

Ebook adapted from the TV series





ubongo kids

discrimination

**treating people unfairly
because they are different from you**



The animals of Kokotoa had gathered for a game of Coco Net. The two teams were on the field, BLUE versus YELLOW.



Each team prepared to catch the coconut and to get it into the opposite team's net to score points. The winners would be the team with the most points.



Baraka sat in the announcer's booth with a microphone, commentating on the game.



Kiduchu was the referee.



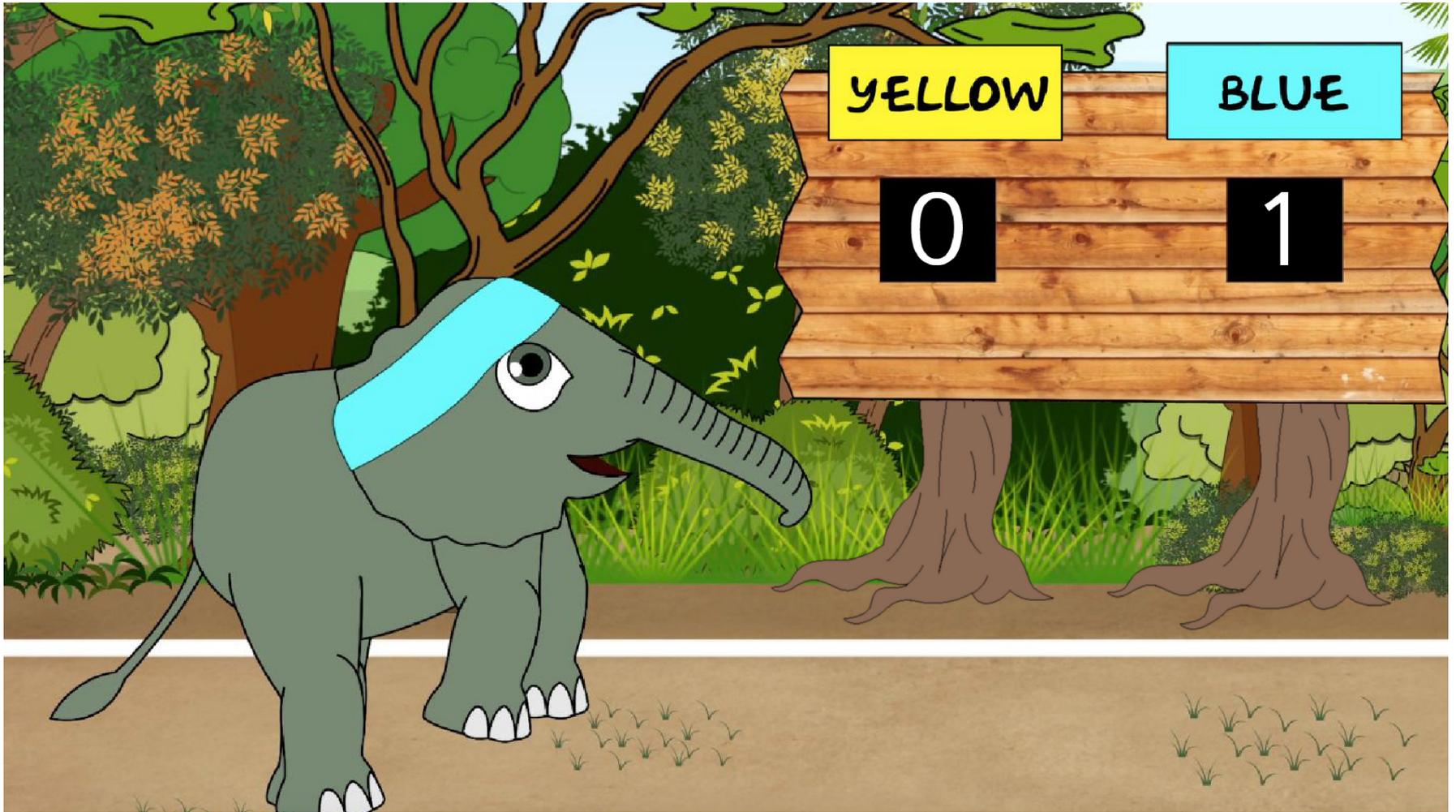
Kaka Kobe watched the game from the sidelines. He acted out the moves and even blocked wayward coconuts.



But even with his fancy moves, the other animals wouldn't let him play. "They say just because I am a Tortoise, I can't play Coco Net!" Kaka Kobe complained to Amani.



