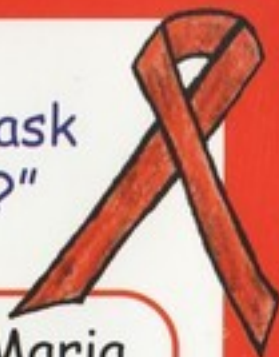


Lolita and Maria ask
"What is AIDS?"



Lolita moropai Maria
ya ekaranmapo'
"î' se mîrîrî AIDS?"



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Introduction

Lolita and Maria are back again, but now they speak to us in both English and Makushi.

The Lolita and Maria series, created by Liz Schuster, a Peace Corps Volunteer living and working in Annai, North Rupununi, were originally published in 2001. The books were about maintaining a healthy lifestyle through diet and hygiene and were made possible by the Guyana Book Foundation, the Canadian Organization for Development through Education, the Canadian International Development Agency, and Iwokrama.

This Makushi edition of "Lolita and Maria Ask What is AIDS?" has been translated from English by Makushi Research Unit in the North Rupununi. This was a particularly tricky and difficult task as the Makushi vocabulary does not contain certain words. In order to translate terms like "HIV", the researchers had to find the words which encapsulated the meaning and context of the infection and other terms. All the same, we know you will understand what Lolita and Maria are telling us.

Thanks to the Makushi Research Unit, Paulette Allicock, Sandra Bernard, Rita Francis, Cecillia Jefferys, Viola Hamilton, Lucillia Singh, Benita Roberts, Vanda Radzik and Joyena Zammet for making this edition possible.

We hope that you enjoy the books and your visit with Lolita and Maria.

Samantha James
Community Development Coordinator

Lolita moropai Maria patase ya, pemonkonyamî' eseuruma ko'mamî. Ipîra ne'ne pe tîwe'sen warayo' pî taatoya AIDS pî wanî mîrîrî.

In Lolita and Maria's village, people are talking. They say that the man who is very sick must have AIDS.

Lolita ya taa, "Irirî pî teeseurumase nan kore'ta e'pai e'ke pepîn uurî".

Lolita says, "I do not like to be around bad talkers."

Maria ya taa, "Î'pe AIDS wanî epu'tîiya pra wai tî, moropái epu'tî to'ya pra wanî pe epu'tî pî nîrî wai."

Maria says, "I don't even know what AIDS is, and I don't think they know either."



Wîri'sanyamî' ya tonpakon Ricky ekaranmapo, moropai taiya, AIDS ya awîî, moropai taise masa'yamî winîpai eporîya e'painon."

The girls ask their friend Ricky, and he says, "AIDS kills you, and I think you can get it from mosquitoes."

Nursepa ya eta'pî mîrîrî pî taiya, "Kaane Ricky, masa'yamî ' winîpai AIDS eporî ya pepîn. Aapia tu'ke anekaranmapo ton nai AIDS yakaya?"

The nurse hears him and says, "No, Ricky, you cannot get AIDS from mosquitoes. Do you have lots of questions about AIDS?"

"Tuke man", taato' ya. Mîrîrî ye'nen, Nursepa ya teeseuruma koneka' pî si'kuruta HIV moropai AIDS yakaya pîriya esa' wannî eto' pî.

"Plenty," they all say. So, the nurse plans a school health talk on HIV and AIDS.



Nursepa eseuruma e'maine HIV pî eperîpîsan ponkon pe.

The nurse talks to the class about HIV first.



"H mîrîrî pemonkon. Anî'ya se î'pe pemonkon wanî epu'tîpî nai? Ta'pîya.

"The H is for HUMAN. Who knows what a human is?" she asks.

Ricky ya taa, "Eputîpî wai! Pemonkonpe pemonkonyamî' wanî."

Ricky says, "I know! People are humans."



"Yairîman. Pemonkonyamî ' epaaran seeni" ta'pî nursepa ya, mararî arinmarakayamî' ye'kape pra paakayamî' ye'ka pe pra masa'yamî' pepîn

"Right. This is a sickness for people," the nurse says, "not for dogs, or cows, or mosquitoes."



Pemonkon neporî HIV.

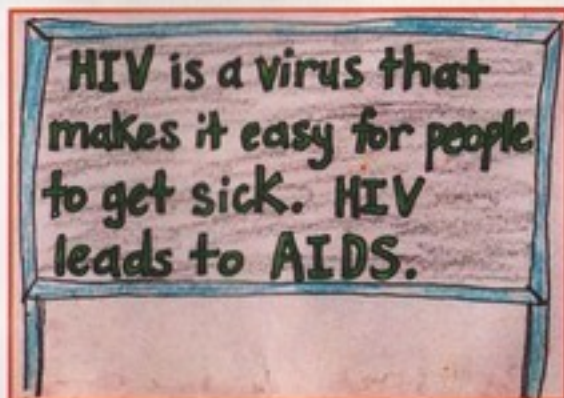
tiwinarî ne'nepe ena," Ta'pî Nursepa ya. Anî' ya seî' pe paran wanî epu' tîpî nai?

