



**Esther:** I live in a small house made of mud. We have electricity, but no running water. We get water in containers from a water hole. We wash our clothes outside in plastic buckets. My little brother Martel, who is nine, and I live with our aunt. She and her husband have four children, so there are eight of us in two rooms. Martel and I sleep on the floor. My parents died of AIDS when I was small, and I cannot remember them. I am glad that my uncle and my aunt have taken us in. He is a cook and she works as a laundress.



Esther tries her hardest to do everything right at home and at school. She wants to find a good job and get out of the misery.



In Kibera, garbage just lies on the street and the water in the creek is dirty.



This is how the mud houses look like where Esther, her family and their neighbors live.

#### HOW PEOPLE LIVE IN KIBERA

Kibera is teeming with children playing in the dirt. Their only chance to get out of poverty is education. But school uniforms and books cost about two euros a month, which is too expensive for many. The aid projects from One Fine Day & Anno's Africa is offering art, dance, theater, and acrobatics to children who otherwise study or work all day long - finally some fun! [www.onefineday.org](http://www.onefineday.org)

# Kibera is in Africa

**Beatrix Schnippenkoetter has visited children who have almost nothing but hold on to their dreams.**

**Esther, 12,** was born in a slum in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya.

**She is in seventh grade, has a little brother and likes to dance. In Kibera, garbage just lies on the street and the water in the creek is dirty.**

*What do you see when you look out of your window?*

Our house has no windows, only a door. There is trash everywhere outside, there is no garbage collection, and the little paths between the huts are very muddy when it rains. Almost a million people live here in Kibera, and a great many of them are children, and they are happy, when they can go to school.

*Where is your favorite place?*

In school, where I can read and learn. At home we have no books. I share my textbooks with my classmates because there aren't enough of them. There are 45 children in a small classroom made of corrugated iron. I get up at half past five in the morning and walk with my brother along the train tracks to school. Classes start at seven, go until three, sometimes five o'clock in the afternoon.

*What is your favorite thing to do?*

Reading and dancing, but I have little time for it. When I come home from school, I help my aunt with the laundry and the cooking and cleaning. We cook on a little stove on the floor. I like to clean up because it relaxes me if everything is as clean as possible.

*What was the most beautiful moment last week?*

When I found out that I'm the third best in my class. I hope that I can go to high school in two years because I want to be a doctor and help people.

*If you had a safe, what would you keep in it?*

My diaries, where I write down everything that happens. And a photo of my uncle, whom I hardly ever see because he works so much.

*What makes you happy?*

That I can go to school. Only every other child goes to school here because most parents cannot afford the tuition. Many children collect bottles and try to sell them to raise the money for school.

*Where do you want to be in ten years?*

In Germany. It is the land of my dreams because there are good houses and helpful

people there. I always imagine Germany as bright and shiny

*If you could take a trip tomorrow, where would you go?*

To the Natural History Museum, because I've never been there. I want to see the dinosaur skeleton and visit the snake park.

*If you could be any animal, what would it be?*

An owl, because it is a wise animal. I would also like to be wise and know what is right and wrong in life.

*If you had enough money, what would you buy?*

A big house for us with seven rooms. And I would help other children in Kibera.

*What are you afraid of?*

Warthogs, they are the ugliest animals in the world. And slugs because they look like snakes, but when it rains, they get very slimy.

*What do you dislike most?*

Losers. If you can't do something, you get laughed at and everyone thinks you're stupid.

*What was the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to you?*

The first time I saw an airplane. I thought airplanes had wings like birds, and on a school trip to the airport, I asked, where are the wings on the planes? Everyone laughed at me.

*What made you most happy lately?*

Our school trip to the National Park last year, it was the first time I saw a lion and hyenas. And our art classes from One Fine Day at school. They are fun and help to take us forward.

*What do you need most?*

A good education, so that I can have a better future.

*How would you like to change the world?*

Orphans and the poor should be taken care of better.

*If you could ask God a question, what would it be?*

Why are some people always rich and others always poor?

*What's your favorite food?*

Ugali, which is cornmeal porridge, with fish.

*What do you dislike about Kibera?*

All the garbage, and that the creek is polluted. You used to be able to swim in it. Now, when little kids drink from it, they get sick and die.

*What do you like about Kibera?*

Most children here are strong, they are on their own and hold on to their dreams.