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GRADE

3

ANTHOLOGY

# Platinum

English First Additional  
Language

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Platinum English First Additional Language Grade 3 Anthology

Maskew Miller Learning  
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# Story 1: How Zebra got his stripes

When I was young, there was a Gogo who liked to tell stories. Gogo lived in the shadow of a very big mountain. The mountain was as wide as it was high. Gogo's home was one of a few huts that were nearby the mountain. Every evening, the children of the village would gather around Gogo the Storyteller.

Every evening, she would tell them a new story. One evening, sitting around the fire, Gogo started her latest story. "Do you know how Zebra got its stripes?" she asked. No child could answer her. "Well, let me tell you," Gogo said softly.

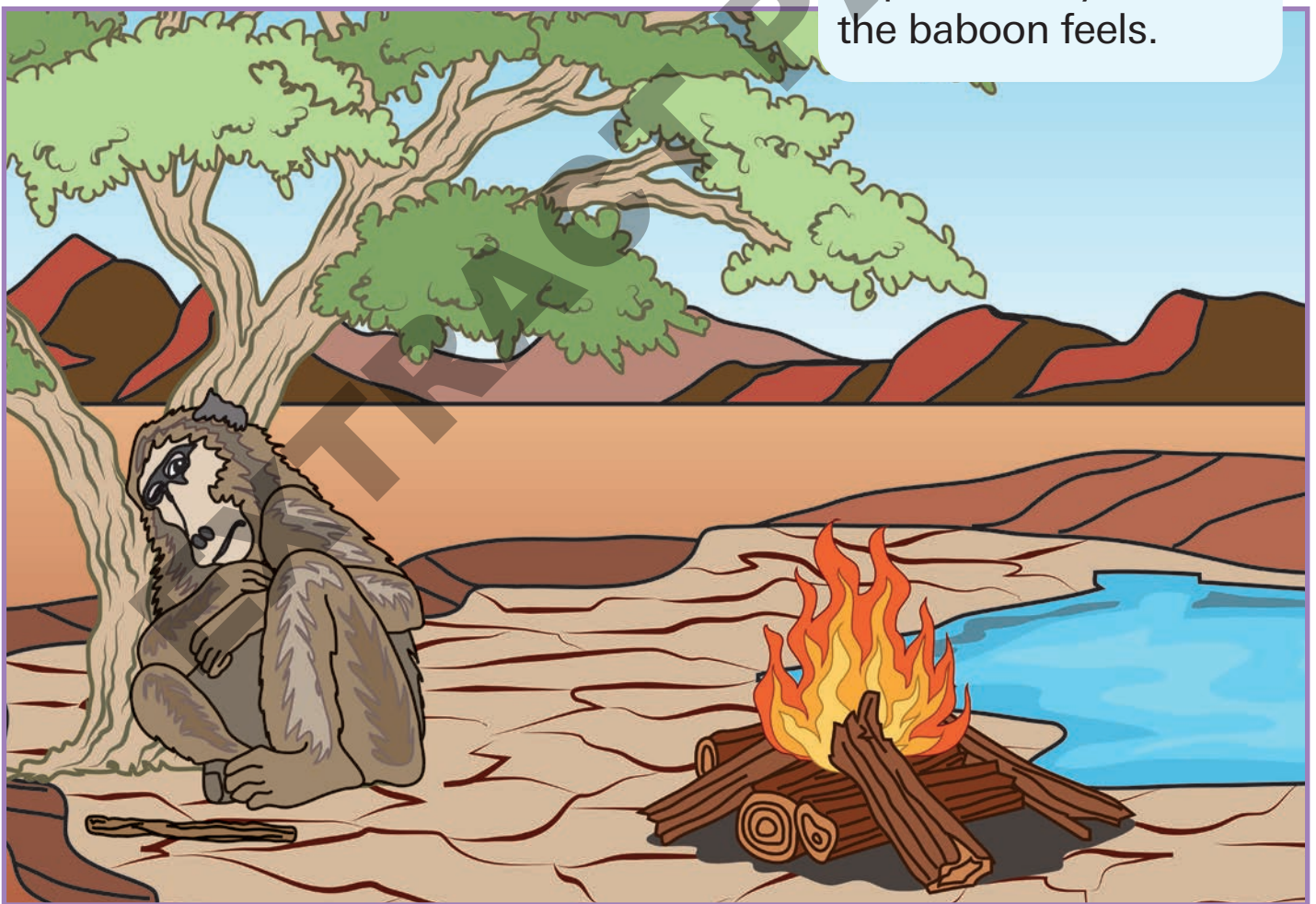


Long, long ago, long before these mountains were born, long before this river was born, long before the trees were born, there lived a very big and powerful baboon. This baboon guarded the only water pool. The weather was very hot. There were no trees, so the sun dried up most of the water.

