GENEROSITY, HOSPITALITY DEEQSINIMO, MARTISOOR

HONORING MOHAMED SALAH ABDI

XURMAYNTA MAXAMED SAALAX CABDI



By Students from Anne Sullivan Communication Center and Sanford Middle School

GENEROSITY, HOSPITALITY

Words & music by LARRY LONG with STUDENTS from ERIC SPARKS' 7th GRADE CLASS of SANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL.

Illustrations by ANNE SULLIVAN COMMUNICATION CENTER 6TH GRADE STUDENTS under the guidance of ART INSTRUCTOR Edie McDonald.

ANNE SULLIVAN COMMUNICATION CENTER and SANFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL, Minneapolis, Minnesota

PHOTOGRAPH of MOHAMED SALAH ABDI by LARRY LONG. SOMALI TRANSLATION by SAID SALAH AHMED

Produced by Larry Long Published by:



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GENEROSITY, DEEQSINIMO, HOSPITALITY MARTISOOR

HONORING MOHAMED SALAH ABDI XURMAYNTA MAXAMED SAALAX CABDI

Born in a family of farmers

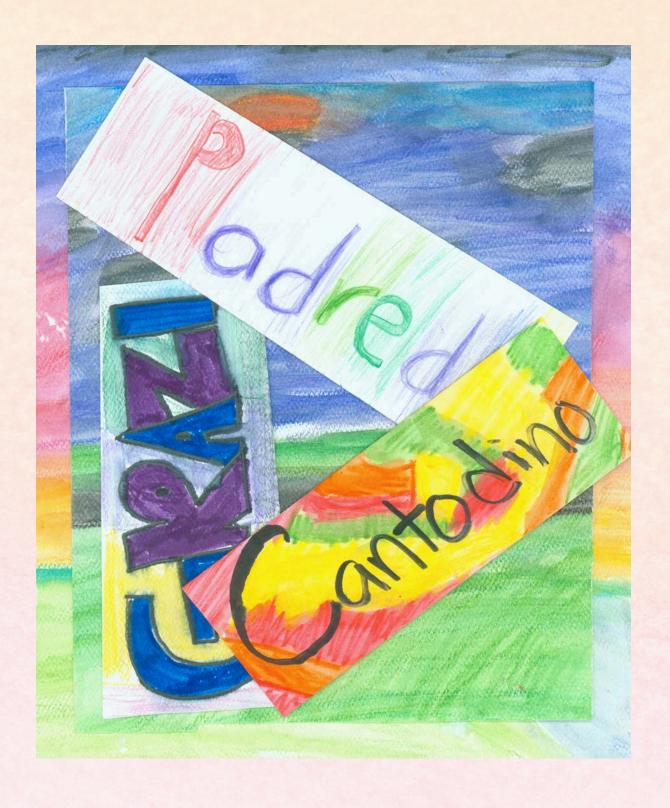


Eleven brothers, nine sisters, who cared for one another

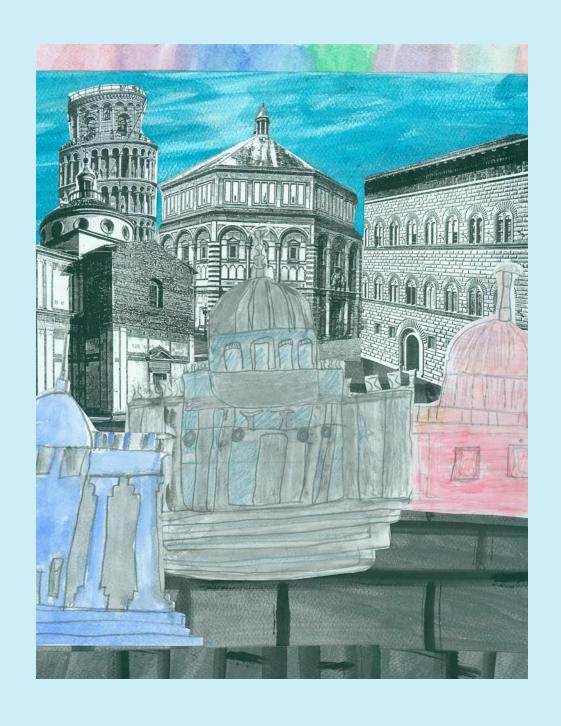


Walaalo 11 wiil iyo 9 Gabdhood ah oo is daryeela

I became a teacher of Italian language



Macallin Af Talyaani baan noqday

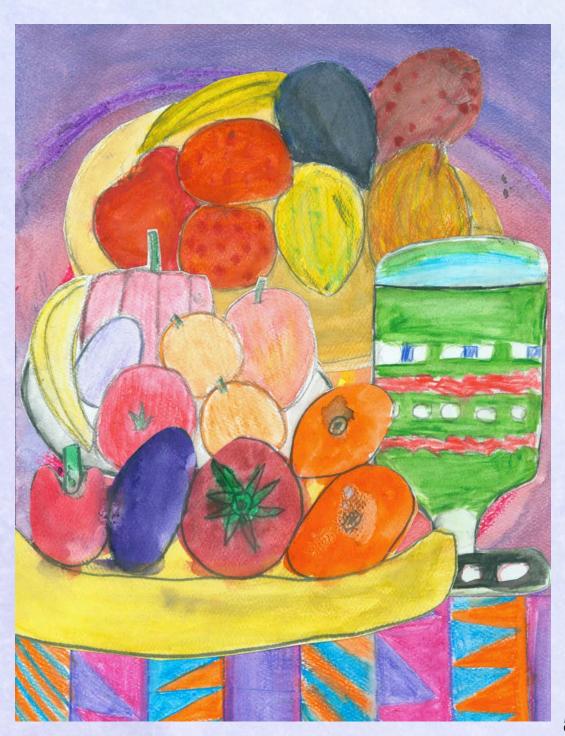


Went to Italy to extend my education, to get a college degree

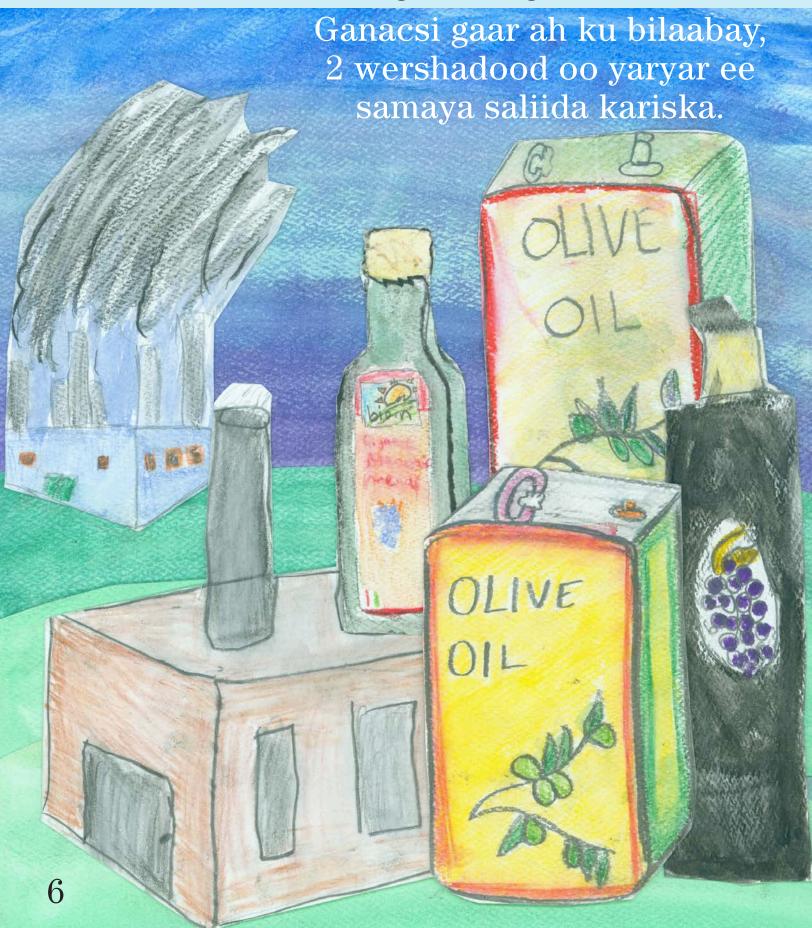
Talyaaniga aqoon korodhsi baan u tegey iyo tacliin sare

