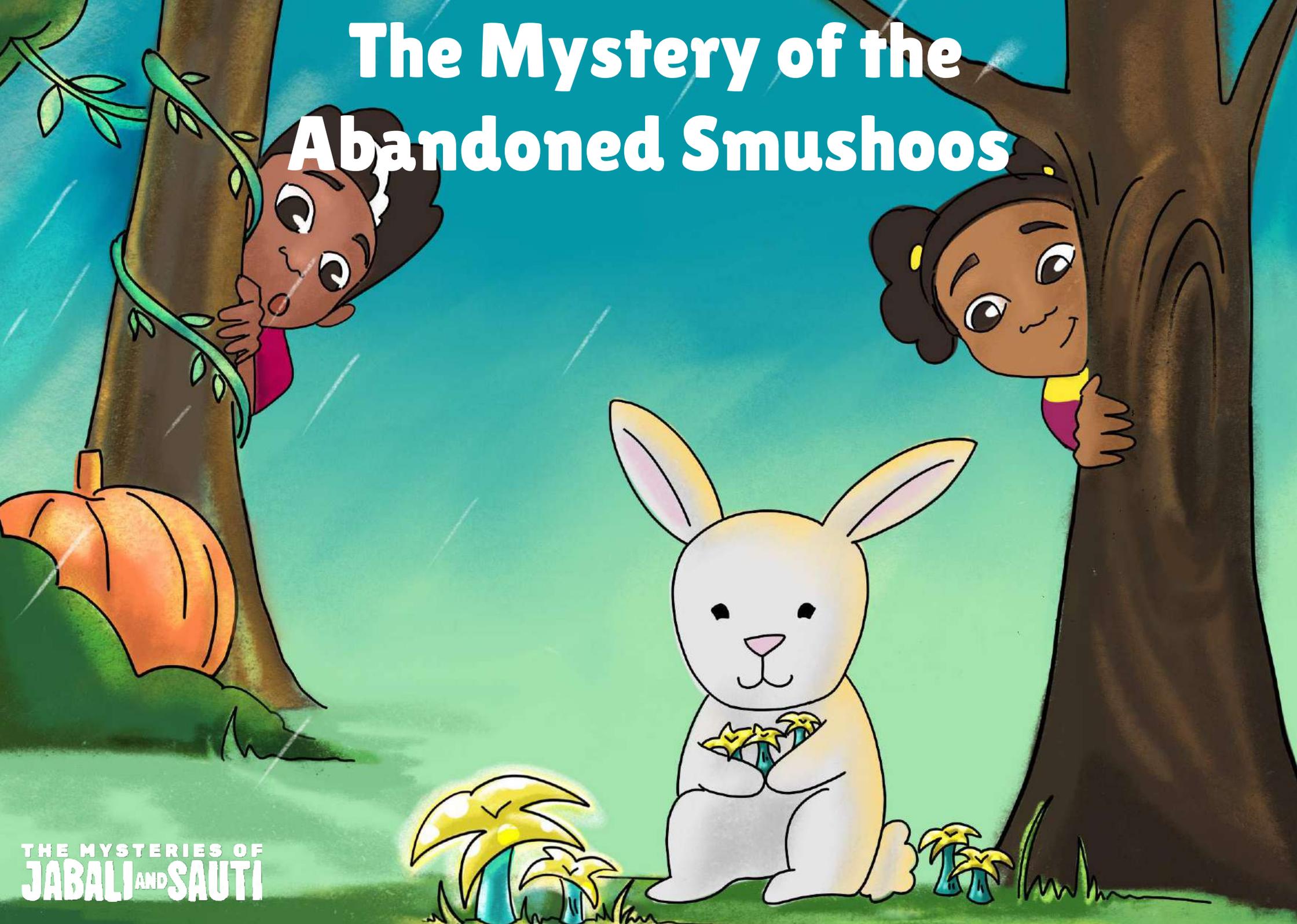


The Mystery of the Abandoned Smushoos





**THE MYSTERIES OF
JABALI AND SAUTI**



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The Mystery of the Abandoned Smushoos is a story based on the fictional world of “**The Mysteries of Jabali and Sauti**” developed by three Kenyan companies - kikapu.studio, Studio Ang & The LAM Sisterhood under the stewardship of The Aga Khan Foundation, supported by The LEGO Foundation looking to generate media content to elevate the importance of reading for enjoyment and learning through plays across Kenya (and East Africa).

