



POVERTY
Simulation

Part One

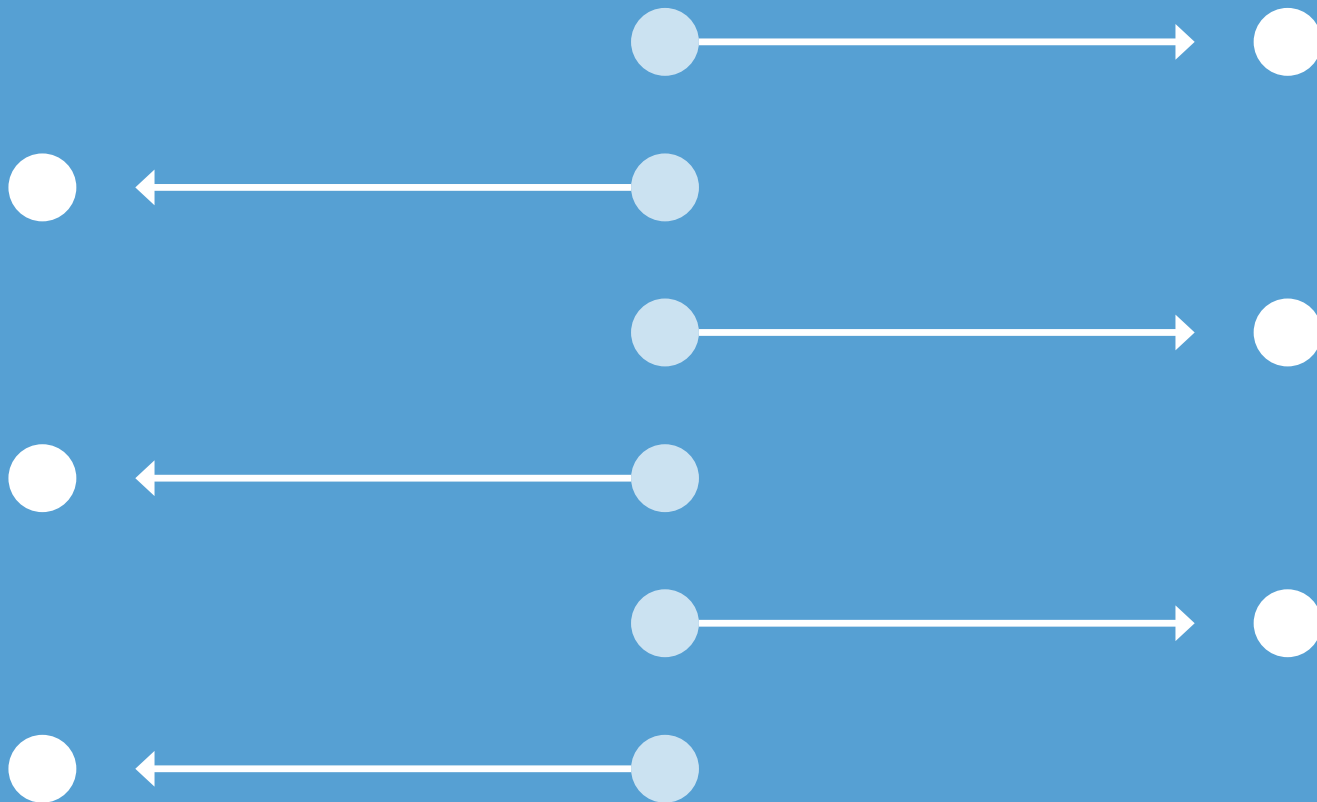
Your Daily Decisions

(To get the party started)

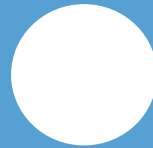
Stand in a line in the
center of the room.



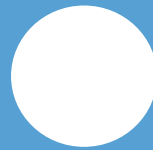
For each of the following scenarios, move to the side that represents your answer.



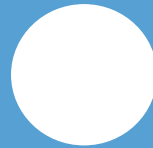
**Would you rather have
unlimited bacon but no other food,
or a regular daily breakfast?**



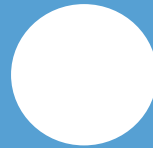
**Would you rather
be without elbows or
be without knees?**



Would you rather
take a shower in syrup
or orange juice?



**Would you rather
change the past or be able
to see into the future?**



Part Two

Adia's Story

Adia is a representative for millions of children who share a common experience: being born into a world of crippling poverty. In your experience today, you will help shape Adia's future through each of your choices.

We'll start with the beginning of Adia's story—and from there it's up to you. At each step, you and your group will face another event that will force you to make a decision. Each of these choices will determine another turn in Adia's life.

As we consider the choices Adia has to face on a daily basis, you'll experience the realities of poverty and its effects on every aspect of life.

In the end:

Your goal is to make decisions
that bring hope to Adia and give her
a brighter future where she can fulfill
her God-given potential.

Choose wisely.
Listen to input from
everyone, and make
decisions as a team.

We will gather together as a whole group at the end of this experience to share the various outcomes of Adia's life. Be prepared to talk about how you made the choices you did, and why.



Adia is a bright-eyed girl—always ready to laugh, even when times are hard. Her father, Kiano, describes her as the light in their little family. At 13, Adia is the oldest of three daughters born to Kiano and his wife Halima.

Adia and her family live in the impoverished village of Rumuruti in the East African country of Kenya. Kiano does his best to farm his one-acre plot of land and raise livestock. By working long, hard days, Kiano can keep his family fed, but just barely. He brings home the equivalent of less than two U.S. dollars a day.

Halima works odd jobs when they're available. It's hard because she must take 2-year-old Majda, Adia's youngest sister, with her. Halima's greatest desire is to send her daughters to school. But school fees and the cost of a uniform for Adia nearly deplete the family's meager income.

