

Math Music

simple equations

SINGING COMPETITION

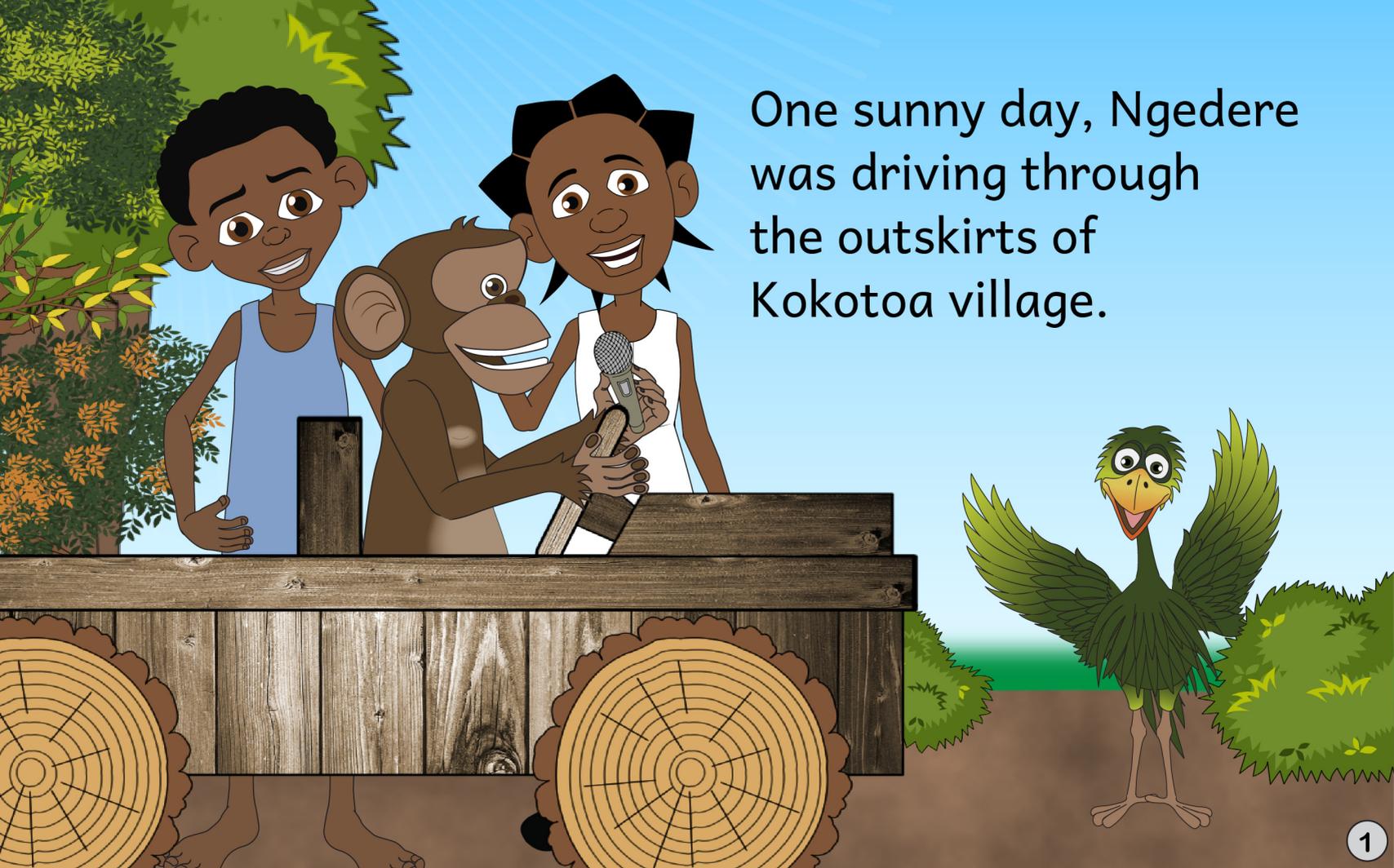
SING TO

EDUCATE TO

Age
Umri
7+



One sunny day, Ngedere was driving through the outskirts of Kokotoa village.





He announced that there was going to be a singing competition for all the animals of Kokotoa!

“Come and compete!
Tomorrow a free bus
will leave at 5 p.m.
sharp from the
Seven Mangoes
bus stop!”



“Man, I’m in!” said the beautiful Sister Monkey.



“I’m going! I’m sure to win!”
shouted Mama Ndege.



The next day, Mama Ndege said to Sister Monkey, “If you’re going to the singing competition, don’t waste your time... I’m going to win!”



“Don’t be so sure, Mama Ndege!
Anyway, where’s the bus?”
said Sister Monkey.



“It’s only 3 o’clock! The bus won’t be leaving till 5 o’clock!” replied Pinky.



“Man, that’s toooo long! What are we going to do?”
said Sister Monkey.



“It’s not that long... How many hours do you think are left until the bus gets here?” asked Pinky.



“Hmm... Let me try to calculate.
Three plus what equals five?” said Sister
Monkey.

$$3 + ? = 5$$





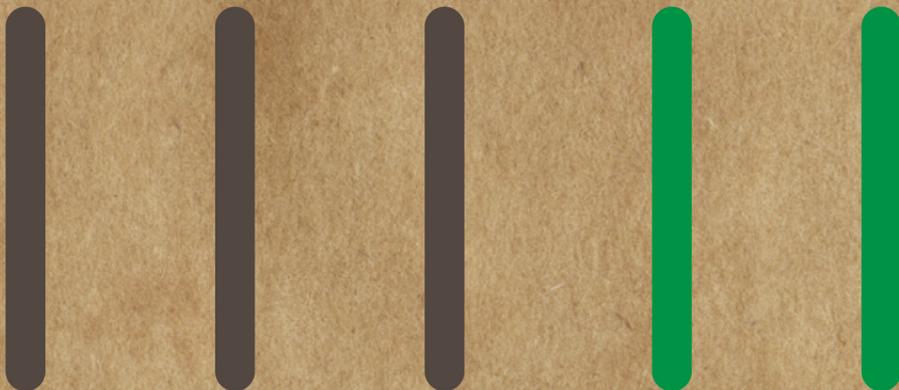
“Let’s start with three.
I’ll draw marks like this...”



one o’clock, two o’clock, three o’clock.