This baboon called himself the King of the water pool. At night, he made a big fire near the pool. He had a big stick that he used to chase the other animals. He slept with one eye open so that he could catch any animals trying to steal his water. You see, the animals were very thirsty.



Do you think sleeping with one eye open and holding a big stick is a good way to live? Explain how you think the baboon feels.



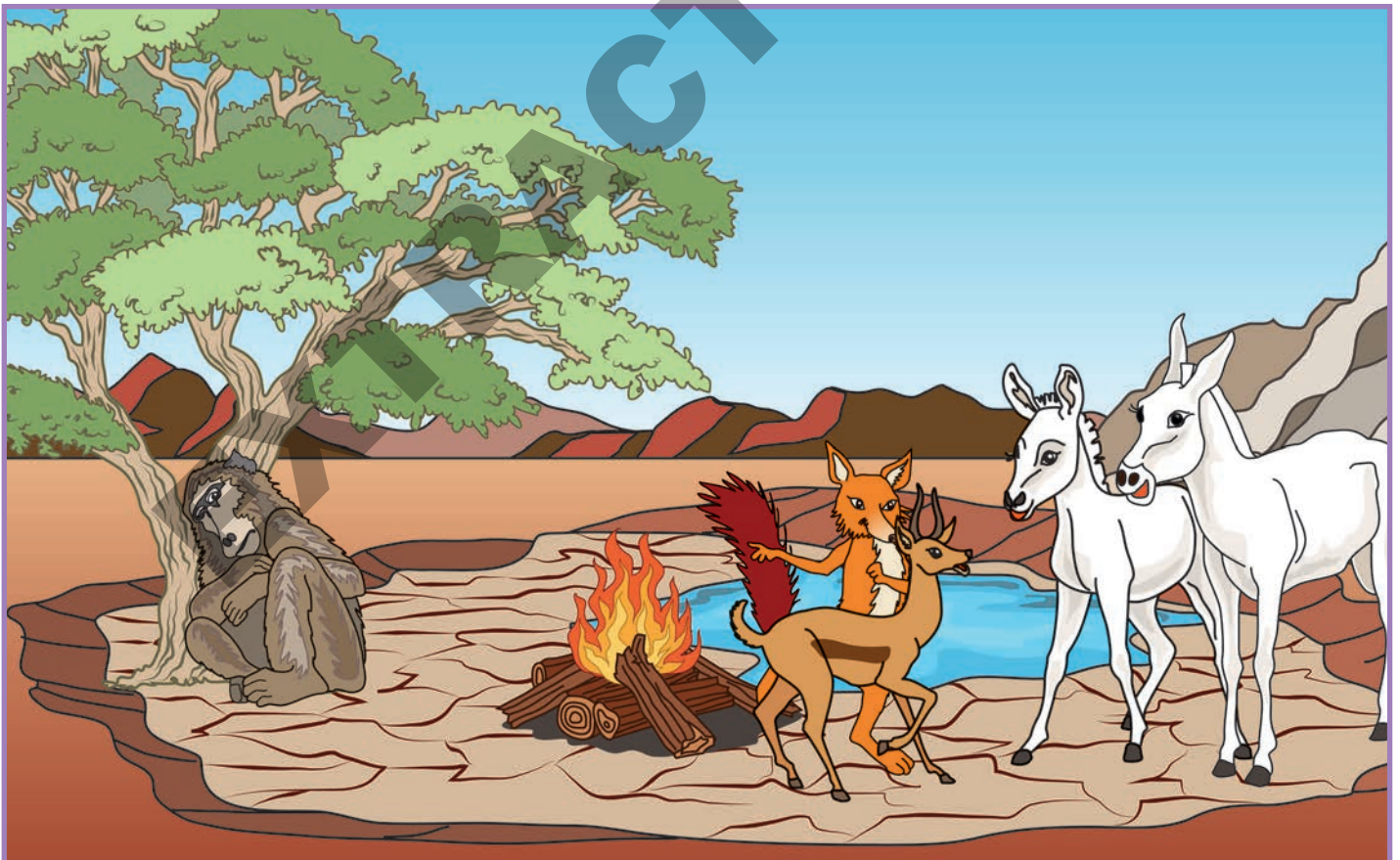
One very hot evening, a young zebra and his father came searching for water. They had travelled a long way, looking for water. In those days, zebras did not have stripes. They were pure white. They went near the water pool.

“Beware!” said the jackal. “See that baboon sleeping there. He is the King of the water pool. That baboon will catch you and beat you.”