Tonight, Adia can tell her mother is tired. Majda sleeps in Halima's lap, looking tiny and safe. Adia smiles at her other sister, 5-year-old Rehema, who is sweeping the dirt-covered floor of their mud hut. As she prepares dinner to give her mother a rest, Adia hums softly and weaves a familiar story in her head.

In her dreams, Adia is a teacher. She has her own classroom full of brand-new supplies, books, and eager students. She takes delight in answering the children's questions and watching them learn ... but as the pot begins to boil, Adia returns to the present. It's dinnertime, and she's hoping she can somehow stretch the meal to serve everyone. Tonight, she sees that won't be possible, and her smile fades.

That night a fierce storm hits. The rain and winds are so strong and loud that Majda and Rehema cry all night. The frightened girls cling to their parents.

When morning dawns, the little hut is barely standing; the floors are covered in thick mud and sections of the roof and walls have collapsed. Adia's heart sinks when she looks outside: the maize that just yesterday had been nearly ready to harvest is torn to pieces by the rain and wind.

Kiano looks old, Adia thinks, in a way he's never looked before. He stands motionless, one hand on his head, eyes full of tears as he stares out across his devastated land. He knows he will not farm again for a long time.

Adia's family farm has been destroyed by a sudden storm. There is no way her father, Kiano, will be able to make any kind of profit this year. Yet without an income, his family will not survive. They are already hungry. They can't go many more days without food.

Halima and Kiano must make a difficult choice. Do they stay in their village or make a risky move to the city? They have nothing but their land and some livestock to sell. Which choice would you make?

**Stay in their village or make a
risky move to the city?**



**Adia and her family
stay in their village.**

Her family chooses to remain in their
damaged hut and her parents try to find another
source of income in a community where many
others have also lost their crops.

**Adia and her family move to a
big city to look for work.**

The family takes a risk and
moves to the capital city of Nairobi so
Kiano can look for employment.

Kiano and Halima no longer have a source of income, yet their home must be repaired before they can live in it. They move temporarily into Halima's aunt's home, where Kiano is given the chance to earn a small income helping on their larger farm. At this point, Adia is able to remain in school.

But after a few months, Kiano has been unable to save any money and their home remains ruined. Adia's aunt has taken in other family members whose homes were also destroyed, and there is no longer room for Adia's family.

Kiano must immediately find the money for the home repairs.

**Should Kiano and Halima sell
their livestock, or borrow cash
from the local moneylender?**



**Adia's family sells
their livestock for money to
repair their hut.**

They trade their remaining
livestock—some chickens and a goat—for
the money to fix their home.

**Adia's family takes a
loan to repair their hut.**

Kiano borrows cash from the local
moneylender to make repairs to their home.

Kiano and Halima move their family to Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. After selling their land, along with their few chickens and goat, they have enough money to rent a small apartment. They find a school for Adia, although buying her uniform costs the rest of their money.

Kiano looks desperately for work, with no luck. After the recent storms, the city is teeming with men like him who have abandoned their homes in search of income for their families. Finally, it's Halima who finds a job at a garment factory. Kiano is still looking for work, so there is no one to care for the younger girls. Adia considers leaving school to watch her sisters—just for a while, until her father gets a job.

Should Adia stay in school,
or leave school to care for
her younger sisters?



Adia stays in school.

This leaves the two younger girls
unsupervised during the day.

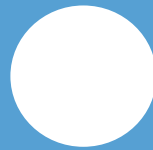
**Adia leaves school to
care for her younger sisters.**

This allows her mother to continue
working while her father looks for a job.

After completing the simple repairs themselves, Kiano and Halima are thrilled to move their family back into their own home. But now, with no goat to provide milk and no chicken to produce eggs, the children are growing thin. Kiano still works on his wife's sister's farm, but it's simply not enough to sustain them.

Then one day, little Majda becomes sick with a high fever. There is no money for a visit to the health clinic.

Should Adia drop out of school to help pay for her sister's medical bills, or remain in school and hope that her sister will get better without healthcare?



Adia drops out of school and goes to work to help pay for her sister's medical bills.

Kiano and Halima decide to pull Adia out of school temporarily to work for her uncle, a fisherman, in Usenge village near Lake Victoria. The income she earns will help pay for Majda's medical bills and help her family get back on their feet.

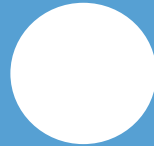
Adia stays in school, and the family skips the health clinic.

The family chooses to remain together and keep Adia in school, because they know how important an education is to her future. But with so many needs to fill, Halima searches even harder for regular work. They give Majda most of the little food they have in hopes that better nutrition will help her body heal.

Kiano and Halima immediately use the loan to buy the supplies they need to repair their home, and they move back in a matter of days. Adia is relieved that her parents didn't sell their animals. She knows the nutritious milk and eggs are keeping her sisters healthy.

But soon there is trouble. The man who loaned them the money comes to the house one night and calls Kiano outside. Adia hears yelling. When her father returns, his mouth is bleeding, but he won't say what happened. Later, Adia overhears him whispering to Halima that he must repay the loan much sooner than expected, and with more interest. Adia is afraid. She knows her father won't be able to meet the new deadline and she worries for his safety.

Should Adia drop out of school to help her family pay back the loan, or go to live with her distant relative to help her family save money?



Adia drops out of school to help her family pay back the loan.

Kiano and Halima pull Adia out of school temporarily to work for her uncle, a fisherman, in the village of Usenge along Lake Victoria. The income she earns will help repay the loan and enable her family to get back on its feet. She expects to be home and back in school within a few months.

**Adia goes to live with
her father's cousin to help her
family save money.**

Kiano's cousin in Nairobi agrees to
take Adia in for a year and send her to school.

With one less mouth to feed, Adia's father
may be able to pay back the loan on time. Adia
doesn't know this distant cousin, but she tells
her parents she is willing to go.