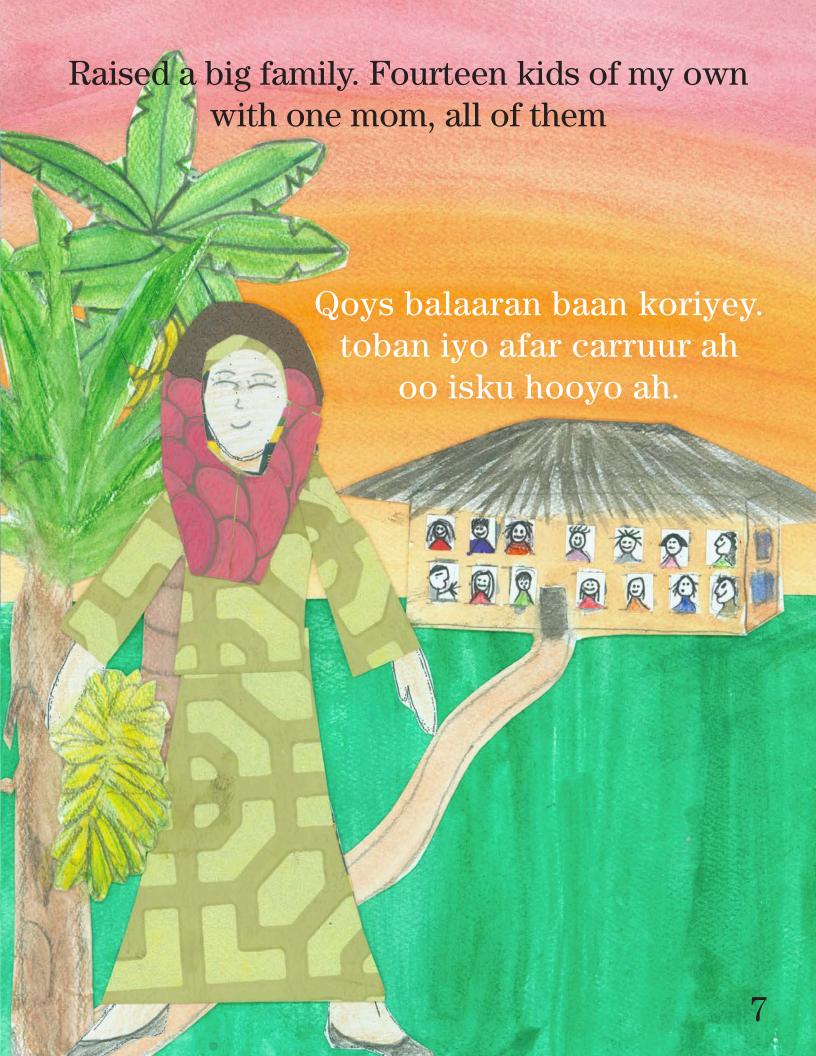


> Somaliyey! Isku taakulay! Tarka deeqsinimo! martisoorka tiinii ahayd

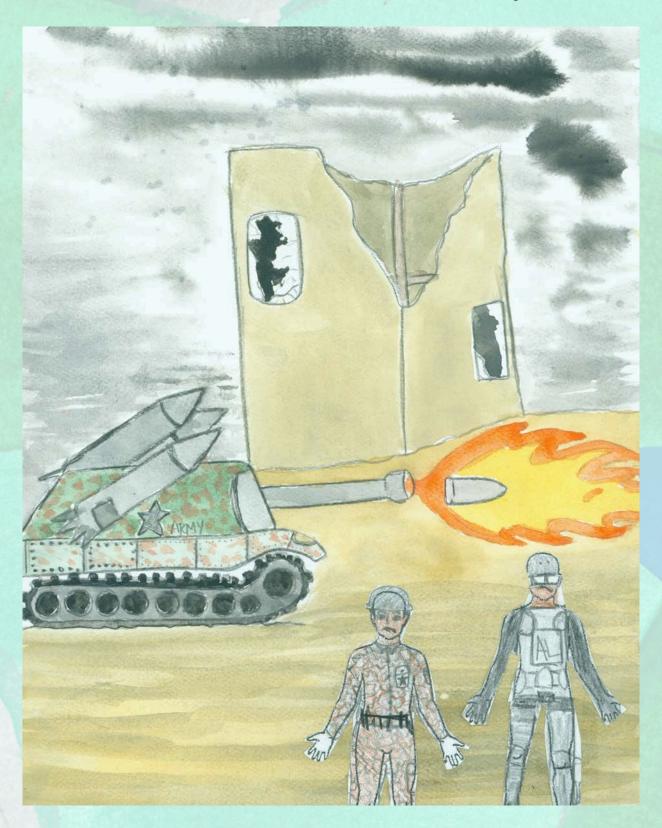


Started my own business with two small factories producing cooking oil

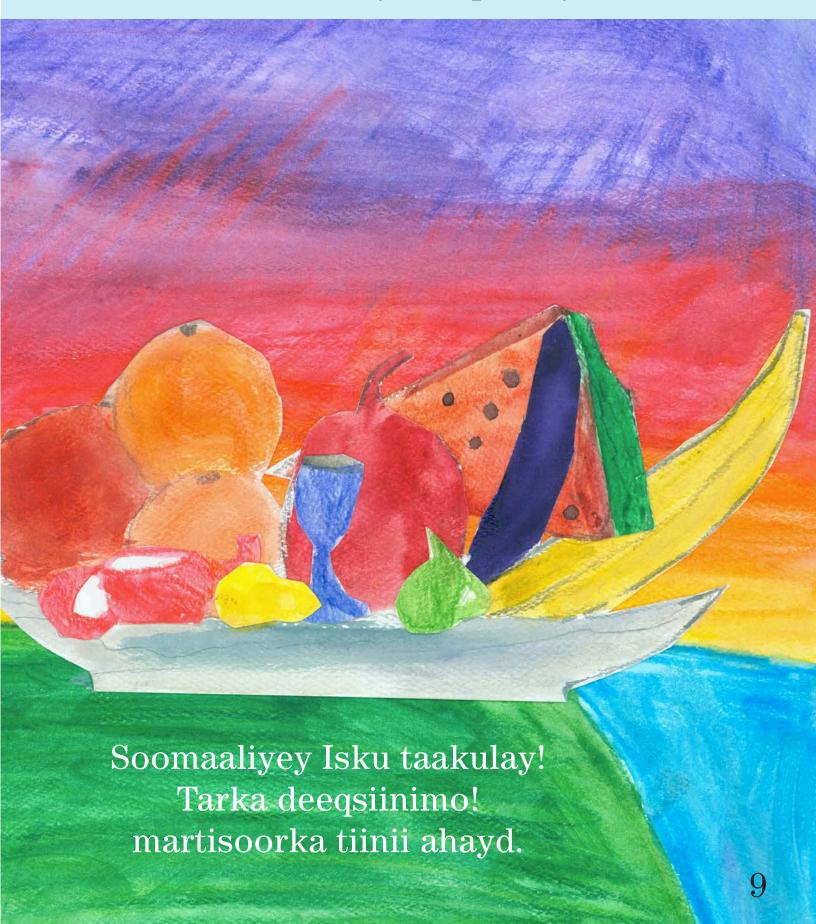




Then the Civil War broke out. We fled when it did to Kenya



Dagaalkii Sokayaa qarxay. Kiiniya ayaanu u qaxnay.





Like going up to the moon. Can you imagine that?

Dayaxa oo la tegey oo kalay ahayd. ma mala awaali karta Not knowing where you're headed.

Meel aad ku socoto adan ogeyn

Not knowing where you're at.

