

The Mosquito Army

malaria



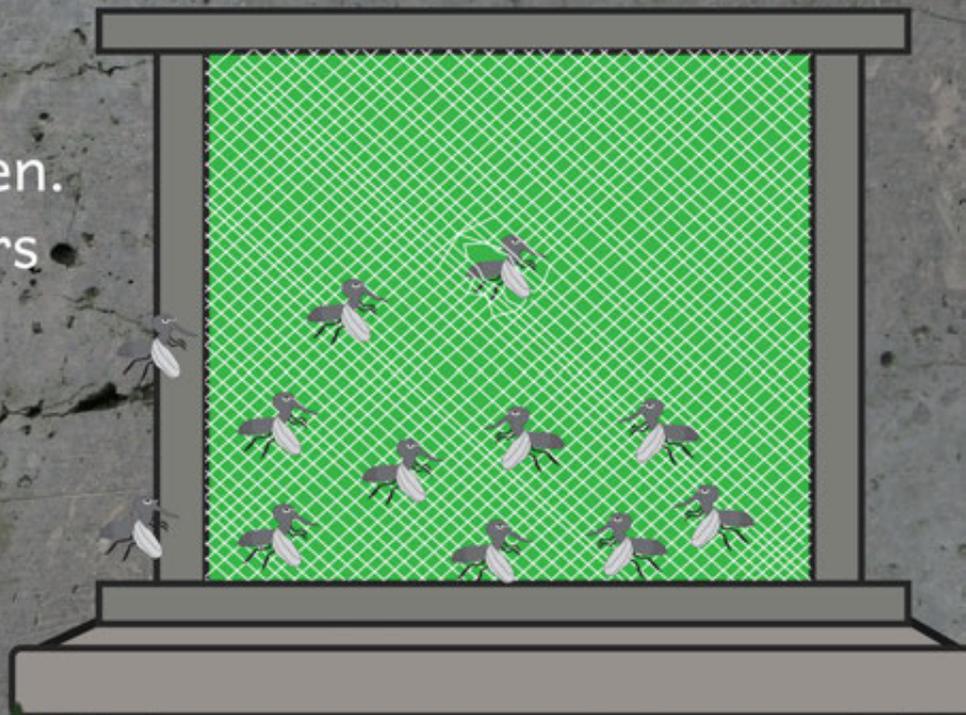
Age
Umri
7+



Late one evening, an army of female mosquitoes came to the village of Kokatoa.



One house had
a broken window screen.
A few mosquito soldiers
found the hole
and flew through it.



Koba was asleep inside the mosquito net,
but Baraka was playing cards outside of the net.
One mosquito bit Baraka.



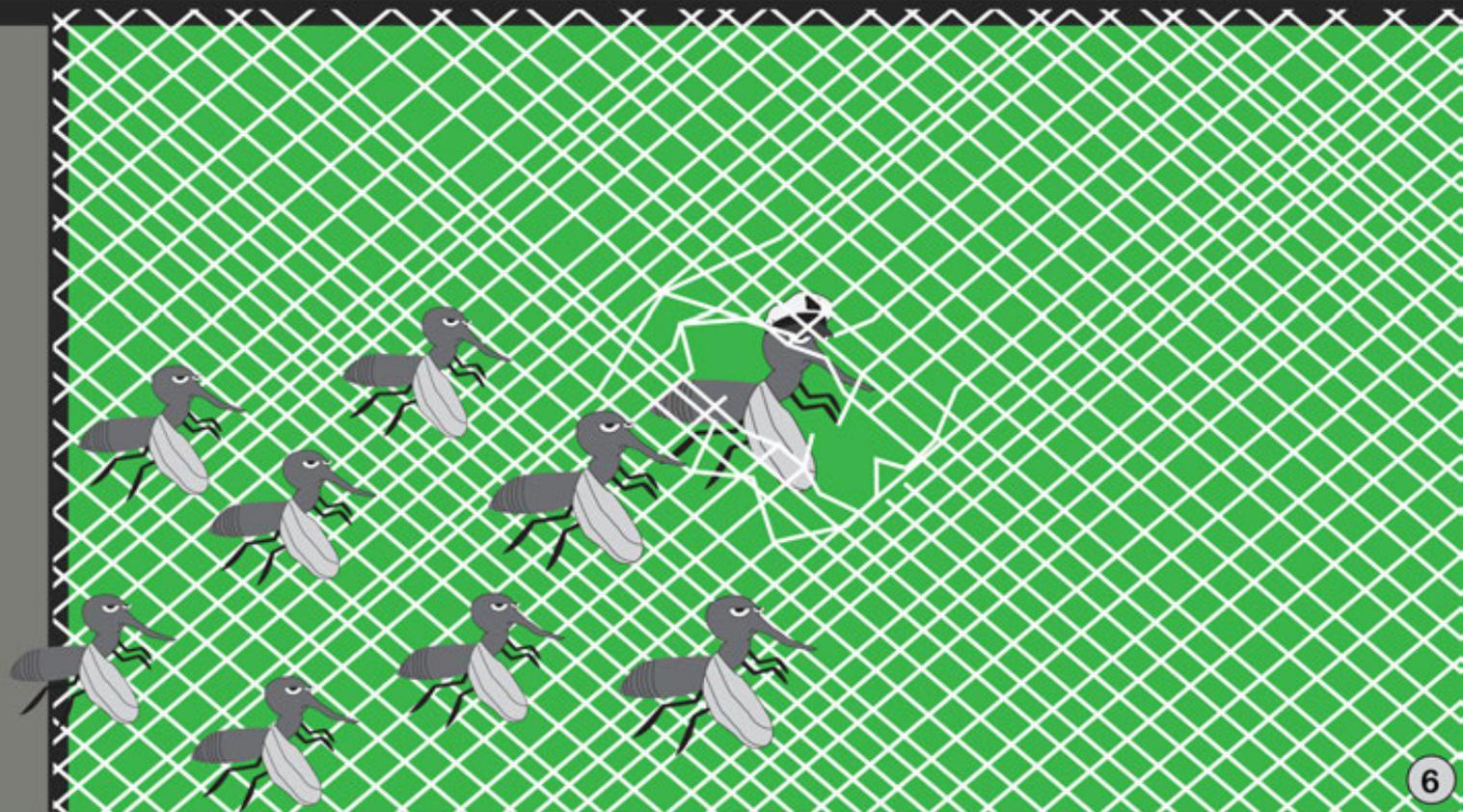
Another mosquito
found Mzee Kigo
as he was checking
over his orchard.
The mosquito bit
Mzee Kigo on
the shoulder.



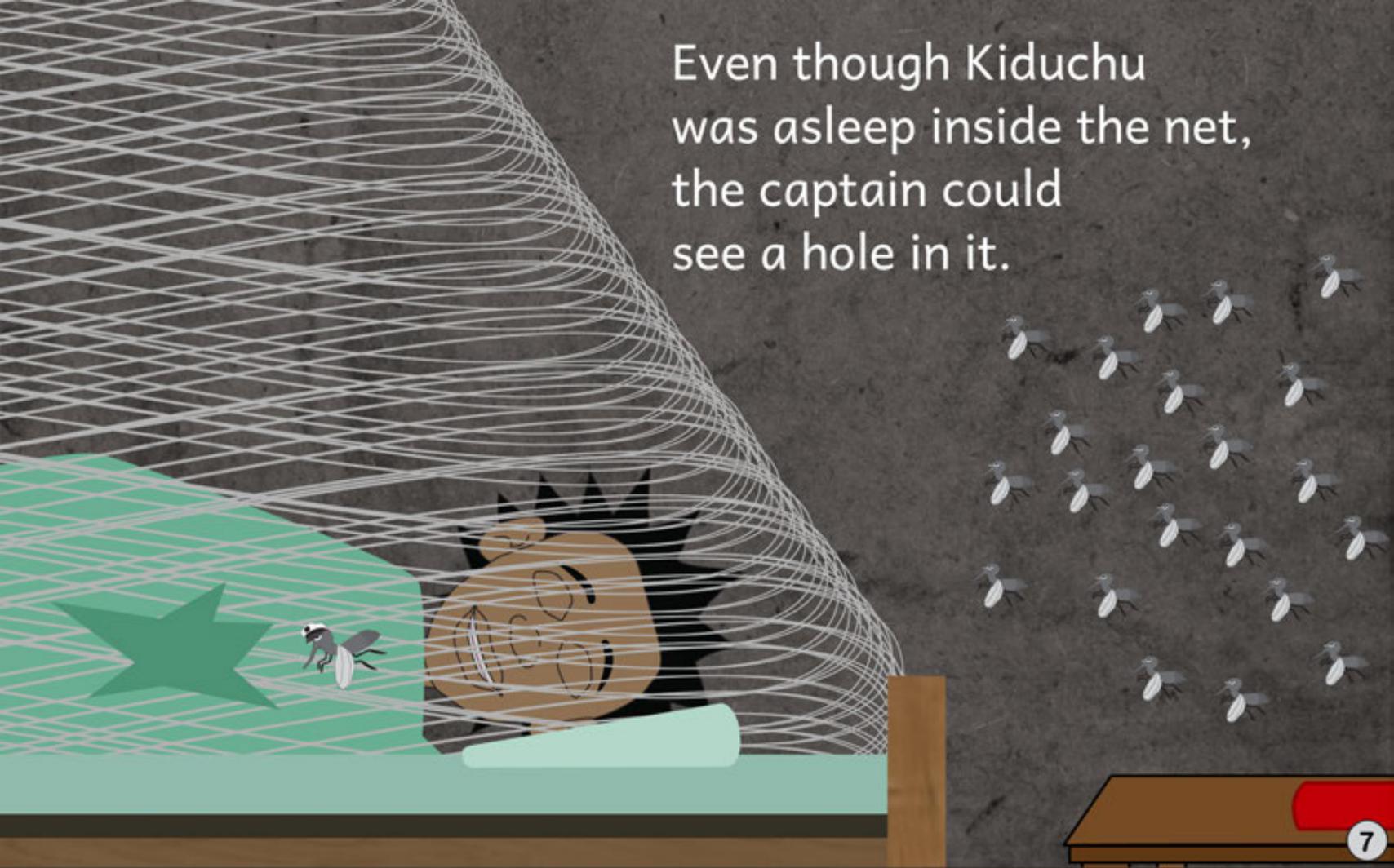
Another mosquito
bit Mama Bird
as she dozed off
while reading outside.