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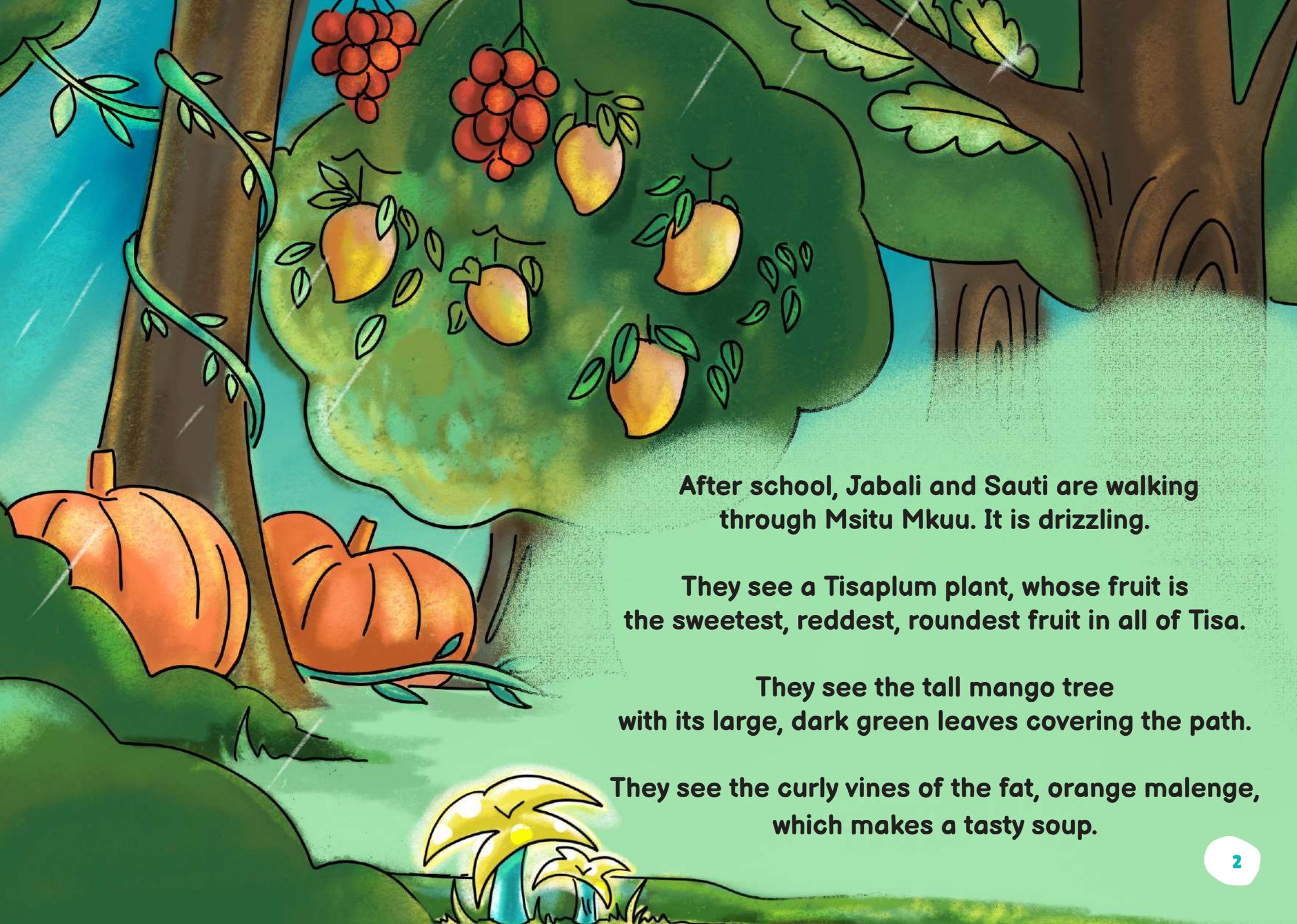
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It's another average day in Tisa.



