# LEARN TO READ AND CHANGE THE WORLD

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**Category:** Language and Society

The BBC have a lovely story from Ethiopia about children learning to read with the help of a donkey-borne mobile library. The libraries have brightly coloured English children's books, but what the children really like are the locally produced, Amharic children's stories.

> *It turns out that everybody's favourite is the story of Silly Mammo, familiar to generations of Ethiopian children.*
>
> *Mammo is a well-meaning young man, but very silly. When his mother finally finds him a job, he drops the coins he earns and loses them.*
>
> *"Next time, put your pay carefully in your pocket," says his mother.*
>
> *The following day the farmer, instead of money, pays him with milk, with predictable consequences.*
>
> *"No, no, no," says his mother, when she sees his dripping clothes.*
>
> *"When he gives you something like that, you should carry it on your head," she says.*
>
> *But Mammo's next wages come in the form of fresh butter wrapped in green leaves.*
>
> *The children giggle delightedly at the drawing of the blazing sun, and the melting butter running down Mammo's face.*

The quote at the end of the story is terrific:

> *If we are interested in changing the world, then we have to read!*

Read More.