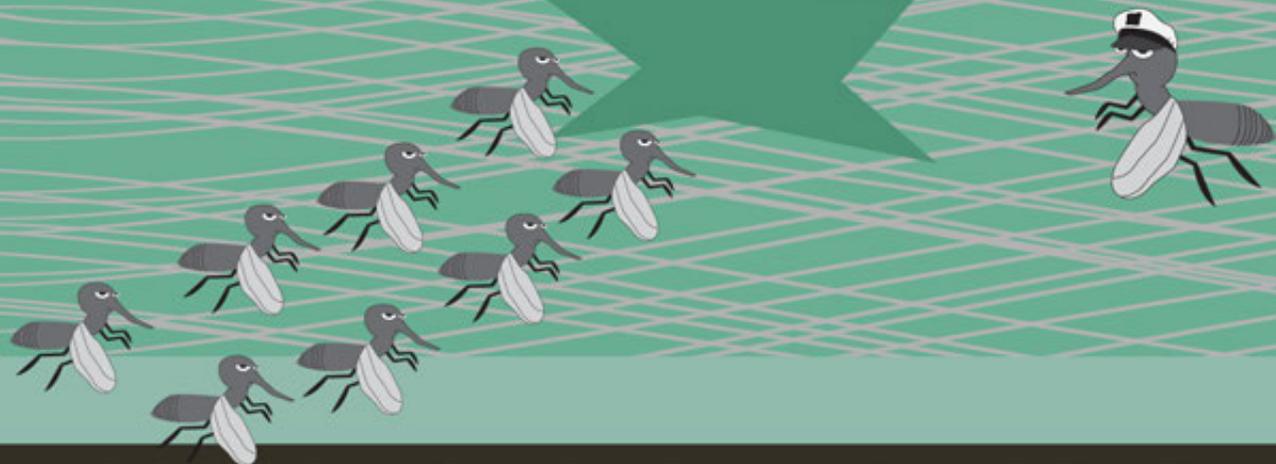
Meanwhile, Captain Moszy led her mosquito battalion through the window of Kiduchu's bedroom.



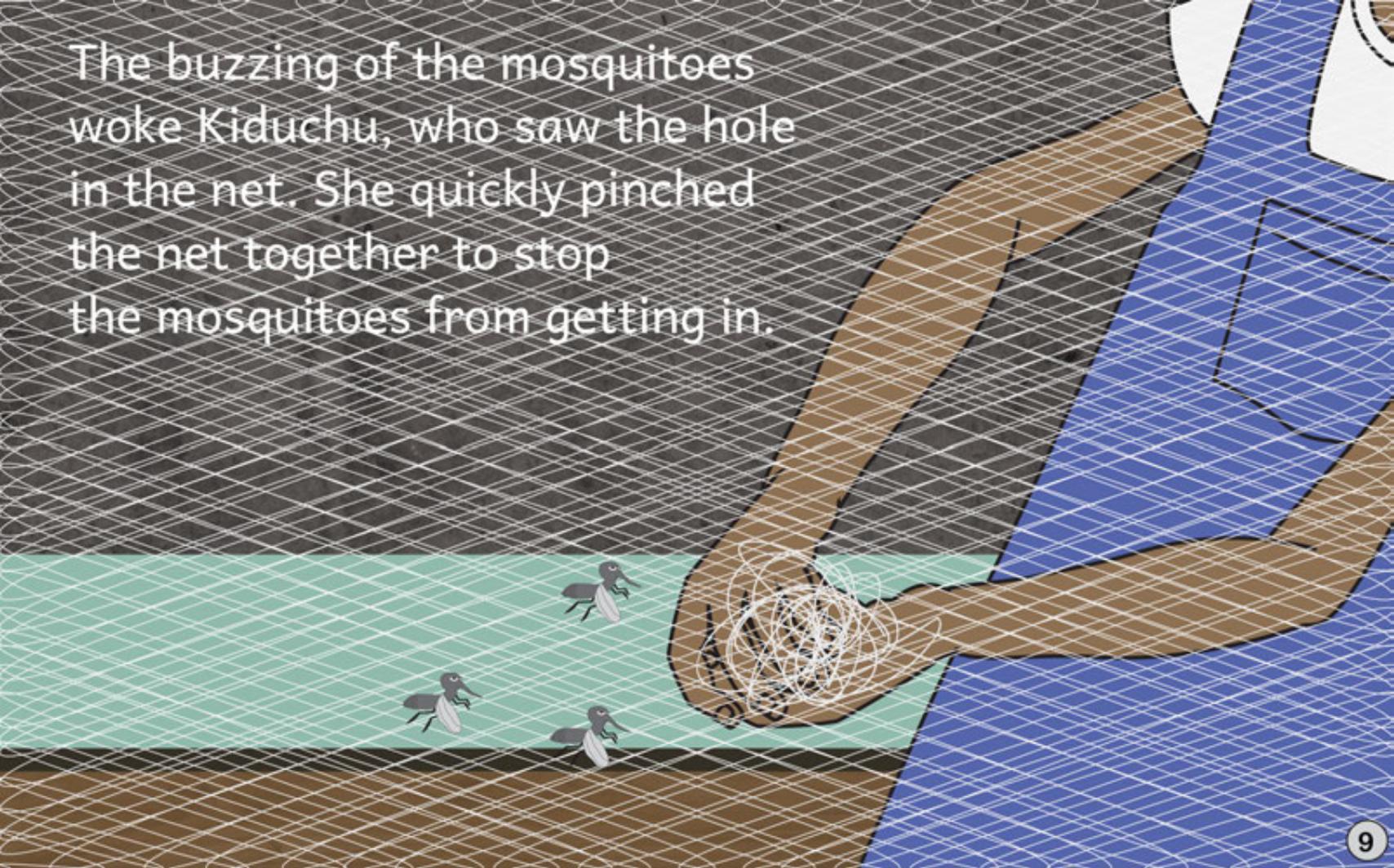
Even though Kiduchu was asleep inside the net, the captain could see a hole in it.



