

Ebook adapted from the TV series



ubongo kids

by ubongo



ubongo kids

**take pride  
in your work  
and respect other  
people's work**



It was Saturday Swimming Day! Kiduchu threw off her sheet and jumped out of bed. She couldn't wait to dive into the swimming pond!



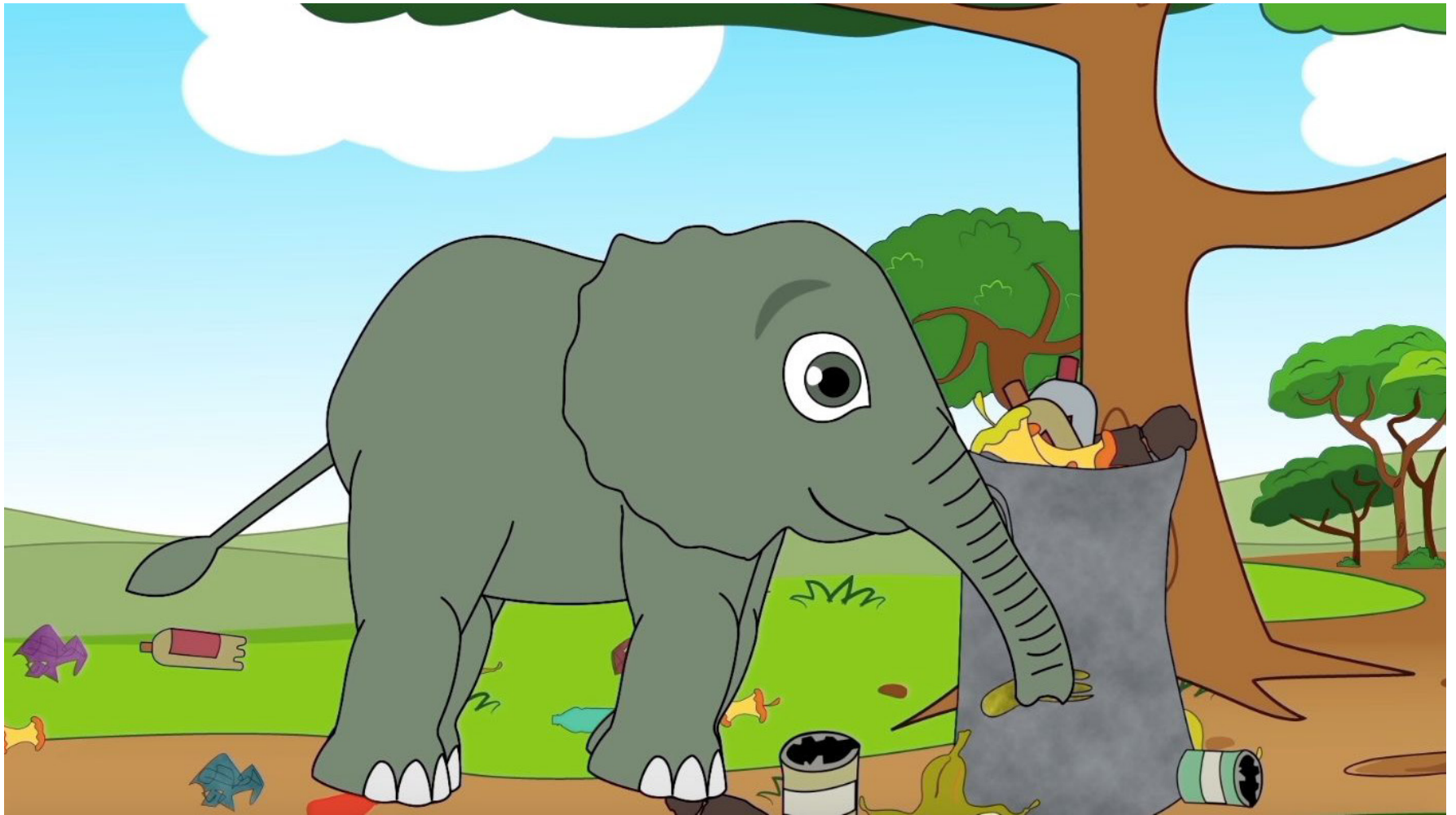
Downstairs, her Baba was sweeping while her Mama prepared breakfast. Baba told Mama that his fellow sanitation staff were on strike. “They say that people don’t respect them, or the work they are doing,” he said.



