



# Yebo and the Giant

Ntombifuthi Ncwayiba

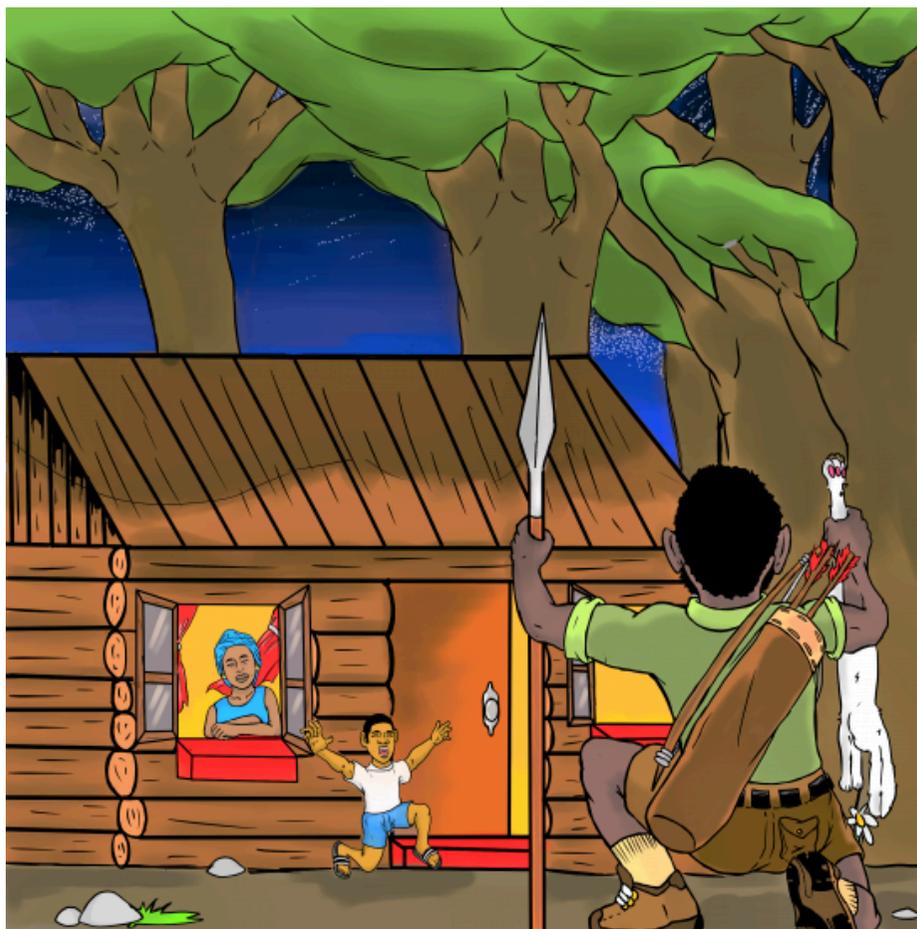
Kamogelo Matlawe





Yebo and his parents lived in a forest.

In the same area, there lived Zim-zim, a giant.  
Zim-zim was known for eating children.



Sikwebu, Yebo's father, was a hunter. When he returned home, he called, "Yebo! Yebo! Come meet me my child."

Yebo would run out to meet his father.

Zim-zim saw all this.



Zim-zim tried to imitate Sikwebu, “Yebo! Yebo! Come meet me my child.”

He knew he didn’t sound like Sikwebu.

“How can I change my voice?” he wondered.



Zim-zim sought help from a wizard.

“How can I change my voice to a human one?” he asked.

