

The Magic Clock

time

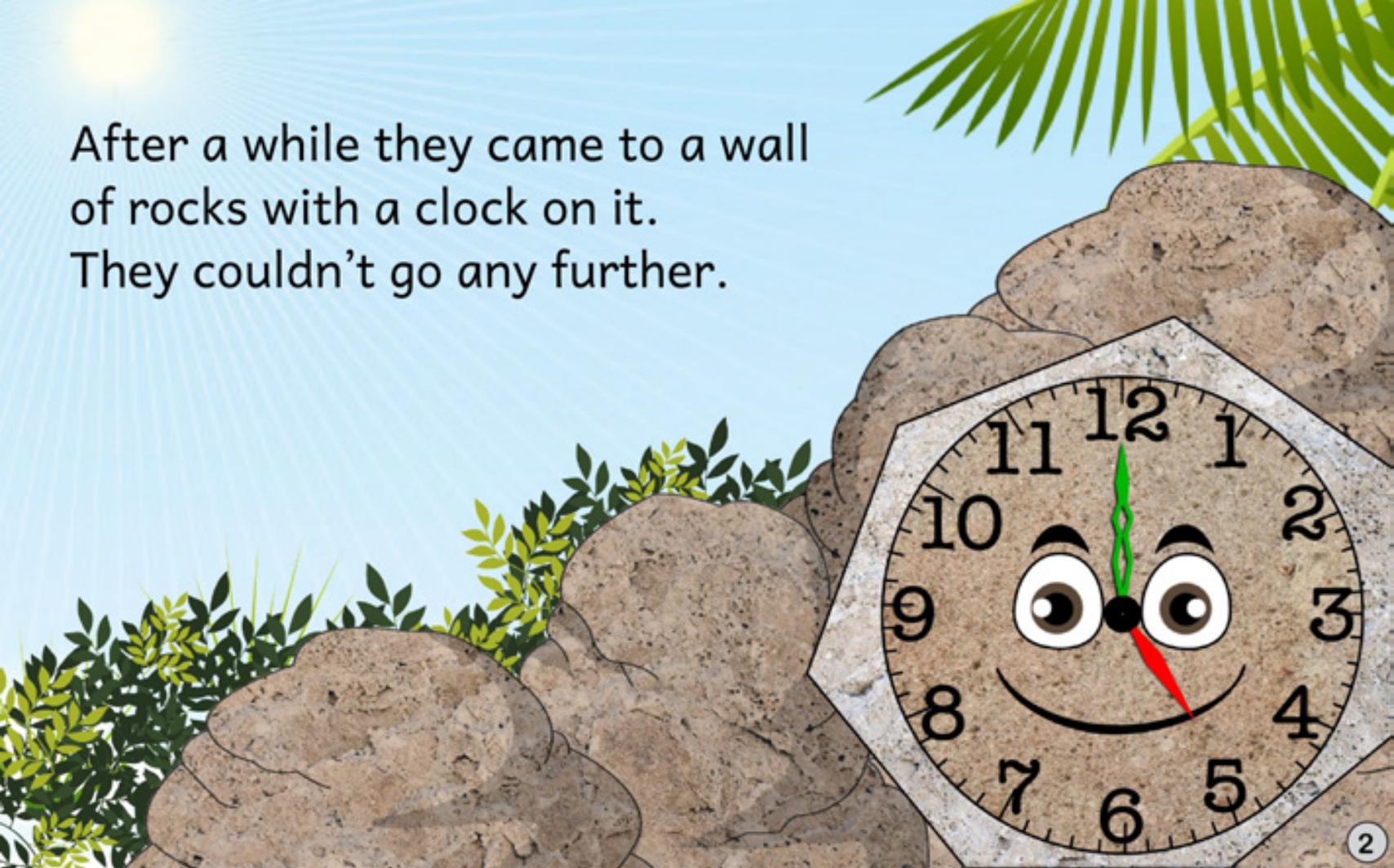


Age
Umri
7+

As soon as the race was over,
Mama Ndege led everyone in
search of water.



After a while they came to a wall
of rocks with a clock on it.
They couldn't go any further.





Mama Ndege flew over the wall to look on the other side. She came back, smiling and dripping with water.

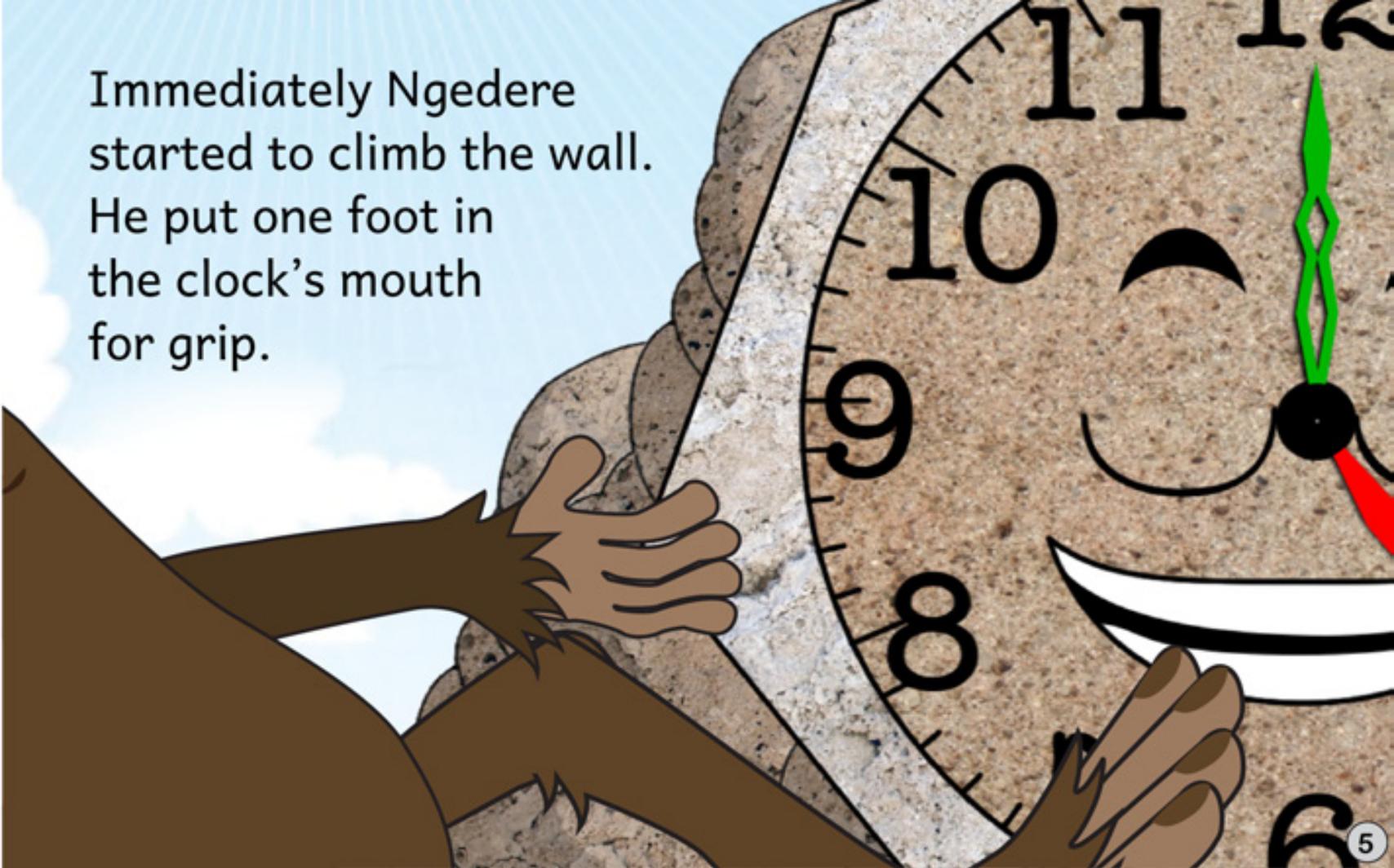




She told them there was plenty of water on the other side, so they must figure out how to get over the wall.



Immediately Ngedere started to climb the wall. He put one foot in the clock's mouth for grip.



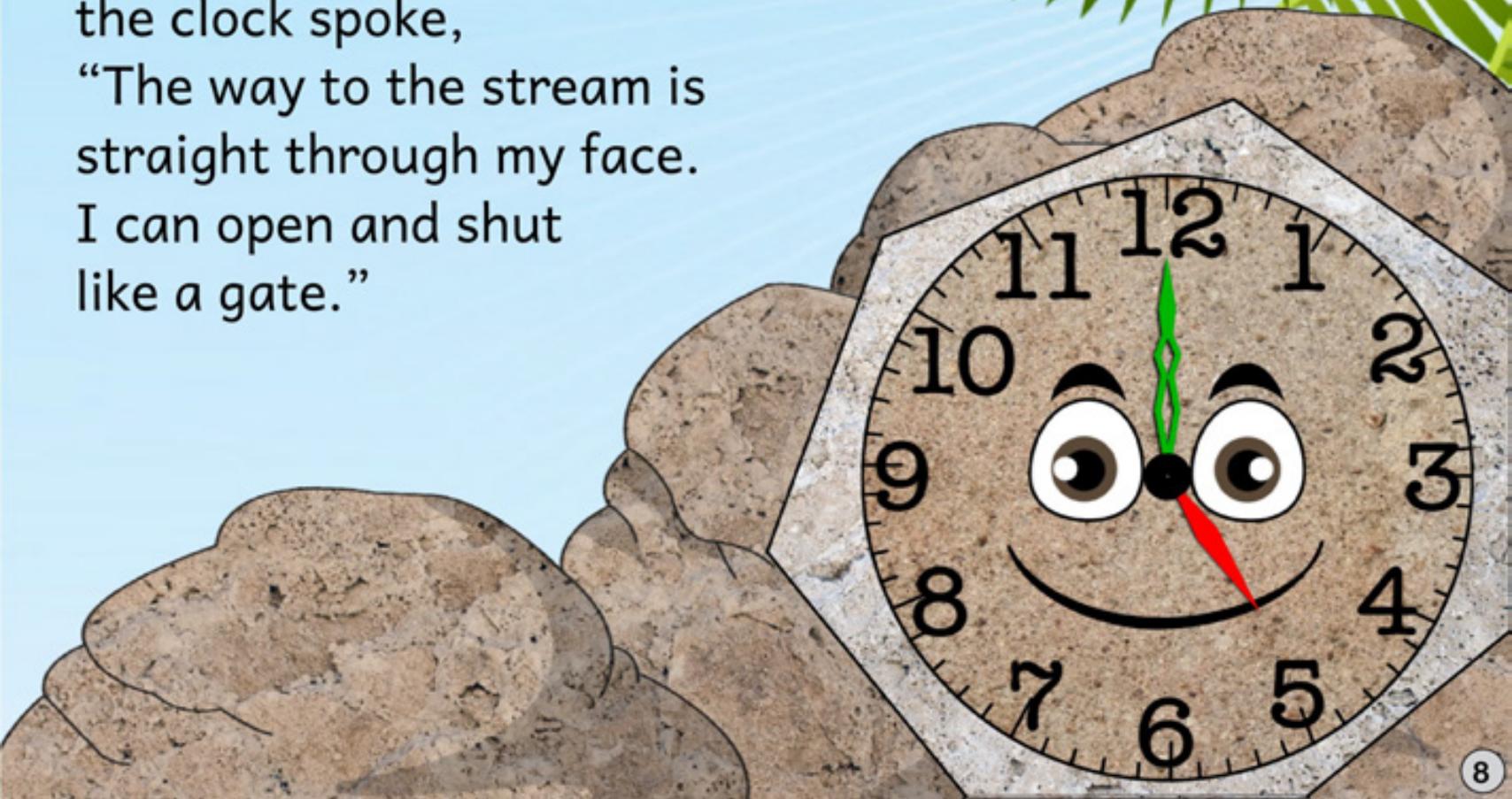
The clock bit his foot.





Ngedere screamed,
falling to the ground.
Everyone felt sorry for him.

Then to everyone's surprise
the clock spoke,
"The way to the stream is
straight through my face.
I can open and shut
like a gate."



The animals and the kids were stunned.
“The clock’s alive!” shouted Tiny Tembo.



“Answer my questions correctly
and you can pass,”
said the clock.

“Here’s the first one.
What time will
you go home?”





“I’ll go when it’s dark,” said Uncle T.

“When the sun goes down,” said Ngedere.

