

# Don't Fail to Try

MUJAWAMARIYA Henriette

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Pre-Reading Questions:

- What does a mechanic do?
- What job do you want to have?

Yvette was a young, illiterate girl who did not attend school. She liked watching the mechanics of cars, airplanes, motorbikes, and bicycles. Every day she observed how the mechanics did their job.

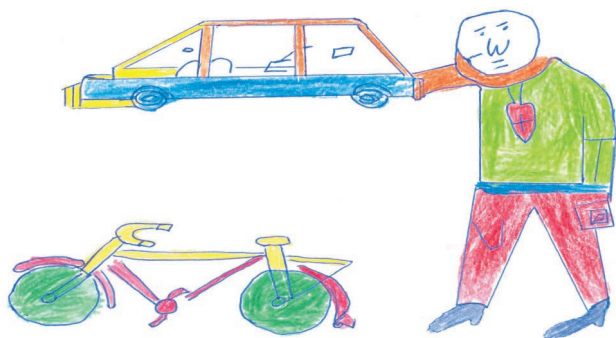


One day she approached them and said, “I want you to train me so that I can become a mechanic like you.”

“Study hard, as you are still young,” they responded. “In addition, you are a girl. You cannot repair an automobile.”

The girl did not want to study. She thought that there was no use in studying because it takes a long time. Instead she wanted to make money.

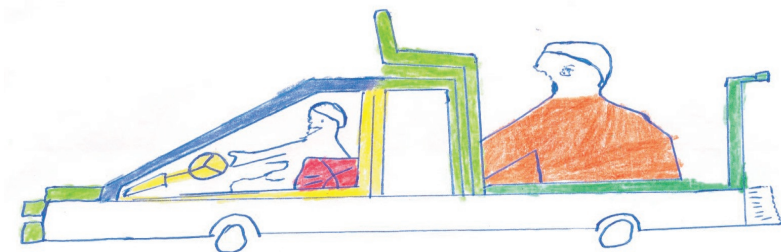
The mechanics told her, “If we were you, as young as you are, it would be better for you to return to class. We now know the importance of studying.”



The girl returned home and told her parents she wanted to go to school. Yvette decided to start the first year of primary school. Her classmates laughed at her, but she was not discouraged. When Yvette finished her primary studies, she went to school for mechanics. Although she was a girl, she was allowed to learn and became an expert.

When she was struggling to pay her school fees, Yvette found a benefactor who took pity on her and

brought her to America where she studied mechanics intensively. She returned to her country after five years with a distinguished certificate in mechanics. In America, she learned how **to repair** all types of vehicles, even airplanes. Her parents, who were in poverty, became rich due to their child Yvette.



Dear comrades, wherever you are, I encourage you to pursue any job you want. Girls are as capable as boys. No one is powerless. Avoid judging people according to their sex.



MUJAWAMARIYA Henriette is 13 years old and in P6 at Kabwende Primary School. Her favorite subject in school is mathematics and her favorite color is blue. She has two brothers and four sisters. Her favorite activities are cooking and revising notes for school. When she grows up, she wants to be a headmistress.