Ntwari and the old man

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English

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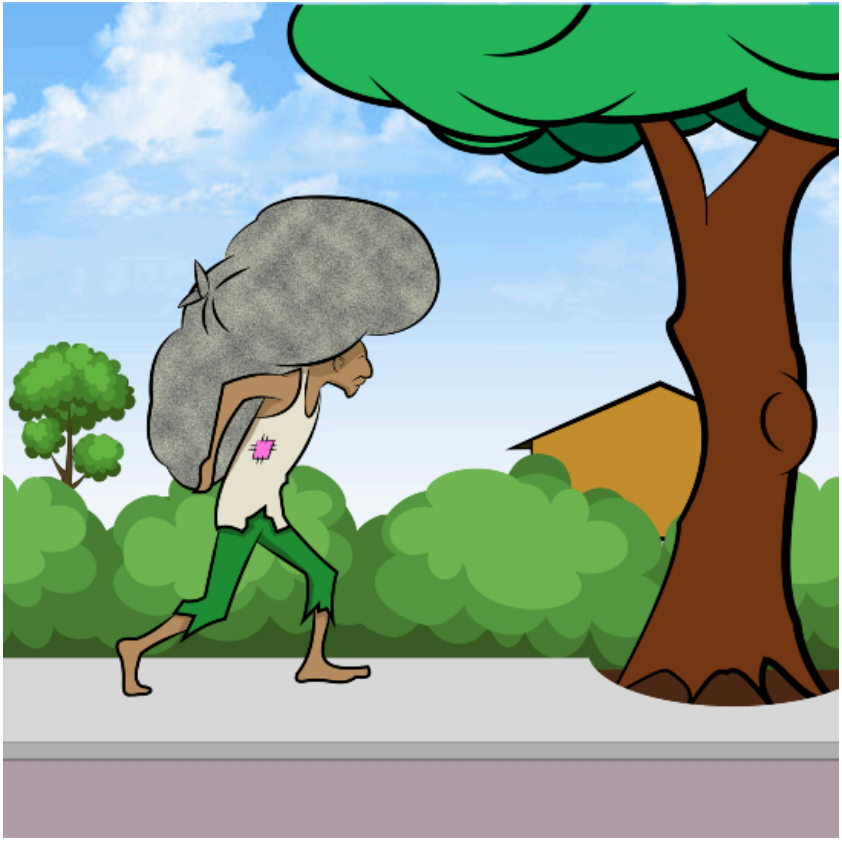
Ntwari lived in a fine house in Musanze town. His parents were rich.

Ntwari had a dog called Makasi. He looked after Makasi very well.

Every day, Ntwari's father took him to school in his car. He also brought Ntwari home after school.

One afternoon on their way home, Ntwari's father stopped to buy something at a big shop.

