

Dima and the Kidnappers by Ngumi Kibera

Review by Esther Muinde

The book's general talks explains that Dima, who was kidnapped, was smart to pretend he was dead to free himself from the kidnapers. Dima was a student who was a bully and did not perform well in class as it is clearly depicted when it was said that Dima could never concentrate on anything boring so he never did well in class. What moved me in the story was that after Dima became friends with Tupa and Jana who were performing well in class, during the school holidays they set a daily programme where they would study for a few hours then go to play. This helped Dima to start taking his studies seriously. At the end we see Dima declare that he now knew "everything backwards and sideways."

I thought of the story as very encouraging. When we face difficult situations in life, when should not give up easily but work out smartly as Dima did. We should also persist in order to overcome challenging scenarios. After being rescued by his friends from the cave where he had been held hostage by the kidnapers, Dima took the vital role of reporting the crime to the police station to protect others from becoming victims made me think that we should be taking actions against criminal activities. The idea of setting a study time among the three friends to help Dima like his studies clearly made me think that friends should always help out one another and motivate each other to become better. I would recommend the book to learners who don't take studies serious or rather find studies boring.