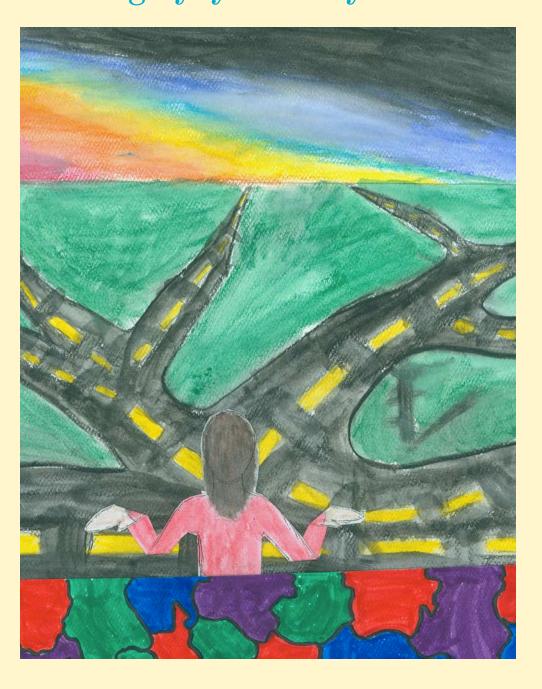
meel aad joogtid ma ogid

With no time to say good-bye

to friends and family

lama haleelin waqti lagu

nabadgelyayo ehel iyo asxaab



Losing all you had before. It was not easy to start over again



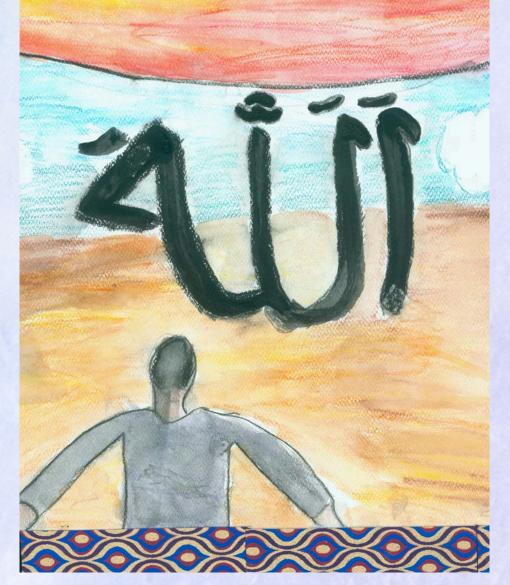
hantidii hore goorta ay ku dhaafto, meel add ka bilawdo ma garatid



Soomaaliyey Isku taakulay! Tarka deeqsiinimo! martisoorka tiinii ahayd.

In Koranic school the Koran I memorized
Dugsigaan ku qaybay quraanka oo dhan
Over one-thousand pages in body, heart, and mind
waxan wada xifdiyey kun bog in ka badan