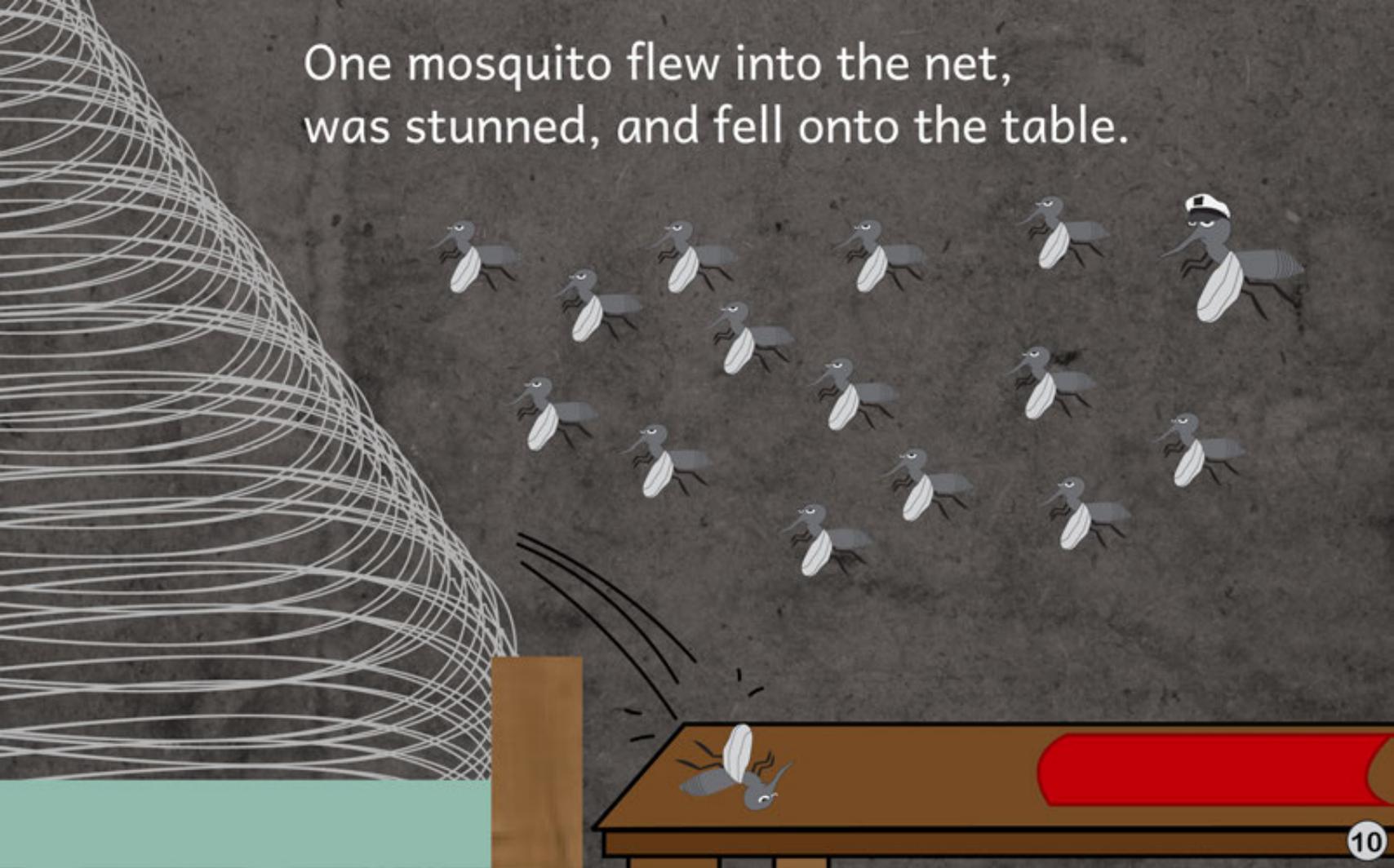
She led her soldiers closer and lined them up so they were ready to attack.



The buzzing of the mosquitoes woke Kiduchu, who saw the hole in the net. She quickly pinched the net together to stop the mosquitoes from getting in.



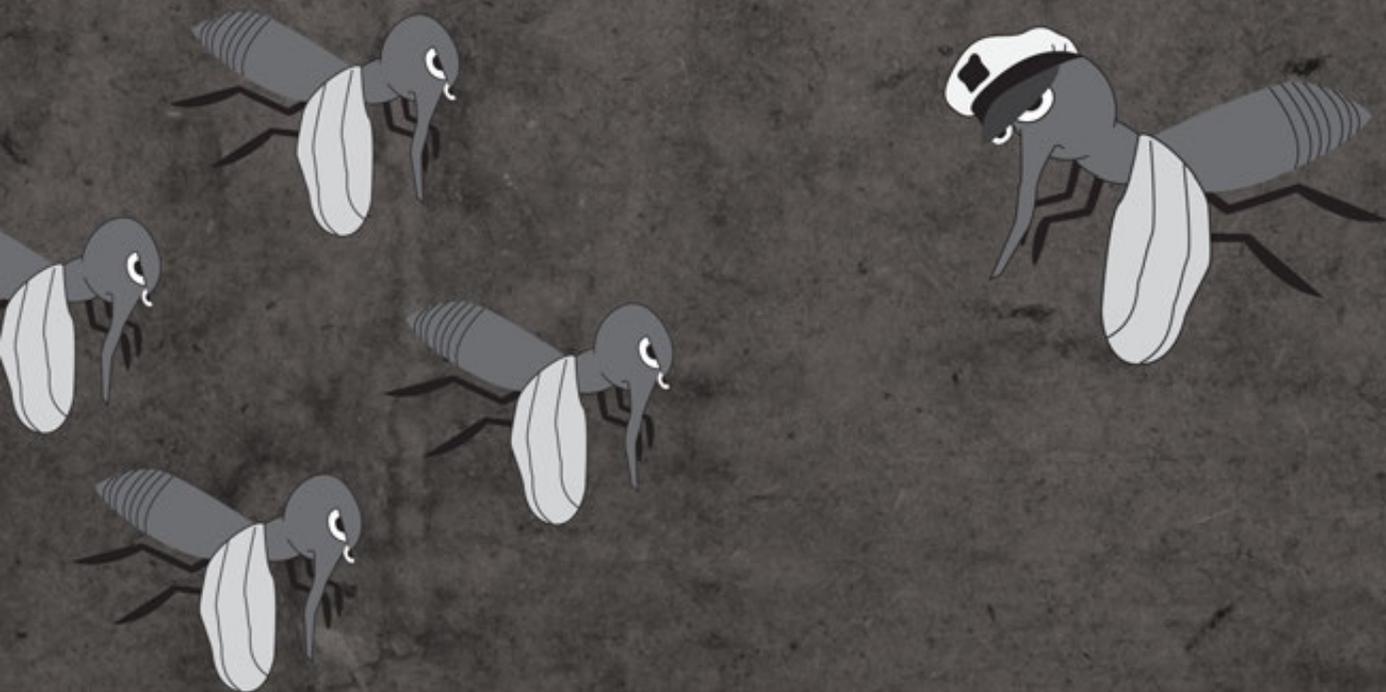
One mosquito flew into the net,
was stunned, and fell onto the table.



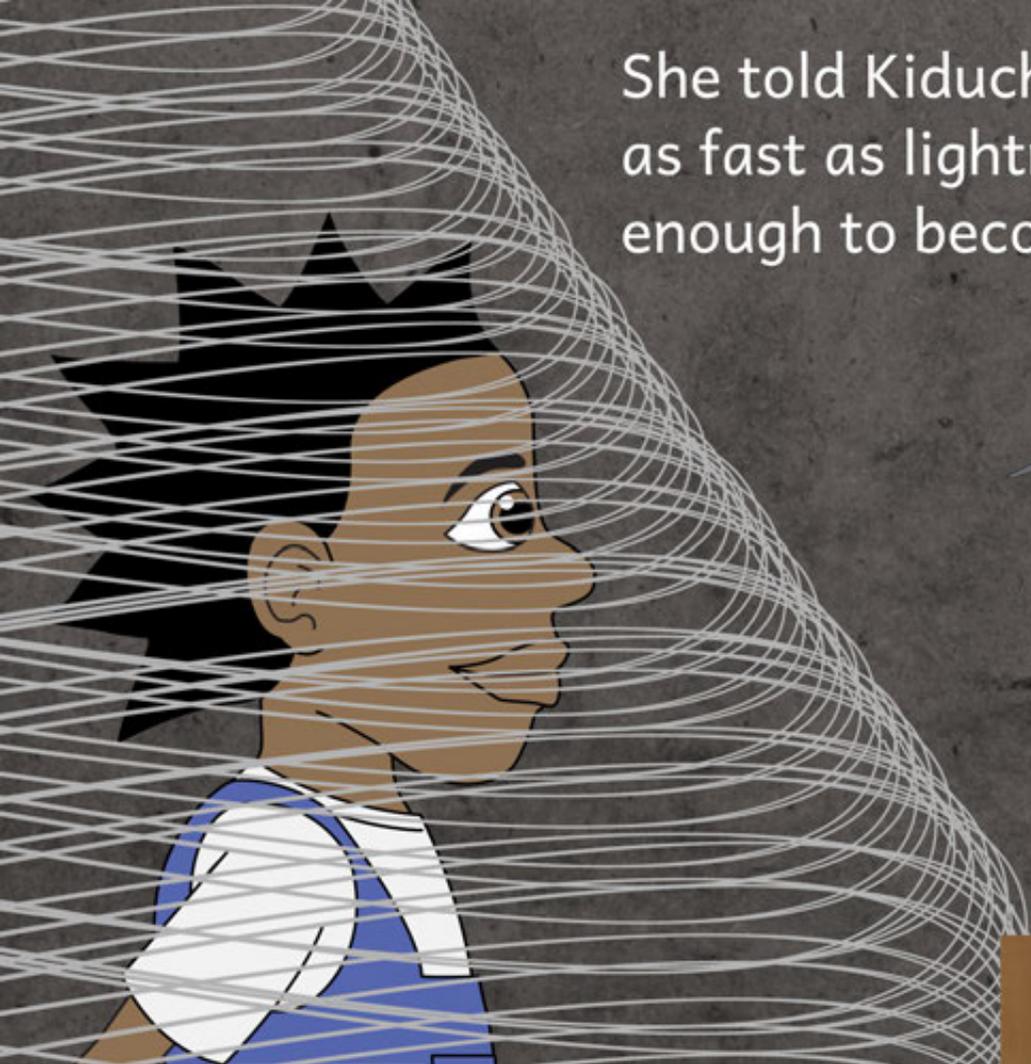
The others were frightened
and quickly withdrew.