Kiduchu wolfed down her bread and tea before running out of the door. Mama waved Kiduchu off and said to Baba, “I wish people could see that the sanitation workers are doing an important job!”



Amani and Tiny Tembo could tell that the sanitation workers were on strike: the streets were full of sacks of rubbish and overflowing bins. It smelled so bad that they had to hold their noses!



Tiny Tembo picked up rubbish as they walked. “We forest animals clean up after ourselves” he told Amani. “Ewww, I could never do that job,” said Amani. “But it’s an important job,” Tiny Tembo told her.



Kiduchu found her two friends. “What day is it today?” she asked them. Amani thought for a second. “Saturday... Saturday Swimming Day!” she exclaimed.

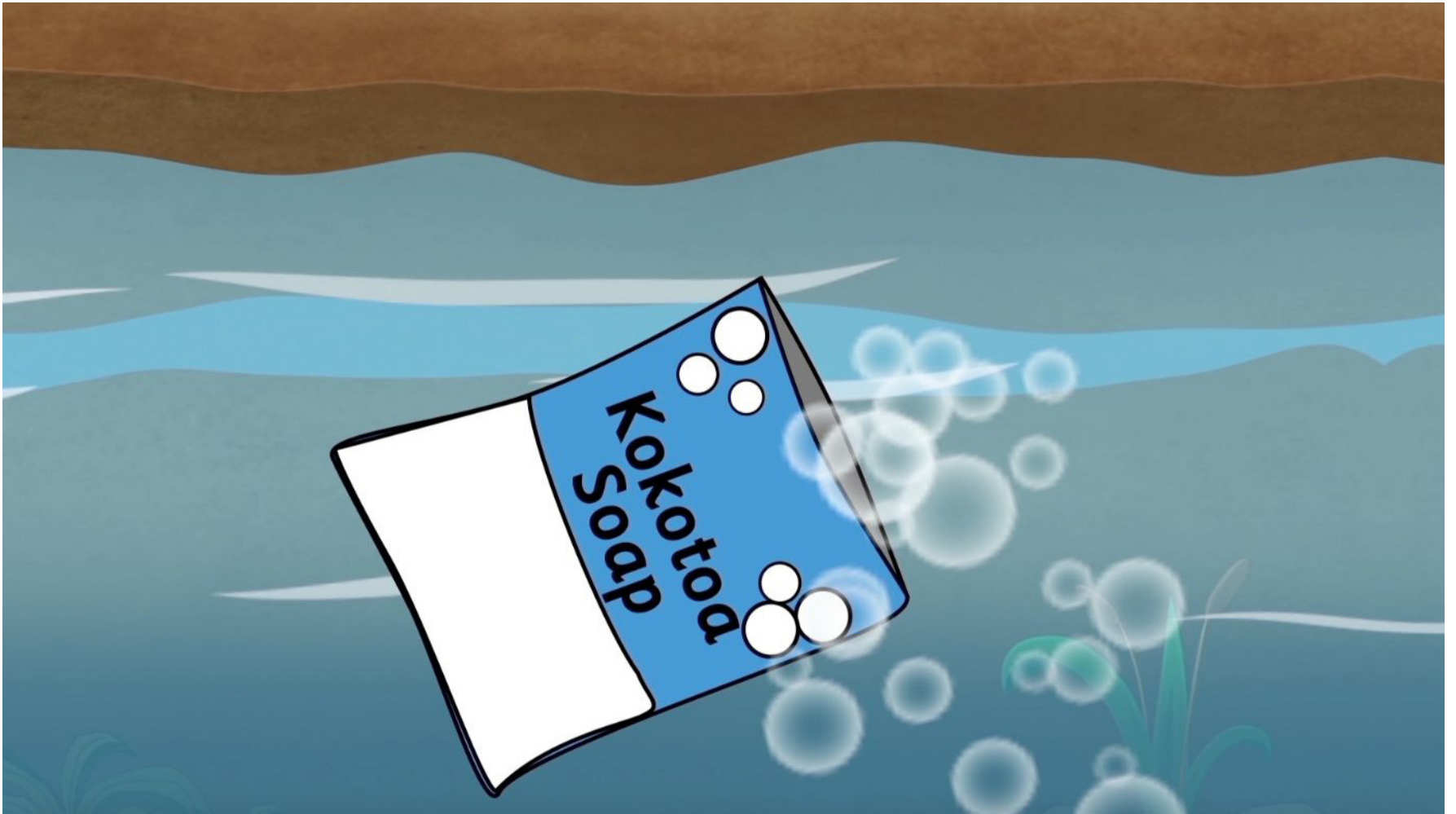




They all ran off to the swimming pond.



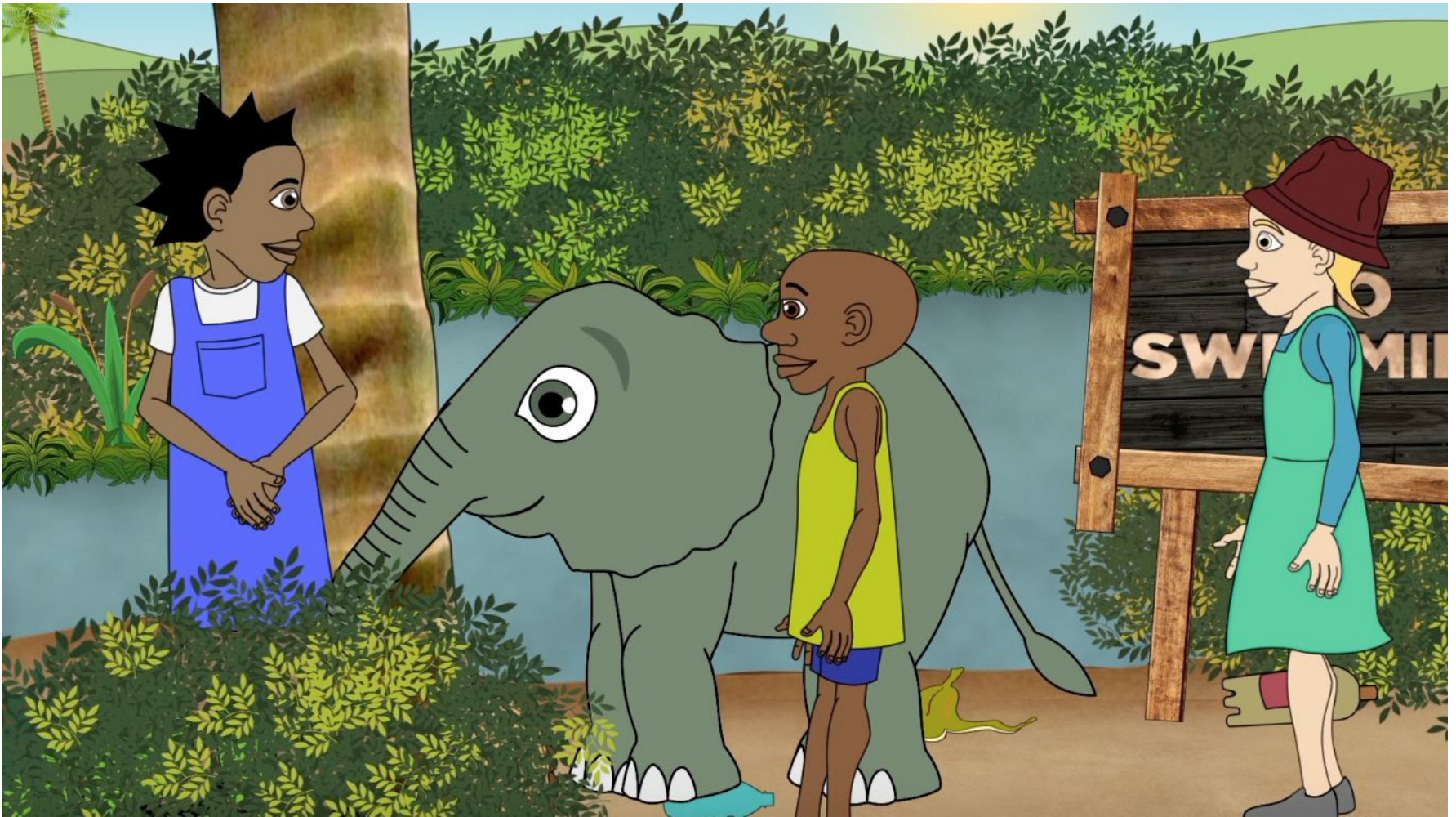
Kibena was washing dishes on the bank of the river when the others ran past. “Aha! Swimming Day!” she cried as she ran to join them.