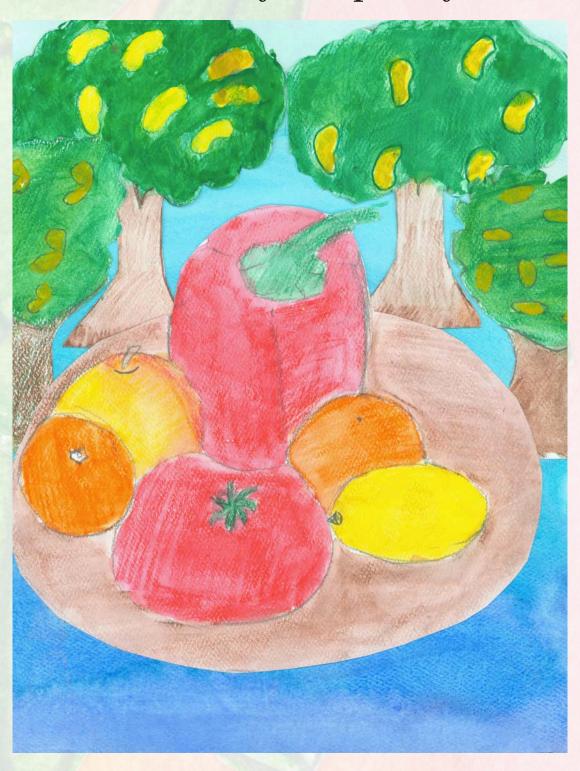
Believer in Allah Alla Aamin ahaw

To practice discipline u adkayso dantaada

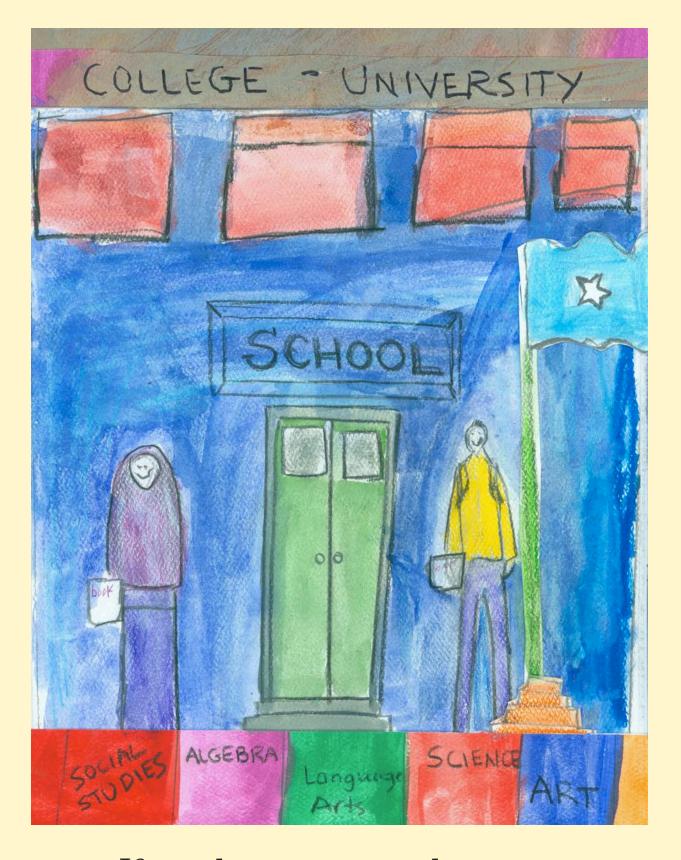
To learn as much as you can Inta aad awoodid wax baro

Be humble, to forgive Ahaw qof aan kibir badnayn oo cafis badan

To be respectable si aad sharaf u yeelato



Soomaaliyey Isku taakulay! Tarka deeqsiinimo! martisoorka tiinii ahayd.