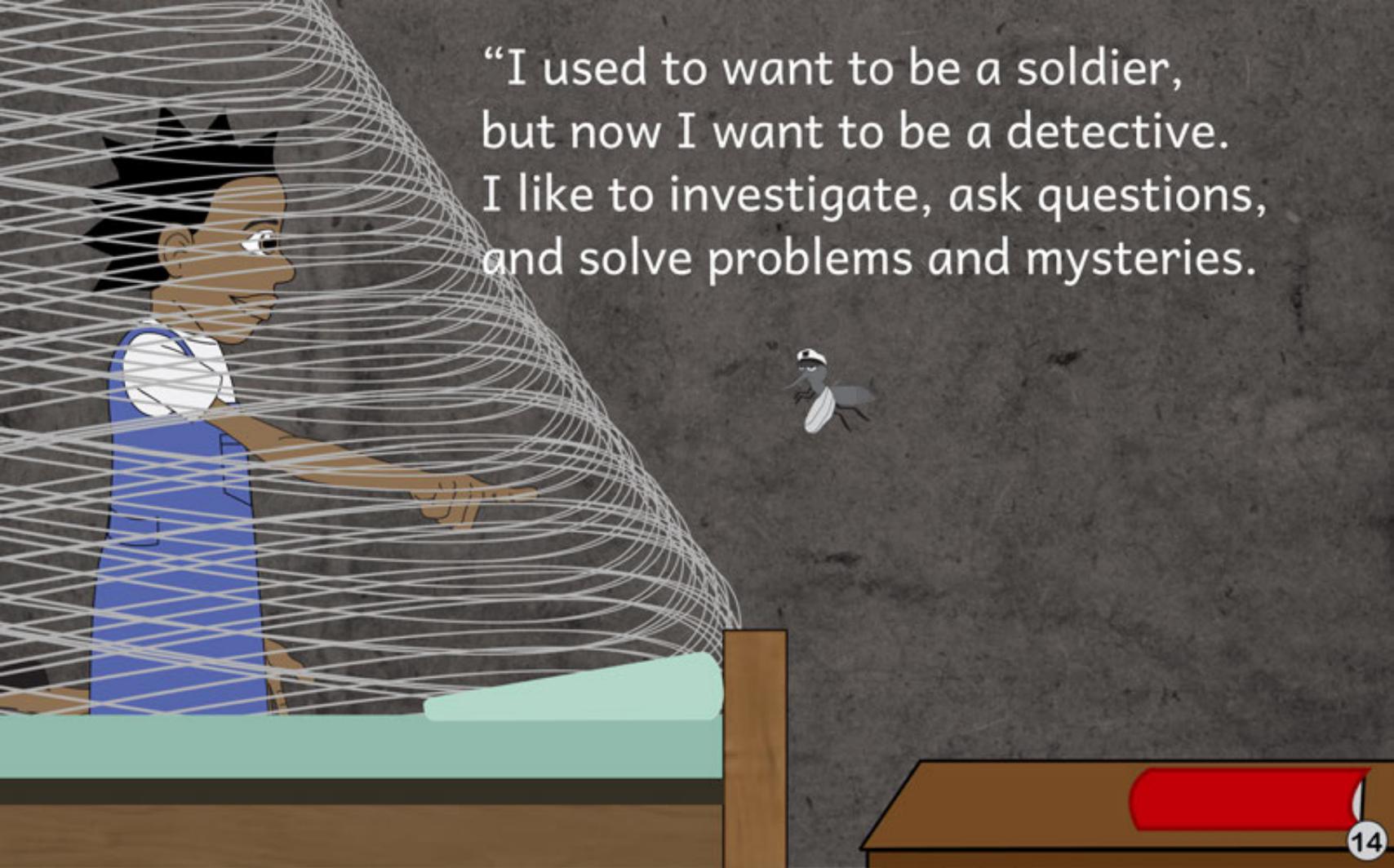


“Help her! Carry her out. Don’t leave any wounded soldiers behind,” ordered Captain Mozzy.



She told Kiduchu that she was
as fast as lightning and smart
enough to become a soldier.





“I used to want to be a soldier,
but now I want to be a detective.
I like to investigate, ask questions,
and solve problems and mysteries.

I put all my observations
in my red detective notebook,”
replied Kiduchu.



Captain Mozzy asked Kiduchu to show her the red detective notebook.
But Kiduchu refused to bring her hand outside the net.
She didn't want to get bitten!



Captain Mozy realised that Kiduchu was too well protected and told her soldiers to retreat.



The next morning, Kiduchu took her red notebook and wrote the title of her first detective case: “Mosquito Army.”



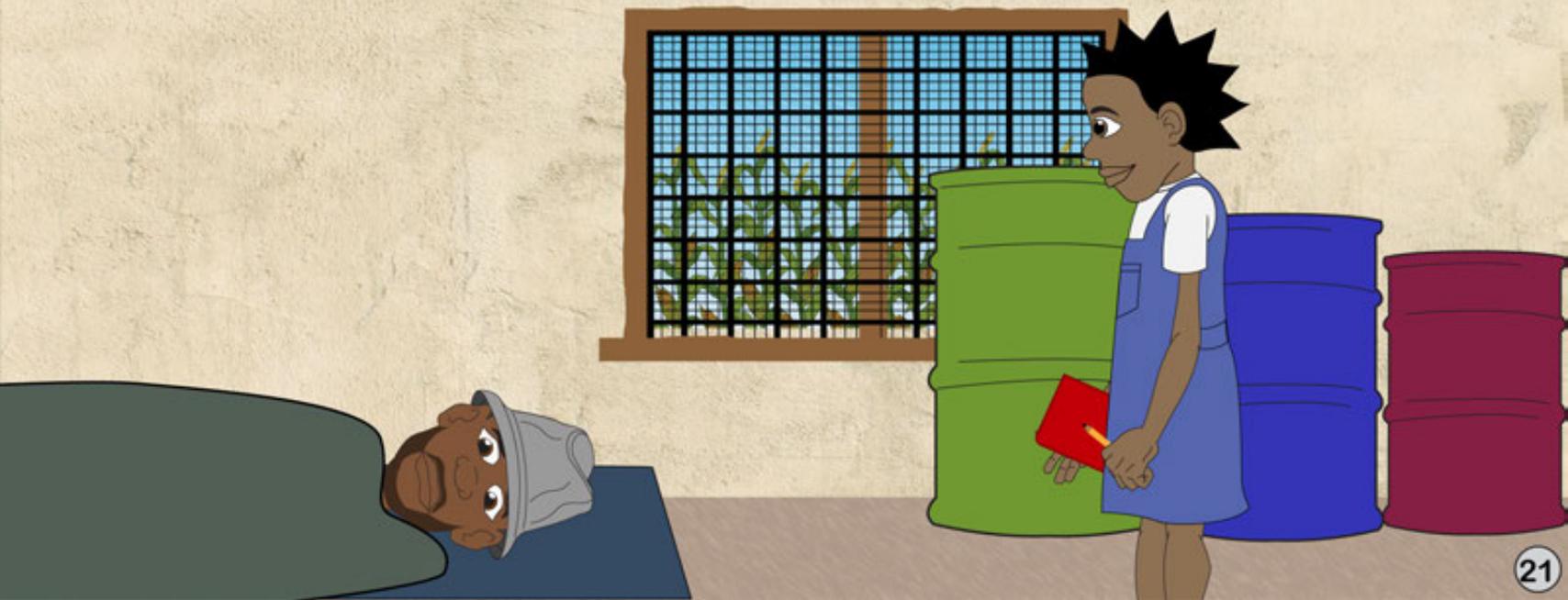
She then left her house to show the book to Kibena.



She passed Mzee Kigo's corn field,
arrived at his house, and saw
his front door open.
She stepped inside.



She found Mzee Kigo lying in bed. He was very sick and weak. He said that he was waiting for his sister to pick him up and take him to the hospital.



He asked Kiduchu about the red book in her hand. She replied that it was her red detective notebook, where she was keeping notes to help her solve the mystery of the current sickness.