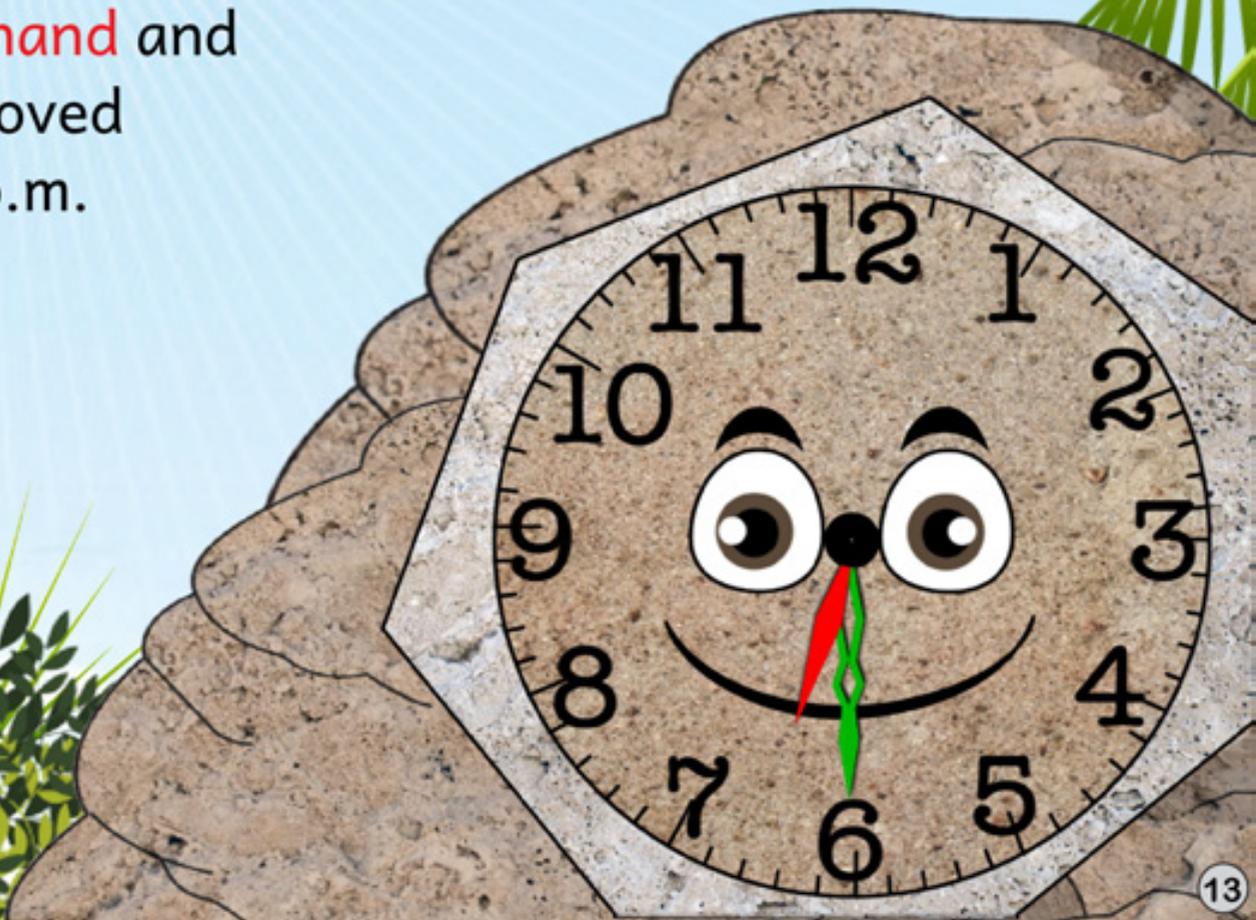
“At night,” said Baraka.



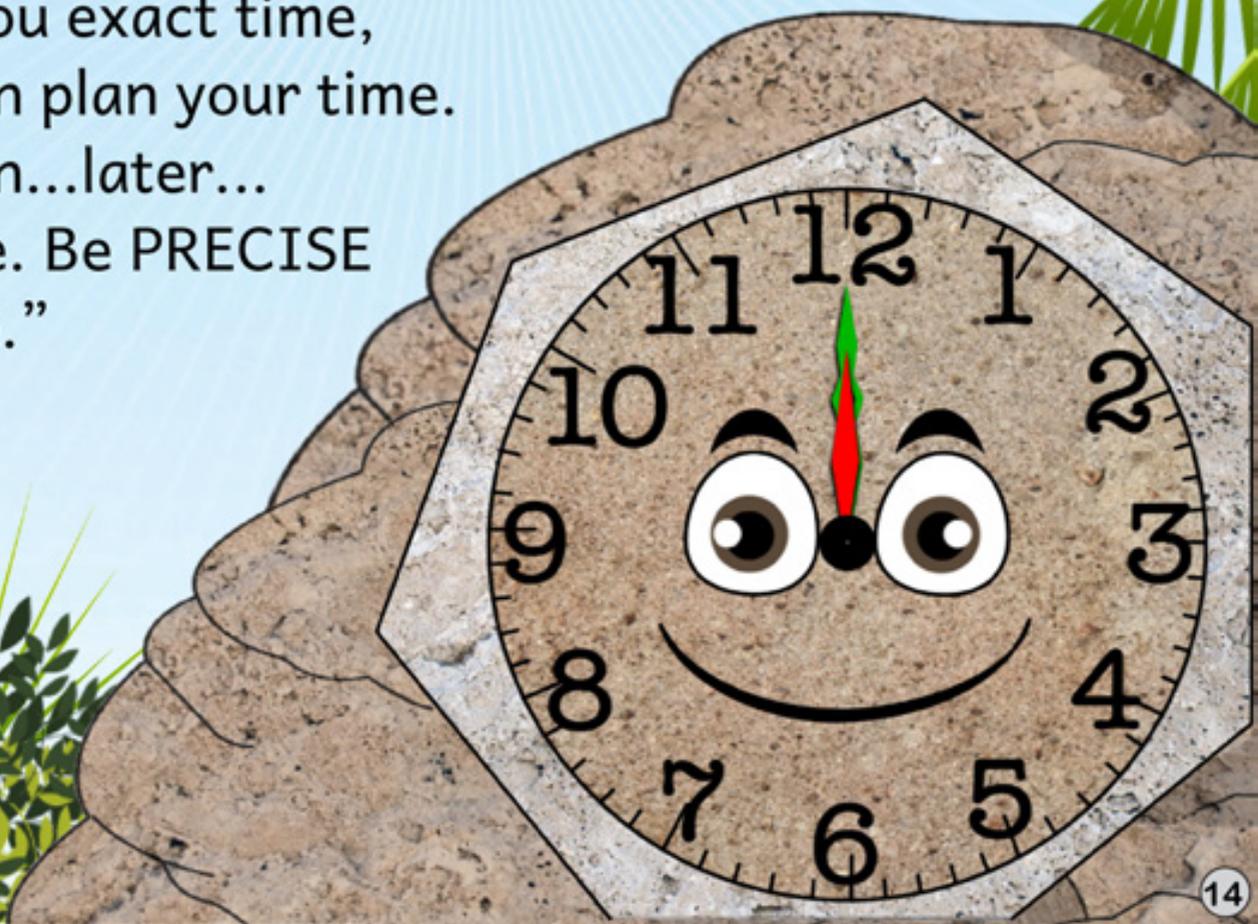
“At six thirty p.m.” said Kibena.



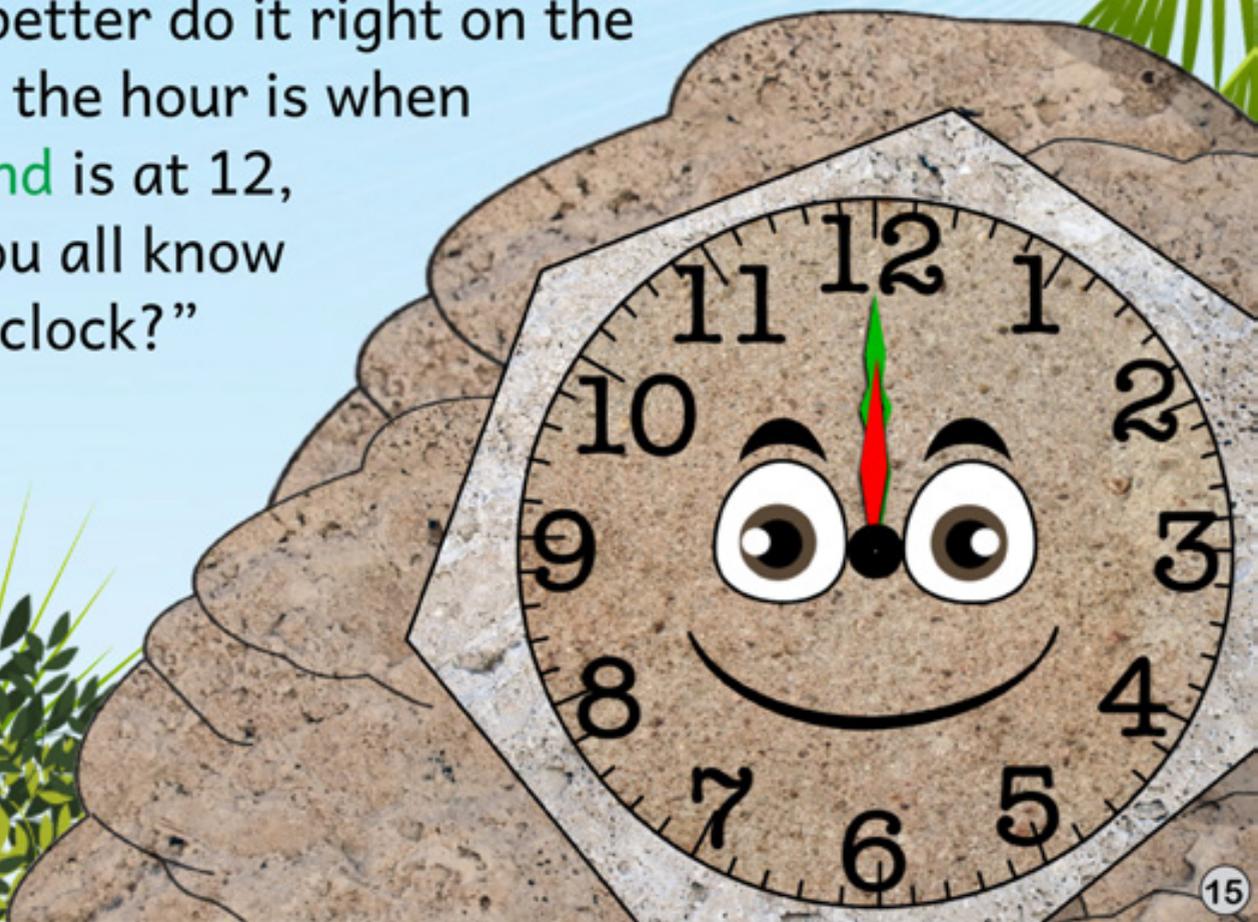
“Well done, Kibena!” said the clock,
as its **shorter hand** and
longer hand moved
to show 6.30 p.m.



“You all need to be mindful of time like Kibena.
Clocks show you exact time,
so that you can plan your time.
Don't say, soon...later...
in a little while. Be **PRECISE**
with your time.”



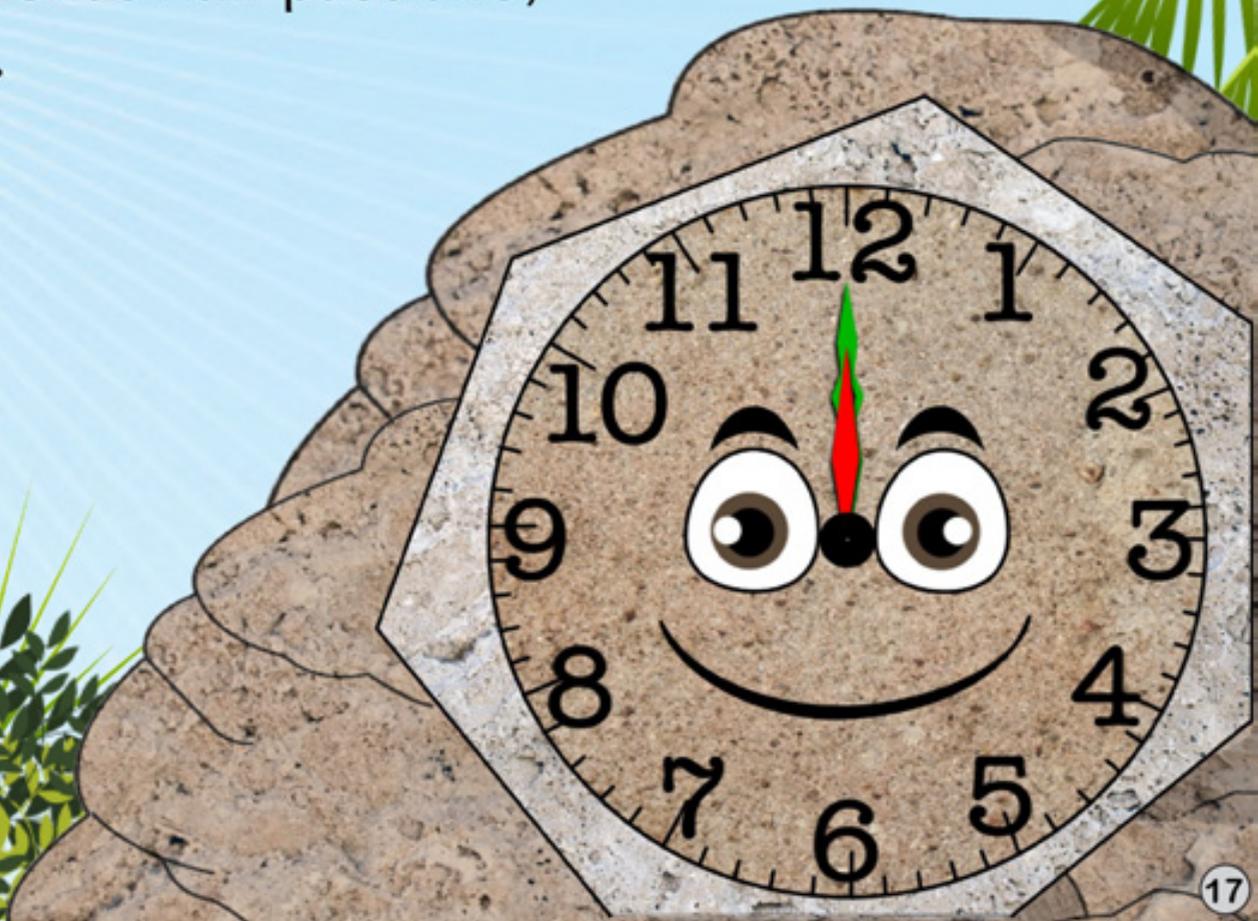
“If you have something to do at nine a.m. sharp, then you had better do it right on the hour. Right on the hour is when the **minute hand** is at 12, like this. Do you all know how to read a clock?”



