

Strength in Numbers

multiplication

Kibena	Baraka	Kiduchu	Koba	Ngedere
7	7	7	7	27



Age
Umri
7+



One sunny day, the kids were playing jump rope.



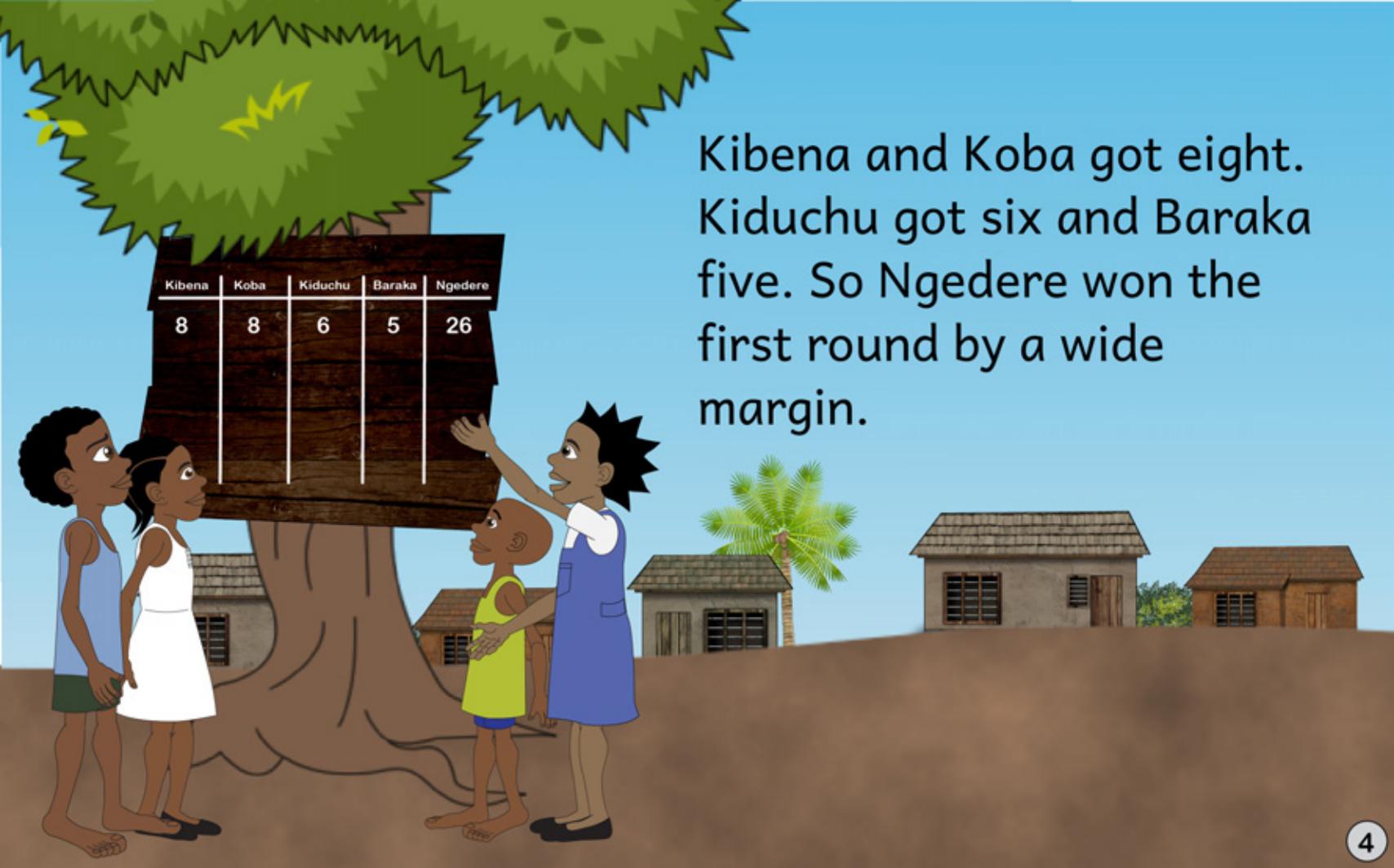
“Can I play with you?
I bet I can beat you all,”
said Ngedere.



Ngedere jumped first and got twenty six.

