

Play the Music

sound



Age
Umri
7+



It's time for the annual Kokotoa Village Music Competition! Ngedere makes the announcement as he drives his car through the village. He offers to carry musical instruments to the competition free of charge.

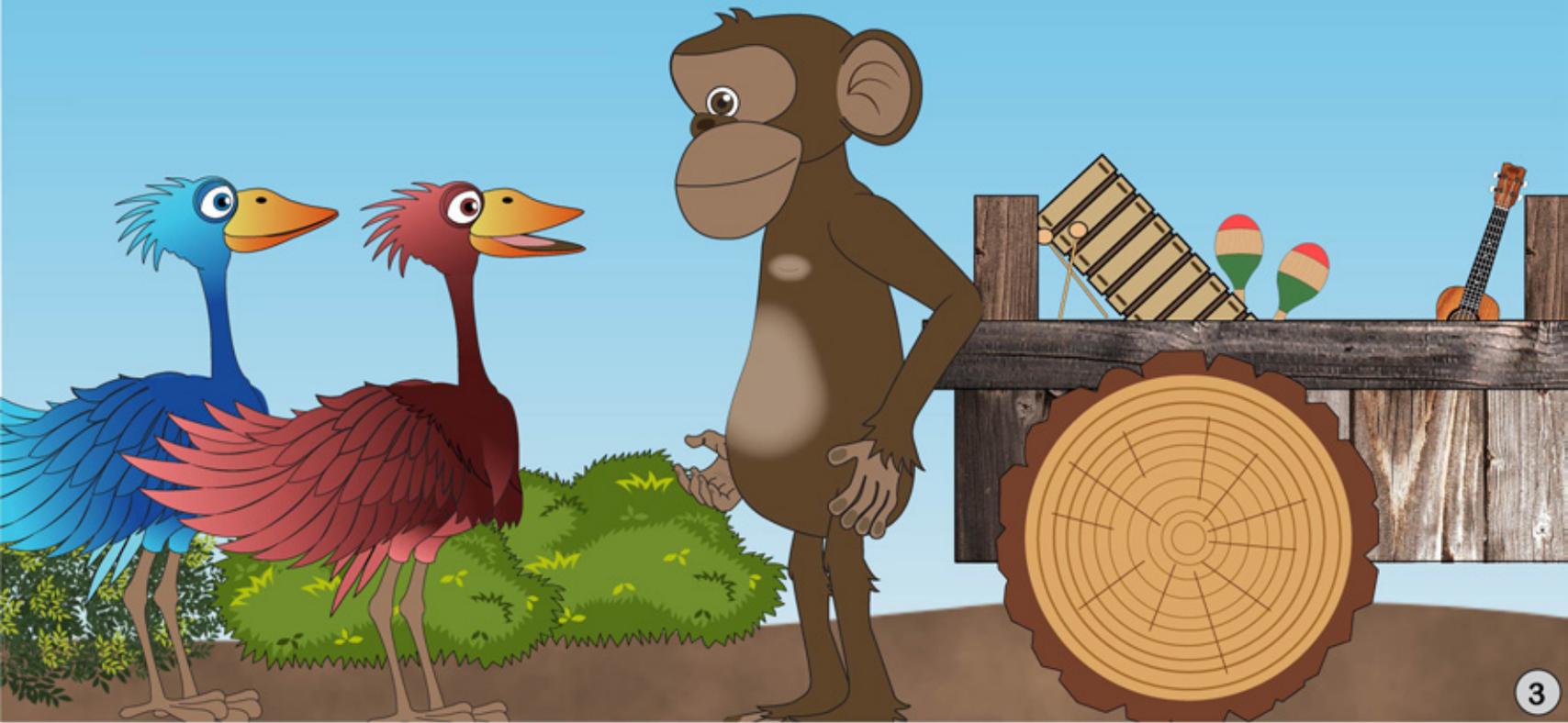


The animals load Ngedere's car with their instruments: Da Chura's guitar, Mama Ndege's xylophone, Sister Monkey's maracas.



But what about Pinky and Bluey?

“We’re carrying our instruments with us!” says Pinky.



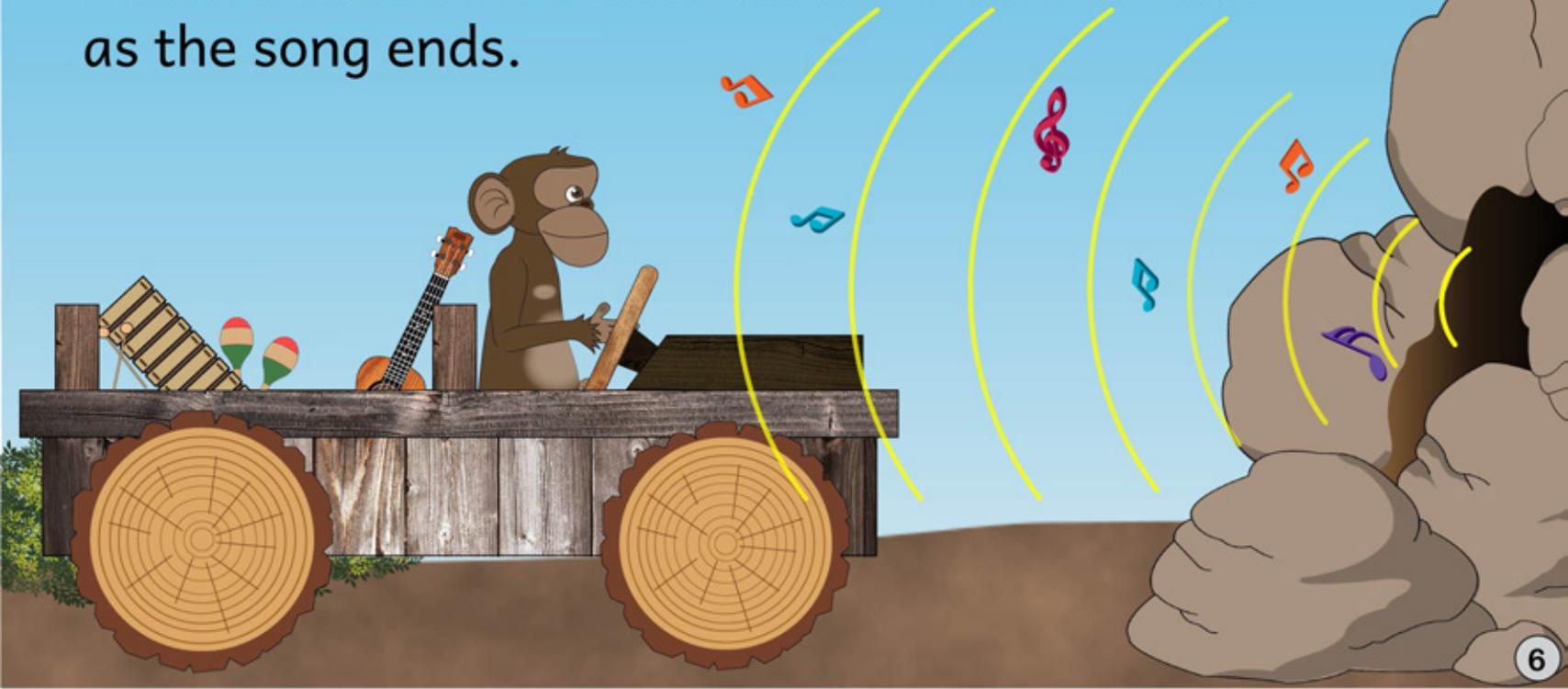
The two birds start to sing and harmonize.
“My instrument is my own voice.
It makes the sweetest sound,
and it is so easy for us to carry it around.”



Ngedere drives off with the back of the car filled with instruments and music blasting from the radio. He comes to a fork in the road, and doesn't know which way to go.



He picks the path to the right. But the path ends at the mouth of a deep cave! The last notes of the song from the radio echo back at him from the cave as the song ends.



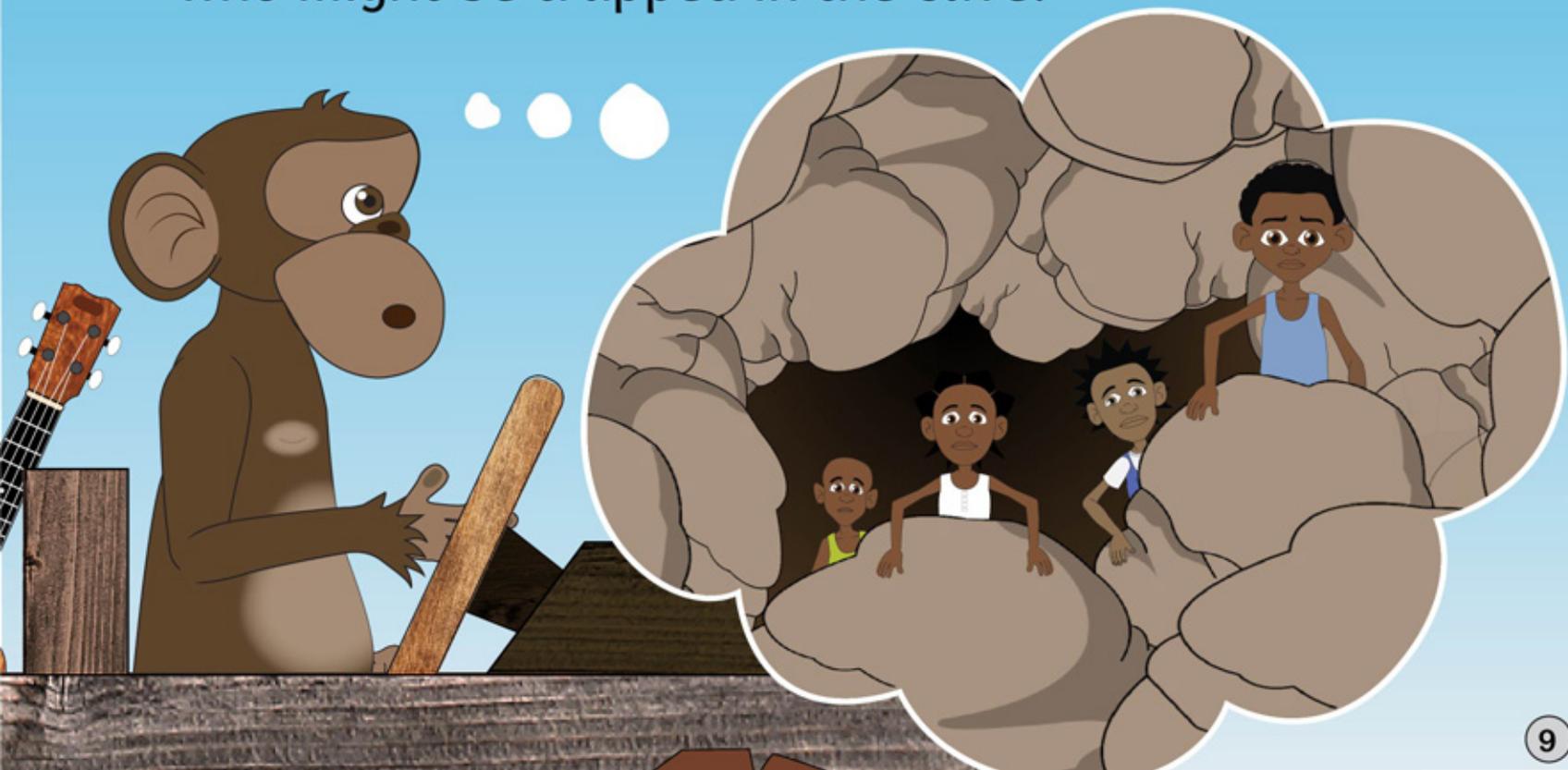
Ngedere is confused. "Hello?" he shouts.