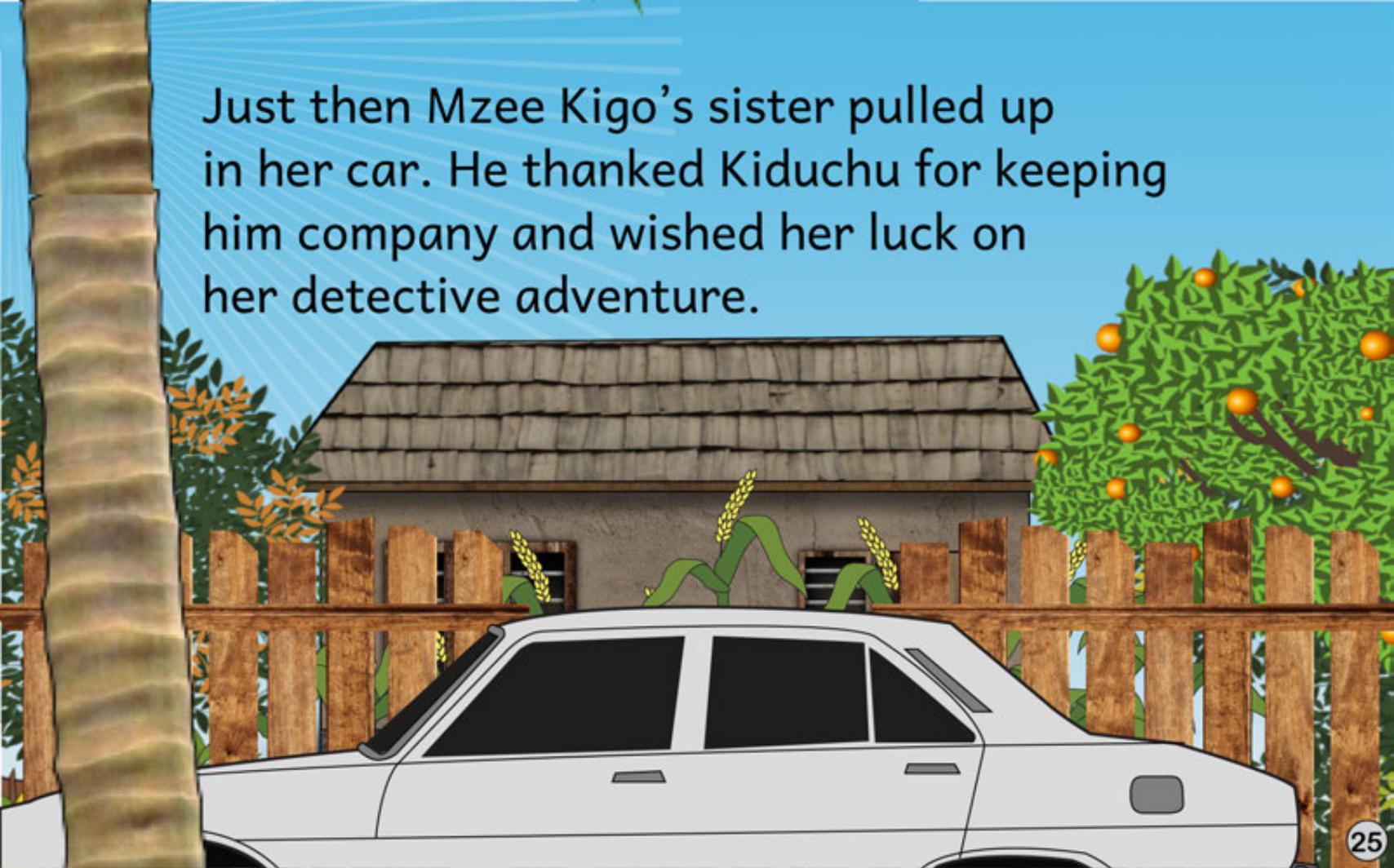


She asked Mzee Kigo
a lot of questions about
his symptoms and recorded
his answers in her book.

“Last night I had a headache, fever, chills, nausea, vomiting and itchy bites on my shoulder and arm,” said Mzee Kigo.



Just then Mzee Kigo's sister pulled up in her car. He thanked Kiduchu for keeping him company and wished her luck on her detective adventure.



Kiduchu walked on towards Kibena's house, singing,
"I'm looking for Kibena, Kibena, Kibena,
to help with my detective work, detective work,
detective work!"



Kibena's grandma told Kiduchu to keep her voice down because Kibena was sick and sleeping.



She had given Kibena some anti-malaria pills and told Kiduchu to return later.



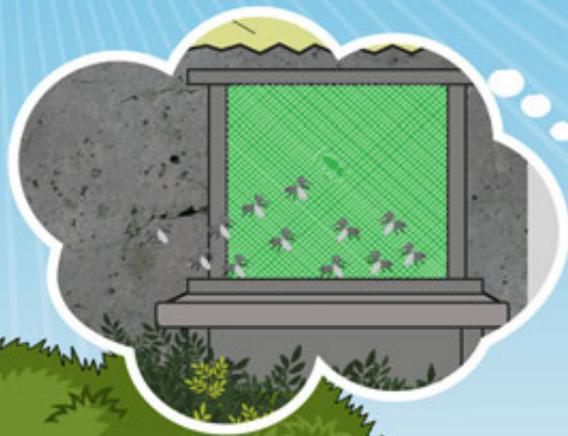
Kiduchu asked about Kibena's symptoms and wrote them down in her red detective notebook.



She then walked to Koba's house, where she found that Baraka was also ill. Baraka had been taken to the hospital to get tested for malaria.



Kiduchu and Koba suspected that the malaria outbreak had something to do with the mosquito army that had been coming to their village.



Kiduchu asked Koba to help her do more detective work, but Koba had to stay and take care of his sister. So Kiduchu asked Tiny Tembo to help instead.



Then Mama Ndege's chick found Kiduchu and Tiny Tembo. She told Kiduchu that Mama Ndege was very sick.



Kiduchu and Tiny Tembo immediately went to visit Mama Ndege and asked how she was feeling.



“I have a fever, chills, nausea and a headache. I was bitten by a mosquito the other evening,” replied Mama Ndege.



“I’ve not taken any medicine.
I’m not sure what’s making me sick!
I need to get tested by a doctor first.”



Kiduchu and Tiny Tembo thought about Kibena.
They decided to take both Kibena and Mama Ndege
to the hospital for testing.



They found Ngedere, who drove them all to the hospital.



The doctor checked Kibena. Kibena did not have malaria, so the doctor gave her a different medicine.



“If you feel a fever coming on,
And you’re starting to feel ill.
Go to the hospital for testing,
So you get can the right pill,”
sang Tiny Tembo.

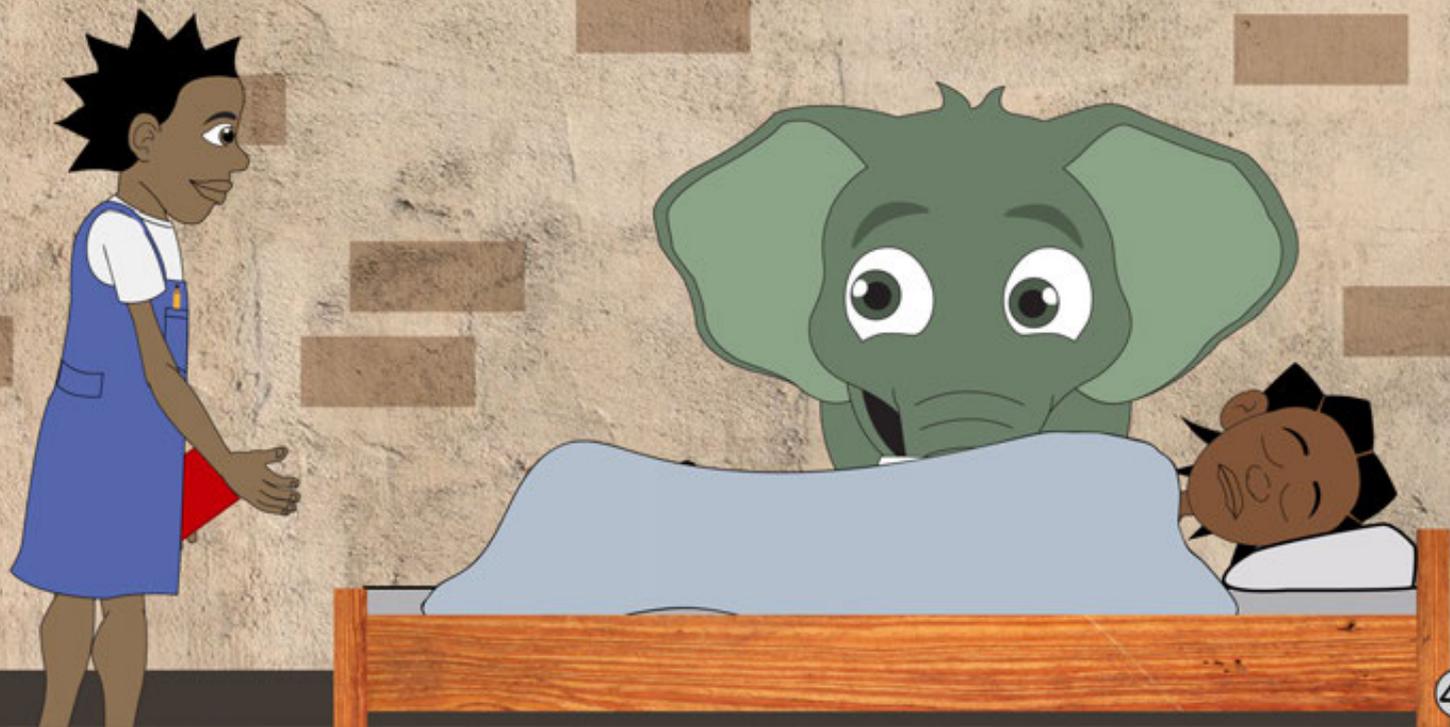




malaria

The doctor said that Mama Ndege, Mzee Kigo, Baraka and eleven other villagers in Kokotoa all had malaria.

“That is because an army of mosquitoes have been coming to our village every night, biting people,” replied Kiduchu.



“Good detective work, Kiduchu. Now you and Tiny Tembo need to find a way to stop this malaria from spreading,” said the doctor.



“We need to figure out the cause of the problem in order to solve it!”



We must find out their plan of attack,
so we can come up with our plan of defence,”
said Kiduchu to Tiny Tembo.

HOSPITAL



Kiduchu and Tiny Tembo followed the mosquitoes and hid behind a bush, listening to their conversation.