Kibena	Baraka	Kiduchu	Koba	Ngedere
				26





Kibena and Koba got eight.
Kiduchu got six and Baraka
five. So Ngedere won the
first round by a wide
margin.

Kibena	Koba	Kiduchu	Baraka	Ngedere
8	8	6	5	26



Kiduchu had a clever idea
how they could beat Ngedere.

Kibena	Koba	Kiduchu	Baraka	Ngedere
8	8	6	5	26

$$8 \times 4 = 32$$

“If the four of us jump together at the same time and get eight each, we would beat Ngedere’s score of twenty six.”

Because eight times four is **thirty two**.

And thirty two is more than twenty six.”

Kibena	Koba	Kiduchu	Baraka	Ngedere
8	8	6	5	26

$$8 \times 4 = 32$$

or

$$8 + 8 + 8 + 8$$

$$32 > 26$$



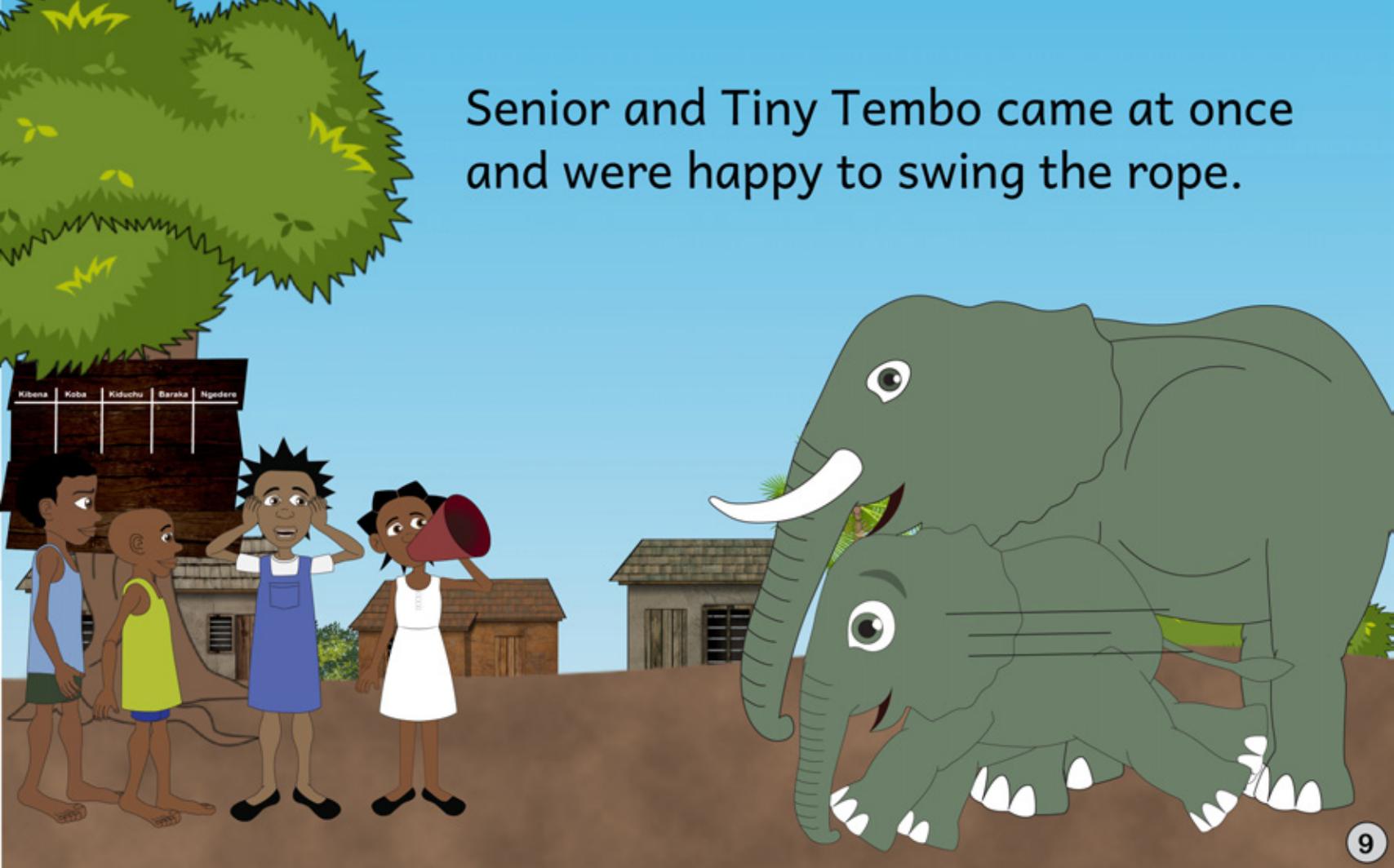
Kibena	Koba	Kiduchu	Baraka	Ngedere

Kibena agreed that this was a clever idea.

