

# KUCETEKELA FOUNDATION

## Student Profile

Name: **Sonia Zulu**

Gender: Female  
Date of birth: 4th July 1992  
Place of birth: Lusaka, Zambia

Mother: Loda Tembo Zulu  
(stepmother)  
Profession: House wife

Father: Joseph Zulu  
Profession: Gardener

Primary School: Chibelo Basic School

Secondary School: **Ibex Hill**  
2011 Level: **Grade 12**



### Family Background:

Sonia's father was born in 1966 in Katete, and moved to Lusaka with his father during his childhood. He attended Lusaka Boys High School where he completed Grade 7. Sadly, his father died soon afterwards, and he was forced to discontinue his education, since there was no one to support him financially. He then started working as a gardener, which he continues to this day. He now works in the Woodlands area of Lusaka. He married and had Sonia, his first-born child. However, he has now re-married and has had five more children with Mrs. Tembo Zulu.

Including the six children and one of Sonia's aunts, Sonia's father financially provides for nine people in their household. Sonia's stepmother is not currently employed. The father cannot continue to support all the children, and, if not for a scholarship, Sonia would have had to stop her education after Grade 7. Mr. Zulu says that KF has lifted a huge burden off of the family and has allowed him to focus on the education of his younger dependants. Sonia, according to him, is a role model to all of her siblings.

### Sonia's Educational Background:

#### **Primary – Chibelo Basic School**

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Sonia started school at Woodlands Primary. She was there from Grade 1 up to Grade 7. She sat her Grade 7 exams but failed to qualify to Grade 8. Her father then decided to take Sonia to Chibelo School to repeat Grade 7 and to try again to qualify for Grade 8. Sonia had a very strong year at Chibelo School and earned the fourth position in her class.

## **At Ibex Hill Secondary School**

### *Grade 8*

Throughout her first year at Ibex Hill, Sonia enjoyed the opportunity to learn new things in a new atmosphere. Through she struggled at first, Sonia showed significant improvement throughout the year.

### *Grade 9*

Though grade nine was more challenging, Sonia, as expected, improved in all her academic work. In French class, she improved and understood a lot more of the language. She also improved in her punctuality and time management. With a more effective use of time, Sonia felt she was able to study better in Grade 9 than in Grade 8. In fact, she was so well behaved that she was elected as the class Monitor.

### *Grade 10*

In Grade 10, Sonia focused on further improving her performance. She did not shy away from reaching out for help when she needs it, especially from her fellow KF scholars. She gets help from Phales in Math and confides in Dennis when she is struggling with her friends. Sonia also felt that she made progress socially and has gained confidence in herself.

### *Grade 11*

Sonia has continued to work hard during grade 11 to improve her performance. Though she has struggled a bit in English and mathematics, she has pledged to work extra hard to bring up her scores. She has grown into a mature and confident young woman. In term three, she managed to finish with top marks in commerce and geography, two subjects that many students struggle with. Sonia has vowed to work even hard next year in order to perform to her highest potential on her final grade 12 national exams.

### *Grade 12*

Sonia's hard work has paid off so far in her final year at Ibex Hill. She earned 4 A's and 2 B's in Term 1. Achieving an A in English was a huge accomplishment for her. Term 2 was much more of a struggle for her, dropping in most of her subjects except for Commerce (in which she earned an A). She recognizes the importance of her

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final term and has committed herself to achieving better marks on her National Exam.

## Sonia's Interests:

Sonia participates in the Scripture Union club because of her love for reading. In Scripture Union, she acts as a “prayer warrior” — organizing Scripture Union and leading prayers during the club meeting. In 2010, she became a Scripture Union chair. She also participates in soccer recreationally as a defender.

## Community Service

During her vacations, Sonia participates in community service at her former basic school, Chibelo. During one break, she took the initiative to go to the headmaster and ask how she could be of service to the school. He gave her various projects—cleaning up the grounds and helping in the classroom. She now goes there during her breaks to help the 7 to 10 year old age range with their reading and spoken-English. She says it builds her confidence to know that she can help others—even the smallest improvement in a student’s reading is rewarding.

## Sonia’s Role Model:

Sonia looks up to her teacher of religious education at Ibex Hill School, Ms. Mulenga. “She is so young, yet so ambitious. She is encouraging and I can always go to her for advice,” says Sonia. Sonia hopes that she will have the same poise and strength. Sonia, however, is herself already a mentor. As the oldest in her family, her younger siblings, especially her little brother, look up to her and follow her example.

## Career Interests and Work Experience:

Sonia’s original career interest was to become a lawyer. “I like to argue with people, and I like to convince people that what I say is true.” She has since began to explore other career options, and is open to new discussions this year.

Sonia participated in a week of work experience at the Pharmaceutical company, Pharmanova. She spent her time in the lab, assisting with the analysis of Panadol Syrup, a painkiller. Her favorite activity was the safety inspections that she conducted herself: “because I was now working, I felt a duty and importance doing safety inspections.” She said that although she does not want to work in the pharmaceutical industry, that it was nevertheless an important learning experience. It taught her the importance of working as a team with co-workers and treating your superiors with a level of respect.

## What the teachers think of Sonia:

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Sonia's teachers have always described her as an exceptionally hardworking student with a uniquely strong work ethic. At Ibex, they have been very impressed with her drive and determination to overcome challenges in school.

## Sonia's Thoughts on KF

"Now I feel proud of myself because of the experience I am having at Ibex Hill. KF has always emphasized on socializing with people. Being at Ibex Hill School has really changed my life. At first I thought things would be difficult for me due to the fact of being sponsored, and having children from well to do families all around me. But now I have seen how great a thing it is. Thanks to KF!"