

Mpho

My name is Mpho.

I am a girl of fifteen years. I live in the district of Leribe.

I live with M'e Anna. She is not my real grandmother but that is what I tell people.

I never met my real grandmother. My mother left her home when she was young to marry my father. My grandmother did not like my father and so they never spoke after she got married.

My father died in 1999 and my mother died in 2003.

I have two sisters and one brother. They live with M'e Anna also.

M'e' Anna has four of her own grandchildren and we all live together. Two of them came to live with us last year when their mother got very sick. We all tried to help look after her but she died two months after she arrived. M'e' Anna cries sometimes. When she sees me looking at her when she is crying she tells me to go away and she tells me she cannot feed me that there is no money. I wish that I could go away but I have nowhere to go. Sometimes I think that if I disappeared it would be better.

I miss my mother. I remember the time before she got sick. She used to sell apples at the bus rank and I would go with her.

Some other students in my school have special friends in Canada who pay their school fees and write letters to them. My teacher, Auss Pulane, says that perhaps one day I will have a sponsor and so I must wait and study hard at school. My dream is to be an English teacher like Auss Pulane.