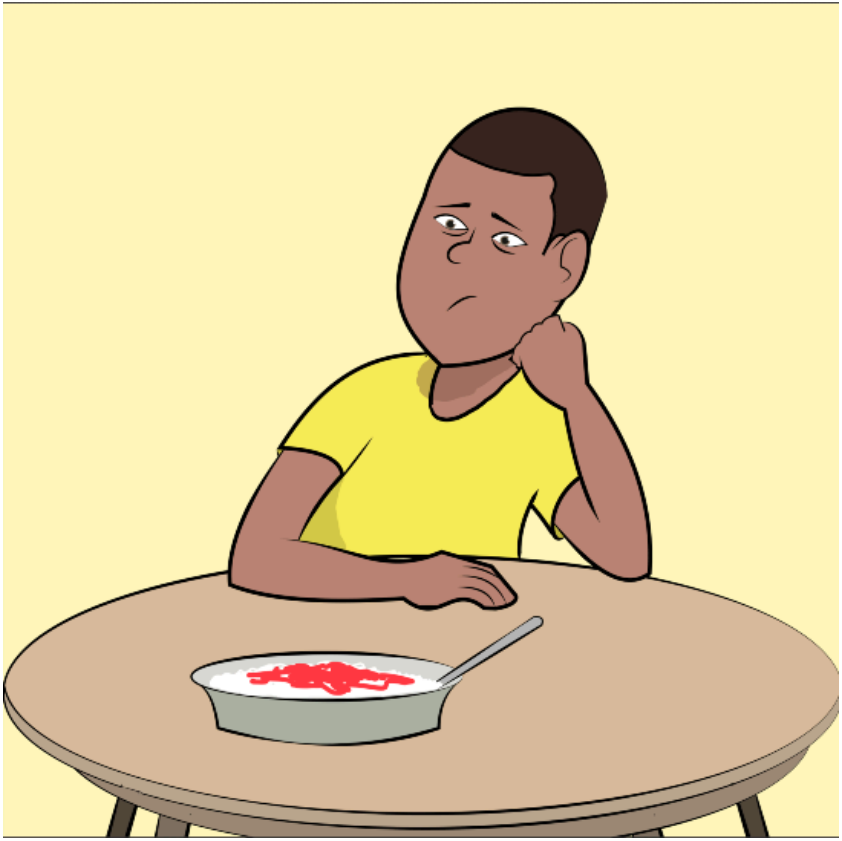


From the car, Ntwari looked across the road and saw an old man. He was carrying a big load on his head.

He was tired and walked slowly. Ntwari kept looking at him.

The old man sat under the shade of a tree on the walkway and opened his bag.

He had two flat plastic water bottles, which he was making into shoes.



Ntwari thought about that old man for a long time. He felt sad.

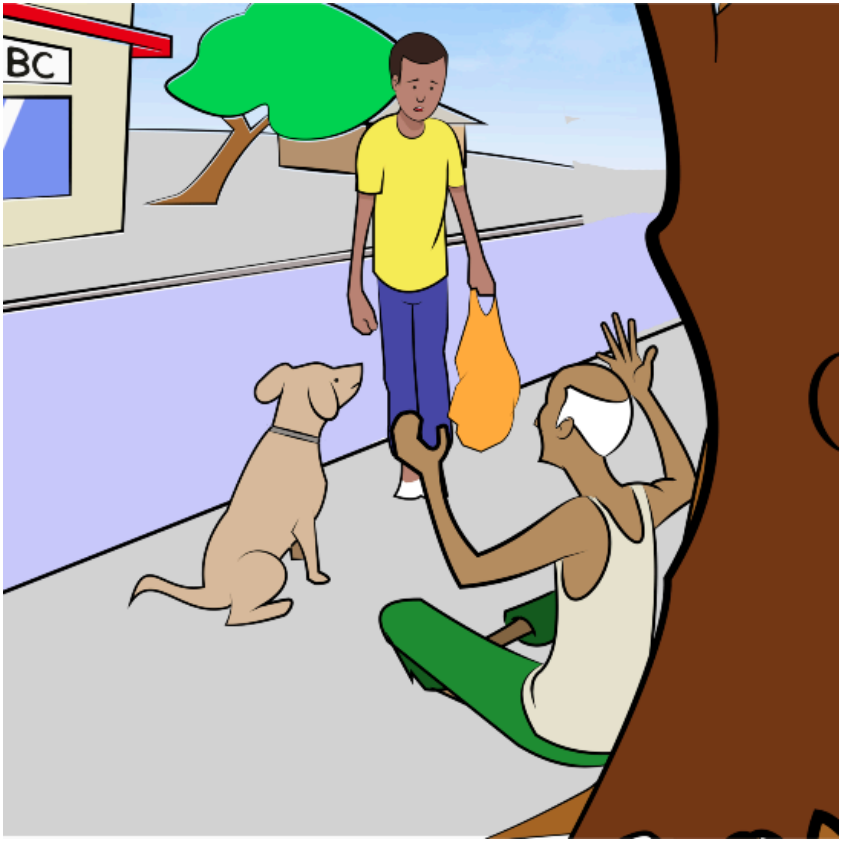
When he got home, he could not eat.

He thought about what he could do.

He got up and took some money from his money bag. He called Makasi and jumped on his bicycle.
Ntwari rode to the shop where his father had shopped.

