

# 4 Morning Sunshine

a story from West Africa

### Before You Read

Before you read “Morning Sunshine,” go over the words below. Make sure you know what each word means. This will help you when you read the story.

**shopkeeper:** someone who has a store that he or she runs. The *shopkeeper* works in her store all day.

**alive:** living. Rain keeps the flowers *alive*.

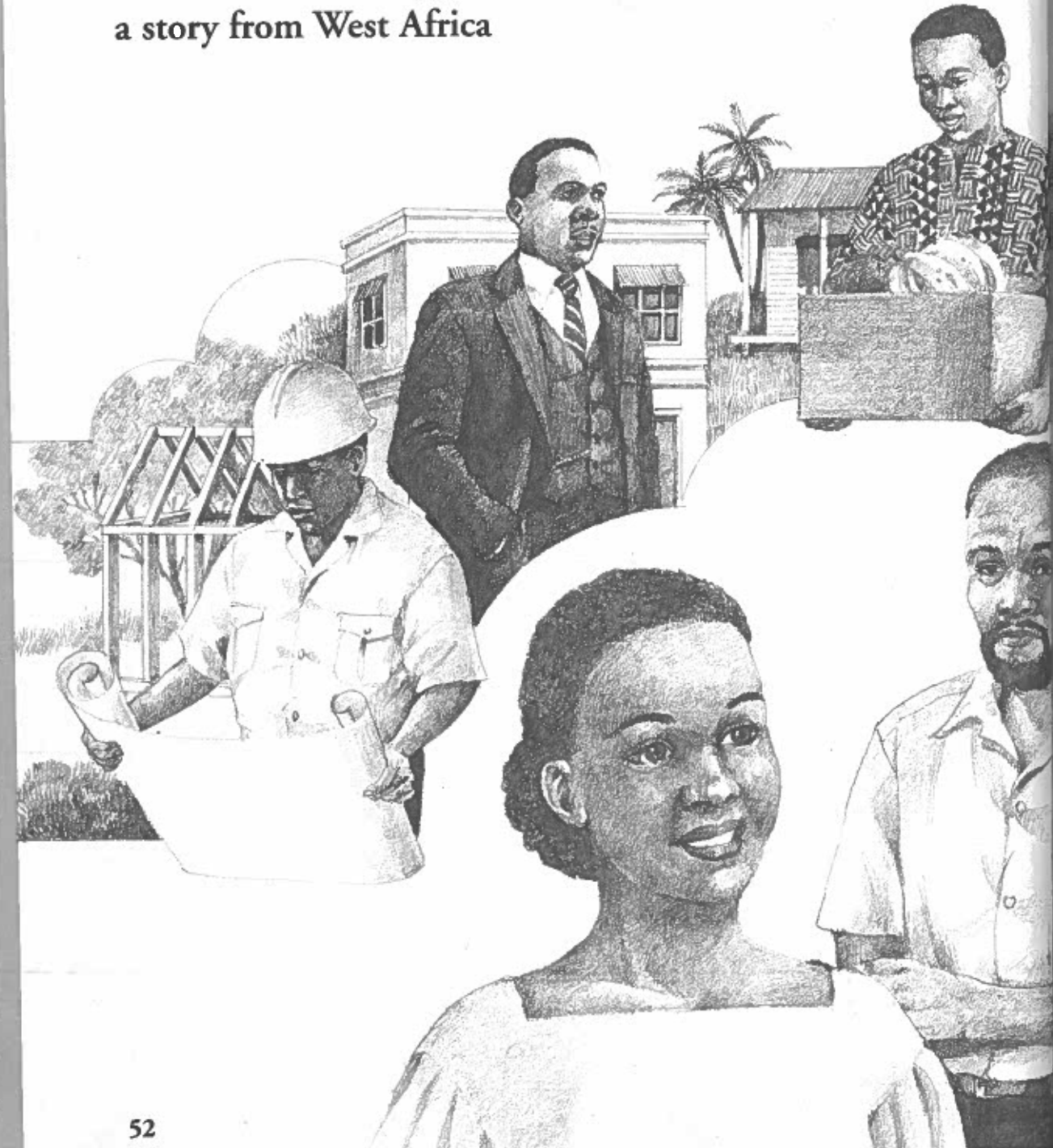
**dead:** not living. I knew the bird was *dead* because it did not move.

**tear:** a drop of water that comes from the eye. She was so sad that *tear* after *tear* fell from her eyes.

**plant:** to put something in the ground so that it will grow. She wanted to *plant* a tree in the garden.

# Morning Sunshine

a story from West Africa



There once was a man. His name was Aziz. Aziz lived in Kenda. That is a town in West Africa.

