




Banana Thief

adding and subtracting
negative numbers

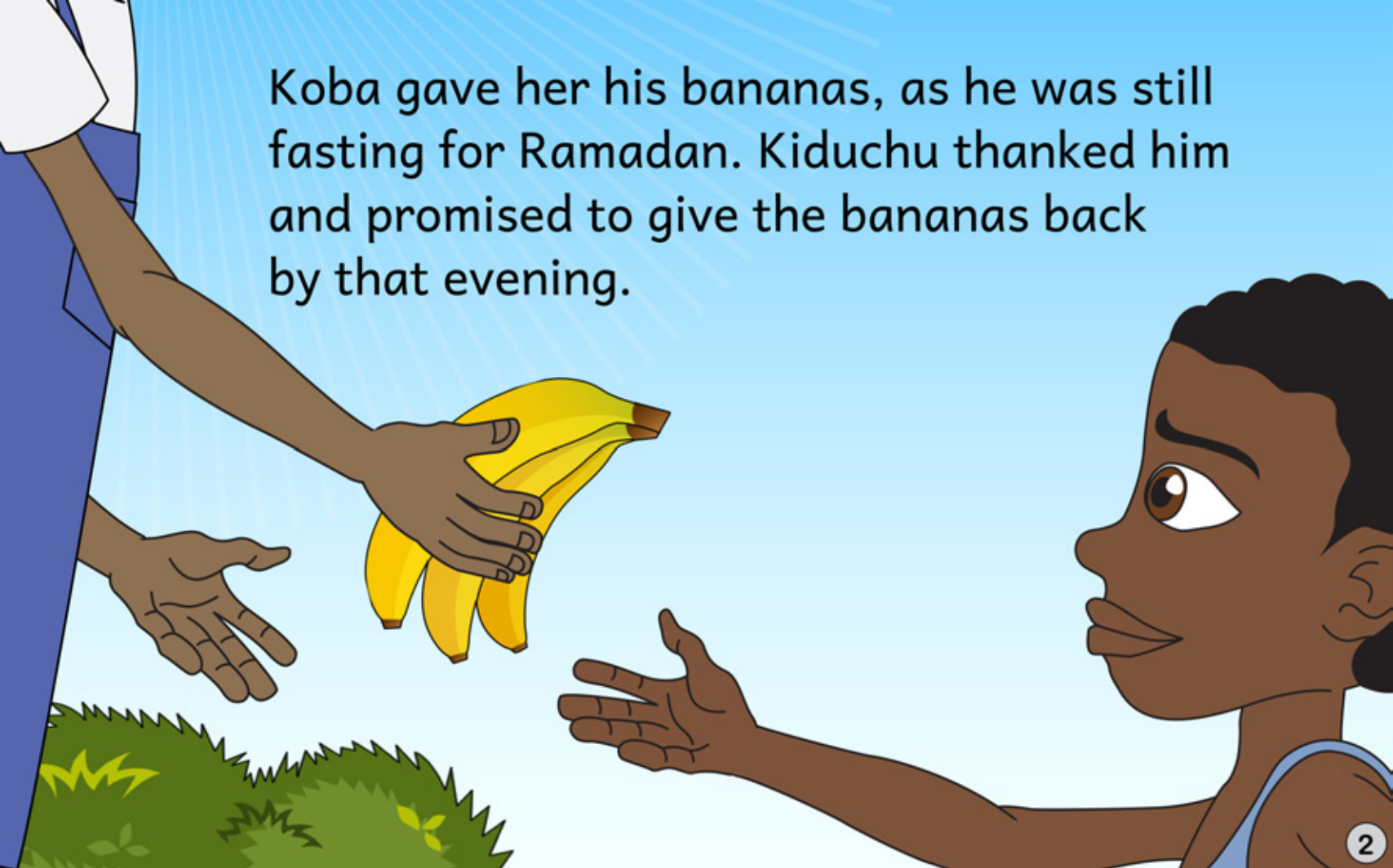
Age
Umri
7+



An illustration of three children resting on a grassy field under a large tree. On the left, a boy in a yellow tank top and blue shorts sits on the grass, looking towards the girl in the middle. The girl, wearing a blue dress over a white shirt, sits on the grass with her legs extended, looking towards the boy on the right. A soccer ball is on the ground in front of her. On the right, a boy in a light blue tank top and dark shorts sits on the grass, looking towards the girl. The background features a large tree with green foliage, a blue sky, and some bushes.