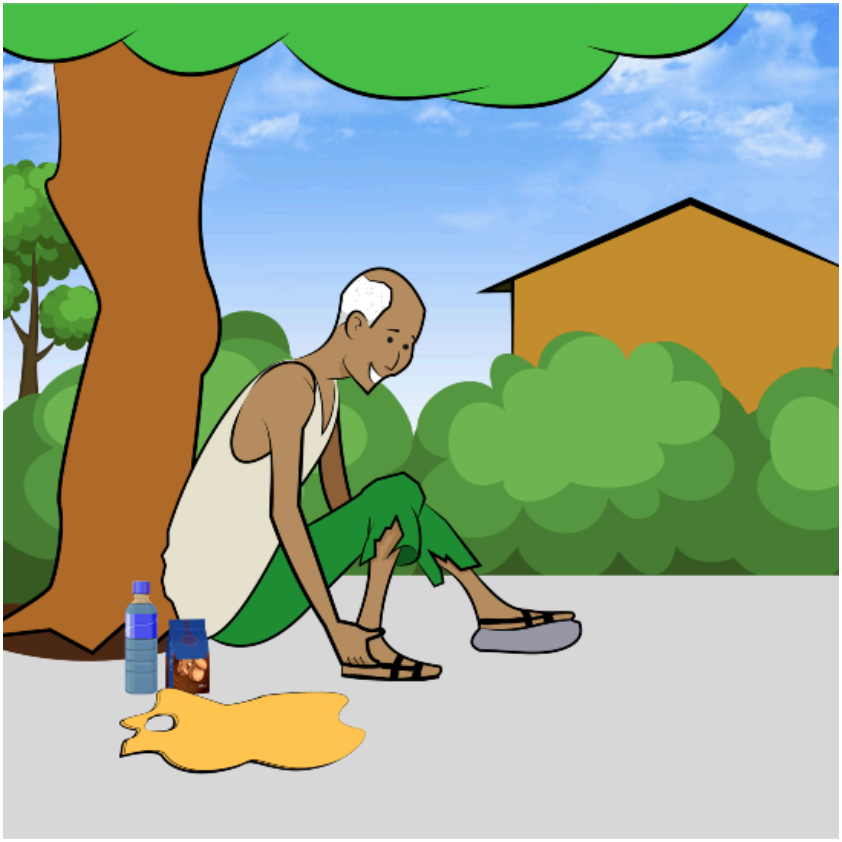
The boy ran into the shop and came out with a bag. He went to where the old man was resting against a tree.

Ntwari called out, "Good afternoon, sir." The man answered, "Peace to you, my child."



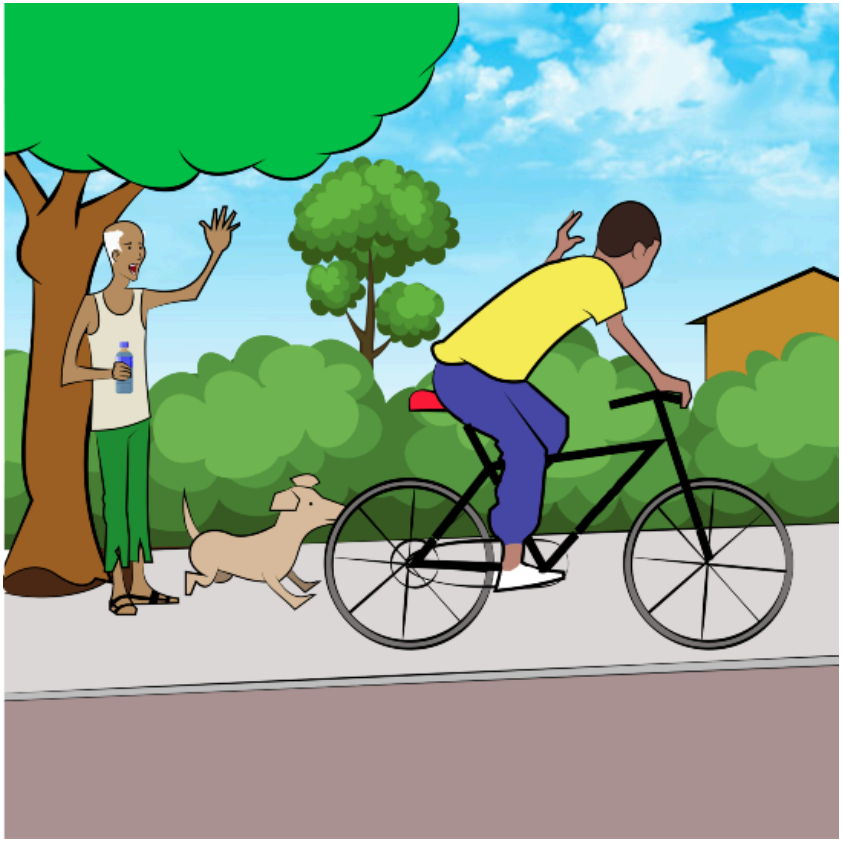
Ntwari asked, "Sir, where do you come from?"