One afternoon, Adia is called out of class by her headmistress and receives devastating news.

A fire in their apartment building has left her sister Rehema badly burned and in the hospital. Adia is overwhelmed with guilt that she did not stay home to care for her sisters. She knew that leaving them unsupervised was risky.

In the weeks that follow, Adia's mother refuses to leave the hospital where Rehema is struggling to recover, and ends up losing her job as a result. The family's resources are quickly being drained, since Kiano has still not found a job. Adia learns from a friend at school that many girls lie about their age to get a job at the garment factories. If she could earn an income, she could help her family survive. But dropping out of school is a big step.

Should Adia stay in school and hope her mother can return to work soon, or leave school to help her family earn an income?



**Adia stays in school
and hopes her mother can
return to work soon.**

Surely her father will find work
before too much longer. Adia can't bear the
thought of sacrificing her education.

**Adia leaves school to help
her family earn an income.**

While it's a heart-wrenching choice,
she knows her family is barely able to survive.

She tells herself that she'll work for a little
while and maybe go back to school once her
parents both find jobs.

Adia stays home with her two sisters while her parents go to work. Her father finally finds a job salvaging scrap metal. But the job is dangerous and exhausting. One day, Adia's family receives terrible news. Kiano has been killed in an accident at work.

Halima is devastated. She can't imagine life without her husband. Overwhelmed, she stops going to her job in the garment factory. The money and food are gone in days. Adia knows something must be done, but her mother isn't in any condition to make decisions.

Should Adia look for work in the city to support her mother and two sisters, or talk her family into moving back to their village?



**Adia looks for work in
the city to support her mother
and two sisters.**

She has to believe that her mother will
recover and be able to support them, but in the
meantime, Adia knows she must find a source of
income to make sure they survive.

**Adia talks her
family into moving back
to their village.**

At least there they'll be back among friends and relatives. Maybe one of them will help her family until they can get on their feet again.

Adia leaves for the village of Usenge, roughly 350 kilometers from home. She is anxious about the demanding job and being away from her family for the first time, but she is determined to earn money to help them.

Adia's uncle is a cold, businesslike man,
but she's grateful that at least he leaves her alone.

To him she is just one of a dozen other child
laborers housed in a long brick building with rows
of bunk beds.

Another girl teaches Adia to perform her job. The tasks are tedious and tiring – cooking for the fisherman, cleaning fish, and other menial tasks – and her workdays begin at dawn and continue until dusk. But she doesn't complain.

After the first month, Adia is pleased with the amount of money she's been able to send to her family. But that same day, she hears frightening news—the girl who befriended her was brutally beaten by one of the workers when she was too slow with her work. Her friend will be unable to work for days. When no one is looking, Adia's uncle corners Adia and warns her not to tell anyone. Adia is terrified and wonders whether she's safe.

**Should Adia stay with
her uncle, or run away?**



**Adia decides to stay with her
uncle for a few more months.**

She hopes that if she keeps quiet, her uncle
will leave her alone. The money she sent home
saved Majda's life. A little more would help her
family save for another emergency.

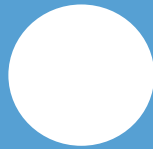
Adia decides to run.

Adia is afraid of her uncle since he showed no concern about her friend's safety. She worries that if she's caught he might beat her too. But she knows her family still needs money. She escapes early the next day and sets off on her own to find a job in the city.

Halima's efforts to find work in the village are fruitless. Meanwhile, Majda has stopped eating. A week later, the frail little girl passes away during the night. Halima looks like a ghost, and Kiano no longer smiles. But despite their grief, they must find a way to make an income to feed their surviving children.

It seems the only option is to move to the city to look for work. But Adia's mother has a distant relative in another village that can arrange a marriage for Adia, even though she is only 13. With only one child at home, there's a chance the family could survive in their home village.

Should the family move to the city, or should Adia try to lighten the burden on her parents by marrying the stranger?



Adia's family sells their land and moves to Nairobi.

Life can't get much worse in the village, and home reminds Halima too much of her lost little girl. The big city presents risks, but Kiano hopes it also offers more employment opportunities.

**Adia agrees to marry
the older stranger.**

Halima contacts her relatives, and the marriage is arranged. While Adia is horrified, she is also desperate to help her family. She becomes a child bride.

Adia leaves for the village of Usenge,
roughly 370 kilometers from home. She is anxious
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**Should Adia stay with
her uncle, or run away?**



**Adia stays with her
uncle until she can help her
father repay the loan.**

She promises herself she will only remain
a little while longer. She stays quiet about her
friend's condition and its cause after hearing
about other children who have also been
beaten for little or no reason.

Adia decides to run.

Adia is afraid of her uncle since he showed no concern about her friend's safety. She worries that if she's caught he might beat her too. But she knows her family still needs money. She escapes early the next day and sets off on her own to find a job in Nairobi.

Rehema sobs as Adia leaves, and Adia can barely hold back her tears. She has never been away from her family before. But her relative is friendly and promises she will take good care of Adia.

However, when they reach Nairobi,
Adia is handed over to a man who drives her
to a large home in the center of the city.
Adia is terrified when she realizes that she's
been sold as a servant.

Adia is locked in the house and forced to work long hours with no wages. She is beaten if she works too slowly. The master of the house tells her that if she can prove herself, she will receive wages after six months. But after being beaten at least once a week, her hope begins to fade.

One day, Adia finds the back door unlocked.

Does she try to escape?

How will she survive if she does?

Should Adia run away or stay?



Adia decides to run away.

She's not sure how to survive on her own,
but she is miserable where she is and desperate
to earn money to help her family.

Adia decides to stay.

If she returns to her parents, they will be no better off—this way they have one less mouth to feed. And she has no idea how to find a job on her own. While things are bad where she is, she hopes that eventually she'll earn wages. In the meantime, at least she has food and shelter.

