



Sekgwa Sa Dinoga

Forest of snakes

- ✎ Joseph Sanchez Nadimo
- 👤 Rob Owen
- 🗨️ Lorato Trok
- 💬 Tswana / English
- 📶 Level 3





Motse wa Maruping o dikaganyeditswe ke dithaba. Dinoga tse dintsi di dula mo sekgweng mo dithabeng tseo. Go ne go na le noga e kgolo go di feta tshotlhe. Baagi ba motse ba ne ba e bitsa Serodumo. E ne e le noga e e tshosang. E ne e metsa dipodi le dinku di feletse.

...

Sinyaire village is surrounded by hills. Many snakes live in the forest on those hills. The biggest snake was called Unyalego by the villagers. This snake scared many people. It swallowed whole goats and sheep.



Ka letsatsi lengwe Atang, Agang le Amo ba ne ba ya kgonnyeng kwa sekgweng. E ne e le bana ba motho. Nkoko wa bone o ne a ba gakolola, “Lo tlhokomeleng noga e kgolo Serodumo. Lo se tseye sepe se sengwe kwa sekgweng ntle fela le dikgong.” Amo ke ene fela o neng a sa utlwelela Nkoko wa gagwe.

...

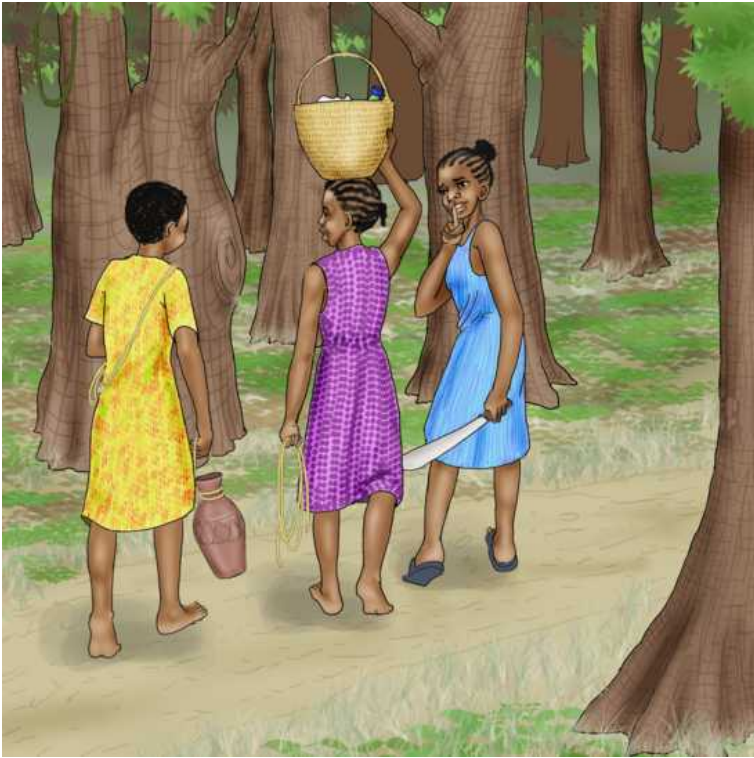
One day, sisters Apiyo, Ajoh and Atieno were going to the forest to fetch firewood. The girls' grandmother warned, “Beware of Unyalego the big snake. Do not take anything from the forest except the wood.” Only Ajoh did not pay attention to her grandmother.



Basetsana ba ne phutha mašwi, dipanana, dipotata le metsi, e le dijo tsa tsela. Ba ne ba tsaya dithudi tse di tiileng go bofa dikgong le selepe se se bogale go rema dikgong. Mme ba tsena tsela go ya sekgweng.

...

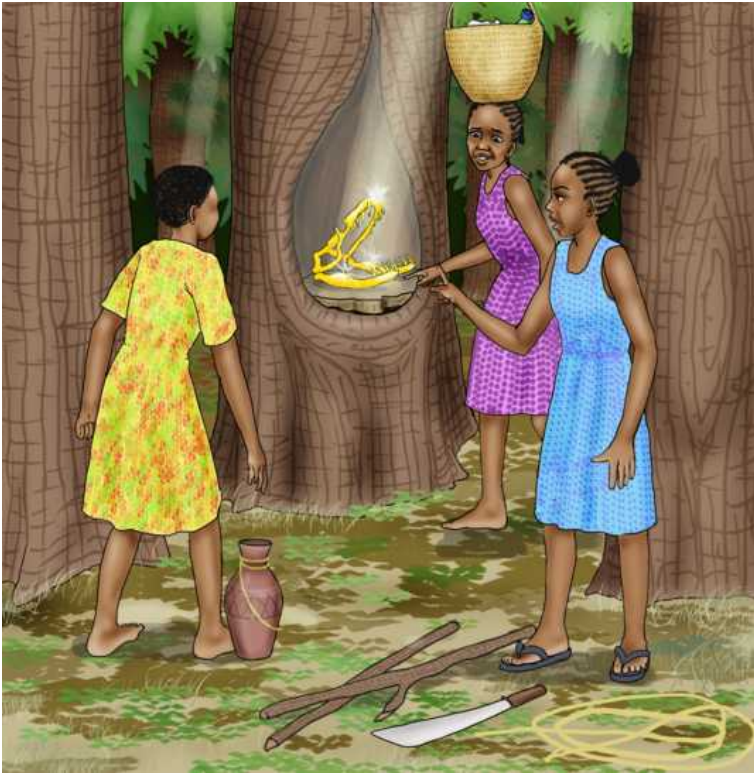
The girls packed milk, bananas, sweet potatoes and water. They took ropes for tying firewood and a sharp machete for chopping the wood. Then they left for the forest.