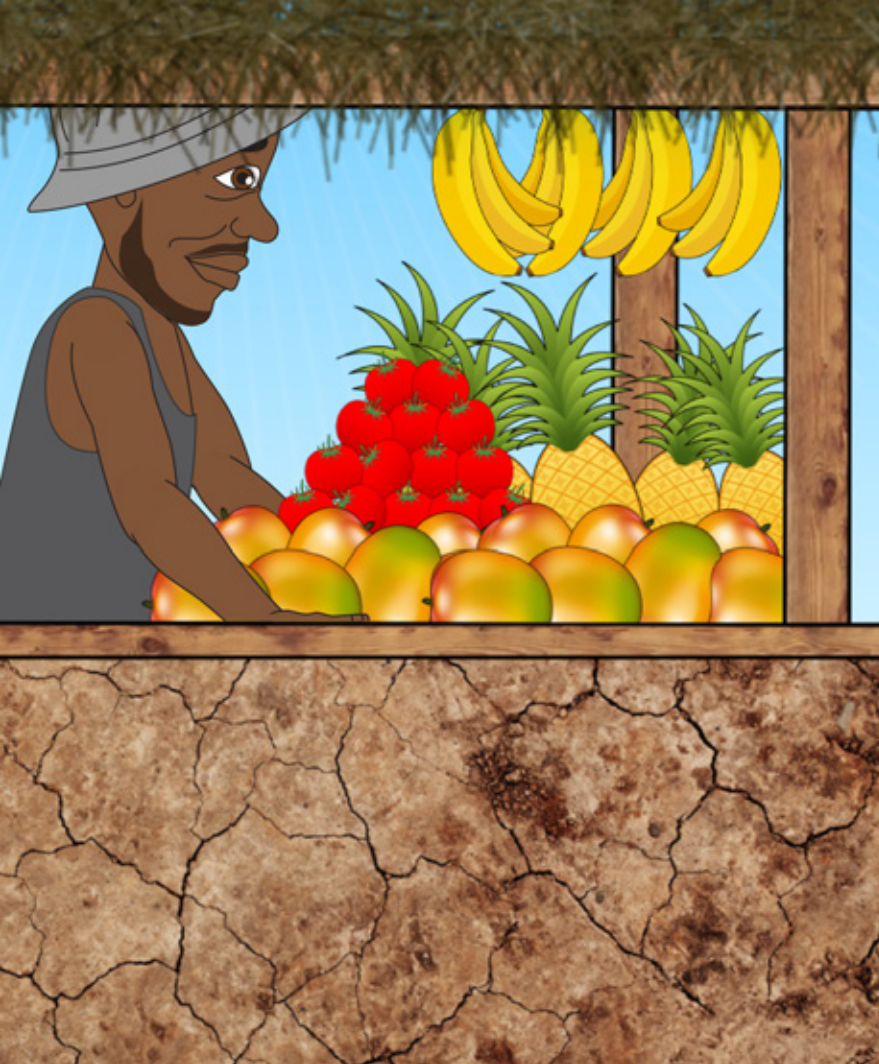
After playing football
with her friends, Kiduchu
was so tired and hungry!

Koba gave her his bananas, as he was still fasting for Ramadan. Kiduchu thanked him and promised to give the bananas back by that evening.



“Now I’m stuffed!
I’d better go find some bananas
to give back to Koba,”
said Kiduchu.






So she went to the fruit stand and asked Mzee Kigo to borrow three bananas.




She promised to come back later with four bananas. Three to repay her loan, and one extra as a gift for Mzee Kigo.





Mzee Kigo wanted
to know why Kiduchu
needed so many bananas.



“Koba gave me three bananas
and I ate them all.
I promised to give them back.

So I owe him three bananas.
That means I have **negative**
three bananas.”

-3



Mzee Kigo handed her three nice and ripe bananas.



Kiduchu ran to find Koba,
but tripped on a log.





Her bananas flew up in the air and disappeared!



