

This is one of a series of three ESL Literacy readers designed to fill the gap for very easy, yet appropriate, reading material for women beginner readers of English.

The readers are at three different levels. This one, "School", the third in the series, is student written and designed to stimulate student writing. It can also lead to discussion on the reason for adult immigrant women learner's literacy problems. In this reader the illustrations are principally decorative and provide background; they do not substitute for the text.

The other two readers in the series are "I am Sick" and "The Present".

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School

by

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School

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School

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By Maeo Treerat, Amina, Rosina Lucia

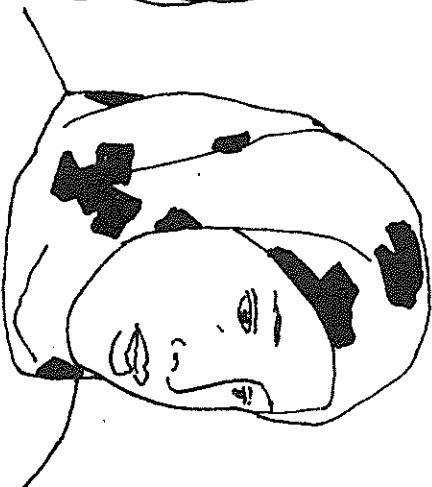
Matilde Costanze & Sitamma Raju

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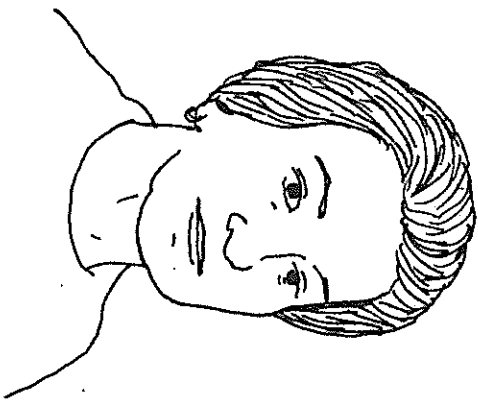
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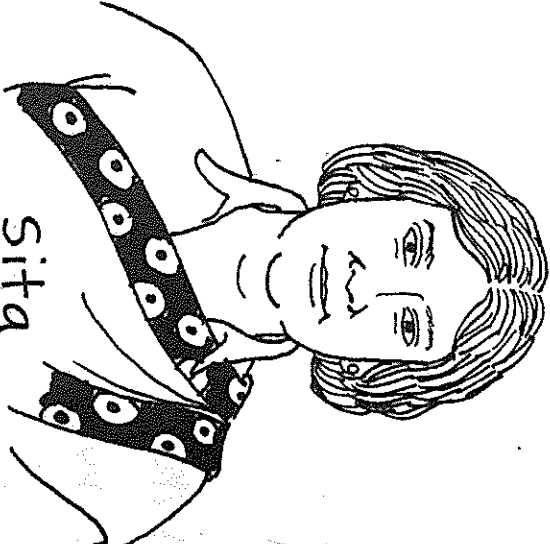
Maeo



Amina



Matilde



Sita

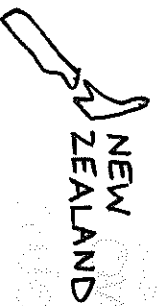
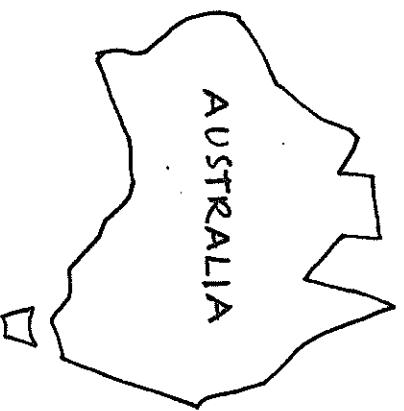


Sita

I went to school in Fiji when I was five years old. I was at school for two years when my mother died. My youngest brother was only three months

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old. I left school to look after him. My grandmother looked after us. Her sight was not good and she couldn't look after my brother. I was the oldest girl at home. My younger brothers and sister went to school.