The echo of his voice comes out from the cave:
“Hello? . . . Hello? . . . Hello? . . .”



Ngedere thinks the sound is from the kids,
who might be trapped in the cave.



“Kibena!” Ngedere calls out.

Kibena

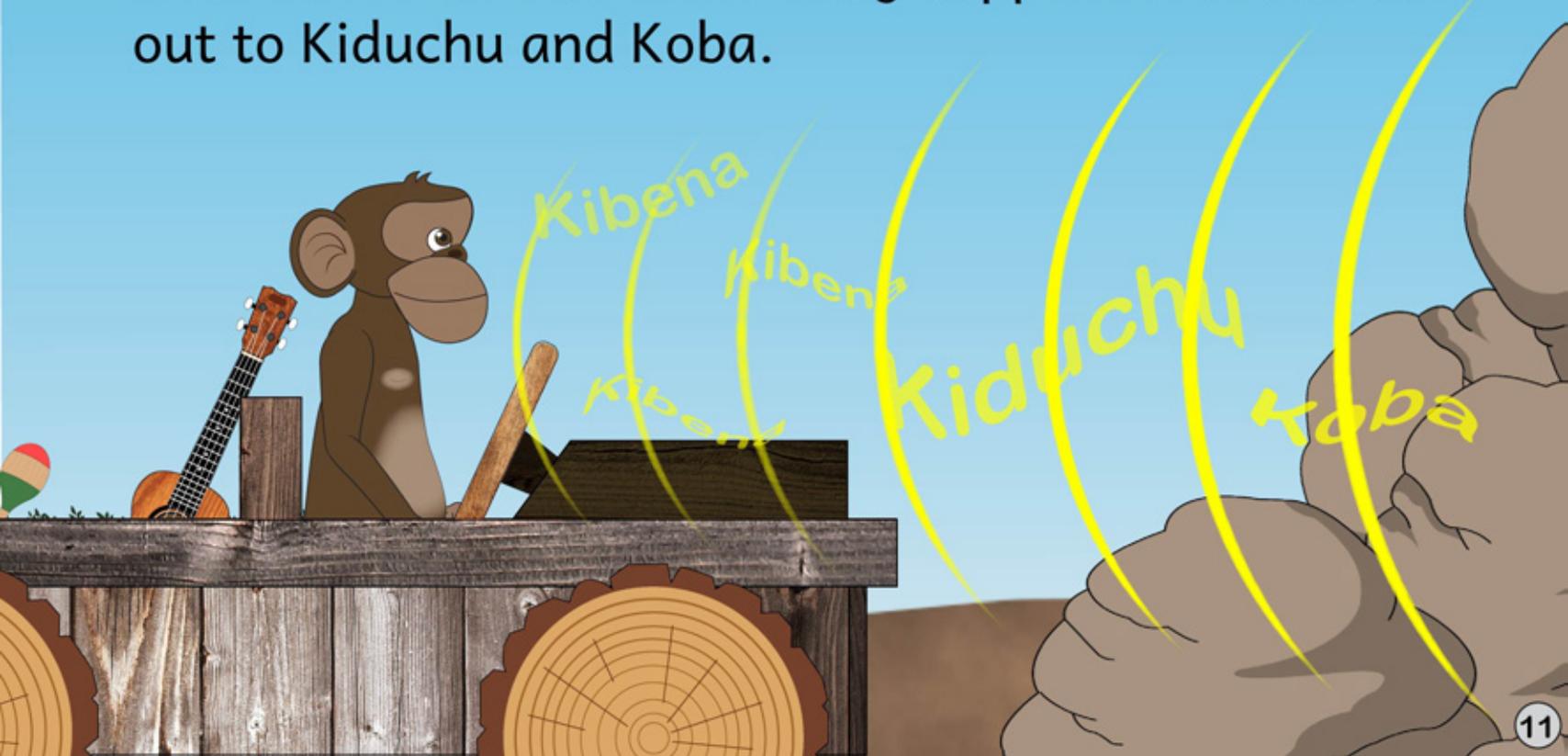
Kibena

Kibena

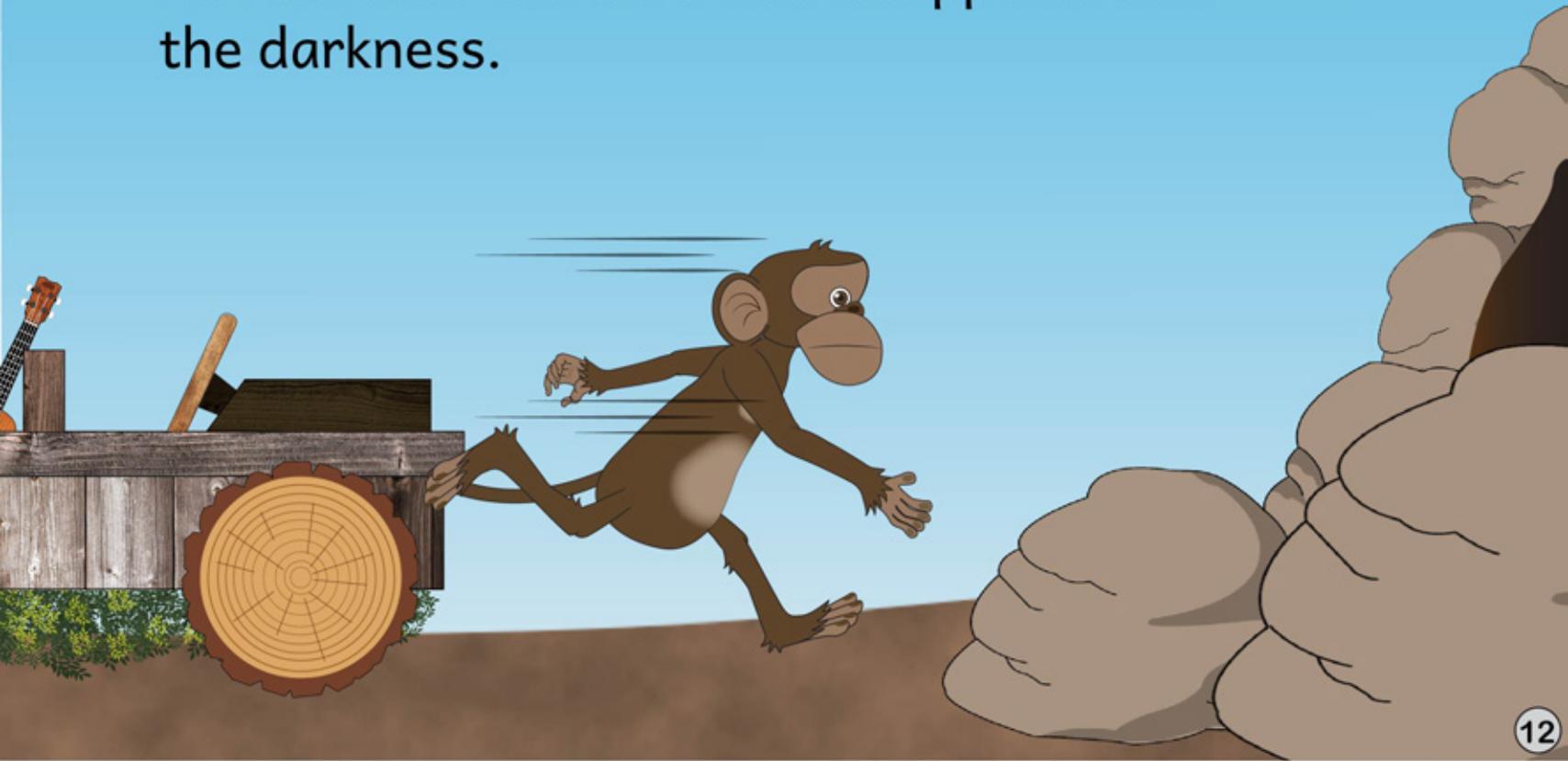
Kibena



“Kibena! . . . Kibena! . . . Kibena!” answers the echo from the cave. The same thing happens when he calls out to Kiduchu and Koba.



Ngedere thinks they are ALL trapped in the cave.
He runs into the cave and disappears into
the darkness.



Meanwhile, at the singing competition, the judges, Kibena, Koba, Kiduchu, and Baraka are sitting at the table.

“We’re ready to start,” says Kibena.



The animals rush around,
but they can't find their instruments.