Guess which sneaky little animal caught them?




Soon Kiduchu came upon Ngedere
selling bananas.



He told her that he would exchange his bananas for pilau. He asked how many she wanted.





“Let me do the math. I owe Koba three bananas and Mzee Kigo four bananas. So negative three plus negative four is negative seven. I need seven bananas.”

$$(-3) + (-4) = -7$$

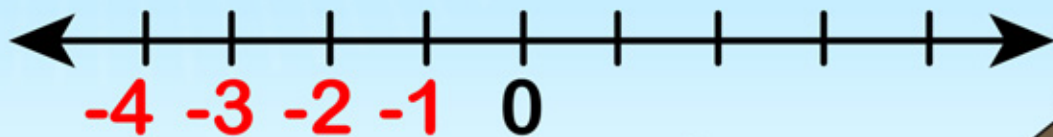


Ngedere was confused by all the math talk, so Kiduchu explained, “**Negative** means something that is less than zero. Like you owe something.”

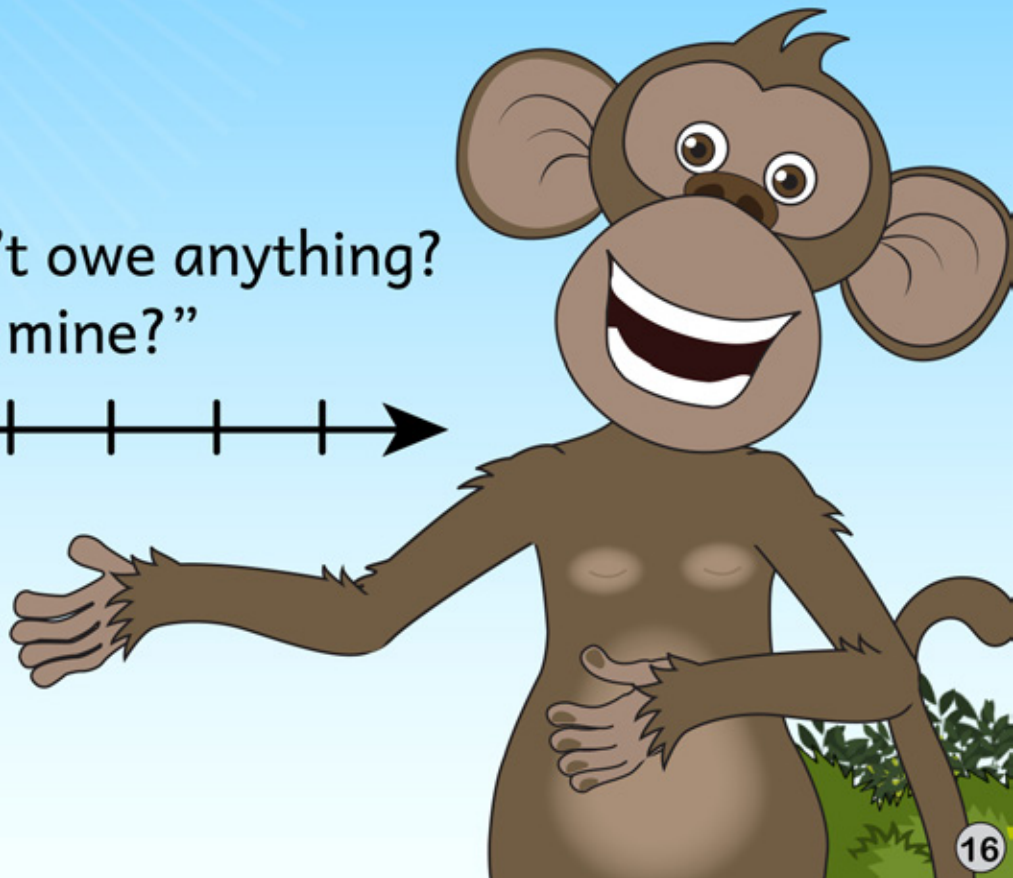


negative

“And what if I don't owe anything?
If the bananas are mine?”

