

Lesson Plan 04

A day in the life of ...

Age group: Years 2-6 Aims:

- a) to learn about the life of a Primary school child in Bo
- b) to compare lifestyles of children in the Bo area and Warwick District
- c) to raise awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of both lifestyles, the degree of family participation, resources and use of time.

Resources: — *General* 14 photographs on OWL website which can be downloaded as a zip file: [download from website](#)

Timetable of a day – 1

Titles of Pictures

A day in the life of Kattumu (a girl), ... of Nyawa (a boy) and Boi (a girl) (below)

Each child Photocopies of sheet of parts of a day

Notebooks or paper

Crayons

Teacher Guidelines:

The Lesson 'How to look at a photograph' (Lesson Plan 5) is a good one to give **first**. Children will then have the skill to interpret information on the photographs.

Each teacher will have their own approach for delivering the lesson(s) depending on the age and ability of the children e.g. each group of children can have a photograph to look at and discover for themselves what can be seen and understood, later telling the rest of the class about their photograph. Years 5 & 6 could be given an exercise to match photographs and titles, involving reading and interpretation. Discussion on 'feelings' would be interesting: how do children rate their own lifestyle with playtime, TV, toys, school resources (see next page for extra notes)

Background Information

School. It is hot, stuffy and dark in the school classroom, particularly after midday. There are as many as 60 – 80 (or more!) children in a class sitting very close together for long periods, sometimes with two classes and their teachers in the same room. Often there are two shifts, morning and afternoon. There are few resources, i.e. very little paper and few books – certainly no ‘class sets’ of books. Some children have to do extra jobs to earn a little money to buy a pencil. A great deal of learning is leaning by rote, chanting and repetition of what is said by the teacher or learning off the blackboard. The children mostly have their lessons in English, although their native tongue could be one or more of the local languages (see separate information sheet).

Boys have jobs too. They sweep the veranda, run errands, carry water and help with caring for livestock: chickens, pigs. There is little time for recreation, but there may occasionally be the chance to play or watch football or simple games. There are few toys, unless the children make them for themselves from wire, wood or plastic bottles.

Most children have not touched a computer. The only computers are for the teachers’ use and often the electricity fails causing problems. Also they do not have access to a telephone or any other means of communication. Some better off families are acquiring a mobile phone.

Note: The Day in the Life of Kattumu is also available for download as a [Powerpoint presentation](#) and [as a leaflet](#)

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF KATTUMU

Kattumu lives in Sierra Leone in a town called Bo.

- 5:30 a.m. Kattumu's first task as the elder one in the home is to call prayers by singing some choruses which wakes up Mum and Dad together with her younger sisters and brother to come out of their rooms for morning prayers.
- 6:30 a.m. Kattumu gets water from the well in the compound for bathing and cooking, while the mother is busy preparing breakfast.
- 7:15 a.m. Kattumu gets breakfast and leaves for school.
- 8:00 a.m. This is assembly time for Kattumu as their teachers lead them in morning devotion. Here again Kattumu often sings special choruses. This will be followed by prayers for the commencement of the morning lessons.
- 11:30 a.m. This is lunchtime for Kattumu during which she will buy water to drink and cassava and beans, as it is her favourite food.
- 12:00 p.m. The afternoon lessons starts.
- 2:00 p.m. The school day ends and Kattumu goes back home.
- 3:00 p.m. Kattumu helps Mum to cook. 5:00 p.m. It is supper time, Kattumu is eating with her sisters Mattu and Martha.
- 6:30 p.m. Kattumu takes a bath and gets ready to study with her younger ones with their notes.
- 7.30 p.m. Kattumu is busy studying, mostly practising mathematics and reading her science, followed by doing her homework.
- 9.30 p.m. Kattumu goes to bed.

Photos

1. Kattumu with her family. As the oldest child, Kattumu has the job of calling prayers early in the morning, which wakes up her Mum, Dad and younger sisters and brother.
2. Kattumu takes the rubber bucket to fetch water for the family first thing in the morning.
3. She goes to the well and draws water into containers for the family to use for drinking, cooking, washing and laundry.
4. The whole family gets ready for work and school, washing, cooking and eating breakfast.
5. Kattumu eats her breakfast.
7. Kattumu puts on her school uniform and walks to school with her brother and sister
8. The school holds assembly in the compound before lessons start.
9. Kattumu stands at the front with teachers when she helps lead the singing in assembly.