Adia chooses to stay in school and hope for the best. Her hopes are rewarded: Rehema finally heals and comes home, and her medical bills are lower than expected thanks to grants the hospital received from the governments of rich countries.

About the same time, Kiano finds a job with good wages, salvaging scrap metal. It seems things are looking up. But the job is dangerous. One afternoon, Kiano's supervisor knocks on the door of their apartment with awful news: Adia's beloved father has been killed in an accident at work.

Halima is grief-stricken, but she knows there is no way they can survive without Kiano. She disappears one day, and when she returns, she tells the girls that she has married the foreman at the garment factory. They move into his home the next day.

Adia's stepfather is violent and yells at Halima.
Adia tries to defend her mother, but the man hits
Adia so hard that she can't hear well afterward.

She tries to avoid him after that,
since it's clear he doesn't like her.

The abuse continues as the days go on, and Adia wonders if she should try to find a job and another place to live. Maybe if she wasn't there, her stepfather would be kinder to Halima.

Should Adia stay in
her stepfather's home or
go out on her own?



**Adia chooses to remain
in her stepfather's home.**

While she knows this may not be the
safest choice, at least she can still watch
over her sisters and stay in school.

Adia leaves to escape her stepfather's abuse.

While she doesn't know where she'll go,
she decides to try to find her own income.
Maybe eventually she and her mother can pool
their incomes, and the family can be together
again—without her abusive stepfather.

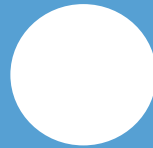
Adia looks for work but is unsuccessful. Her little sister finally comes home from the hospital, just as their money has run out. Thankfully, Kiano finally finds a job salvaging scrap metal.

Knowing they still have bills to pay, Adia vows to help her family. One day, she wakes up early and follows her father to work. When he sees her, he tells her to go home. “It’s not safe,” he explains. But Adia insists on staying. Kiano’s boss agrees to pay her a meager wage.

The environment is terribly dangerous. Adia works near Kiano. At times she even uses a blowtorch to cut steel walls into small plates. With no eye protection, she's at risk of a serious eye injury. Kiano constantly warns her to watch for falling pieces of metal.

Adia doesn't mind—it feels good to be helping. But her father worries. When Halima suggests that perhaps Adia should get married, Kiano says he'd be relieved to see her out of danger. But they leave the decision to Adia.

**Should Adia continue
working, or marry an
older stranger?**



Adia continues salvaging scrap metal.

She knows it's dangerous, but she would rather face the physical risks of the job than get married so young to someone she doesn't know.

Adia agrees to marry an older stranger.

Halima contacts a distant relative who arranges the marriage. While Adia is uncomfortable with the thought of being such a young wife, she wants to please her father—and not be a burden to her family. She becomes a child bride at the age of 13.

After her father's death, Adia looks for work in the city to help support her family. She finally finds work as a domestic servant in a large house.

Adia quickly realizes that the master does not pay his employees regularly. For weeks she goes without wages and must steal food for her sisters and mother. Worse, she sees other girls being beaten for working too slowly. Adia knows she risks being beaten too, but her family needs the food.

Should Adia leave or stay?



Adia decides to leave.

The unreliable wages are not worth
the physical risk from her abusive master.

**Adia decides to stay until
she can save more money.**

While this may not be the safest choice,
Adia doesn't know where else to go—and
she is determined to help her family.

After her father dies, Adia takes full responsibility for her family since her mother is paralyzed by grief. She decides to move them back to their village.

The journey takes a few days. Her tired, hungry sisters cry while their mother remains silent, lost in depression. When they arrive home, Adia's aunt takes them in again and tells Adia about a job that would require her to move away.

**Should Adia stay and
hope for her mother's recovery,
or take the job?**



Adia chooses to stay.

She puts all her faith in the hope
that her mother will recover soon.

Adia takes the job.

While this will mean she has to move away, it seems like the only way to help her family get back on their feet.

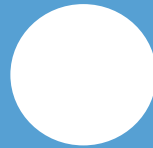
Adia stays with her uncle. No one else mentions the girl who is near death, and Adia finally starts to feel safe. After three more months of working, Adia asks to return home. To her relief, her uncle lets her go.

Back in her village, Adia discovers that her father and mother now have jobs: Halima has started breeding poultry and selling eggs and chickens at the market, and Kiano has found a new job working for another landowner.

Halima has the potential to expand her business, but can't do it on her own.

Adia knows that if she helped, they could make enough money to put Rehema, and eventually Majda, into school.

**Should Adia return to school
or sacrifice her own education
to help her family?**



Adia decides to stay in school.

Her family may be struggling now, but an education is Adia's best way to build a better future, even if it won't pay off for many years.

Grateful to be back in school, Adia dedicates herself to her schoolwork. Her diligence pays off. She finishes school at the top of her class and gets a scholarship to continue her studies and become a teacher. As an added blessing, her parents are both doing well in their jobs, and Adia's sisters are also able to go to school. Thankfully, the family is still together—and they have broken the cycle of poverty.

**Adia decides to leave school and
work alongside her mother.**

While she may be sacrificing her own education,
Adia believes this is the best way to help her
mother and ensure her sisters have the chance to
stay in school and create a better future.

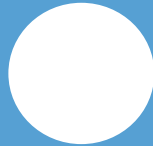
Halima's business continues to grow, and the family's improved income means Adia could go back to school. But three years have passed since she left school, and she lacks the confidence to try to catch up with her remaining classmates, most of whom are boys.

Instead of returning to school, Adia sells poultry at the market. She may never become a teacher, but at least she has something to eat every night. She tries to forget the hopes and dreams she once had. She consoles herself with the knowledge that both of her sisters will get an education. When her sisters start school, she urges them to study hard and never give up their own dreams.