And then to get to five o'clock,
I need to draw...four o'clock, five o'clock.”



“I don’t get it!” said Pinky. Mama Ndege explained, “She drew three lines for one to three o’clock, and to get up to five o’clock Sister Monkey drew two more lines.”





“One, two. Ahhh! I get it now!
These two green lines mean two more hours
till five o’clock,” said Pinky.

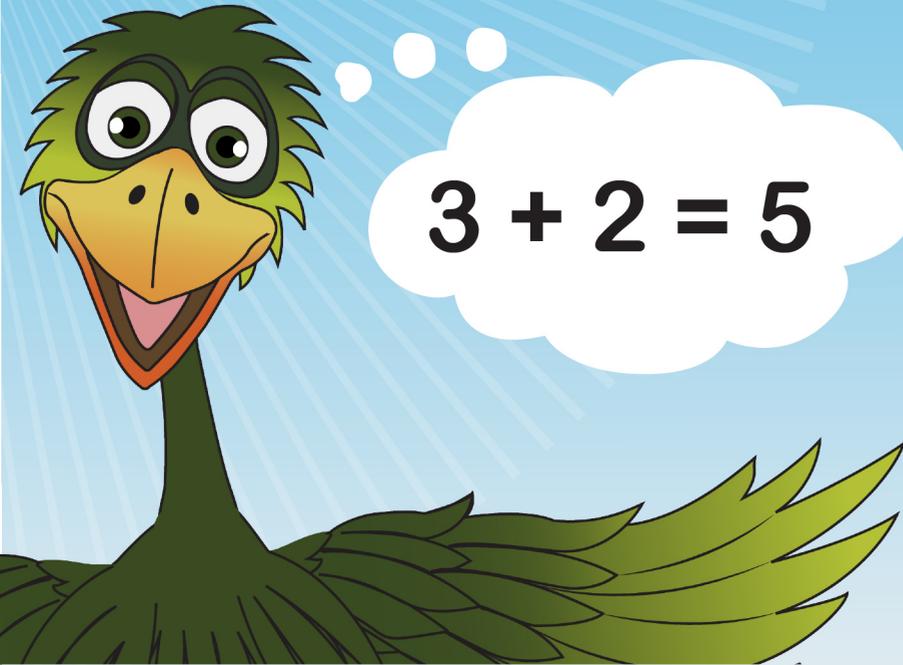


“Yes, to get from three to five, you need to add two.

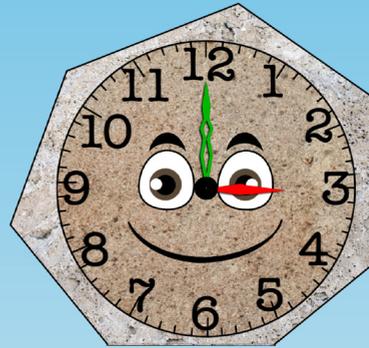
$$3 + ? = 5$$



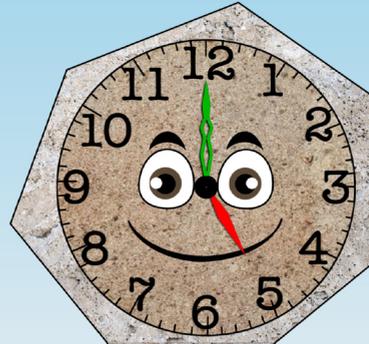
That's because three plus two equals five!
Since it's three o'clock now, we need to wait two
more hours until five o'clock!" said Mama Ndege.



$$3 + 2 = 5$$



3 o'clock



5 o'clock

Not long after, Ngedere arrived and said he was giving free rides to the competition.



The birds and Sister Monkey immediately tried to get on.

