The following poem was composed by a learner in an adult literacy and numeracy program provided by an organization called Rwanda Children that offers a diverse array of educational programs to adults and children in the Ntarama sector, Bugesera district, and country of Rwanda. The program provides six months of education and follows a curriculum provided by the Rwandan government which emphasizes reading and writing in Kinyarwanda—which is the national language in Rwanda. The program also supplements this curriculum with education around health and nutrition while providing a variety of supports to its adult students. The poem was performed at a graduation ceremony in January 2023 by a student who entered the program unable to read or write her own name. Two of the attendees were deeply moved by the poem and approached the student to ascertain her interest in publishing. The student-poet (first author) was delighted, and it was agreed that Ntarama native and founder of Rwanda Children (2nd author) would translate the poem into English while the 3rd author would write an introduction explaining the context around the poem.

The journal *Dialogues in Social Justice: An Adult Education Journal* was selected as a target outlet because of its “practice of freedom” section that publishes poetry with implications for the field of adult education. The authors hope that this poem can serve as an inspiration to those starting their adult literacy journey as well as to those who have committed themselves to teaching language and literacy to adults.
Poem (Kinyarwanda)

UMUVUGO

NSHIMIRE INDATWA IHORA KU ISONGA

1. Nshimire indatwa
   Ndangamirwa Rudasumbwa
   Uzahore ku isonga
   Mucyekerekezo kigana aheza

5. Isura yawe tuzayihorana GSF.
   Twebwe wasize ukatunogereza
   Twaterwaga ipfunwe
   Ryo gupfukiranwa no kutamenya
   Uba uraduhuje turajijuka

10. Tumenya gusoma Ikinyarwanda.
    Ndetse no kwandika turabizi
    Imibare turayandika tukanabara
    Icyongereza turadidibuza
    Ibyo byose ni wowe tubikesha

15. Uzahore ku isonga.
    Ibyo watugejejeho byo ni byinshi
    Aho ugereye iwacu Intarama
    Wadukuye mubwigunge
    Ubuvuzi butugeraho tutavunitse

20. Uburezi bufite ireme urabwubaka.
    Uburere n’ubumenyi
    Niyo mpano iruta izindi
    Upfunyikira abakwizihyi
    Uwanyuze iwawe ntayoherana

25. Ntabura ijambo mubandi.
    Ahorana ishema n’isheja
    Akagira n’ijabo ryibyo agukesa
    Twe abo wa tujwe turakurata
    Tukakuvuga bigwi ukwiriye

30. Uzahore ku isonga.
    Wowe uhoza ibibondo
    Ugahumuriza ababyeyi
    Uri Rudasumbwa iteka
    Uzahorane imbyeyi zikamwa

35. Imirima yawe izahore yera umusubirizo.
    Abakugana bagwire
    Bavome amazi afutse rwose
    Bashire inyota Bose
    Basakaze ibyiza byawe

40. Babikangurire n’abandi.
    Uzabe icyamamare hose
    Dore ko n’ibikorwa byawe
    Byivugira ubwabyo
Si amabanga cyangwa ubwiru

45. Niwamurongo mwiza.
   Wadushyiriyeho twese
   Uduha amahirwe twese
   Yo kugera kuntego nziza
   Tukagera ku iterambere

50. Rishingiye kubajijutse.
    Bitangirwa iteka n’intwari
    Ndavuga mwarimu mwiza
    Rususurutsa itetero
    Ni wowe ubyara abakomeye

55. Abahanga bose baca iwayne.
    Nterura nshima ubuyobozi
    Inzego zose zisenyera umugozi umwe
    Mudushakira imibereho myiza
    Uko mufatanye urunana

60. Mukorana umurava n’ubwitange
    Natwe tubari inyuma
    Ngo twubake igihugu cyacu
    Ntituzabatererana murunana rw’imihigo
    Imihigo yacu nimwe

65. N’ukubaka iterambere.
    Rishingiye kumuco wacu
    Tugaharanira kwesa imihigo
    No kurwanya ikibi cyose
    Cyakototera ubumwe bwacu