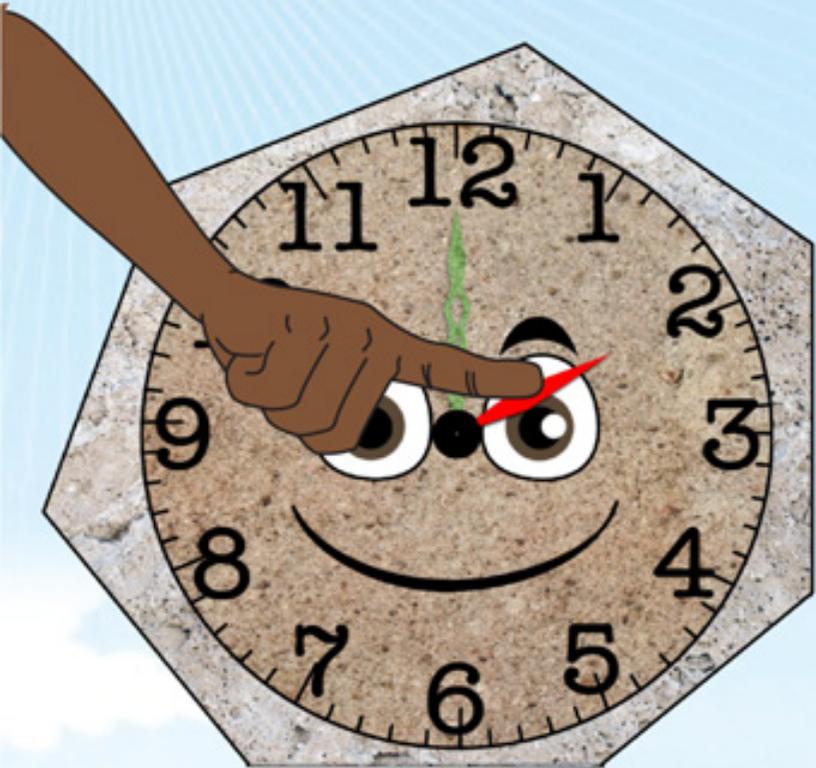
Kibena said, "I use clocks all the time,
so that I can schedule my day.
I get out of school at
half past two every day."



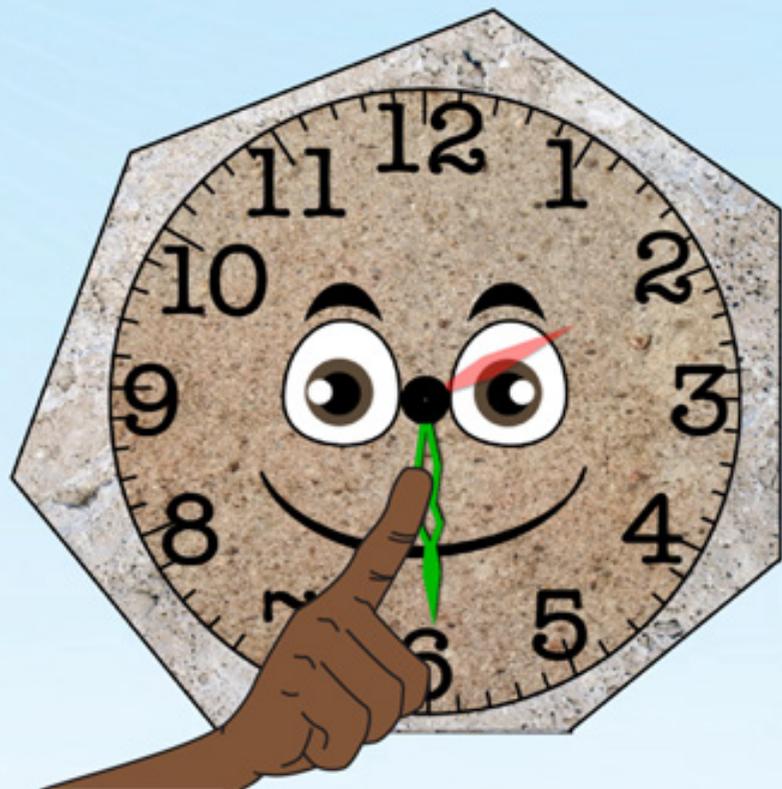
“Show your friends half past two,”
said the clock.



Kibena moved
the **shorter hand** to two



and the **longer hand** to six.



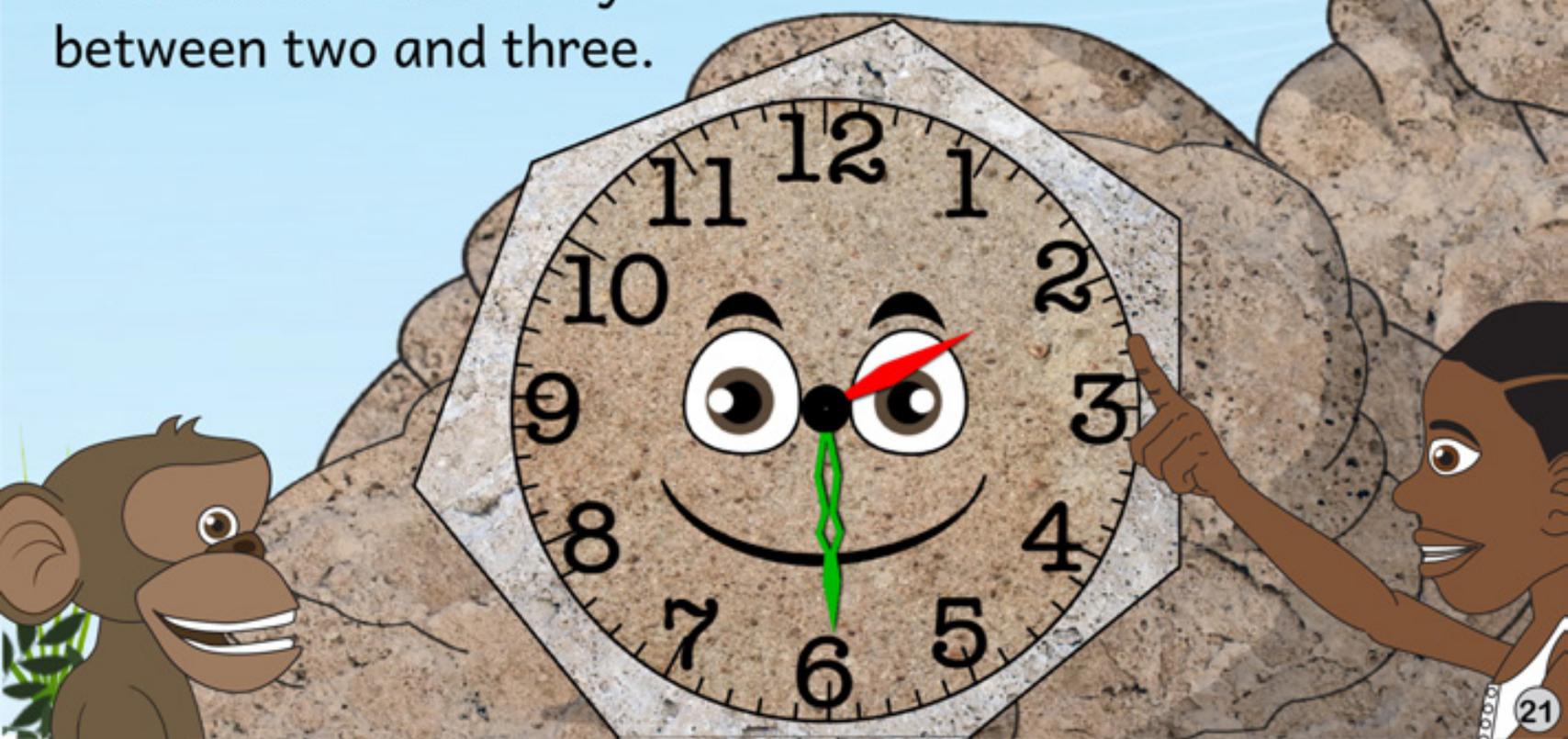
“Why is the minute hand at six, Kibena?”
asked Ngedere.



“Six is halfway around
the full circle...
so it means half an hour.
Or half past two!”



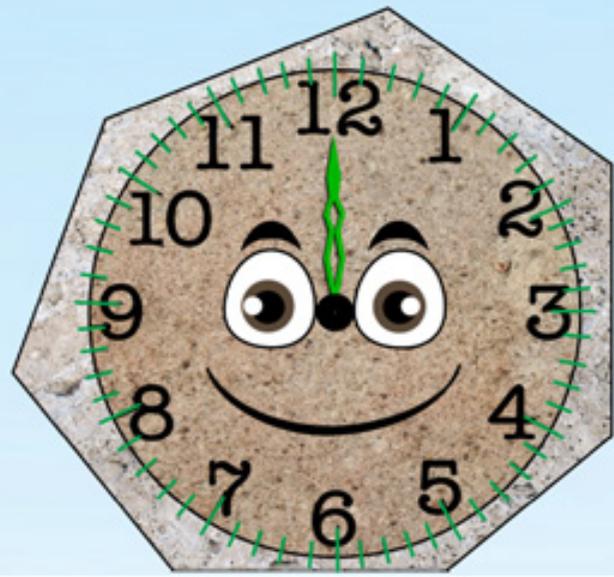
The clock then reminded Kibena,
“You forgot that the **hour hand**
should also be halfway
between two and three.



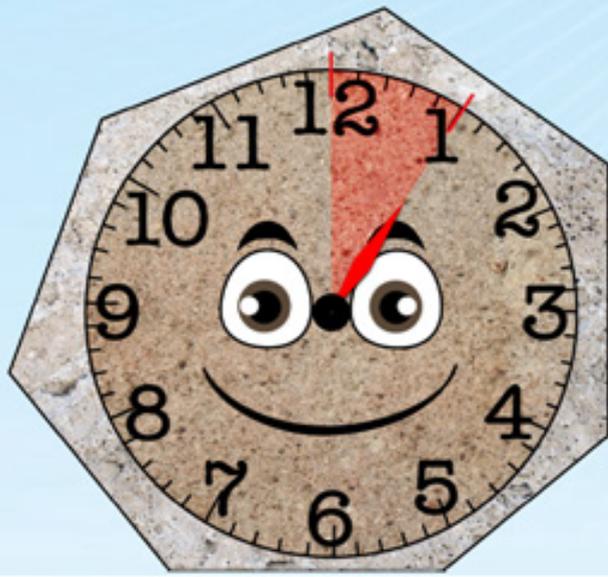
Let me explain why that is.

Both of my clock hands revolve around the clock.

The **minute hand**
(the longer hand)
moves every minute.



The **hour hand**
(the shorter hand)
moves much more slowly.



In one hour,
the **minute hand**
makes one round.



minute

The **hour hand**
moves only a little, from one
number to the next number.



hour

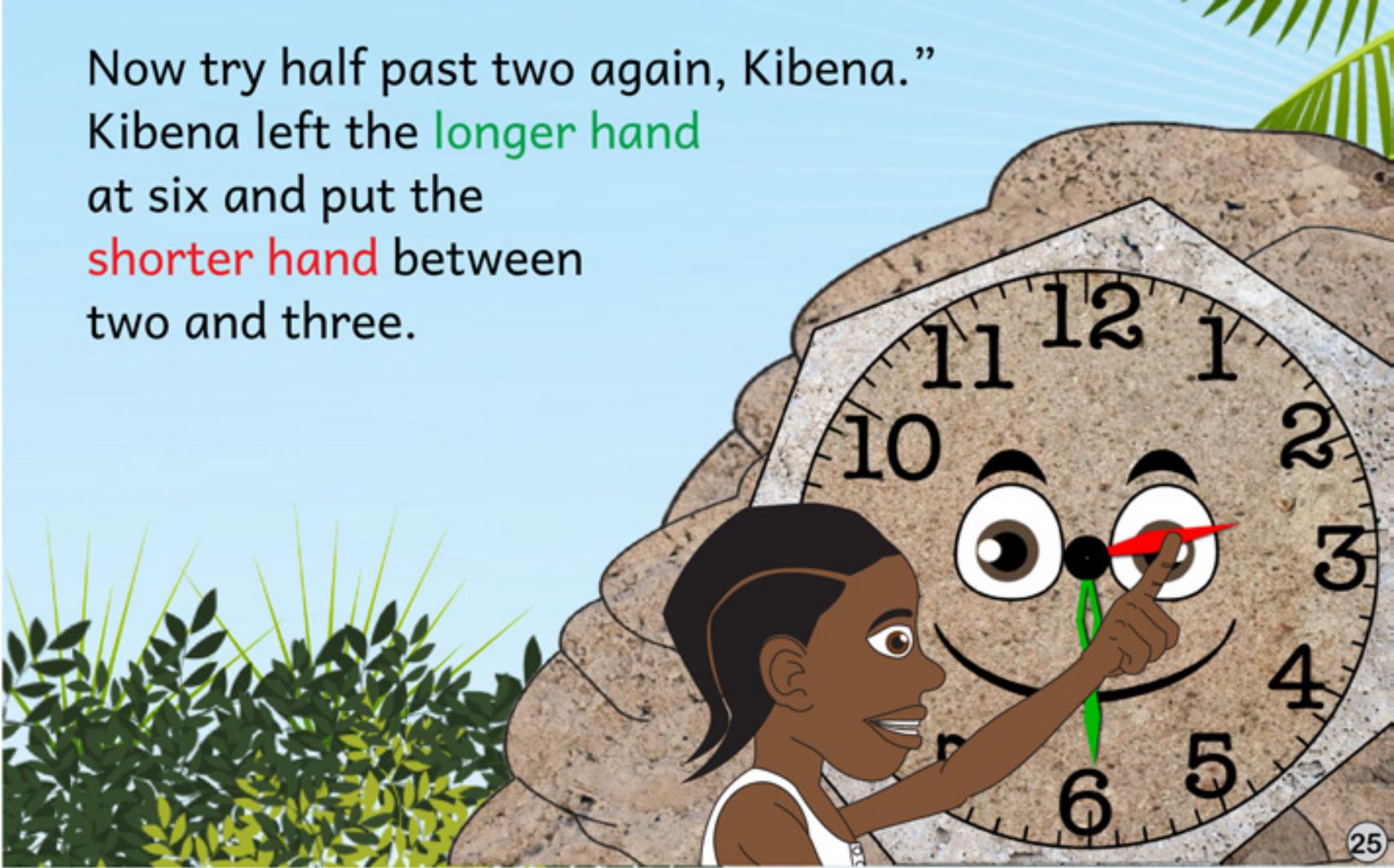


So when the **minute hand** has gone halfway around, this means **thirty minutes**.

