

Now – the first thing: I am very confused as to your names. I have seen your mum referred to as Wanjiru, Mulaa and Muchemi. I have also heard her referred to as a very wonderful woman, but that is clearly not her name. So, Rebecca, what is the correct way of addressing Jonah, you and your mum? Do you all have the same last name?

Anyway, to your letter. We are all fine. Samantha and Emily are both at the same university (Bristol). Sam takes her finals in a few months, so is working hard – at her social life!! Emily is in her second term and loves every minute. Both girls have acquired boy friends and there is a lot of lovey, dovey stuff going on. Emily is planning to go on a fund raising hitch hike from London to Morocco. Jack (who is at school here) is going to go with her and she might let her boyfriend come if he behaves himself. Needless to say, the thought of her precious darling hitch hiking for 1600 miles is depriving Felicity of all sleep

Congratulations on getting in to such a good school. When I was your age, I went to Pembroke House, near Gilgil. We would go to school by train. At all the stations along the line there would be boys about our age trying to sell us things. This selling process was played out in a very precise manner. Nothing would happen until the train began slowly to pull out of the station. Then all the boys would run along the platform holding up their goods; we would hang out of the train windows holding out our semounis. The game was to see whether you could get something from the boys without giving them your semouni in payment. They would be trying to get our semounis without giving us the goods. Sometimes they would win, sometimes we would win!! Boys will be boys...

I am greatly encouraged by your new government. Let us hope that Mwai Kibaki can make a dent in the curse of corruption that has done so much damage to Kenya's development, infrastructure and wildlife. In time it will be up to people like you to bring honesty and truth back in to Kenya's public life