After school, Jabali and Sauti are walking through Msitu Mkuu. It is drizzling.

They see a Tisaplum plant, whose fruit is the sweetest, reddest, roundest fruit in all of Tisa.

They see the tall mango tree with its large, dark green leaves covering the path.

They see the curly vines of the fat, orange malenge, which makes a tasty soup.

Jabali points out some smushoos they passed on their walk home yesterday.
“How come the rabbits haven’t eaten these smushoos, Sauti?”

“That’s strange. Rabbits usually eat all the smushoos.”
Sauti bends over to look at the smushoos more closely.

“Hmmm,” Jabali is curious, “Are these ones sick, maybe?”



**“They don’t look sick,” Sauti peers down at the smushoos.
“Rotten smushoos are usually very dark brown.”**

**Jabali jumps down and immediately sticks his nose right into the smushoos.
“Hnnppphhh!” he takes a big breath in.
“They smell normal, like the soil,” Jabali says.**

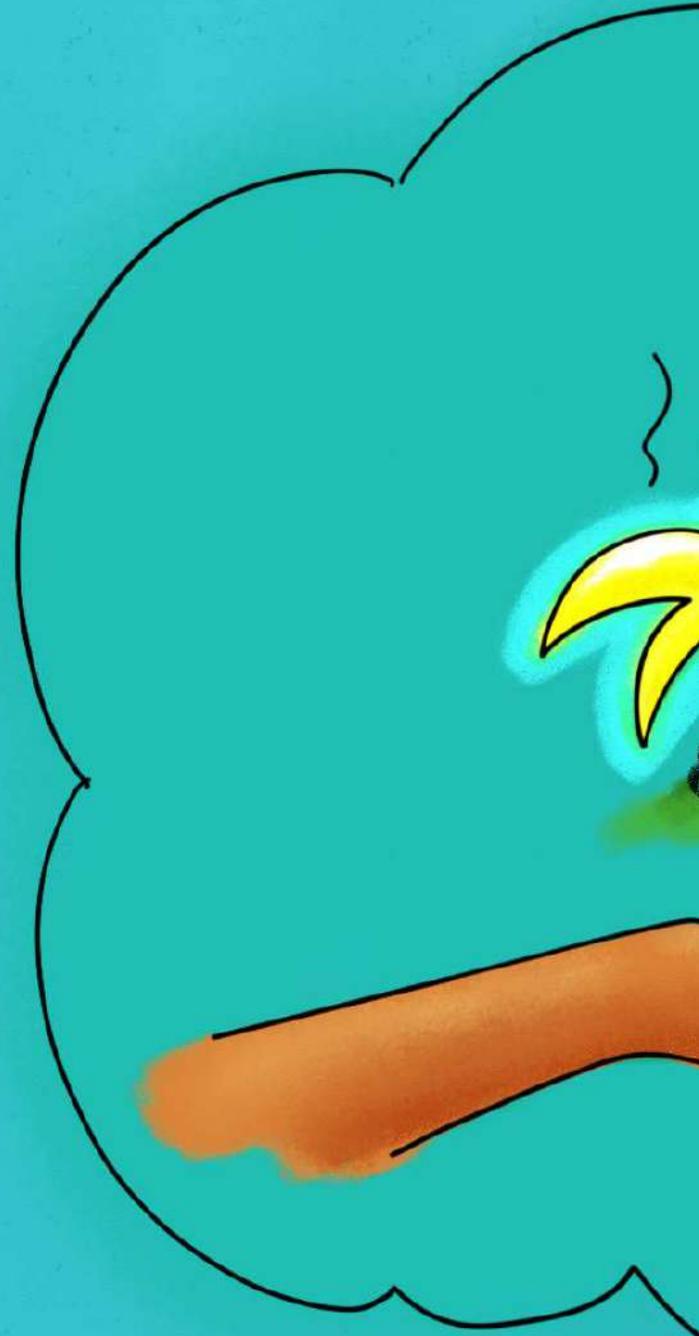
**“Then they are definitely not rotten. Smushoos that have gone bad also smell funny,”
Sauti prods the smushoos. “Also, if they were bad, they would be soft-soft.”**