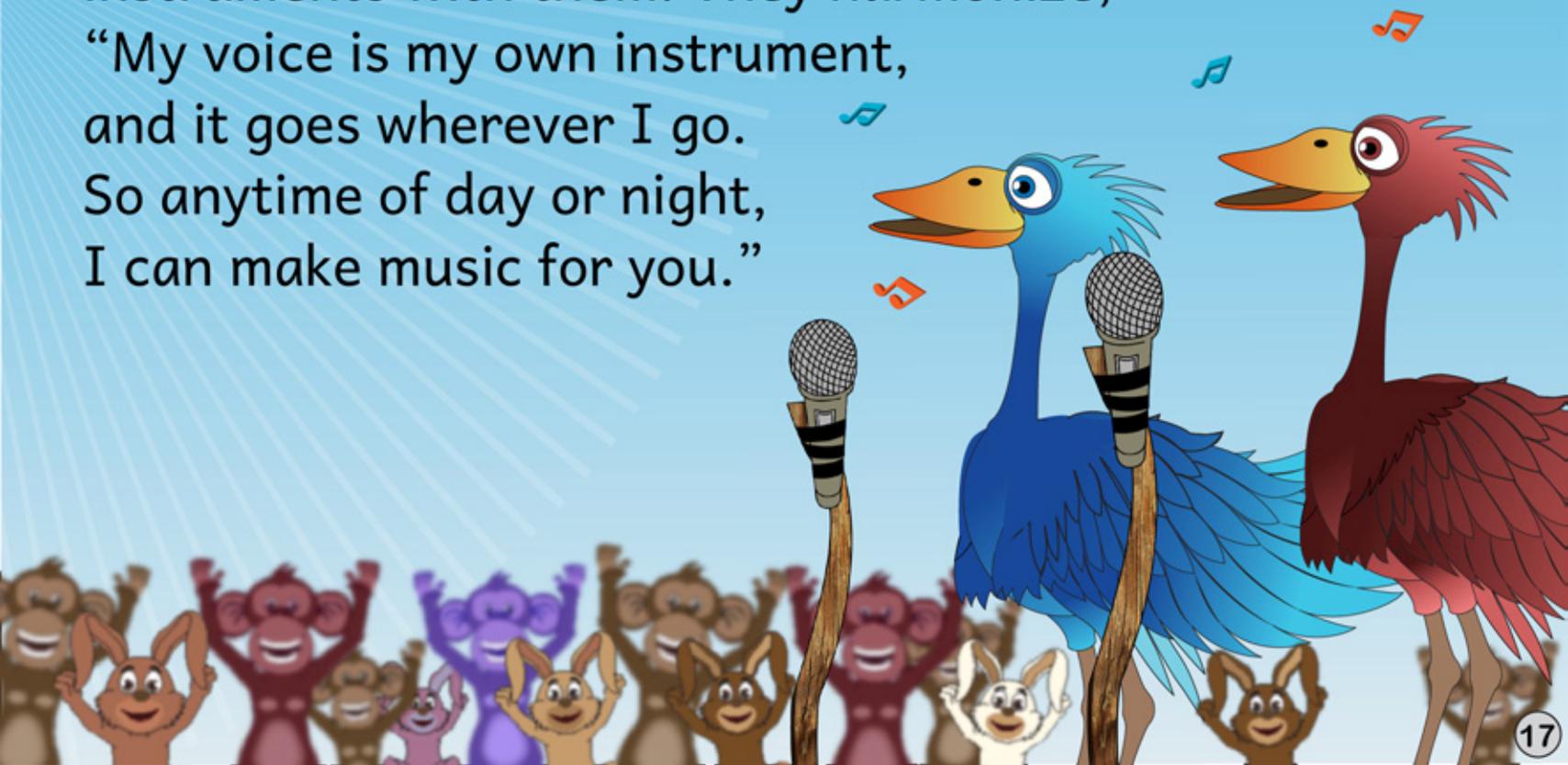
“Where on earth is Ngedere?
He has my xylophone!” says Mama Ndege.



Ngedere has the instruments of all the other animals as well.



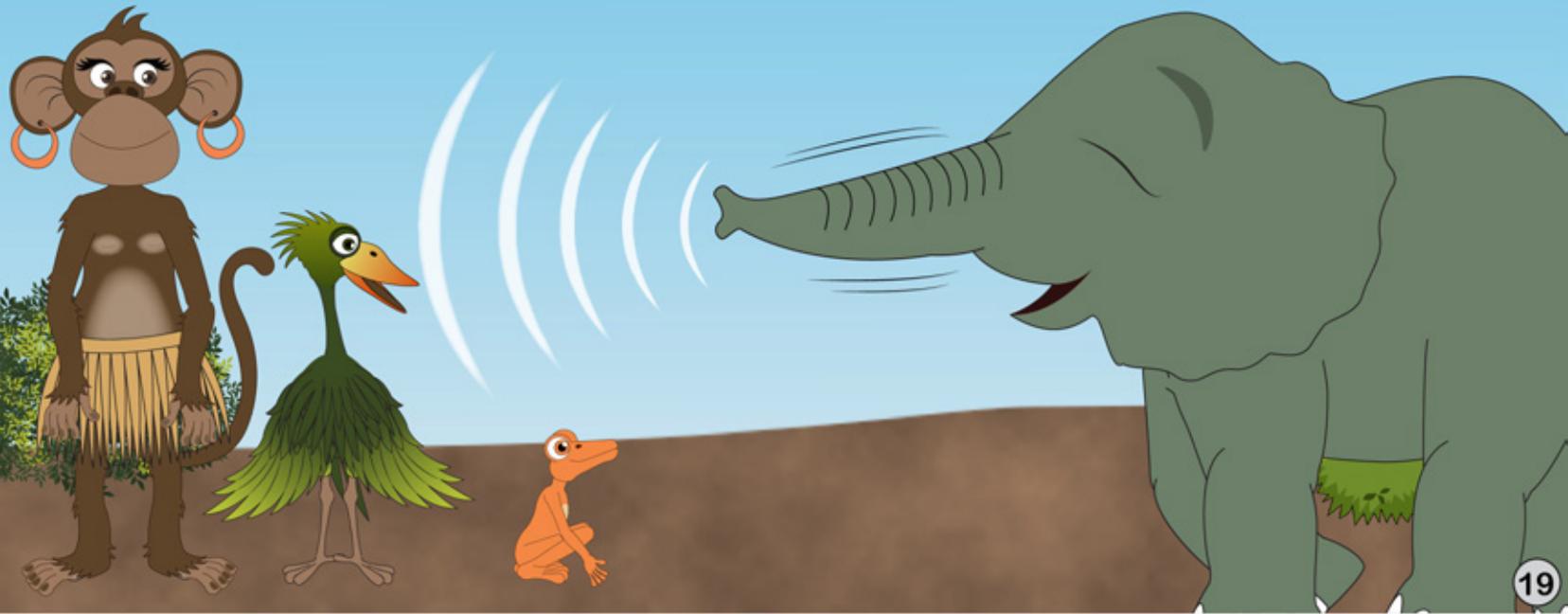
Pinky and Bluey offer to start, because they have their instruments with them. They harmonize,
“My voice is my own instrument,
and it goes wherever I go.
So anytime of day or night,
I can make music for you.”



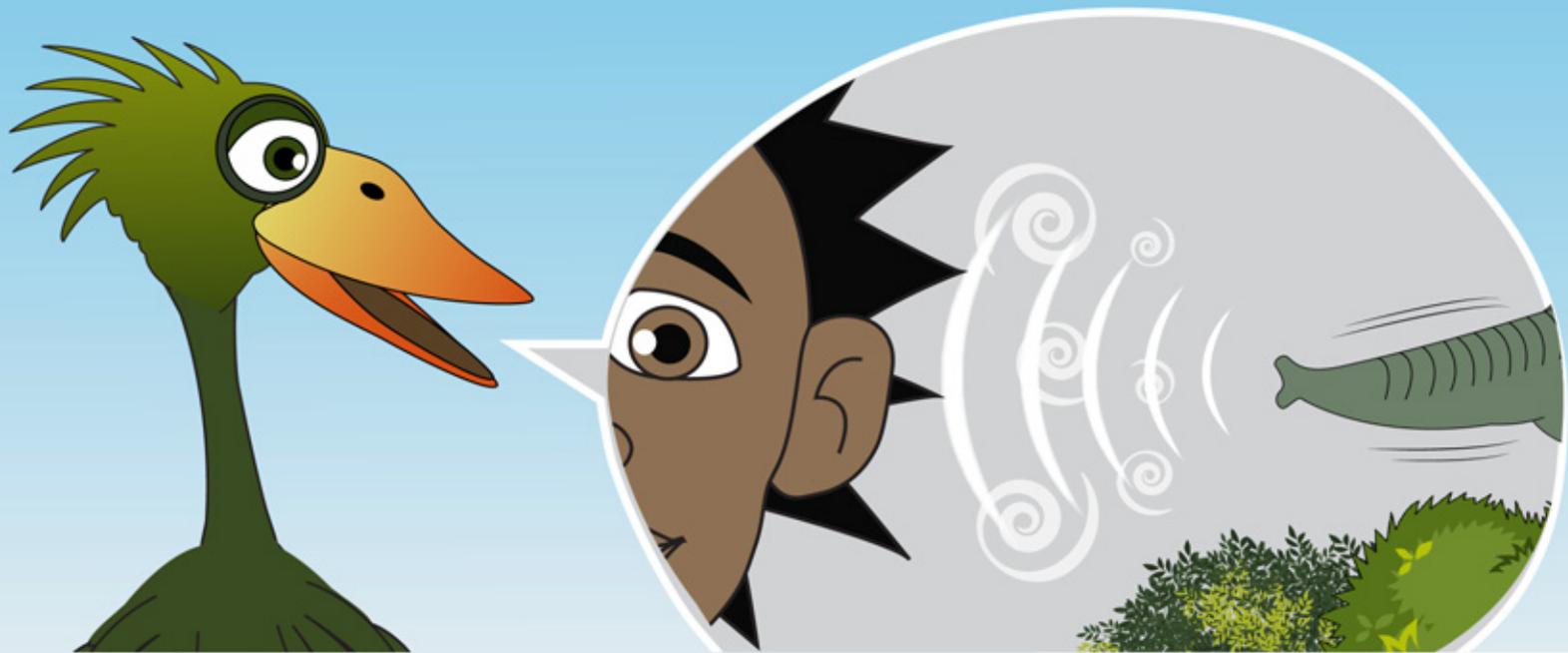
The other animals look at each other helplessly backstage. “We’ll have to make our own instruments!” Mama Ndege tells them. She explains that instruments are just objects that can make different sounds.



