

"THE 3+1 MAGIC WORDS"

CHAPTER ONE

'Sweets! Sweets!' Zara exclaimed excitedly. She ran to meet Aunty Jemimah at the door.

Aunty Jemimah had just come back from the market and Zara knew that there were sweets in her basket.

'Won't you even greet me first' Aunty Jemimah asked with a frown on her face.

'Welcome back' Zara said quickly. 'Where are the sweets?'

'No sweet today.' Said Aunty Jemimah and Zara screwed up her face as she went back to her room.

As soon as Zara left the kitchen aunty Jemimah hid the sweets in a secret place in the kitchen where Zara won't find them.

'Just one, Aunty Jemimah.' Zara pleaded after lunch.

'No Zara you eat too many sweets.'

'But I brush my teeth two times a day. Zara answered.

'With all the sweets you eat you should brush five times a day' Aunty Jemimah laughed



After lunch the following day Zara wanted a sweet but she couldn't find the secret place where aunty Jemimah hid them in the kitchen.

What are you looking for?' Aunty walked into the kitchen.

'Aunty Jemimah, I want an apple' Zara said.

'Is that what your teacher taught you?' Asked aunty Jemimah

'Yes, my teacher told me that when I want something I should ask' said Zara.

'Is that how she taught you to ask?' said aunty Jemimah

'Give me a sweet' Zara whined. 'I want a sweet.' She stamped her feet on the floor

'So that is what they taught you in school?' Aunty Jemimah frowned.

'Yes aunty, my teacher said if I want a sweet I should ask for a sweet' Zara started sobbing.

'Come back for your sweet when you have learnt to ask properly.' Said aunty Jemimah and she sent Zara out of the kitchen.



CHAPTER TWO



'What's the matter?' I asked Zara who sat on her bed crying.

'I want a sweet and aunty Jemimah will not give me one.' She sulked.

'Why?'

'I don't know'. Zara frowned. 'I think she said I didn't ask properly'

'How did you ask?'

'I said I want a sweet!'

'That's why she didn't give you a sweet,' I laughed.

'What should I have said?'

'Aunty Jemimah, may I please have a sweet?' I said 'But that's what I said' Zara frowned.

'No Zara, you didn't say please, you said I want, and I want never gets.'

'So I must always say please?'

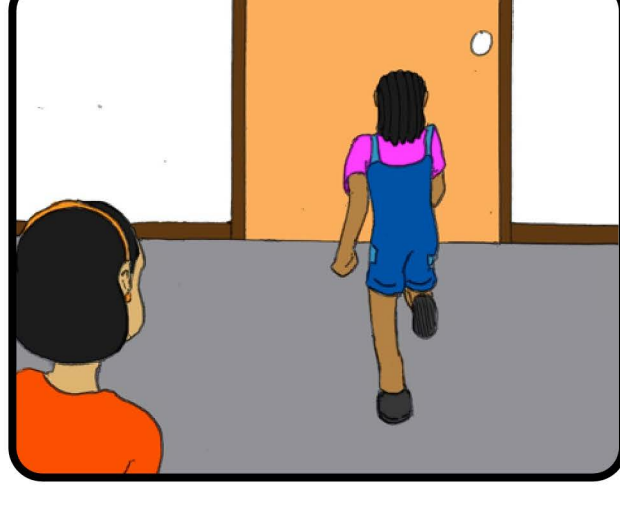
'Yes Zara; please is one of the three magic words; and when you use them you always get what you want.'

'What are the other two magic words?' Zara asked.

'Thank you and Sorry.'

'Wow! Thank you Didi. I will go and ask aunty Jemimah again' Zara ran out of the room excitedly.

'Don't forget the magic word' I yelled after her.



Zara used the magic word and aunty Jemimah gave her as many sweets as she wanted.



CHAPTER THREE



A few days later,

'Aunty Jemimah! Aunty Jemimah!' Zara tugged at her wrapper.

Aunty Jemimah and mummy were talking about the old lady next door.

'She doesn't have anyone to help her and she is so old' said mummy.

'Yesterday I saw her walking slowly down the road to buy newspapers in the hot sun. I wonder where her children are?' Aunty Jemimah asked

'Aunty! Aunty!' Zara continued to tug at her wrapper. She was not going to stop until Aunty Jemimah answered her.

Aunty Jemimah tugged at Zara's hand and continued talking with mummy.

'Aunty!' Zara continued to whine. 'Aunty Jemimah' 'Zara can't you see that they are talking?' I snapped at her.

'I want to ask her something.' Zara moaned

'It is rude to interrupt two adults when they are talking' I said

'But I want to ask her something' Zara whined.

'Is it urgent?' I asked. 'If it is not then you must wait for her to finish speaking with mummy.'

'It is urgent!' Zara exclaimed.

'Then you have to say excuse me!' I said

'Excuse me?' Zara frowned. 'That's what I say to my teacher when I want to answer a question in class.'

'Exactly!' I exclaimed. 'You can also say it to an adult who is not your teacher when she's speaking to another adult.'

'Now I get it!' Zara was excited.

'Excuse me aunty Jemimah, excuse me mummy' Zara said politely.

'Yes Zara.' said aunty Jemimah. 'What do you want?'

'It worked!' She answered me!' Zara exclaimed.

'It always works because excuse me is the fourth magic word.'

'I thought you said there are three magic words?' Zara looked confused.

'Once there were only three magic words but now we have added one more, and that's the fourth magic word!' I said.

'So with the four magic words – Please, thank you, sorry and excuse me people will listen to me and I can get anything I ask for.' Zara smiled.

'That's the trick!' I said.

'Thank you Didi!'

'You are welcome Zara!'

'Zara you still haven't told me what you want?' Said Aunty Jemimah.



'Sorry aunty Jemimah; I can't remember.' Zara looked confused.

'You this child' Aunty Jemimah laughed and shook her head.

