find the way again. For Ozzy it's easy. Often he stays close to us.

Lakini wakati mwingine anakimbia katikati ya msitu. Tunamwita. Anarudi haraka. Anaijua njia. Yeye ni mbwa mwenye akili.

> But sometimes he runs into the middle of the forest. We call him. He comes back quickly. He knows the way. He's a clever dog.

Ozzy anafika wa kwanza kwenye kijito. Mimi ni wa pili, Mats wa tatu. Tunakaa ukingoni. Ozzy anakunywa kutoka kijitoni. Maji ni safi sana. Lakini sioni samaki.

> Ozzy is the first to arrive at the stream. I'm second, Mats is third. We sit down on the bank. Ozzy drinks from the stream. The water is very clear. But I don't see any fish.

Labda samaki wanamwogopa Ozzy. Mats anachukua kijiti kidogo kutoka ukingoni. Anakiweka kwenye kijito. Kijiti kinaelea juu ya maji. Tunasimama na kukifuata kijiti.

> Maybe the fish are afraid of Ozzy. Mats takes a small stick from the bank. He puts it into the stream. The stick floats on the water. We stand up and follow the stick.

Ozzy anapenda sana hilo. Anatingisha mkia. Tunaona kwamba anafurahi. Kijiti kinaelea haraka zaidi. Ozzy

anabweka na kukikimbilia. Mats na mimi lazima tucheke.

> Ozzy likes that very much. He wags his tail. We see that he's happy. The stick floats faster. Ozzy barks and runs after it. Mats and I have to laugh.

Kisha kijiti kinakwama kati ya mawe mawili makubwa. Tunakaribia. Kijiti hakisogei. Lakini ninaona samaki. Hapana, ni samaki watatu! Wanaogelea karibu na mawe.

> Then the stick gets stuck between two big stones. We come closer. The stick doesn't move. But I see a fish. No, there are three fish! They swim close to the stones.

Ozzy anawaona pia. Anataka kucheza na samaki. Lakini Mats anasema: Hapana, Ozzy! Ozzy anaelewa hilo. Haingii majini. Anakaa ukingoni.

> Ozzy sees them too. He wants to play with the fish. But Mats says, "No, Ozzy!" Ozzy understands that. He doesn't go into the water. He stays on the bank.

Tunawaangalia samaki kwa muda mrefu. Ni weusi, lakini wanang'aa juani. Hawatuogopi. Kwa sababu tuko kimya na hatusogei. Lakini ninahisi njaa.

> We watch the fish for a long time. They're dark, but they shine in the sun. They're not afraid of us. Because we're quiet and don't move. But I get hungry.

Ninasema: Mats, nina njaa. Mats anasema: Ndiyo, mimi pia. Tunakaa juu ya jiwe kubwa. Jiwe ni kubwa vya kutosha ili tuweze kukaa kando kwa kando.

> I say, "Mats, I'm hungry." Mats says, "Yes, me too." We sit down on a big stone. The stone is big enough for us to sit next to each other.

Ninatoa mkate kutoka kwenye begi. Ozzy ananitazama. Yeye pia anataka kula kitu. Lakini mkate si wa Ozzy. Mats anampa biskuti ya mbwa.

> I take the bread out of the bag. Ozzy looks at me. He wants something to eat too. But the bread isn't for Ozzy. Mats gives him a dog biscuit.

Ozzy anafurahi na kutingisha mkia. Ninagawana mkate na Mats. Ninampa Mats kipande kikubwa, naye anasema: Asante, Anna. Mkate wa Papa ni mtamu sana.

> Ozzy is happy and wags his tail. I share the bread with Mats. I give Mats a big piece, and he says: Thank you, Anna. Dad's bread is very tasty.

Kila kitu ni kitamu unapokuwa na njaa. Lakini mkate wa Papa ni mtamu hasa. Tunakula polepole. Jua lina joto kwenye ngozi yangu. Ozzy tayari amekula biskuti yake ya mbwa.

> Everything tastes good when you're hungry. But Dad's bread is especially tasty. We eat slowly. The sun is warm on my skin. Ozzy has already eaten his dog biscuit.

Amelala hapa karibu na miguu yangu. Nafikiri amelala usingizi. Samaki wawili bado wapo. Nasikia ndege. Yuko kwenye mti, lakini siwezi kumuona. Mats anaangalia kijito.

> He's lying here next to my feet. I think he's sleeping. Two fish are still there. I hear a bird. It's sitting in a tree, but I can't see it. Mats looks at the stream.