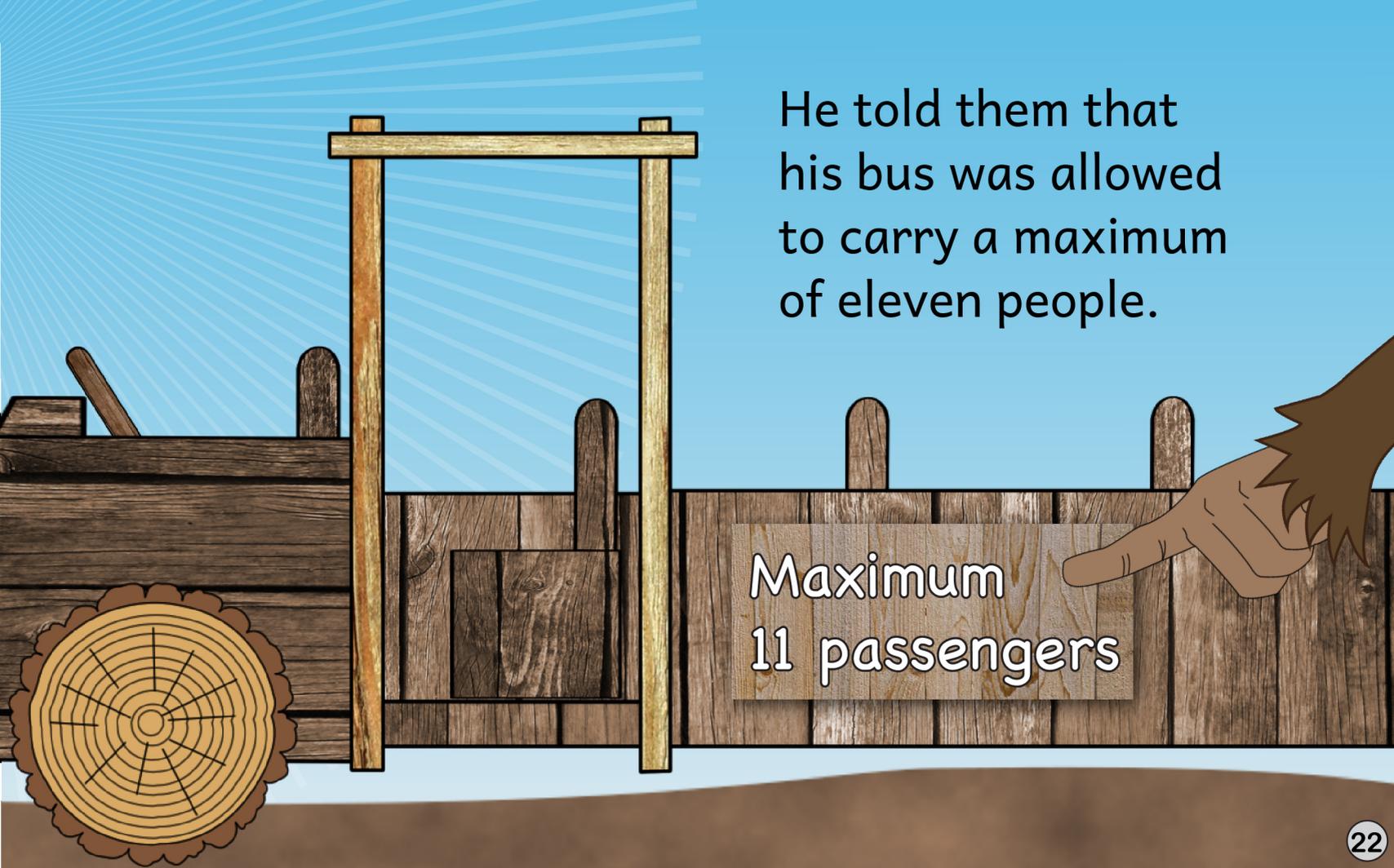


“We’ve been standing here for ages?
Can’t we at least sit on the bus
while we wait for the others?” asked Pinky.
“That’s right Pinky, you tell that monkey!”
added Bluey.



But Ngedere blocked the way.



A cartoon illustration of a wooden fence. On the left, there is a circular wooden log with a scalloped edge. In the center, a wooden frame stands on two vertical posts. To the right, a wooden sign is attached to the fence, with a hand pointing to it from the right. The background is a light blue sky with radiating lines.

He told them that
his bus was allowed
to carry a maximum
of eleven people.

Maximum
11 passengers

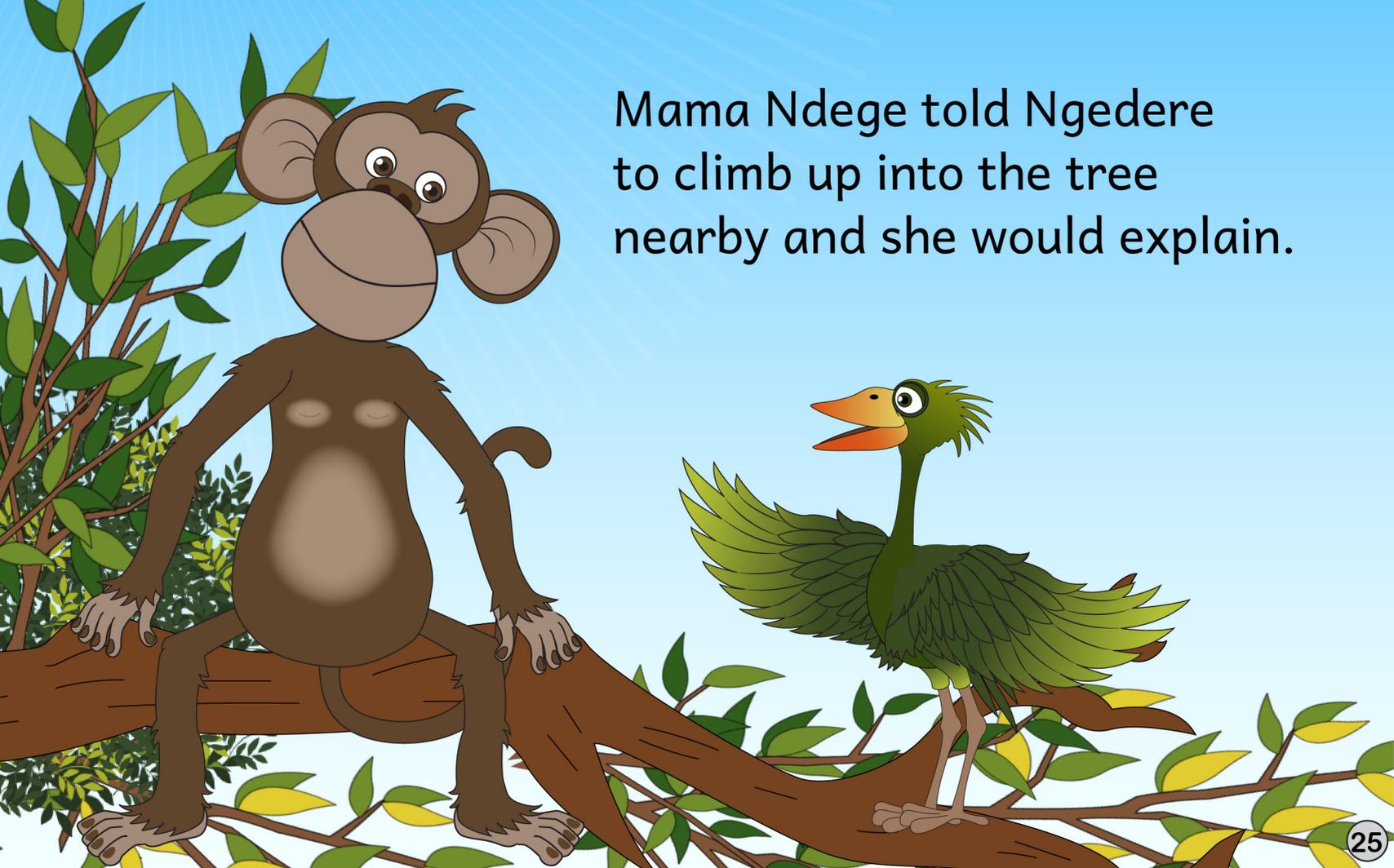
He wanted the bus to be full,
so he would not leave until there
were eleven people on it,
including himself.