10. At lunchtime, the children crowd around the woman who has come to sell them lunch.
11. Kattumu eats her lunch while other children watch, hoping that she will give them some.
12. When she gets home from school, Kattumu helps her mother lean the rice and cook dinner for the family.
13. The children eat their dinner together.
14. Kattumu, her brother and sister sit down to do their homework – her little sister joins them even though she doesn't go to school.
15. The children study by the light of a kerosene lamp. Kattumu helps the younger children.

Pictures available to



A day in the life of Kattumu and me

	Kattumu	ME
Before school		
At school		
After school		

A simpler timetable for infants.

5.30 a.m.	Kattumu's first task, as the oldest one in the home, is to call prayers by singing, which wakes up Mum and Dad and her younger sisters and brother to come out of their rooms for morning prayer.
6.30 a.m.	Kattumu gets water from the well in the compound for washing and cooking, while mother is busy cooking breakfast.
7.15 a.m.	Kattumu gets breakfast and leaves for school
8.00 a.m.	Assembly time for Kattumu. Their teachers lead tin mornings singing and prayers. Kattumu often sings special choruses in front of the assembly. After prayers children begin morning lessons
11.30 a.m.	This is lunchtime for Kattumu. She will buy water to drink and cassava and beans, as this is her favourite food.
12.00 a.m.	The afternoon lessons start.
2.00 p.m.	The school day ends and Kattumu goes back home.
3.00 p.m.	Kattumu helps Mum to cook.
5.00 p.m.	It is supper time; Kattumu is eating with her sisters Mattu and Martha.
6.30 p.m.	Kattumu takes a bath and gets ready to help her younger sisters and brothers with their lessons.
7 .30 p.m.	Kattumu is busy studying, mostly practicing mathematics and reading her science, and then doing her other homework
9.30 p.m.	Kattumu goes to bed.

Photo captions

These can be printed, cut out and used by the children to put the captions on the pictures.

1. Kattumu with her family. As the oldest child, Kattumu has the job of calling prayers early in the morning, to wake up her Mum and Dad, younger sisters and brother.

2. Kattumu takes the rubber bucket to fetch water for the family first thing in the morning.

3. She goes to the well and draws water into containers for the family to use for drinking, cooking, washing and laundry.

4. The whole family gets ready for work and school, washing, cooking and eating breakfast.

5. Kattumu eats her breakfast.

6. Kattumu puts on her school uniform and gets ready for school.

7. Kattumu, her brother and sister walk to school together.

8. The school holds assembly in the school compound before lessons start.

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9. Kattumu stands at the front with teachers and helps lead the singing in assembly.

10. At lunchtime, the children crowd around the woman who has come to sell them lunch.

11. Kattumu eats her lunch while other children watch, hoping that she will give them some.

12. When she gets home from school, Kattumu helps her mother clean the rice and cook dinner for the family.

13. The children eat their dinner together.

14. Kattumu, her brother and sister, sit down to do their homework - her little sister joins them even though she doesn't go to school.

15. The children study by the light of a kerosene lamp. Kattumu helps the younger children.

16. Kattumu goes to bed tired at the end of the day.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF NYAWA



Nyawa attends the Methodist Primary School in Bo. He is in class 6, which means that next year he will have to sit the selective Entrance Exam to decide whether he will be

able to go to secondary school. School begins at 7.30, so as he lives on Tikonko Road which is over a mile away, he has to leave the house at about 7.00 a.m. However, he is often late as he has quite a lot to do before he can set off to school, and he hates getting up early!

When he gets up he has to sweep the veranda of the house and carry three buckets of water from the well for his sister to do the housework. He does not stay with his parents, who are farmers in a village about 40 miles away as the school in the village only goes up to class 3 level. During term-time, he lives in Bo with his sister Yeanoh and her husband. They have no children of their own, but have several relatives staying with them.

After splashing his face with water, Nyawa puts on his uniform of khaki shorts and white shirt with open sandals, which the children call "half-backs". He usually does not have breakfast, but his brother-in-law may give him a little money to buy a snack at lunchtime, or there may be a few oranges or bananas in the house for him to nibble.

