

MY CHOICES, MY CONSEQUENCES

LIVE SAFELY



RESPECTABILITY • RESPONSIBILITY • CONSISTENCY

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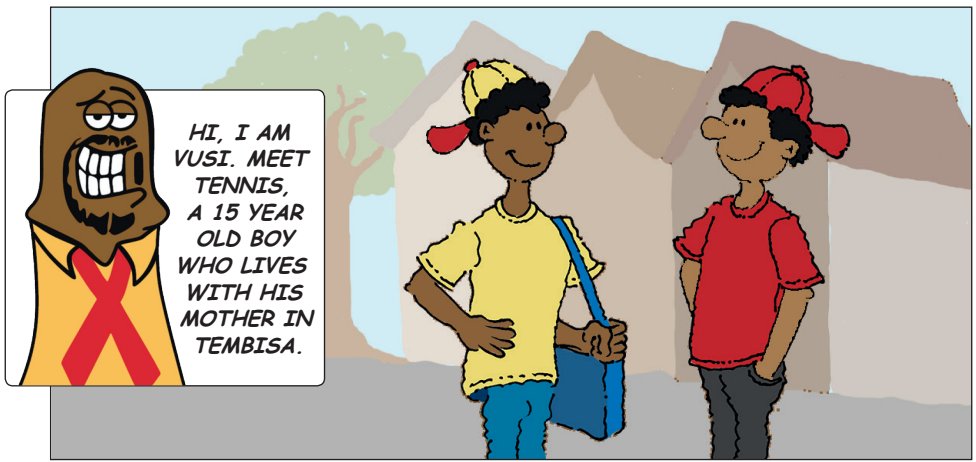
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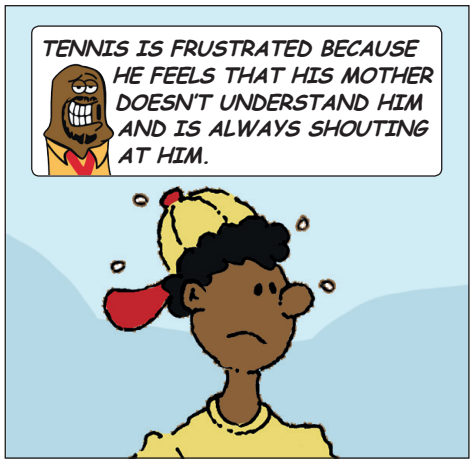
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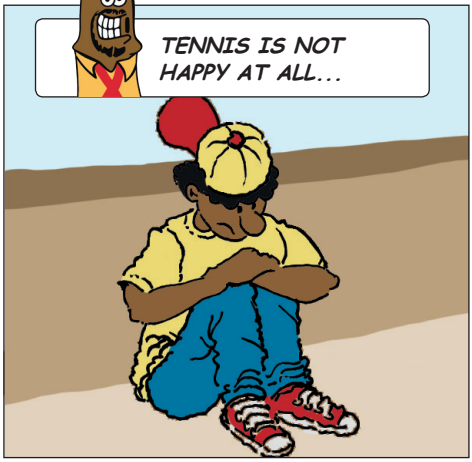
HI, I AM VUSI. MEET TENNIS, A 15 YEAR OLD BOY WHO LIVES WITH HIS MOTHER IN TEMBISA.



TENNIS IS FRUSTRATED BECAUSE HE FEELS THAT HIS MOTHER DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HIM AND IS ALWAYS SHOUTING AT HIM.



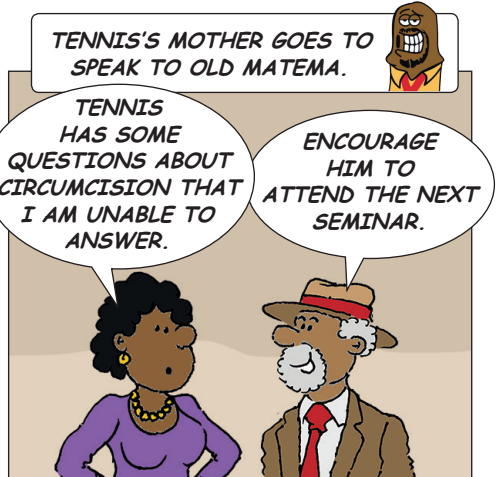
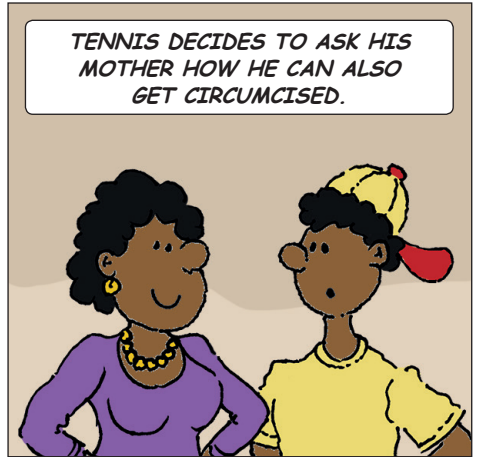
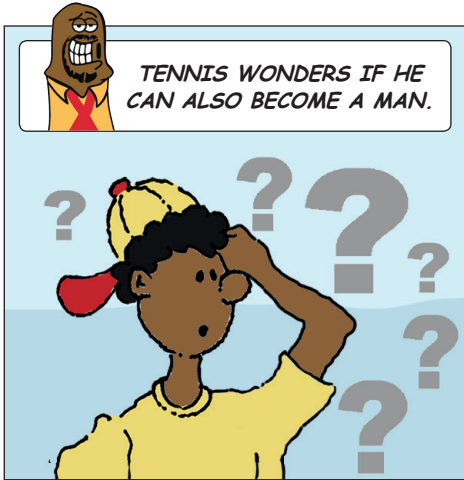
HEY WENA TENNIS. DON'T WALK AWAY WHILE I AM TALKING TO YOU!