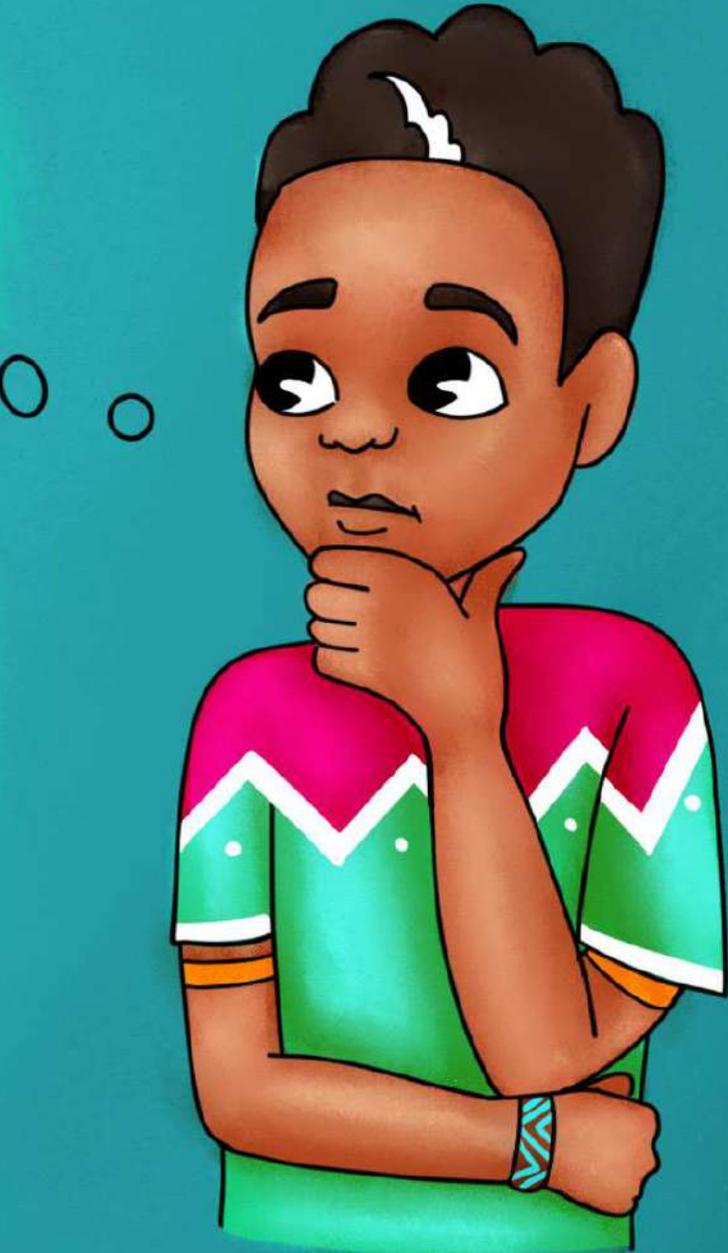


**Jabali puts his thumb and his forefinger under his chin,
in his thinking pose.**

**“If they are not a different colour,
and they don’t smell bad,
and they don’t feel soft-soft,
then they are healthy smushoos.**

So why aren’t hey being eaten?”





**Sauti kneels down and takes out her ear trumpet,
“Let’s check the soil.”**

**She digs gently around the smushoos to uncover the soil,
and sticks the ear trumpet in.
Then she puts her ear right next to the wide, mouthed top.**