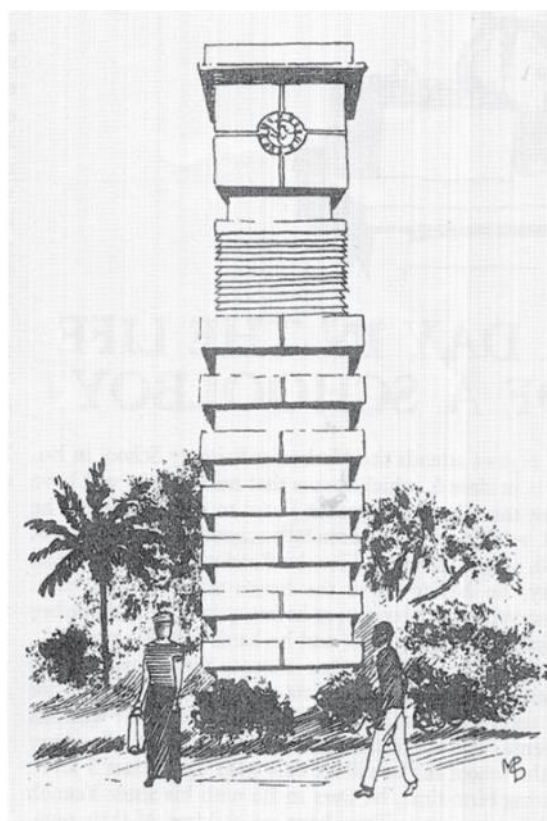
When he leaves the house, he has to walk along Tikonko Road towards the clock tower. There are many other schoolchildren on the road, as well as people going to offices and other places of work. Halfway along Tikonko Road, Nyawa passes the Niala lorry park, where taxis and lorries stop to pick up passengers and luggage going to Njala, where the University College is, or further to Taiama, or Freetown.

Although it is early, this spot is always busy and noisy with travellers, traders and the lom-boys (or apprentices) clamouring for passengers. Usually there is music blaring from the bar as well. Just behind this area, there is a gate into the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and sometimes if he is very late, Nyawa slips through here to take a short cut. Otherwise he walks along the main road to the Clock Tower and turns left towards Dambara Road. As he walks along Dambara Road towards the centre of the town, he sees the Lebanese traders with their big, open-fronted stores taking down their shutters and unlocking their doors for the day's business and Choithram's 'the big Indian-owned supermarket just opposite. Already the beggars are demanding alms of passers-by.

He goes past the night-clubs and the Rio Cinema and, although he knows he will be very late, Nyawa cannot resist stopping to look at the brightly-coloured posters to see what films are on tonight. There is a new film every day, from England, America, India or China. Nyawa likes the posters for the Chinese films best with their muscular, fierce-looking warriors and strange writing. He has never been into the cinema, as his spare is not enough to pay for his ticket, but he knows that some of his friends hang around outside and sneak in under cover of darkness, or because they know the ushers.

Definitely late now, Nyawa begins to run and decides to risk cutting past the Church instead of going all the way round the roundabout, although he knows that the School Manager will send him back if he sees him. Luckily, he is not standing at his window this morning, so Nyawa is able to join the end of his class line just as they are about to sing the National Anthem and march off to their classes.

Today is Monday so the class have to spend the first few minutes sweeping the fallen leaves and litter from the yard outside their classroom and cleaning the dust from their tables and benches. Then they are ready to start their first lesson at about 8.00 am.



The clocktower, Bo.

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A day in the life of Nyawa (continued)

The classroom is small, and very crowded with 60 children sitting at long tables on an assortment of benches, stools and boxes. The teacher, Mr. Samba, has his table at the front with his box of chalk, duster and his clock. The blackboard is large, uneven rectangle painted on the wall and the time-table, also large, is pinned up beside it.

There is very little else on the walls and in fact there is not much more wall space as the classroom has big windows for coolness. These windows have no glass, which is very expensive, so that the classroom can become very noisy, as it is near the road. There are heavy wooden shutters that are closed at night. There are no cupboards or shelves

The first lesson is called "Spoken English". The teacher begins by writing the name of the lesson on the blackboard in big letters. Then he turns to the children and begins chanting sentences in English which they repeat after him. A lot of them do not understand what they are saying, but speak in unison with their class-mates.