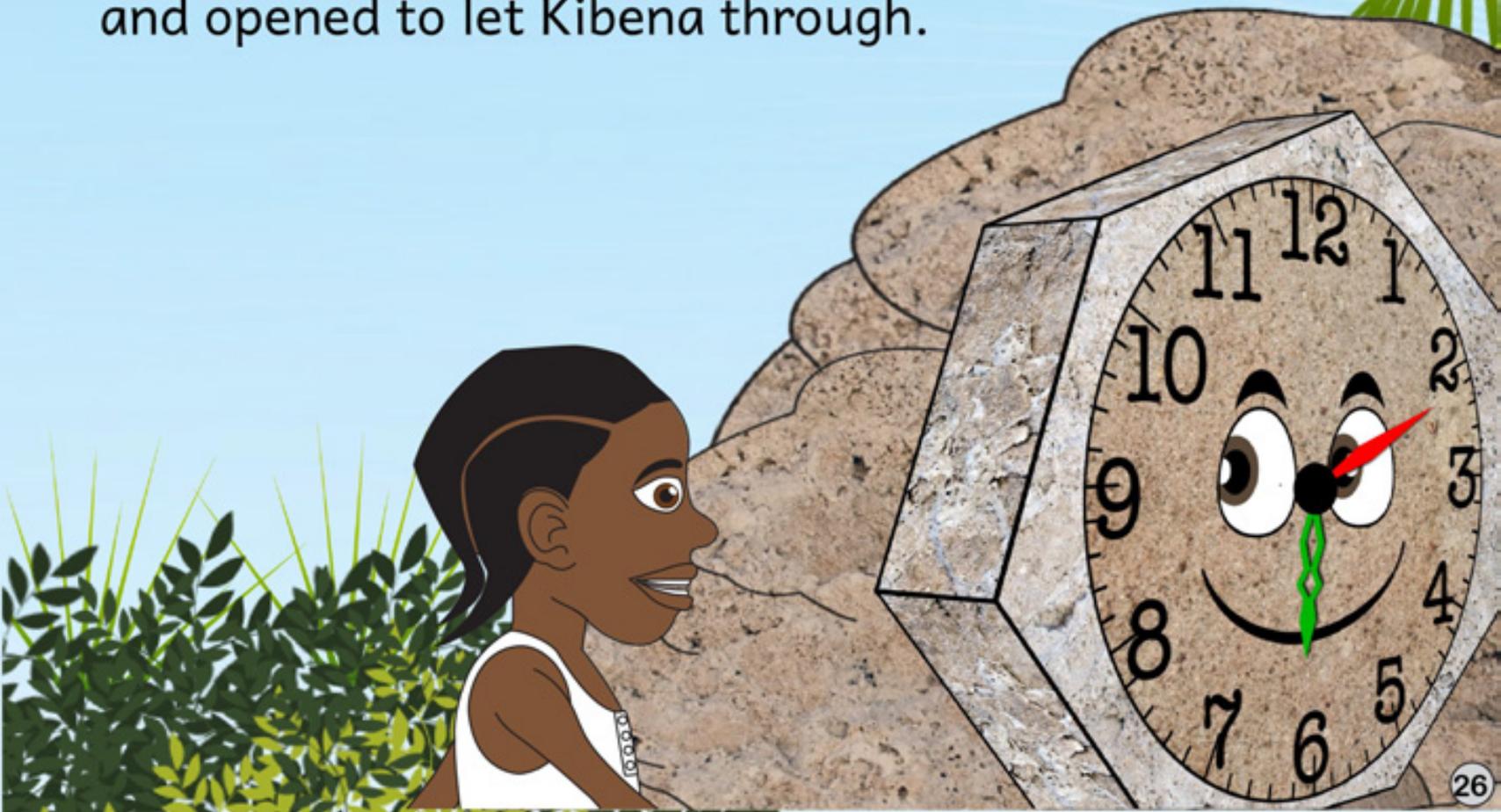


Then the **hour hand** has to be halfway between the two numbers.

Now try half past two again, Kibena.”
Kibena left the **longer hand**
at six and put the
shorter hand between
two and three.



The clock struck DONG! DONG!
and opened to let Kibena through.

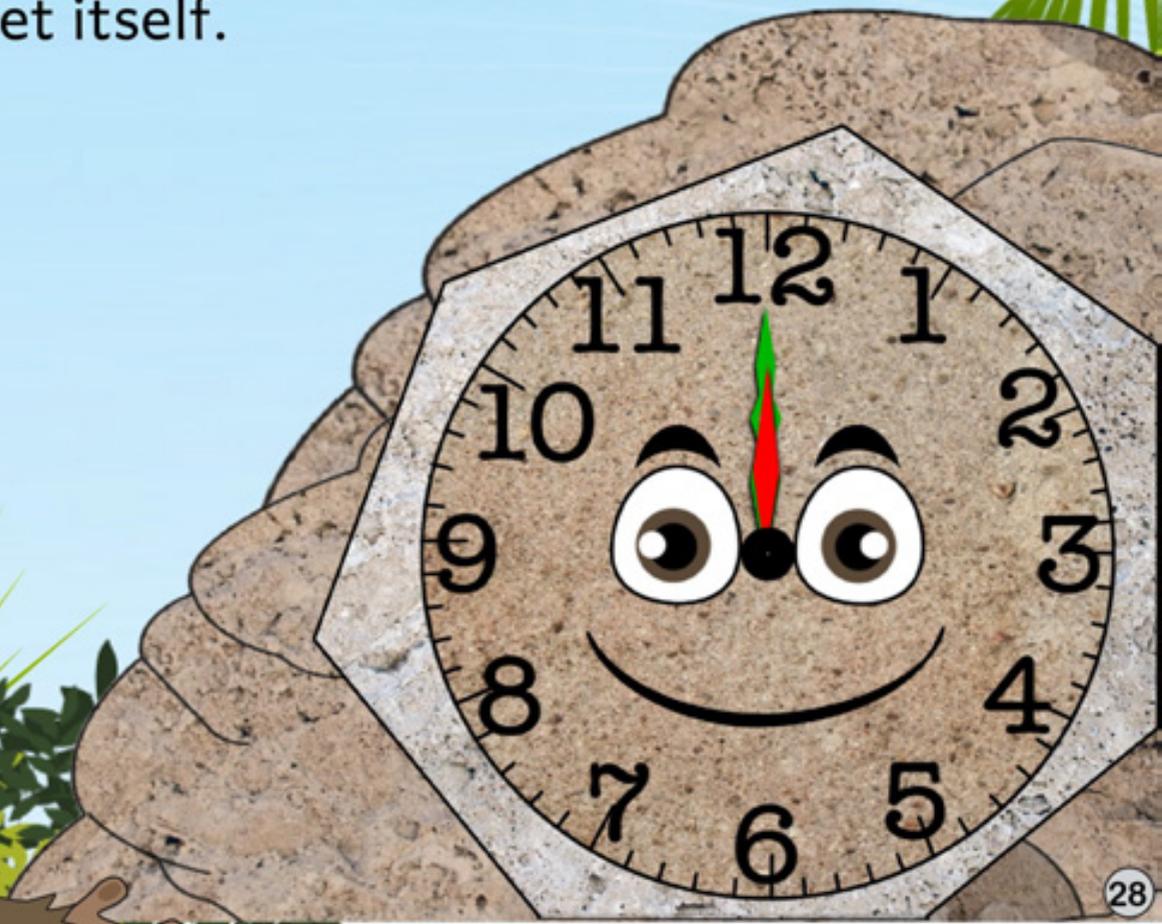


“What about us?” yelled everyone else.

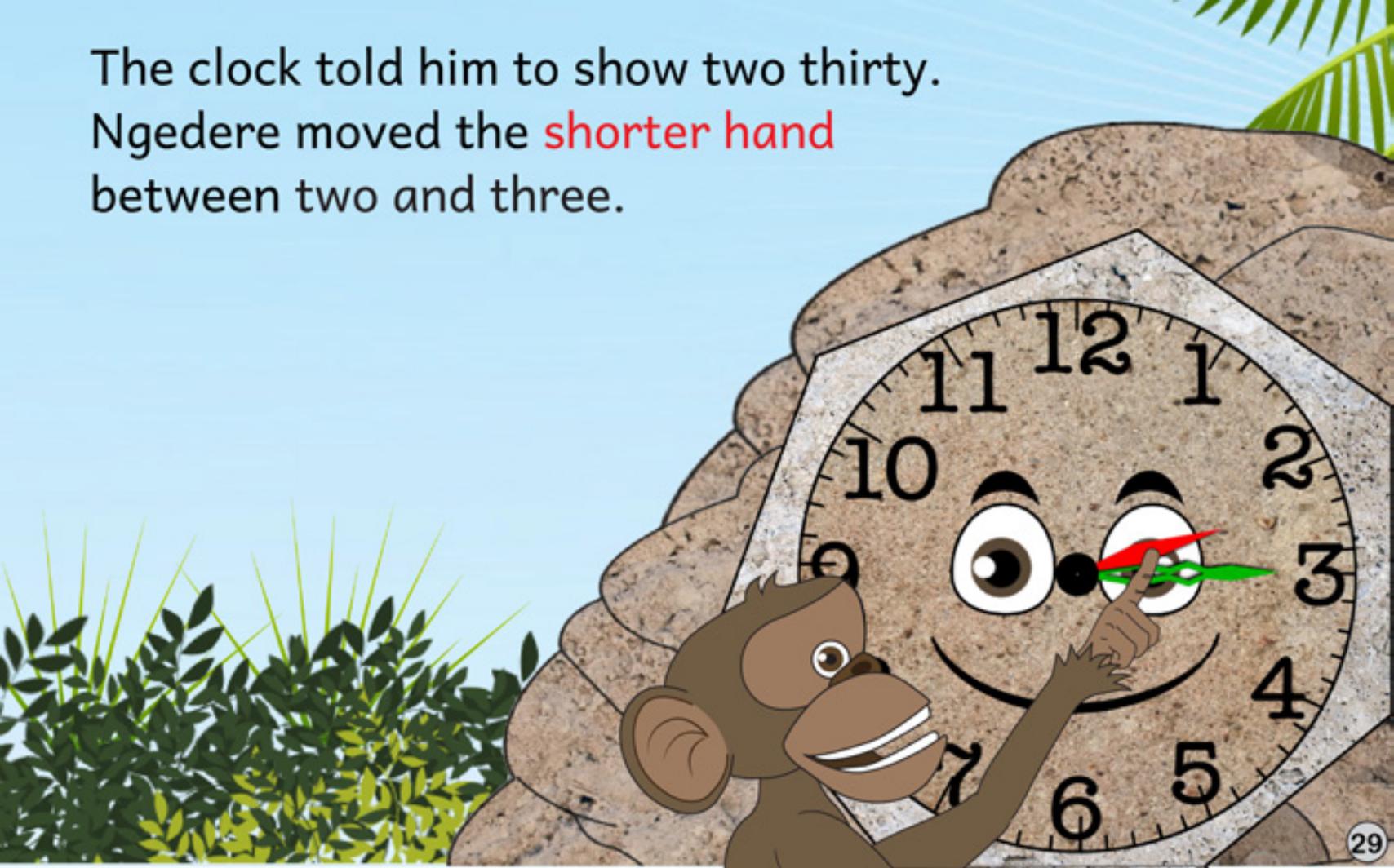
“You’ve got to answer
a question correctly
if you want to pass,”
replied the clock.



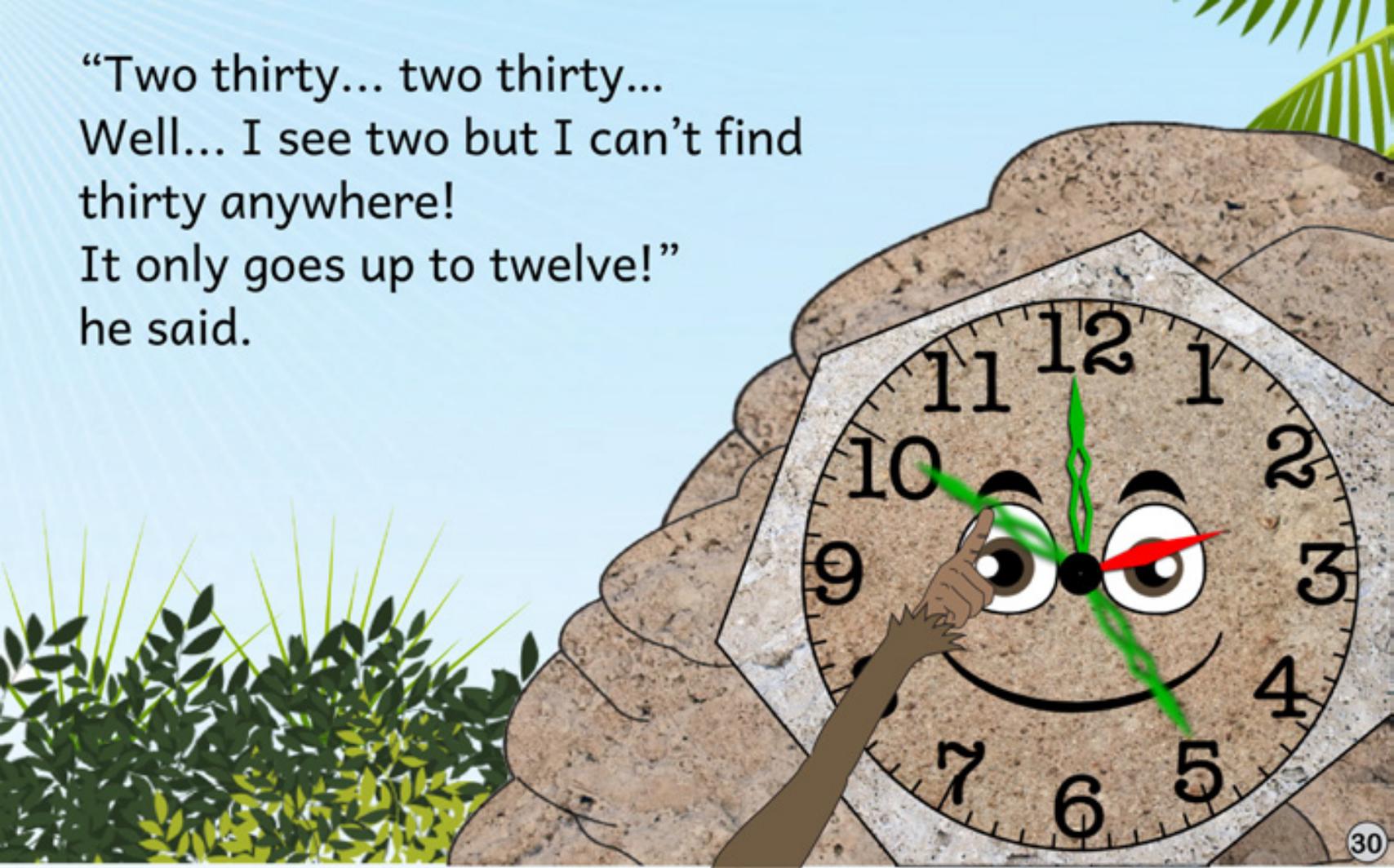
Ngedere wanted to be next.
So the clock reset itself.