After running away from her uncle, Adia wants to get as far from Usenge as possible. She hears of job opportunities in Nairobi and has just enough money to buy a bus ticket to the city.

Nairobi is much bigger than she imagined, but Adia is determined to find work. At the bus station, people offer her jobs ranging from housecleaning to hawking household wares in the streets. Adia chooses to talk to the only woman in the crowd—the one offering a job as a housecleaner.

Should Adia trust the woman
and take the job, or venture into
the city and take a chance on
finding something better?



**Adia decides to take
the housecleaning job.**

She may not know this woman, but she
can't afford to turn down what may be her only
chance to earn an income.

The woman drives Adia to a large, gated home in the center of the city. Money is exchanged, and before she knows it, Adia has been sold as a domestic servant. The doors are kept locked so that she can't leave, and with no wages, the chances are small that she will escape or see her family again. As the days pass, Adia tries to forget her happy childhood and her former dreams. Instead, she focuses on being thankful for daily meals and a place to sleep.

**Adia decides to venture
into the city on her own.**

She doesn't quite trust this stranger,
and doesn't want to take the first thing that
comes her way. She wants to see what other
opportunities are available.

Adia takes a bus downtown and quickly realizes she is out of her element in this large, frightening city. She asks a girl her own age, who is also alone, if she knows where to find work. Instead the girl gives her directions to a shelter.

When Adia finds the shelter, she is told she can sleep there until she finds a job. The only real option is going to the dump to collect and sort garbage, a job which lands her in Kibera, the largest slum in the city. This is not what Adia hoped for. But she knows she is now homeless and must fend for herself. She tries not to think about her former hopes of becoming a teacher.

As the weeks and months pass, she dreams about her family and hopes they are doing well. But with no way to contact them and not enough money to get home, she knows she may never see them again.

Kiano and Halima move their family to the capital city of Nairobi. After selling their land, along with their few chickens and goat, they have enough money to rent a small apartment. They find a school for Adia, although buying her uniform costs the rest of their money.

Kiano looks desperately for work with no luck. After the recent floods, the city is teeming with men like him who have abandoned their homes in search of income for their families. Finally, it's Halima who finds a job at a garment factory. Kiano is still looking for work, so there is no one to care for Rehema. Adia considers leaving school to watch her little sister—just for a while, until her father gets a job.

Should Adia leave school to care for Rehema, or return to school at her parents' urging?



**Adia leaves school
to care for Rehema.**

While she hates to miss out on school,
as the oldest child she feels it's her duty to
help her parents get settled.

Adia stays home with Rehema while her parents look for employment. Her father finally finds a job salvaging scrap metal. But the work is dangerous.

One day, Kiano's supervisor knocks on their apartment door with terrible news: Adia's beloved father has been killed in an accident at work.

Halima is devastated. She can't imagine life without her husband. Completely overwhelmed, she stops going to her job in the garment factory. The money and food are gone in days.

At age 13, Adia has already experienced two deaths in her family. Her mother is paralyzed with grief, so Adia knows their future depends on her. Someone must care for Rehema and provide food for them. Adia lies about her age and secures a job at a garment factory.

Her dream of being a teacher and her hope of a future without poverty are gone. In their place is sheer determination to survive.

**Adia stays in school at
her parents' urging.**

Kiano eventually secures a job at a small hotel. Although they must make many more sacrifices, his and Halima's wages allow them to keep Adia in school.

Adia, grateful for the blessing of an education, works hard in her studies. Her diligence pays off and she graduates at the top of her class, eventually fulfilling her childhood dream by becoming a teacher. Her wages help pay for her sister's education.

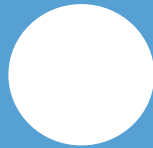
Rehema also finishes school and gets a good job in a government office. The girls are the first in their family to be educated. Their parents' sacrifices and their own hard work have enabled them to break free from poverty.

Adia has heard of many girls in other villages being married by her age, but she had always imagined a different future for herself. Her new husband is almost as old as her father, but unlike Kiano, he has a harsh manner—and her new home is far from her family. She knows her childhood is over and that she now has heavy responsibilities. She clings to the hope that her sacrifice will enable her sisters to go to school and have a better future.

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Adia's husband won't speak to her and threatens her when she cries about the baby, so she learns to keep quiet. Three months later, she is pregnant again. Her husband changes his attitude and even pays for her to see a doctor. Adia is terrified at the prospect of what will happen if she loses another baby ... or has another girl. If she leaves her husband, she won't have healthcare for herself or her child, and she risks angering her husband.

**Should Adia run away,
or stay with her husband?**



Adia decides to run away.

Adia goes to the market and asks for help from one of the women who has been friendly to her. She knows she is risking her own life and that of her baby by leaving her husband, but she doesn't feel safe at home.

The woman introduces Adia to a World Vision worker who helps her move to a shelter. The World Vision staff help her get prenatal care and she eventually gives birth to a healthy baby girl.

With World Vision's assistance, Adia enrolls in job training that will enable her to become a seamstress and earn a living. While it isn't the life she dreamed about as a child, it's safe, and she is thankful. After the challenges she's endured, she is grateful to have hope for her future and a good income to support her daughter.

Adia stays with her husband.

She believes her best chance for a successful delivery and a healthy child is to stay where she is. Being in the care of a doctor, she tells herself, outweighs the risk of staying with her husband.

Adia gives birth to another girl. This time, the baby survives, but Adia's husband won't acknowledge their daughter. Adia's heart breaks when she holds her baby girl, whom she names Ayubu.

Another year passes and Adia finally gives birth to a boy—giving her husband the son he so greatly desires. But while he is pleased with the boy's arrival, Adia does not fare well. Complications from the delivery are too much for the young mother. The sweet girl who once dreamed of being a teacher does not survive the birth of her son. When she dies, she is only 15.