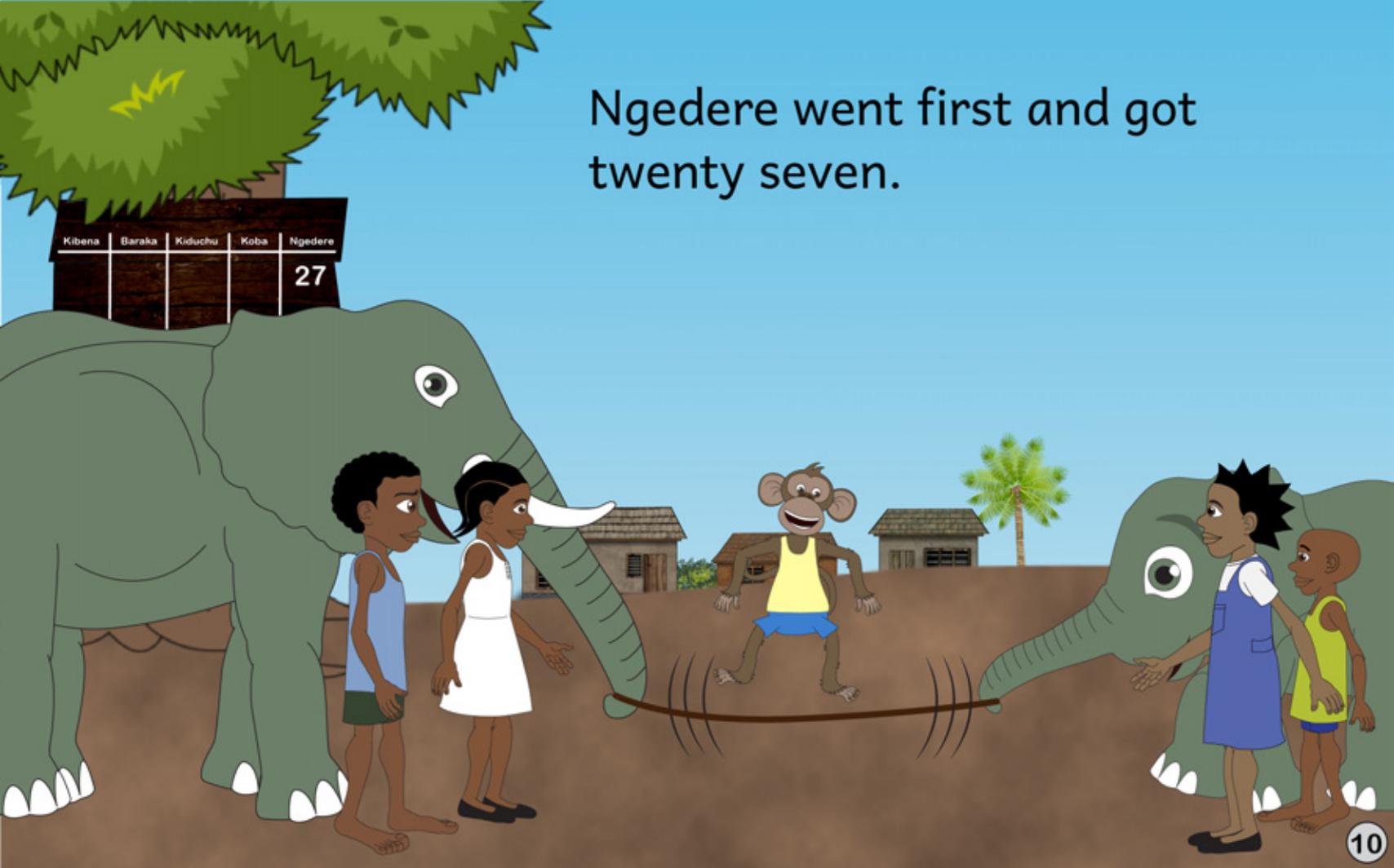
She blew her horn to call for help.