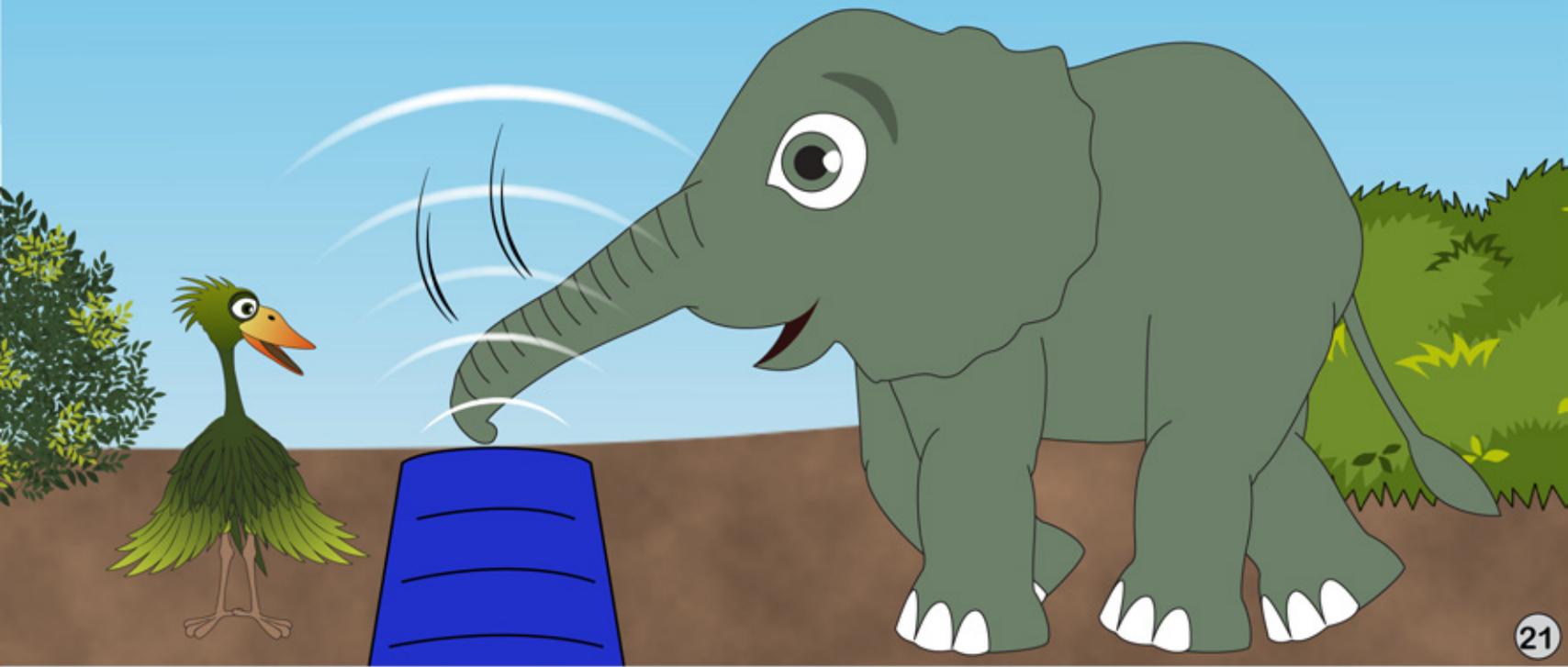
“Like this?” asks Tiny Tembo as he toots his trunk. Mama Ndege explains, “Sound is created by vibrations: when something moves back and forth very, very quickly, it makes the air around it move as well.”



When Tiny Tembo blows air through his trunk, it causes air to vibrate, and that moves other air, and so on, until the waves of movement reach our ears.”



Tiny Tembo hits an overturned bucket with his trunk, making a cool drum sound.



“When you hit it,” Mama Ndege explains,
“the top moved down a tiny bit, and PUSHED the air
above it away when it popped back up.”

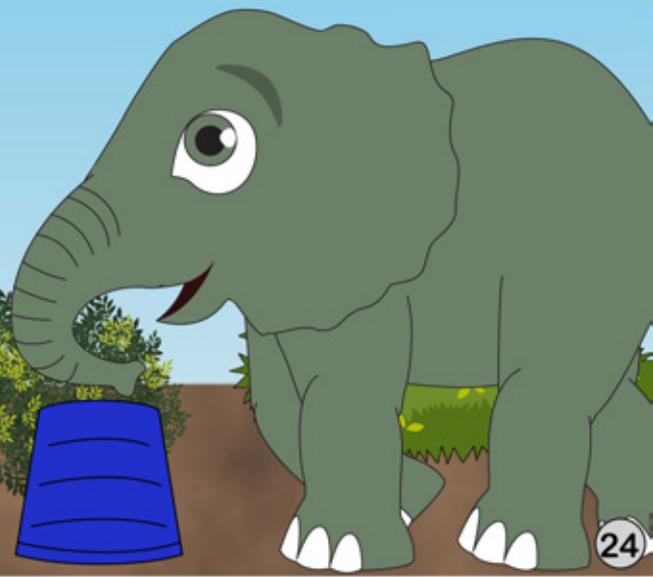


The air moved like a wave until it reached our ears.”





Uncle T turns over
a bigger bucket and hits it.
It makes a deeper sound.
“I’ve got my drums to rap
with now!” says Uncle T.



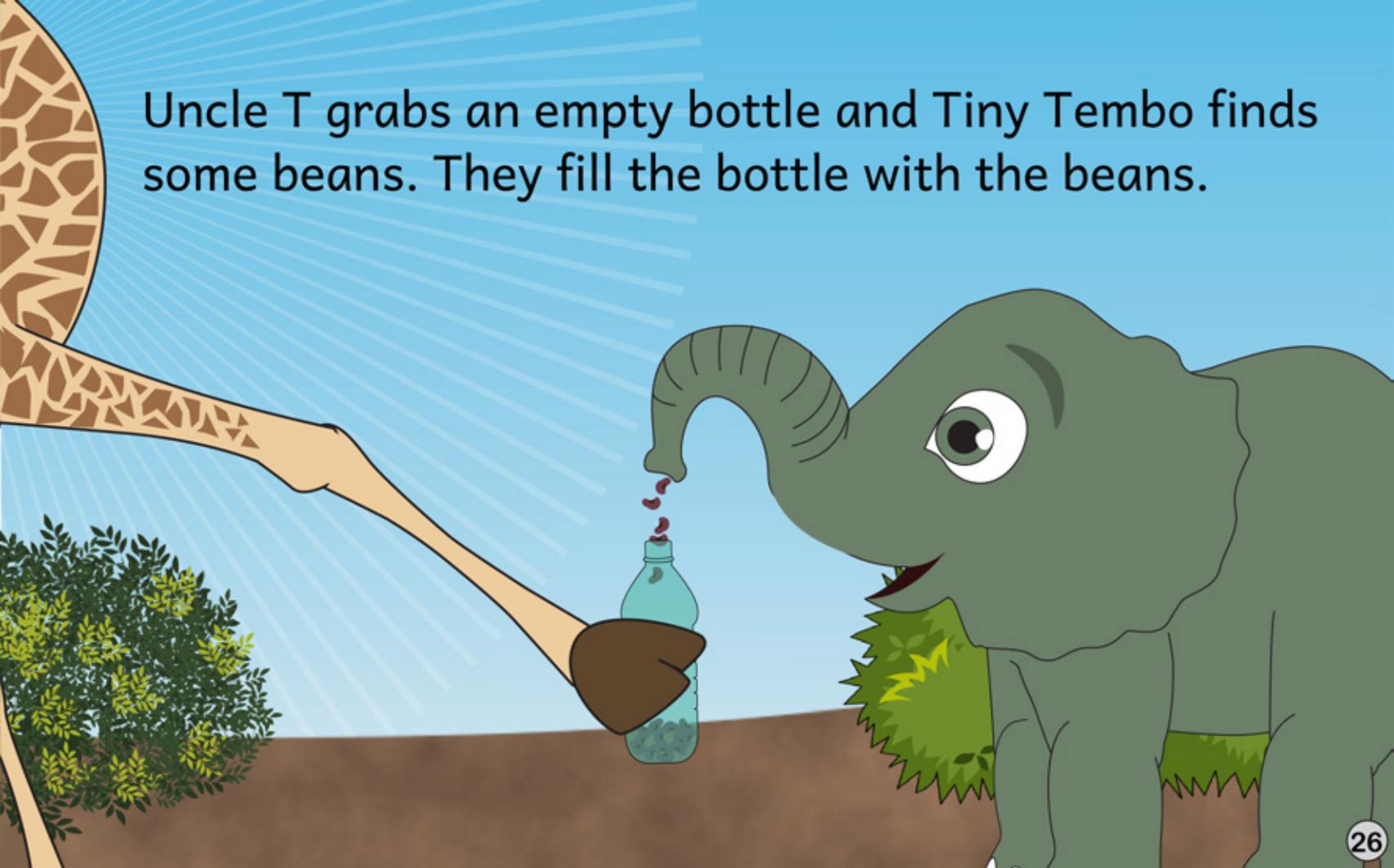
Sista Monkey wants to know about her maracas.

“How do my maracas work?” she asks.

