

Dear Ma,

Today was such an amazing experience I just had to write and tell you all about it. We went to the market and it was much more exciting than shopping at home. First, we went to the food market. The warm air was filled with delicious smells that made me feel really hungry. It was so noisy too, with music playing, drums beating and people talking.

I saw hundreds of shiny, silver fresh fish, but I didn't like the smell of them. Luckily, the next stall was full of sweet, ripe mangos and juicy watermelons that had a beautiful smell. Red, round tomatoes were piled on top of each other like a pyramid. You should have seen the spicy foods! There were enormous bulbs of garlic, fat ginger roots and bright red chillies. There were so many different foods, and some that I hadn't seen before like the hairy yams. I was astonished when I saw how the women carried huge bowls of fruit and vegetable on their heads. They must be so strong!

After that, we went to the fabric stall. It was like stepping inside a rainbow. Papa told me I could choose cloth for my first African dress and I felt overjoyed and excited. It was so difficult to choose because there were so many colours and patterns to choose from. There were yellow, gold and orange cloths that felt so silky and soft to touch. There were spotty patterns, stripes and swirls, in every colour you could imagine. Then I spotted the cloths with elephants or crocodiles on, and I loved these too.

I'll show you which one I chose when I get home. Missing you, and I can't wait to see you soon.

Lots of love, Grace