The clock told him to show two thirty.
Ngedere moved the **shorter hand**
between two and three.



“Two thirty... two thirty...
Well... I see two but I can't find
thirty anywhere!
It only goes up to twelve!”
he said.



Koba stepped up and explained,
“Listen, Ngedere. When you’re
reading a clock, you read
the numbers as hours with the **short hand**...





one o'clock,



two o'clock,



all the way round
to twelve o'clock.



But when you want to tell minutes, first you must understand that each small mark on the circle is one minute. So one round of the **minute hand** means sixty minutes... and sixty minutes is equal to one hour.

one round = 60 minutes = 1 hour





One means
5 minutes



two is
10 minutes



three is
15 minutes



six is
30 minutes



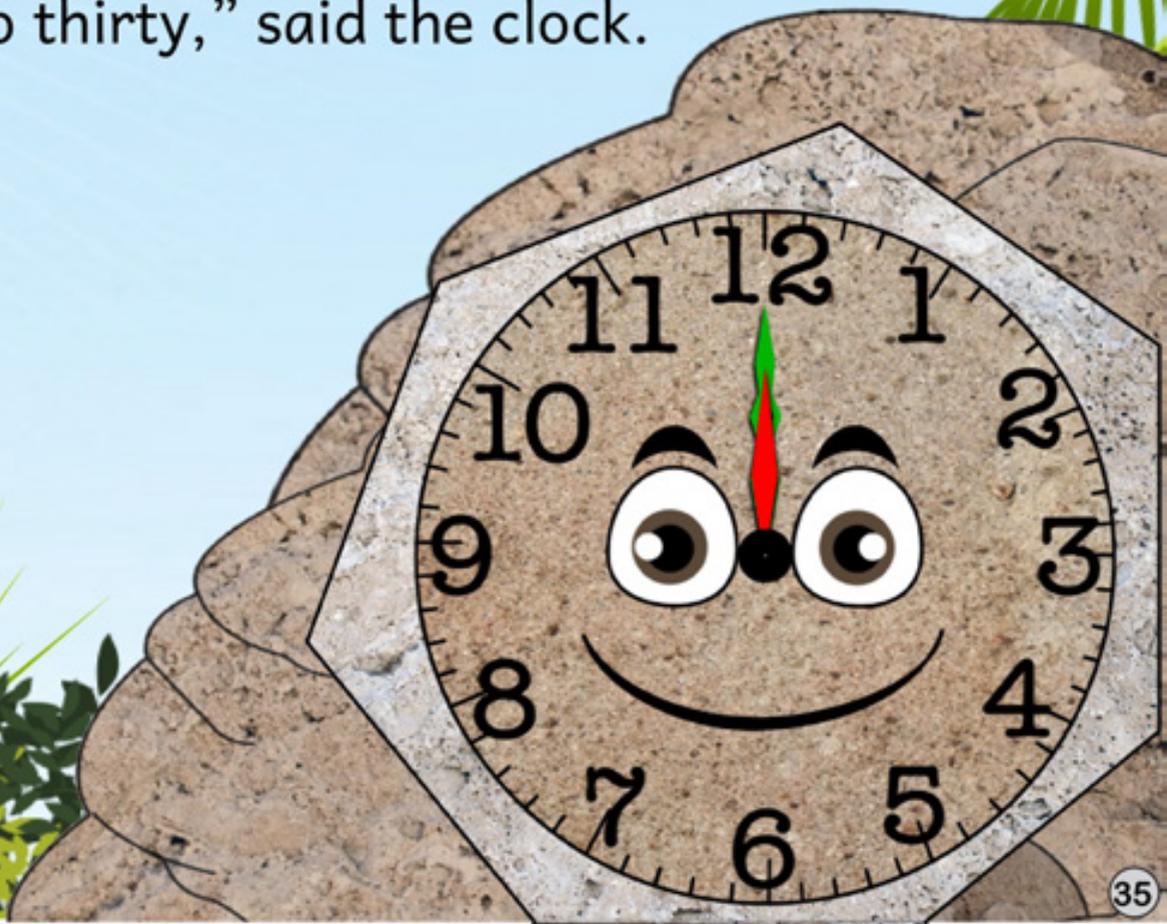
eight is
40 minutes



twelve is 0 minutes
or on the hour.”

“Good job, Koba.

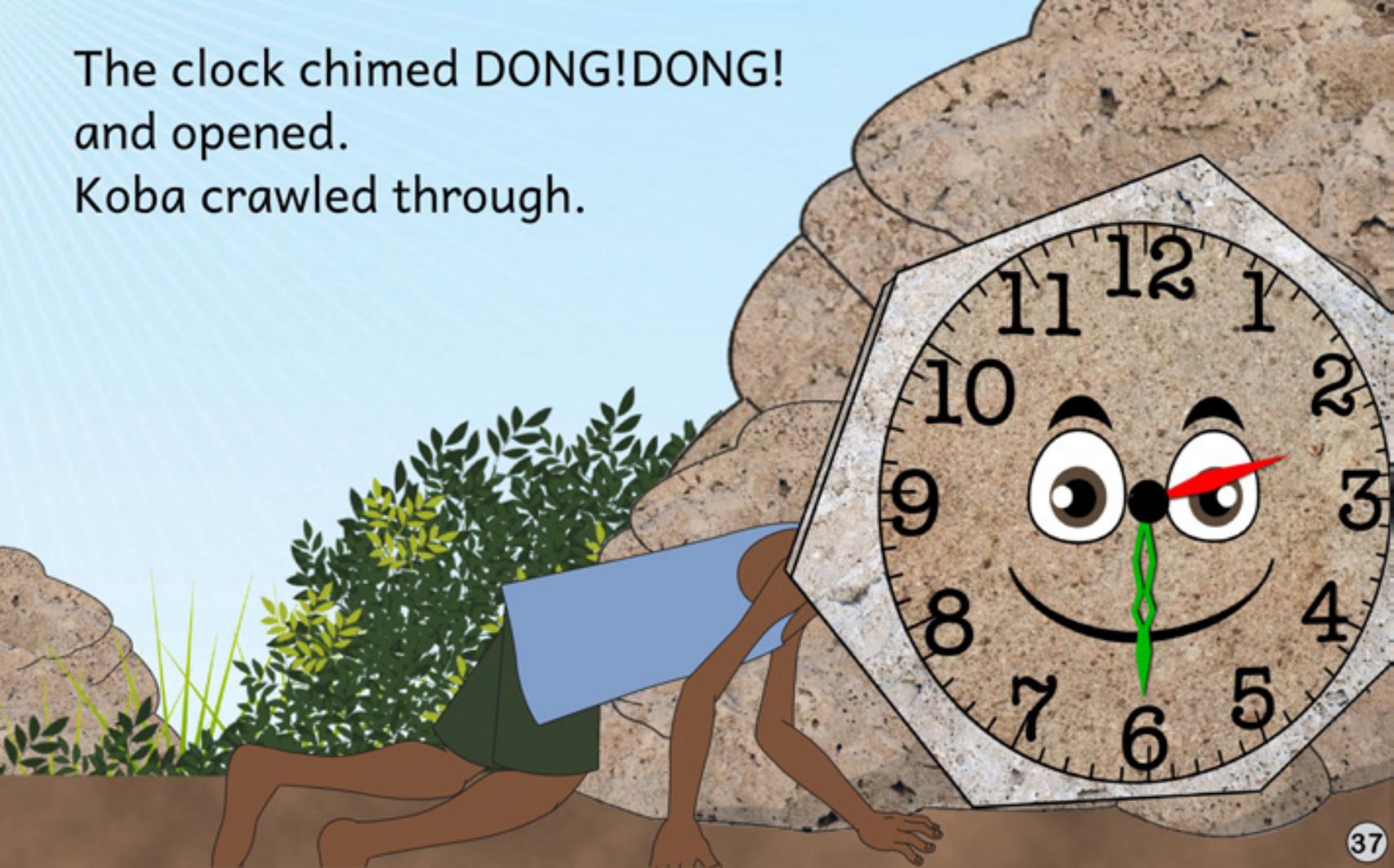
Now show me two thirty,” said the clock.



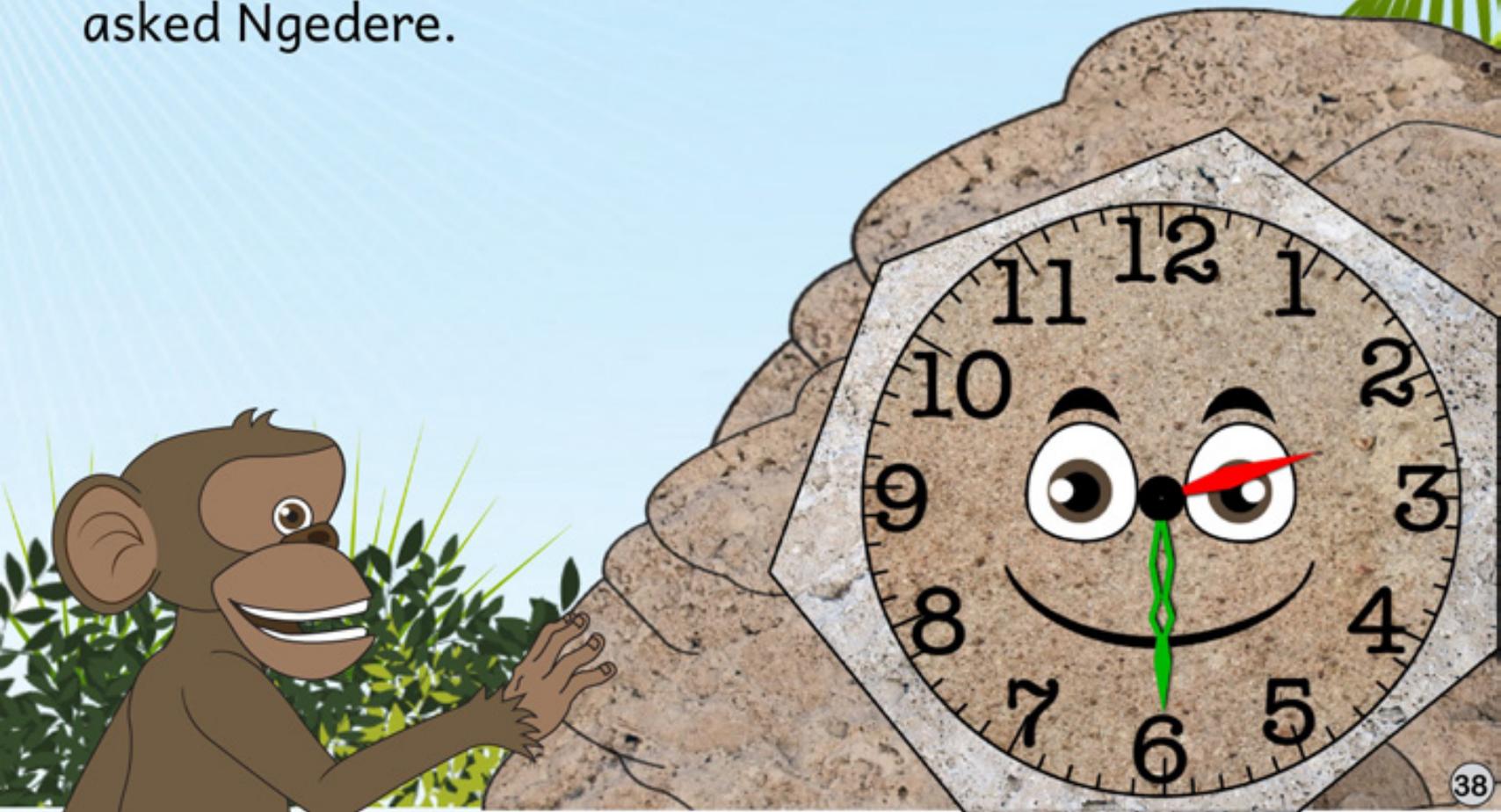
Koba put the **hour hand** between two and three and the **minute hand** to thirty.



The clock chimed DONG!DONG!
and opened.
Koba crawled through.



“Wait, but isn’t this half past two?”
asked Ngedere.



“Yes. It was a trick question! Two thirty is the same as half past two, because

one hour equals 60 minutes



=



so half an hour is thirty minutes,”

$\frac{1}{2}$ hour



=

30 minutes



said the clock.

“Ahhh! I get it now.
Please give me my question so I can answer
and go through. I’m so thirsty,”
Ngedere begged.