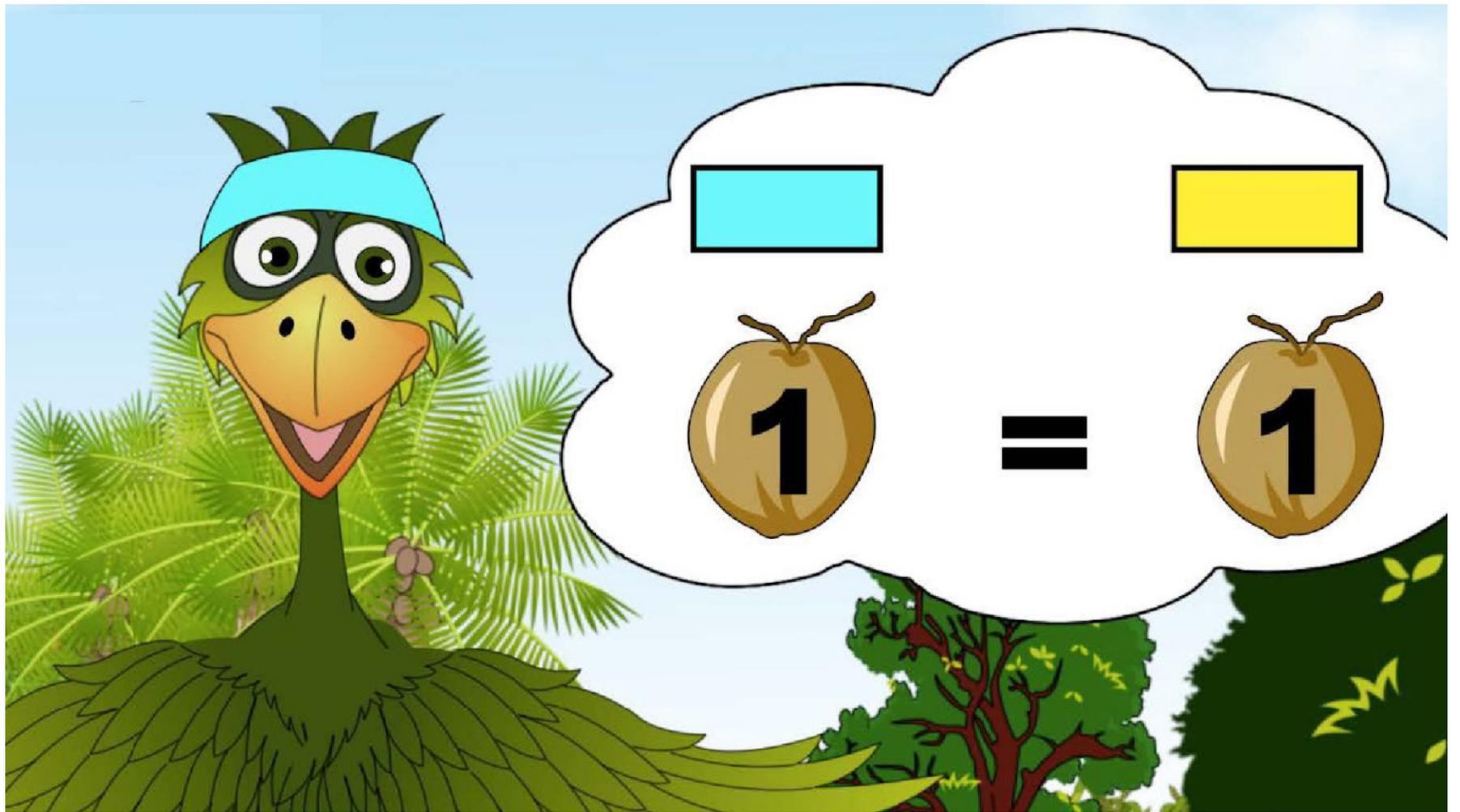
Kibena and Koba stood next to the scoreboard. They waited impatiently for either team to score.



Finally with a flick of his trunk, Tiny Tembo flung the coconut into the air and it flew straight into the net. Koba and Kibena put up a “1” under BLUE.



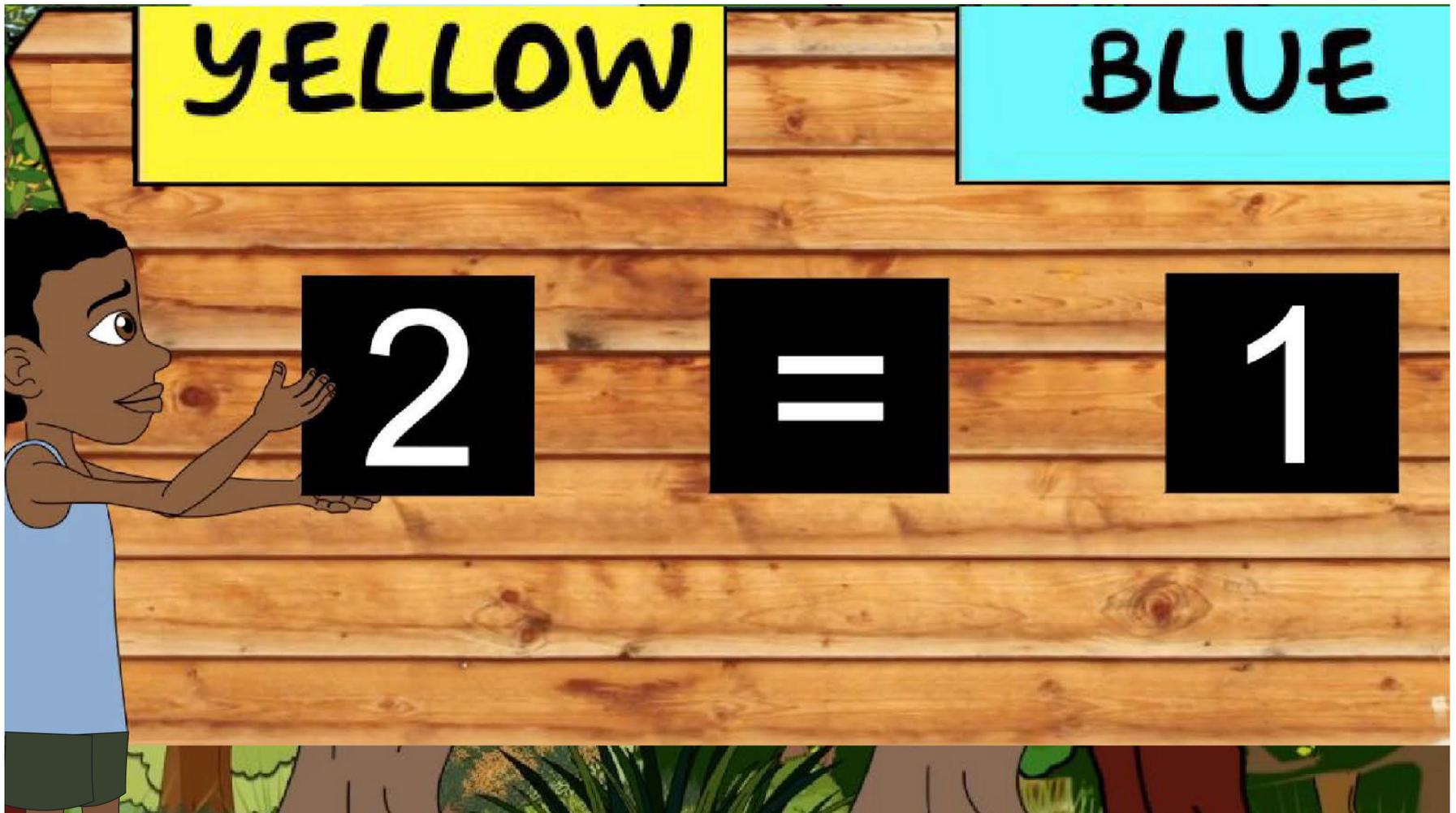
Shortly after, it was Ngedere's turn to score for the Yellow team. He flicked his tail and catapulted the coconut into the Blue team's net. Koba and Kibena added a "1" under YELLOW. "Your scores are equal," said Koba.