Aziz had a daughter. She was very pretty. She had a beautiful smile. She smiled all the time. So everyone called her "Morning Sunshine."

Yes, Morning Sunshine was beautiful. She also was wise. And she was very kind.

Many young men lived in Kenda. Many of them fell in love with Morning Sunshine. They all wanted to marry her.



Morning Sunshine liked three men very much. Each man came from a good family. Each man seemed very nice. Which man should she marry?

The first man was named Dema. He was a builder. He had built many houses. He told Morning Sunshine, "Please marry me. I love you very much. I will build you a big house. It will have many rooms. You will have a big garden. Please marry me."

The second man was named Hassa. He owned a bank. He said to Morning Sunshine, "Please marry me. I will give



you a lot of money. You will have beautiful clothes. You will eat the best food. You will live like a queen. Please marry me."

The third man was a shopkeeper. His name was Ali. He said to Morning Sunshine, "Please marry me. I love you most of all. I am not rich. But I have enough money. I will try to give you whatever you want. I just want to make you happy."

What should she do? Morning Sunshine did not know.



She wanted to marry the right man. She spoke to her father. He said, "I will help you, Morning Sunshine. I will help you choose the right man."

Aziz thought for a long time. Then he said, "Morning Sunshine. This is what you must do. Stay in the house. Do not go outside. Do not talk to anyone. Do not let anyone see you."

Morning Sunshine stayed in her house. She did not go outside. She did not let anyone see her.

One day Aziz left the house and went into town. People saw Aziz. They said to him, "Aziz. Where is Morning Sunshine? We have not seen her for a week. Is she all right?"



Aziz looked very sad. He said, "Morning Sunshine is not well. She is sick. She is very, very sick."

Aziz waited two more days. Then he sent for a friend. The friend's name was Omar.

Aziz said, "Omar, my friend. I need your help. Please do this for me. Go into town. Look very sad. Say that Morning Sunshine is dead. Do not let anyone know she is still alive."

"I will do that," said Omar.

"Thank you," said Aziz. "Please do one more thing. Find these three men. They are Dema, Hassa, and Ali. Here is what to tell them."

Aziz told his friend what to say.



Omar went into town. He looked very sad. People said, "Omar. What is the matter?"

Omar said softly, "Morning Sunshine is dead."

Then Omar went to find Dema. He found him in a field. His men were building a house. Dema was watching the men work.

Omar said, "My name is Omar. I come from Aziz. Morning Sunshine is dead."

"Yes," said Dema. "I have heard. Word came from the town."

Omar said, "Aziz said you loved Morning Sunshine. He said you loved her very much. Soon they will put Morning Sunshine in the ground. The family wants to buy a stone. They want to put it on that ground. Morning Sunshine's name will be on the stone. People will see the stone. They will see her name. They will remember Morning Sunshine."

"Yes?" said Dema.

Omar went on. "But the family is poor. They cannot buy the stone. You have a lot of money. Aziz wants to know this. Can you give him some money for a stone?"



"Ha!" said Dema. He got very angry. "What is Morning Sunshine to me? She was not my wife! I have no money for Aziz!"

He sent Omar away.

Omar went to find Hassa. He found Hassa at his bank.

Omar said, "My name is Omar. I come from Aziz. Morning Sunshine is dead."

"Yes," said Hassa. "I have heard."

Omar said, "The family is poor. They want to buy some flowers. They will put them on the ground where Morning Sunshine lies. Aziz said you loved Morning Sunshine. He says you loved her very much. Will you give Aziz money for flowers?"

"Give Aziz money for flowers?" Hassa looked surprised. "Why should I give money to Aziz? Morning Sunshine is dead. What is she to me? She was not my wife. I have no money for Aziz."

And he sent Omar away.



Omar went to find Ali. He found him in his shop.  
 Omar said, "My name is Omar. I come from Aziz. Morning Sunshine is dead."  
 "Yes," said Ali. "I have heard." He wiped a tear from his eye.  
 Omar said, "The family is poor. They want to plant a little tree. They will put it in the ground where Morning Sunshine lies. Can you give Aziz some money for a tree?"  
 "Money for a tree?" said Ali. "Yes! Aziz shall have money for a tree. And for flowers and a stone! For if Morning Sunshine had lived, I am sure she would have been my wife."

The next day Ali brought the money to Aziz's house. And who was waiting at the door? It was Morning Sunshine herself. She was not dead after all!

Aziz was standing at Morning Sunshine's side.