“Yes,” said the springbuck. “Do you know that he sleeps with one eye open?”

“Come, son,” said Father Zebra. “Let us continue searching.”

“No!” shouted the young zebra. “Why should he have all the water? We need water too.”

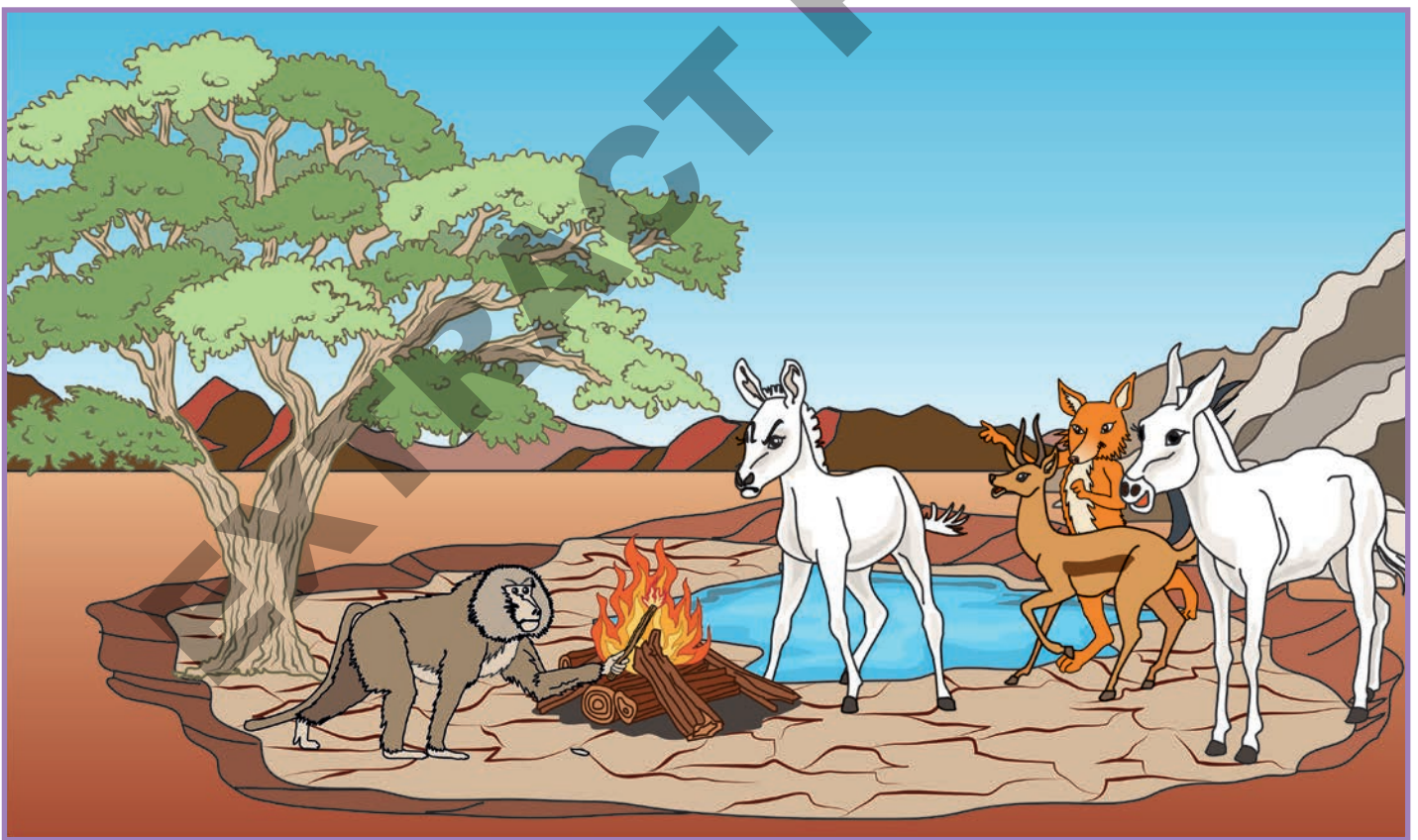


The sleeping baboon heard the shouting and opened both his eyes. "Oh oh," he said, "so you want to steal my water."

"No," said the young zebra, "it belongs to everyone."

"Well then," yelled the baboon. "You will have to fight me for it."

So the two animals ran towards each other. Baboon gripped his stick hard and tried to hit Zebra. Zebra circled around and tried to punch Baboon. They grabbed at each other and rolled in the dust. Then baboon lost his stick. It rolled away, out of his reach.



The two fought for a very long time. Suddenly Zebra saw a chance. He gave a mighty kick, lifting Baboon into the air.

