

RATED E

RATED E PRODUCTIONS

PRESENTS:

HOW BENDU BEAT THE BULLY

A Beautiful Africa Screen Story



RATED E PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS: AN **EMIL B. GARUBA** SCREEN STORY

"HOW BENDU BEAT THE BULLY"

STARRING: **BENDU, AKIN, DOGO** AS **THE BULLY**, AND **BENDU'S GRANDMA**

WRITTEN & PRODUCED BY **EMIL B. GARUBA** © 2012

THE STORY:

When confronted by the neighborhood bully, 10 year old Bendu relies on an old African fable to save the day... and his precious bicycle.

Inspired by the story of THE FOX AND THE LEOPARD "HOW BENDU BEAT THE BULLY" is an anti-bullying advocacy piece that champions the theme of brain over brawn and the wisdom of the elders! Written as my entry into the Beautiful Africa short script writing project that shows positive images of African people, traditions, and wisdom.

FURTHER READING:

Bullies and Victims in Schools: a guide to understanding and management by Valerie E. Besag (1989)

Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls by Rachel Simmons ISBN 0-15-602734-8

Bullycide in America: Moms Speak Out about the Bullying/Suicide Connection - by Brenda High, Bullycide.org

A Journey Out of Bullying: From Despair to Hope by Patricia L. Scott

"Peer Abuse Know More! Bullying From A Psychological Perspective" By Elizabeth Bennett

Joanne Scaglione, Arrica Rose Scaglione *Bully-proofing children: a practical, hands-on guide to stop bullying* 2006

Why Is Everybody Always Picking on Me: A Guide to Handling Bullies for Young People. by Terrence Webster-Doyle. Book and Teaching curriculum.

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FADE IN:

EXT. STREET - DAY

***BENDU** and **AKIN** (both 10) walk down their neighborhood street. Akin, slightly rotund, clings to the backpack straps secured tightly around his shoulders while Bendu, scrawny and bespectacled, wheels his bicycle alongside the pair.*

BENDU

When we get back, do you want to come over and read some comic books?

AKIN

I can't. I have homework to do.

Bendu hops over a mud puddle.

BENDU

Oh, come on. Can't you do it later?

Akin shakes his head fiercely.

AKIN

My mother will kill me! You know how she is. You are lucky. Your grandmother never flogs you with a **koboko!**

BENDU

Grandma doesn't believe in flogging. She prefers to teach me things through words of wisdom.

AKIN

Well, my mother's wisdom is at the end of a **koboko!** Let's hurry so we won't be late.

*Suddenly, Akin stops short and stands transfixed. Bendu follows his gaze -- Walking towards them is **DOGO**, an unusually tall twelve year-old boy.*

AKIN (CONT'D)

It's Dogo!

BENDU

Isn't he the one that took your sneakers?

AKIN

And my mother flogged me viciously when I told her I lost them. Let's get out of here!

They turn to leave.

DOGO

Hey, where do you two girls think you're going?

Bendu stops and turns to face him.

BENDU

We are not girls. And we are going to the park.

DOGO

Okay. But not with that bicycle.

Dogo motions to the bike.

DOGO (CONT'D)

Leave it and go.

Bendu looks at it, then over to Akin for support. No use; Akin's face is plastered with fear. He looks back to Dogo.

BENDU

But my grandmother bought me this bike as a birthday present.

DOGO

I don't care about you or your stupid old grandmother! I just want the bike!

Akin leans towards Bendu.

AKIN

(quietly)

Maybe you should just give it to him.

BENDU

But it's mine!

DOGO

Bring... me... the... bike... NOW!
Or I'll beat you bloody and take it anyway!

Dogo folds his arms and stares menacingly at the pair. Bendu looks back to his friend, but Akin sheepishly looks down.

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AKIN
My mother will kill me if I get
blood on this shirt.

Bendu sighs and slumps his shoulders.

BENDU
Fine.

He walks the bike over to Dogo and hands it to him.

DOGO
Now see, wasn't that easy? Besides,
little girls should have dolls, not
bikes!

BENDU
I told you we're not --

AKIN
Bendu, just let him go. It's better
than having a bloody nose. Trust
me.

*Dogo hops on the bike, puts his foot on the pedal and starts
riding away.*

*Bendu watches him leave and his eyes get wet. That's when he
hears a VOICE in his head. It is a familiar voice --*

GRANDMA (V.O.)
Easy, my son, easy. Remember what I
thought you. Brain is better than
brawn...

FLASHBACK:

EXT. GRANDMA'S COMPOUND - DAY

*Bendu sits outside on the porch listening attentively to his
GRANDMA, 65, reclined in a chair.*

BENDU
Grandma, what do you mean by "brain
is better than brawn"?

The old woman smiles at him.

