

Feature

Photography skills: Award winning photographer mentors learners



Part of the group during a practical session during the 8 day Fredric Roberts Photography Workshop at Aga Khan Academy-Mombasa County. PHOTOS | WACHIRA MWANGI

Group will attend an advanced class after two years, says trainer

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Twenty pupils and four teachers had an opportunity to develop their photography skills at the Aga Khan Academy Mombasa at the Fredric Roberts Photography workshop.

The group had a chance to travel out for field assignments, where they were expected to take photos for a 'story' as a real photojournalist would do.

The workshop's theme was 'Learning

for Life'.

Juniorspot caught up with Bahati Joseph from Waa boys and Mia Adriko from Aga Khan Academy who shared their experience.

To the two, the weeklong workshop has instilled lifelong values and skills.

During one of their field sessions, they took pictures of different projects on science, technology, engineering, mathematics and art work. These are projects they are involved in at the neighboring Mbaraki girls school.

It was the first time for Mia to take photos using a professional camera on manual mode.

"It was difficult at first because one has to keep changing the settings and many other things, including the shutter speed.

But it has become easier and my pictures are better," she said in an interview with Juniorspot.

The group went to a function where kids were performing tradition dances. "I was able to record it at a frozen moment. I am really proud of it. I never thought I would be able to take such a picture," said Mia, who wants to be an engineer.

She said she will develop photography as a hobby and also teach younger children. More importantly, Mia said the workshop boosted her confidence and decision-making skills.

"When you get the right picture it makes you excited and want to take more. I feel like it is something I will apply to my everyday life," she told Juniorspot.

Joseph, on the other hand, had been taking pictures using a smartphone and posting them on Facebook.

"I wanted to be a teacher but now I am thinking on taking photography. The best thing in taking pictures is that you get to experience new people and places," he said.

A visit to the Kenya Society for the Pro-

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Mombasa's Aga Khan Academy student, Mia Adriko shows off some of the photos she took at the photography workshop.

tection and Care for Animals (KSPCA) in Bombolulu gave him a whole new perspective of the world.

"It has given me the knowledge and understanding about my dreams. Interacting with animals also made me appreciate them," he said.

At the end of the assignments, the pupils selected three photos from more than 250 they were required to take.

Each edited their photos and presented them as a slide show at the graduation ceremony.

Fredric Roberts an award-winning photographer. He said the current group will become teaching assistants for the beginner students in the next phase of the training.

reading list

A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE

BOOK TITLE: ANI'S CLAY CASTLE
AUTHOR: STANLEY GAZEMBA
PUBLISHER: EAST AFRICA EDUCATIONAL PUBLISHERS
REVIEWER: COLLINS OTHULO

Ani's Clay Castle is a story about an ant that was busy making a castle in preparation for the cold season. Other animals laughed at it, convinced by its dream to have a castle as high as the tallest trees in the forest.

Although, it was being ridiculed everywhere as it toiled in the forest making the castle, the ant never gave up until the chime was heard. This was after several weeks of toiling hard in the morning and sleeping late in the evening.

After the completion of the castle, a prey, vultures and heavy

downpour pounded the forest, leading to flooding, which rose in height with every passing day.

The ant, who made fun of the ant, after being overcome with the storm, ran to the castle

to beg for mercy

in order to be allowed to shelter in the castle.

Remember this is the same castle they had mocked saying it would not withstand the slightest bit of rain as it was made of

mud and soil. The castle was, however, so strong as a rock after being baked by the hot sun.

The ant had stored abundant supply of food in the chambers of the castle, which it survived on during the storm, while the other animals had nothing to eat as they starved because of the rain.

The moral of the story is that hard work pays. As we have seen from the story, the efforts of the ant ultimately saved other animals from dying in the storm.



THE REFRIGERATOR

Some of us have a refrigerator in our homes.

Usually, we use the refrigerator or fridge, as we popularly refer to it, to store perishable foods. It helps preserve such foods from going bad hence we can make use of them for longer periods. Milk, beef, and vegetables are examples of food that goes stale if not well preserved. Cooked food can also be preserved in a fridge.

So, here is a bit of some history of how the fridge came to be.

In 1813, an American scientist named Fred W. Wolf thought about food preservation.

After a lot of research, he came up with a machine that could be used to preserve food items and other edible products, including beverages. He called it a refrigerator.

His invention was, however, not the first. It was an improvement to Mr William Cullen's invention. In 1755, Mr Cullen made an artificial cooling machine during a science fair at university of Glasgow. He had called it a freezer. We still have freezers today.

But Wolf's invention was the first of its kind, since it could be practically used at home.

Invention Corner

He applied the principle that, if he removed heat from the enclosed area and moved it to the surrounding area, the enclosed area will be cooler than the surrounding area.

He used thermal insulators to block heat from the enclosed area (what is known as the refrigeration box) and mechanical heat pumps, to pump heat out of the enclosed area. Thermal means heat and an insulator is to block something.

The refrigeration box, thus, becomes cooler than the surrounding (room temperature) and could therefore be used to store foods that are perishable.

Even though Mr Wolf's invention had fully relied on mechanical technology (using hand levers to pump out heat and rubber as thermal insulators), new technology has greatly changed the refrigerator as we know it today.

We now have electric refrigerators that use metallic thermal insulators and electric heat pumps.

COMPILED BY WILSON MANYURA