Baboon flew through the air and landed with a hard bump on some rocks. He bounced up and landed again with a thump. The hair on his bottom came off and he was left with a bald patch on his bottom.

To this day, Baboon has a painful, red, bald patch on his bottom. He goes around barking at everyone and holds his tail high in the air.

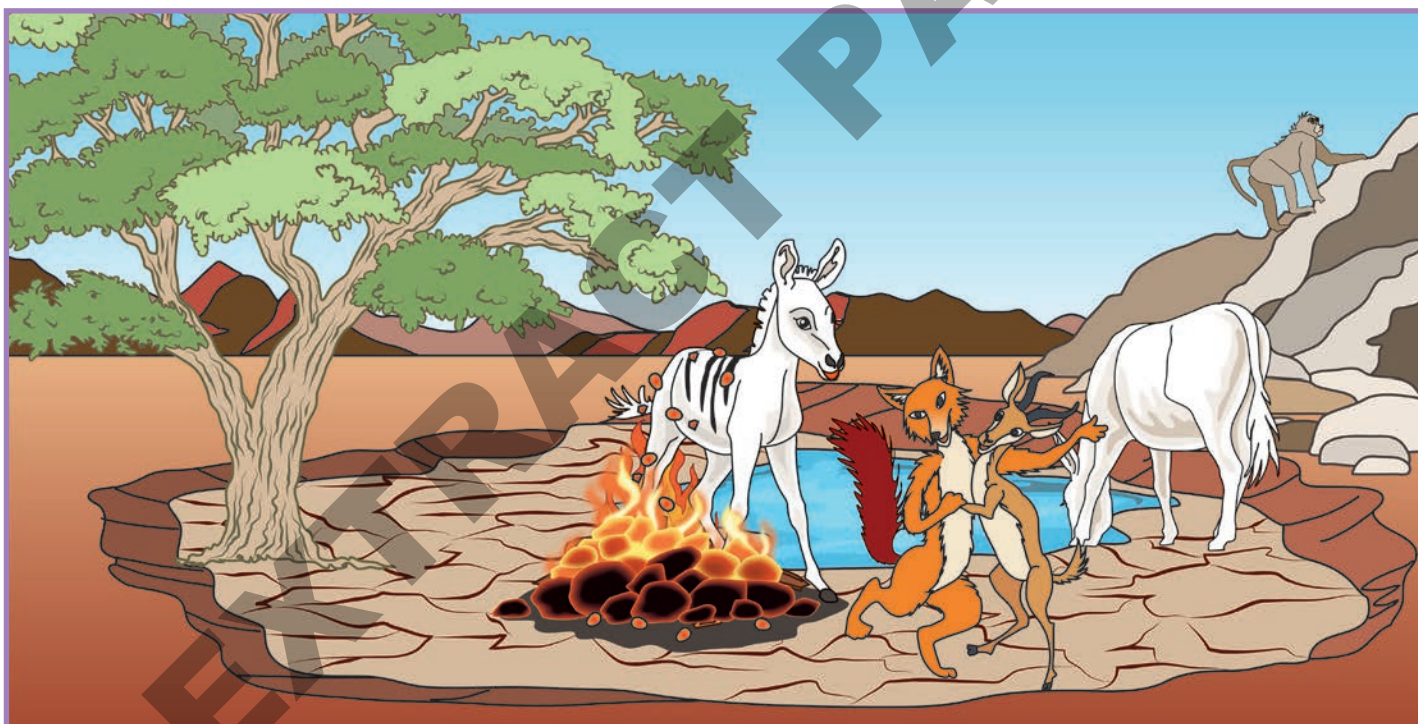


In the meantime, Zebra was feeling tired from the fight. His legs were shaking after kicking the baboon so hard. All he could think about was the water. As he stumbled towards the water, he did not notice the fire.

Zebra walked right over the fire. He accidentally kicked up some of the burning coals that landed on his back and slid down, giving him black stripes.

“So, you see,” said Gogo, “that is how the zebra got his stripes.”

She looked at the children. They were hugging each other, staring at her with big eyes. That was an exciting story!



### Post-reading questions

1. What weapon did Baboon have to protect the water pool?
2. How do you think Baboon feels about having a bald patch on his bottom?
3. Do you think it is fair that Baboon gets to keep all the water?

## Story 2: Moving house



Thandi and Thembi were twin sisters who loved their little brother, Siphos. They shared a cozy room full of toys and books. One day, their parents told them they were moving to a new house. Thandi and Thembi felt excited but also a little worried.

Why does everybody look so sad? It was only Siphos's teddy that was lost but Thandi and Thembi look sad too.