Adia stays with her uncle. No one else mentions the girl who is close to death, and Adia finally starts to feel safe. After three more months in the fishing village, Adia asks to return home. To her relief, her uncle lets her go.

Back in her village, Adia discovers that her father and mother now have jobs: Halima has started breeding poultry and selling eggs and chickens at the market, and Kiano has found a new job working for another landowner.

Halima has the potential to expand her business, but can't do it on her own. Adia knows that if she helped, they could make enough money to put Rehema, and eventually Majda, into school.

**Should Adia return to school
or sacrifice her own education
to help her family?**



Adia returns to school.

Her family may be struggling now, but an education is her best hope to build a better future, even if it won't pay off for many years.

Grateful to be back in school, Adia dedicates herself to her schoolwork. Her diligence pays off. She finishes school at the top of her class and gets a scholarship to continue her studies and become a teacher. As an added blessing, her parents are both doing well in their jobs, and Adia's sisters are also able to go to school. Thankfully, the family is still together—and they have broken the cycle of poverty.

**Adia decides to sacrifice
her education to work
alongside her mother.**

She believes this is the best way to help her
mother and ensure her sisters have the chance to
stay in school and create a better future.

Over time Halima's business continues to grow, and the family's improved income means Adia could go back to school. But three years have passed since she left school, and she lacks the confidence to try to catch up with her remaining classmates, most of whom are boys.

Instead of returning to school, Adia sells poultry at the market. She may never become a teacher, but at least she has something to eat every night. She tries to forget the hopes and dreams she once had. She consoles herself with the knowledge that both of her sisters will get an education. She urges them to study hard and never give up their own dreams.

After running away from her uncle, Adia wants to get as far from Usenge as possible. She hears of job opportunities in Nairobi and has just enough money to buy a bus ticket to the city.

Nairobi is much bigger than she imagined, but Adia is determined to find work. At the bus station, people offer her jobs ranging from housecleaning to hawking household wares in the streets. Adia chooses to talk to the only woman in the crowd—the one offering a job as a housecleaner.

**Should Adia trust the woman
and take the job, or venture into
the city and take a chance on
finding something better?**



**Adia decides to take
the housecleaning job.**

She may not know this woman, but
she can't afford to turn down what may be her
only chance to earn an income.

The woman drives Adia to a large, gated home in the center of the city. Money is exchanged, and before she knows it, Adia has been sold as a domestic servant. The doors are kept locked so that she can't leave, and with no wages, the chances are small that she will escape or see her family again. As the days pass, Adia tries to forget her happy childhood and her former dreams. Instead, she focuses on being thankful for daily meals and a place to sleep.

**Adia decides to venture
into the city on her own.**

She doesn't quite trust this stranger, and
doesn't want to take the first thing that
comes her way. She wants to see what other
opportunities are available.

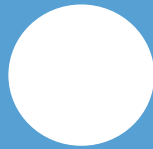
Adia takes a bus downtown and quickly realizes she is out of her element in this large, frightening city. She asks a girl her own age, who is also alone, if she knows where to find work. Instead the girl gives her directions to a shelter.

When Adia finds the shelter, she is told she can sleep there until she finds a job. The only real option is going to the dump to collect and sort garbage. This is not what Adia hoped for. But she knows she is now homeless and must fend for herself. The work lands her in Kibera, the city's largest slum. She tries not to think about her former hopes of becoming a teacher. As the weeks and months pass, she dreams about her family and hopes they are doing well. But with no way to contact them and not enough money to get home, she knows she may never see them again.

Adia takes advantage of her master's mistake and slips out the door. She runs as fast and as far as she can. When she sees a girl her own age who is also alone, Adia hesitantly asks if she knows where to find work. Instead the girl gives her directions to a shelter.

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Should Adia try to return home,
where she may be a burden to
her family again, or try to fend for
herself on the streets of a large
and unfamiliar city?



Adia decides to try to make her way home.

She misses her family so badly that she can't bear the thought of being without them any longer. Even though she'll be another mouth to feed, she hopes they will welcome her back. She knows the trip home will be dangerous on her own, but she's willing to take the risk.

It's a long journey for Adia. She survives by sleeping in doorways and begging for food. On the way, she worries about how she'll be received. But she finds a happy surprise.

Her father and sisters welcome Adia back with joy-filled hugs and kisses. Kiano explains his devastation upon realizing that he and Halima had been tricked into entrusting Adia to their relative's care. With no way to contact Adia, he had given her up for lost.

Tragically, Halima has died from tuberculosis.
Adia mourns that she didn't have the chance to
say goodbye to her beloved mother.

Despite his grief at his wife's death, Kiano is in the process of restoring his fields. Little by little, he is saving the money he's earning on another landowner's farm, and is getting ready to expand his own income by purchasing livestock.

Adia misses her mother but is relieved and thankful to be home, and returns to school with enthusiasm. Slowly but surely, her dreams begin taking shape once again. With the worst behind her, she cherishes her family and her hopes for the future.

**Adia decides to try to
fend for herself in the city.**

She isn't sure her parents would
be able to support her, even if she was
able to make her way home.

Adia finds a job chipping bricks for 40 cents a day. A woman she works with offers her a place to sleep, so Adia feels safe at night. She vows to save enough to someday find a better job, maybe working as a seamstress or in a factory. For now, she is at least getting paid. At only 14, she has abandoned her dream of becoming a teacher. But she still has determination to survive, no matter what it takes.

One day Adia's master beats her so badly that she passes out. When she awakes she realizes she's been dumped in an alley and left to die. She cries out for help, hoping someone will hear her.

When Adia awakes again she realizes that a kind woman has taken her in and cleaned her wounds. She is bruised and sore, but will recover. But she can't stay with her good Samaritan, who has her own family to care for.