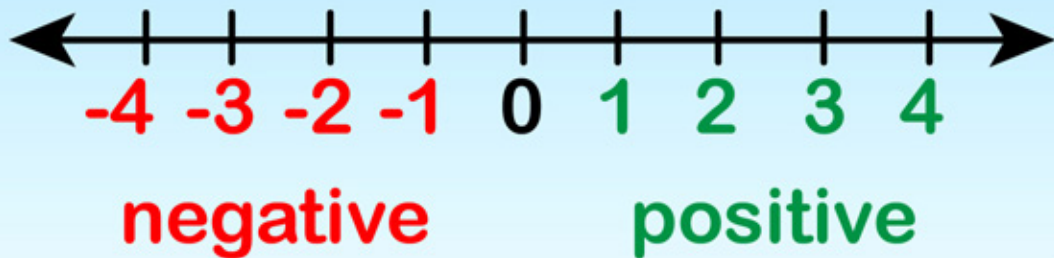


negative





“Well in that case,
we call it **POSITIVE!**
Any number that is greater
than zero is positive.”



Ngedere handed Kiduchu the bananas.
She was shocked to see the “Kigo” mark on them.

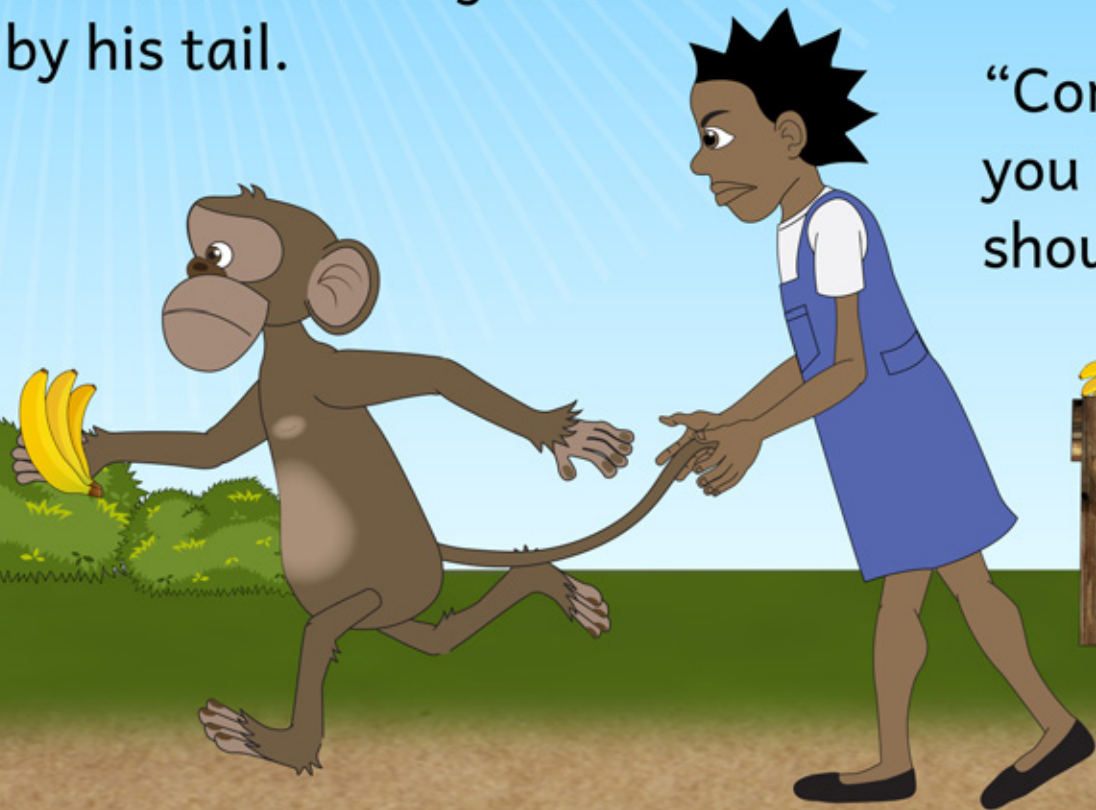


Immediately she realised that these bananas were the ones that she'd gotten from Mzee Kigo and had lost earlier.