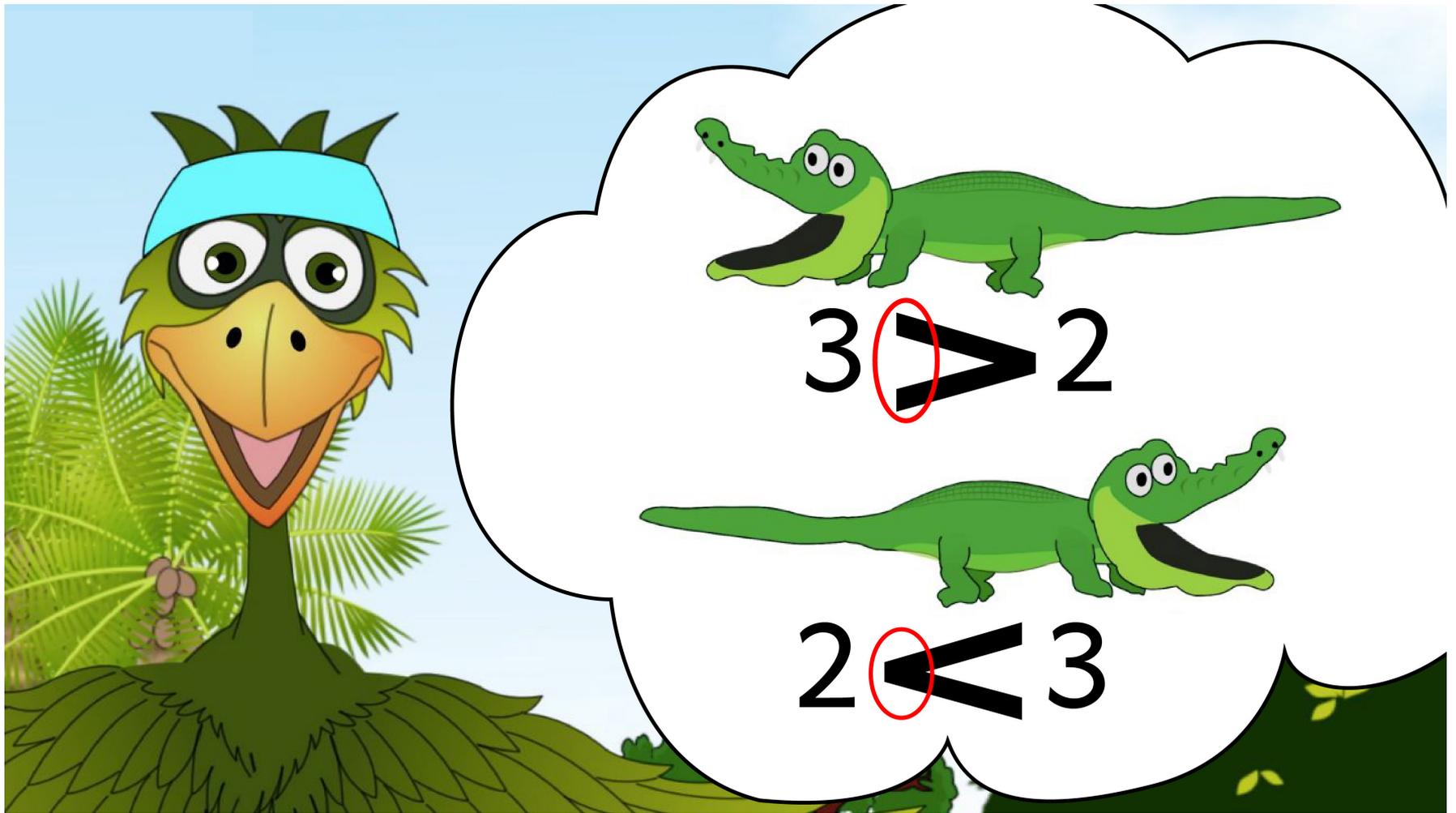
“Equal means the same.”



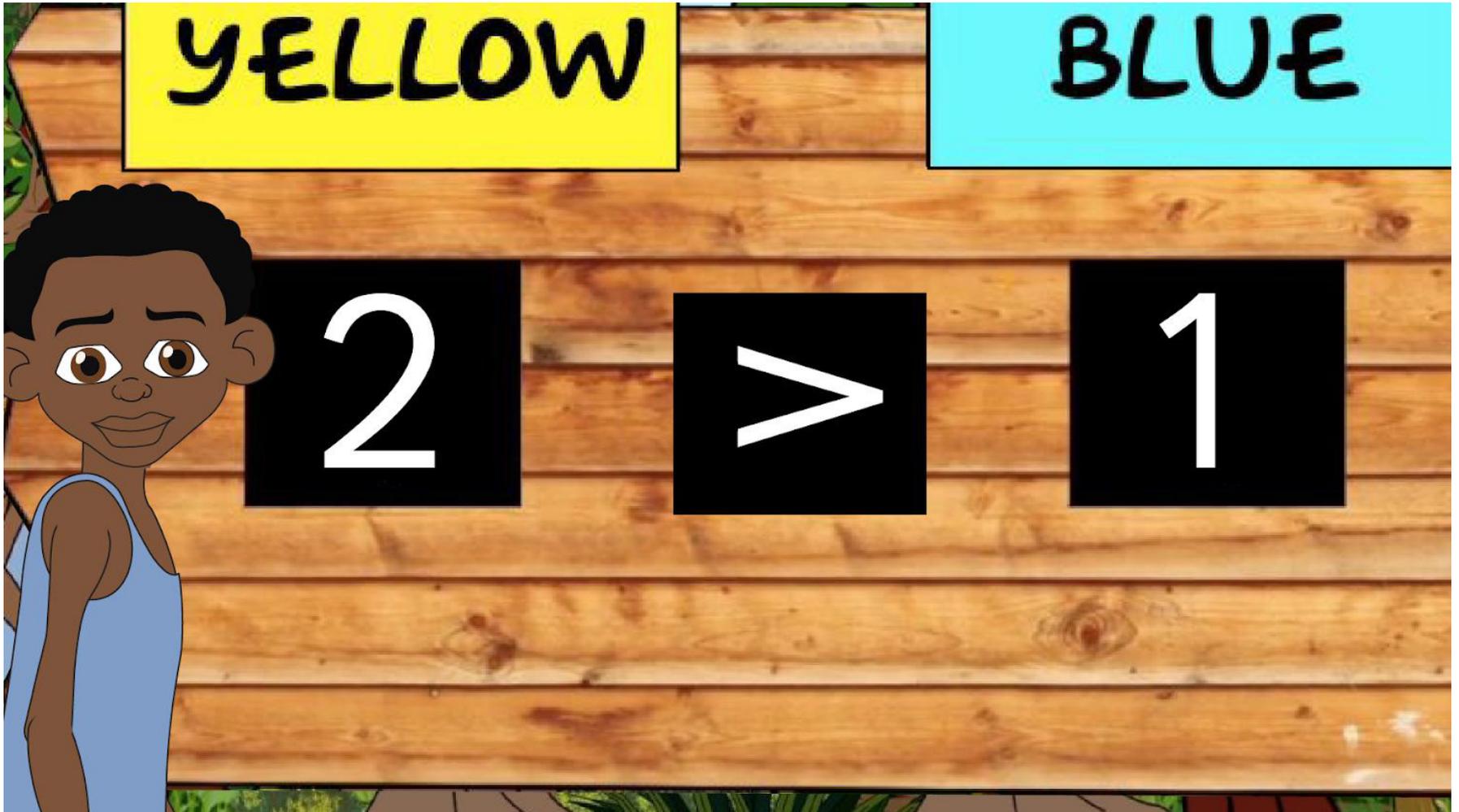
Next, Uncle T scored for the yellow team!