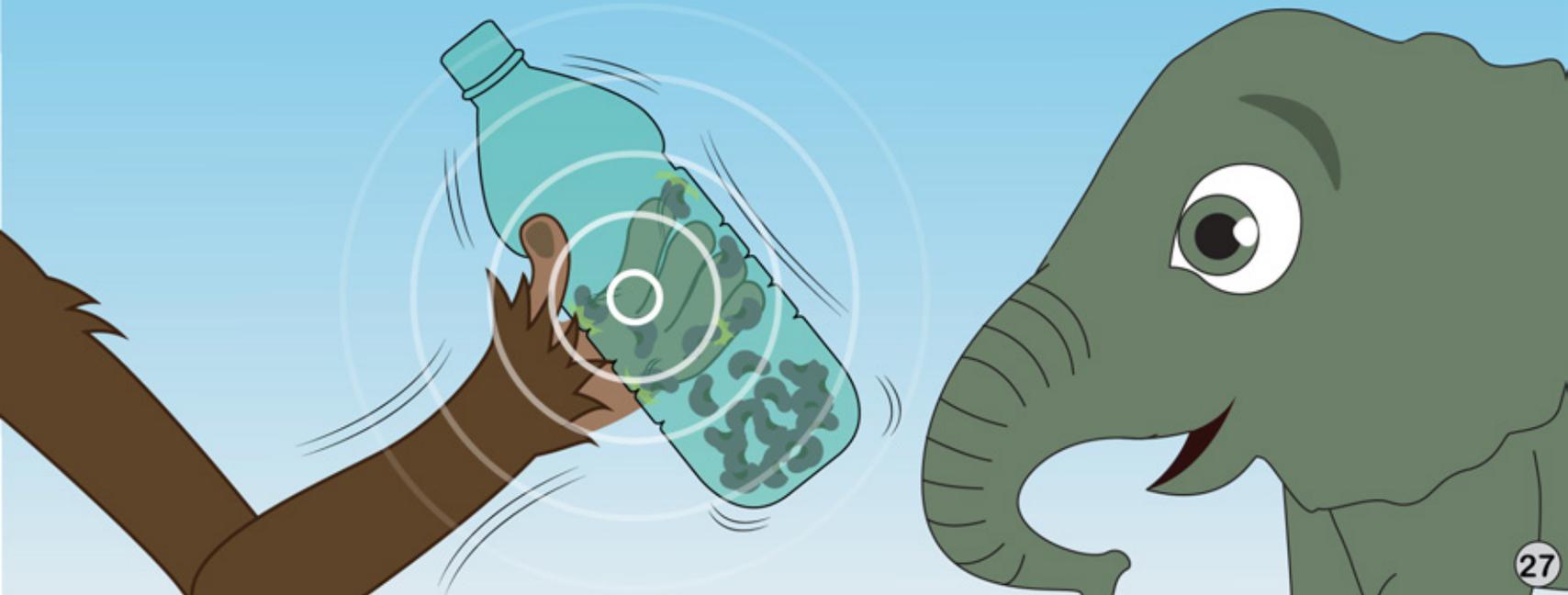
“I just shake them in the air without hitting anything.”



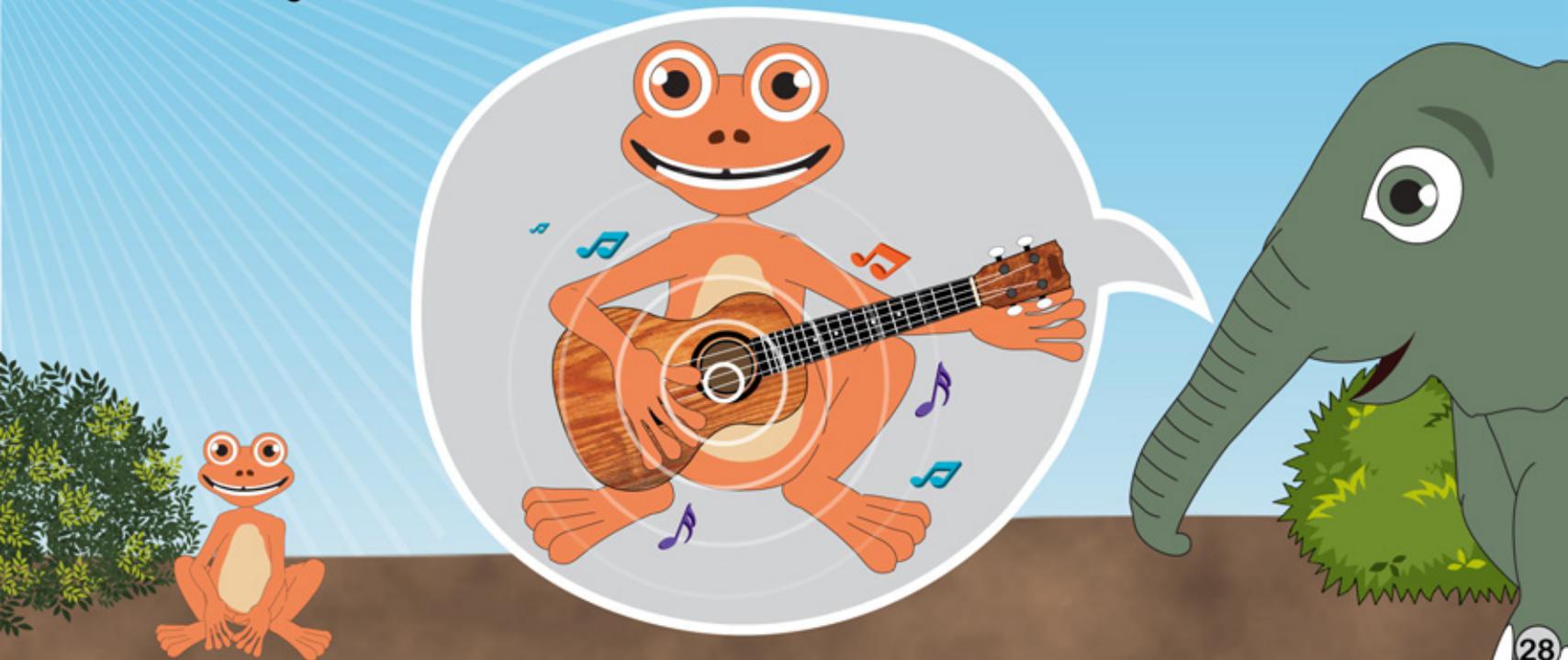
Uncle T grabs an empty bottle and Tiny Tembo finds some beans. They fill the bottle with the beans.



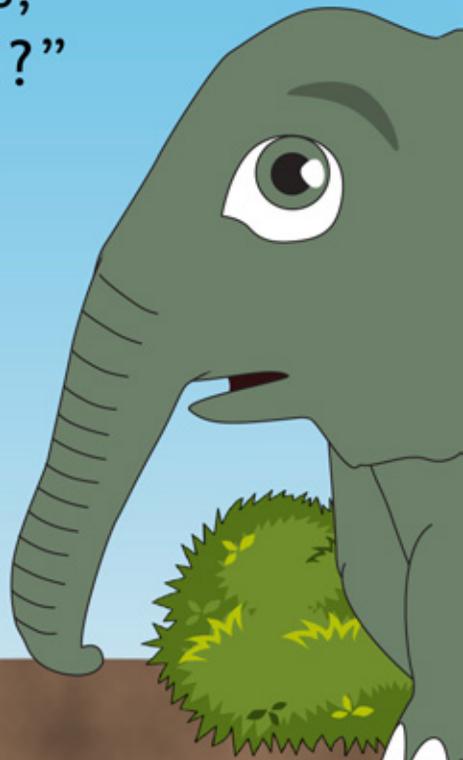
When Sister Monkey shakes the bottle, she hears a noise. “How is it making all that sound?” she asks. Tiny Tembo figures it out: the beans are hitting each other and the sides of the bottle, causing vibrations.



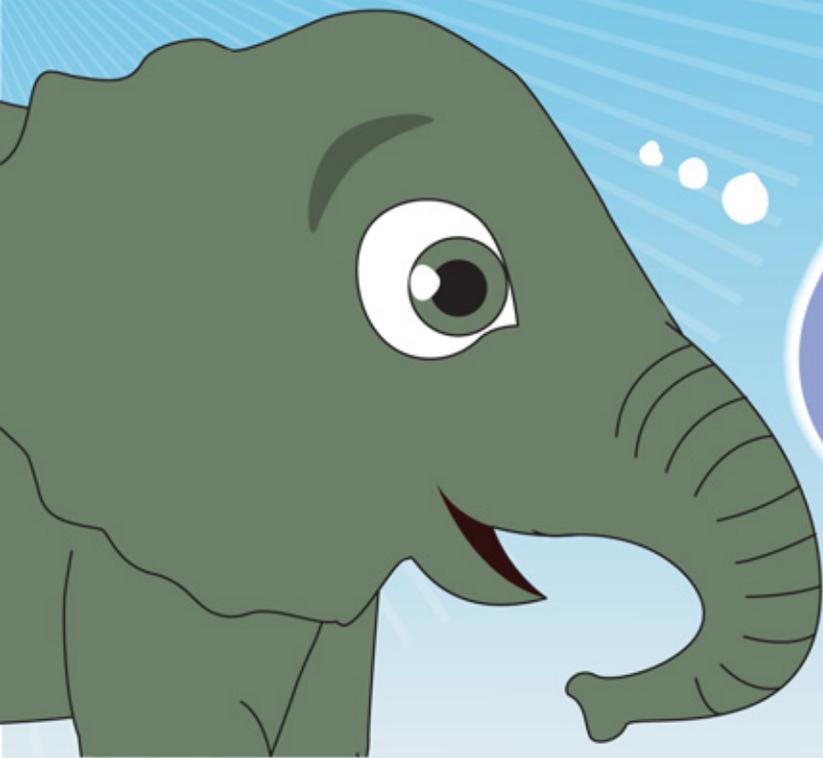
Now everyone has an instrument, except for Da Chura.
“How are we going to make a guitar?”
asks Tiny Tembo.