GRANDMA
Let me tell you the story of the
leopard and the fox. A long time
ago, a leopard and a fox lived in a
forest.

(MORE)

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

The leopard always bullied the fox and made fun of him because he was the weaker and smaller animal. The fox realized that he could not compete with the leopard either in looks or in strength. But the fox was a smart fellow.

BENDU

What did the fox do?

GRANDMA

Well, he used his brain. He showed the leopard the biggest tree in the forest which was in the far distance and said whoever ran around it first was truly the better animal. "Sure," said the leopard, and he was off in a flash.

BENDU

But grandma, the leopard was surely faster and got to the tree before the fox.

GRANDMA

Yes, Bendu. The leopard did get to the tree first. But what the fox didn't tell him was that a ferocious lion lived under that tree and he wouldn't spare anyone that came that way!

Bendu gulps hard, realizing the terrible outcome of the story.

BENDU

So, you mean... the lion...

The old woman puts her arm around the young boy.

GRANDMA

Yes, that was the last time the smart fox saw the stupid leopard. Brain won over brawn, you understand?

Bendu nods.

GRANDMA (CONT'D)

Now, I better go prepare some food for you and Akin before he comes over. I know how much he loves to eat.

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Grandma smiles and makes her way into the house, leaving Bendu alone to his thoughts.

BENDU
(to himself)
"Brain over brawn..."

BACK TO:

Bendu, as Akin pulls on his shirt to come along. Bendu shrugs Akin's arms off, wipes his eyes, and stares at the departing bully. He stands firm and yells --

BENDU (CONT'D)
Wait!

Dogo puts his foot back down, and looks back.

BENDU (CONT'D)
I want a chance to have my bike back.

Dogo laughs in response. Akin watches on, worried.

BENDU (CONT'D)
I'm serious.

Dogo's smile fades.

DOGO
What, you want to fight me for it?
Do you see how small you are?

BENDU
Not a fight. A race.

DOGO
A race?

BENDU
On the bike.

DOGO
You think I'm going to fall for that? If I let you get on this bike, you'll just ride off.

BENDU
But I won't be on the bike. You will.

Dogo looks at Bendu, confused.

BENDU (CONT'D)

Look, I'll race you on foot while you ride the bike. Whoever reaches the end of the street first gets to keep it.

Uproarious laughter erupts from the bully as he nearly doubles over. Akin steps forward.

AKIN

Are you sure? We should just go.

Bendu shakes his head, steadfast and tight-lipped. Dogo recovers from his laughing fit, and wipes a fake tear.

DOGO

You're joking, right?

BENDU

Why? You don't think you can beat me? I'm younger than you and I have short legs.

Dogo pauses to think, then looks back to Bendu; all business.

DOGO

Okay. You're on!

EXT. STREET - DAY

The bike tire approaches a make-shift startling line. In the background, Bendu readies himself at the line as well. Akin walks over to Bendu.

AKIN

I hope you know what you're doing.

DOGO

Come on, let's get this over with. You, fatty --

Dogo motions to Akin.

DOGO (CONT'D)

Call it!

Akin steps in front of them.

AKIN

Okay, first one to the end of the road.

Akin points to the end, far in the distance.

DOGGO
This is going to be so easy.

Akin raises an arm.

AKIN
On your mark. Get set... GO!

Dogo and Bendu take off. Dogo breaks ahead fast.

It's not even a competition; it's an absolute slaughter as Dogo bolts far ahead, leaving Bendu in the dust.

Dogo whoops as he gains distance, his speed ever increasing. He turns back to see Bendu far behind.

DOGGO
(yells)
Looks like I win and the bike is mine!

Bendu stops and watches Dogo race towards the finish.

BENDU
(yells)
I don't think you'll want it! The brakes don't work!

Dogo whips his head back in shock.

He slams his feet backward, but nothing happens. Panicked, he looks forward to see he's approaching a CAR parked at the end of the street. He tries to steer clear but it's too late --

Before he knows it, Dogo slams into the parked car, knocking him off the bike and onto the hard pavement.

Bendu and Akin rush over to scene of the accident. Dogo is sprawled over on the pavement, wincing in pain.

Bendu picks up the bicycle and checks for any damage.

BENDU (CONT'D)
Looks like I have to fix the tire as well.

Akin watches, mouth agape.

AKIN
That... was... amazing!

Bendu looks at his friend with a smile.

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BENDU

Brain over brawn. Let's get to the park and fix this. Then we can go read some comics.

AKIN

Sure. By the way, what does that mean, brain over brawn?

BENDU

Oh, just one of the words of wisdom my grandmother told me.

*As they walk away, the **OWNER** of the parked car angrily confronts Dogo about the huge dent on the side of the vehicle.*

Bendu and Akin laugh.

FADE OUT

THE END