Anasema: "Ninaupenda msitu."
Nauliza: "Kwa nini?"
"Kwa sababu hapa kuna utulivu sana. Kijijini tunasikia na kuona watu wengi. Hapa unasikia tu ndege, maji na upepo."

> He says, "I like the forest."
> I ask, "Why?"
> "Because it's so quiet here. In the village we hear and see many people. Here you hear only the birds, the water, and the wind."

"Ndiyo," nasema. "Mimi pia ninaupenda msitu."
Tunakaa bado kwa muda, kisha tunasimama. "Njoo," anasema Mats. Anachukua begi. Ozzy anaamka. Tunaenda polepole kurudi kijijini.

> "Yes," I say. "I like the forest too."
> We sit for a while longer, then we stand up. "Come on," says Mats. He takes the bag. Ozzy wakes up. We slowly walk back to the village.

Njiani tunakutana na Bi Rossi. Yeye anatoka Italia. Ozzy anafurahi kumuona. Anakimbia kwake. Bi Rossi anamchezea kichwa.
"Habari!" anasema Bi Rossi. "Mnaenda wapi?"

> On the way we meet Mrs Rossi. She's from Italy. Ozzy is happy to see her. He runs to her. Mrs Rossi pets him.
> "Hello!" says Mrs Rossi. "Where are you going?"

"Tunatoka kijitoni," anasema Mats. "Sasa tunaenda tena nyumbani."
"Vizuri," anasema Bi Rossi. "Hali ya hewa ni nzuri kwa matembezi."
Anashika kikapu mkononi.

> "We're coming from the stream," says Mats. "Now we're going back home."
> "Nice," says Mrs Rossi. "It's wonderful weather for a walk."
> She's holding a basket in her hand.

"Kuna nini kwenye kikapu?" nauliza.
"Maziwa, mayai, jibini na asali," anasema Bi Rossi. Anacheka. "Nimenunua hivyo kwa mama yenu."

> "What's in the basket?" I ask.
> "Milk, eggs, cheese, and honey," says Mrs Rossi. She laughs. "I bought them from your mother."

Mats na mimi tunatabasamu.
"Tutaonana," anasema Bi Rossi.
"Kwaheri," anasema Mats.

> Mats and I smile.
> "See you soon," says Mrs Rossi.
> "Bye," says Mats.

Bi Rossi anaendelea kwenda. Ozzy bado anamwangalia kwa muda. Kisha anakimbia tena kwetu. Kijiji hakiko mbali tena. Ninaweza kuona nyumba yetu tayari.

> Mrs Rossi walks on. Ozzy watches her for a while. Then he runs back to us. The village isn't far away now. I can already see our house.

Papa bado anafanya kazi shambani. Ninaona trekta lake. Mama amesimama mbele ya duka na anazungumza na mwanamume kutoka kijijini. Ninamjua.

> Dad is still working in the field. I see his tractor. Mum is standing in front of the shop and talking to a man from the village. I know him.

Anaitwa Bwana Hansen. Bwana Hansen ana paka, Mimi. Mimi tayari ni mzee na hataki kucheza tena. Lakini anapenda sana ninapompapasa.

> His name is Mr Hansen. Mr Hansen has a cat, Mimi. Mimi is already old and doesn't want to play anymore. But she likes it very much when I pet her.

Kisha anakoroma kwa furaha. Mimi anaweza kukoroma kwa sauti kubwa sana. Ninapenda Mimi anapokoroma. Kisha najua kwamba anafurahi. Ni mtamu.

> Then she purrs. Mimi can purr very loudly. I like it when Mimi purrs. Then I know that she's happy. She's sweet.

Tunaenda dukani. Mama anatuona na kutabasamu. Anauliza: "Mlipenda matembezi?"
"Ndiyo," anasema Mats.
"Tuliona samaki," nasema.

> We go to the shop. Mum sees us and smiles.
> She asks, "Did you enjoy the walk?"
> "Yes," says Mats.
> "We saw fish," I say.

Mama anafurahi. "Basi ilikuwa siku nzuri," anasema. Ninafikiria msitu na jua, Mats na Ozzy, kijito na samaki na mkate. Yuko sahihi. Ilikuwa siku nzuri.

> Mum is pleased. "Then it was a good day," she says.
> I think of the forest and the sun, of Mats and Ozzy, of the stream and the fish and the bread. She's right. It was a good day.

This is where the sample ends.