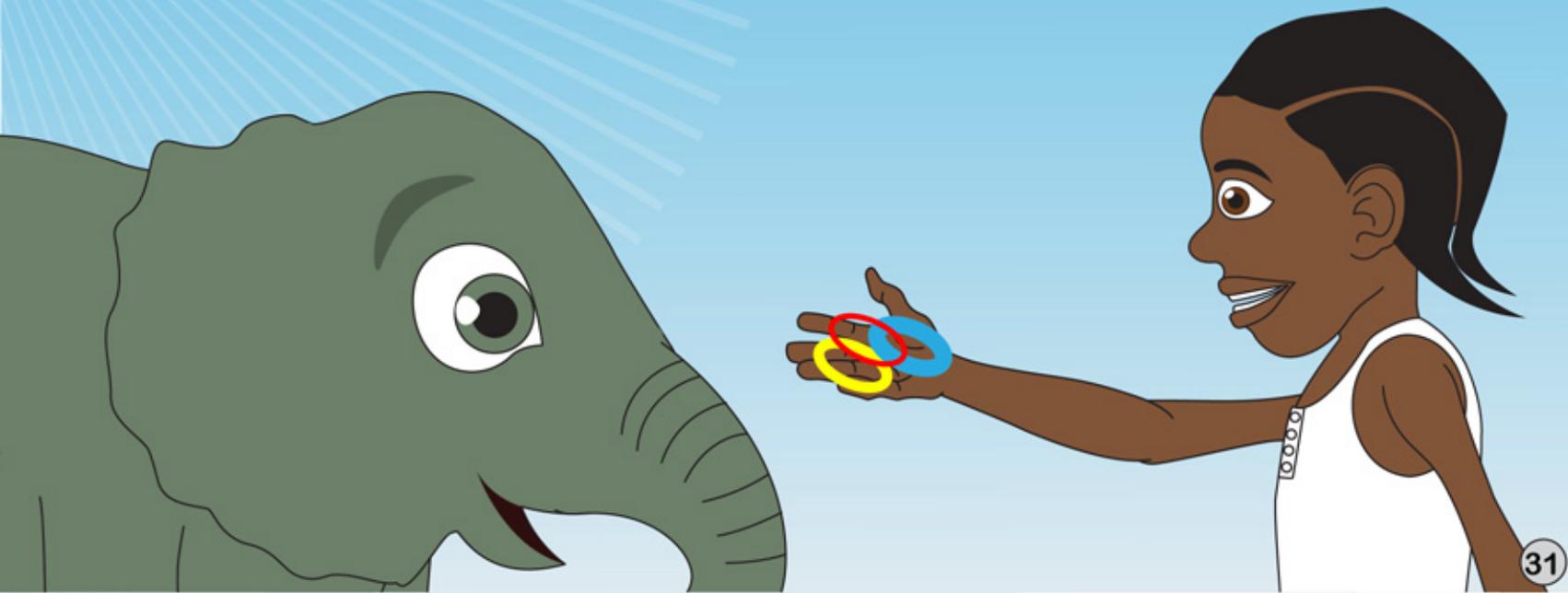
Da Chura explains that the guitar makes a sound when the string is plucked. Tiny Tembo exclaims, “The string vibrates when you pluck it...?!?”



Tiny Tembo has an idea about where to find something long and thin that will vibrate.



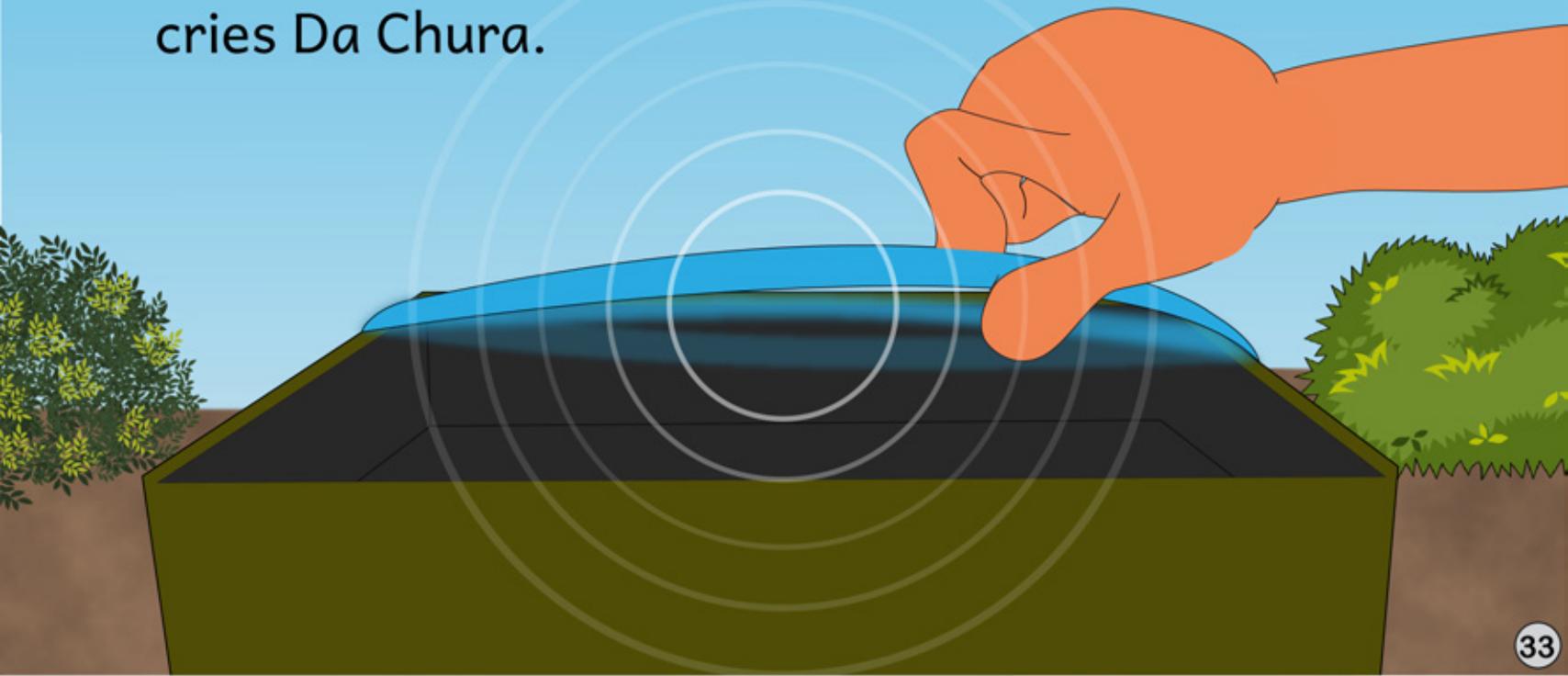
He walks over to Kibena, and asks Kibena for some rubber bands from her hair. She gives him a thick blue one, a medium yellow one, and a thin red one. Tiny Tembo hands the rubber bands to Mama Ndege.



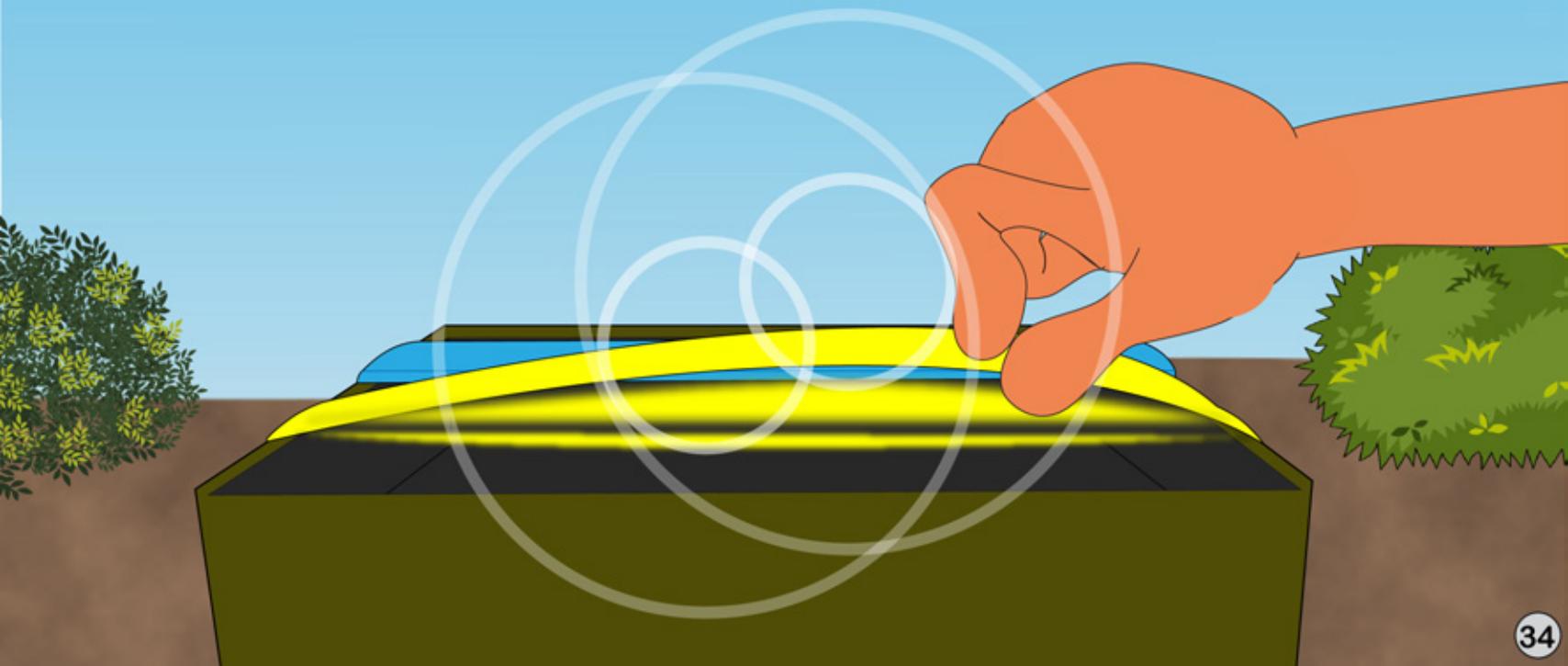
She wraps the thick blue one
around a box with the help of
Da Chura.