Fa ba le mo tseleng, basetsana ba ne ba tsaya dikgang go le monate. O mogolo mo go bona, Atang, a ba gakolola ka gangwe a re, "Didimalang. Re tsena mo tulong ya ga Serodumo."

...

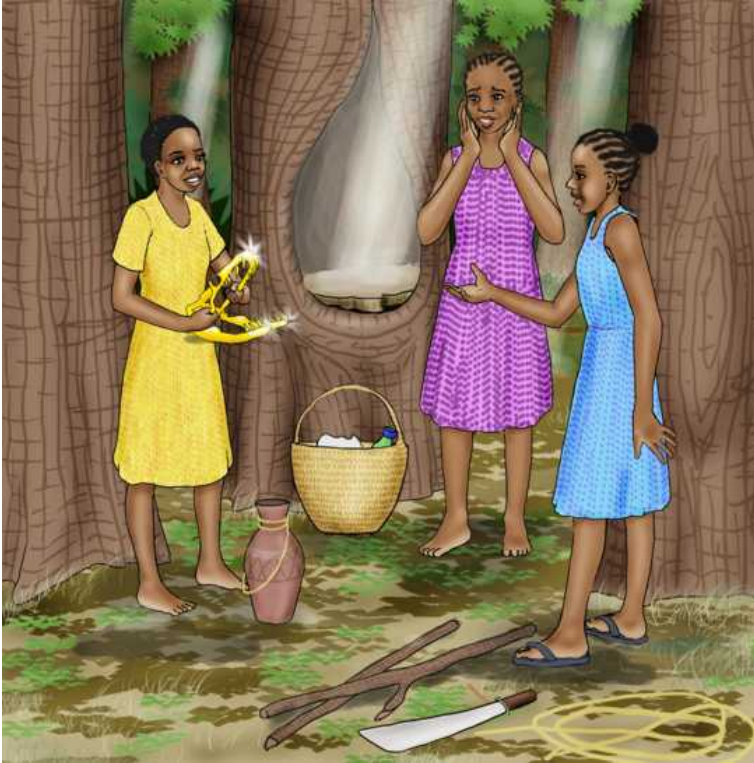
On the way, the sisters chatted and laughed. Suddenly, Apiyo, the eldest of them, said, "Be quiet. We are coming to where Unyalego lives."



Agang a bitsa ba bangwe, “Bonang, meno a ga Serodumo a gauta ke a. A re a tseyeng.” Atang a ba gakolola, “Lo se lebale kgakololo ya ga Nkoko. Ga re a tshwanela go tsaya sepe se sengwe ntle le dikgong.”

...

Atieno called to the others, “Look, here are Unyalego’s golden teeth. Let us take them.” Apiyo reminded them, “Don’t forget grandmother’s warning. We must not take anything from the forest except firewood.”



Amo a re, “Ga ke tshepe Nkoko. Ke nagana gore o ne a bua se fela gore re se nne le se se re batlang. Ke batla meno a gauta.” Bo ausi ba gagwe ba ne ba tshwenyegile. “Amo, re go kgalemile,” ba rialo. Amo o ne a sa kgathale.

...

Ajoh said, “I don’t trust grandmother. I think she said that to stop us having what we want. I want the golden teeth.” Her sisters were worried. “Ajoh, we warned you,” they said. Ajoh did not care.



Ka motlha oo, Serodumo a tla go batla meno a gagwe a gauta. O ne a tlala bogale fa a ne a sa a bone. Jaanong Serodumo a utlwa basetsana ba bua ebile ba tshega. A iphitlha mo tlase ga letlapa mo thoko ga tsela, mo basetsana ba neng ba ya go feta teng go boela gae.

...

At that moment Unyalego came looking for his golden teeth. He was furious when he could not find the teeth. Then Unyalego heard the girls chatting and laughing. He hid under a rock next to the road where the girls would pass on their way back.



