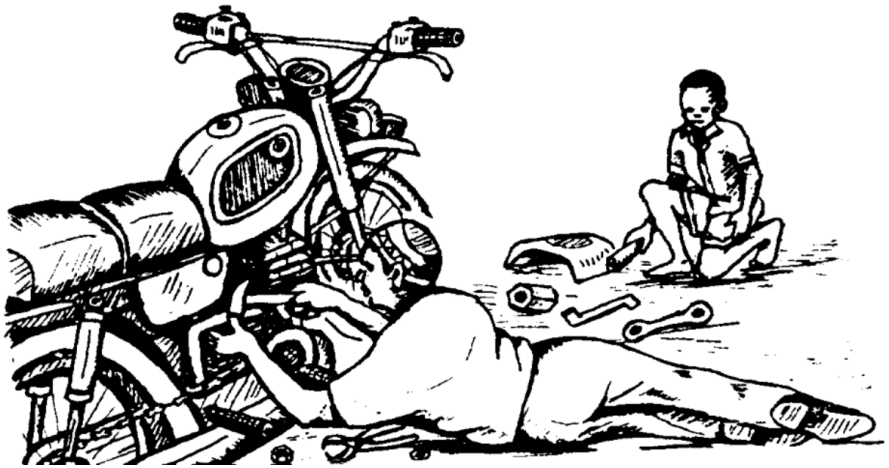


# Can I Help?





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Written by Carol Smith

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MLE Curriculum in Cameroon.

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English  
United Kingdom

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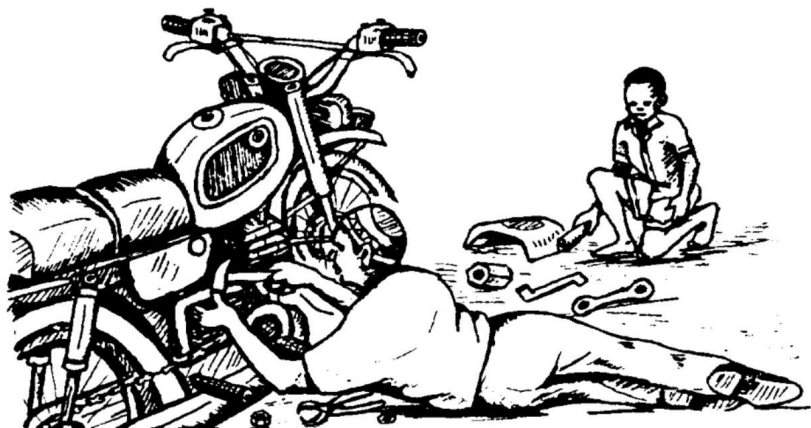
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# Can I Help?





Thomas had nothing to do. He went to see if he could help someone.



He found his grandfather sitting under a tree. “What are you doing grandfather? Can I help you?”

“That is very kind of you Thomas,” said his grandfather. “As you see I am making rope. You are not able to help me but you can watch me and then one day you will know how to make rope.” So Thomas watched his grandfather very carefully. He wanted to learn.

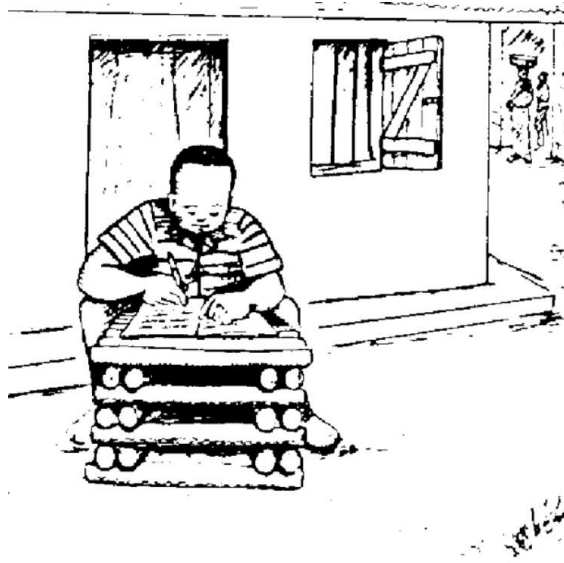


After a while Thomas went to see if he could help his grandmother. She was in the compound sitting on a stool, spinning cotton.

“Can I help you grandmother?” he asked.

“Thank you, but I don’t think you can help me as this is a job for one person. You can sit and talk to me while I work. I would enjoy that.”

So Thomas told his grandmother all about what he had done at school that day.