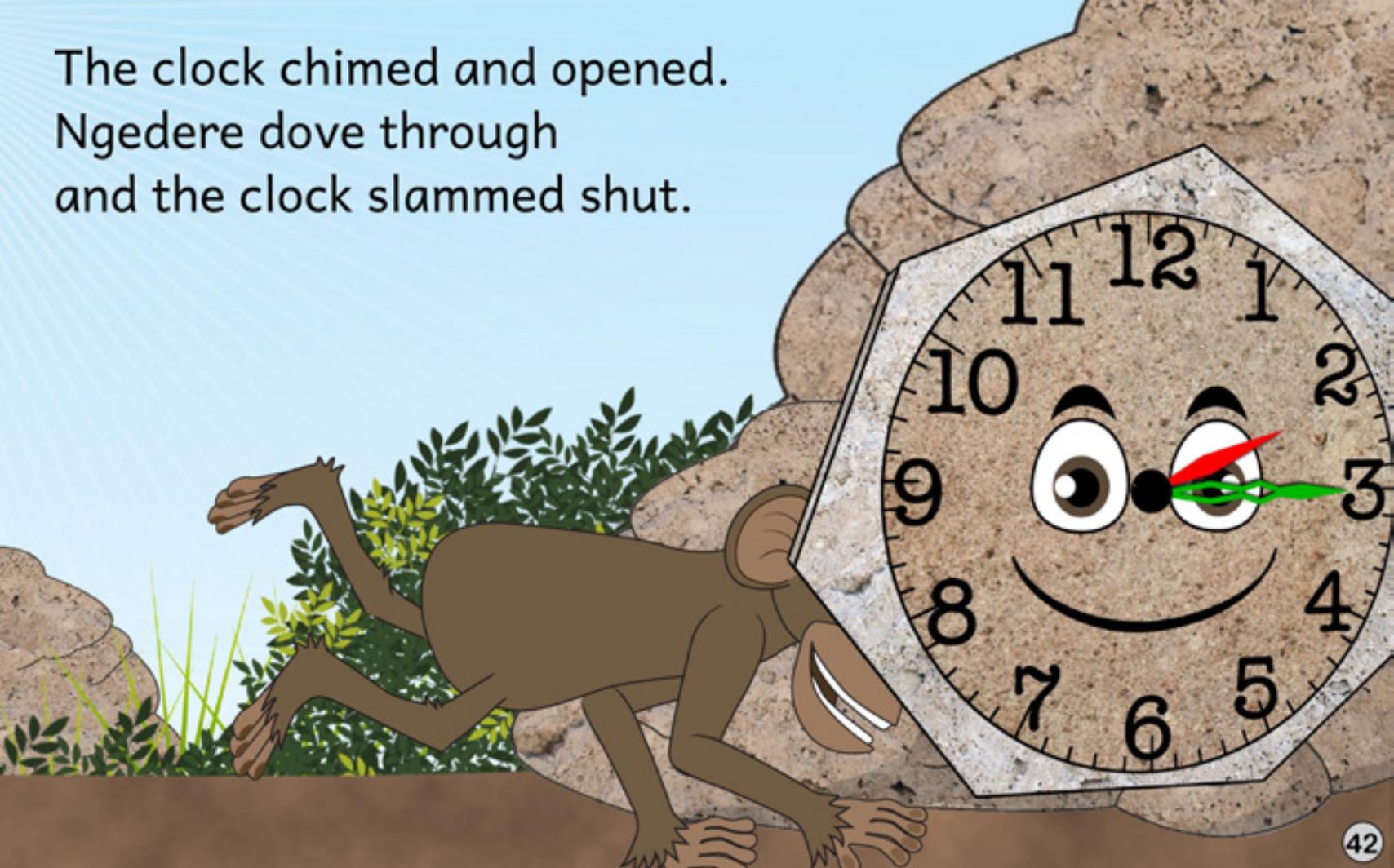


The clock's **hour hand** moved to a little past number **two**, while the **minute hand** moved to **three**.

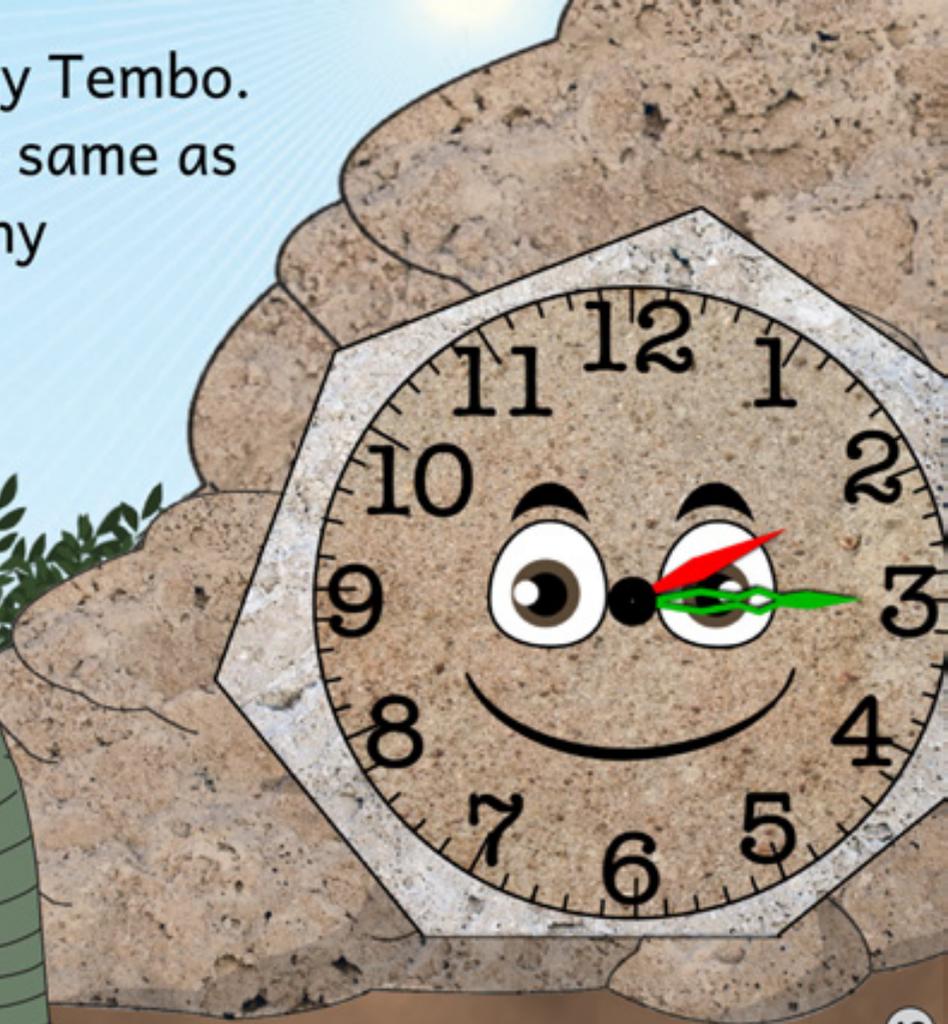
“It’s quarter past two,”
Ngedere shouted.



The clock chimed and opened.
Ngedere dove through
and the clock slammed shut.



Next the clock asked Tiny Tembo.
“Quarter past two is the same as
two o’clock and how many
minutes?”



“Well, one hour is the same as sixty minutes,

1 hour



=

60 minutes



and one quarter of sixty is fifteen.

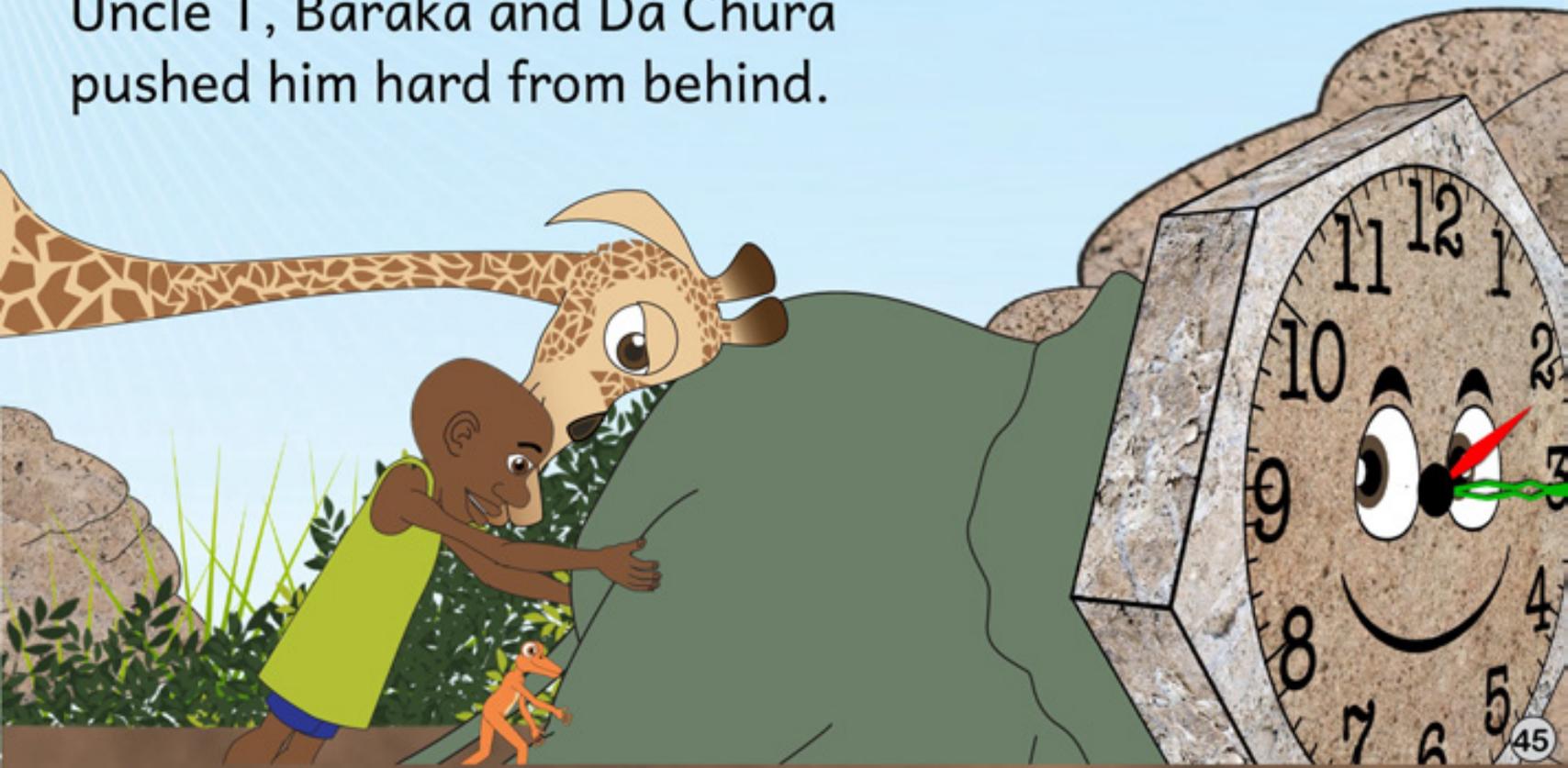
$$\frac{1}{4} \times 60 = 15$$



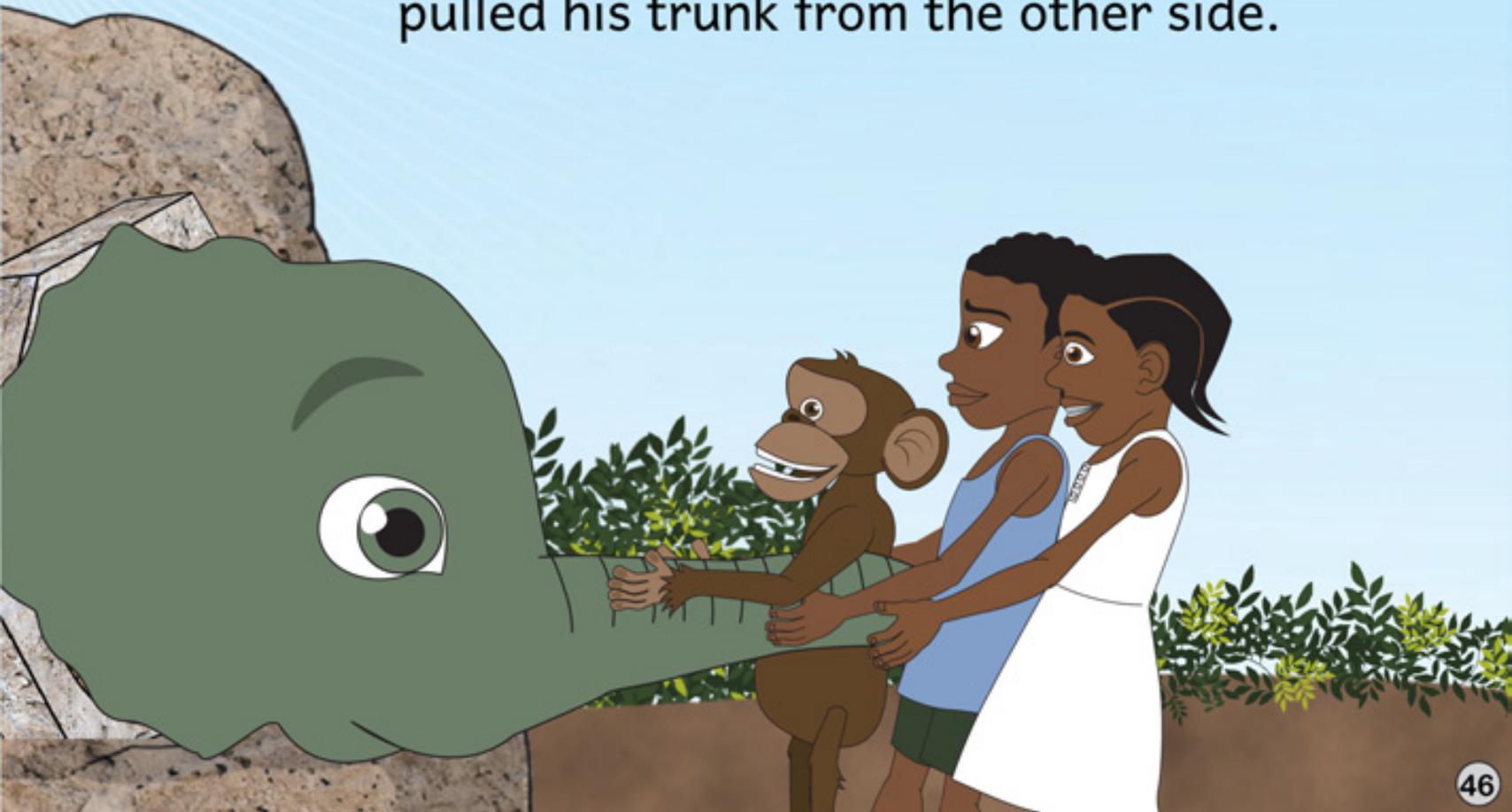
So quarter past two must be the same as two fifteen,” reasoned Tiny Tembo.