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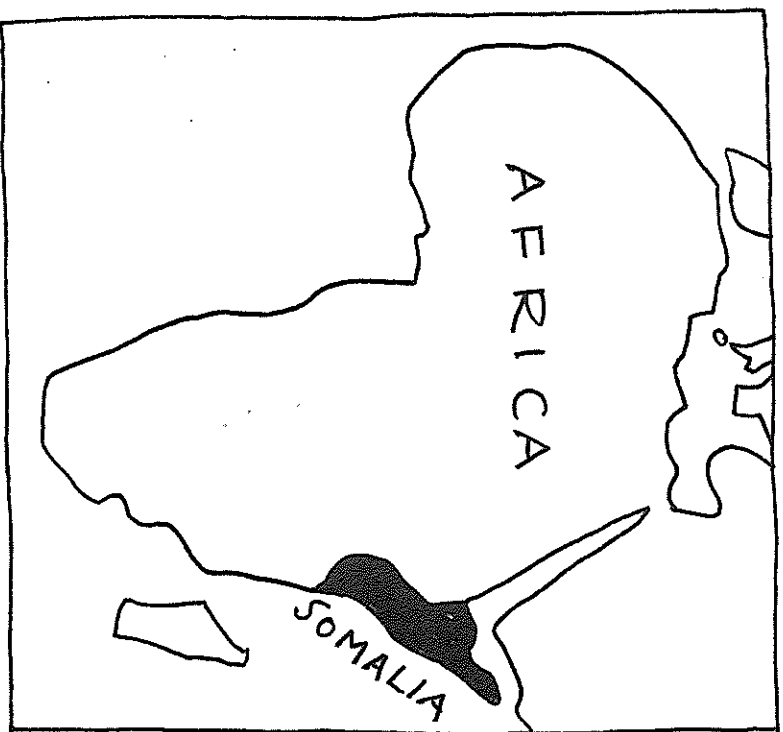


Amina

I come from Somalia.
I didn't go to school.
I have two brothers and
two sisters. I was the
youngest girl. My brothers
went to school but my

4

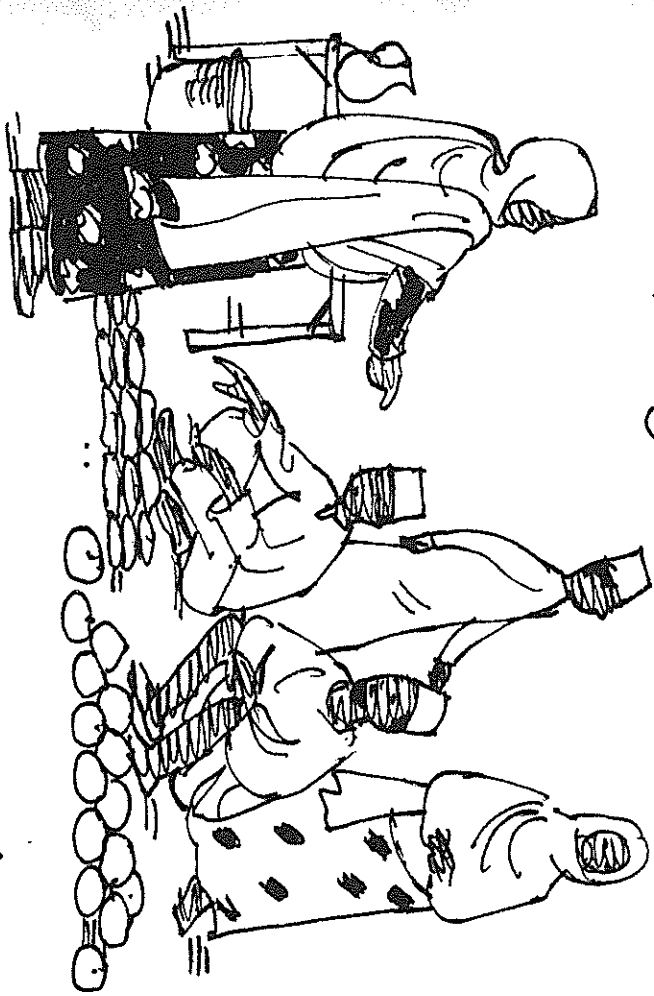
sister and I didn't. At
that time only a few girl
went to school. Now it
is different.