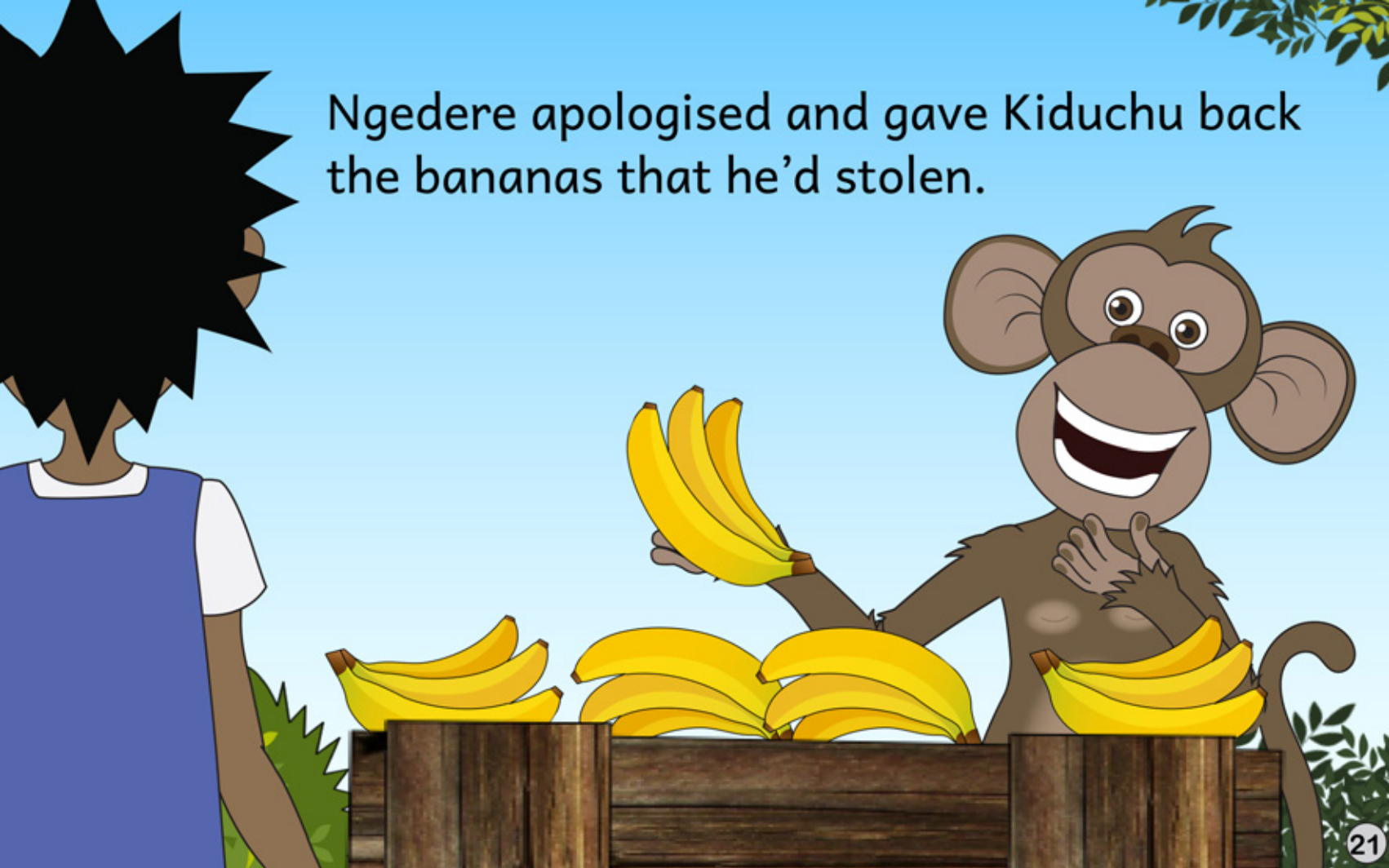


Ngedere started to run off,
but Kiduchu caught him
by his tail.

“Come here,
you banana thief!”
shouted Kiduchu.



