

Ebook adapted from the TV series



The logo for 'ubongo kids' is located in the top left corner. It features the word 'ubongo' in a blue, rounded font with a white outline, and 'kids' in a green, rounded font with a white outline. The background of the entire image is a vibrant, cartoon-style illustration of a tropical jungle. It includes various green leaves, palm fronds, and a thick tree trunk on the right side. Several colorful hummingbirds with orange and red wings are shown in flight throughout the scene.

ubongo kids

# perseverance

to not give up on doing something,  
even though it's difficult



One day Koba saw a crowd gathered in front of a tree. He peered through the heads and saw a sign pinned to the tree. It read: *WIN A VIDEO CAMERA! WRITE A SCRIPT, AND MAY THE BEST SCRIPT WIN!*



As Koba walked home, he dreamt of winning the video camera and shooting a movie with it. But he knew he couldn't write a prize-winning script!



He asked Mama Ndege to help him by writing a script that would win the prize. But instead of writing the script for Koba, Mama Ndege encouraged him to write it himself. “Try, try again,” she said.



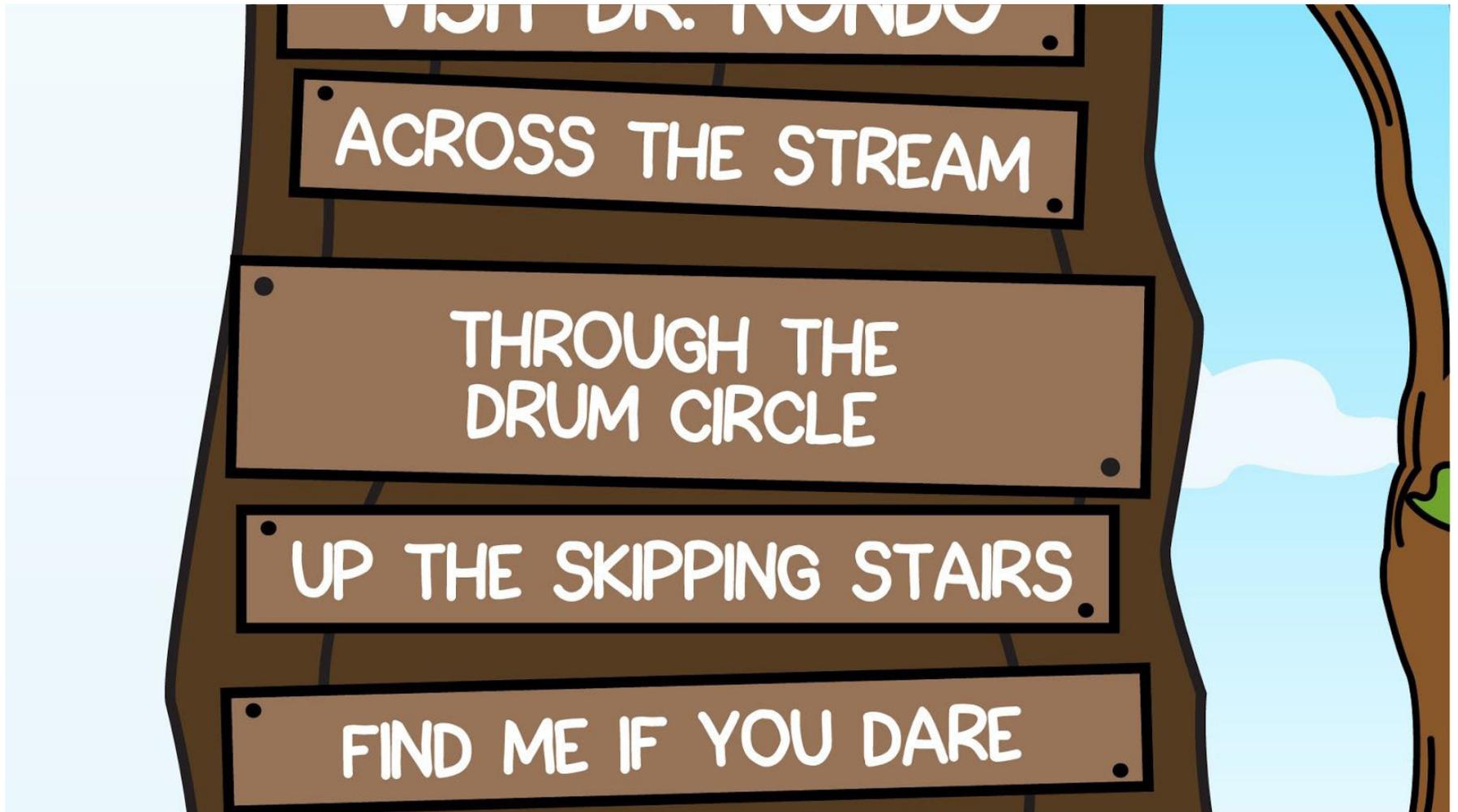
His friend, Kibena, found Koba surrounded by crumpled-up paper. Like Mama Ndege, she encouraged Koba. “No one’s first try is great,” she said. “You’ve just got to keep writing.”



Kibena suggested that they go for a walk to help Koba gather his thoughts. “It’s going to take a miracle,” Koba said glumly.