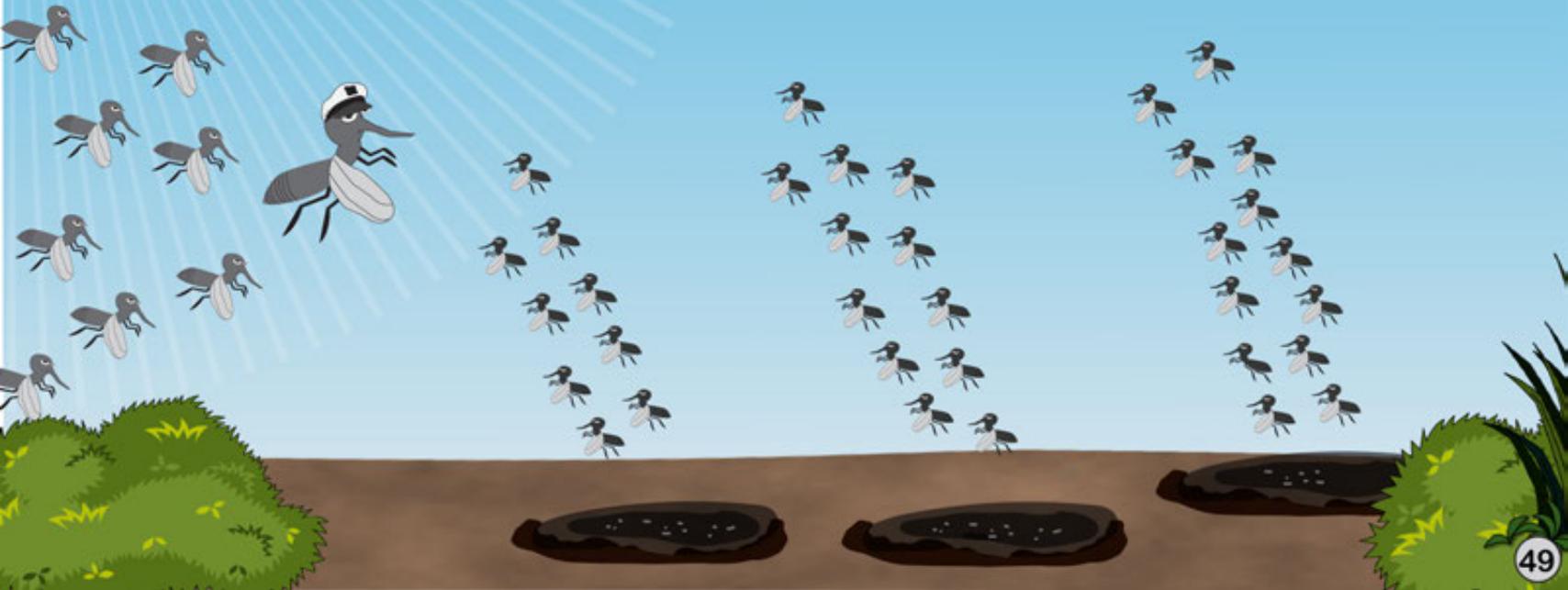
One soldier reported that she was able to bite the smaller boy, who was sitting outside the net. But the soldier could not get to the bigger boy, who was sleeping inside the treated mosquito net.



She also reported that there were a lot of houses without nets, so they should plan to attack those houses that night.



The captain ordered up more reserve soldiers from the mud puddles and sent scouts to find houses that did not have mosquito nets treated with insect spray.



“Did you hear that, Kiduchu? We have to make sure that none of the screens have holes. If they do, we need to fix them.”



“And we must tell everyone to sleep inside the nets,”
said Tiny Tembo.



“And don’t forget that they’re afraid of the insect spray. So we must spray a lot,” added Kiduchu.

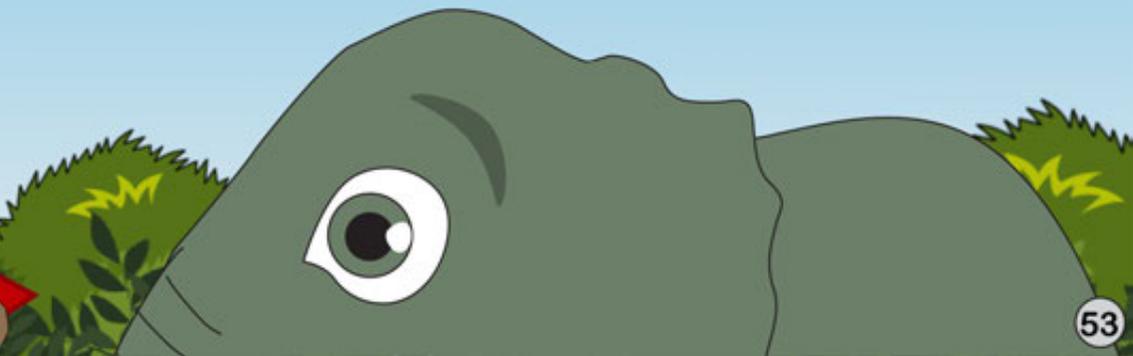


“Here’s our defense plan.

One: everyone sleeps inside nets.

Two: fix the broken screens and use insect spray.

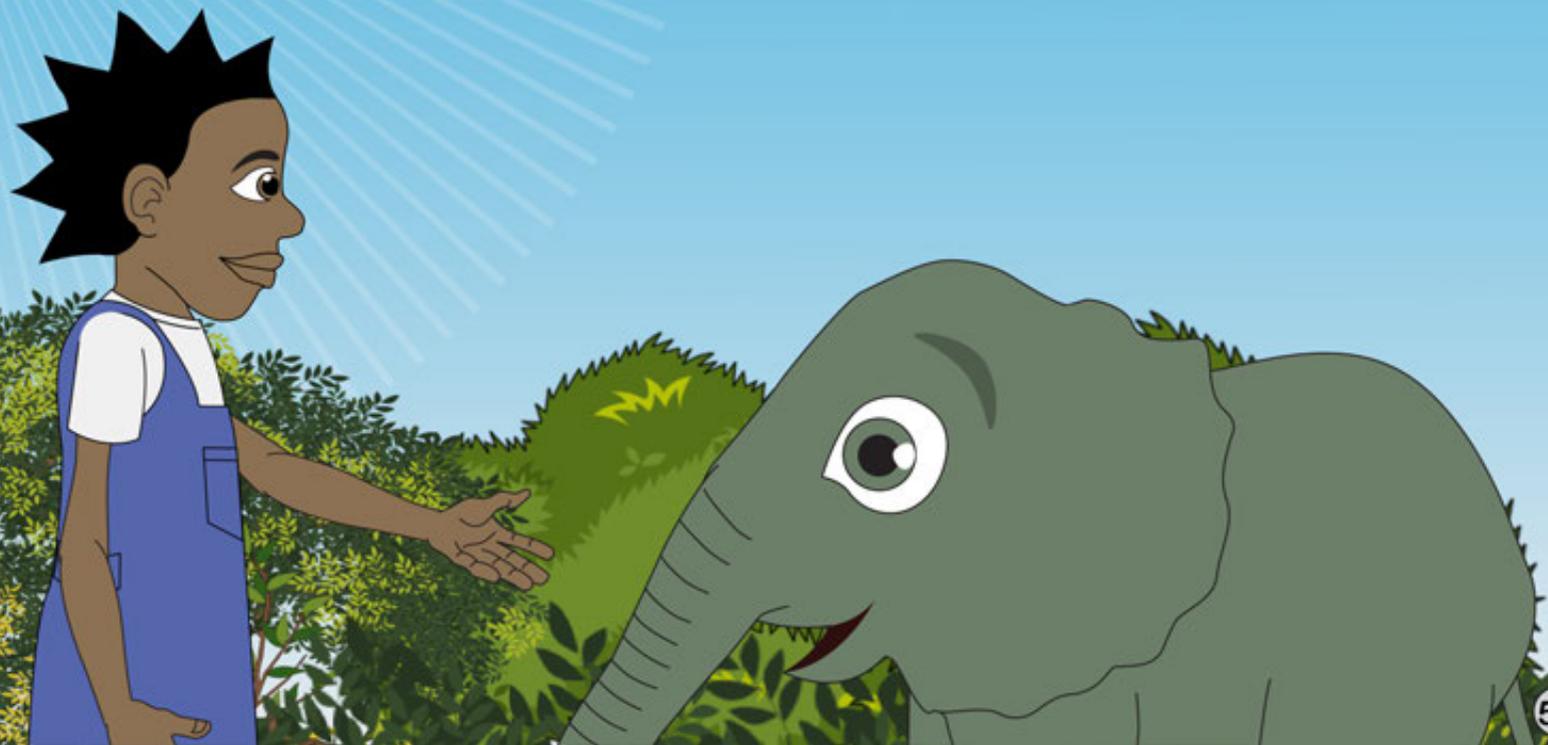
Three: fill in all the mud puddles.



And our plan B is: take anyone who is sick immediately to the hospital to get tested,” said Kiduchu.



“Wow, we have a lot to do. Lets find others to help,”
said Tiny Tembo.