Senior and Tiny Tembo came at once
and were happy to swing the rope.



Ngedere went first and got
twenty seven.



The four children jumped
at the same time
and got seven.



Ngedere jumped up and down, singing and dancing,

“I’ve won! I’m the champion!
I’m super monkey!
I got twenty seven and
you only got seven!”



“Wait a minute!” said Kiduchu
“There are four of us and
we each got seven.

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Four times seven
is twenty eight.

We got one more than you.”

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$$4 \times 7 = 28$$

or

$$7+7+7+7$$

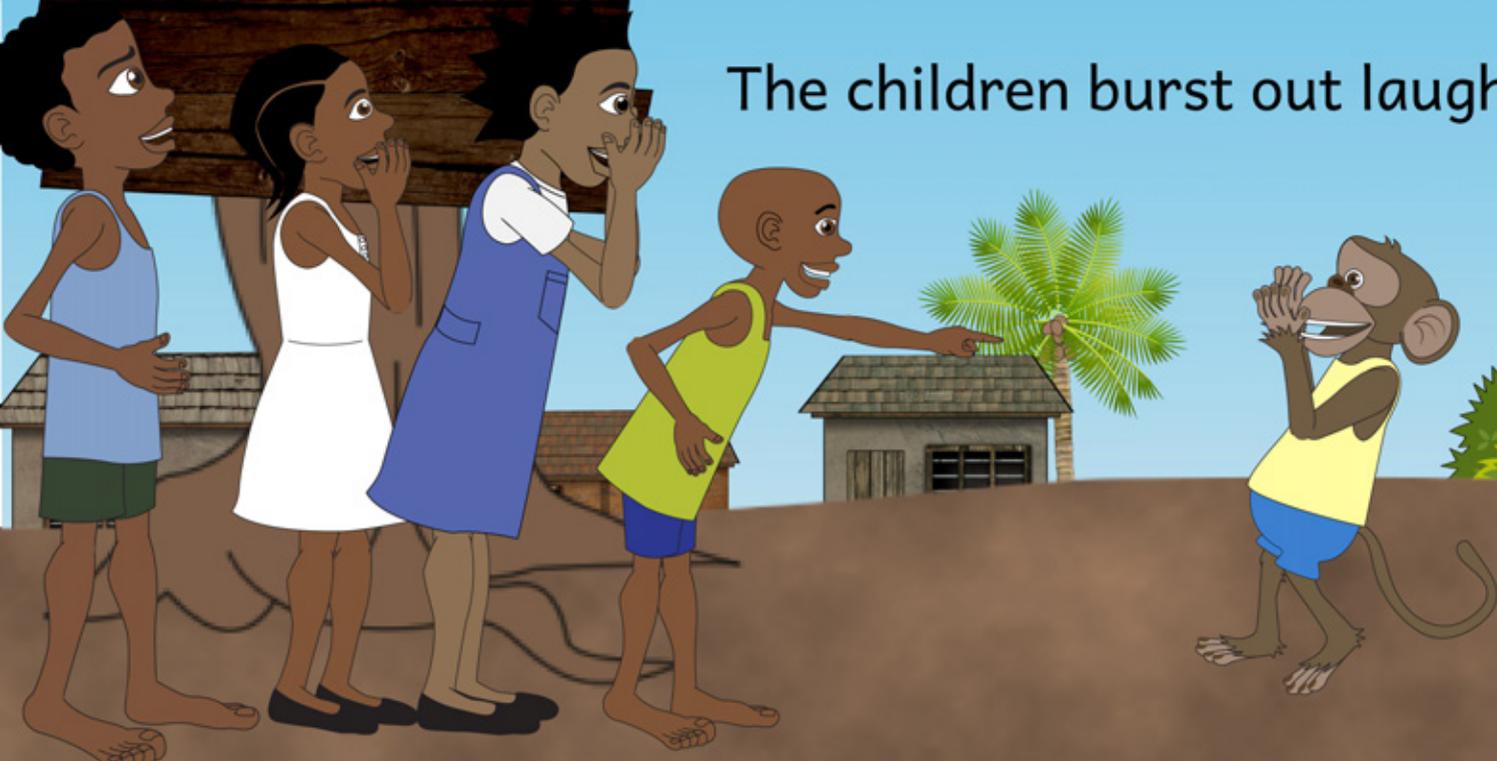
$$28 - 27 = 1$$



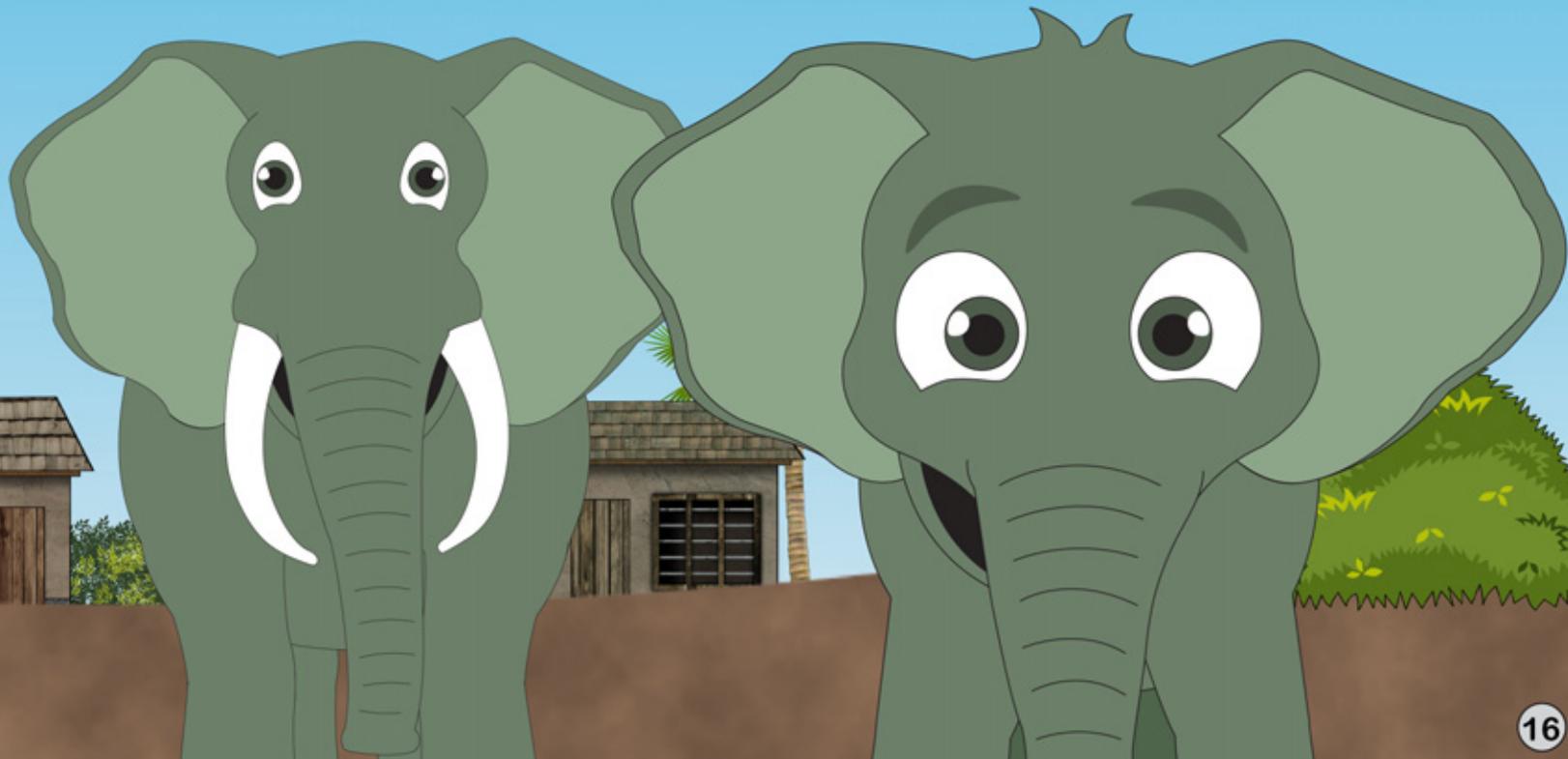
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“It’s not fair! You tricked me.
You used math to win,”
said Ngedere.

The children burst out laughing.