Koba put a “2” under YELLOW. “Two is greater than one,” said Kaka Kobe, “so you need to remove the sign that says *equal*.”



Mama Ndege explained that the symbol is like a crocodile: “Its mouth eats the bigger number, and its tail pokes the little number!”



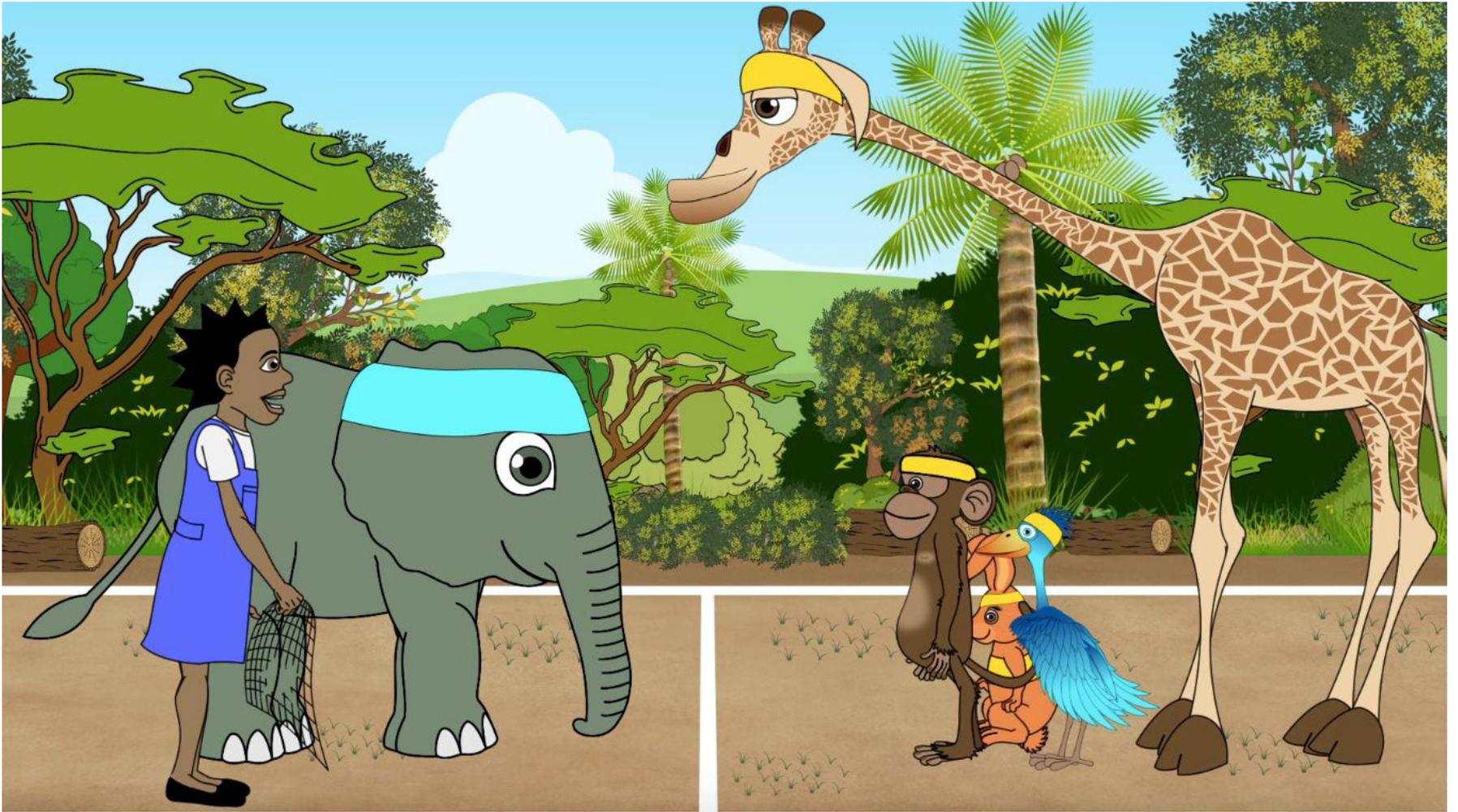
Koba put the correct sign on the scoreboard. “Two is greater than one,” said Amani. Ngedere and the Yellow team began celebrating wildly.