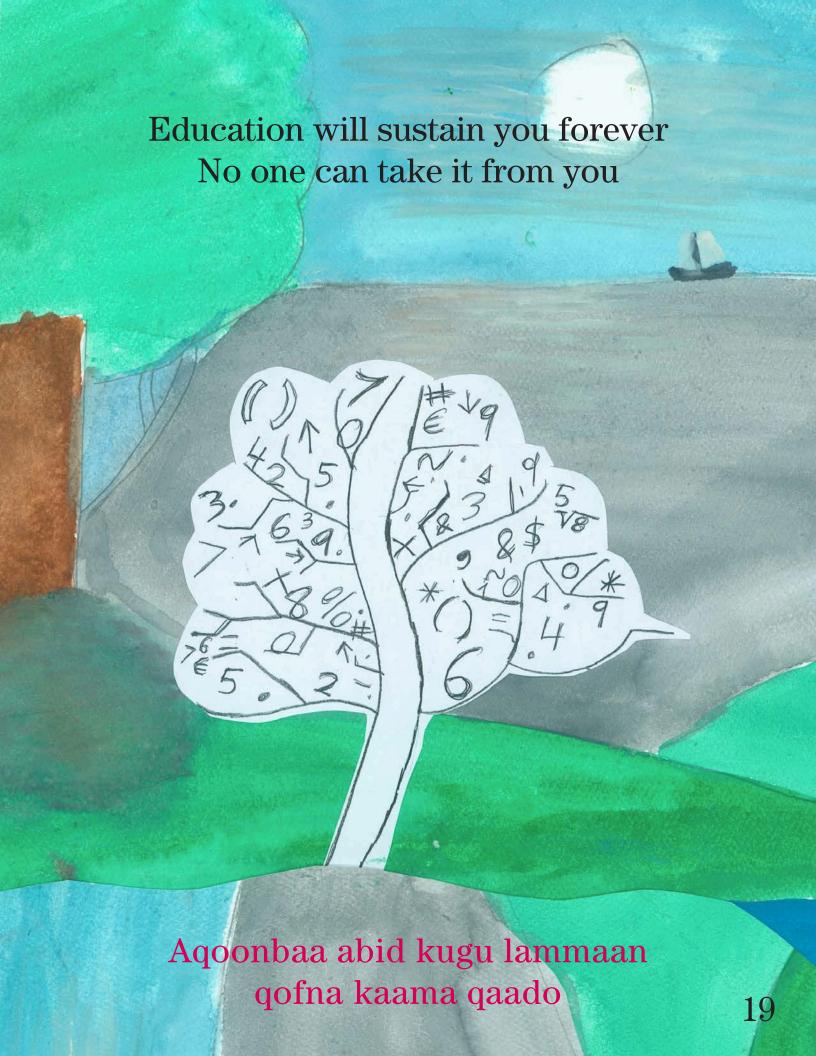


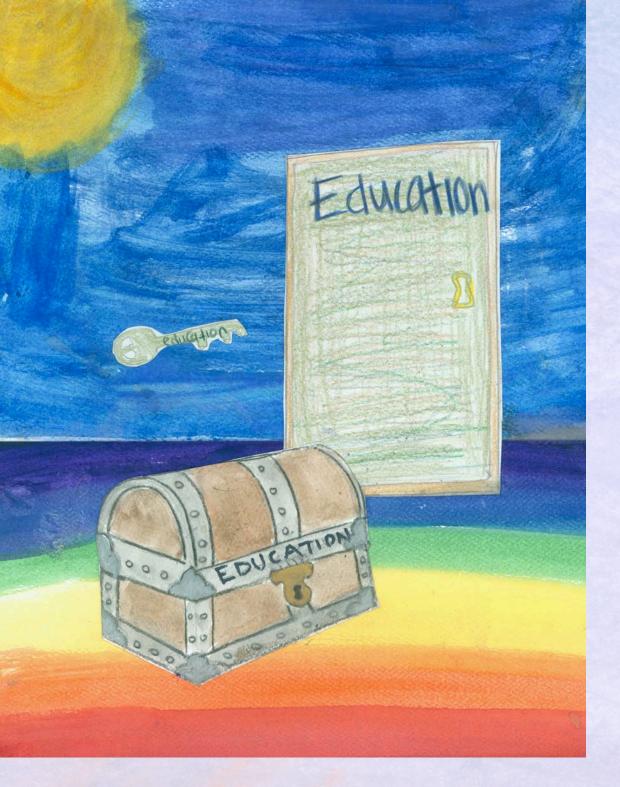
If you learn, you are learners

Haddii aad wax baratona, weligaa bartaad tahay

Educated, you will never go hungry Egn Cotton

Aqoonyahan an gaajoon

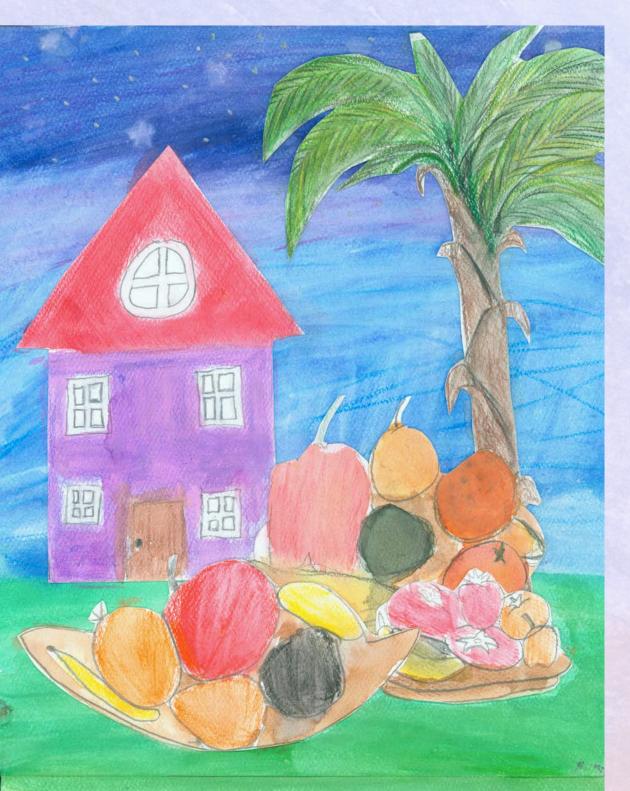




Unlike your possessions, you can lose it in a moment,
But an education is the key to victory

Hanti kale waa kaa luntaa, aqoon baa kuu ah furaha guusha

> Soomaaliyey isku taakulay! tarka deeqsinimo! Taya martisoor taadii ahayd.



ABOUT THIS BOOK:

GENEROSITY, HOSPITALITY was produced through an educational and cultural program created by Smithsonian Folkways Recording artist Larry Long, entitled Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song. Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song is a program of Community Celebration of Place, a non-profit organization, which works with communities through music, performance, art and oral history to bring together children, elders, and people of different backgrounds-economic, faith, racial and cultural-in order to build intergenerational and multicultural opportunities for all schools and communities to prosper. Dr. Tony Seeger, Curator Emeritus of Smithsonian Folkways, writes, "When senior members of a community talk about their lives and work and children write songs with Larry Long about what they have learned from the elders, they create a remarkable celebration of humanity and hard work."