He saw his big brother sitting in the doorway of his hut with a worried look on his face.

“Can I help you John?” asked Thomas.

“The best way to help me is to quietly go away. This is very difficult home work I was given at school today,” said John.

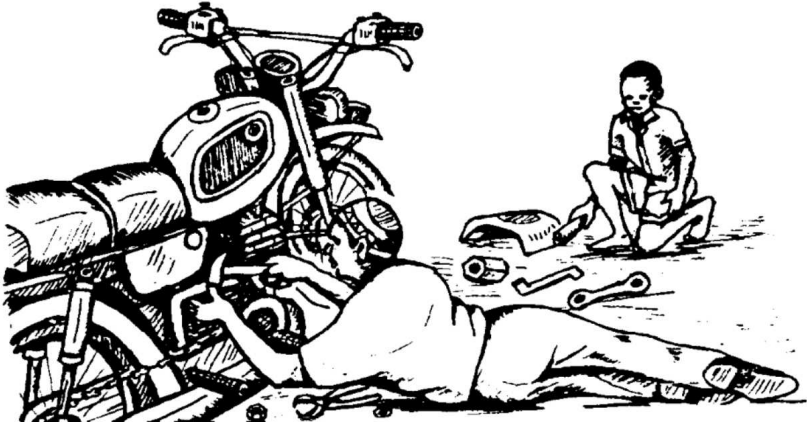
Thomas left quietly.



There was a lot of noise coming from behind the wall so Thomas peeped over and saw his older sister with her two friends.

“Can I help you?” offered Thomas.

“Oh no thank you Thomas,” said his sister, “we are just going to collect water and you would not want to come with us.”



Thomas found his father working on his troublesome moto.

“Can I help you father?” he asked.

“I think this moto is beyond help,”  
Thomas’s father replied.

Thomas thought it best to leave his  
father to work out what to do by himself.



The sound of pounding was coming from around the corner. He found his aunt pounding millet and looking very hot and tired.

“Can I help you do that aunt?” said Thomas.

“You are such a kind boy Thomas,” said his aunt, “but I have just finished. Thank you for offering.”

Thomas felt rather sad that he hadn't been useful to anyone. He went to find his mother.



“Mother can I help YOU?” he asked.

“Oh yes, Thomas,” she replied with a smile, “I need some help. Please will you look after the baby so that I can get on with all the things I need to do before I begin the meal?”



Thomas sang to the baby, and played games to make it laugh. It was a fun job and he liked to feel useful.

Also the meal would come more quickly because he helped.



**Text in English:** Can I Help? - Thomas had nothing to do. He went to see if he could help someone. He found his grandfather sitting under a tree. "What are you doing grandfather? Can I help you?" "That is very kind of you Thomas," said his grandfather. "As you see I am making rope. You are not able to help me but you can watch me and then one day you will know how to make rope." So Thomas watched his grandfather very carefully. He wanted to learn. After a while Thomas went to see if he could help his grandmother. She was in the compound sitting on a stool, spinning cotton. "Can I help you grandmother?" he asked. "Thank you, but I don't think you can help me as this is a job for one person. You can sit and talk to me while I work. I would enjoy that." So Thomas told his grandmother all about what he had done at school that day. He saw his big brother sitting in the doorway of his hut with a worried look on his face. "Can I help you John?" asked Thomas. "The best way to help me is to quietly go away. This is very difficult home work I was given at school today," said John. Thomas left quietly. There was a lot of noise coming from behind the wall so Thomas peeped over and saw his older sister with her two friends. "Can I help you?" offered Thomas. "Oh no thank you Thomas," said his sister, "we are just going to collect water and you would not want to come with us." Thomas found his father working on his troublesome moto. "Can I help you father?" he asked. "I think this moto is beyond help," Thomas's father replied. Thomas thought it best to leave his father to work out what to do by himself. The sound of pounding was coming from around the corner. He found his aunt pounding millet and looking very hot and tired. "Can I help you do that aunt?" said Thomas. "You are such a kind boy Thomas," said his aunt, "but I have just finished. Thank you for offering." Thomas felt rather sad that he hadn't been useful to anyone. He went to find his mother. "Mother can I help YOU?" he asked. "Oh yes, Thomas," she replied with a smile, "I need some help."

Please will you look after the baby so that I can get on with all the things I need to do before I begin the meal?" Thomas sang to the baby, and played games to make it laugh. It was a fun job and he liked to feel useful. Also the meal would come more quickly because he helped.