I stayed at home helping
my mother with housework

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cooking, cleaning, washing
and shopping.

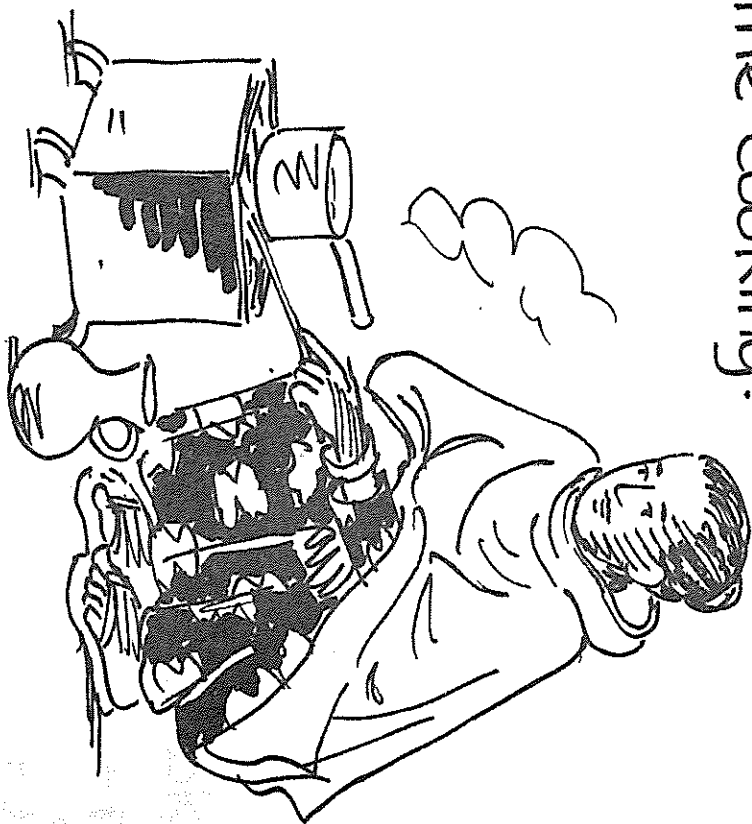


Every day we went shopping
at eight o'clock in the morning.
We bought fresh meat every
day. We didn't have a
refrigerator.

When I was young I helped

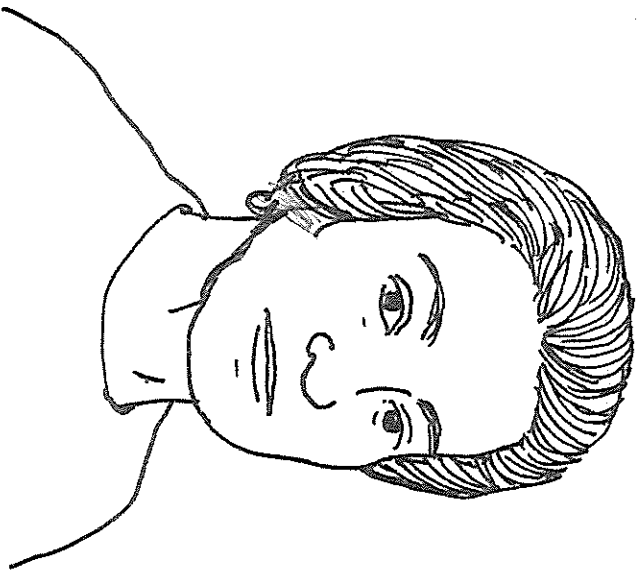
6

with cleaning and shopping.
When I was ten years old
my mother started to teach
me to cook. When I was
twelve years old I did all
the cooking.