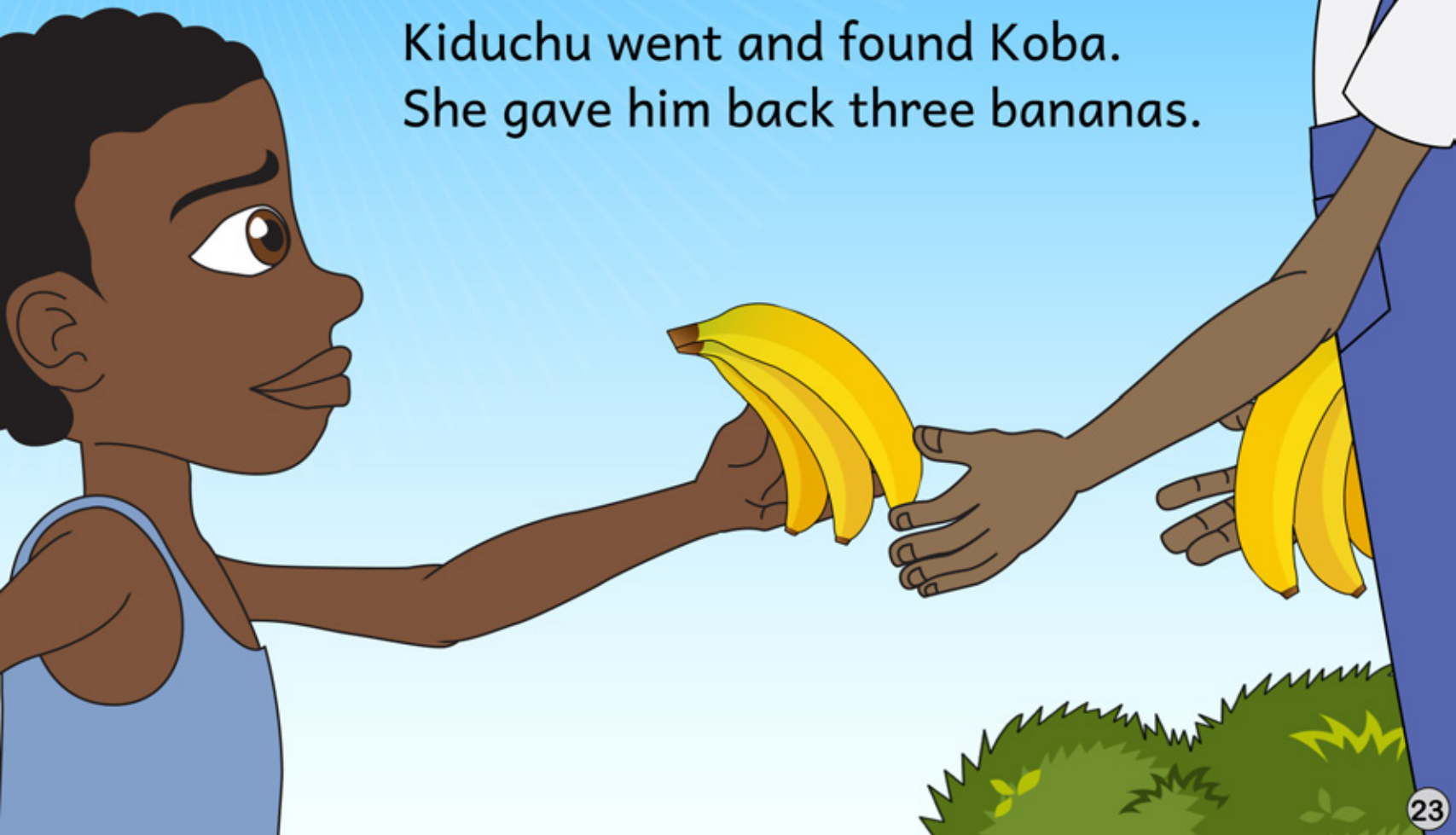
Ngedere apologised and gave Kiduchu back the bananas that he'd stolen.



He also gave her five more bananas in exchange for her promise to teach him math.



Kiduchu went and found Koba.
She gave him back three bananas.





Next she went back to the fruit stand and returned four bananas to Mzee Kigo. “What’s this? Kiduchu, aren’t these the same bananas that I gave you?”



“It’s a long story and it has to do with a banana thief!
I’ll tell it to you another day.
For now you have your three bananas back, plus one more as a gift. Thanks, and bye.”



“One banana...all mine!
Finally, I've got a positive number!”





The End

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