

Extract: You, Your Culture and Story

Here's part of a story from Malawi. It is full of details about Malawi culture: people's names; their work and family; the places they go.

Read it, and see how the story gives you a picture of Malawi. Maybe you can borrow some of the things this story has done when you come to write about your own culture.

The Magic Fish

Walton, Anne. "The Magic Fish." In A River of Stories, compiled by Alice Curry, page 28. London: Commonwealth Education Trust Books, 2011.

There was once a little boy called Yusuf who helped his father prepare the nets for fishing every morning. Yusuf had a fishing rod of his own, and after his father sailed away over the lake in the morning, Yusuf would bait the hook with a worm and wait for a fish to bite. If he caught one, Yusuf took a chambo home for his mother to cook.

One day, as his father set off across the still dark lake before sunrise, Yusuf settled down on the shore. He baited his hook with a worm and waited for a bite. Almost at once, even before he had a chance to daydream a little, he hooked a great big fish that almost jumped out of the water and into his hands. It was the biggest fish that Yusuf had ever caught! Yusuf dropped it into his bag and ran home to give it to his mother to cook for supper. On the way, he met Goodwill, his friend.

"Look here, Goodwill, I have caught a fish. It is the biggest fish that I have ever seen!" Yusuf put the bag down, and opened it. Goodwill looked inside. He shook his head.

"You are crazy, Yusuf. Why do you say you have a great big fish when you have a great big guinea fowl? You are a great big liar, Yusuf!" And with those words, Goodwill went on his way.