TENNIS IS NOT HAPPY AT ALL...



WHILE OUTSIDE, STILL ANGRY WITH HIS MOTHER, TENNIS'S BEST FRIEND DUMA PASSES BY.





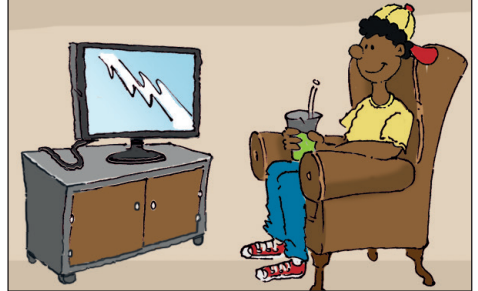
OLD MATEMA IS A DEACON AT THE LOCAL CHURCH WHO CARRIES OUT EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS FOR BOYS AT THE CHURCH AND ORGANISES FOR THEM TO GET CIRCUMCISED AFTER THAT.



AFTER THREE DAYS OF THE EDUCATION SEMINAR, OLD MATEMA TAKES THE BOYS TO THE CLINIC WITH THE PERMISSION OF THEIR PARENTS.



CIRCUMCISION AT THE CLINIC WAS DONE IN TWO HOURS AND IT WAS NOT AS PAINFUL AS TENNIS HAD IMAGINED.



A FEW DAYS LATER TENNIS MEETS UP WITH FRIENDS AT THE LOCAL SOCCER FIELD. TENNIS FEELS PROUD AND CONFIDENT.



HOLA MAJITA, NOW THAT WE ARE CIRCUMCISED, WE CAN GET ANY GIRL THAT WE WANT.

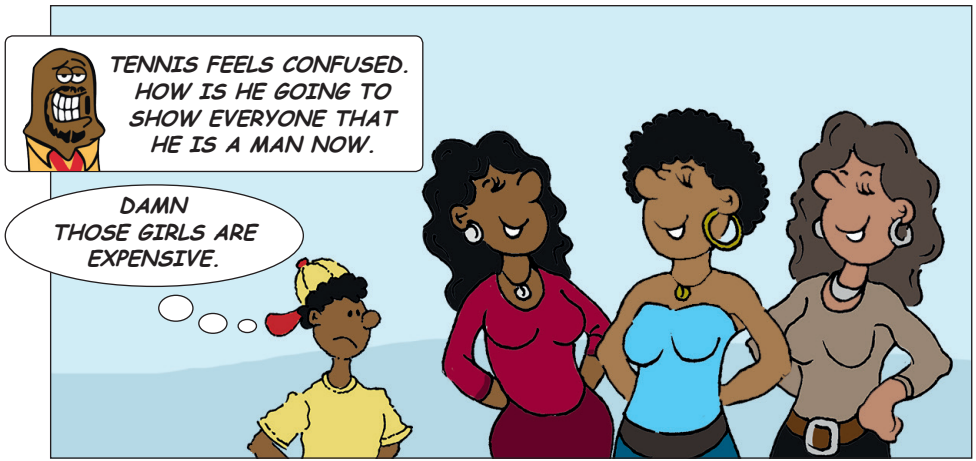




YAH
NEH I AM NO
LONGER A SMALL BOY,
AND I AM GOING TO
SHOW LUCY.