Mama Ndege asked if Ngedere knew how many more passengers he needed. Ngedere replied that he had no idea.



Mama Ndege told Ngedere to climb up into the tree nearby and she would explain.



From a bird's eye view, it was easy to see that the bus had eleven seats.



“There are four passengers here already, me, Pinky, Bluey and Sister Monkey, plus you, the driver. That makes five in total,” said Mama Ndege.





Ngedere was annoyed as he already knew that there weren't enough people yet! "What I need to know is how many more passengers I need to fill the bus!"




$$5 + ? = 11$$

Mama Ndege told him to count up from five to eleven to find out how many more passengers he needed.




$$5 + ? = 11$$

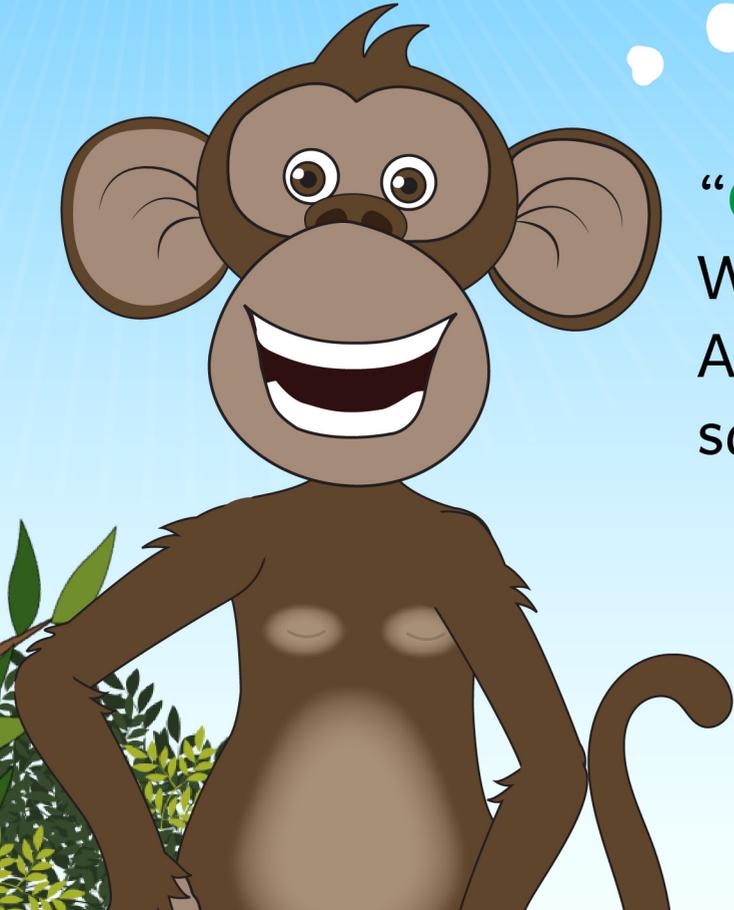
As he counted, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, Mama Ndege drew a mark for each number.



5

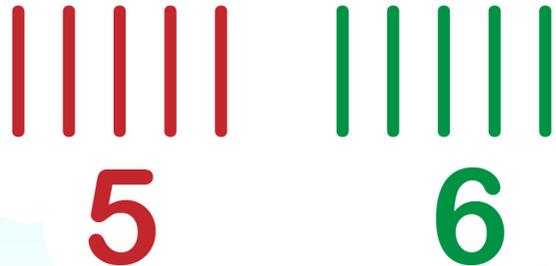


6



$$5 + 6 = 11$$

“One, two, three, four, five, six. Wow! So that’s all I had to do. Alright then, climb aboard,” said Ngedere happily.



Everyone got on
the bus and took a seat.