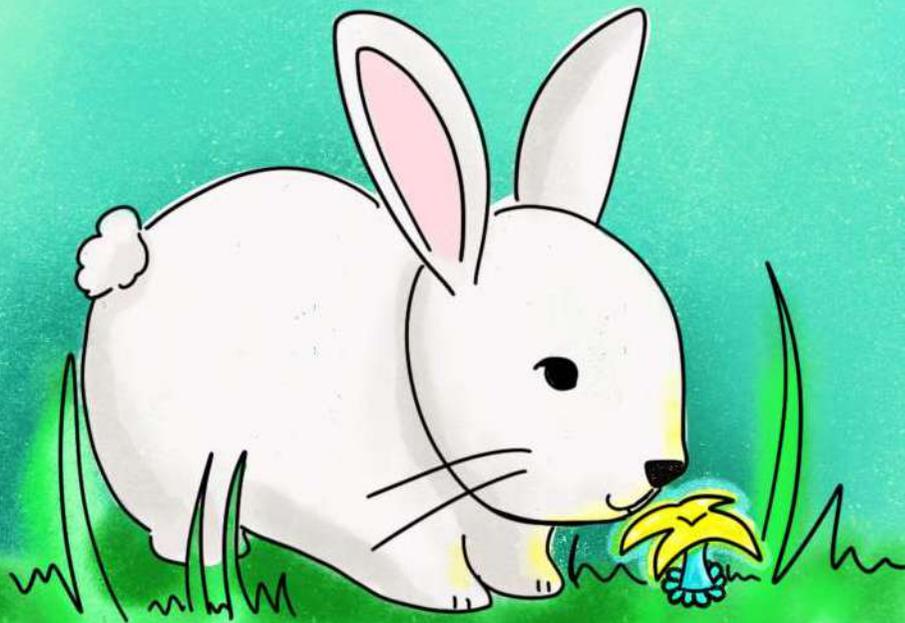
What does she hear?

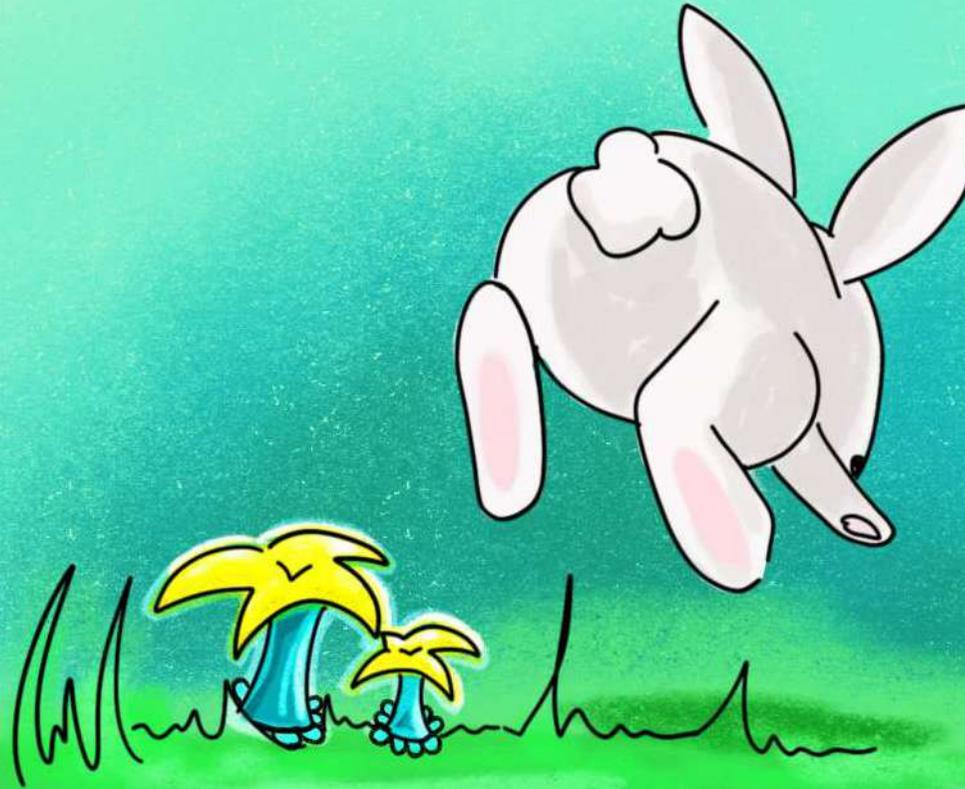
**She hears caterpillars wriggling busily.
She hears worms twisting round and round.
She hears ants making their tunnels.
She hears baby crickets hopping to and fro.
Sauti gently pats the soil back in place.**

**“The soil is fine, Jabali.
If it wasn’t, there would not be so many little animals in it.”**



**Just then, a young rabbit lopes by the smushoos.
Jabali and Sauti watch and wait.**





The rabbit sniffs at the smushoos, then wrinkles its small black nose and goes away.