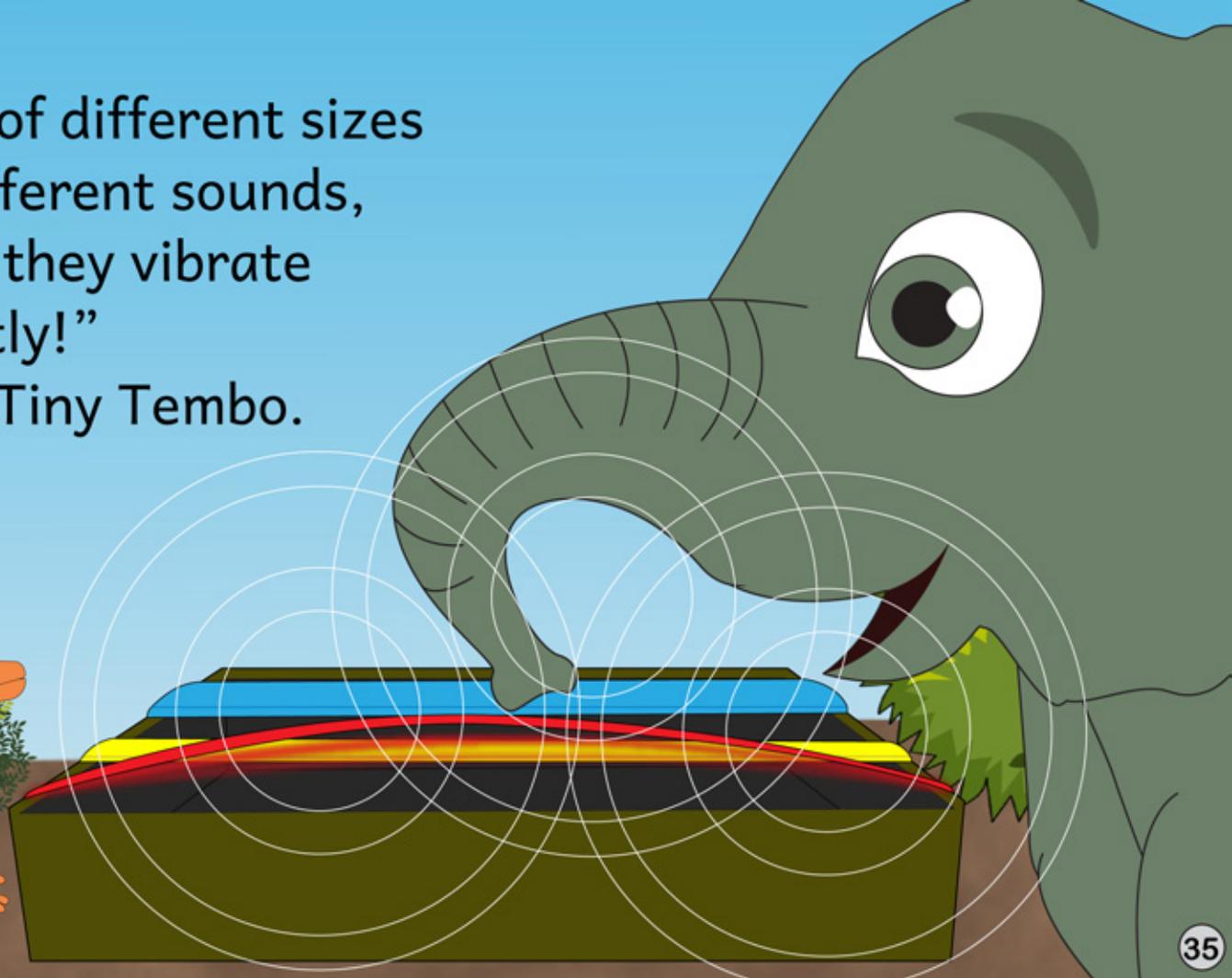
When Da Chura plucks it,
it vibrates and makes sound waves in the air!
“But it only makes one sound,”
cries Da Chura.



Da Chura adds the medium thickness yellow band around the box. She plucks it.
It makes a different sound!



“Things of different sizes
make different sounds,
because they vibrate
differently!”
realises Tiny Tembo.



Mama Ndege gets on the stage and makes a noise with her voice: “Mm-chaka...mm-chaka...mm-chaka.”
They all start to sing,
“Vibrations moving through the air,
create the music that we hear.”



“This year, everyone worked together to create some of the greatest music we have ever heard. So EVERYONE is the winner!” announces Baraka.



The judges hand out the prizes. “But wait, someone is missing! Where is Ngedere?” says Kibena.



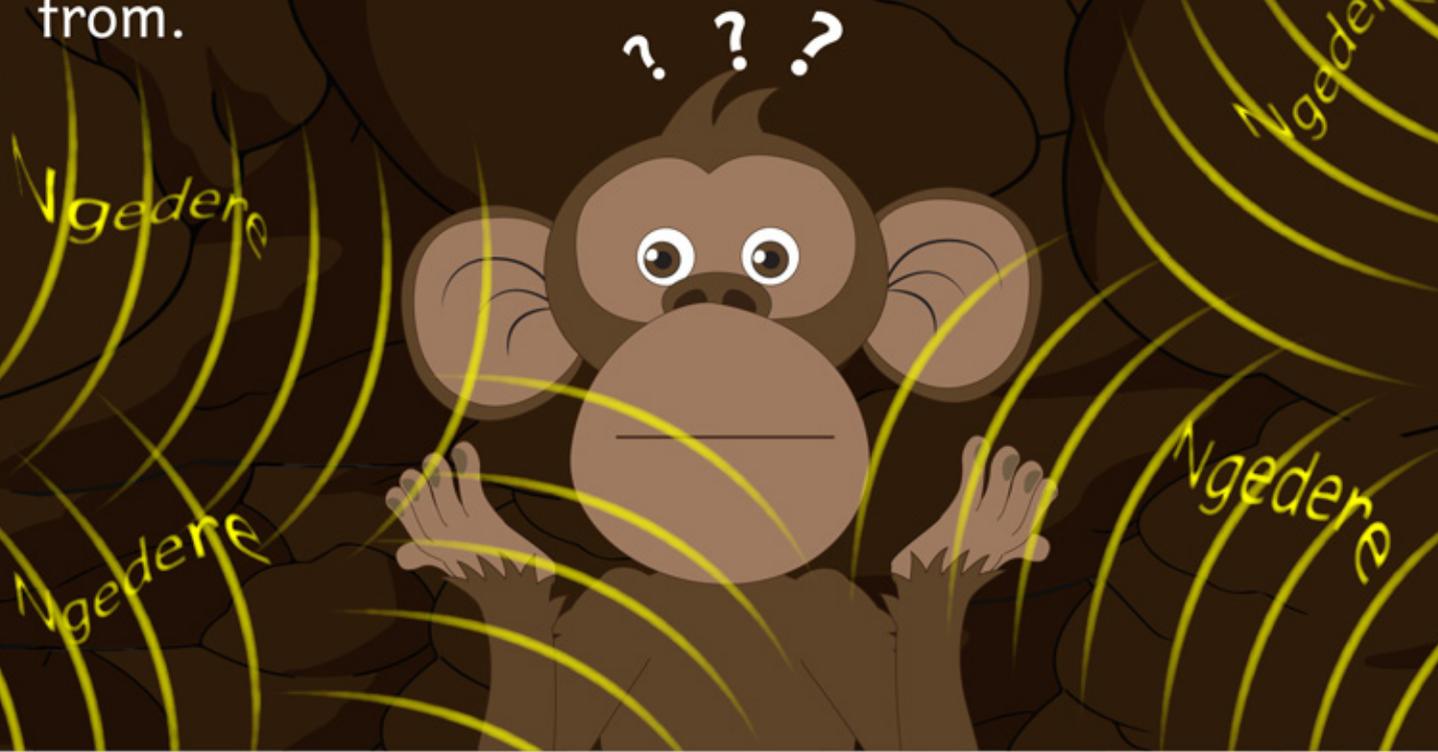
Meanwhile, Ngedere is wandering around in the cave.
"Where are you?!?" he calls, and the echo answers,
"Where are you? . . . are you? . . . are you?"



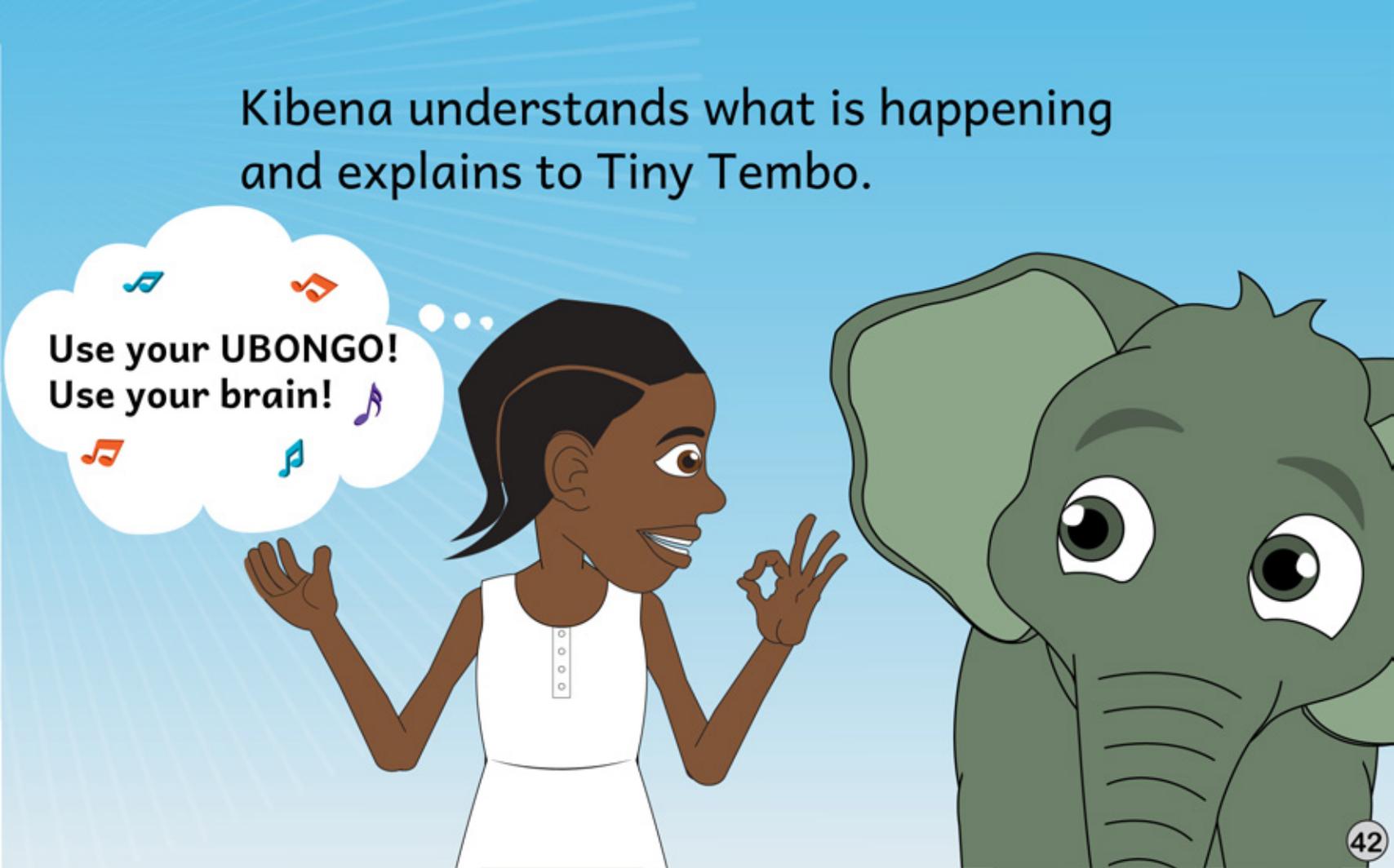
Kibena and Tiny Tembo arrive at the cave.
“Ngedere...Ngedere!” cries Kibena.
The echo answers,
“Ngedere...Ngedere...Ngedere...”