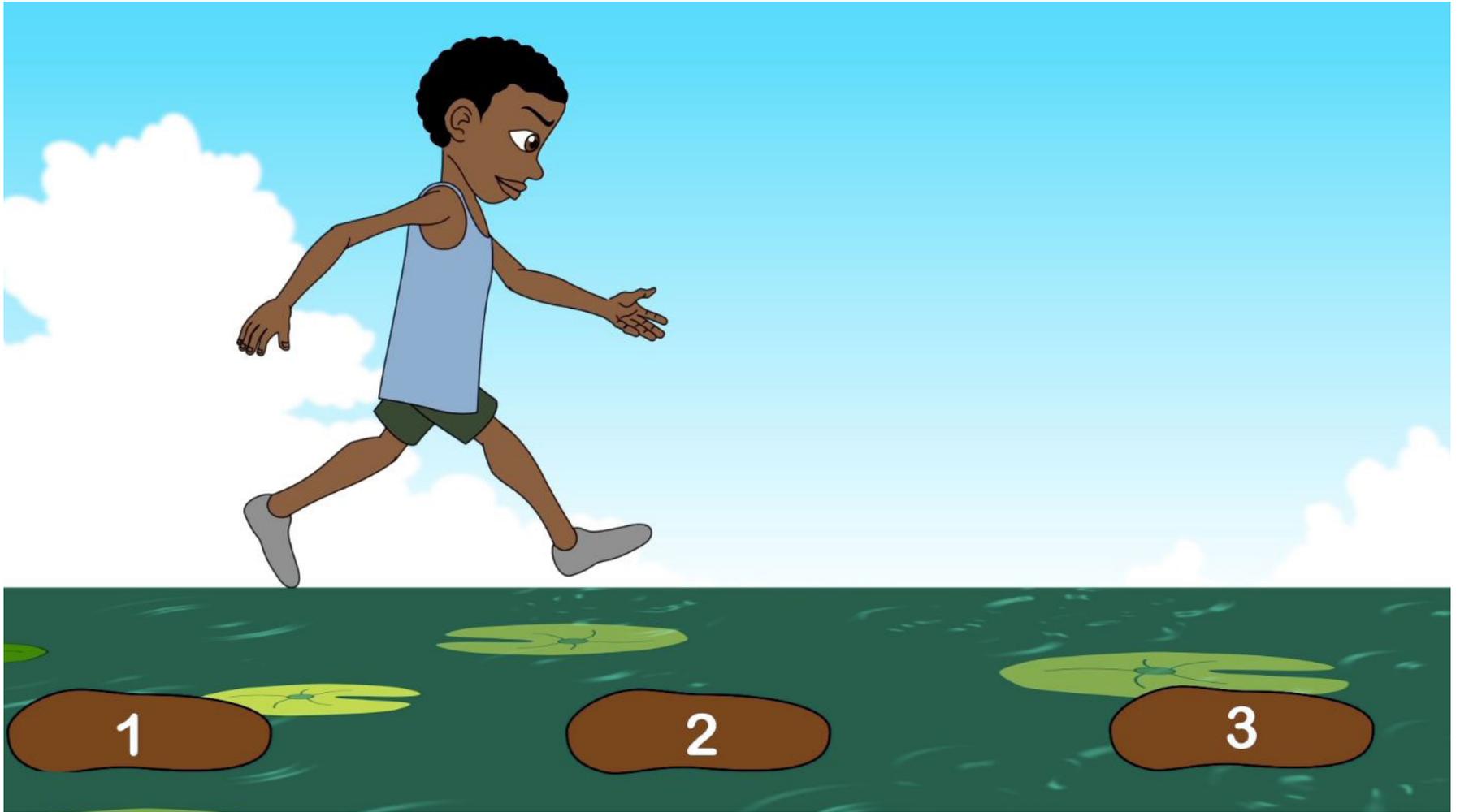
Then, Kibena and Koba saw wooden signs on a baobab tree, advertising the services of Dr. Nondo. "Make your dreams come true," one of the signs said. So Koba thought that Dr. Nondo could help him write a winning script.



Koba and Kibena gathered their friends to join them in following the instructions to find Dr. Nondo: “Across the stream. Through the drum circle. Up the skipping stairs. Find me if you Dare!”



The friends made their way to the swamp, and stood at the edge. They wondered how to cross it, it looked scary! “We can’t cross if we don’t try!” said Koba.



Koba tried to cross the stones: the first one wobbled, the second stayed still...



...and the third wobbled so much he fell into the swamp. Then Kiduchu tried and also fell into the swamp.



Then Baraka tried to cross. He jumped straight onto the seventh stone.



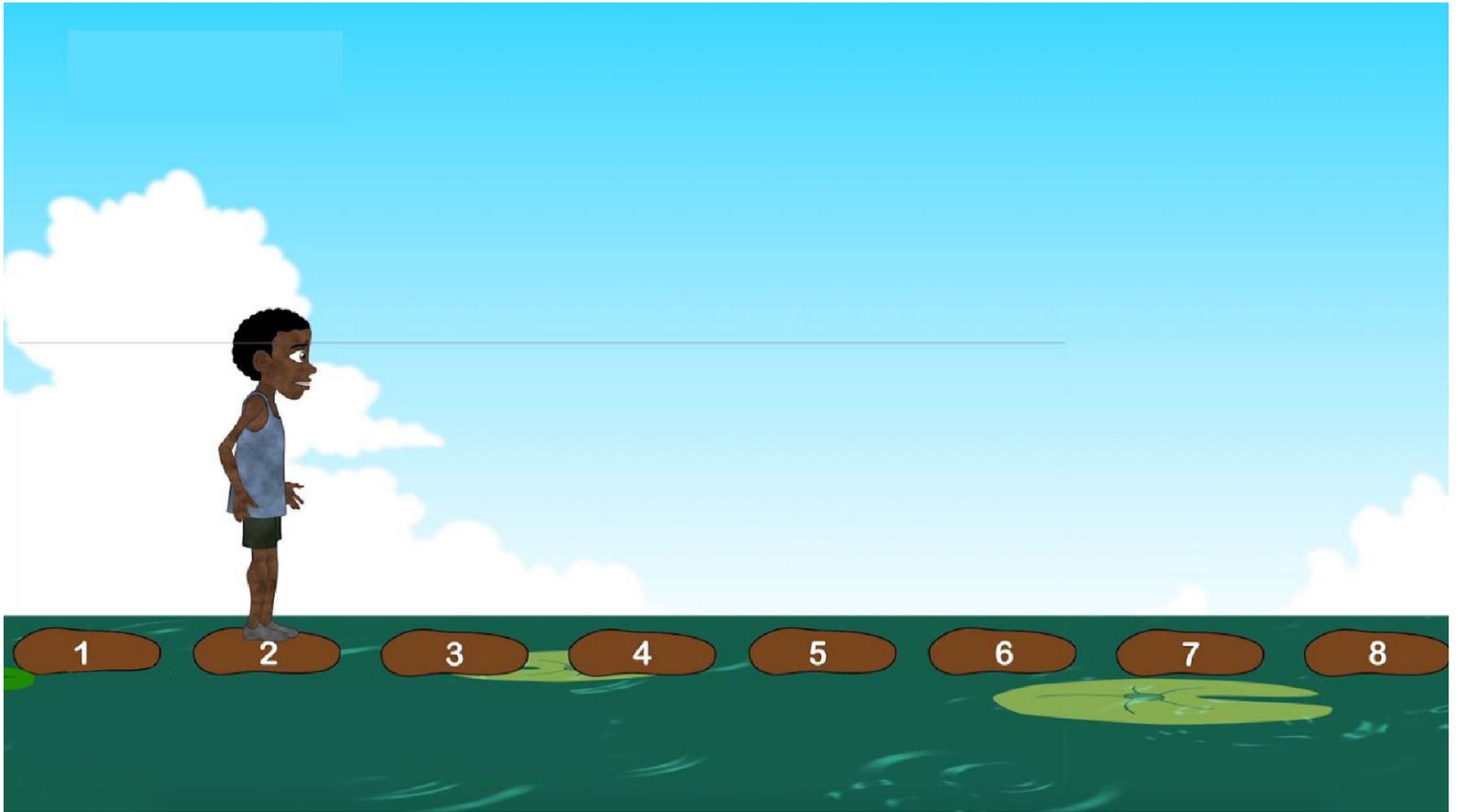
It began to wobble and Baraka lost his balance. SPLASH! He fell into the swamp.



