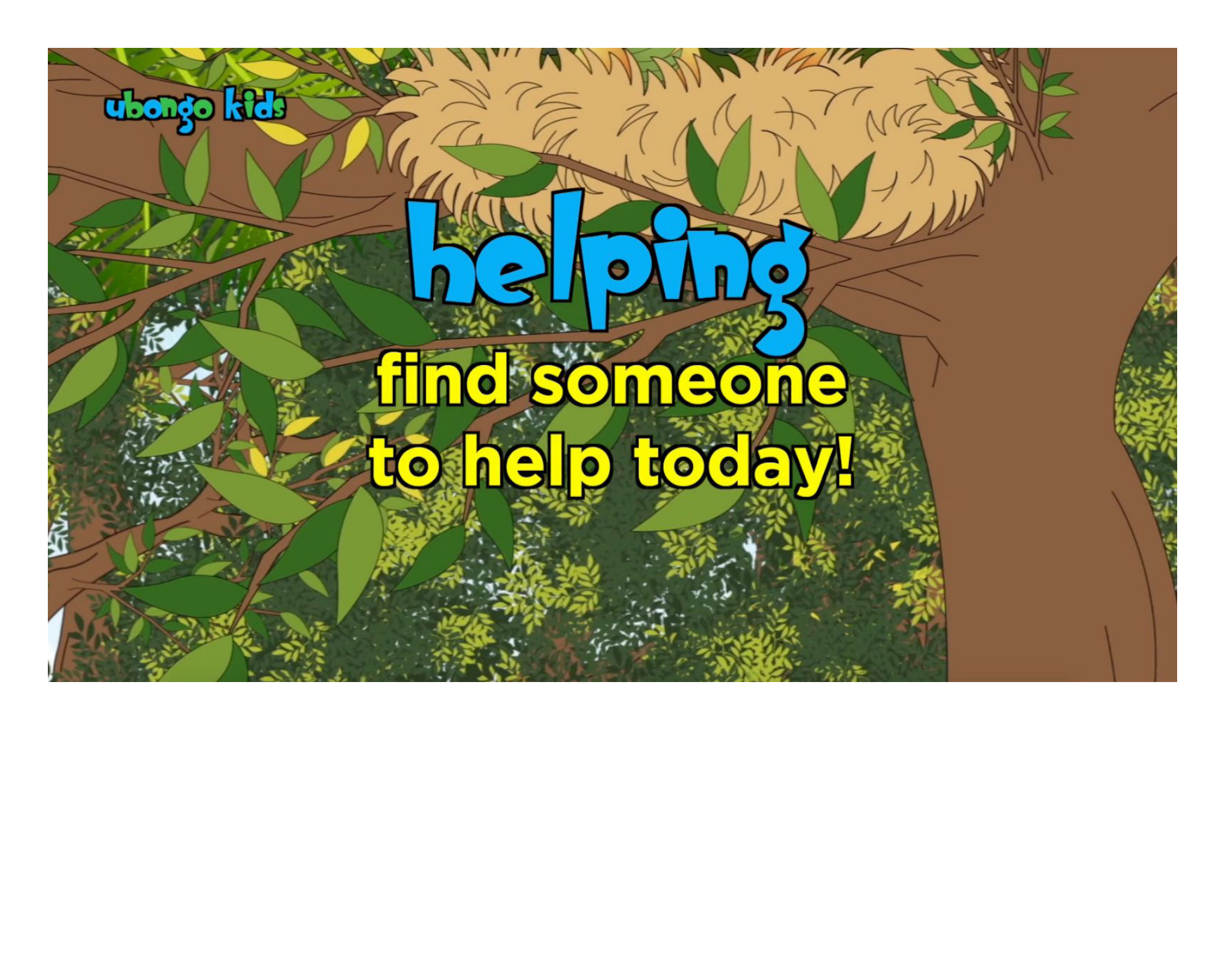


Ebook adapted from the TV series





ubongo kids

helping
find someone
to help today!



It was a lovely sunny day in Kokotoa but the kids had no time for playing. There was a huge pile of laundry to wash, AND a class test on the animal kingdom to study for. Kibena quizzed the others as they washed their clothes.



“Why are there so many different kinds of animals?” Kiduchu complained. “And why do we have to learn them all?”