Basetsana ba ne ba rwele dikgong tsa bona mo ditlhogong ba boela gae. Ka ponyo ya leitlho ba utlwa, "Hzzzzzzzz!" E ne e le Serodumo, molomo wa gagwe o bulegile gotlhelele, a ikemiseditse go loma. Basetsana ba ne ba tshogile tota.

...

The sisters were going home carrying their firewood on their heads. Suddenly, they heard "Hzzzzzzzz!" There was Unyalego with his mouth wide open, ready to bite. The girls were terrified.



“Ke mang a tseileng meno a me a gauta?”
Serodumo a botsa basetsana. Go se nne le yo o arabang. Noga e ne ya nagana go leka basetsana. “Yo o senang molato o tla kgona go opela ntle le diphoso. O tla ya gae ka dikgong tsa gagwe. Mme yo o molato, a ka se kgone go opela. O tla nna dijo tsa me malatsi a mararo a a latelang!”

...

Unyalego asked the girls, “Who took my golden teeth?” No one answered. The snake decided to test the girls. “Whoever is innocent, will be able to sing without mistakes. She will go home with her firewood. But the guilty one will sing badly. She will be my food for the next three days!”



Atang a simolola go opela ka lentswe le le edileng:

...

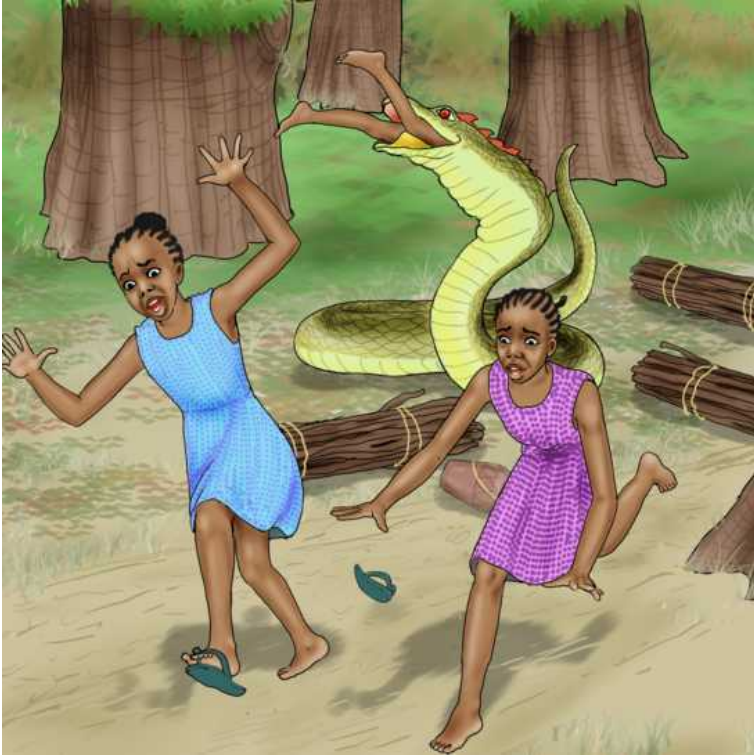
Apiyo started to sing with a clear voice: "Sio mimi, sio mimi aliye na meno, Mwenye meno bado yuko nyuma." Then Atieno sang the song. She also sang well.



Wa bofelo e ne e le Amo. O ne a tshogile. A ya kwa pele mme a simolola go opela. Mme kopelo ya gagwe e ne e sa kgathise, ebile mantswe e se one. Serodumo a mo goelesa, “Ke eng o sa opele sentle go tshwana le ba ba bangwe?” Noga ya itse gore ke Amo a tseileng meno a yona.

...

Lastly, it was Ajoh’s turn. She was scared. She stepped forward and started singing. But her singing sounded terrible and the words were wrong. Unyalego shouted, “Can’t you sing properly like the others?” The snake knew that Ajoh took his golden teeth.



Serodumo o ne a bula metlhagare ya gagwe e megolo mme a metsa Amo. Bo ausi ba bagwe ba ne boela kwa motseng ka lebelo le legolo. Ba ne ba anegela baagi ba motse ka se se diragetseng. “Ke mo kgalemetse, fa fela a ne a nkutlwelela,” nkoko wa basetsana a bua a utlwile bothoko.

...

Unyalego opened his huge jaws and swallowed Ajoh. Her sisters ran back to the village. They told everyone the story of what happened. “I warned her, if only she had listened,” the girls’ grandmother said sadly.



Storybooks South Africa

global-asp.github.io/storybooks-southafrica

Sekgwa Sa Dinoga

Forest of snakes

Written by: Joseph Sanchez Nadimo

Illustrated by: Rob Owen

Translated by: Lorato Trok (tn)

This story originates from the African Storybook (africanstorybook.org) and is brought to you by [Storybooks South Africa](https://global-asp.github.io/storybooks-southafrica) in an effort to provide children's stories in South Africa's many languages.



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons
[Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).