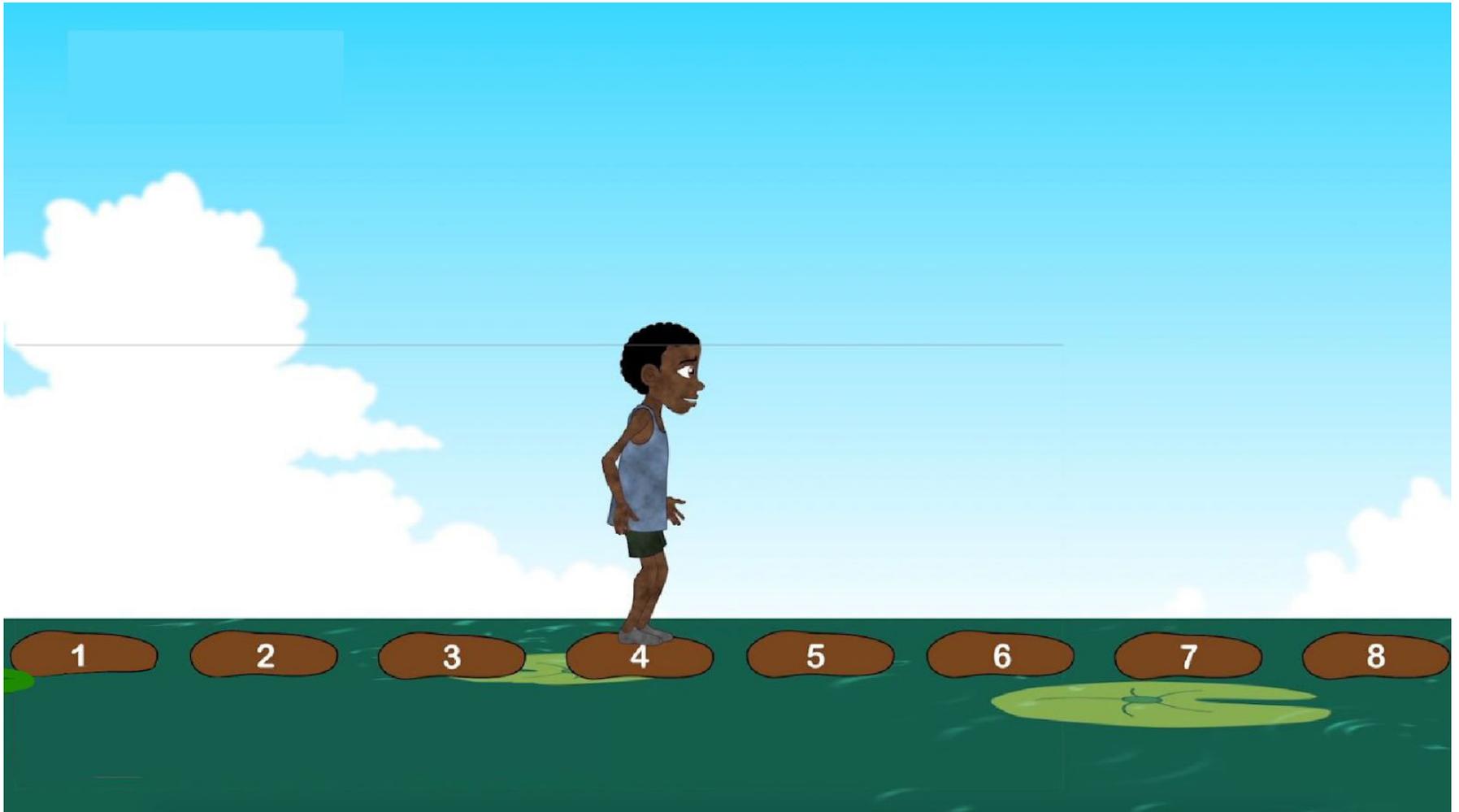
Just then, a caterpillar came floating by on a leaf. “You can do things in ones. You can do things in twos. Sometimes success comes from which one you choose”, she said.