70. Kigamije gusenya ibyo twagezeho.
    Kuri uyu munsi mwiza
    Turashimira buri wese
    Witabiriye iki gitaramo
    Kitwizihyiye twese

75. Twishimiye cyane.
    Umwanya twahawee
    Wo gusakaza umunezero
    Utuvuye ku mutima

80. Ugasesekara kumunwa.
    Sinabona ishimwe nashima
    Sinaronka ituro ntura
    Rudasumbwa ubahiga bose
    Mutuye inganzo idatuba

85. Muzahore ku isonga.
    Mugwize ibyiza, mugire urugwiro.
    Yari umusizi wasizwe inganzo n’iyamuhanze

Niyotwizeye Solive Murakoze.
Poem (English)
The most outstanding institution I am grateful for

1. I am very grateful to a well-respected institution
   The one that is preferred and exceptional (outstanding)
   I wish you to stay at the top and keep winning
   May you stay on the right track heading to a pleasant level

5. We are going to protect your wonderful Rwanda Children image
   For us who have been blessed by you
   Previously shame was always on our face
   As we had been kept uneducated and unformed
   But you put us together and educated us

10. Then, we pursued literacy in Kinyarwanda language
    Moreover, we now know how to write
    We can write and count numbers
    We can speak English fluently
    All of these were possible because of Rwanda Children

15. May you stay at the top (winning)
    You have empowered us in many ways
    Since you arrived in our home village of Ntarama
    You lifted us from loneliness
    We have access to healthcare services without a problem

20. You built a sustainable education system
    With discipline and knowledge
    The most important gift
    You give everyone who comes your way
    All your alumni can’t be mistaken as they stand out among others

25. Their voices highly count in the public
    They always have pride and dignity
    As a result of your effort they have integrity
    For us you gave a home
    We give you praises you deserve

30. May you stay at the top
    One who wipe children’s tears
    Comforter of parents
    You are the best all the time
    May you remain with milk cows

35. May your food fields continue to produce forever
    May traffic at your place multiply
    Therefore, people would fetch proper water
    To take away thirst
    Then spread the good news of your goodness

40. For the sake of sharing with others
    May you become a famous everywhere
    Especially since your works
    Speaks for itself
As it is not a secret or mystery
45. That is the right pathway
   You have set for us
   You gave us the same opportunity
   To achieve greatest goals
   And reach development

50. Development that is based on skilled people
    The ones that always get started by heroes
    I mean a good teacher
    The keeper of children nurturing space
    You give birth to the most prosperous people

55. Most intelligent people goes through your program
    I am lifting my voice to praise the leadership
    That works together for common good
    To find a better future
    As you team up

60. And work hard with sacrifice
    We are behind you
    So we can build our country
    We will not abandon you in this journey of delivery
    We have same goals

65. which is to build proper development
    That is based on culture
    Aiming to win
    And fighting against bad influences
    That could come toward our unity

70. With intention of destroying our achievements
    On this good day
    We are thankful for everyone
    Who attended this congregation(Graduation)
    Interesting to all of us

75. And we are happy for
    The time we have been given
    To spread happiness
    That comes from our hearts

80. Visibly seen on our lips
    I cannot find best way to express gratitude
    I cannot find best way to repay
    The unbeaten organization that conquered all
    I offer you this unreserved piece of art

85. Stay at the top (Keep winning)
    Keep storing the goods and hospitality
    It was the artist who has been anointed by her creator
    
    Niyotwizeye Solive
Figure 1. Poem Being Read at an Adult Literacy Graduation Ceremony at Rwanda Children Christian School by (Left) Betty Ndacyayisenga & (Right) Solive Niyotwizeye

Solve Niyotwizeye is twenty-one years old, and a single mom who currently lives in Bugesera district with her parents and her son Pacifique Niyibikora who is two years and a half years old. She works as an agricultural laborer and recently graduated in the third intake of Rwanda Children’s Adult Literacy and Numeracy program. Her wish is to continue her studies and get the chance to learn a technical skill.

Serge Gasore is a mentor, author, speaker, and is married with three children. He received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and two master’s degrees (Global IT Leadership and Global Service) at Abilene Christian University. He is a co-founder of Rwanda Children Christian School.
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