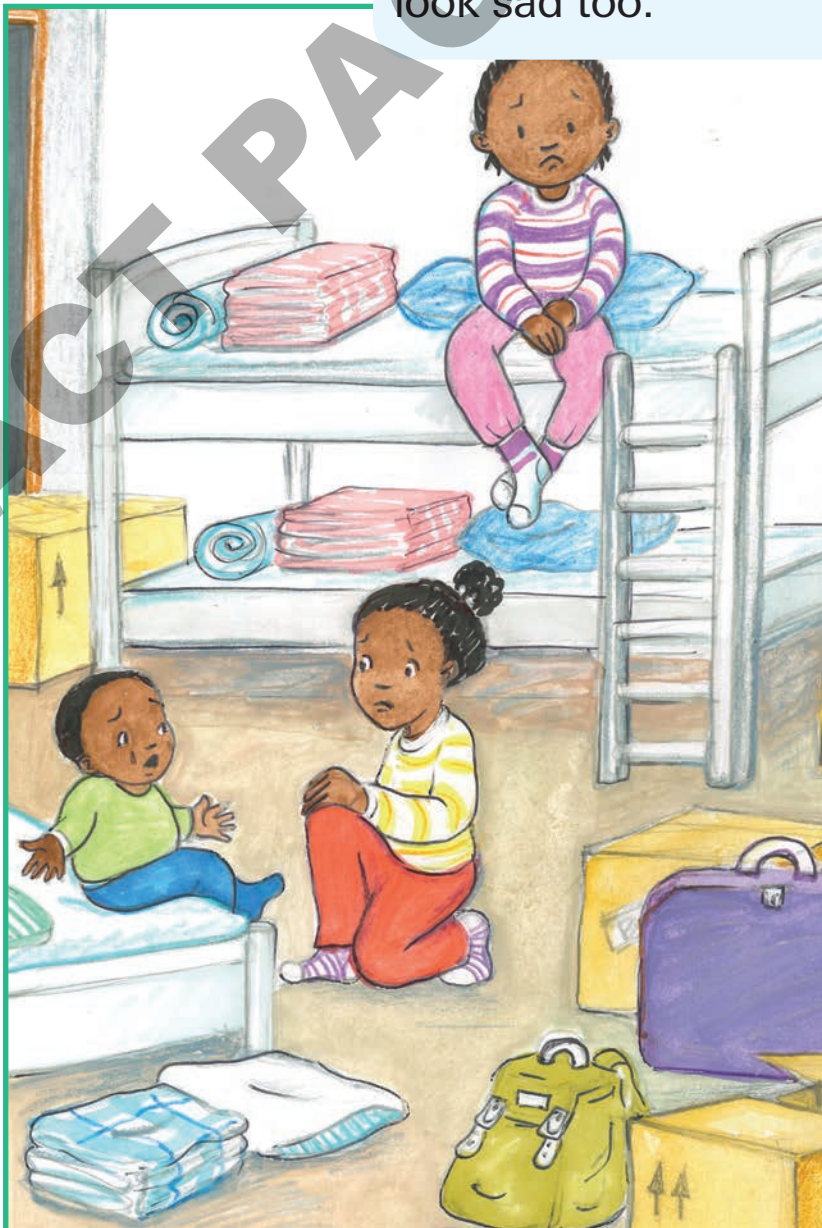
On moving day, their room looked strange with boxes everywhere. Siphos's favourite toy, Mr Teddy, was missing.

"Where's Mr Teddy?" asked Siphos, his eyes filling with tears.

"Don't worry," Thandi said, trying to be brave. "We'll find him."