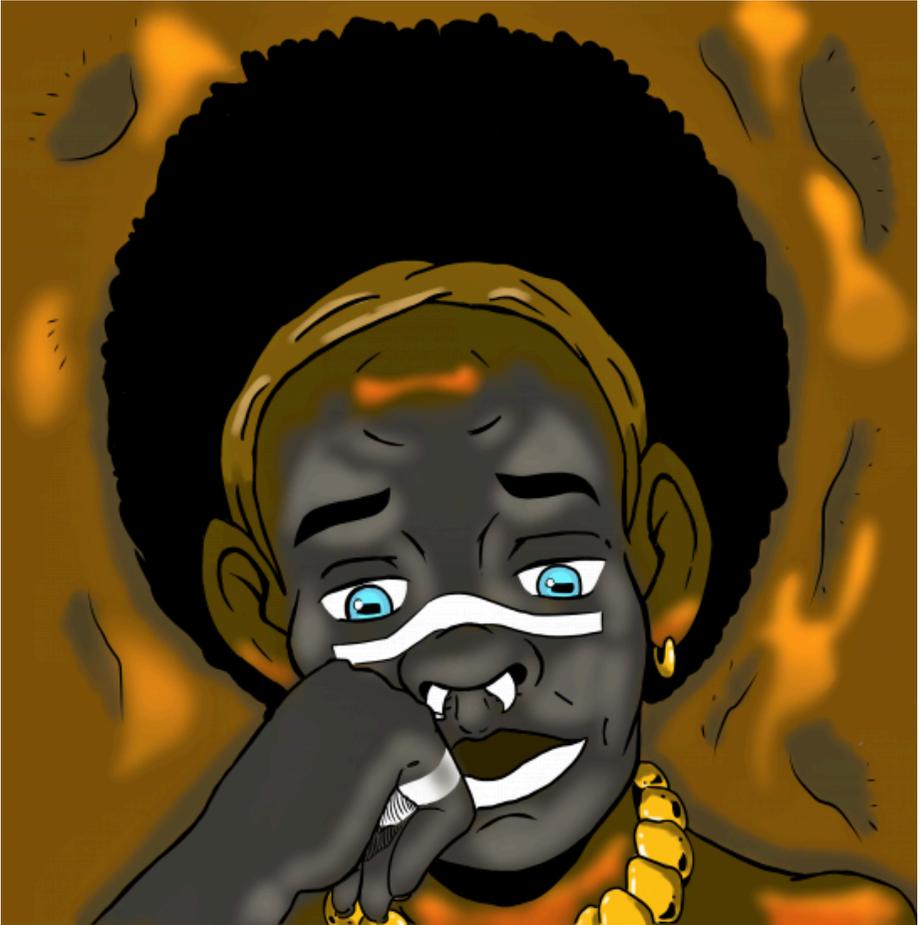
“Heat an axe until it is red hot, then swallow it whole,” the wizard advised.



Zim-zim went home and swallowed a hot axe.

Then he called out, “Yebo! Yebo! Come meet me my child.”

No! His voice did not sound like Sikwebu’s voice. It was too deep.



The unhappy Zim-zim returned to the wizard.

“What must I do to get a small, human voice?” he asked.

“This time, heat up an axe for a whole night and in the morning, swallow it whole,” answered the wizard.



After doing what he was told, Zim-zim went and called, “Yebo! Yebo! Come meet me my child.”

His voice was exactly the same as Sikwebu’s. Yebo rushed outside.

But it was not his father.



Yebo realised his mistake too late!

He tried to run back inside, but Zim-zim easily caught him.