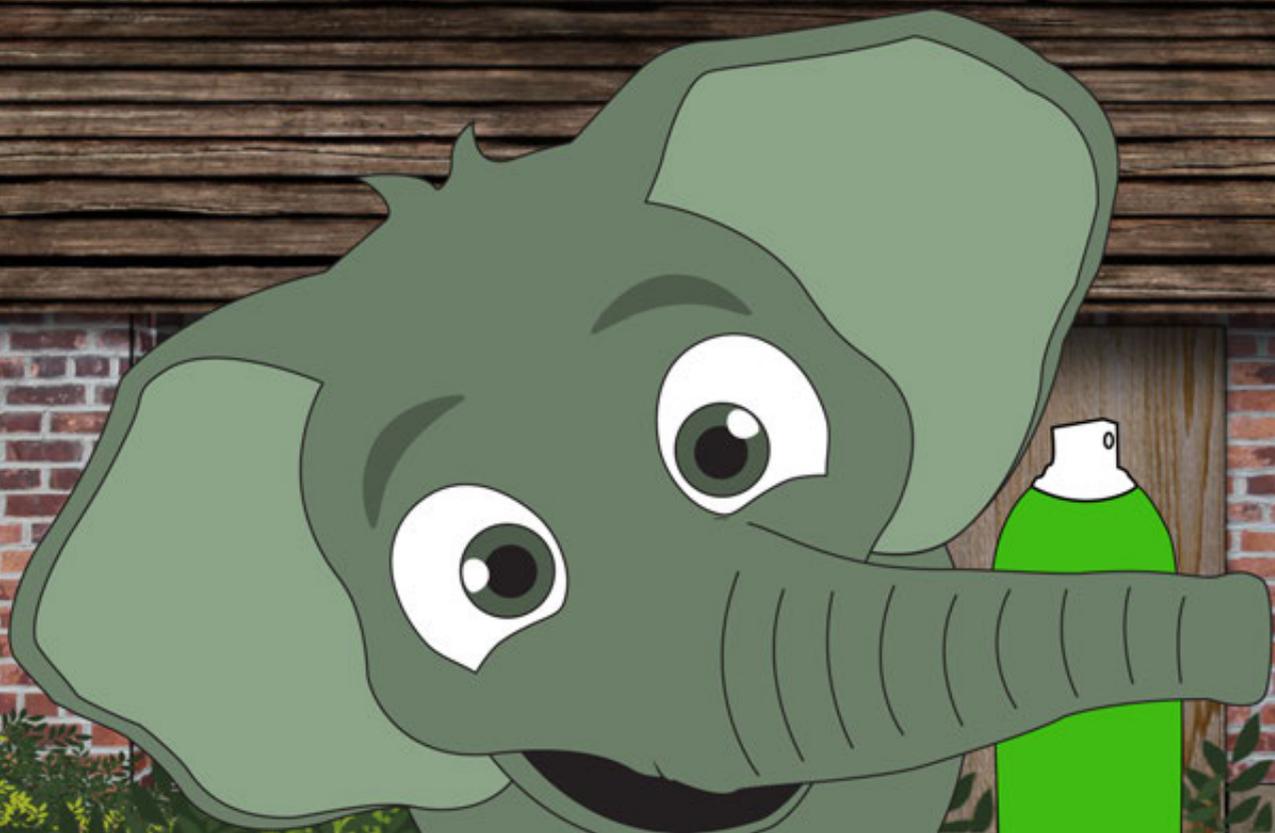
Together they drove around the village,
urging everyone to protect themselves against
the mosquito army.



Koba and Kiduchu gave out treated bednets.



Tiny Tembo got the insect spray ready for use.





Meanwhile Uncle T sang,
“The mosquitoes are coming,
We’ve gotta be prepared!
If we protect ourselves,
We don’t have to be scared.
The mosquitoes are coming,
We’ve gotta be prepared!
If we protect ourselves,
We don’t have to be scared.

The mosquitoes are coming,
The mosquitoes are coming,
The mosquitoes are coming,
The mosquitoes are coming!”



Koba fixed the broken screens.



Baraka sprayed inside the houses.



And Kibena filled the mud puddles with dirt.



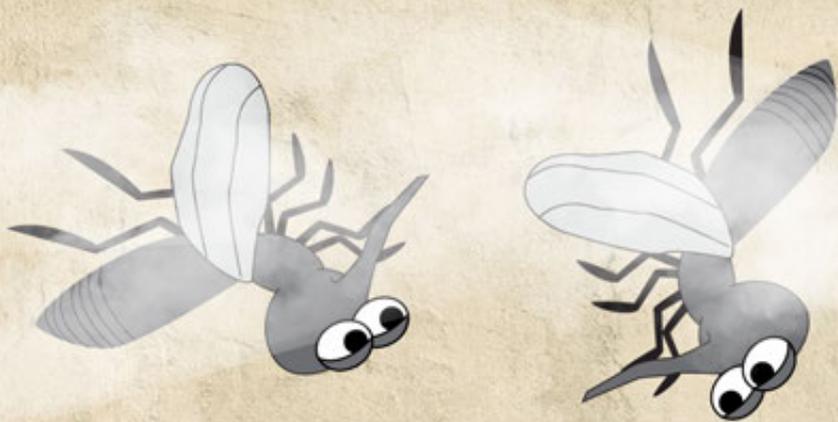
That evening, as expected, the mosquito army came to attack the village of Kokotoa.



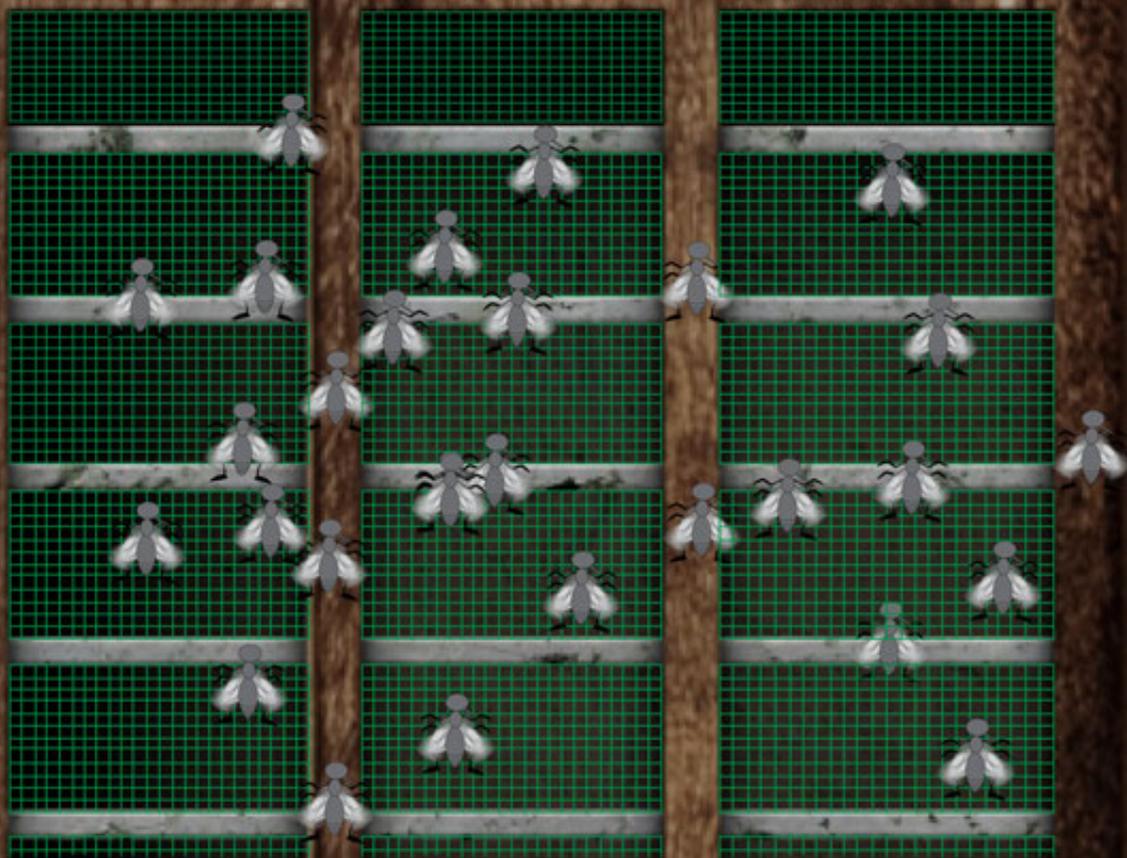
They swarmed around Koba's house, but they could not get inside since the screens had no holes in them.