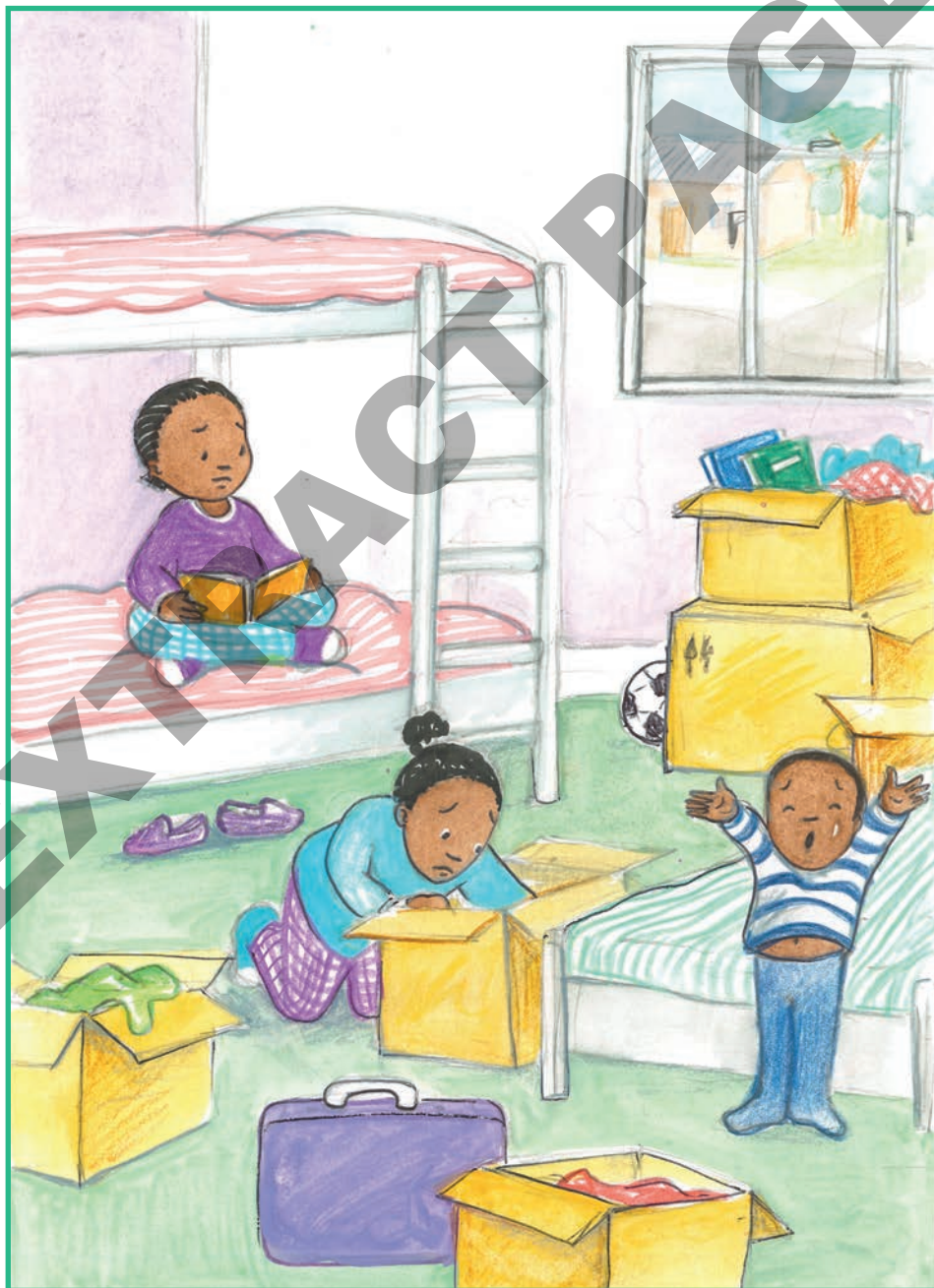
Sing this song to the tune of *I hear thunder*.

Mr Teddy, Mr Teddy,  
where are you?  
Where are you?  
Please come out of  
hiding, we can't find you!  
We need you, we need  
you!



The new house was big and different. Their new room was empty and felt strange. They looked for Mr Teddy in the boxes but couldn't find him.

Sipho was very sad and Thandi and Thembi felt upset. They missed their old room and their old house. That night, they tried to sleep in their new room. Sipho was still sad about Mr Teddy, and Thandi and Thembi felt bad too. They whispered to each other, "What if we never find him?"



The next day, their parents helped them decorate their new room. They painted the walls bright colours and hung up their favourite pictures. They even got a new bookshelf for their books and a special corner for their toys.

As they unpacked more boxes, Thembi suddenly shouted, "Look! I found Mr Teddy!" He was hidden in a box under some clothes. Sipho's face lit up with joy, and he hugged Mr Teddy tightly.





The next morning they explored the new neighbourhood and found a park nearby. They played on the swings and made new friends. When they returned home, their new house felt even better. They were happy to be together and make new memories.

Most of all, they were happy to have Mr Teddy back. As the days passed, Thandi, Thembi, and Sipho grew to love their new house. They forgot how sad they were to leave their old house.



### Post-reading questions

1. Where did they find Mr Teddy?
2. Why is their new house starting to feel like home?
3. Why was their new room empty when they moved into the new house?