Just then Baraka, hanging from the laundry line, interrupted, making silly noises. “Humans are also animals,” explained Koba, pointing at Baraka. “We’re all part of the animal kingdom.”



Baraka carried on messing around. He didn't have a class test to study for, or any laundry to do. Suddenly, they heard a strange voice wailing for help. It was coming from a little creature.



“I need water!” the creature cried, and then it fainted.



Kibena brought a jug of water and gently placed the creature inside.



When the animal woke up, he cried for his home and his mother. “We’ll help you,” said Baraka, “Just tell us where your home is.” But the little animal didn’t know.



Baraka agreed to help the animal find its home while the others washed clothes and studied. “But what kind of animal are you?” he asked. “I don’t know – I’m just Luwi,” the animal replied.



Baraka walked off toward the woods, carrying the jug with Luwi inside. “Calm down, Luwi,” Baraka told him. “Close your eyes and think of home.” Luwi did as he was told.



“Hmmm...” Baraka thought to himself. “Luwi lives in the water and is an awesome swimmer... maybe he’s a FISH!” he exclaimed. Luwi replied, “I’m just Luwi...”



Baraka continued to the riverbank and found fish in the river. The fish stared at Luwi curiously. “He doesn’t look like any fish I’VE ever seen,” commented one of the fish.



Baraka tipped the jug to put Luwi in the river.



But the running water carried Luwi away downstream. Luwi couldn't swim against the current!



The three fish rallied to save Luwi. “I guess he’s not a fish,” Baraka told them. “He doesn’t swim like you do!” The fish explained that they use their fins to move against the current, and Luwi didn’t have any fins.



Baraka and the fish watched Luwi swim, wiggling his long tail. “I have a friend who has a long tail and no legs, and who moves by wiggling,” said one of the fish. “Let’s find my friend!”



They found the big pile of brush where the fish's friend lived. "No one could live in there!" Baraka exclaimed. "They would get stuck!"



But a SNAKE could live there without getting stuck. “The snake is just like you, Luwi,” Baraka said. “He has a long tail, no legs, and he wiggles back and forth to move.”



The snake looked closely at Luwi. “This creature has two legssss!” the snake hissed. Sure enough, a pair of back legs had popped out of Luwi’s body!



Luwi was astonished at his new legs, and Baraka was confused. Luwi clearly wasn't a snake. "So what are you?" the snake asked him. "You have two legs and no arms... perhaps you are a BIRD!"



The snake took off and slithered through the brush.



Baraka tried to follow him but couldn't get through. His arms and legs got caught. "You haven't adapted to move in tight places, like me" the snake told Baraka.



The snake came back with two birds. They were Mama Ndege's chicks!



As Luwi studied the birds and their wings, his front legs popped out! “I have wings now too?!” he said in shock.



“Come fly with us!” called the chicks. Luwi flapped his new front legs. He leapt into the air and tried to flap his legs, but instead he fell down to the ground.



He couldn't fly, but he could jump! JUMP, JUMP, JUMP! Surprised and delighted, he jumped along the riverbank.



But Luwi can't breathe out of the water, thought Baraka. He called the other animals to help. The fish tried to catch Luwi, and so did the snake. Finally, the two chicks swooped down and picked him up.



“You’re really very heavy, Luwi,” said one of the chicks. “You don’t have a lightweight skeleton like we do.” Luwi was too heavy for the chicks to carry through the air, and they dropped him!