I was married when I was
fourteen years old.

7

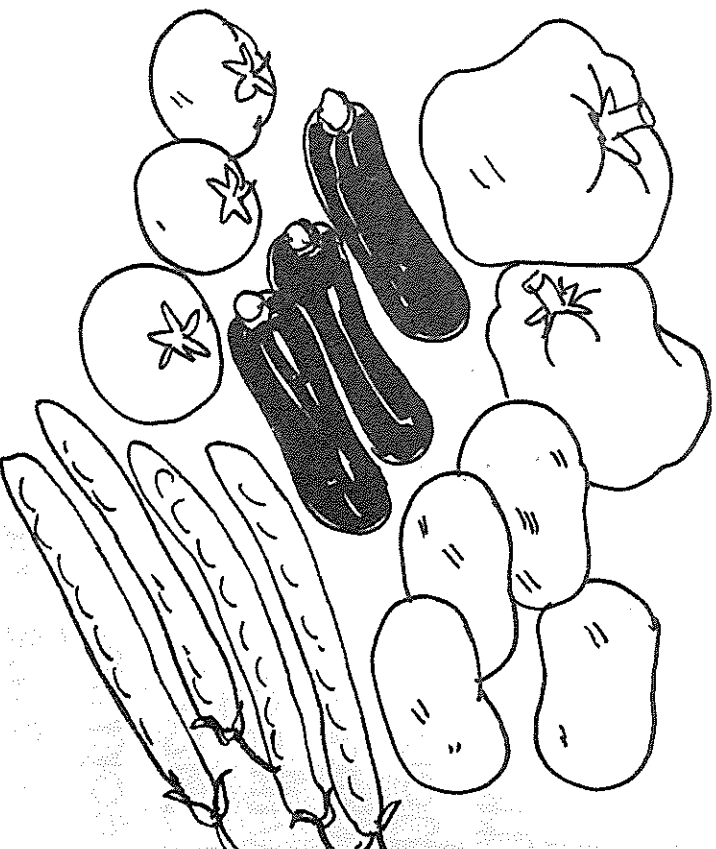


Matilde

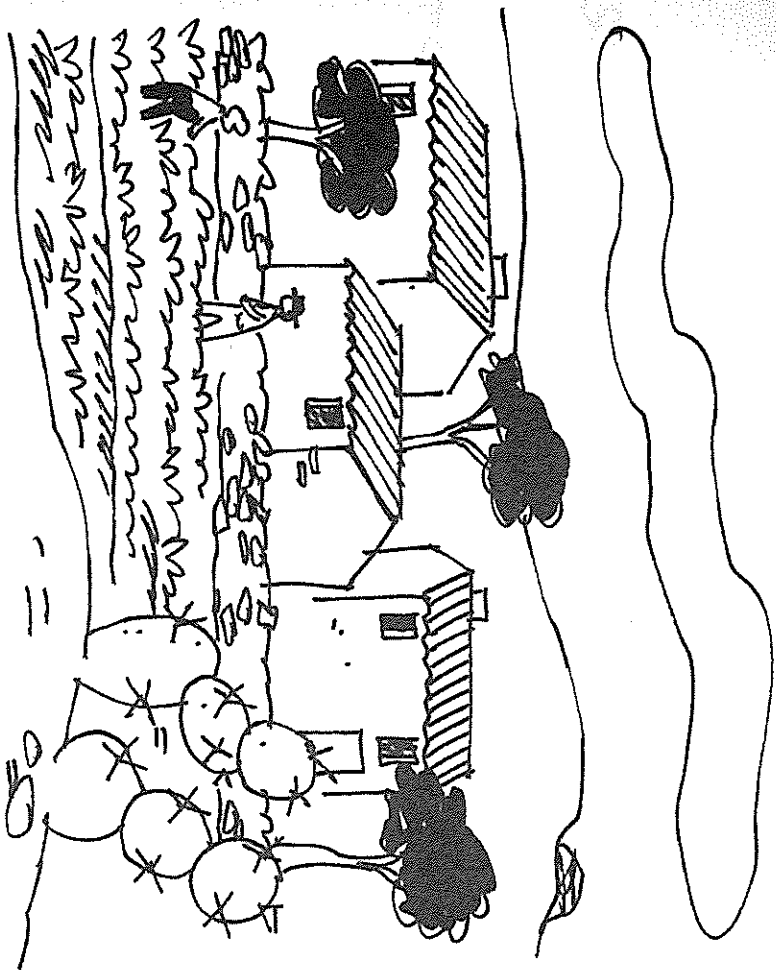
I went to school in Italy when I was seven years old. I stayed at school for three years. I didn't go for the whole year. I went for six months every year. I started in October in