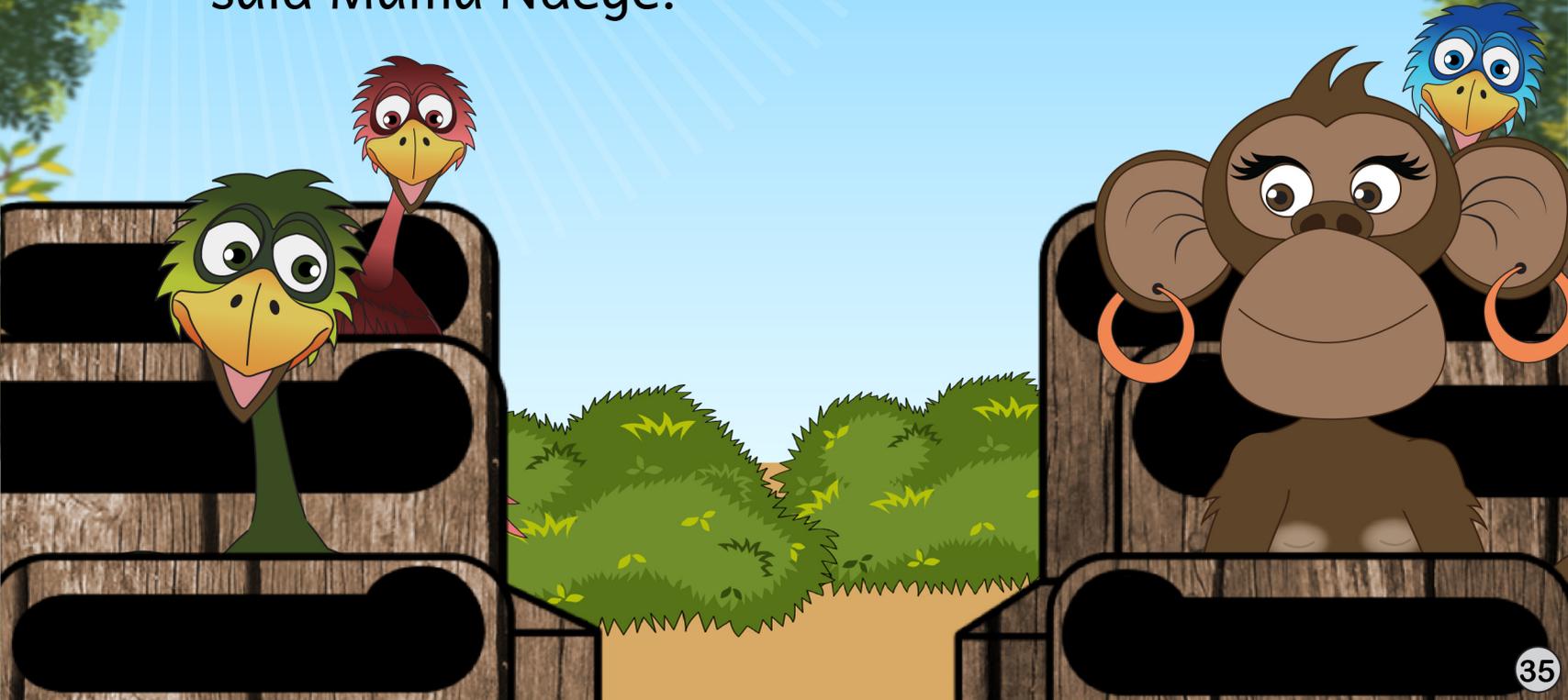
Ngedere counted the empty seats,
“One, two, three, four, five, six.”



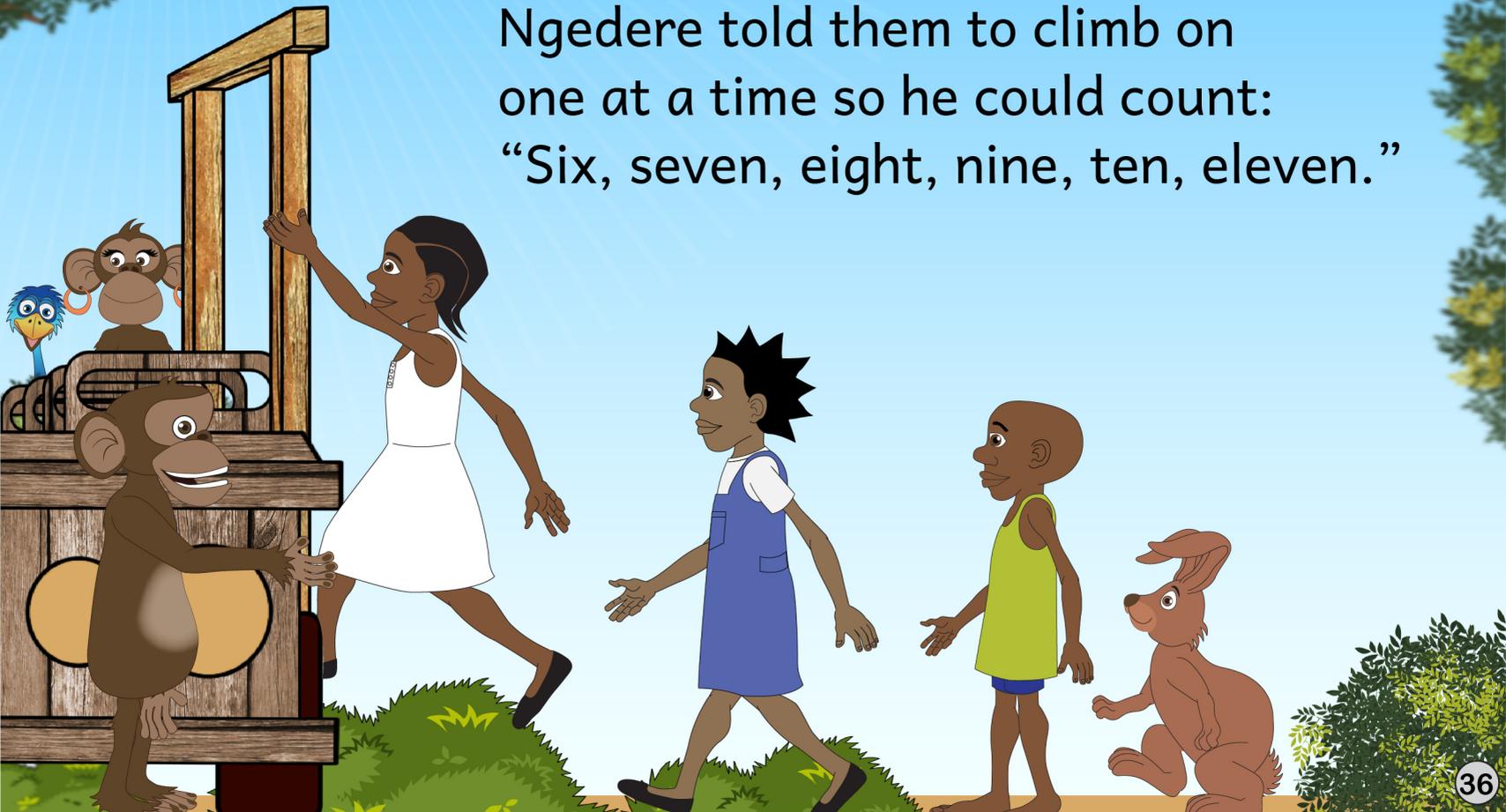
“Ahh! It really is six!
We calculated right!
You’re a genius,
Mama Ndege!”