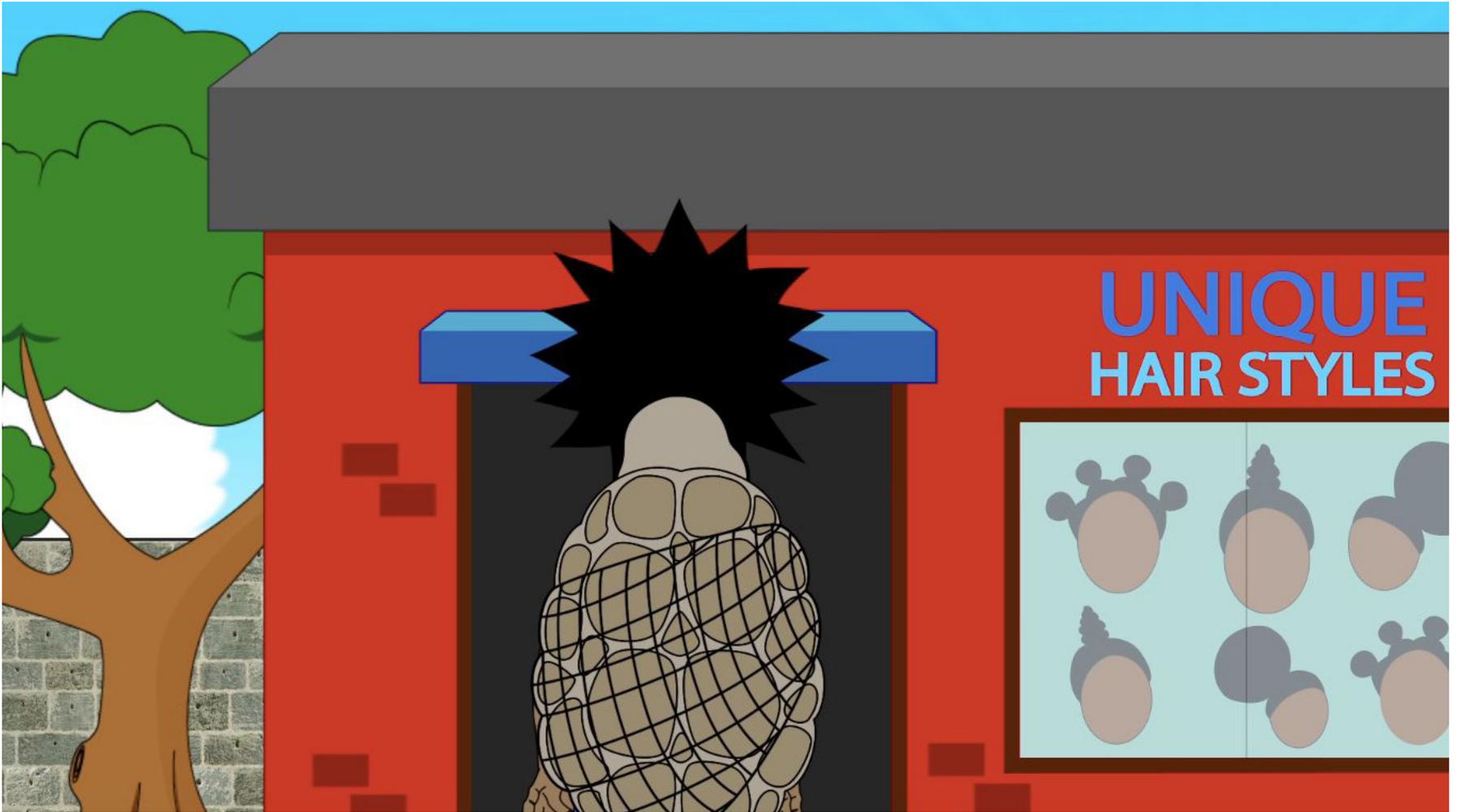
The game continued. Da Chura scored twice! But as she tossed the second coconut into the net, she fell in herself!



The net broke and the Yellow team's coconuts fell to the ground. Da Chura counted them: "One, two, three, four. We have four points!"



Kiduchu blew her referee's whistle. "It's halftime," she said. "You players get some water, and I will go to get the net fixed quickly."



Kaka Kobe offered to help Kiduchu, and together they headed to the UNIQUELADIES SALON.



As they approached, some mean girls in the salon blocked Kiduchu's way.



The three mean girls made fun of Kiduchu's spiky hair. Their own hair was being elaborately styled, to look like pictures from a magazine. Kiduchu looked like she might start to cry...



...but then, she turned to the mean girls and said, "You think I'm not unique? I'm Kiduchu! I can juggle coconuts, I can name all the planets in the solar system, AND I help other kids instead of blocking their way!"



Then Kiduchu pointed at her spiky hair and said, “I am the **ONLY** one here with a **UNIQUE** hairstyle. Everyone in Kokotoa knows me for my spikes! So please stop with your **DISCRIMINATION!**”



But the girls didn't know what 'discrimination' meant... Kiduchu explained, "It's when you treat people differently or leave them out because of their gender, their body type, the color of their skin... OR their hairstyle."



“It’s not cool,” she told them. The mean girls felt ashamed, and apologized for not letting Kiduchu pass.



Inside the shop, Mama Pendo greeted Kiduchu warmly. Kiduchu explained the problem of the broken net, and asked to borrow some hair clips so she could fix it.



Kiduchu took some hair clips from the cart that Mama Pendo offered her. She handed the clips to Kaka Kobe and headed back to the game.



The ladies in the salon were so impressed with Kiduchu's unique look that they asked Mama Pendo if she could change their hair-dos to spikes, just like Kiduchu's!



Kaka Kobe congratulated Kiduchu for standing up to discrimination. “I won’t let anyone tell me that I am LESS THAN they are, just because I am different,” Kiduchu replied.



