Wally the worm

HANGING LIBRARIES
READING IS THE KEY TO LEARNING
My mother says, ‘You’re ugly.’
My father says, ‘You squirm.’
My sisters say, ‘You’re dirty.’
WHY NOT? I AM A WORM!

I am Wally the Worm the well known poet.
WALLY SAYS
‘Hear my story.’

I started life
as a tiny egg,
too small for you to see me.
But I grew fast and I have hundreds
of friends, millions of friends,
squirmy squillions of friends.

I come from a big family.
My uncles and aunts do
not all look like me.
Some are bigger, some
are smaller, some are fat
and some are thin.
But we are all always
hungry. We all love dirt
and we all like to live
inside people and
animals where it is warm,
dark and cosy.
WALLY SAYS
‘Look after me.’

I like to live inside you with my many friends and relations and their families.
We grow, grow, grow.
We grow bigger and fatter and hungrier.
More and more of us are born.
We eat the food you eat.
You feel weak and sick and tired.
We feel happy and hungry. You ache. We laugh.
WALLY SAYS
‘I love you.’

I love you when you don’t wash your hands, when you don’t clean your nails, when you eat dirty food, when you walk in dirty places with no shoes.
WALLY SAYS
‘I hate you.’

I hate you when you keep clean, when you wash your hands after the toilet and before eating, when you keep your house and food clean, and when you look after baby and protect her from me.

I hate you when you tell other children about me and when you tell your parents and the health worker that you have seen me.
THE DOCTOR SAYS,  
‘Don’t listen to Wally.’

Wally is bad. He likes to hurt people and make them tired and sick. He can even kill people if we let him.  
**Wally is a thief.** He steals your food and stops you from growing.  
**Wally is a coward.** He likes to hurt old people, weak people and babies.  
**You need to get rid of Wally and all his family.**  
Go to the health worker. Get worm medicine.  
Give WALLY the RED CARD.
Intestinal Worms messages for children to learn and share

1. Millions of children have worms living inside their bodies, in a part called the intestines. This is where the food we eat is used by our bodies.

2. Different kinds of worms can live in our bodies: roundworm, whipworm, hookworm and bilharzia (schistosomiasis). There are others too!

3. Worms can make us feel ill or weak. They can cause stomach aches, coughs, fever and sickness.

4. Worms live inside your body so you might not know they are there but sometimes you can see worms in your poo.

5. Worms and their eggs get into our bodies in different ways. Some get in from food or drink like unsafe water. Others get in through bare feet.

6. Killing worms with de-worming treatment is easy and cheap. It’s given by health workers every 6 or 12 months or more for some worms.

7. Worm eggs live in pee and poo. Use latrines or get rid of pee and poo safely. Wash your hands with soap after you pee or poo and if you help someone younger so worm eggs don’t get on your hands.

8. Stop worms getting into your body by washing hands with soap after a pee or poo and before preparing food, eating or drinking, by washing fruit and vegetables, and by wearing shoes.

9. Some worms live in the soil so always wash your hands with soap after touching soil.

10. When watering plants to eat, make sure you use water that cannot have human pee or poo in it.
5 Questions
1. Where do Wally and his friends live?
2. What does Wally take from you?
3. When does Wally love you?
4. When does Wally hate you?
5. What should you do if you see Wally when you go to the toilet?

A good question to ask our families
How can we stop worms getting into our bodies?

Something to do
Draw four pictures which tell a story like this:
1. Wally lives inside you
2. You see Wally
3. You drink worm medicine
4. Wally dies

Tell the story of Wally to your little brothers and sisters.
These books have been developed from an idea by Hugh Hawes and Sam Muwonge and used since 2007 in schools in and around Kampala. The books have been revised since 2014 and new titles created.

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A hanging library book in partnership with Children for Health

Story by Colette and Hugh Hawes. Illustrations by David Gifford.