To learn more about Elders' Wisdom, Children's Song: www.communitycelebration.org

Mohamed Salah Abdi

My name is Mohamed Salah Abdi. I was born in Bardera, Somalia in 1941. I was born into a large family of farmers. We had livestock and a banana plantation. We were well to do.

Living in our house like most of the Somali households, there were a lot of our relatives. Farming requires a lot of help, a lot of people working together, to produce not only their own food, but also food for market. Somalia exports a lot of goods. Banana is one of the main exports.

My father was an Italian soldier in Somalia when he met and married my mother. Where they lived, people were having a hard time crossing the river, so my father built a boat, so people could cross from this side to that side of the river. My parents were known as 'the boat people', or 'Doonyaale', which means owner of the boat.

Both my parents put the highest value on education. I have eleven brothers and nine sisters and all of them are educated. They are doctors, engineers, and educators. They are now living in different continents like Africa, Asia, Europe and here in the United States of America.

My dad used to say, "If you learn, you become learners, educated, you will never go hungry. If you build wealth, you may lose it, but if you get educated, you will keep that forever!"

In 1991 there was a civil war that broke out in Somalia. There were a lot of people that were fleeing. People were looting and killing each other. There was a lot of persecution. So that's when I decided to move my family to a neighboring country called Kenya. I came to the United States, September 19, 1999. I started working here in this school as Associate Educator. I'm still working in Sanford after 15 years.

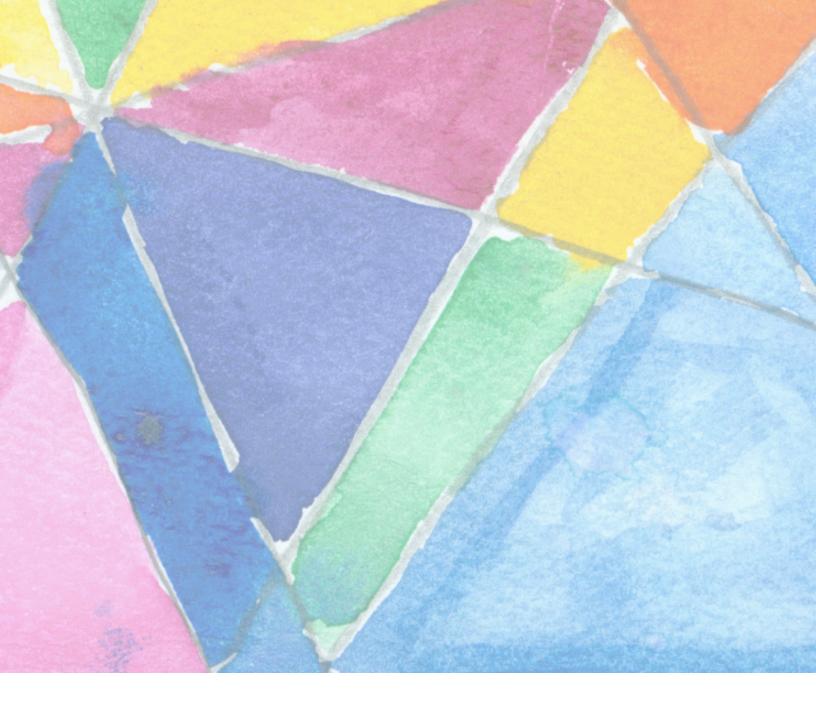
Whether in Somalia or here in the United States of America, I have always been committed to helping younger children become educated, in order to improve their life and become the future leaders of our nation. I helped all of my 14 children graduate from college. Eleven of them have Masters degrees already.

Both of my parents were firm believers of Islam. We all went to Koranic school, where you learn the Koran. We memorized the entire Koran, more than a thousand pages, at a young age.

The word Somali is two words that became one. Soo means "you go" and maal means "to milk". The camel is one of the beloved livestock of Somalia. If you visit a Somali family, they will give you a container that they use to milk their camel, and say, "Make yourself at home. Go milk the camel yourself." The Somali culture is very hospitable. The same as Minnesota culture. I think this is what attracted the Somali people to the State of Minnesota.

WORDS OF WISDOM:

I want to leave two things with you. First and foremost, I want you to get educated. But education without discipline is not going to help you. You have to have both. Respect yourself, respect your teachers, and treat other people in a respectful manner. Apply that with education and you will not go wrong.



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