“Now we just relax and wait for six more passengers to get on, then we can get going!” said Mama Ndege.

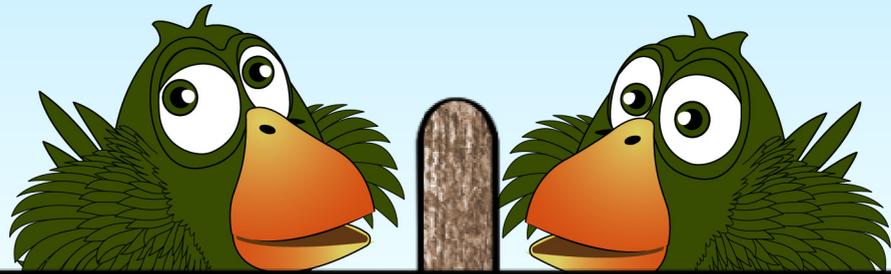


Soon more people arrived.
Ngedere told them to climb on
one at a time so he could count:
“Six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven.”





Then Mama Ndege noticed that two of the passengers were her own chicks. “We’ve got stowaways! What are you kids doing here?” she exclaimed.



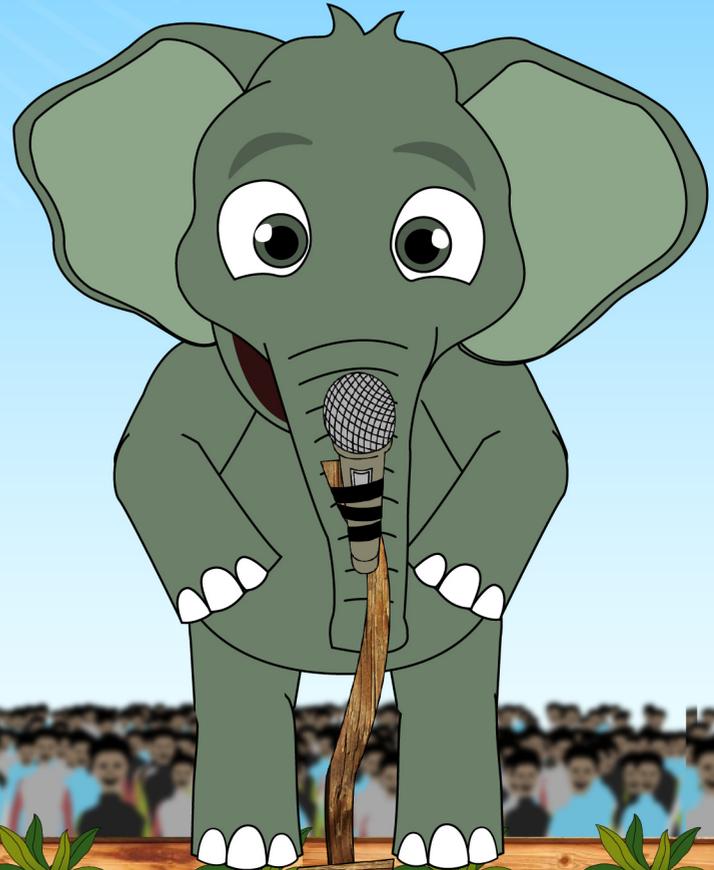
“We’re going to compete at the singing competition, and show how we can sing just like our mother!” replied the chicks.



So finally, with a full bus of eleven people, Ngedere drove off to the competition.



