

for children

hello

TANZANIA

How do you greet someone in Swahili?



shikamoo

(Say SHI-kuh-moh-oh) (Shikamoo is a greeting of respect that a child would say to an adult.)

My name is Robert Richard Kipara.

Age: 12

Lives in: Ekenywa, Tanzania

I live with my mother, father, two brothers, a sister and a cousin. My eldest brother is in college and doesn't live at home.

My family loves playing soccer. My father likes playing soccer. Even my 2-year-old brother likes it. I made our soccer ball by tying a rope around plastic bags. A ball lasts a long time. Sometimes I repair the ball by adding more rope and making the rope tighter.

We have four goats. I milk them twice a day and cut grass for them to eat. I like to take care of them.

I walk 30 minutes to school, even when it rains. In my class there are about 60 students. At home we speak Maasai, but in school we speak English and Swahili. I like reading story books in Swahili. I like reading better than playing soccer.

My favorite food: rice with beef

My favorite subject: mathematics

What I want to be: teacher

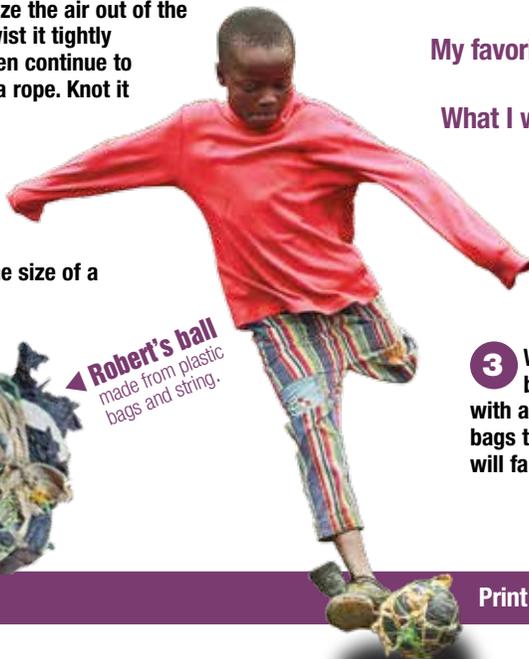


Robert and his younger brother Joshua relax at home. Income from conservation agriculture helped the family to build this new house.

Make your own soccer ball.

1 Gather 10 or more lightweight plastic shopping bags. Crumple the first bag into a ball. Place it in the corner of the second bag. Squeeze the air out of the second bag and twist it tightly around the ball, then continue to twist the bag into a rope. Knot it around the ball.

2 Repeat the process with another plastic bag, then another until your ball is the size of a large grapefruit.



Robert's ball made from plastic bags and string.



3 Weave the ends of the final bag back into the ball or secure it with a string. Remember to knot the bags tightly—if you don't, the ball will fall apart when you kick it.



Print more copies and see more photos ►► hello.mcc.org