Now Tiny Tembo asked if he and his dad could take a turn jumping.



They got ZERO.

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7	7	7	7	27

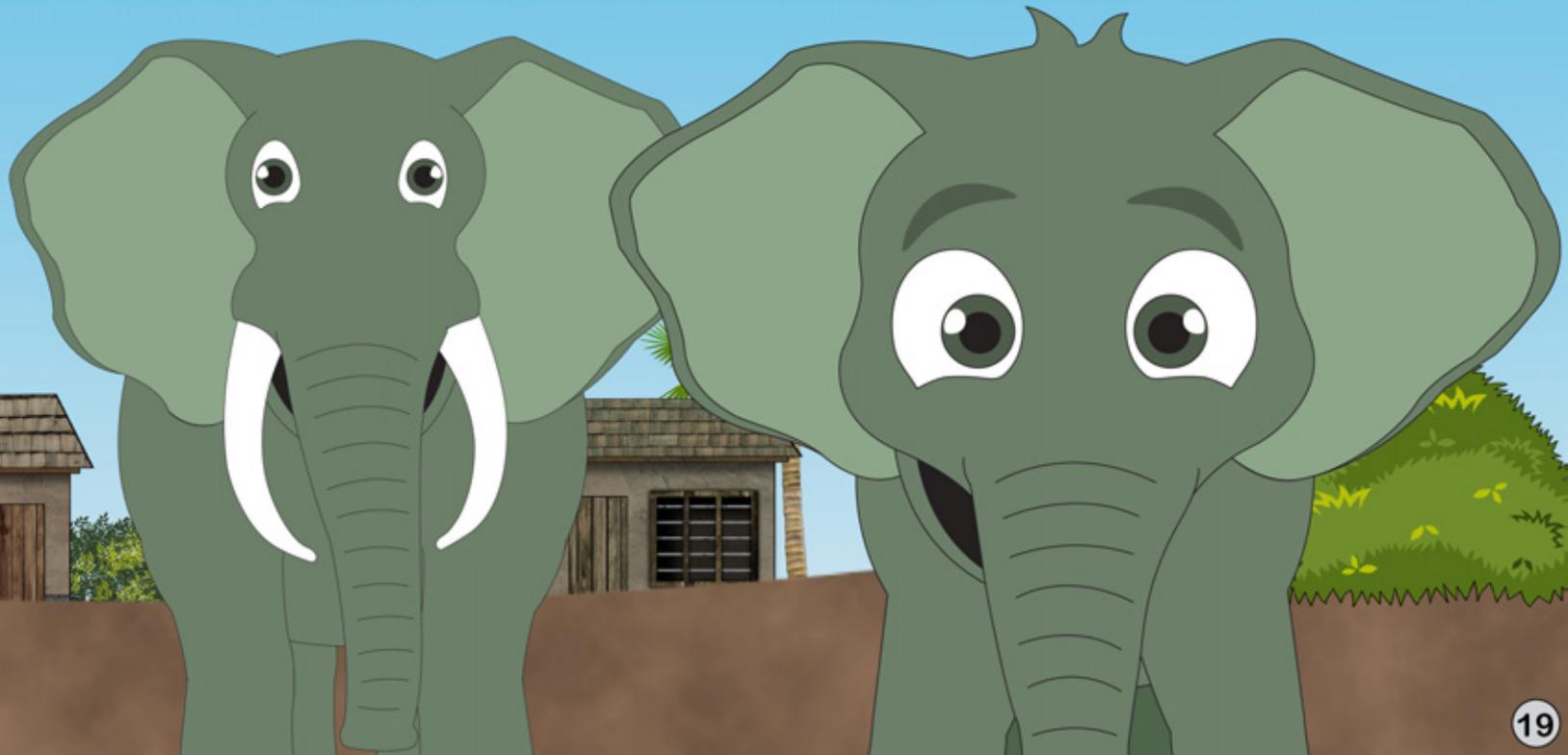


“Your score is still zero even though there are two of you. Anything times zero is just zero, because there’s nothing. So two times zero is zero.”



$$2 \times 0 = 0$$

“By the way, we missed because we wanted to make sure you all know the meaning of zero in multiplication! We could have jumped till morning if we'd wanted to!”



The children thanked Ngedere and the elephants for playing with them. It had been a fun jump rope contest.





The End

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