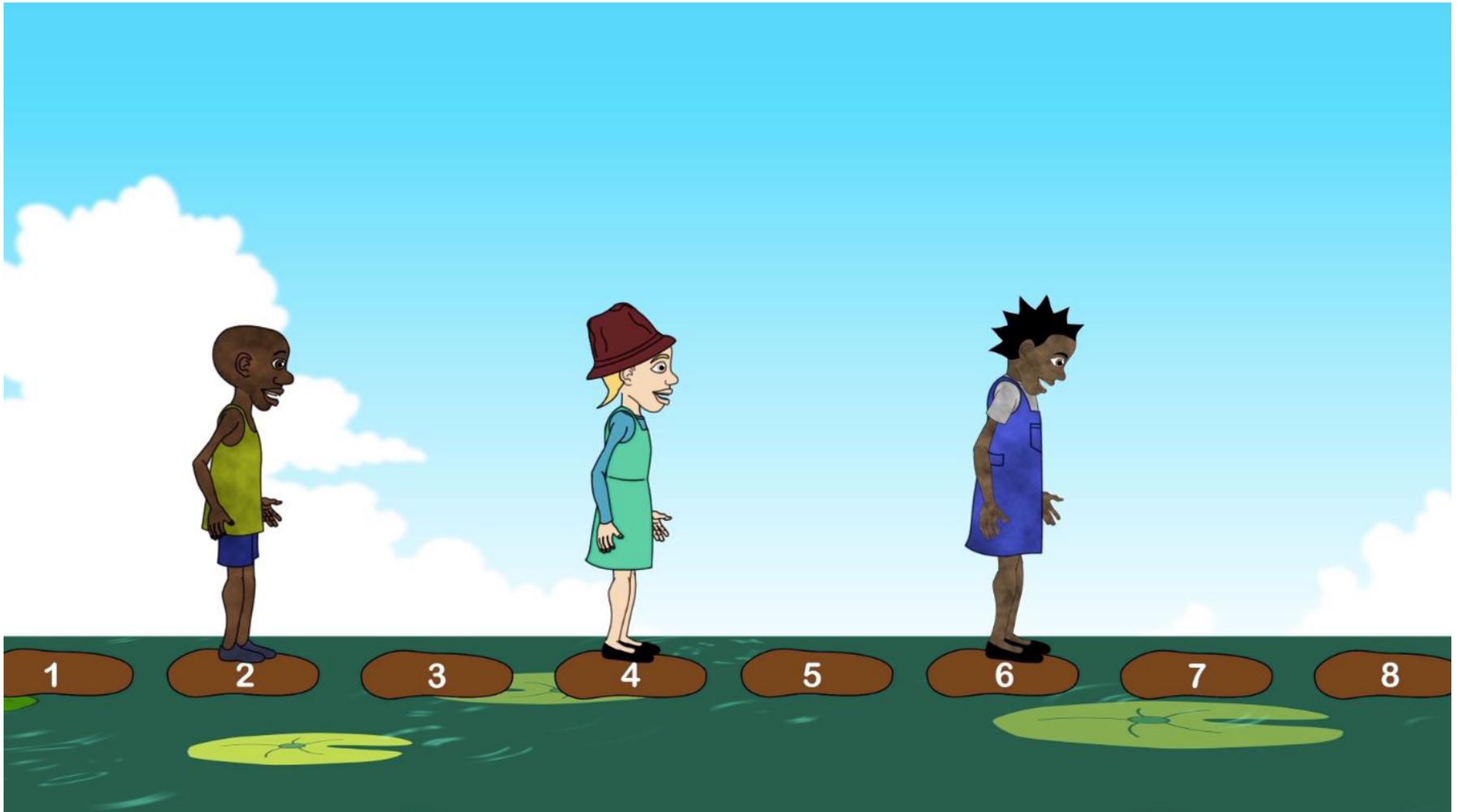
Baraka was confused, but Koba figured out the riddle. “We have to jump in twos!” he shouted.



Koba jumped over the first stone and onto the second one.



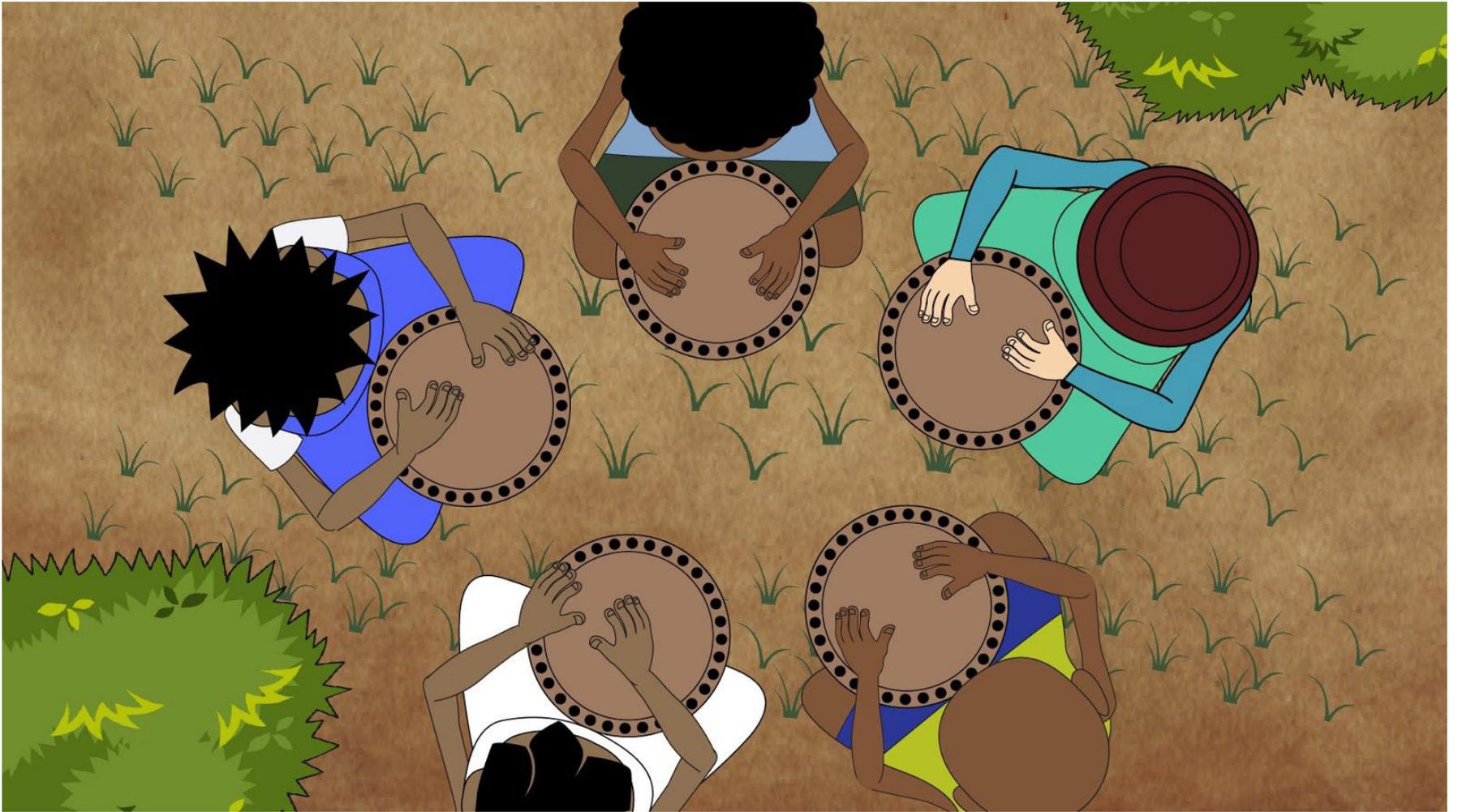
He skipped the third stone and jumped to the fourth one. “I’m jumping in twos!” he exclaimed in excitement.