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winter and left in April in spring. Then I worked on the farm for six months. I helped pick the vegetables, beans, tomatoes, peppers, zucchini and potatoes. I worked six hours a day when we were busy.

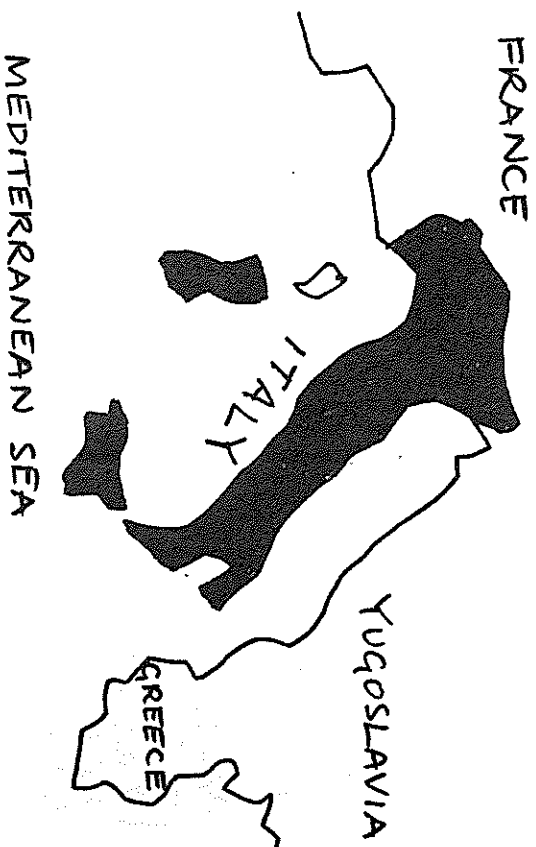


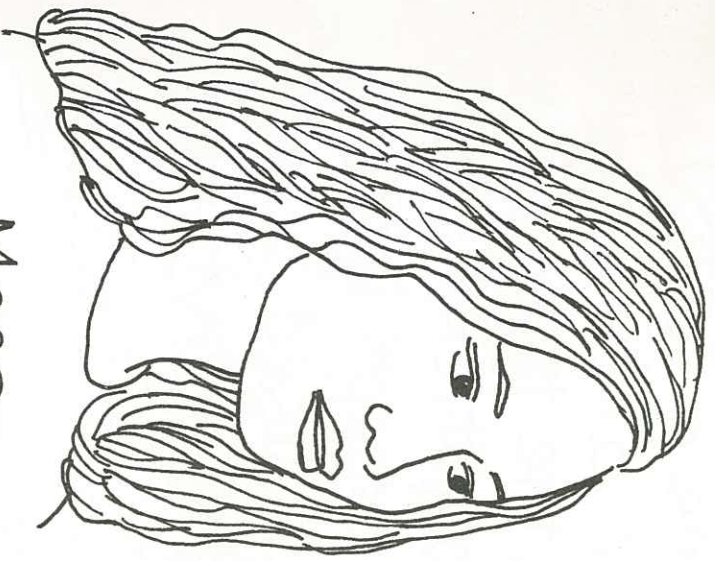
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I lived in a small village. There were about fifty houses. The school had three grades. Bigger villages had bigger schools. I started school every morning at eight o'clock. I came home every day.