Aziz turned to Morning Sunshine. He said, "Morning Sunshine, Ali is the right man for you."

Ali was so happy he could not say a word. He just smiled.

Morning Sunshine smiled back. And, you know, she had a beautiful smile.

"Yes, father," she said. "Ali is the right man for me!"



**TELL ABOUT THE STORY.**

Put an X in the box next to the right answer. Each answer tells something (a *fact*) about the story.

1. Aziz said he would help Morning Sunshine
  - a. make a lot of money.
  - b. find new friends.
  - c. find the right man.
2. The builder said he would give Morning Sunshine
  - a. a big house with a big garden.
  - b. a new car.
  - c. anything she wanted.
3. Omar told people that Morning Sunshine
  - a. had moved away.
  - b. was resting at home.
  - c. was dead.
4. Omar asked the banker for money to buy
  - a. food.
  - b. flowers.
  - c. beautiful clothes.

**END EACH LINE.**

Finish the lines below. Fill in each empty space with one of the words in the box. Each word can be found in the story. There are five words and four empty spaces. This means that one word in the box will not be used.

A very long time ago, people did not need                     <sup>1</sup>. This is because the people grew their own                     <sup>2</sup>. They hunted animals to                     <sup>3</sup>. And they built their own                     <sup>4</sup>.

soon	money	food
houses	eat	

x 5 =   
 NUMBER CORRECT                      YOUR SCORE

x 5 =   
 NUMBER CORRECT                      YOUR SCORE

### SHOW WHAT WORDS MEAN.

The words below are printed in **dark letters** in the story. You may look back at these vocabulary words before you answer the questions. Put an X in the box next to the right answer.

1. Morning Sunshine spoke to her father. The word *spoke* means  
 a. laughed at.  
 b. talked to.  
 c. gave money to.
2. He wanted her to choose the right man. The word *choose* means  
 a. pick.  
 b. keep.  
 c. need.
3. Aziz said that Morning Sunshine was sick. When you are *sick*, you are  
 a. young.  
 b. happy.  
 c. not well.
4. Ali wiped a tear from his eye. The word *wiped* means  
 a. looked at.  
 b. smiled.  
 c. rubbed away.

<input type="text"/>	x 5 =	<input type="text"/>
NUMBER CORRECT		YOUR SCORE

### THINK ABOUT THE STORY.

Here is how to answer these questions. First think about what happened in the story. Then work out the right answers. This is called *critical thinking*.

1. Aziz said that Morning Sunshine was dead because he wanted to  
 a. get money.  
 b. make people sad.  
 c. see what the three men would do.
2. Ali was willing to give Aziz money because Ali  
 a. loved Morning Sunshine.  
 b. had so much money.  
 c. did not believe Morning Sunshine was dead.
3. At the end of the story, Ali was  
 a. sad.  
 b. tired.  
 c. surprised and happy.
4. We can guess that Morning Sunshine  
 a. married Hassa.  
 b. married Ali.  
 c. did not get married after all.

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NUMBER CORRECT		YOUR SCORE

### SPOT PARTS OF A STORY.

Stories have **characters**, a **plot**, and a **setting**. (See page 3.) Put an X in the box next to the right answer.

1. What happened last? (**Plot**)  
 a. Omar asked the banker for money.  
 b. Dema asked Morning Sunshine to marry him.  
 c. Ali brought money to Aziz.
2. Which best tells about Morning Sunshine? (**Character**)  
 a. She did not like to smile.  
 b. She was pretty and wise.  
 c. She loved money more than anything.
3. Which best tells about Aziz? (**Character**)  
 a. He helped Morning Sunshine.  
 b. He did not care about Morning Sunshine.  
 c. He had no friends.
4. Where does the story take place? (**Setting**)  
 a. in a big city  
 b. in a town in West Africa  
 c. in the United States

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NUMBER CORRECT		YOUR SCORE

### THINK SOME MORE ABOUT THE STORY.

Your teacher might want you to write your answers.

- Why did many men want to marry Morning Sunshine?
- Why didn't Dema and Hassa give money to Omar?
- Do you think Ali was the right man for Morning Sunshine? Why?

Write your scores in the box below. Then write your scores on pages 122 and 123.

<input type="text"/>	TELL ABOUT THE STORY
+	
<input type="text"/>	END EACH LINE
+	
<input type="text"/>	SHOW WHAT WORDS MEAN
+	
<input type="text"/>	THINK ABOUT THE STORY
+	
<input type="text"/>	SPOT PARTS OF A STORY
=	
<input type="text"/>	TOTAL SCORE: Story 4