The others followed, counting in twos as they jumped from stone to stone. “Two... four... six...” They counted in twos until they reached the other side. “Twenty-two... twenty-four... twenty-six!”



They had crossed the swamp!



On the other side, they found a circle of five drums. They each sat behind a drum, and began to count in twos.



Suddenly another caterpillar appeared, this time in a cocoon. “Count in a circle, one, two, three. Instead of four, give the drum a beat. Drum each four, using your best math, and the trees will part to reveal a path,” he said.



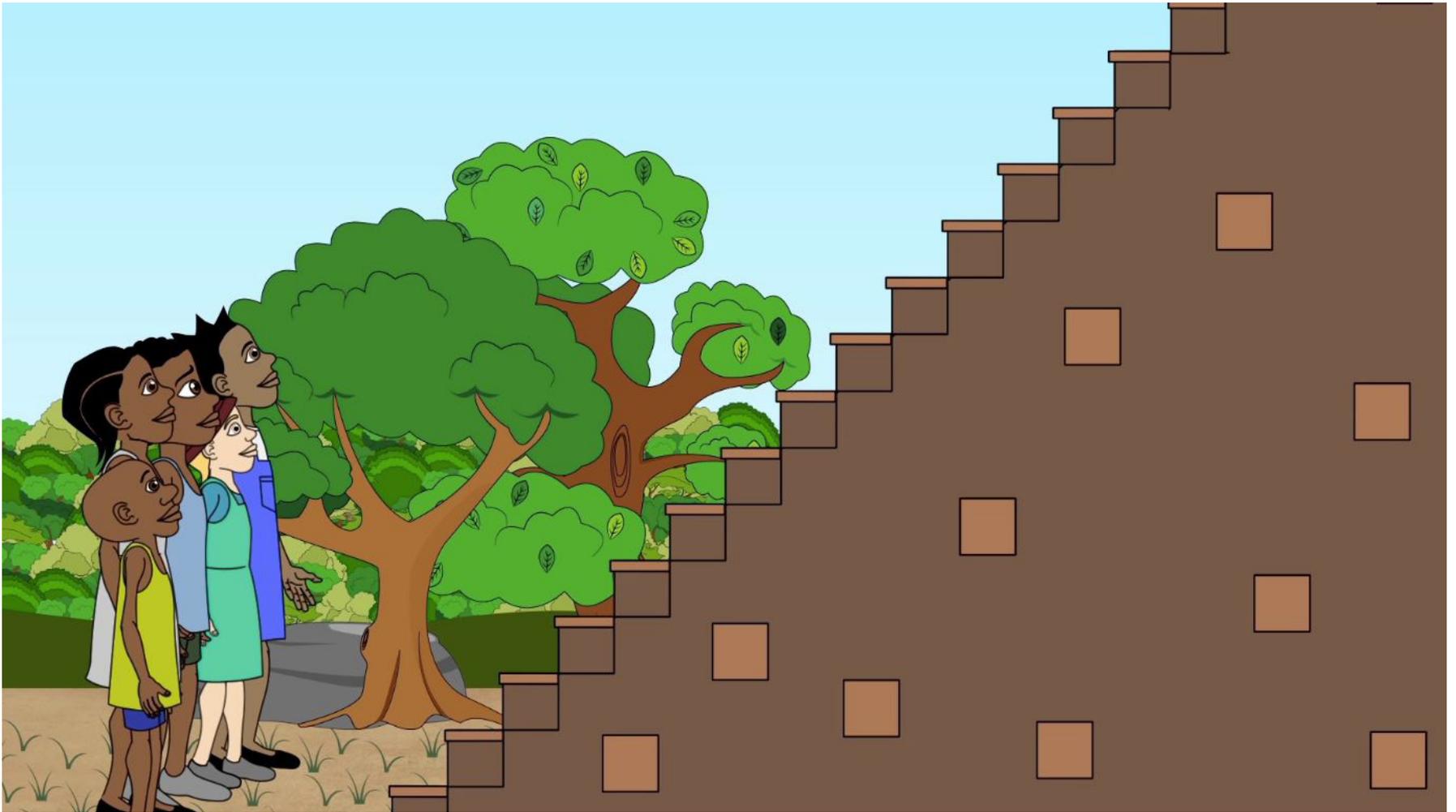
Koba began, calling out: “One!” The others followed in turn: “Two!” “Three!” When it was Kibena’s turn, instead of saying “Four!” she hit the drum. BOOM! One of the tree branches lifted to reveal the start of a path.