What a mystery!

“We’ll get to the bottom of this. Let’s go ask Bibi!” says Sauti.

Jabali and Sauti run to the house where Bibi is smoking her traditional pipe.
“Bibi, we saw a rabbit in the forest,” says Jabali in a rush.
“Rabbits eat smushoos, right?”

Bibi takes a slow puff.



“Yes, Jabali, rabbits do eat smushoos,” Bibi replies.

“Well, this rabbit wasn’t eating the smushoos. And the smushoos weren’t very dark brown, and they didn’t smell funny, and they weren’t soft-soft,” says Jabali rather quickly.

“You passed such nice, juicy smushoos and you didn’t pick any for me?”

**Jabali’s and Sauti’s eyes widen.
How could they forget?**

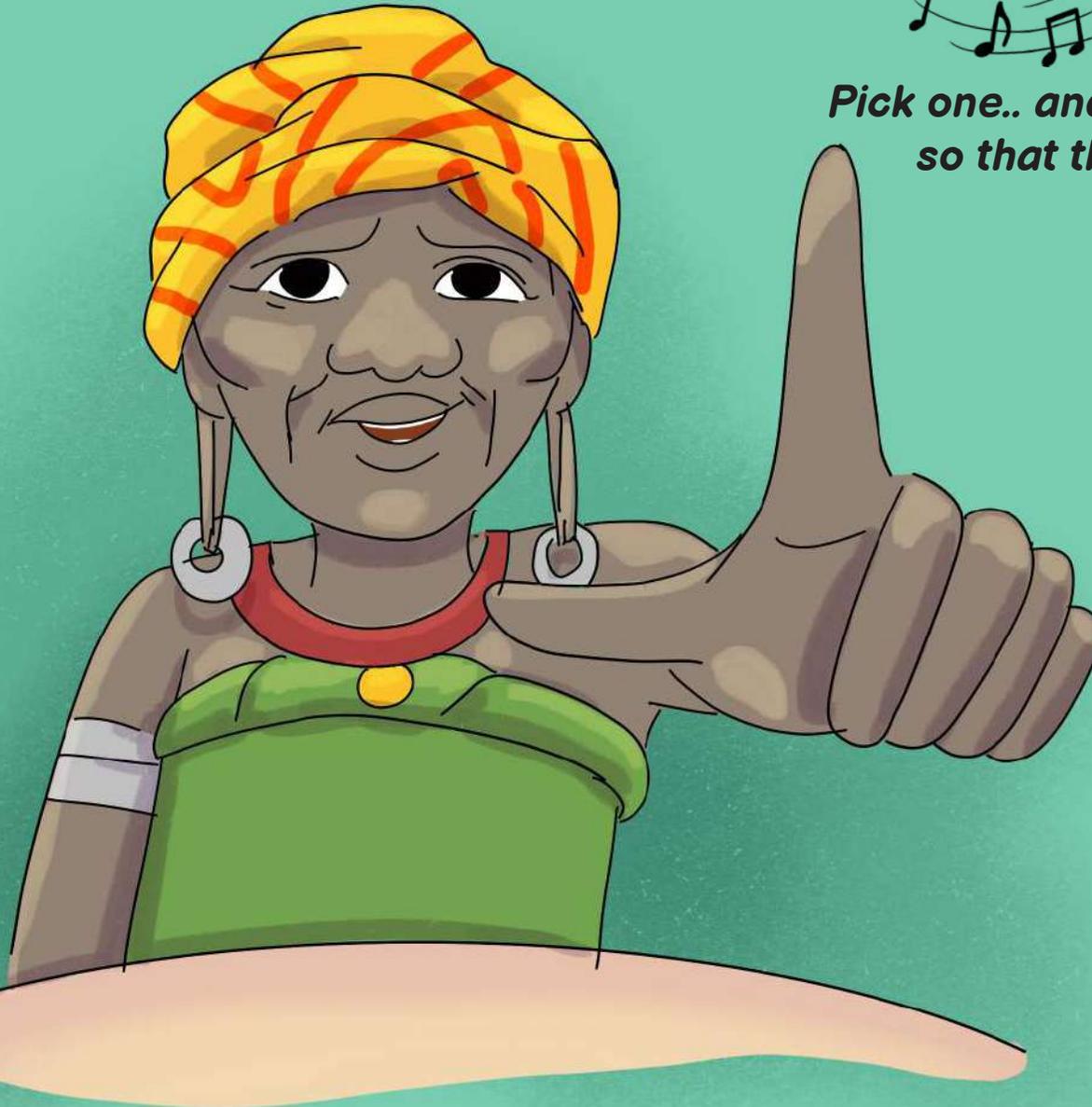
“Sorry, Bibi, we’ll go back!” they reply.