She left the dishes on the ground and her packet of soap floated away down stream.



Kiduchu raced ahead and reached the swimming pond first. She was surprised to see her Baba there, putting up a sign that said NO SWIMMING. “What are you doing here, Baba?” she asked him.



Kiduchu heard the others approaching. She didn't want her friends to find out her Baba was a sanitation worker! That would be so embarrassing, she thought. Luckily her Baba left to fetch his tools before the others arrived.



Kiduchu's friends ran up to the edge of the pond. "No swimming?!" they said as they read the sign. They saw that the water in the pond was dirty and brown. "This is what happens when you don't clean up!" Tiny Tembo told them.



Kiduchu knew her Baba could come back at any moment. She tried to get the others to leave but they were too busy trying to figure out the cause of the dirty water.



Baraka teased the others. “You know who likes to lurk around in murky, brown water?” he asked. “SNAP!!! It’s the Kokotoa crocodile of course, that’s why we aren’t allowed to swim!”

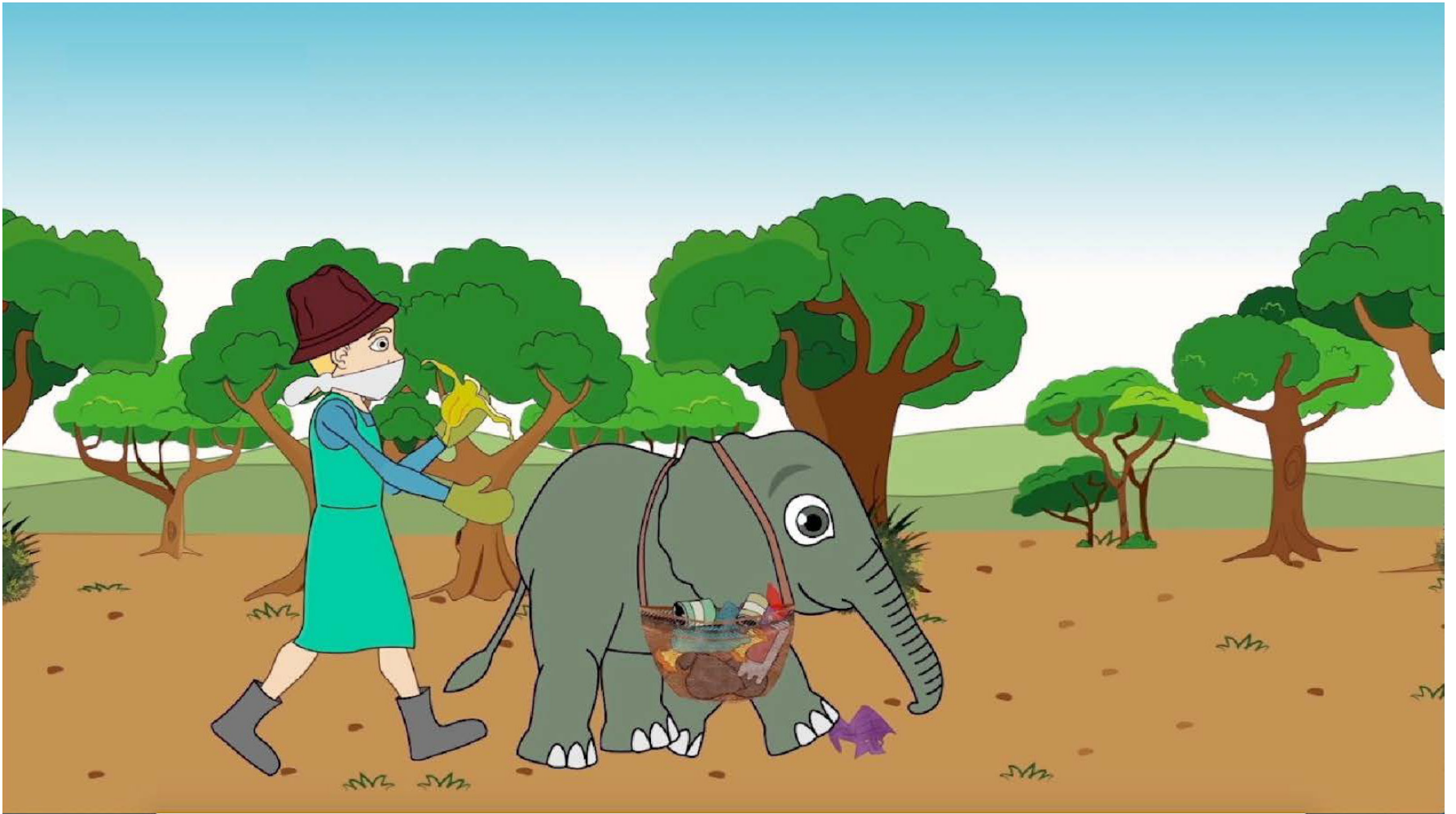




Kibena believed the water must be poisoned. Amani and Tiny Tembo thought that garbage had gotten into the water.



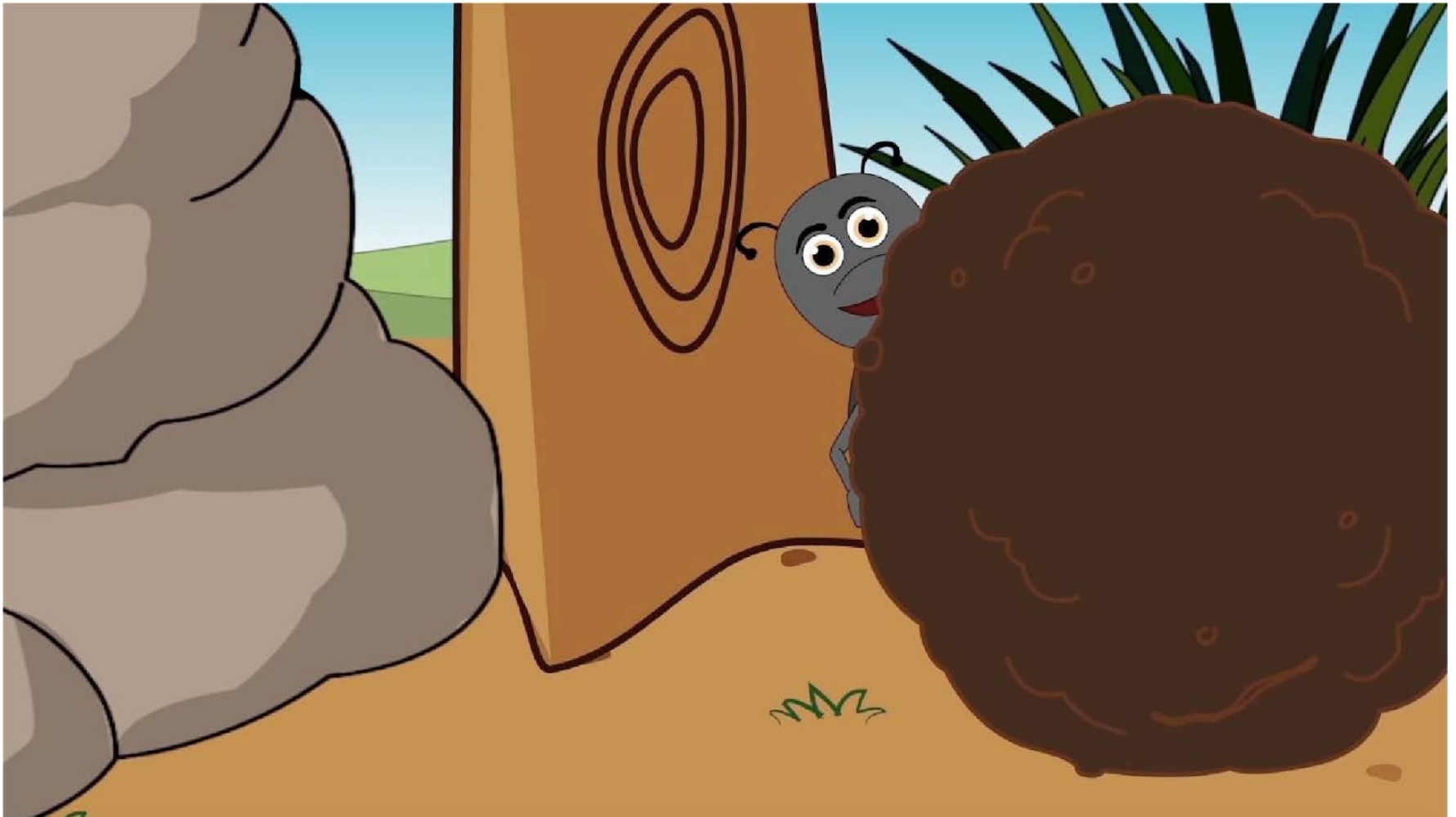
But Kiduchu saw this as an opportunity to get her friends to leave before her Baba got back. She sent them off to find evidence to support their theories.



