

## Version 1

"Good evening Papa, *nno*"

"Did school go well?"

I said "Yes" and handed him the report card.

"Who came first?" Papa asked

"Chidwe Jideze"

"Jideze? The girl who came second last term?"

"Yes."

Papa looked at my report card for a while longer; then he said, "Come down for dinner."

# Original

"Good evening, Papa, *nno*."

'Did school go well?'

I wanted to say I came second so that he would know immediately, so that I would acknowledge my failure, but instead I said, 'Yes,' and handed him the report card. He seemed to take forever to open it and even longer to read it. I tried to pace my breathing as I waited, knowing all the while that I could not.

'Who came first?' Papa asked, finally.

'Chinwe Jideze.'

'Jideze? The girl who came second last term?'

'Yes,' I said. My stomach was making sounds, hollow rumbling sounds that seemed too loud, that would not stop even when I sucked in my belly.

Papa looked at my report card for a while longer; then he said, 'Come down for dinner.'" (p. 40)

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