"The I is for Immune deficiency. This is a big way to say that it becomes easy to get sick," the nurse says. "Who knows what is virus is?"

Maria ya ta'pî, paran mîîkîrî si'mîrîkkî o'ma pîri'ya pra ku'ton.

Paran taato' pe V wanî mîrîrî. Kai'ma Nursepa ya paranka pona imenuka:

Maria says, "A virus is a tiny germ that can make you sick. V must mean virus." The nurse writes on the board:



HIV mîrîrî paran î'pe pra pîri'ya pra pemonkon manen. HIV ya yarî mîrîrî AIDS ya.

"AIDS ya awanî, A taato' wanî mîrîrî yeposen pe wanî, moropai mîrîrî ye'nen anî' rî winîpai eporîya e'painon" taa nursepa ya.

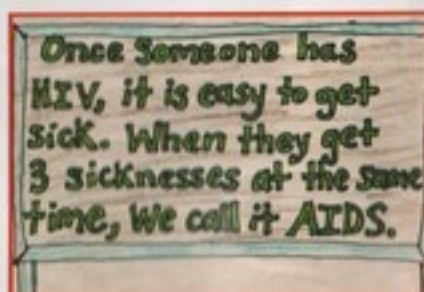
"In AIDS, the A is for Acquired, and that means that you can get it from someone else," the nurse says.

"I moropai D taato' kon wanî mîrîrî a'tu'mara enansa, moropai enpenatîkî î'pe pra rî pîriya pra enanto' pe awanî.

"The I and D are for Immune Deficiency, and remember that means it is easy to get sick.

Moropai kanan S? Mîrîrî Kanan wanî aronne eesera'masa ye'ka pe pra tiwinan pe paran emurukuntîsa wanî." Taato'menuka'pîiya paranka pona:

And the S? it is for Syndrome or a group of sicknesses." She writes on the board:



Aweto' yentai HIV esa'pe tîwe'sen wanîya, î'pe pra pîriya pra ena. Seuruwa kaisarî paran eposa' to'ya yai tiwin iteka tanne esatî uurînikon ya mîrîrî AIDS pe.

"Mîrîrî ye'nen e'maine HIV eporîya e'painon?"
kai'ma ekaranmapo'pî maasaron warayo' ya.

"Does that mean you have to get HIV first" a boy asks?

"Inna", taa nursepa ya. "HIV mîrîrî taamo'tasen mîrîrî se ena iteepi tonpîn AIDS pe. Pemonkon ko'mamî e'painon kapoi ye'kape pra kono' tîwa'kîpî see HIV pî si'ma maasa AIDS pe eeratî pra tîise. Iteesa'pe teenasa'kon epu'tî to'ya pepîn.

"Yes", the nurse says. "HIV" is the infection that leads to the disease AIDS. People can live for months or years with HIV before it turns into AIDS. They may not even know they have it."



"Îsîî" iteesa pe tîwanîkon epu'tî to'ya pra wanî ya Tiaronkon pona imo'tannî pî to' ya e'painon," taa Lolitaya.

"Wow. If they don't know they have it, they can spread it to others," Lolita says.

"Yairî nai. Maasa eseuruman pai nîkon o'non ye'ka pe HIV mo'tato' pî tiwinan pemonkon pia pai tiaron pona moro wanî seuruwaron nîkin ipoto'ya eseru:

"You are right. Let's talk about how HIV can be spread from one person to another. There are ONLY 3 ways you can get it:

1. Eporî e'painon aweto' yentai HIV esa'pe tîwe'sen yarakkîrî esenîsa ya.
You can get HIV by having sex with someone who already has it.



2. HIV eporîya e'painon nura mîn winîpai.
Nursepa ya ekaremekî to' pî morî pe pra awanî
akkusakon yenyaka'masa
ya ya pi'pî wanî
ya'sokato'pe yeka pe
pramerisin tîrîyayi.
You can get HIV from
infected blood. The nurse
now tells them that it is never
good to share needles for boring
skin or giving injections.



3. HIV pokon isan wanîya tînre pona
imo'tannîpîiya e'painon.
A mother with HIV can give it to her baby.

"Tîise tamî'nawîronkon
moreyamî" ya eporî pepîn
mîrîrî tîsankon winîpai",
taiya Nursepaya.
"But not all babies get it
from their mothers," the
nurse says.



"Mîrîrî nikin seuruwa kaisaron iteseru."
"Those are the only 3 ways!"

"Yairî pra kinî se epînto winîpai eporîya e'painon
ta'pîuuno'ya." Taa Mariaya.

"My granny was wrong when she said I could get it
from bathing," Maria says.

"Kaane, seuruwaron kaisaron HIV atawenonkato'
yonpa pepîn mîrîrî ekutaman taa nursepa ya. HIV
esa' pemonkon pon, seman, apono yeka pe pra ya're
wanî winîpai tesposen pepîn mîrîrî. Î' wanî pra awanî
mîrîrî to ya'koroma ya ya, asu'min, to' yenya
yapisiya, moropai aya're enapî ya to'pokonpe
pemonkonyamî' rî inkamorotî."

