

☺ Henda's day before it has even started

It is monday morning and Henda is the first one up - as usual. She is the girl in the family and so she takes longer to get ready for school, wash her face and comb her hair and do whatever girls have to do before they can actually leave the house. But she quite likes the morning silence and it is not so difficult anymore ... not like in winter when it was pitch dark with everybody else still fast asleep. On those days cold crept up her legs as soon as she put on the short school uniform. (At school they wouldn't allow girls to wear trousers, for various reasons Henda didn't really understand.)

So after she has put on the short school uniform and tightened the belt (without that the school uniforms don't really do much for a girl's looks) she puts on the kettle and prepares the four bowls of cereal - for Freddie, her brother, who gets up so late he doesn't have time to do it himself, mummy and daddy, and herself of course. That is one of the tasks she has around the house. She does not really mind doing that, in fact, it makes her feel quite important - caring for the family as she will, one day ...

When she goes to wake up Freddie she notices how messy his room is, but then that is what boys are like. As he is the captain of the first team

☺ notes from a life of sacrifice and discrimination



and has to go to his all-important soccer training every afternoon he does not have time to tidy his room as well. Every now and then Mum would say something like: Oh Freddie, your room! But then Henda can hear that sort-of-proud tone in her voice. After all it is not important for boys to be tidy and neat, they will find someone to do this irritating time-consuming job for them.

Now, if Mum talks to Henda about her room and the way it looks, her voice sounds completely different. "Sharper and shriller." And would she like to be known as an untidy girl, not being able to look after a household, and so on and so on. So Henda tries to keep her room clean and tidy although she would prefer to read a book or visit a friend in the afternoon.

(to be continued)

te laat vir trane

Swangerskappe op skool is 'n groot probleem, maar wat word daar in skole gedoen om hierdie probleem te oorbrug? SISTER het met 'n paar mense gesels hieroor.

Bella Cupido, waarnemende hoof van Jan Jonker Afrikaner Hoërskool sê onkunde is die grootste oorsaak dat meisies swanger word terwyl hulle nog op