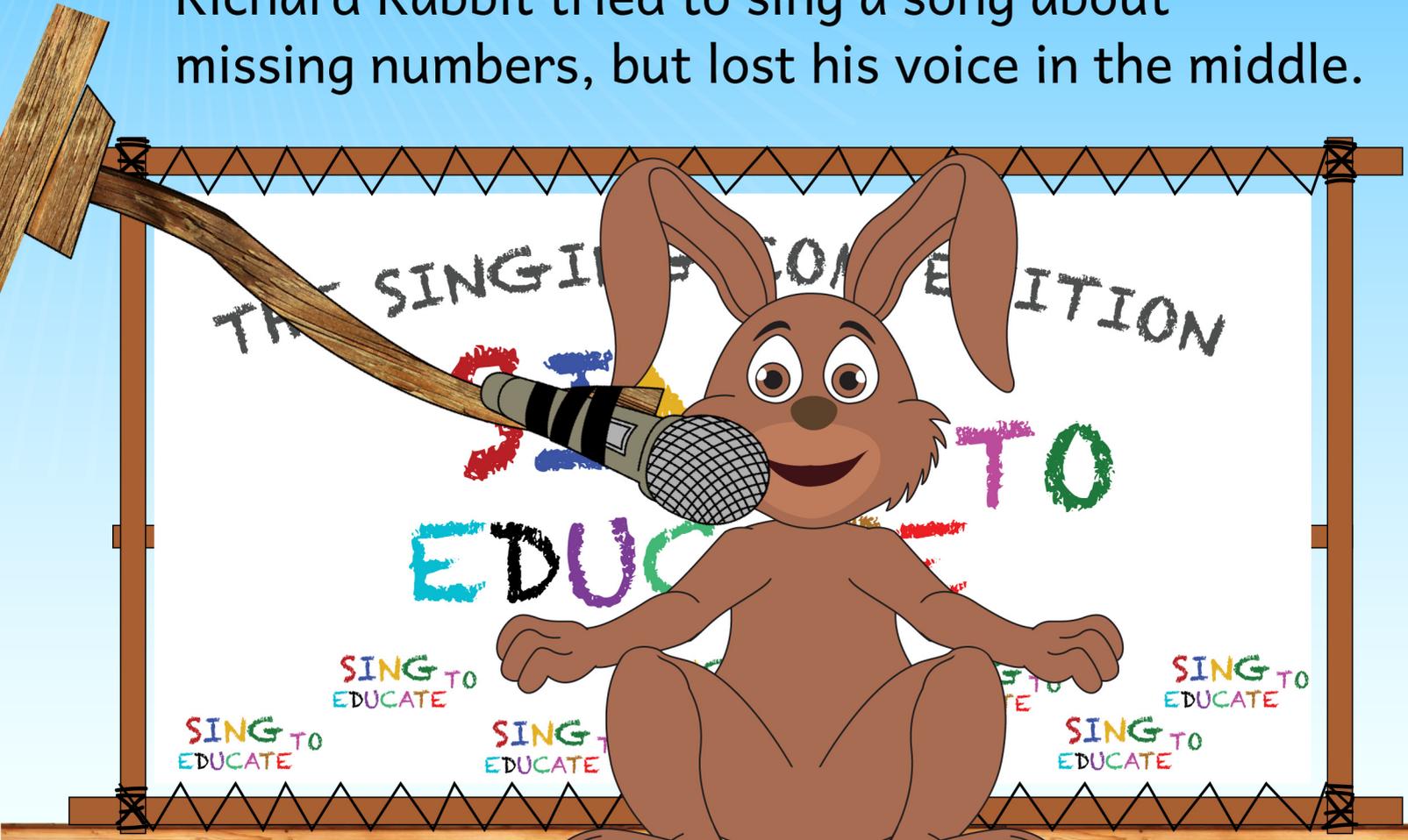
At the competition, Tiny Tembo welcomed everyone and introduced the singers.



First up were the songbird twins,
Pinky and Bluey!



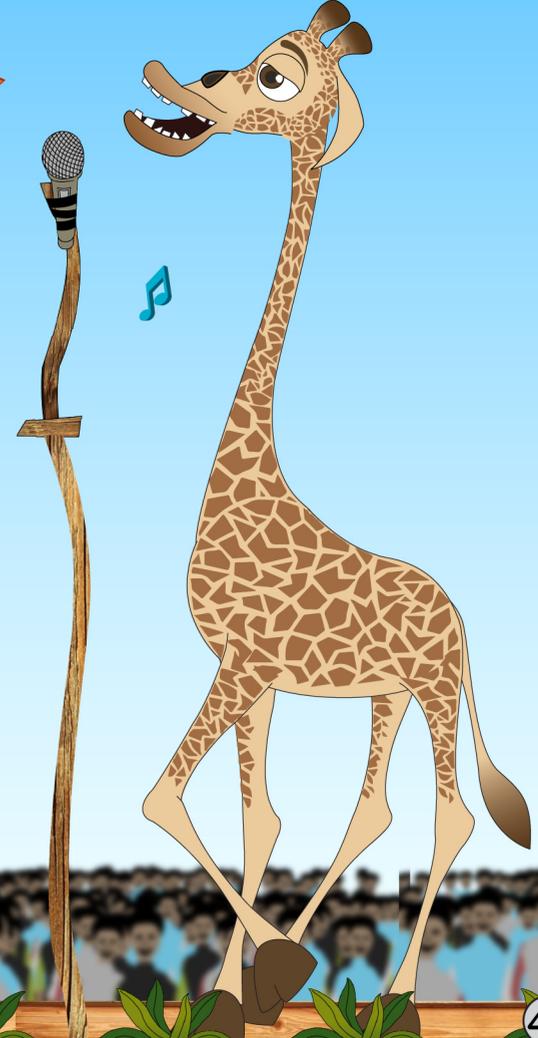
Richard Rabbit tried to sing a song about missing numbers, but lost his voice in the middle.



Next, Sister Monkey took to the stage, with Pinky and Bluey as backup singers.



They were followed by Uncle T,
who rapped about the fun of math.
He got a big round of applause.



Last was Mama Ndege. She sang so beautifully that the crowd erupted in cheers.



Kibena, Kiduchu, Koba and Baraka were the judges.
They voted MAMA NDEGE the winner!



She was given a bouquet of flowers as her prize.
She thanked the crowd, but said that everyone
was a winner.



She then gave a flower to each of the other contestants: Uncle T, Pinky, Bluey, Sister Monkey, and Richard Rabbit.



Ngedere, now dressed as a reporter, came up to Mama Ndege, holding a microphone and a recorder and said, “Congratulations, Mama Ndege! I’m Ngedere from The Kokotoa Times. Tell us, how many flowers were in the prize you won this year?”

