



# NETwork Against Malaria

## **Ugandan Fables: A Writing Lesson**

By NETwork Against Malaria

Materials included:

- ✓ [Power point](#)
- ✓ [List of Ugandan Proverbs to Choose From](#)
- ✓ [Links to Ugandan Names](#)

To help students think creatively, improve writing skills, and learn more about Ugandan culture, NETwork Against Malaria suggests students write their own Ugandan Fables. Students can be assigned or may choose from a list a Ugandan proverb about which to write a story. The format can be similar to the folktales from The King of Snakes by Rosetta Baskerville. If students did not read these stories in their reading/literature class, it may be helpful for them to read one. The book may be available at your local library, but may also be viewed online for free ([view now](#)).

In our presentation, students learn about oral tradition, folktales, and literature. The presentation introduces background information and the project to your students. Students can illustrate their stories colorfully.

Here is a list of Ugandan names for students to view:

[View Ugandan Names](#)

[View More Ugandan Names](#)

However, in Uganda, children also have names like Michael, Margaret, and Richard, too.



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## Ugandan Fables Proverb List

- He who runs in the morning will tire before the day's march is over.
- The monkey cannot be trusted to give a fair judgment on forest matters.
- Do not call out for help before you need it.
- He who has never had a sorrow cannot speak words of comfort.
- Even a wise man does not know everything.
- You can't dig with a spade handle, but it helps the spade to dig.
- Friendship is like a tailor's seam; it is the unpicking which causes trouble.
- He who makes friends is wiser than he who quarrels.
- Caution is not cowardice: even the ants march armed.
- He who goes slowly goes far.
- It is no good asking the spirits to help you run if you don't mean to sprint.
- No man fears what he has seen grow.
- The champion who has thrown his opponent says: "That is enough."
- You can't tell the age of a beardless man, or the time on a cloudy day.
- What the herd will stand the cowherd will put up with.
- The grumbler does not leave his job, but he discourages possible applicants.
- The iron fears the blacksmith.
- A man who is always being slandered is like a knife constantly in use—no one has time to polish it.
- Do not belittle what you did not cultivate.
- He who loves you, loves you with your dirt.
- He who hunts two rats, catches none.
- Even the mightiest eagle comes down to the treetops to rest.
- A roaring lion kills no game.

- A strawberry blossom will not moisten dry bread.
- An elephant can never fail to carry its tusks.
- Ask help from the spirits after having used all your strength.
- If he has thrown the only spear he had at you, it means that he doesn't fear you.
- If you climb up a tree, you must climb down the same tree.
- Old men sit in the shade because they planted a tree many years before.
- The hunter in pursuit of an elephant does not stop to throw stones at birds.
- The path to your heart's desire is never overgrown.
- When the moon is not full, the stars shine more brightly.
- When thrown into the sea the stone said, 'after all, this is also a home.'
- You can burn down a house, but can you hide the smoke?
- Everyone has his own tastes.
- He who says others are swindling will not lend you anything.
- Lazy people always set others to work.