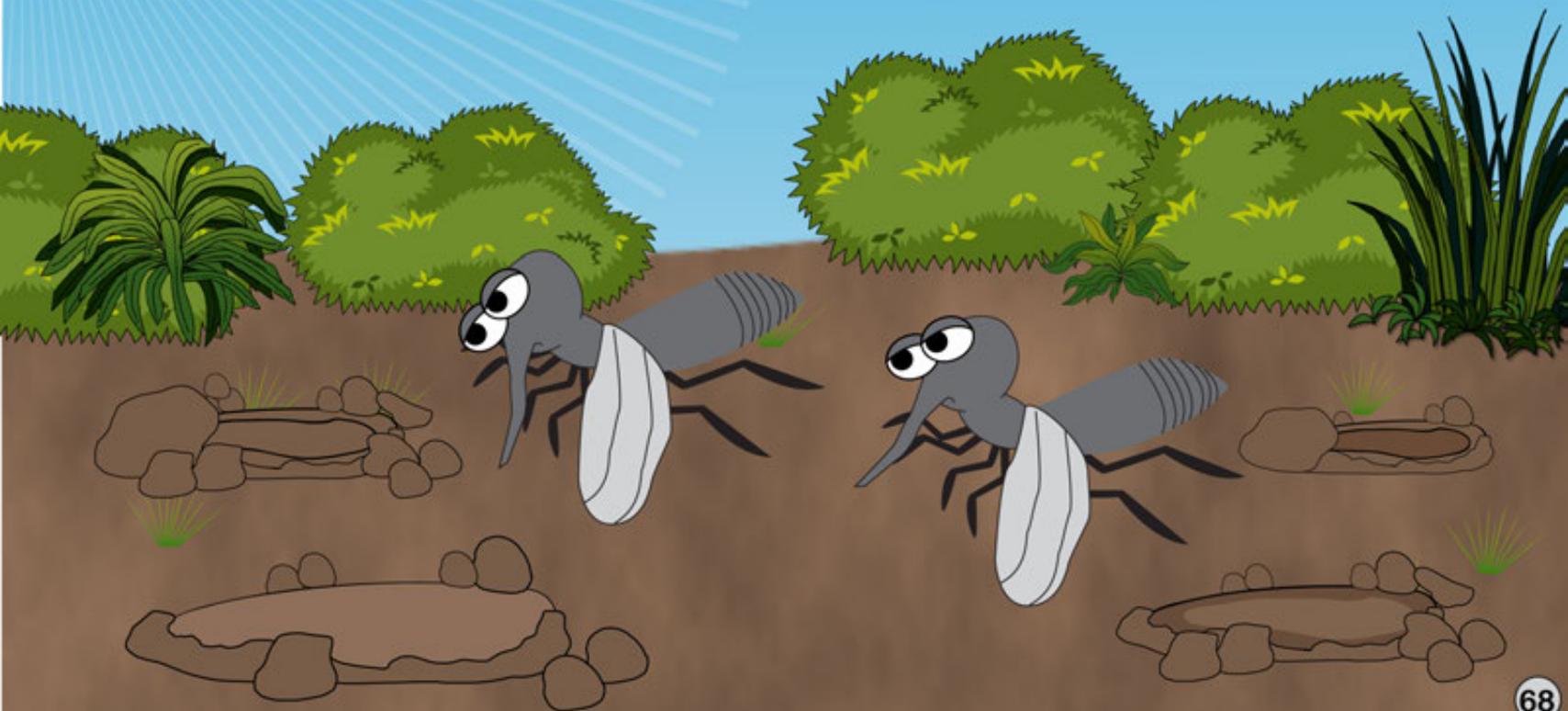
Two soldiers went to Mzee Kigo's house and fell to the ground as soon as they breathed in the insect spray.



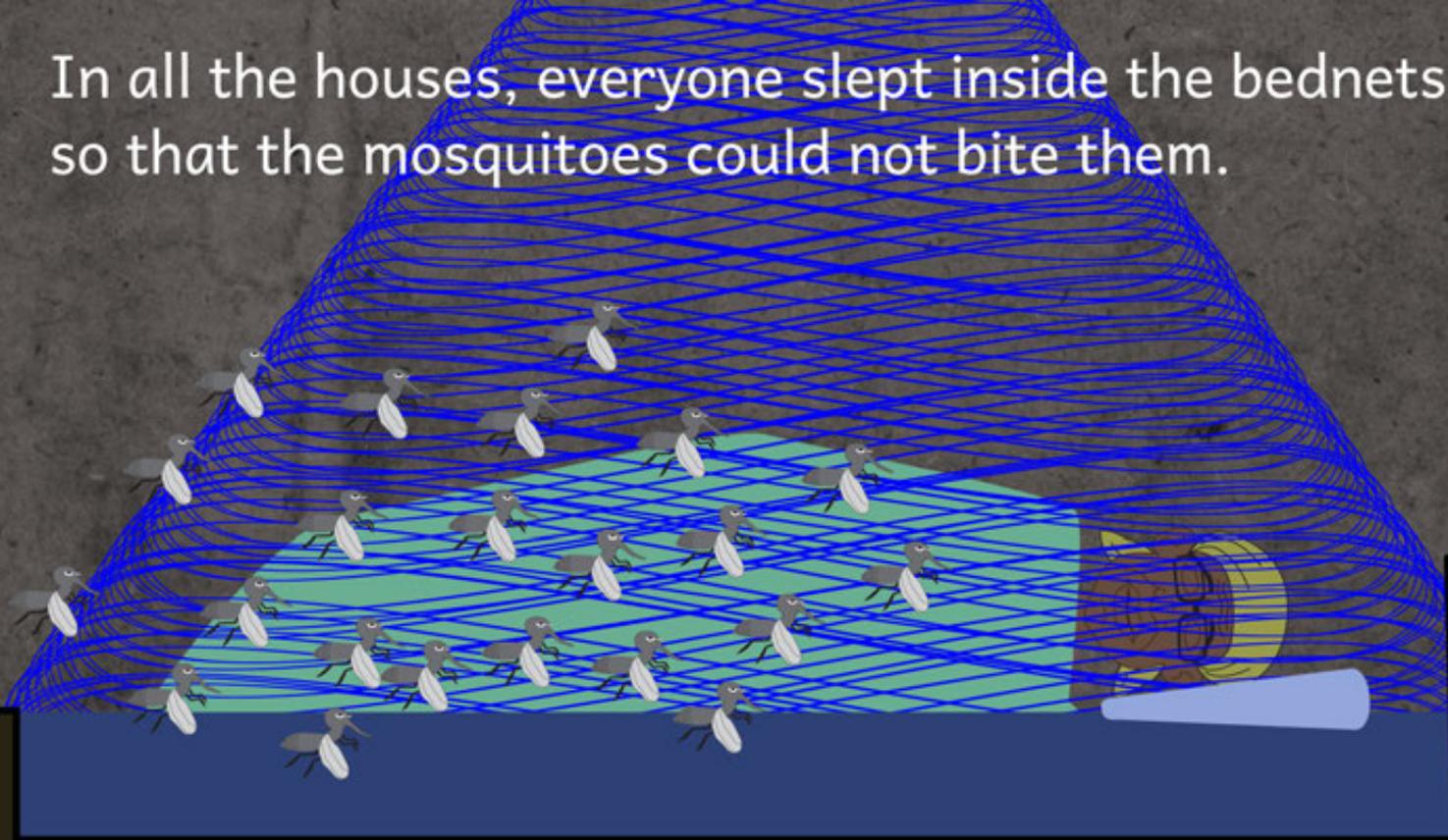
A whole battalion tried to make holes in the screen but could not.



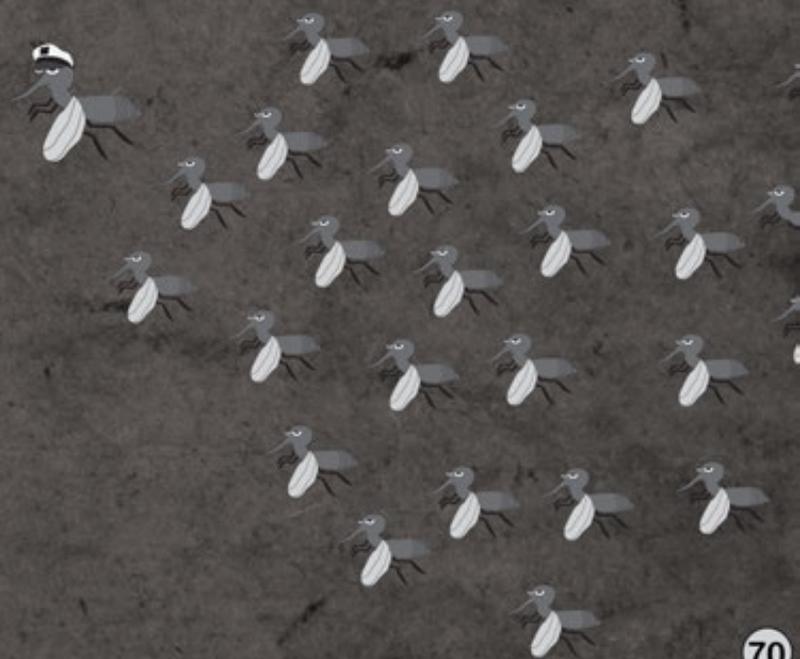
Others went to bring up the reserves, but there were none because all the mud puddles were gone.



In all the houses, everyone slept inside the bednets so that the mosquitoes could not bite them.



The battalion went into Kiduchu's bedroom. Captain Mozzy told Kiduchu that they were retreating from the village of Kokatoa.



“This village has great defence! We are moving out to find new targets. But don't let your defence down. If your bed nets come down and you are out of spray, we'll be back,” warned Captain Mozy.



The mosquito army flew out
of the village of Kokotoa.





The End

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