After 30 minutes of this lesson, it is time to move on, so the teacher rubs "Spoken English" off the blackboard and writes up "Mathematics". Because few of the children have the textbook that they are supposed to buy for themselves, the teacher usually writes sums on the blackboard for them to work. If it is a new type of sum, he explains to them how to do it. When they have had time to do the work, he calls up individual children to do the sum in front of the whole class.

Because of the shortage of books, the most difficult lesson is Reading. Those who have copies of the textbook share with their friends, but there are still not enough to go round. This means that they have to go very slowly and often the children learn passages by heart instead of reading them. Many of the children do not know how to read at all.

The morning continues with a new lesson every 30 minutes and at 10.30 the children go out for their break. They run outside into the big yard. Nyawa has 5c to spend so he runs with his friend Bondi to the row of women sitting under the mango trees with trays of food on their stools - oranges, bananas, parched groundnuts, doughnuts, bread, and for those with plenty of money there is bean stew with palm oil.

When the oranges are plentiful, the children can buy 3 or 4 for 5c and the sellers skilfully peel off the outer skin, leaving the white pith. Then they slice off the top, so the children can suck out the juice. Nyawa

and Bondi decide to buy groundnuts and watch hungrily as the seller measures out 5c onto a piece of paper for them. She uses an old tomato puree tin for this and twists the ends of the paper to stop the nuts rolling out.

Crowds of children swarm around the traders and others, who have no money, play energetic games nearby. The boys love to play football and race up and down the playground chasing their ball. If there is no ball, they use an orange or a bundle of cloth instead. The girls, meanwhile, play games with rhythmic clapping and singing. Then the bell rings and it is time to go back into the classroom. It is already becoming hot and stuffy so the children are beginning to feel tired and sleepy, especially as many of them have had nothing to eat yet.

Because there are so many children and so few school buildings, Methodist Primary School works on a shift system. Two sets of children and teachers use the class-rooms each day. The morning shift works from 7.30 until 12.30, the afternoon shift from 1.00 until 6.00 p.m. The children who come in the afternoon find it very hot, and many of them have had to work hard at home in the morning before coming to school.

At last, 12.30 comes and the bell rings out the end of the school day. Nyawa knows he has to hurry home as his sister, Yeanoh, expects him to help with the cooking so that the meal is ready when her husband comes home at 2.30.

When he reaches home. Nyawa finds her already in the kitchen, back from selling her vegetables in the market. He helps by pounding cassava leaves in the big wooden mortar, but gets a scolding because he has forgotten to take off his school suit before going to the kitchen. When the food is ready, Yeanoh carries a dish into the house for her husband. Then she and the children gather round the large, shallow pot to share what is left.

After helping to clear up and wash the dishes, Nyawa has a chance to play with his friends in the neighbouring houses and perhaps slip off to watch a football match or anything else interesting in town. Then, in the evening, he has to make sure that the chickens which peck in the dust around the house all day are safely shut in their coops, then light the fire to heat water for his brother-in-law's bath. Then he carries a bucket of water for his own bath to the back of the compound where he splashes himself thoroughly. After that, he takes his books to read over what they did in school that day - or sometimes he simply falls asleep in the warm dimly lit sitting room

A TYPICAL EXTENDED FAMILY 'Boi's Ambition'

Boi, one of the daughters of Mr. And Mrs. Vamboi, had a very high ambition of going to school and becoming a nursing sister at the very early age of six. As a small girl, she kept disturbing her parents to make sure that her aim was achieved. Any time other relatives visit them, she told them about her intention. Most of her relatives, including Mum and Dad, didn't attend school due to poverty, though sometime later they became business people able to earn their living. Boi's saddest moment as a small girl was seeing her age groups going to school while she stayed at home.

One day, Boi's Aunt Miatta visited them. Boi wept bitterly that she wanted her aunt to help her go to school. But her aunt also hadn't money to support her, as education was very expensive by then. She then promised helping Boi. As a start, she contacted all other relatives, such as brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts and even Boi's grandparents. They agreed to take a decision on Boi's issue at a family meeting at the end of the year. Boi's dream became a reality during the family meeting when they all unanimously consented to be contributing yearly to cover Boi's educational expenses. This was to be an ongoing process until Boi completed her education as she desired.

Boi, after completing primary and secondary education, then enrolled into the School of Nursing where she graduated three years later as a nursing sister. Boi in turn assisted most members of the family by giving them free medical treatment. She became the breadwinner of the family that also helped other younger members of the family to be educated.