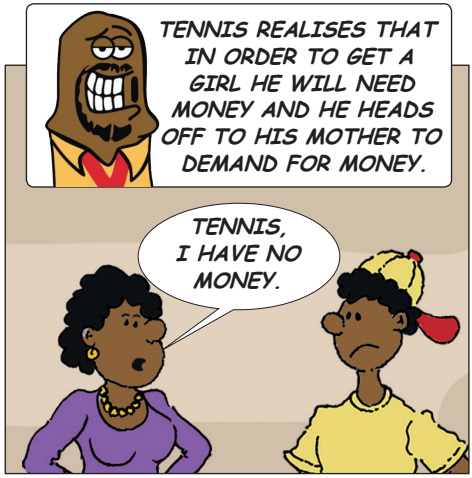
EISH
BUT THE
COUNSELLOR SAID
WE SHOULD WAIT FOR
SIX WEEKS TO HEAL
BEFORE SEX".

"OHOO!
THEN BANGI
SHAYE NGE STINA,
NEVER!



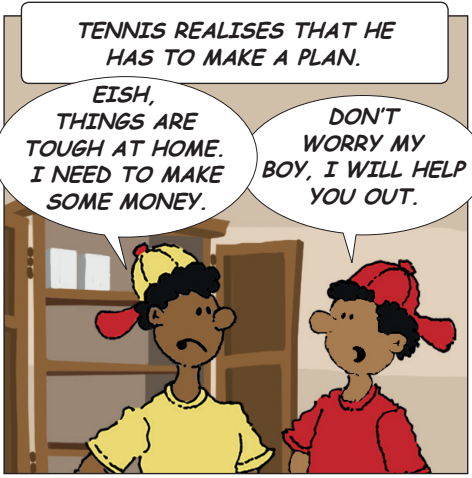
TENNIS FEELS CONFUSED.
HOW IS HE GOING TO
SHOW EVERYONE THAT
HE IS A MAN NOW.

DAMN
THOSE GIRLS ARE
EXPENSIVE.



TENNIS REALISES THAT
IN ORDER TO GET A
GIRL HE WILL NEED
MONEY AND HE HEADS
OFF TO HIS MOTHER TO
DEMAND FOR MONEY.

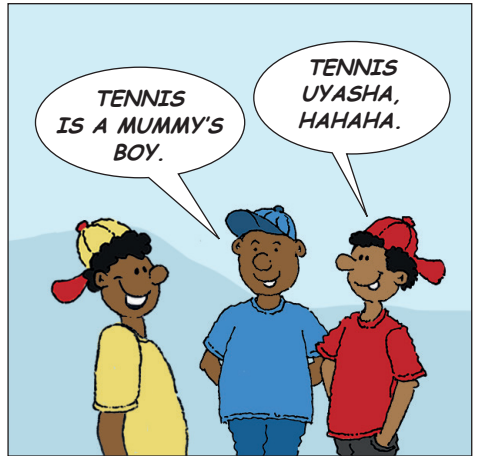
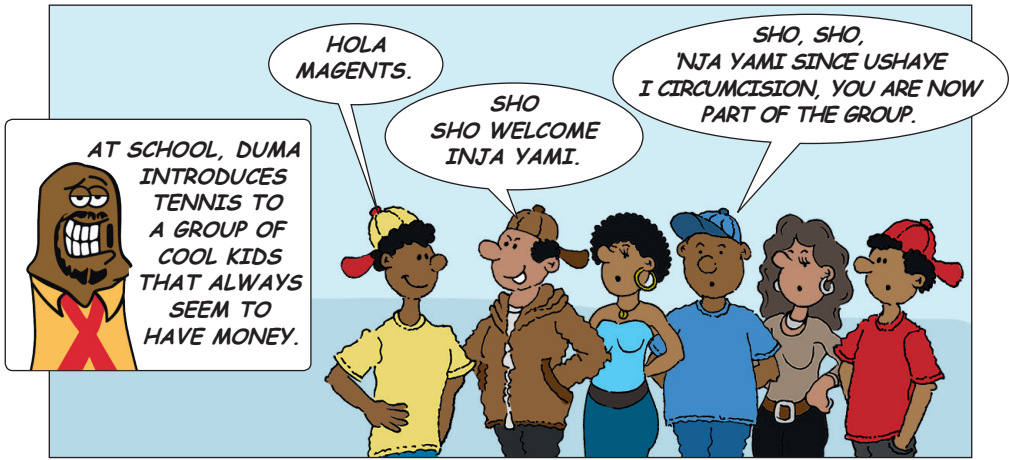
TENNIS,
I HAVE NO
MONEY.



TENNIS REALISES THAT HE
HAS TO MAKE A PLAN.

EISH,
THINGS ARE
TOUGH AT HOME.
I NEED TO MAKE
SOME MONEY.

DON'T
WORRY MY
BOY, I WILL HELP
YOU OUT.



HAPPY DAYS DO NOT LAST LONG. ONE DAY TENNIS HAS AN ARGUMENT WITH SOME DRUG DEALERS AT THE TAVERN AND THEY BEAT HIM UP.



A FEW DAYS LATER XOLANI IS ARRESTED FOR ASSAULTING A POLICE OFFICER.