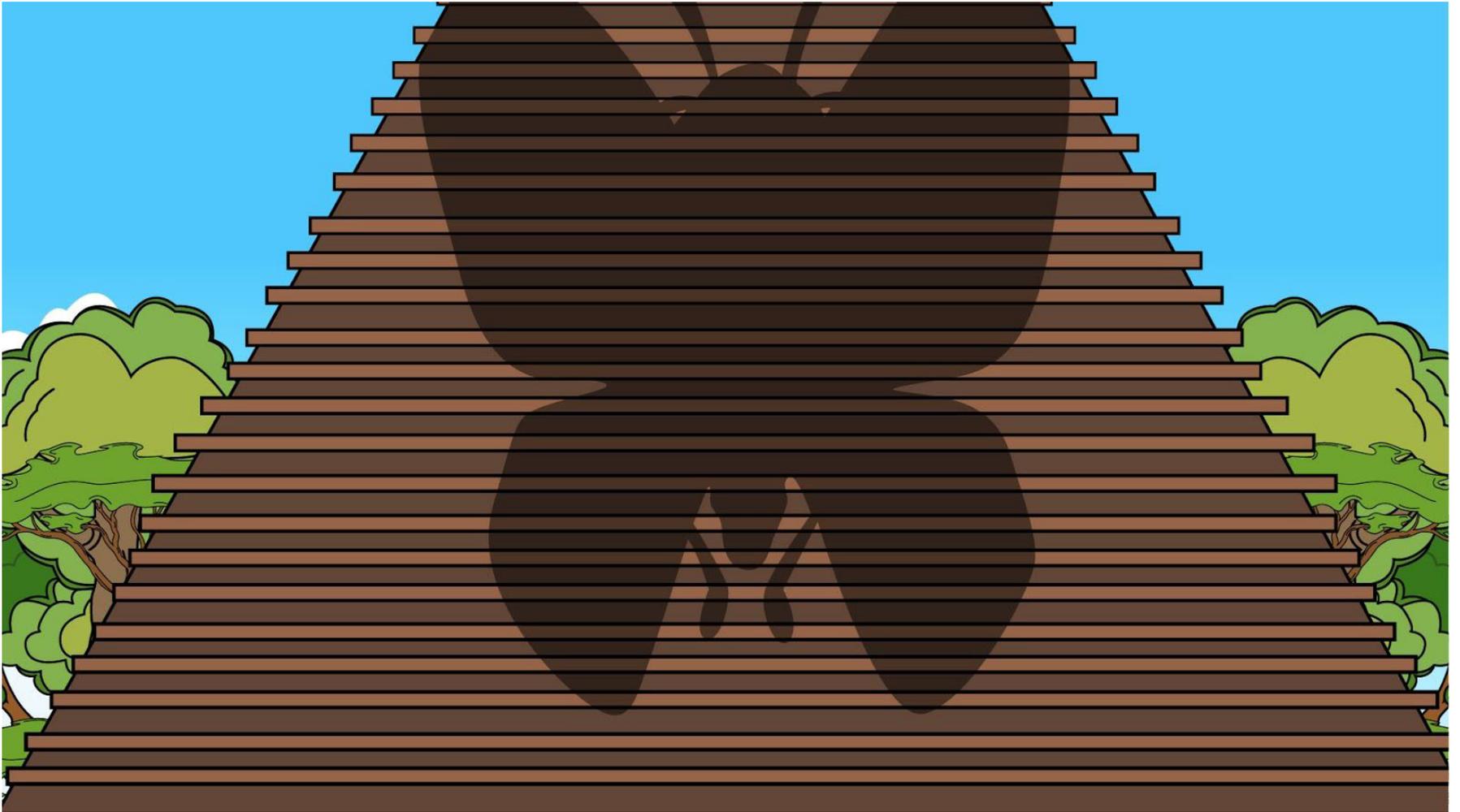
The children continued counting: “Five...six...seven,” BOOM! Another branch opened to reveal more of the pathway. “Nine...ten...eleven,” BOOM! Another branch opened.



