

KLARA MAJOLA

14.4.1942 – 26.7.1950

Known to South Africans as Klara Majola, her real name was **Violet Jansen**. She was an eight-year-old girl who lived with her family in the Witzenberg Valley on a farm called De Eike near Ceres.

On a cold winter evening in July 1950, her father, who was visually impaired, had not returned home after going out to collect firewood. Concerned for his safety, Violet told her mother that she would go and look for him. Her mother dressed her in a green coat, and the young girl set off barefoot into the fading light.

Sadly, Violet and her father missed each other. While her father eventually found his way home, Violet became lost in the harsh winter weather. Rain, snow, and freezing temperatures swept across the valley during the night. Despite extensive searches by family members and local residents, she was found the following morning, having succumbed to the cold.

Klara's story touched people across South Africa and became a symbol of courage, love, and self-sacrifice. Her memory lives on through the famous Afrikaans poem *Klara Majola* by D.J. Opperman and through this memorial at the Ceres Museum.

Her story remains one of the most poignant and enduring tales in the history of the Witzenberg Valley.