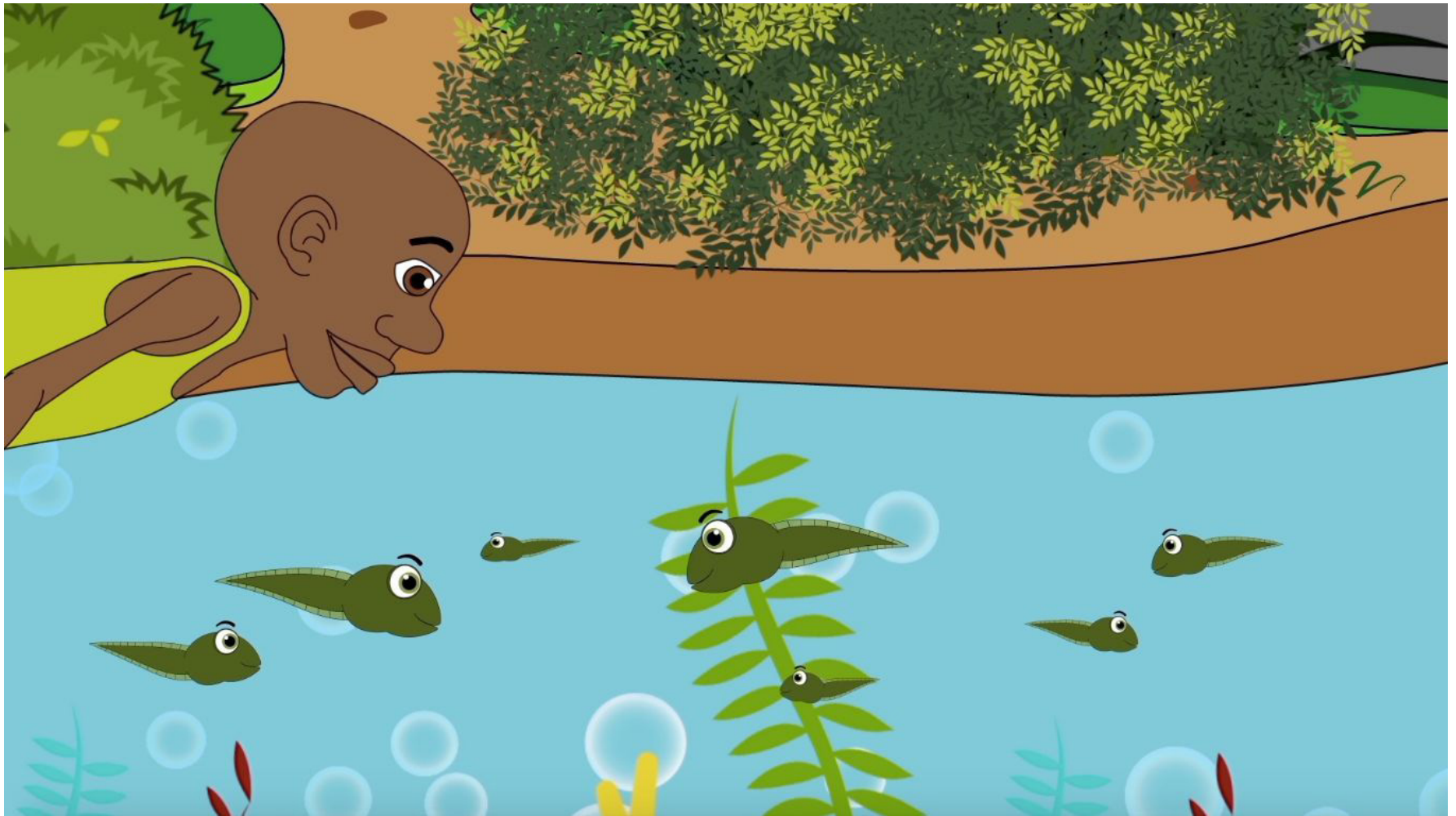
But before Luwi hit the ground, a hand reached out and caught him. It was Ngedere! He was swinging from a tree.



Baraka thought Luwi might be a monkey. But as he compared Luwi and Ngedere, Luwi's tail got shorter and shorter. "He looks like Da Chura to me," said Ngedere. "Are you sure he's not a FROG?"



It was true! Luwi now looked exactly like a frog! They all headed to the pond where Da Chura had her daycare center. Da Chura recognized Luwi immediately. Luwi's tadpole friends had also turned into frogs.



In the pond, Baraka was able to see all the stages of a frog's life, from tadpole to adult. "How do you do it?" he asked the frogs.



“It’s called METAMORPHOSIS,” they told him. “Our bodies change so we can live both in water and on land.”



Baraka looked at all of his old and new friends, and realised they all had special ADAPTATIONS.



The fish had adapted to breathe underwater, the snake had adapted to fit in tight spaces, the chicks had adapted to fly, the monkey had adapted to swing from trees, and Luwi, the frog, had adapted to live in the water and on land!



Baraka headed home and found his friends still washing clothes and studying.



“I managed to get Luwi home. And now I’m going to finish washing your laundry, while the rest of you guys study for your exam,” he added.



The others wondered why Baraka had suddenly decided to be helpful. Baraka replied, “I helped Luwi, and I learnt a lot along the way. Helping others is fun!”



The End

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