

THE HUMAN BEING: VISUALIZING LITERACY ACROSS THE LIFESPAN

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THIS IS THE STORY
OF A YOUTH

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Dies one Tuesday
morning of AIDS
complications, while
lying on the street

WHO DID NOT
LEARN TO READ

And so, he....

Cannot find a job

Lies on the street
begging for change

Crosses the line of
legality one day– and
engages in theft

Spreads AIDS to 7
other women

Is caught by police

Catches AIDS
from a prostitute

Is sent to prison

Learns the way
of the street

Mixes with
hard criminals

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THIS IS THE STORY
OF A MAN

But this you and I will
never know because
it is done in the dark
and kept in the dark

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And so he...

WHO DID NOT
LEARN TO READ

Engages in
agriculture like his
father

And ends up abusing
his wife

Cannot get up to
date market
information

And so he turns to
drinking to forget his
problems



Cannot take
advantage of latest
crop methods

Cannot cope with the
economic pressures

Spends what he
earns, without being
able to save

Must take care of 8
children himself

Has an unsuccessful
harvest

He cannot pay for a
doctor or read to
know what to do
about her illness

Cannot read enough
to fill out the forms
for social assistance
and benefits

And because of
this disaster, his
wife becomes
sick

Is hit by
disaster

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She is able to influence others to make choices about schooling, saving, and family planning

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THIS IS THE STORY OF A GIRL

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She missed the first years of schooling

WHO LEARNED TO READ

But then she entered a nonformal education center . . .

She gradually gains a greater position of leadership in the community and becomes active in PTA

She is able to complete 3 grades and re-enter the formal school

With the earnings, she sends 1 more child to school

She learns the national language

Starts a poultry raising enterprise

Learns a little English and some computer skills

She is able to save enough to participate in the savings group & later leads the group

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She can afford to send 3 of his 5 children to school. She sends 2 girls and 1 boy

Has access to some family planning material. When does marry she decides to have 5 children , instead of 8

Finds a job
Delays marriage

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In the stories of these human beings' lives...

Where do you fit?

Where does your ministry fit?

How could the work you do be changed ...

if this human being were literate?