**Should Adia wander the streets
of this big city alone, or try to
return home to her village?**



**Adia decides to try to
make her own way in the city.**

She isn't sure her parents would
be able to support her, even if she was
able to make her way home.

Adia isn't sure where to go when she leaves the home of her caregiver. But soon she sees a girl her own age who is also alone. Adia hesitantly asks if she knows where to find work, but instead the girl gives her directions to a shelter.

When Adia finds the shelter, she is told she can sleep there at night but she must try to find her own work. The only real option is going to the dump to collect and sort garbage in Kibera, the city's largest slum. This is not what Adia hoped for. But she accepts the reality that she is now homeless and must fend for herself.

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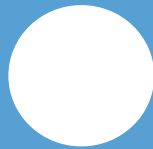
Adia misses her mother but is relieved and thankful to be home, and returns to school with enthusiasm. Slowly but surely, her dreams begin taking shape once again. With the worst behind her, she cherishes her family and her hopes for the future.

Adia remains at her stepfather's home. His temper worsens, and the beatings continue. Adia overhears him telling her mother that three girls in the family are too many. She wonders if her mother would be safer without her there.

One day in the market, Adia hears about an organization called World Vision that has helped other girls in need. Adia meets a woman from World Vision who listens to her story. She helps Adia find a shelter where she can stay, and helps her find classes she can attend during the day.

Her dream of becoming a teacher
once again begins to take root. Although
Adia is happier, she misses and worries
about her sisters and her mother.

Should Adia let her mother know she is safe, or stay away in hopes that her absence will make her mother's life easier?



**Adia goes to her
stepfather's home to let her
mother know she is safe.**

**It's worth risking her stepfather's anger —
she doesn't want her mother to worry.**

When Adia arrives, her stepfather is not home. She tells her mother about the support she's received from the kind people at World Vision. Adia convinces her mom to take her sisters and return with her.

On the way there, Adia's heart is full.
She no longer needs to worry about her family.
World Vision helps Adia get back into a
regular school, while Halima enrolls in job
training to become a seamstress. Despite the
loss her family has endured, Adia feels her
hope is finally being restored.

**Adia stays away from
her stepfather's home.**

She is too afraid he may
hurt her or her mother.

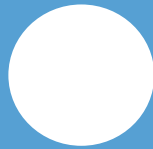
Adia thinks of her mother and sisters every day, missing them desperately. One day, Majda and Rehema arrive at the shelter they had heard Adia was staying at. Adia is heartbroken to learn that their mother has died.

She can hardly believe all that her family has suffered over the past year, but she's grateful her sisters are with her and no longer in danger from their stepfather. With help from the staff at World Vision, Adia continues her studies and begins to build a new life for her sisters and herself.

Adia steals away in the middle of the night to escape her stepfather's abuse. She finds a job chipping bricks for 40 cents a day. A woman she works with offers her a place to sleep, so at least she feels safe at night. She vows to save enough money so that her sisters can come live with her.

One day while Adia is chipping bricks, splinters fly into her eyes and leave her blinded. The kind woman who has given her shelter can no longer care for her in her helpless state, and advises that she go to a shelter.

**Should Adia return to her
stepfather's home to be with
her family, or trust this woman
she doesn't know and seek
help from the shelter?**



**Adia returns to her
stepfather's home.**

Blinded and alone, she doesn't
want to risk trusting another stranger.
At least she will be with her family.

Now unable to see, Adia cannot go to school, work, or even care for herself. She is completely dependent on her mother. Her stepfather is even more impatient with her and continues to yell at Halima. Adia is worried he will seriously injure her mother, but she knows she is incapable of helping in any way. She spends her days playing with her sisters, unable to dream for the future any longer. She is only 15.

**Adia chooses to trust
the woman and seek help
from the shelter.**

While it may be a dead end,
Adia can't bear the idea of returning to
her abusive stepfather.

Adia meets a woman from World Vision who listens to her story and takes her to a clinic where a doctor examines her injury. He says there is a chance her vision may return in one eye.

The kind woman then takes Adia to a shelter. For the first time in a very long while, Adia feels safe. In a few months, her right eye heals, giving her back limited vision. She is able to read, and her hopes of one day becoming a teacher are renewed.

One day, Halima brings Majda and Rehema to the shelter. Halima has left her abusive husband for good. The staff at the shelter assure them that a new life together is possible. Despite the losses her family has faced over the past year, Adia finally believes their future will be better. She's determined to help make it so.

Several weeks after deciding to stay at the scrap metal salvaging plant, Adia is struck by a metal rod and loses vision in one eye. Her parents insist that she quit her job, and Adia reluctantly agrees. She desperately wants to help her family, but the accident has left her shaken.

Her mother once again suggests that she get married. Adia still doesn't like the idea, but knows it will help her family.

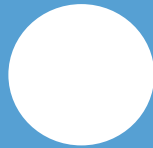
Adia meets her husband for the first time on their wedding day. He is almost as old as her father—but unlike Kiano, he has a harsh manner.

She knows her childhood is over and that she now has heavy responsibilities. She clings to the hope that her sacrifice will enable her sisters to go to school and have a better future.

Adia has been married for only four months when she discovers she is pregnant. Her husband expects her to deliver a son, but she goes into premature labor and her baby girl does not survive.

Adia's husband won't speak to her and threatens her when she cries about the baby, so she learns to keep quiet. Three months later, she is pregnant again. Her husband changes his attitude and even pays for her to see a doctor. Adia is terrified at the prospect of what will happen if she loses another baby ... or has another girl. If she leaves her husband, she won't have healthcare for herself or her child, and she risks angering her husband.

**Should Adia run away,
or stay with her husband?**



Adia decides to run away.

Adia goes to the market and asks for help from one of the women who has been friendly to her. She knows she is risking her own life and that of her baby by leaving her husband, but she doesn't feel safe at home.