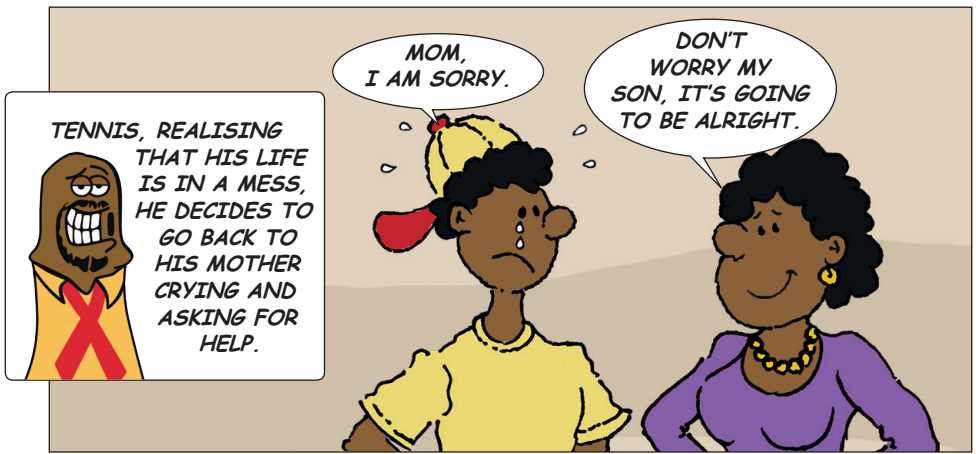


PRECIOUS, ONE OF THE GIRLS IN THE GROUP FALLS PREGNANT AND SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHO THE FATHER IS.



ONE OF THE GROUP MEMBERS, THABO, HAS LOST A LOT OF WEIGHT, RUMOURS SAY HE HAS AIDS.



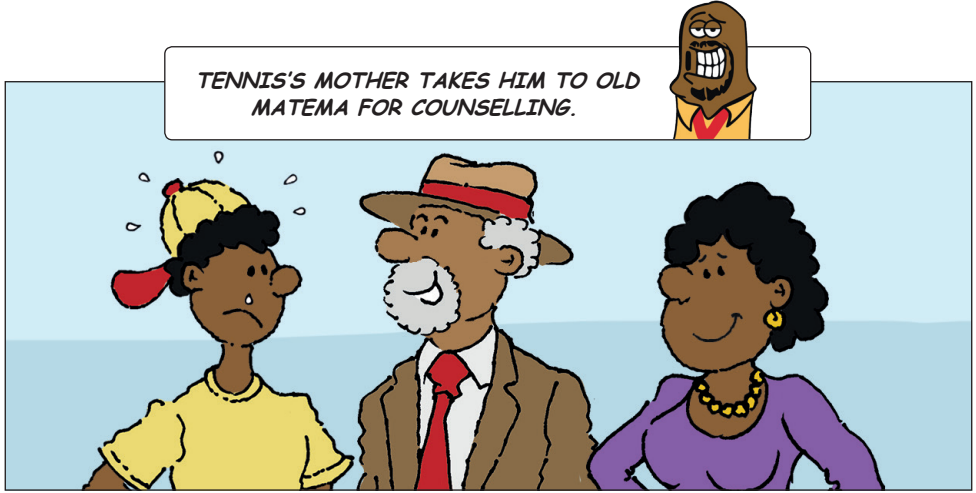


TENNIS, REALISING THAT HIS LIFE IS IN A MESS, HE DECIDES TO GO BACK TO HIS MOTHER CRYING AND ASKING FOR HELP.

MOM, I AM SORRY.

DON'T WORRY MY SON, IT'S GOING TO BE ALRIGHT.

TENNIS'S MOTHER TAKES HIM TO OLD MATEMA FOR COUNSELLING.



OLD MATEMA ENCOURAGES TENNIS TO JOIN AN ADOLESCENT GROUP WHERE THEY ARE GIVEN LIFE SKILLS BY A SPEAKER.



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THESE ARE THE LESSONS THAT TENNIS HAS LEARNT:

1. BEING A MAN DOES NOT MEAN BEHAVING VIOLENTLY.

2. BEING A MAN MEANS BEING RESPECTABLE AND RESPECTING OTHERS.

3. BEING A MAN MEANS HAVING SEX IN A RESPONSIBLE WAY BY DECIDING WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME FOR YOU TO START HAVING SEX.

4. BEING A MAN IS ALWAYS USING A CONDOM, SAFELY AND CONSISTENTLY.

5. BEING A MAN IS ABLE TO SAY NO TO NEGATIVE PEER PRESSURE.



TENNIS HAD A WONDERFUL TIME AT THE SEMINAR AND PROMISED HIS MOTHER THAT HE WOULD CHANGE AND FOCUS ON HIS EDUCATION AND MAKE BETTER LIFE CHOICES.



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