

# Swimming to school

By Lily Davis

How do you go to school? By bus? By train? On foot? For some children, the answer is 'I swim'. 14-year-old Mosa tells us about his journey to school.



I live in a small village in South Africa. I can see my school from my bedroom window. But there is a big problem — there is a river between my home and my school. There is a small boat, but poor children do not have money to use it.

Every morning, my friends and I take off our school uniforms near the river. We put our clothes and school books in a bucket. Then we swim to school. On rainy days, the water moves quickly. This is dangerous. Another problem is the crocodiles. They live in the river and want to eat us. It is scary.

After swimming, we are tired at school. Then we must swim again to get home.



Mosa's pictures of his journey to school

Mosa says that the people in his village want to build a bridge across the river. But this costs a lot of money. I hope one day Mosa and his friends can have a safe way to go to school.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**B** Read the magazine article again and write short answers.

- 1 Who writes the article? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Where does Mosa live? In \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Why doesn't Mosa go to school by boat?  
Because \_\_\_\_\_.

**C** Blacken ● the circles.

- 1 Why is Mosa tired at school?
  - ☐ A. It is a very long way from his home.
  - ☐ B. He must stay at school for a long time.
  - ☐ C. He must swim to school.
  - ☐ D. School starts very early in the morning.
- 2 Read lines 14–15: They live in the river and want to eat us.  
The word 'they' refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ A. Mosa and his friends
  - ☐ B. the clothes
  - ☐ C. the crocodiles
  - ☐ D. the school books
- 3 Read line 18. What is 'a bridge'?

Read the sentence  
before carefully.☐ A.☐ B.☐ C.☐ D.

- ★ 4 What does this article tell us about swimming to school?

- ☐ A. It is good exercise.
- ☐ B. It is nice.
- ☐ C. It is bad.
- ☐ D. It is safe.