The woman introduces Adia to a World Vision worker who helps her move to a shelter. The World Vision staff help her get prenatal care and she eventually gives birth to a healthy baby girl.

With World Vision's assistance, Adia enrolls in job training that will enable her to become a seamstress and earn a living. While it isn't the life she dreamed about as a child, it's safe, and she is thankful. After the challenges she's endured, she is grateful to have hope for her future and a good income to support her daughter.

Adia stays with her husband.

She believes her best chance for a successful delivery and a healthy child is to stay where she is. Being in the care of a doctor, she tells herself, outweighs the risk of staying with her husband.

Adia gives birth to another girl.

This time, the baby survives, but Adia's husband won't acknowledge their daughter.

Adia's heart breaks when she holds her baby girl, whom she names Ayubu.

Another year passes and Adia finally gives birth to a boy—giving her husband the son he so greatly desires. But while he is pleased with the boy's arrival, Adia does not fare so well. Complications from the delivery are too much for the young mother. The sweet girl who once dreamed of being a teacher does not survive the birth of her son. When she dies, she is only 15.

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Adia decides to leave her job as a domestic servant to try to find safer work. But what can she do? Adia consults her mother, who is still recovering from the grief of her husband's death. Halima offers to return to her job at the garment factory. But is it a mistake to return while she is still so emotionally fragile? Adia worries that her mother might get hurt on the job, or fall into a deeper depression.

**Should Adia allow her
mother to return to work, or
look for other help?**



**Adia supports her mother's
return to the garment factory.**

While she may not be back to full
health, it's the best chance they have
for their family's survival.

Halima's supervisors at the garment factory are kind. They not only allow her to return to work, but give her a less physically demanding job with slightly higher pay. The increased income means Adia no longer has to work—and an elderly neighbor offers to watch Rehema and Majda during the day, allowing Adia to return to school.

Back in her classes, Adia finally finds renewed hope. While she misses her father and the life in her village, she looks forward to a brighter future. She eagerly pursues her dream of being a teacher.

Adia decides to look for help.

While she isn't sure where to turn,
she feels she has to try before letting her
mother risk returning to work.

Adia asks around and learns about services at a local shelter. At the shelter, she is introduced to a World Vision worker who offers them assistance in returning to their village so they can start over in a familiar and supportive community.

World Vision provides Adia and her family with materials to build a new home in their own village. Halima receives counseling support to help her recover and care for her family, and Adia is helped to return to school. Halima receives job training to become a seamstress—a role in which she immediately begins to thrive. In spite of the tragedies they've experienced, Halima and her daughters are grateful to be together and on the path to a better future.

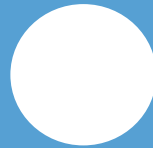
Adia decides to stay until she can earn more money. One day, another servant dies as a result of a beating from the master. Adia witnesses the beating and runs for her own safety.

Adia returns to her family and is relieved to see that her mother's health has improved.

But she still seems physically weakened.

Halima offers to return to her job at the garment factory. But is it a mistake to return while she is still so emotionally fragile? Adia worries that her mother might get hurt on the job, or fall into a deeper depression.

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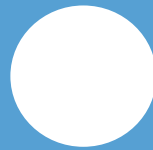
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Adia remains with her mother and sisters at her aunt's home, making herself as useful as possible. In the morning, she fetches water from the closest water source, then tends to the garden and prepares meals. Sadly, Halima's condition worsens. She no longer eats and her body wastes away. Adia watches helplessly.

One morning Adia awakens to learn her mother has died. Adia can hardly believe that both her parents are gone. Her aunt offers to raise the younger girls if Adia will take a job to support herself and provide help for them.

**Should Adia leave her sisters
and take the job, or find another
place where the three of them
can stay together?**



Adia decides to take the job.

She vows to come back for her
sisters once she has earned enough.

Adia's new job as a domestic servant is a few day's travel from her village. She works long hours, cooking, cleaning, and caring for young children. She works harder than she ever thought she could.

After several months, Adia adds up her wages. It will take years before she can save enough to return to her sisters. Each morning as she helps the children get ready for the day, Adia does her best not to show her sadness. She misses her sisters and wonders if she will ever see them again. As each day passes, her hope slowly melts away.

**Adia decides to try to find
somewhere that she and her
sisters can be together.**

While she doesn't know what their
future will hold, she can't bear to break
apart what is left of her family.

In hopes of finding a distant relative in the capital city of Nairobi, Adia uses the little money she has for bus tickets.

As they approach the outskirts of the city, Adia is dismayed by the filth and odors of the slums. Her relative has moved, and no one can tell her where. She and her sisters are on their own and out of options.

With nowhere else to turn, Adia begins collecting garbage to sell in Kibera, the city's largest slum. At 14, her hopes for her own future are gone. And the best she can do for her sisters is watch over them at the local shelter that they now call home.

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Should she stay where
she is and accept her lot, or
try to find some way to
reunite with her sisters?



**Adia decides to stay at
her job and continue saving.**

She must trust that her sisters are in
good care, and that her aunt can provide for
them better than she can.

Each morning as she helps the children get ready for the day, Adia does her best not to show her sadness. She is grateful for the money she's been able to save, but she misses her family and wonders if she will see them again. As each day passes, she slowly loses hope.

As she thinks back on her life in the village, her heart aches. Never did she imagine things would become so difficult. The happy memories of her childhood seem like a distant dream when she thinks of the difficult future ahead.

**Adia leaves her position and
returns to her aunt's home.**

She can't wait any longer
to be with her family.

Since her aunt cannot feed them all,
Adia decides to take her sisters and start over
in a new place. In hopes of finding a distant
relative in the capital city of Nairobi, she uses
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Part Three

Debrief

What did it feel like to make so many
life-changing choices under pressure?

How might it feel for those living in poverty?