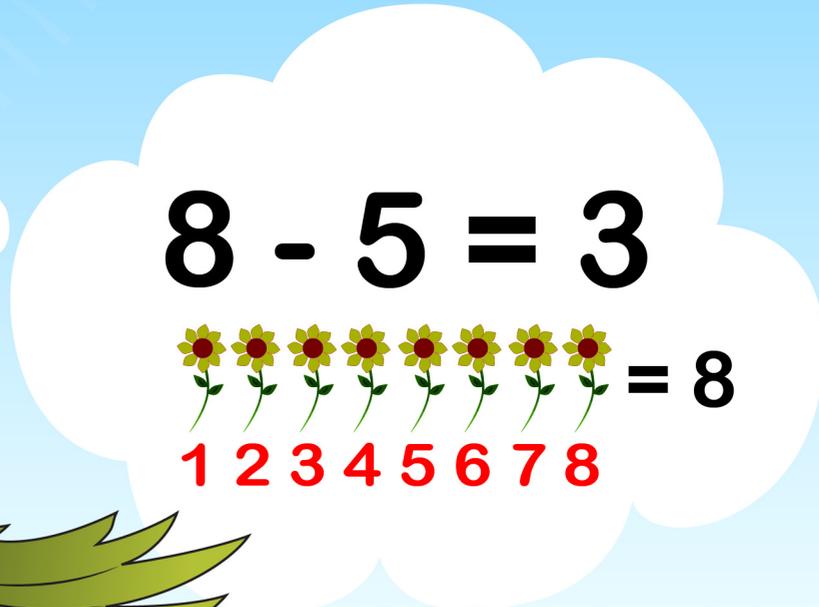


Mama Ndege replied, “I didn’t count them! I gave out a flower to each of the other five competitors. And I have three left here. So what minus five equals three?”



$$? - 5 = 3$$

Then without hesitation, she answered her own question, “There were eight flowers total!”

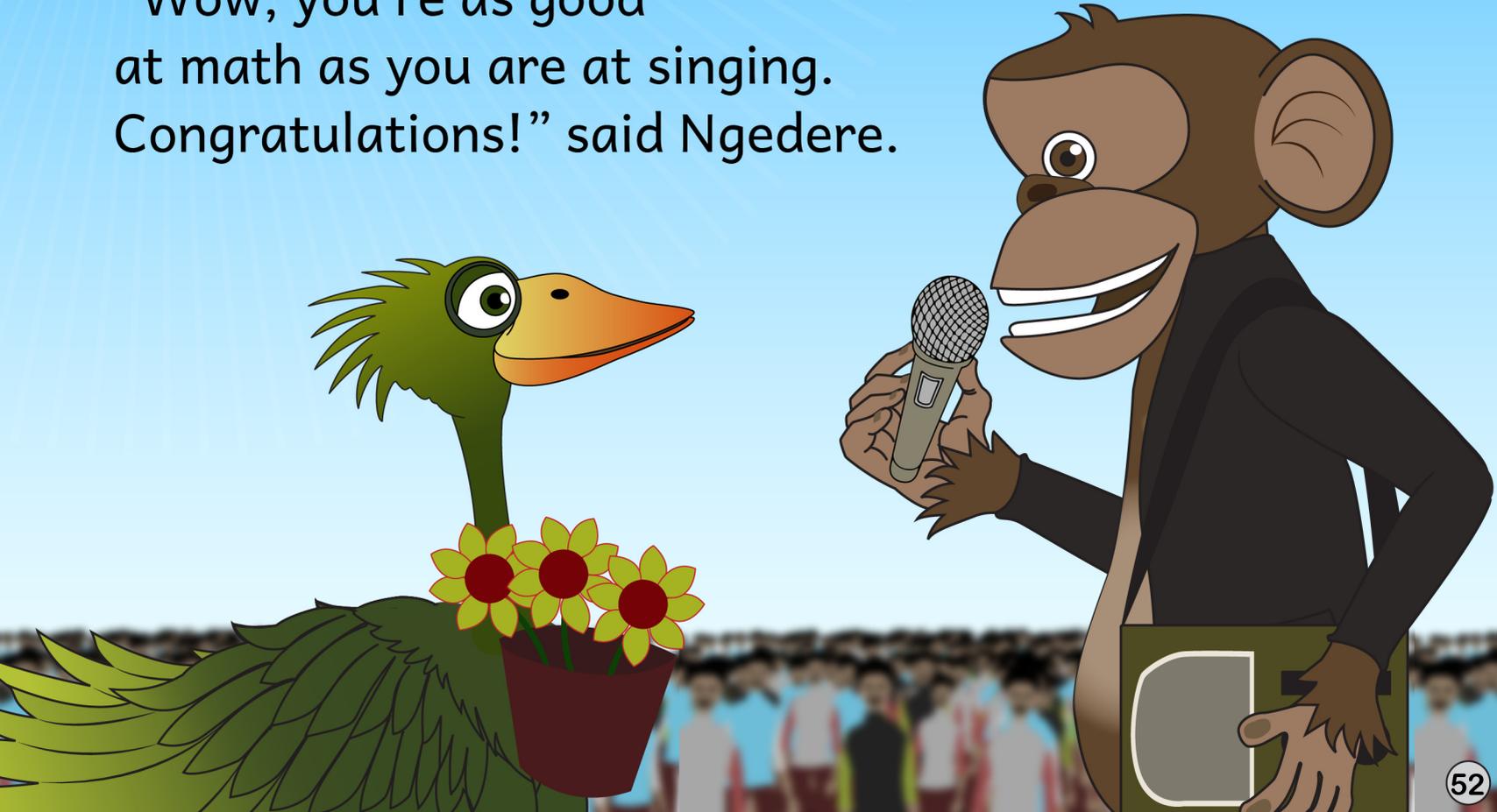


$$8 - 5 = 3$$



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

“Wow, you’re as good at math as you are at singing. Congratulations!” said Ngedere.





The End

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