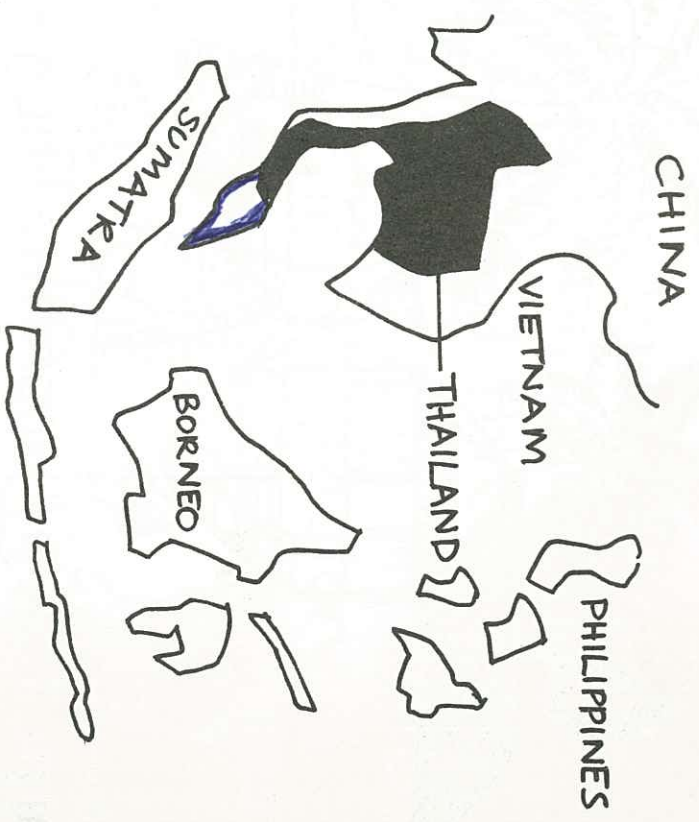
at one o'clock. I was never late. If we were late, the teacher hit us with a stick. I went every day except when I was sick. I liked school. I liked everything.





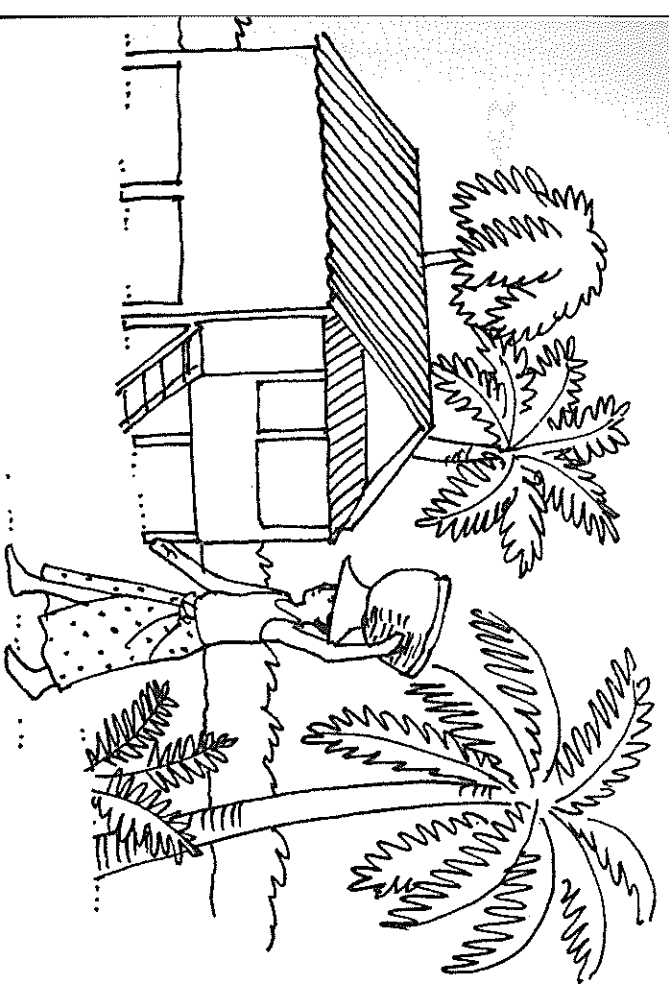
Maec

I went to school when I was seven years old. I lived in a small village in Thailand. It was a small school. There were four grades. I stayed there for four years. We learn + to