Tiny Tembo and Amani went back to clean up the forest. Amani reluctantly picked up rubbish, trying not to get any dirt on herself. She watched the ground in front of her feet so she wouldn't step in something disgusting!



She almost stepped on a ball of dung, when it suddenly moved. Amani jumped back...



...and a dung beetle emerged from the ball of dung and jumped up on top of it! “Pleasure to meet you,” said the dung beetle.



Mr Dung Beetle introduced his friends, the wonderful worms. “Our job is to keep this forest clean,” Mr Dung Beetle explained. The worms agreed, “Sometimes you have to get dirty to keep things clean!” Amani finally understood that keeping the environment clean was HER job too!



Meanwhile, Kibena searched the river bank for the source of the poison. But she suddenly became distracted by the sound of someone coughing. She parted the reeds and found the river filled with bubbles.



Kibena saw two fish in the foamy, bubbly water. “The bubbles in the water make us feel sick,” they said. “This is our home, but the bubbles make it hard for us to live here!”





Another fish swam by, with a soap packet covering her head. Kibena recognized the soap packet: it was the same soap she had been using earlier in the day! Kibena gasped. “I know how to fix this,” she thought to herself.



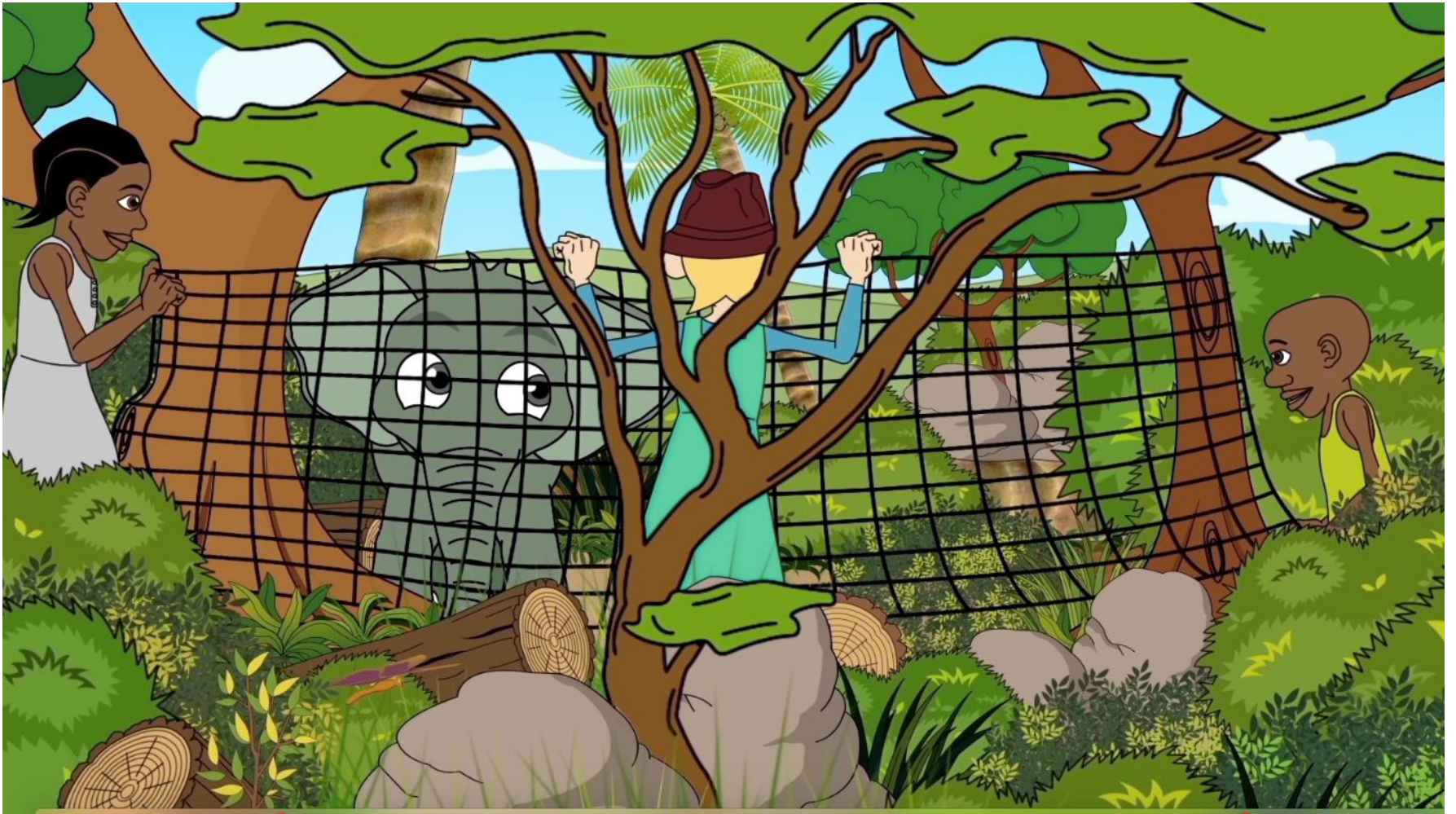
Kibena ran to the place by the river where villagers washed their things. “STOP!!” she cried out. “The soap is causing the fish to get sick!”



“How can we wash, if we can’t use the river?” the villagers asked. Kibena saw a bucket near the riverbank, and explained that they could take water from the river in the bucket to do their washing elsewhere.



Back at the swimming pond, Amani, Tiny Tembo and Kibena saw that the NO SWIMMING sign was still there.



Baraka thought it was because the crocodile was still in the water. He arrived at the pond with a big fishing net. The others helped him fix the net into a trap.



“And now... we wait,” Baraka said.



They waited for what seemed like hours and hours. Suddenly there were rustling noises coming from the net.



They had caught something! But it wasn't a crocodile. It was standing upright!





The kids screamed!