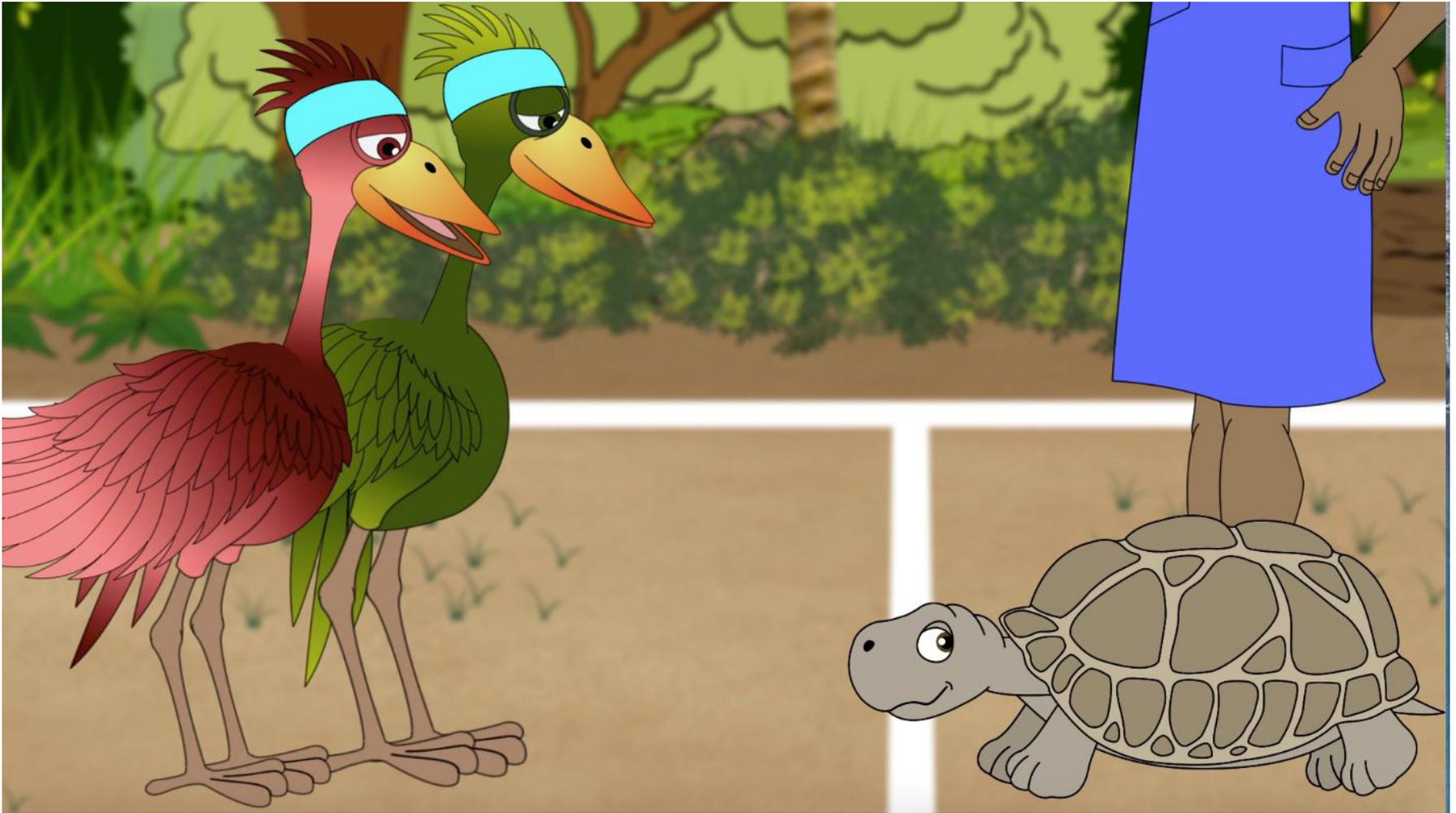
“Wait!” called out Kaka Kobe. “Why should I let the others discriminate against me just because I am a tortoise?! I should be allowed to play Coco Net too!”



Back at the field, Kiduchu repaired the net, ready for the second half of the game.



As the two teams lined up, she counted the players: “One, two, three, four, five on the Yellow team; one, two, three, four on the Blue team. Your teams are unequal!” she exclaimed.



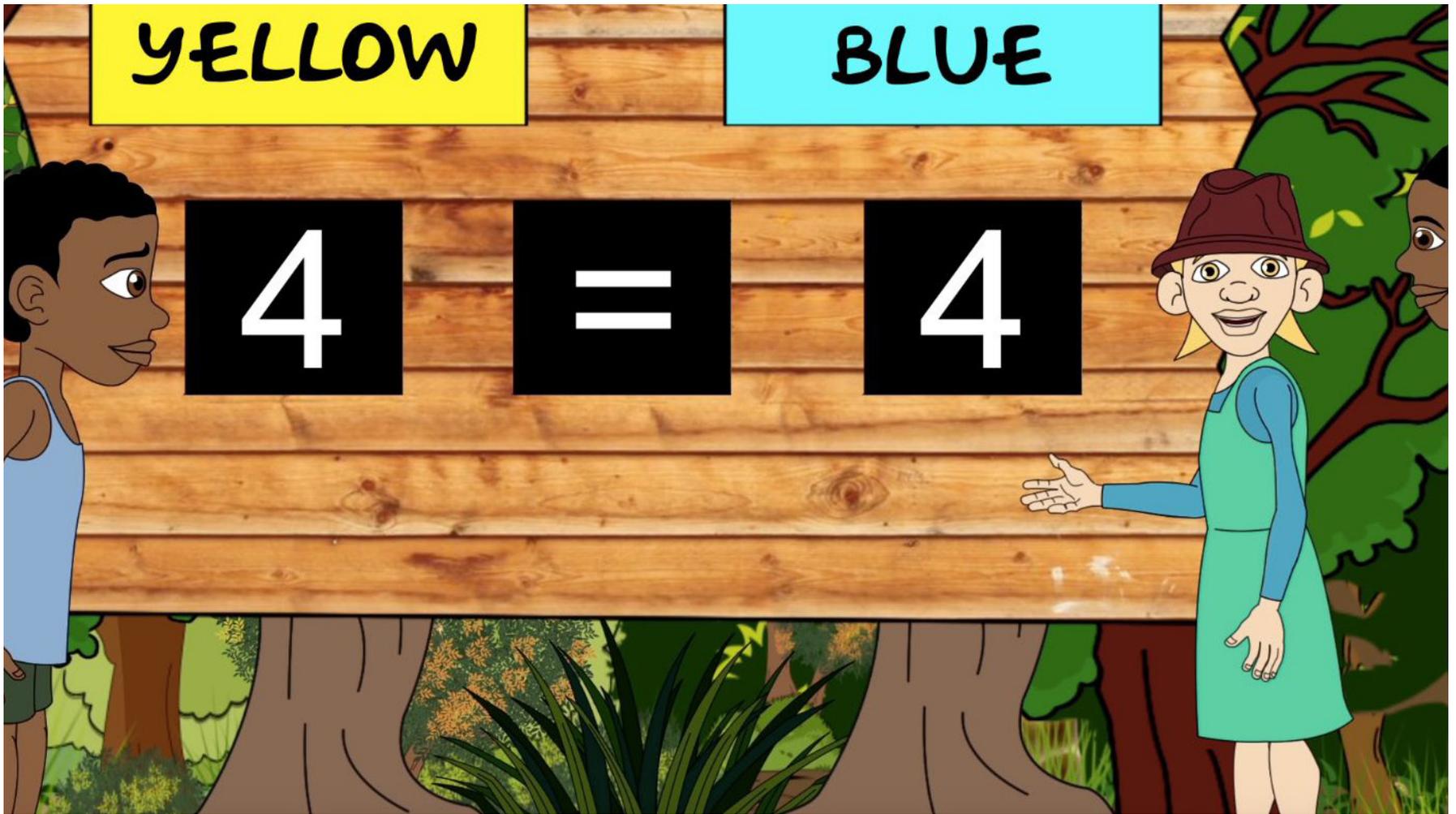
“Kiduchu is right,” said Mama Ndege. “To be fair, both teams have to have equal numbers of players.” Kaka Kobe piped up, “I can join the Blue team! Then each team would have five players.”



