

## Kpalo, the rebel...

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In 1\_\_ Africa, there is 2\_\_ tradition everyone respects : 3\_\_ children must obey 4\_\_ parents. In Kpejak, 5\_\_ little village in 6\_\_ area called Bidgenga in Togo, 7\_\_ little seven year-old girl disobeys 8\_\_ law because she wants to go to 9\_\_ school, against 10\_\_ will of her parents.

Kpalo is seven years old and doesn't go to 11\_\_ school. Her parents refuse to let her go because she's 12\_\_ elder of seven children and she must stay at 13\_\_ home to help her mother. She takes 14\_\_ water out of 15\_\_ well, she does 16\_\_ washing up, leads 17\_\_ oxen to the field and looks after her sisters and brothers. Yet, 18\_\_ little girl has been dreaming for two years of learning how to read, write and reckon (or count). Her parents promised her twice to let her study, but didn't respect 19\_\_ promise. Every day, Kpalo watched 20\_\_ other children in 21\_\_ village go away without her.

One day, Kpalo led 22\_\_ oxen near 23\_\_ school and went next to one of 24\_\_ windows. 25\_\_ teacher she didn't know was explaining 26\_\_ maths lesson. Kpalo made 27\_\_ little noise and 28\_\_ teacher came to see what it was. Kpalo ran away with her cattle. 29\_\_ next evening, she refused to take 30\_\_ water, to do 31\_\_ washing up and to take care of 32\_\_ last baby. Her parents told her 33\_\_ punishment would be terrible... and it was !

However, 34\_\_ little girl had resisted for five months when 35\_\_ father, who was furious, told her : « OK, now, you know 36\_\_ way to school. You can go ! »

Kpalo ran to 37\_\_ school on 38\_\_ other side of her village. Kpalo was welcomed by her teacher, who admired her courage.

Now, Kpalo is 39\_\_ obedient little girl again, and her parents are proud of her excellent results.

She says : « School is 40\_\_ marvellous world. Knowledge is my inner treasure ! »