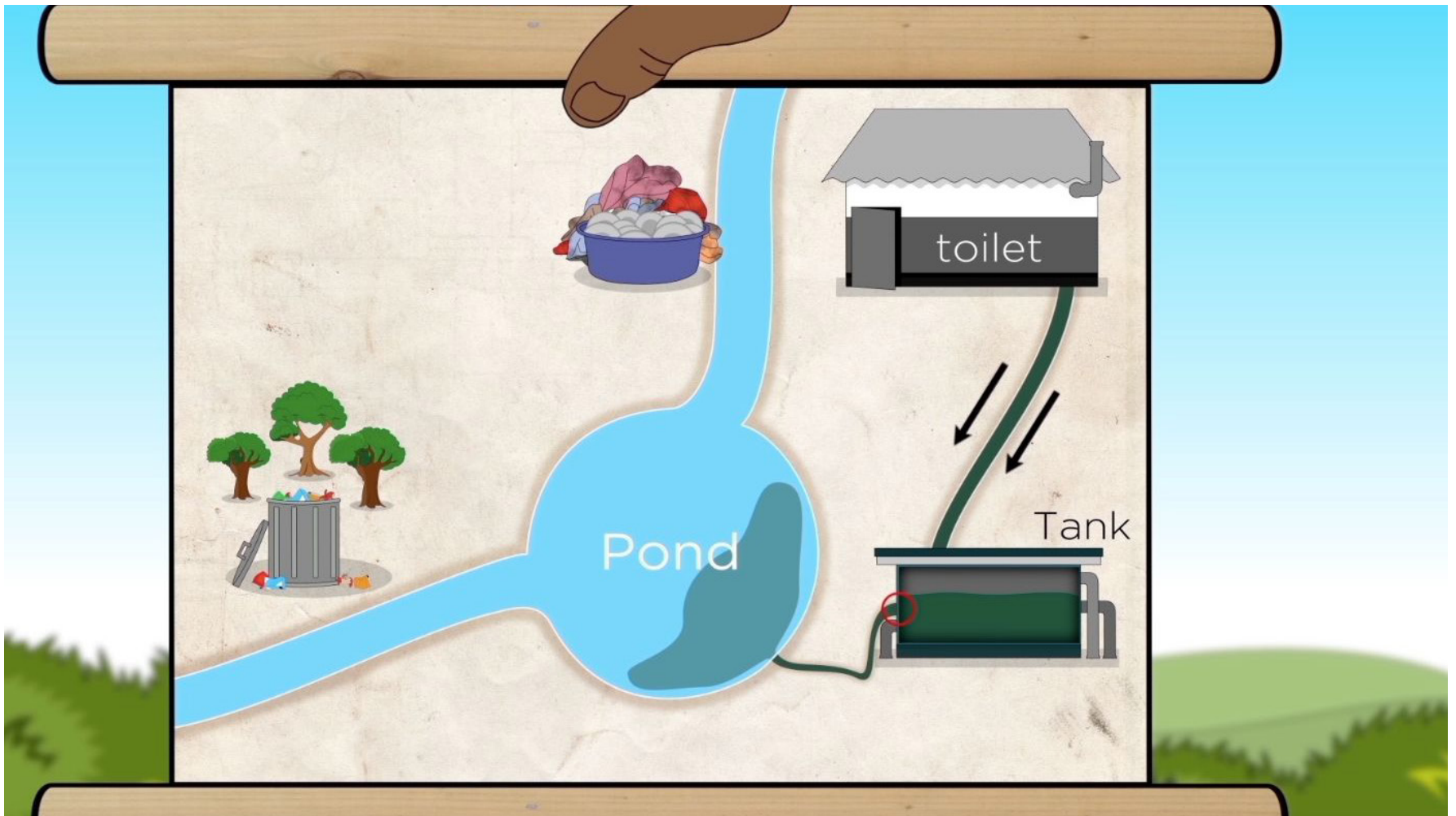
Baraka peeked through his fingers at the creature in the net.



It was just Baba Kiduchu!



Baba Kiduchu told them that they could not swim because the water would make them sick. He showed them the map he was carrying of the sewage system. “The septic tank was leaking,” he said.



“A septic tank is a special underground tank that collects all the dirty water from our toilets, so that it does not mix with the clean water we use for cooking, washing... and swimming!” he continued.



The dirty water, which carries disease-causing bacteria, had mixed with the clean water of the pond. People could get diseases such as cholera and typhoid from the bacteria in the water.



Amani and Kibena promised that they would contribute to keeping Kokotoa clean by sweeping up the trash.



Kibena said she had already helped people stop poisoning the stream with their washing soap. Baba Kiduchu smiled. “That work is also important,” he said.





They all returned to town. When Kiduchu saw her Baba, dressed in his work clothes with the other kids, she was embarrassed. The others now knew he was a sanitation worker!



But they told Kiduchu how important her Baba's work was. "You should be proud of him! Sometimes we have to do dirty work to keep the environment clean!" Amani told her. Kiduchu agreed. "I'm proud of you, Baba," she said, and gave him a big hug.



# The End

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