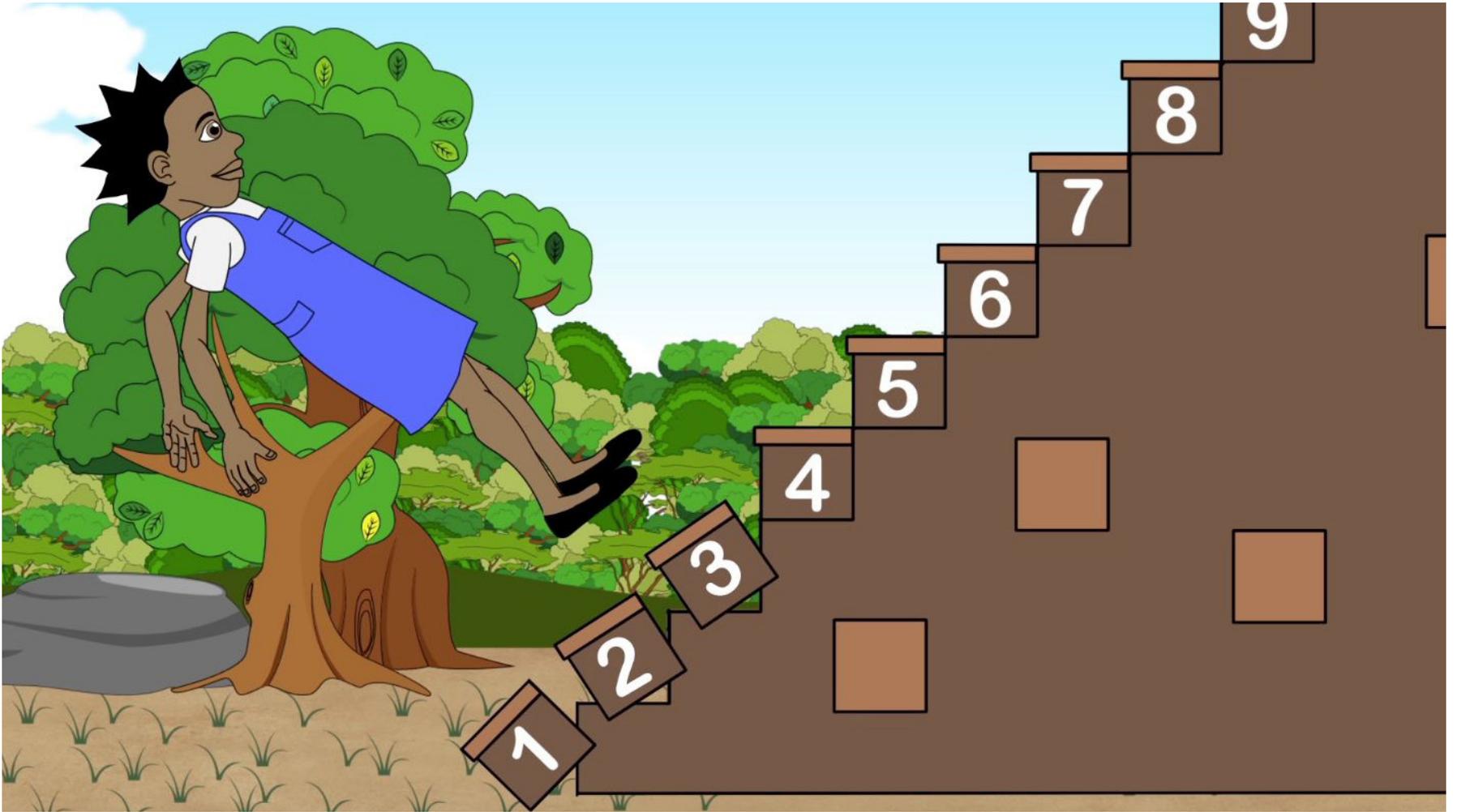
They continued counting in fours. “Thirteen...fourteen...fifteen,” BOOM! “Seventeen...eighteen...nineteen,” BOOM! When they reached sixty, the final branch lifted to reveal the full pathway.



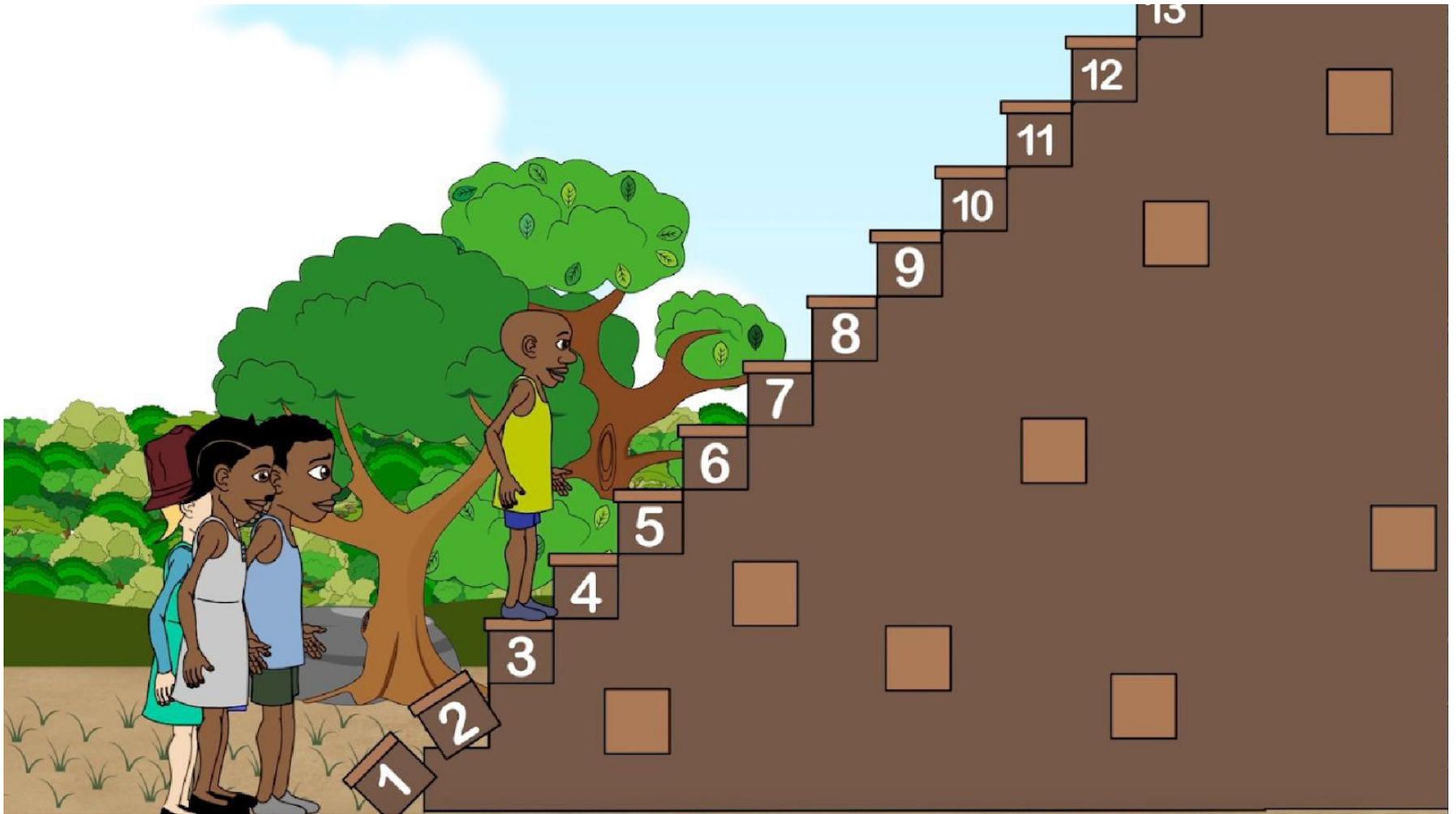
“Let’s go,” Koba said. The others followed Koba along the path until they came to the foot of a steep hill with a staircase leading all the way to the top.