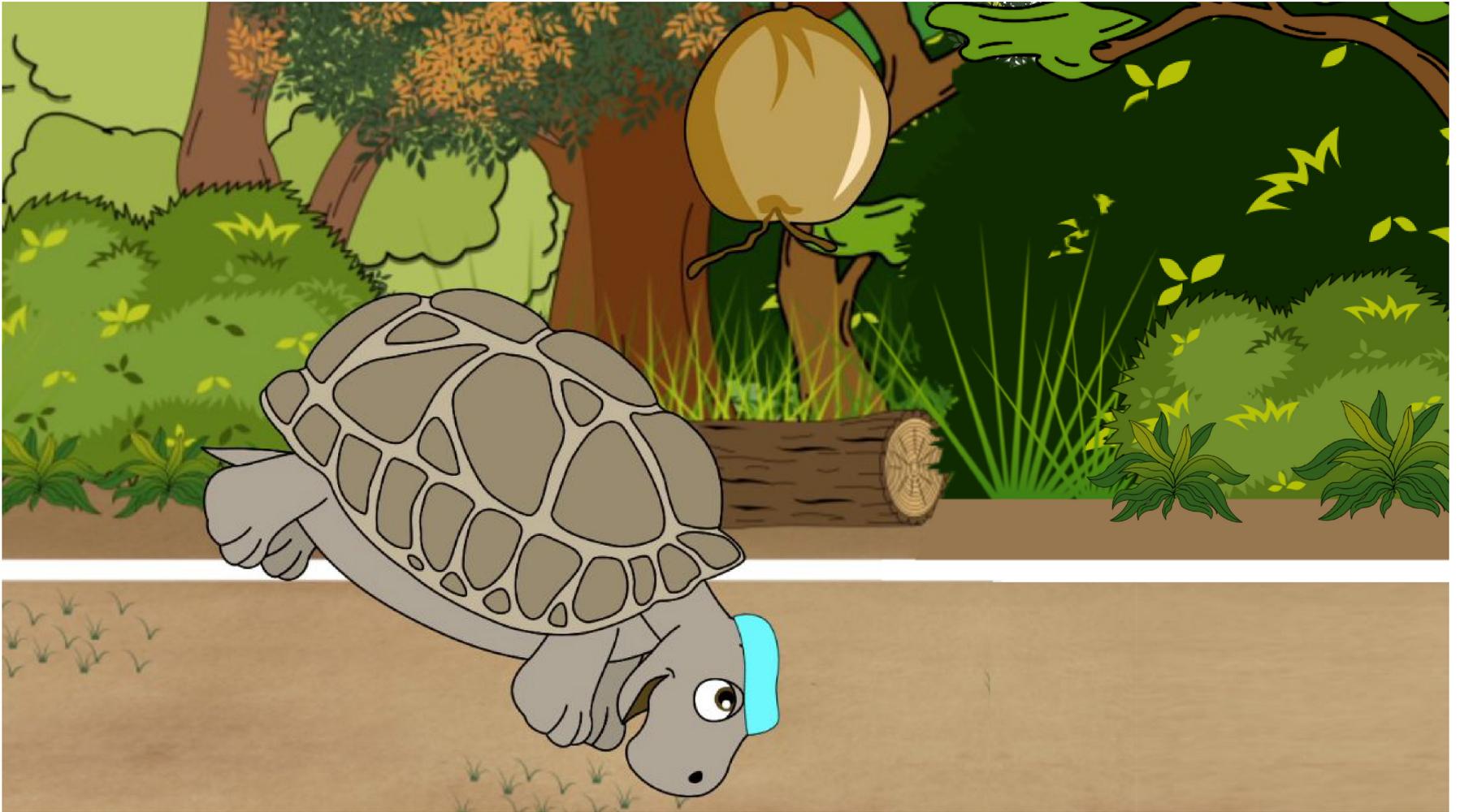
At first, Pinky objected. “Tortoises can’t play Coco Net,” she said. But then they all agreed that everyone, including a tortoise, deserved an equal chance to play.