The old man replied, "My child, hunger has chased me from my village. I am here to earn money."



Ntwari gave his shopping bag to the old man.

Tears filled the man's eyes as he took the sandals from the bag. He thanked Ntwari from his heart.

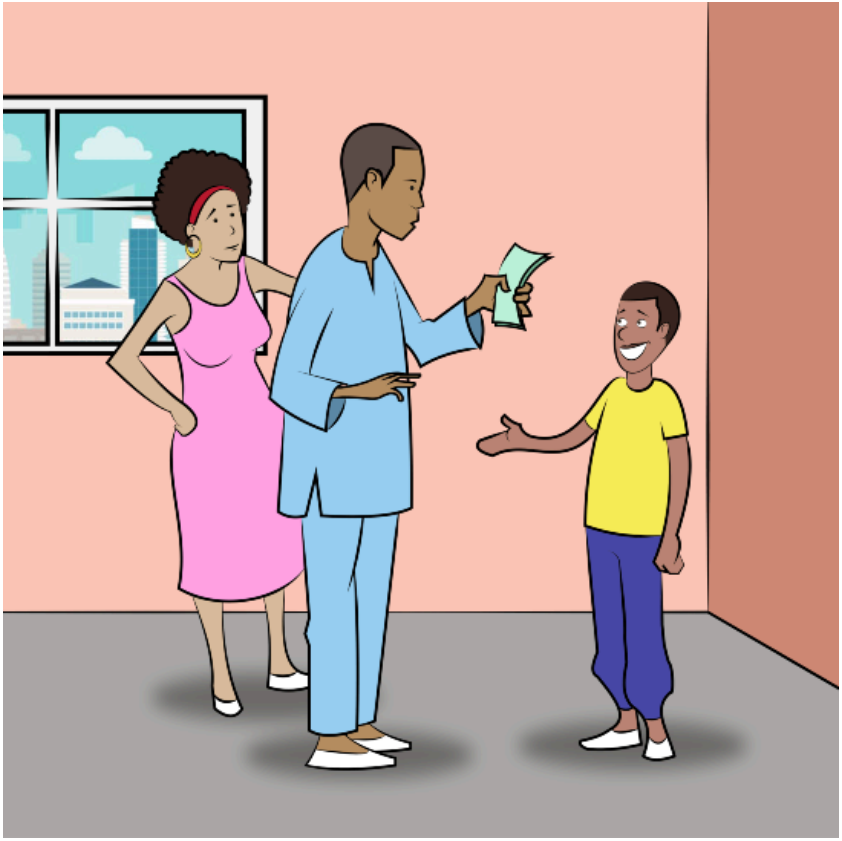


"I must go now before mother starts looking for me," said Ntwari.

The old man waved to the boy and his dog as they went. "Bless you, my child," he said with a smile.

"Where were you?" mother asked Ntwari as soon as he got home. She was worried.

Ntwari told her everything. She felt touched by his story.



Later, Ntwari's father told him, "We are proud of what you did. But you must always tell us before you leave the house."

Then he added, "Your mom and I want to help the old man too!"

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(formerly Emeka and the old man)

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