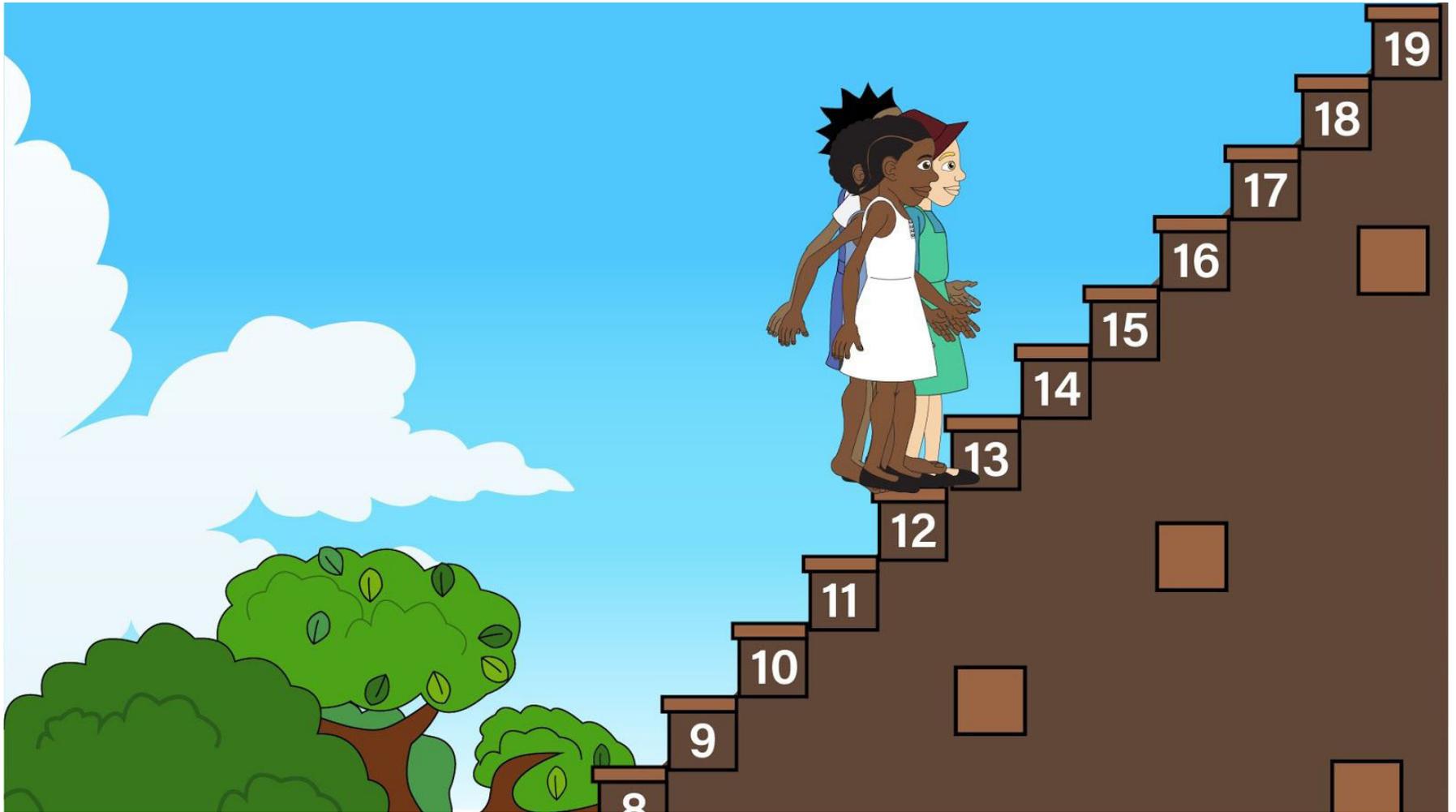
A giant shadow of a flying creature appeared on the hillside. The creature laughed menacingly as it flapped its wings, “Hahahahaha...”



The kids began to feel afraid. But they had come so far, they couldn't give up now! They tried to forget their fears as they began to climb the stairs. But each time they reached the third step, it rotated, and they fell back to the starting point.



With help from the others, Baraka climbed up to the third step, skipping the first two steps. As he reached it he called out, “Three!” It didn’t rotate! That was the trick! They had to count in threes as they climbed the stairs!



Together, they all climbed and counted: “Three!...Six!...Nine!...Twelve!...Fifteen!”



Finally, they approached the top of the staircase. “One hundred and thirty-two!...One hundred and thirty-five!” They all collapsed on the ground, grateful for each other’s help during the climb.



All of a sudden the giant flying shadow returned! Kiduchu wanted to go home...



...but Koba objected. "I'm so close to getting my miracle!" he said.



Koba walked in to Dr. Nondo's great hall. "I need a miracle," he told the giant shadow, and explained about the contest with the video camera as the prize.



Koba's friends cautiously followed him into Dr. Nondo's room.



Once they stepped inside, they saw to their surprise that Dr. Nondo was only a little moth, in front of a big spotlight and a fan!



“You don’t need a miracle!” laughed Dr. Nondo. “You’re the first kids to ever make it to me! Most give up after falling in the swamp. Very few make it through the drums. And no one has ever managed to climb those stairs! You kids are already miracle makers for getting here!”



“You’ve shown you’ve got the right stuff to overcome challenges,” he continued. Koba’s friends agreed, and offered to help him write a prize-winning script. Koba’s face lit up with delight.



Back in Koba's room, the kids worked together on the script: "Mission to Miracle Moth Mountain."



Outside, Mama Ndege thanked her friend, the moth, for teaching Koba not to give up, “Well done, Dr. Nondo!”



# The End

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