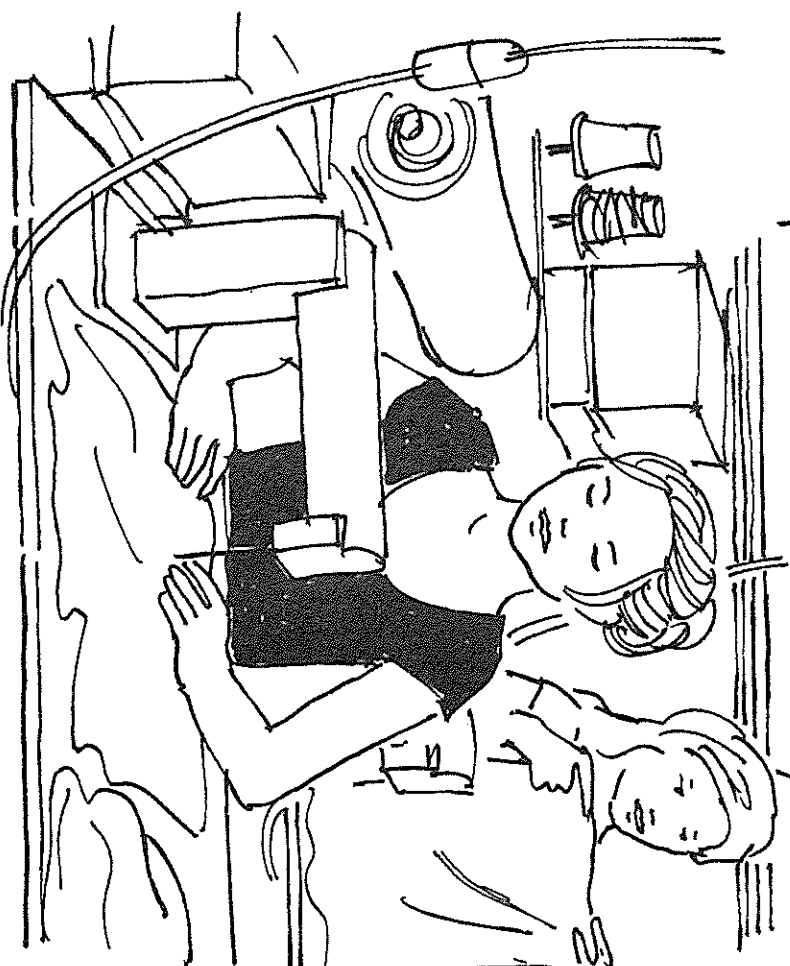
read and write in Thai. We didn't learn English. I left school when I was eleven years old.

