

## Dantomba, Ivory Coast, West Africa Through the Eyes of American Second Grade Students

My husband and I have traveled to many countries. It was an incredible time as we met and learned about the peoples around the world. In 2004, one of the special joys I had was sharing my experiences with the children in the second-grade classroom of my grandson. I told them of a village I visited in the fall of 2000. It is far away and the people were very different than the students. They were all black and lived and spoke in a way that was not the same as us. These, people known as the Toura, were friendly and glad to meet us. I came to love these new friends in only a few days. Soon after we left Civil War broke out in their country and we were not able to return. These second graders were attentive and interested in the video that I showed as well as looking at the items from Dantomba. They asked good questions too. ... The letters that the children wrote to me touch my heart even today.

If someone from Dantomba came here to visit today, I wonder about the reaction of the children from this class who are now adults. Would the Toura be treated kindly as we were in their village?



AleC  
Dear Grandma, I Loved that stoff  
you shard, I hope you come agin.  
I wonder why the pepele are havi-  
ng a wat? why did they have to spen-  
d a lot of money? How did they  
make kofee beans? Why did they  
where thoso close? What is the war  
over? I Love you very much muresh  
mooshe s, senserly AleC



Dear Mrs. Ryan,

What an amazing woman  
and servant of God you are!  
I am so thankful you were able  
to come to our classroom!  
The kids loved the presentation!  
We wrote all afternoon about  
it!

Please excuse the "uncorrected"  
writing! I wanted it to be  
their original work.

Thanks for taking time out  
of your life and day to serve.

We really enjoyed being around  
you and having a glimpse  
into the amazing and overwhelming  
job of a missionary!

Thank you, again!

I hope to see you soon —  
God bless,



Dear Mrs. Ryan,  
I don't know what to say.  
I'm speechless! Wow! I think  
your outstanding, incredible,  
amazing, cool. Wow, Wow,  
Wow! When I grow up I  
want to be just like you.  
You're like a robbin who  
travels all over the world!  
I like someone with that  
kind of attitude, you are  
butterfly. When I go to



Dear Ms. Ryan,  
I liked what you showed  
us! You are a very nice person.  
You showed us lots of  
cool things? Greeting is very, very,  
very, important. Why do you go  
to other places? Would you  
do it again?

Italy I going to taste the  
food they have there. I'll taste  
the pizza, spaghetti and more!  
You're the best explorer in the  
world! I will tell you facts:  
They take baths in the creek,  
greetings are important and  
they carry their baby's on  
their backs.

Love,  
Wendy





Richard 19 <sup>100</sup><sub>100</sub> 2/19/04  
 Mrs. Ryan I like Africa  
 people for what I got  
 to see. I like the  
 denas. I like whoy they  
 bilcd stot. They stare  
 at white people. They  
 go to shcool in a AF rica  
 shcool. The men can't get  
 water, oly wimin can.  
 The bid moter bikes.  
 There are ottest fo thing  
 I learnd.



Suejin Kim February 19, 2004  
 Hi! My name is Suejin! I want to  
 facts about Africa people. The  
 freedom is Africa. They are  
 soooooo cool. But how do  
 they carry stuff on they head  
 s? Did you go went to Korea  
 befor?

from Amye  
 What is it like there?  
 I bet it was olsome  
 there whv do they  
 hate to get water  
 and take bathes  
 in the Lack and hot  
 water and cold water  
 do you na there lagware  
 or not. I think I no  
 a little about there  
 lagware.





Nobelly 17

Dear Mrs. Ryan I hope you come next time because you go to great places. I want to tell five things <sup>that</sup> I learn from the video. They took a bath in the creek. Children play with tops called denas. Greeting are important. They ride motor bikes. The men can't get water, only women. They go to a French school.



Justin #10

1. They ride motor bikes.
2. They go to a French School.
3. They stare at the white people.
4. The men can't get water, only women.
5. They carry heavy things on their heads.

The children normally walk to school. They stare at the white people. They carry heavy things on their heads.





Amos L. (14)

February 19, 2004

Dear Mrs Ryan the clothes you bought it mean's so much to me. why would men be very important then women? Why would women carry babies on their backs? They go to French school. Greeting is important. They ride motorbikes. They carry heavy things on their heads.



Matthew  
Here is what I'm going to tell you. The people from Africa are not like us. None of them speak English. They are from a different country. There is a small town named Dantomba. My things to say are over now. to Mrs. Ryan from Matthew

is  
Mrs. Ryan Dantomba  
Is very natural.  
They took a bath  
in the creek.  
children play with  
toys called denas





Kimberly  
Hello there! I glad to see you.  
Im going to write about  
The toura people of Cote d'Ivoire.  
I Greetings are important toura  
people. The touras go to French  
Schools they usually walk but  
Sometimes the ride a truck the  
carries 18 people. When you come  
there black people never seen  
you before so they stare. There  
houses are called mud houses. I have to  
go see you later!!!



Luisa 16  
Dear Mrs. Ryan thank you  
very much for coming visit  
us with your wonderful treat  
Since you took your time  
to share the treats you brou-  
ght to share.

With care, Luisa

Elisa ⑤ 2-19-04  
Do you want to know how  
much I know about Africa?  
Well, here's your chance.  
Did you know that African  
people carried their stuff  
on their head? Well, they  
did. They also consider  
greetings very important.  
The men can't pump water,  
only women. As you can  
see, I really know about  
Africa!





Joshua # 152-19-04

Dear Mrs. Ryan

They have things on  
there heads in Dantom.  
They go to school.  
They share at the wife  
people. They ride motor  
bikes. They took a  
bath in the creek.

They keep Babies on  
their Backs. They  
grow coffee and cocoa.  
Dantom is very nat-  
ural. Greeting are

important. They carry  
heavy thing on their  
head. They go to  
feach school. children  
play with tops called  
denas. The men can't  
get water, only  
women. The elders are  
very important, but  
only the men.



From: Adam H

They carry pineapples  
on there heads. Towna  
people live in Africa.  
How do they paint  
there close... With  
fruit. They ride cars  
and motorbikes. How  
come they don't  
get sick from there  
dirty water?





Dear Mrs. Ryan, I want to know  
how you can travel around the world?  
you are such cool. I wish you when my grand  
mother I learn that they go to French School.  
They grow coffee and Coca. The men  
can't get water, only the women. As you can see  
I learn a lot about Africa love Oukema.  
P.S. I wish I was you!



Fidel  
Mrs Ryan, I got a top to but  
It's different. They go to a French  
School. Dantomba is very natural.  
They took a bath in the creek.  
They ride motorbikes. Greetings  
are important, Sincerely Fidel.

mariah  
Hi! Mrs. Ryan when you  
came I now it was gone to  
be good! Thanks a lot for  
coming. I'm glad you came  
to our school to talk to our  
class. I like the print when  
you sawed the movie.