## Story 3: Let's start a food garden!

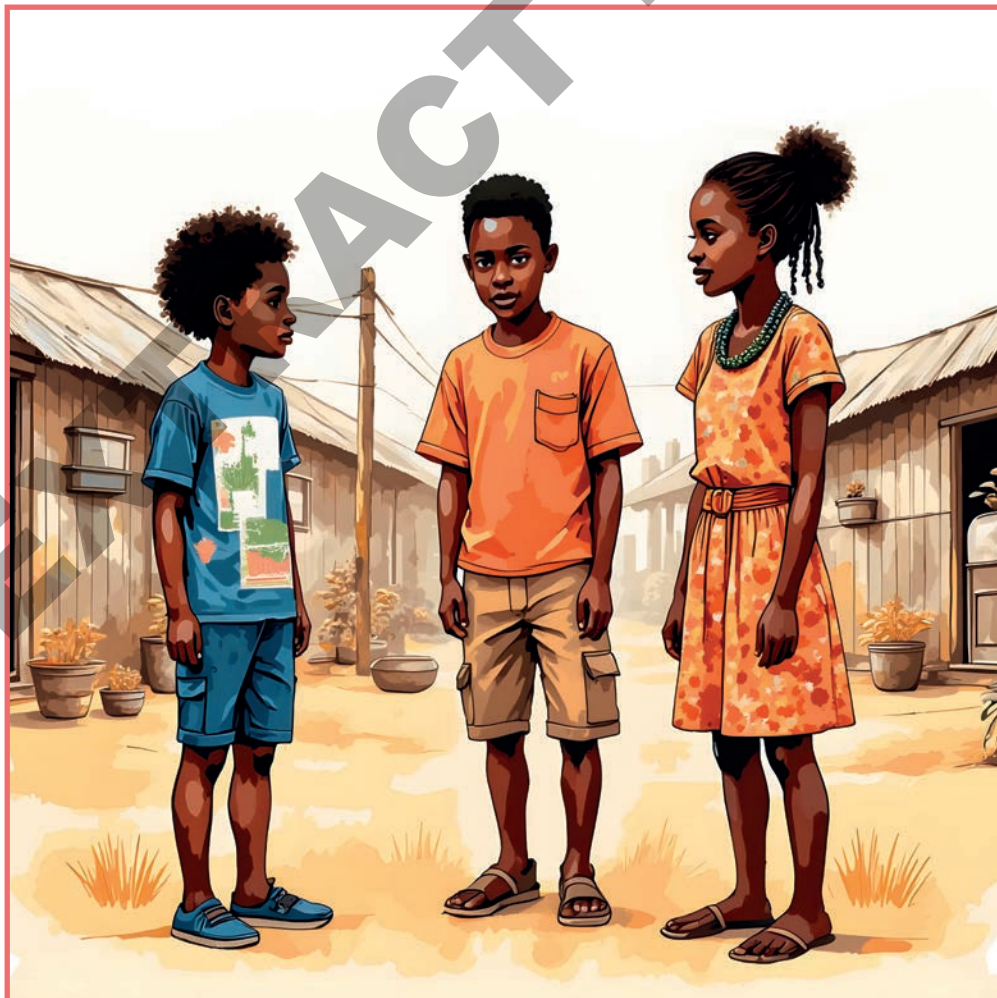


In the Free State's largest township, Botshabelo, something exciting is happening.

Someone is starting a food garden.

Who could it be?

Amohelang, Omphile and Lesedi live in Botshabelo. They have all learnt about healthy, organic food. Some people grow food in their home gardens so that they have fresh and tasty vegetables in every season. After learning about this, the three children decided to start growing food in their own home garden.



In Botshabelo there is space to grow food in the gardens, and the children are thinking very hard about what they will grow. Lesedi is in charge because she is the oldest.

“I want to grow a mulberry tree!” says Amohelang. He went to his grandmother’s house in December, and there was a big mulberry tree in one corner of the yard.

“I want to climb that mulberry tree and eat all the mulberries, even the ones right at the top!”

It will take a long time for the mulberry tree to grow big enough to climb!



"I like mulberries too," said Omphile. "But I want to grow avocados!" He closes his eyes, imagining a delicious avocado and atchaar sandwich. Yum! Yum!

"I wonder how long it takes an avocado seed to become a tree and then to give avocados."

Amohelang says, "Mulberries grow faster, they are smaller. You should plant a mulberry tree like me."

The siblings argue over which kind of tree is better.

"Oh, you two!" said Lesedi. "You always end up arguing. You can plant both mulberry and avocado trees. But will that be the best we can do with the space?"