Some people went to high school in the city but I worked on my father's



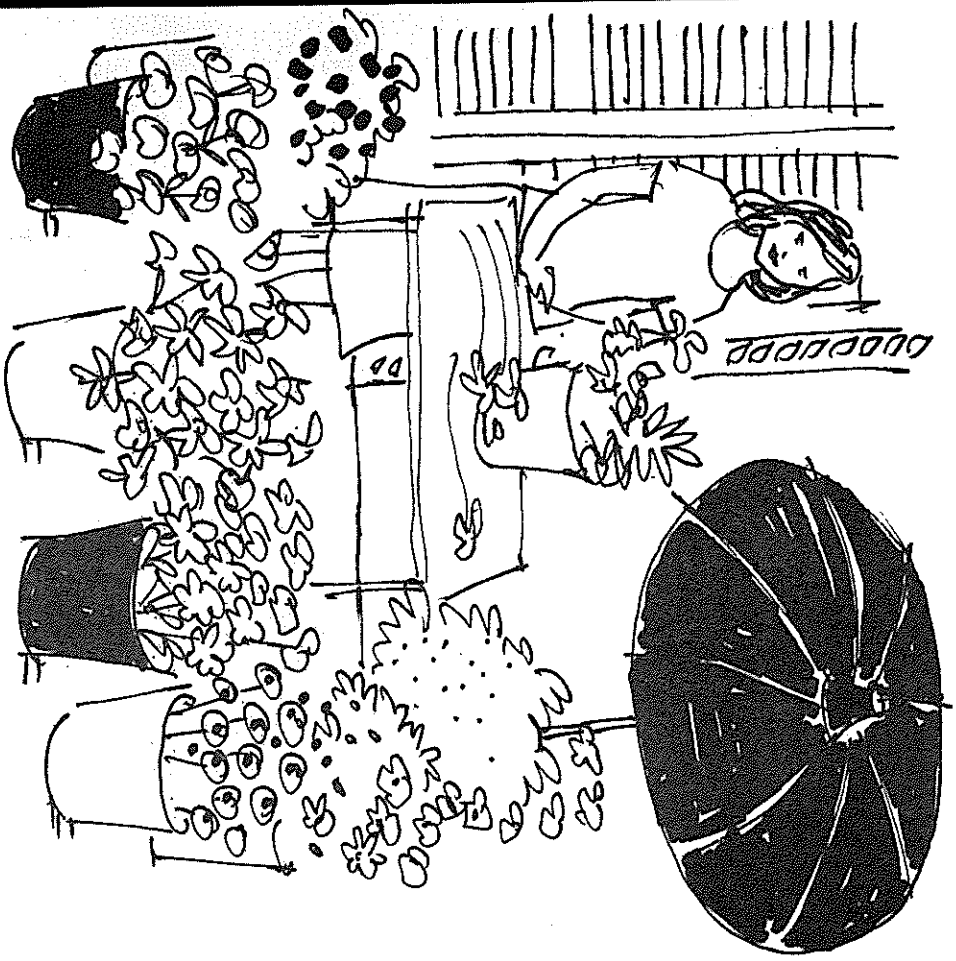
farm for six months. Then I went to Bangkok to stay with my sister and learn dressmaking from her. She was not a good teacher. She would get angry and say that my sewing was not good enough. I did all her housework and looked after her children.

Later I worked as a machinist in a clothes factory for three years. I didn't live with my sister. I slept in the factory



My next job was in a video shop. I taught

myself English to speak to
 tourists. My last job in
 Thailand was in a flower
 shop in a guesthouse.



Nouns

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| brother | spring | housework |
| sister | winter | cooking |
| father | October | cleaning |
| mother | April | washing |
| girl | | shopping |
| children | Somalia | dressmaking |
| grandmother | Italy | sewing |
| day | Thailand | |
| hour | Fiji | everything |
| year | | at that time |
| month | high school | every day |
| morning | teacher | at home |
| meat | grade | |
| vegetables | stick | |
| beans | | |
| tomatoes | sight | |
| peppers | job | |
| zucchini | machinist | |
| potatoes | clothes factory | |
| chilli | video shop | |
| village | tourists | |
| farm | guest house | |
| city | | |
| refrigerator | | |
| house | | |

Verbs

have
 get
 learn
 read
 write
 pick
 hit
 look after
 say
 was
 were
 do (did)
 come (came)
 go (went)
 buy (bought)
 teach (taught)
 leave (left)
 sleep (slept)
 stay (stayed)
 help (helped)
 start (started)
 work (worked)
 help (helped)
 live (lived)
 die (died)
 didn't
 wouldn't
 couldn't

Other Words

young (youngest)
 old (oldest)
 big (bigger)

two
 three
 ten
 fourteen
 fifteen
 fifty
 seven years old
 twelve years old

one o'clock
 eight o'clock

and
 but

I
 we

it
 my
 us

myself
 in
 from
 to
 at
 with
 on
 about

good
 married
 sick
 small
 angry
 busy
 different
 late

next
 last

every
 few
 all

whole

only
 except
 enough

when
 later
 now
 never