**“And don’t forget to leave some for the forest
when you are picking the smushoos.
Remember the song I taught you?”**



***Pick one.. and two... and three... leave four...
so that the forest can grow more.”***



Jabali and Sauti grab woven baskets and leave the house again to go back to Msitu Mkuu. As they walk, the sun is shining brightly. “I’m glad it stopped drizzling,” says Sauti as she takes off her jacket and ties it around her waist. They get to the same spot where they saw the smushoos.



They see the rabbit come out again and sniff the air.

“There he is again!” whispers Jabali.

**The rabbit comes back to the smushoos. But, this time, it grabs a few
in its paws to take with it.**



“How come the rabbit took the smushoos this time?” asks Sauti.

**Sauti counts on her fingers,
“Hmmm. We checked the smushoos and it wasn’t the smushoos.”**

**Sauti brings up another finger.
“We checked the soil and it wasn’t the soil.”**

**“The only difference between then and now...”
As Jabali is speaking, a small raindrop lands on his head,
left over from the rain before. He smiles a big, delighted smile.
“Of course! Isn’t it obvious?” he shouts.**

**“No, Jabali, it is not obvious. What is the difference between then and now?”
says Sauti, annoyed.**



**Jabali laughs, "The rabbit wanted the smushoos,
but only when the sun was shining.
He didn't want to eat wet smushoos."**

**Sauti looks at the rabbit and laughs too,
because he is happily nibbling on smushoos next to them.**

**"Come on, Sauti, the mystery is solved. Let's get some for Bibi!"
said Jabali, excitedly.**





"Remember... pick one... and two... and three... leave four..."
Sauti sings with Jabali, "... so that the forest can grow more!"

Mystery solved!





Hey,

Welcome to the Play area.

Did you enjoy solving the mystery in this story?

This is Juma. He is our friend and Tisa's Game Master.

He's going to show you an amazing game or activity that you can play with your friends or by yourself.



Hello,
I'm Juma. What's your name?

Do you want to do something fun?

LET'S DO SOMETHING

Materials: An Outdoor Space, Soft Ball



1

Dodge the ball when it's thrown. If you get hit, you turn into a smushoo!



2

If you are hit with a ball, you are turned into a smushoo and must sit down.



3

Standing children try to dodge the ball to avoid being turned into a smushoo.



4

The only way for a smushoo to get back up and into the game is if the smushoo catches the ball.

Final Results





THE MYSTERIES OF JABALI AND SAUTI

SEASON 1

Which mystery will you read next?

1. The Mystery of Jabali's Pen
2. The Mystery of the Disappearing Yummies
3. The Quest for Mrs. Quack's Eggs
4. The Mystery of the Cracked Feet
5. The Mystery of the Shape Shifting Pet
6. The Mystery of the Disappearing Girl
7. The Mystery of the Fallen Nest
8. The Mystery of the Howling Wind
9. The Mystery of the Duckling in the Bucket
10. The Mystery of the Abandoned Smushoos
11. The Mystery of Missing Sleep
12. The Mystery of the Funny Feeling
13. The Mystery of Giant Jabali
14. The Mystery of the Lion's Roar
15. The Mystery of Morning Tide
16. The Mystery of the Wish-Watch