The clock chimed, the door opened
and Tiny Tembo tried to go through but got stuck!
Uncle T, Baraka and Da Chura
pushed him hard from behind.



Kibena, Koba and Ngedere
pulled his trunk from the other side.



Kobe slowly climbed up on to Tiny Tembo and pushed until Tiny Tembo popped out the other side.



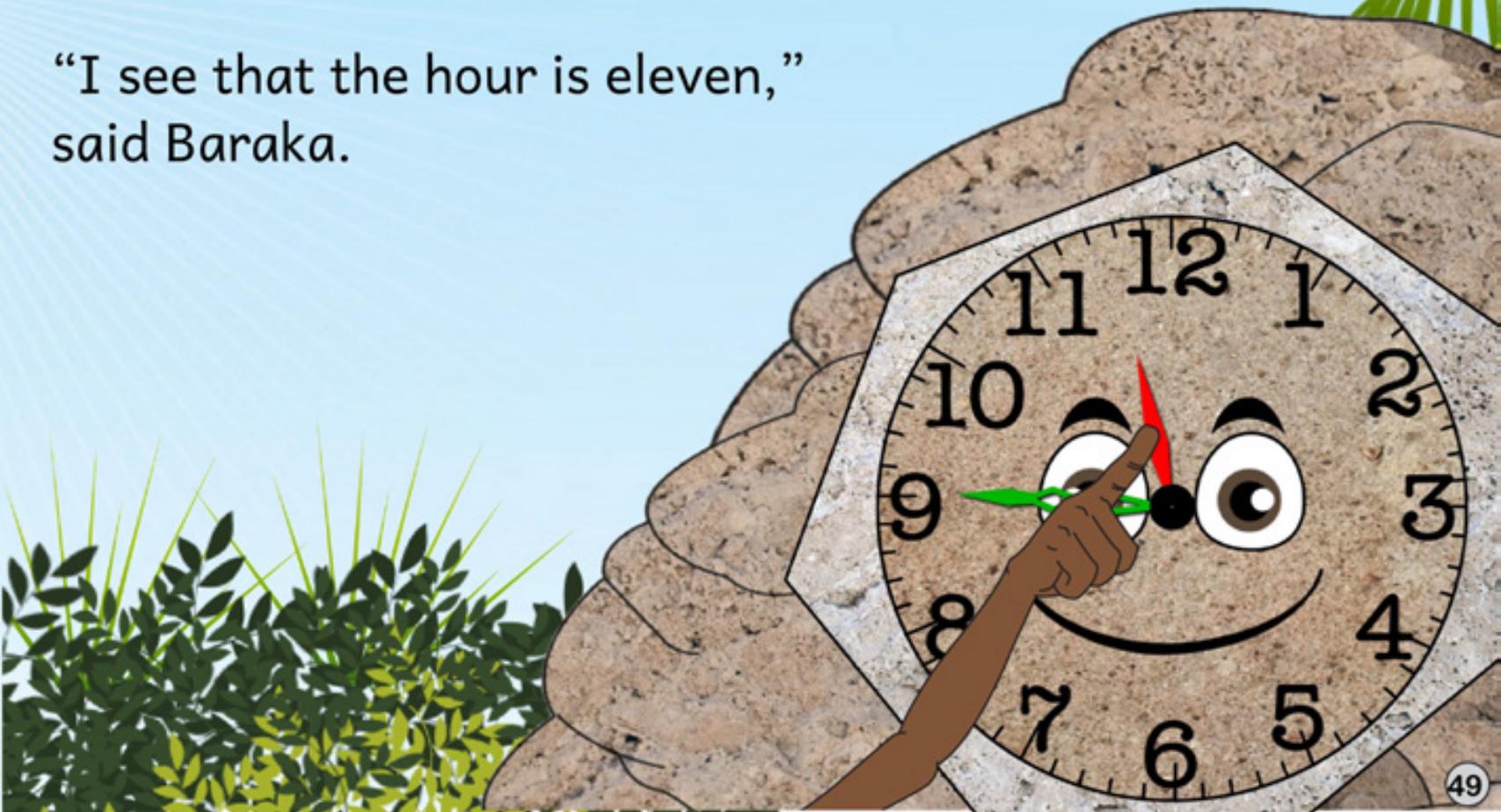


Next Baraka declared,
“It’s my turn now!
Give me a question, Mr. Magical
Question-Asking Clock Rock!”



“What time is this?” said the clock.

“I see that the hour is eleven,”
said Baraka.

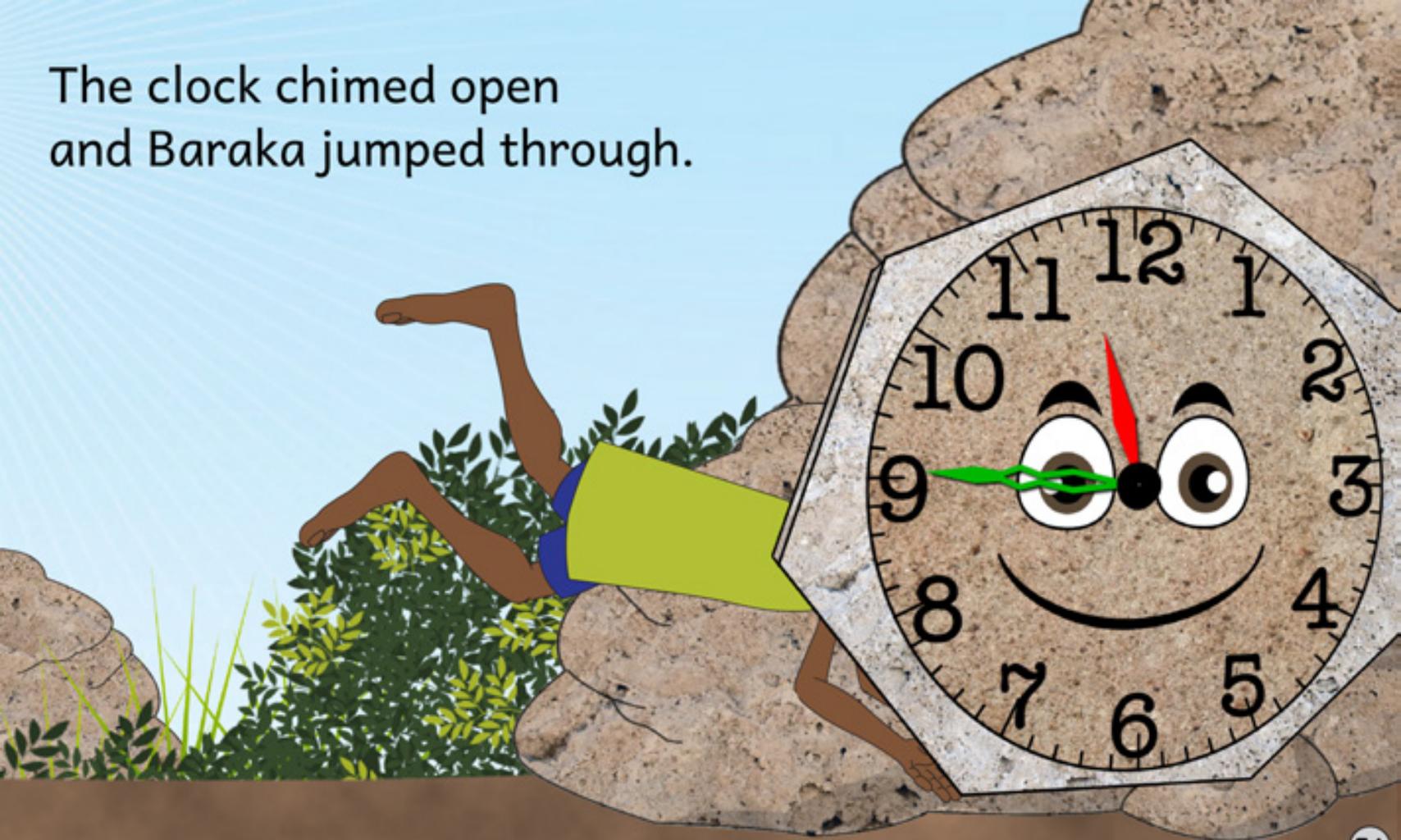


He then pointed at the numbers around the clock as he counted the **minutes**:

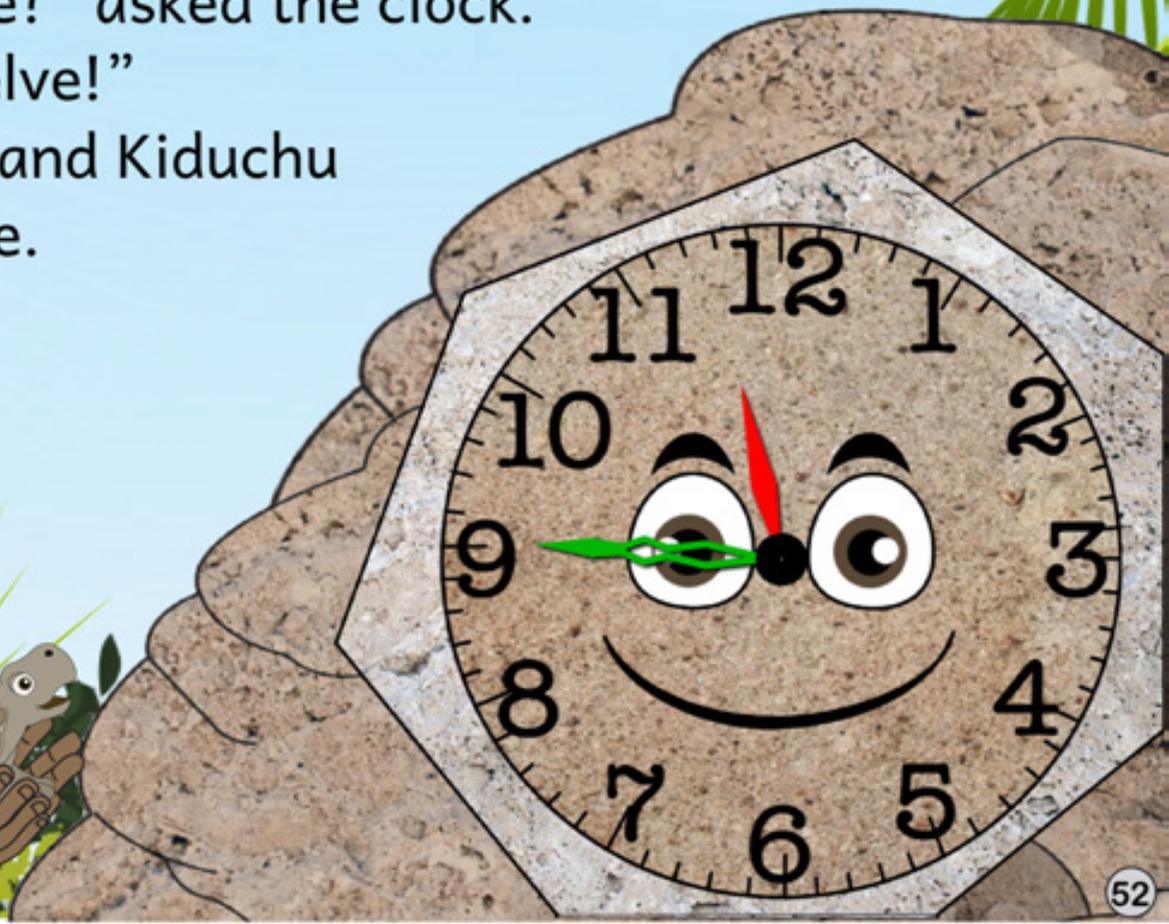


“It’s eleven forty-five!”

The clock chimed open
and Baraka jumped through.



“Who knows another way to say eleven forty-five?” asked the clock.
“Quarter to twelve!”
answered Kobe and Kiduchu
at the same time.

