

Level 5



OBED'S NEW SCHOOL

By Lifkal Sablan

Illustrated by Valeria Korshunova



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Obed was a shy boy who communicated in sign language. He had just moved to the village with his mum. There were lots of new things to learn.



“Your big day is tomorrow!” Obed’s mum signed excitedly, “The first day at your new school.” But Obed was worried and hung his head.







That night, Obed couldn't sleep well. It was hard to explain to his mum why he was so worried. He didn't want to tell her what had happened on his first day in the village.

Early the next day, Obed heard his name being called. His mother rushed into his room with his uniform and school bag.

“Hurry and get ready!” his mum signed. Obed slowly stood up and got dressed.







Walking towards the school, Obed was terrified. On his first morning in town, some kids in the street had made fun of him for not speaking. Now his biggest fear had come true.

The kids who'd bullied him went to his new school.



Obed stepped closer to his mum. He decided to explain what had happened.

Obed's mother walked him into the classroom and looked for the teacher while Obed found a place to put his bag.







Obed went to take his seat. He could see children around him talking and laughing. He was too shy to try and look at anyone, and he didn't want to be made fun of again. Obed felt like crying.

Just then, someone tapped his shoulder.
Obed lifted his head and saw the
teacher standing beside him. She had a
big smile on her face.



“Hello,” she signed. “I’m Mrs Carol.”

Obed was amazed. Finally, someone else who spoke sign language!







Mrs Carol communicated in sign language as she spoke to the rest of the class.

"Everyone, this is Obed. He communicates a little differently to you, so please treat him kindly and try to learn some sign language."



Obed spent a lot of time with Mrs Carol after that and made some other friends who knew sign language. Together, they taught the whole class some words in sign language. The class thought it was great — even the bullies!

By the end of the day, he wasn't worried about being made fun of anymore.

**You can use these questions
to talk about this book with
your family, friends and
teachers.**



What is the name of Obed's new teacher?



**Why would someone make fun
of Obed's sign language?**

What is sign language?



**Have you ever communicated with
someone who didn't speak your
language?**



**If you can, try learning a few words in
another language!**

About the author

Lifkal Sablan was born in the Central Vila hospital but now lives in Erakor Village. She loves telling stories with her family and decided to write a children's book because it allowed her to express her storytelling creativity. Lifkal's favourite story as a child was *Little Red Riding Hood*.



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Save the Children



Original illustrations by Valeria Korshunova

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Sablan, Lifkal

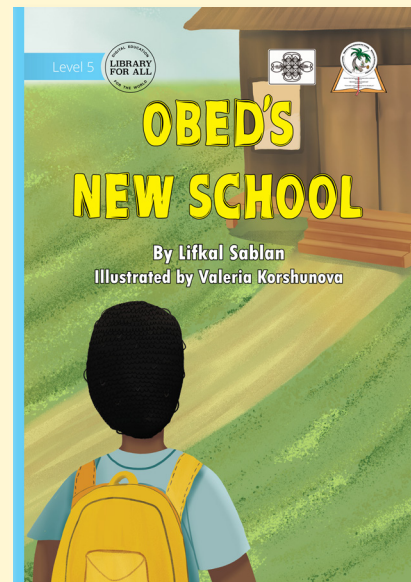
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Obed is finally going to school, but a bullying incident in the village makes him scared. Luckily, there's a wonderful teacher to help him.



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