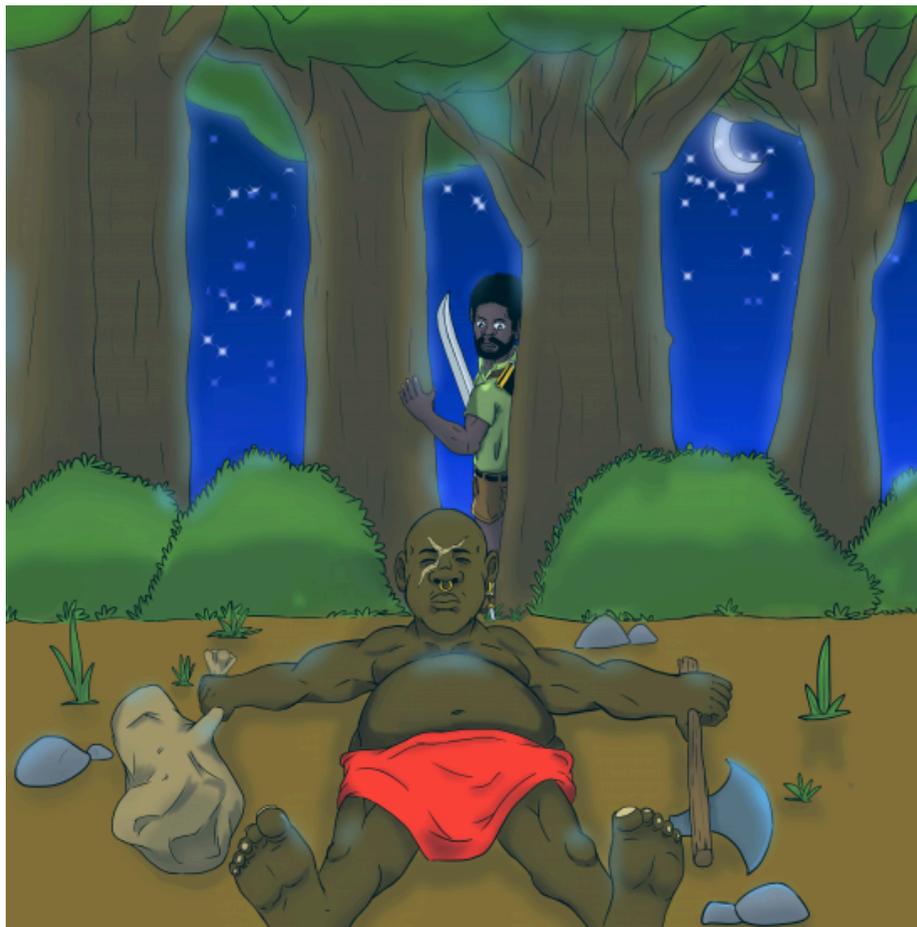
He carried Yebo like a log and took him deep into the forest.



Soon, Sikwebu got home and called, “Yebo! Yebo! Come meet me my child.”

Yebo's mother replied, “You already called for him.”

They realised that their child had been taken by Zim-zim.



Sikwebu took his hunting stick and went into the forest to look for his son.

From a distance, he saw Zim-zim sprawled sleeping on the riverbank. He had a large sack next to him.



Sikwebu sneaked up on Zim-zim. He swung the long stick and hit the giant hard on the head.

Zim-zim jumped up from sleep, confused, he ran into the forest.

Sikwebu untied the sack and freed Yebo.



Sikwebu hugged his son, happy to be reunited with him. Yebo was happy to see his father.

They forgot about Zim-zim and returned home.



Ulwazi Lwethu is a Zenex Foundation funded and initiated project to develop a series of graded and leisure African language readers and teacher support materials. This project is targeted at teaching and supporting learners in the Foundation Phase to improve their home language reading and understanding. The readers have been originated in nine African languages in collaboration with Molteno Institute for Language and Literacies, Nelson Mandela Institute for Education and Rural Development, Room to Read South Africa, and Saide. All resources are developed as Open Education Resources (OER).



NELSON MANDELA  
INSTITUTE FOR  
EDUCATION AND  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Room to Read®  
World Change Starts with Educated Children®

Your attribution should include the following:

Title: Yebo and the Giant

Author/s: Ntombifuthi Ncwayiba

Translator/s: Ntombifuthi Ncwayiba

Illustrator/s: Kamogelo Matlawe

Assurer/s: African Storybook

Language: English



© Zenex Foundation - Saide 2023

CC BY includes the following elements:

BY  - Credit must be given to the creator