The nurse says, "NO, swimming is not one of the 3
ways HIV is spread. You cannot get it from the air,
or food, or chair, or clothes of a person with HIV.
It is safe to hug them, play with them, hold their
hands, and eat with them they are people too."



Uwarayato ya ta'pî tamî'nawîronkon pemonkonyamî' HIV pî tîwe'senon ara'kan pai awanî mîrîrî uurînikon maato'ya namai ne'ne pe," ta'pî tiwinan warayo' ya.

"My brother says we should take all the people with HIV and put them in lock-up so they can't get us sick," one boy says.

Maria eseuruma pî, "tîise seuruwa kaisaron moro HIV epoto' eputî uurînikon ya ya, to' ara'kan to pe pukuru e'pai pra wanî mîrîrî.

Maria speaks up, "But if we know there are only 3 ways to get HIV, we won't really need to put them in lock-up."

"Yairîman taa nursepa ya," eseuruman pai'nîkon man o'non ye'ka pe tîwanmîra ko'mannîto' winîkîi.

"Right," says the nurse, "Let's talk about how to stay safe."



"Esenîn kaane!" Kai'ma tiwin maasaron warayo' entaima.

"No sex!" one boy shouts.

"Yairîman. Teesese pra nîkin ekî tîwanmîra ako'mamîpa. Î'wani pra teesese pra ako'mamî e'painon, anyo ye'ka pe pra anopî ya anîmîto' pe nîrî." Taa nursepa ya.

"That is right. The safest sex is no sex at all. You can stay safe by not having sex or by waiting until you are married if your husband or wife waits too," the nurse says.

"Îwanî kanan merewonkon tanne?" ekaranmapo maasaron warayo' ya".

"What about condoms?" a boy asks.

"Merewonkon ya HIV iwatî epainon tîise teesekukon kaisarî pemonkonyamî' ya yenyaka'mato'pe"

"Condoms can keep out HIV but people who have sex must use a condom every time."



"Tiaron pîrî ko'mannîto' tîwanmîra HIV pia pai wanî mîrîrî tîvarî panpî e'kî mîn winîkî". Akkusakon tîttî se pra taa nursepaya.



"Another way to stay safe from HIV is to always be careful around blood. Never share needles," the nurse says.

"Tîise etapîiya ekaremekîya e'painon tera'mairî HIV pî tîwe'sen wanî." Taa Ricky ya.
"But I heard that you can tell by looking if someone has HIV," Ricky says.

"Kaane," taa nursepa ya. "Empenatîkî pemonkonyamî' ko'mamî e'koi kono' tîwa'kapî se HIV esa pe si'ma. Kure'ne ko'mamkai'kon pemonkonyamî' merutîke moropai pîriya, nîrî. Teeseramai to' wanî taa ya pepîn."

"No", the nurse says. "Remember that people can live for years with HIV. Many people stay strong and healthy, too. You cannot tell by their looks."



"Moro rî senai iteepe?" ekaranmapo Maria ya.
"Is there a cure?" Maria asks.

"Kaane," taa nursepa ya. "Merisin ya ye'ka pe' pra, yasokato'ya AIDS tîrîka pepîn. Pemonkonyamî' HIV esanon esenyawato' pe morî pe ta're kon ena'topî moropai eerîka to' pe. Moropai kure'ne panpî to'ko'mamî e'painon, tîise iteepe tonpîn mîrîrî AIDS."

"No," the nurse says. "No tablet or injection can make AIDS go away. People with HIV can learn to eat well and rest, and they can live longer, but there is not cure for AIDS."

"Î' ye'kape se itesa'pe awanî epu'tîya?"
"How do you know if you have it?"

Moro wanî ipairon mîn epu'pîto'" taa nursepa ya. Morî pe wanî mîn mo'kasa ya moropai o'non ye'ka pe yairî wanî eputo' pe nîrî, innape HIV pî tîwe'sen pemonkonyamî' ko'mamî e'painon meruntî ke. Moropai tiaronkon panîma to'ya epainon eporîto' ya namai.

"There is a special blood test," the nurse says. "It is good to take the test and to know the truth. HIV positive people can work and stay healthy, and they can protect others from getting it."



Nursepa ya itîrî tiwinan
more kaisarî suuyu ripan.
Tamî' nawîron pata kaisarî".
Taiya "Seenî ripan wanî
mîrîrî î'pe AIDS wanî
epu'to' moropai
eemî' panto' pe ipîikatîto'".

The nurse gives each child
a red ribbon. "All around
the world," she says, "this ribbon means 'I know
about AIDS and want to help stop it'".



Lolita, Maria moropai Ricky atausinpasa wanî pî
tamî' nawîrî teeseurumasa'kon epu'tî tuiya nîkon
pî. To' ata purî pî ripankon, moropai
teesenupa'pîkon pî tiaronkon yenupatîuya'kon pî.
Lolita, Maria and Ricky are glad to know what all
the talk is about. They are proud of their
ribbons, and they will share what they've learnt
with others.





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