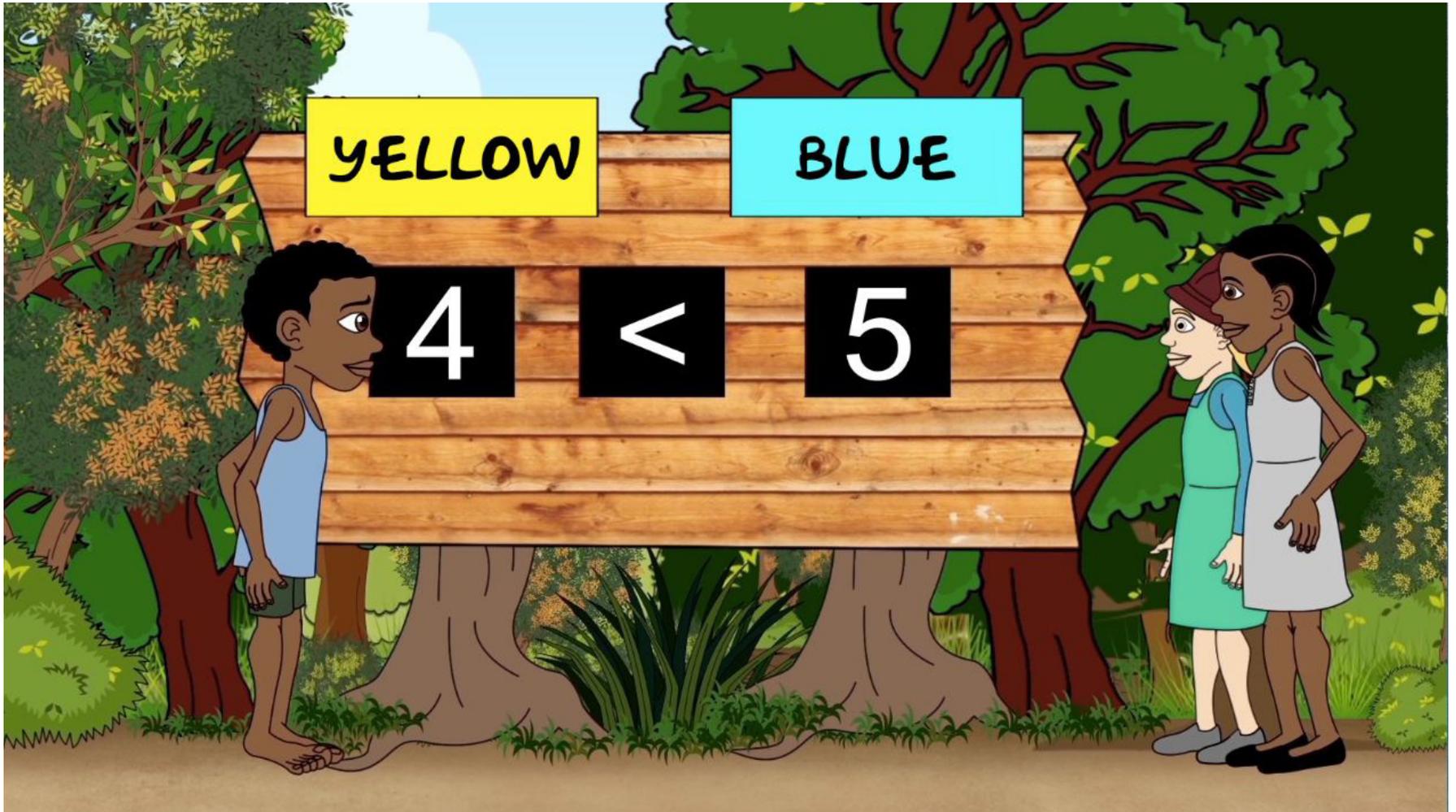
The game continued. Kaka Kobe scored to make it 4 to 2. Then he scored again! It was 4 to 3!



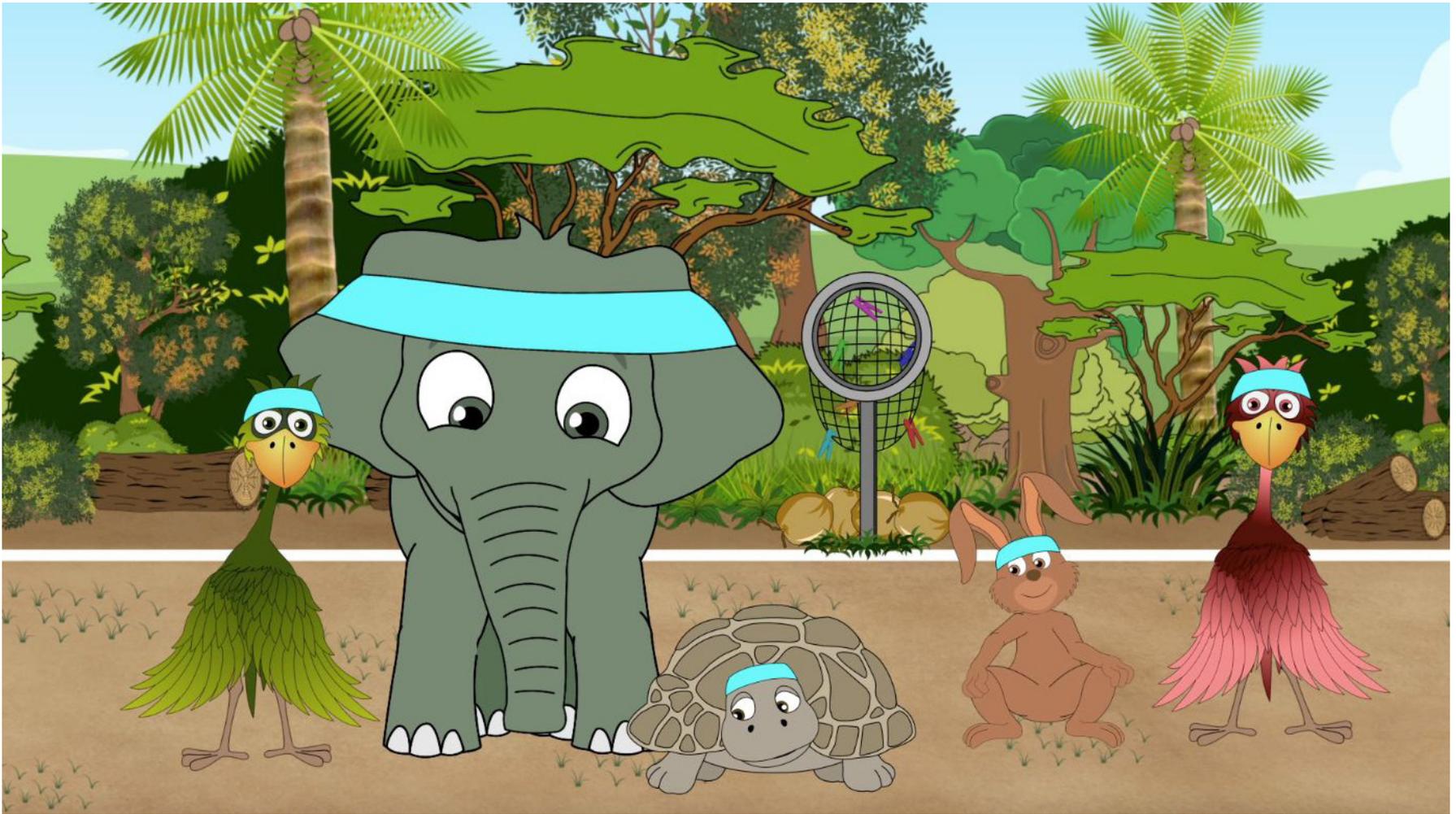
And yet again! The scoreboard now showed: $4 = 4$, a tie!



By bouncing the coconut off his shell, Kaka Kobe scored the final goal.



The Blue team won the game! The score was 4 to 5. “Four is less than five,” Ngedere sulked. “We lost. The Blue team is greater than we are.”



“That’s not true!” said Kaka Kobe. “Maybe our score is greater than yours, but in life, we are all equal.”



All the players lifted Kaka Kobe above their heads, and marched off the field together singing, “Numbers can be greater than or less than, but in life we are all EQUAL!”



The End

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