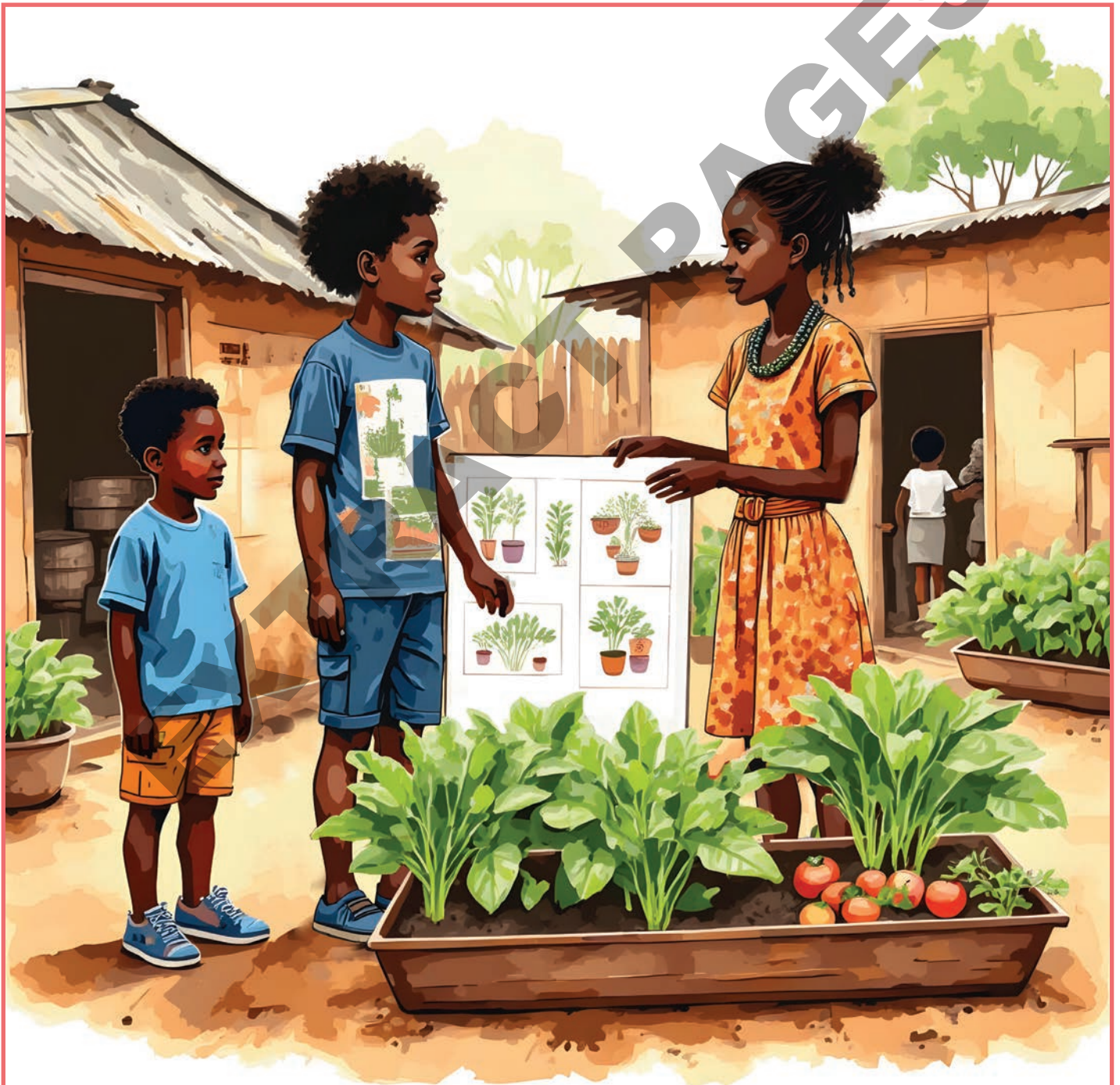


How well are the three children communicating? Do you think they will all agree in the end?



“I’ve been thinking and thinking,” said Lesedi. “I’m sorry, boys, but we won’t be using the space for avocado trees or mulberries,” she says, before Amohelang can say a word.

“What if we grow vegetables? You know, all the usual things that we eat, like onions, tomatoes, peppers, spinach and cabbage. Ma and Papa will save so much money if they don’t have to buy all those things.”



“More toys for us!” the boys shout, as if they had planned it.

The three children laugh.

They spend the rest of the day planning the garden, and learning what vegetables work best in the Free State and Botshabelo township. Thankfully, Amohelang and Omphile forget about mulberries and avocados for a while. Lesedi is pleased that they have been able to work together to decide what to plant in the family food garden.

## Did you know?

Growing your own vegetables can help save money and provide fresh, nutritious food for your family.



## Post-reading questions

1. What vegetables do the children usually eat?
2. Are the boys happy to go with Lesedi's plan to plant vegetables instead of trees? Why do you say so?
3. The two boys want to plant trees. Explain the pros and cons of planting a mulberry or an avocado tree.