The echo makes Kibena's voice come at Ngedere from all different directions. So he can't figure out where the voice is coming from.



Kibena understands what is happening and explains to Tiny Tembo.

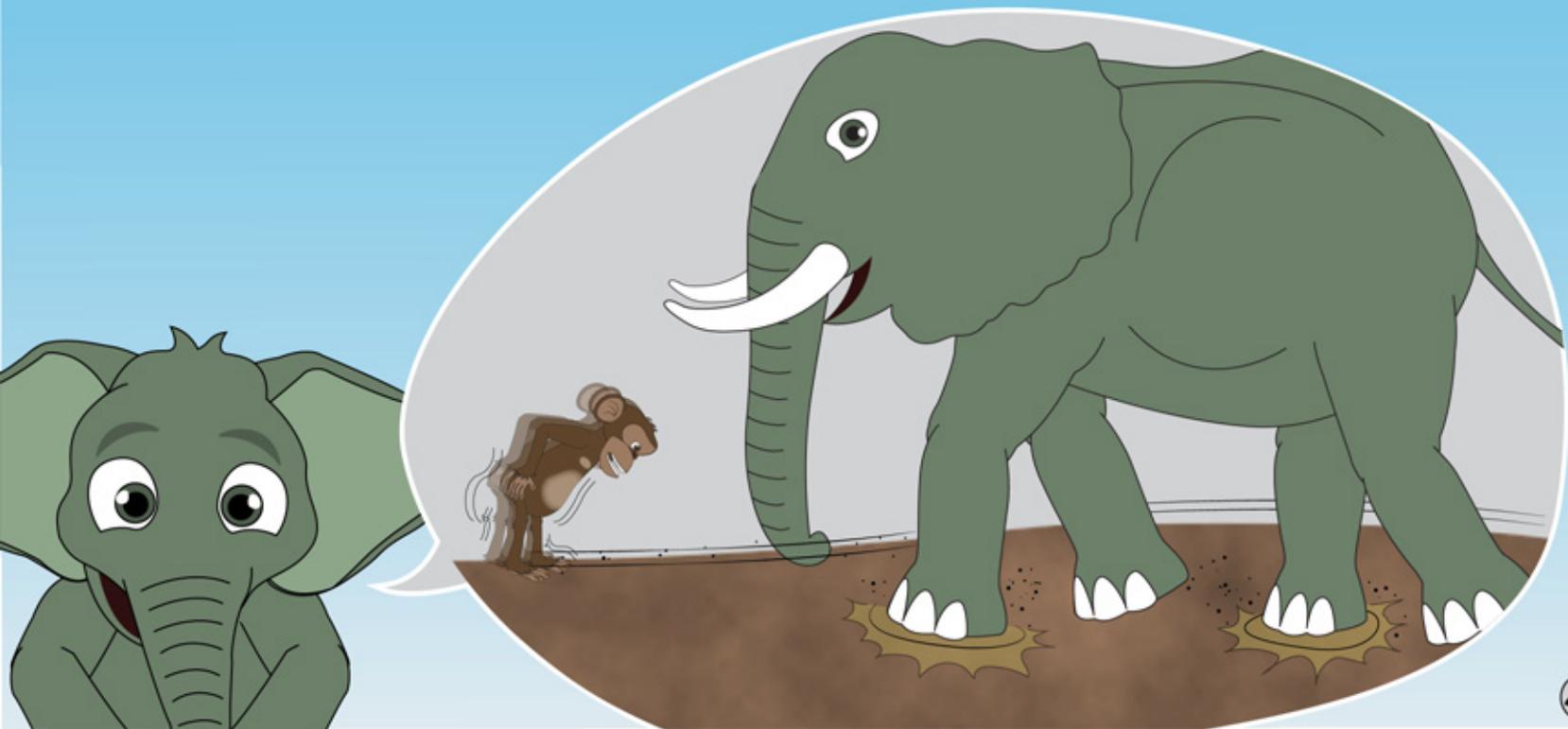


Use your UBONGO!
Use your brain!

“The sound waves are bouncing around in the cave, so he can’t tell where they are coming from,” she says.

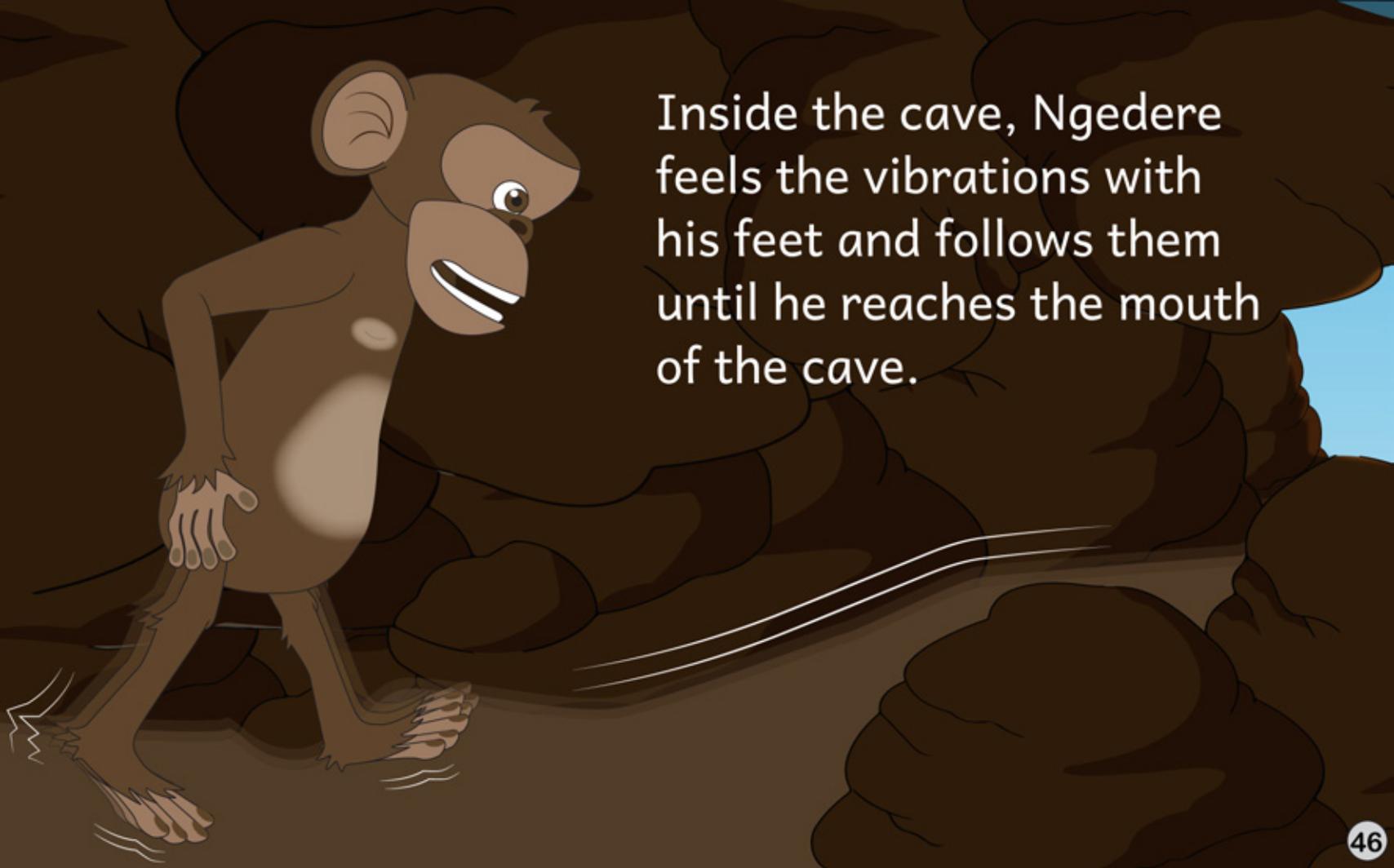


Tiny Tembo has an idea: they should make a vibration that Ngedere can FEEL, the way Senior Tembo's steps make the ground shake when he walks.



“We have to jump as hard as we can so that we make vibrations on the ground that Ngedere can feel,” Kibena tells Tiny Tembo. One, two, three... and they both begin to jump.





Inside the cave, Ngedere feels the vibrations with his feet and follows them until he reaches the mouth of the cave.

Ngedere appears at the mouth of the cave,
and they all cheer.



“Science saves the day again!” says Mama Ndege.





The End

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