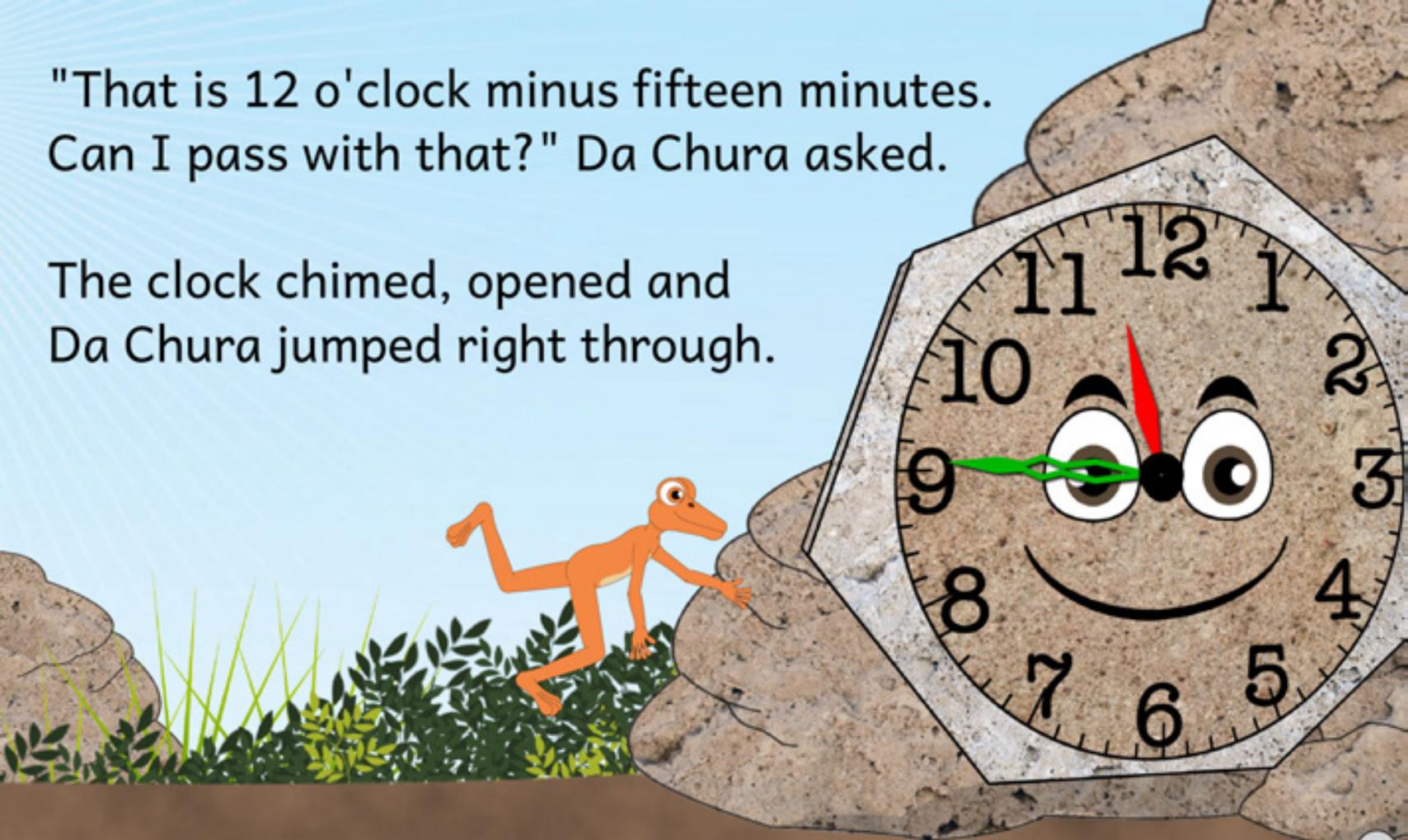


The clock chimed. Kiduchu put Kobe on her back and together they crawled through.

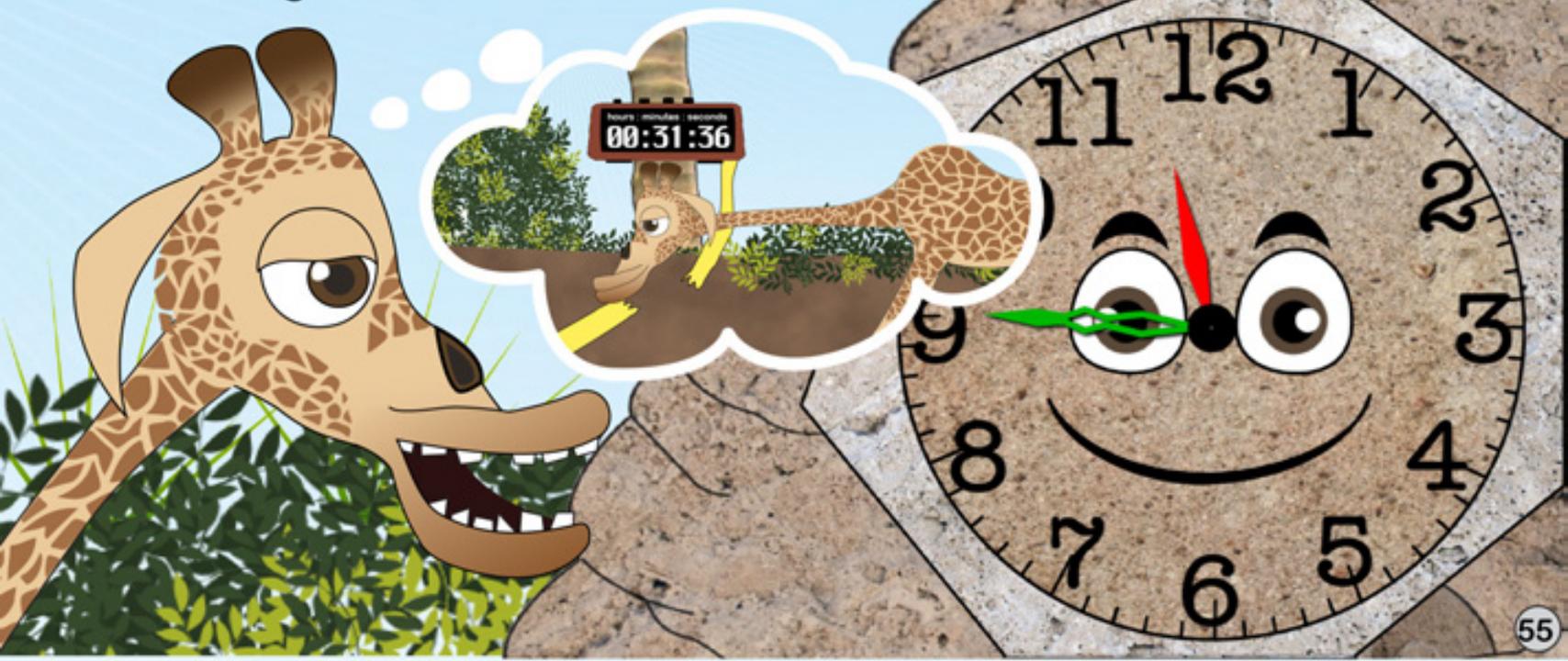


"That is 12 o'clock minus fifteen minutes.
Can I pass with that?" Da Chura asked.

The clock chimed, opened and
Da Chura jumped right through.



“It’s just me, Uncle T, the only one left.
I’m very good at telling time, even
on digital clocks. But I was just letting
the kids go first.”



Quarter to means that there are **fifteen minutes** until the next hour.”



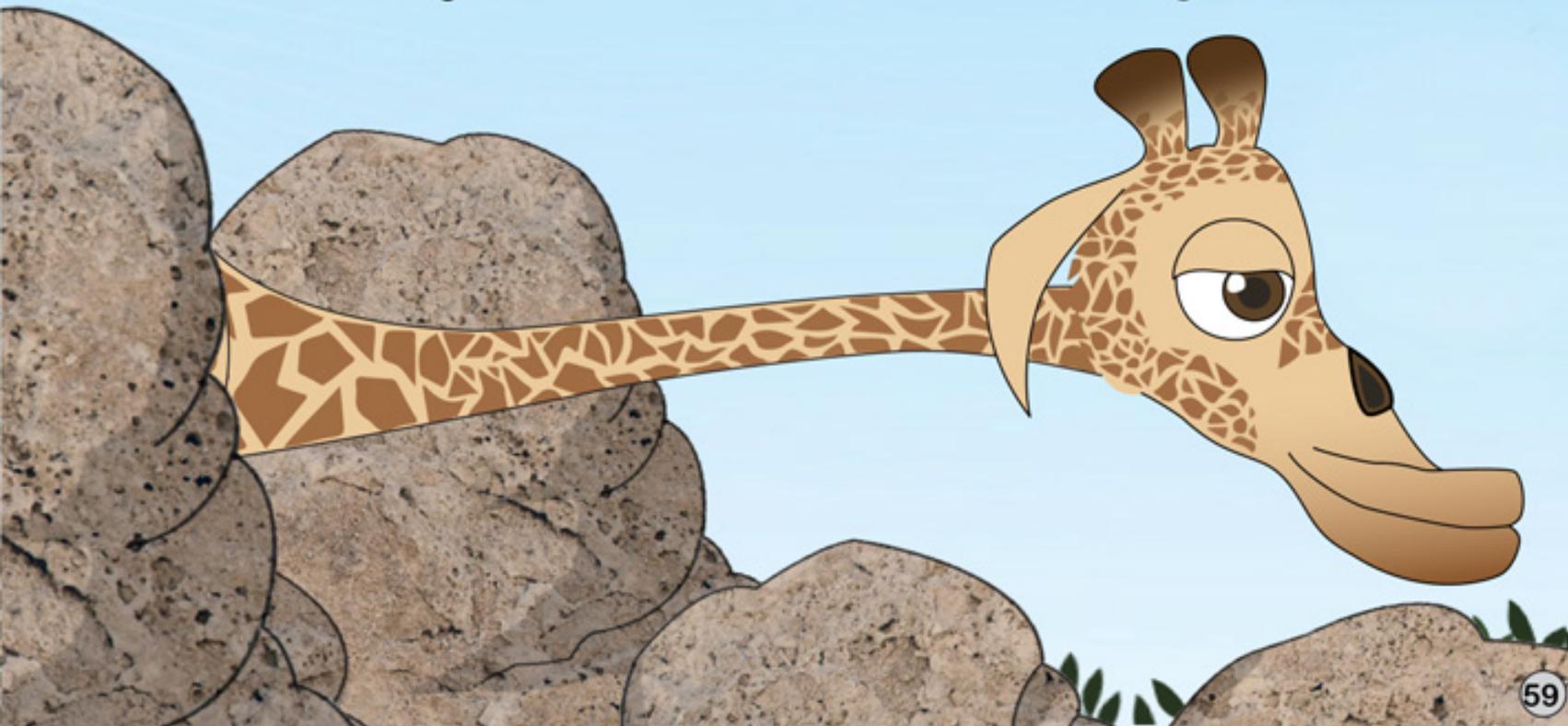
“Give me another question, Mr. Magic Clock Rock!”
The clock face changed to 6:52.



“That’s easy. Six fifty-two or eight minutes to seven,”
Uncle T answered.



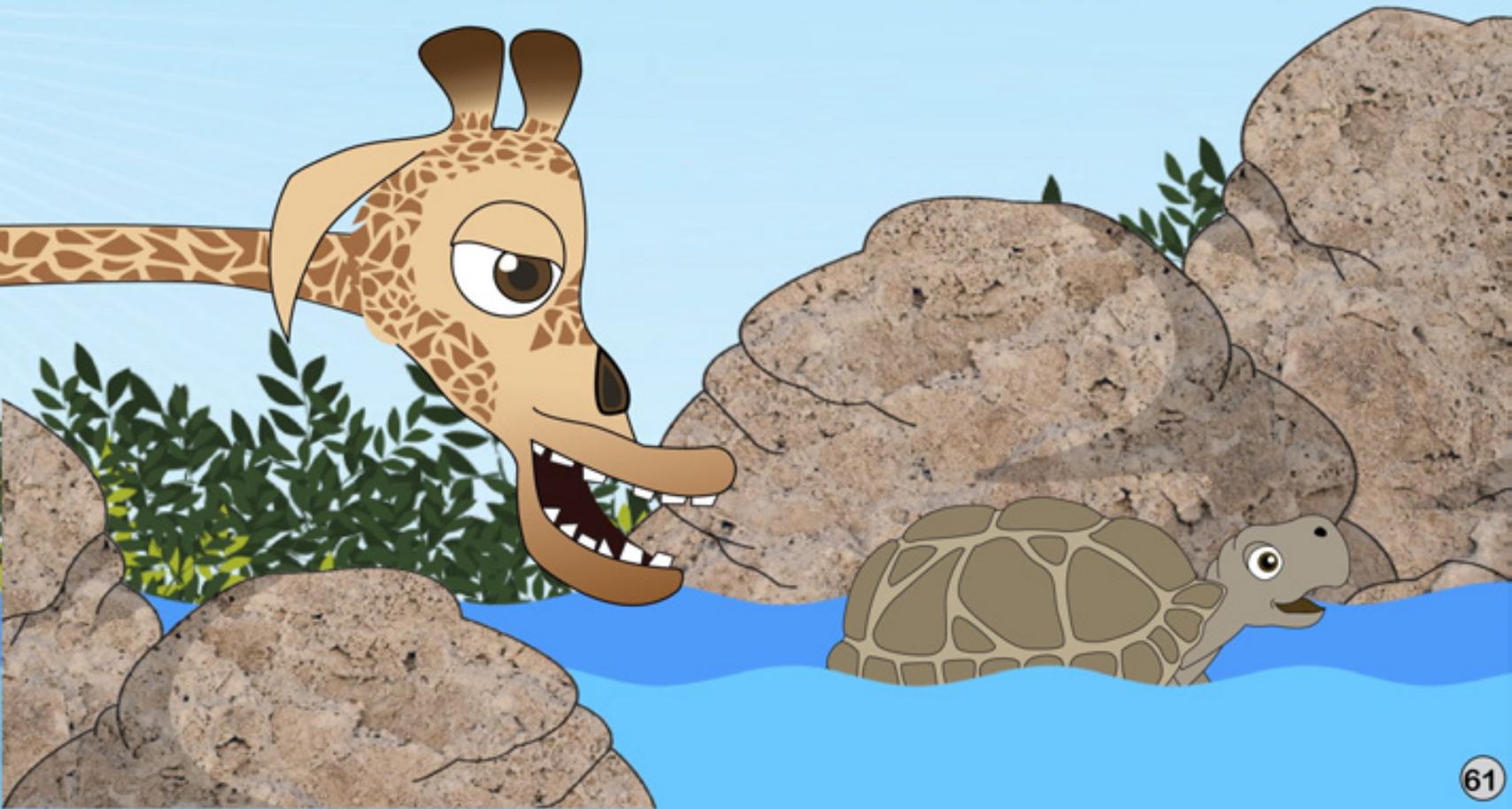
The clock chimed like crazy because Uncle T had got two answers right. The door opened and Uncle T stuck just his head and neck through.



On the other side, all the kids and animals were drinking and playing in the water.



Uncle T took a big gulp of water.



Then together everyone shouted,
“Thank you for teaching us time and letting us drink,
Mr. Magic Clock Rock!”





The End

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