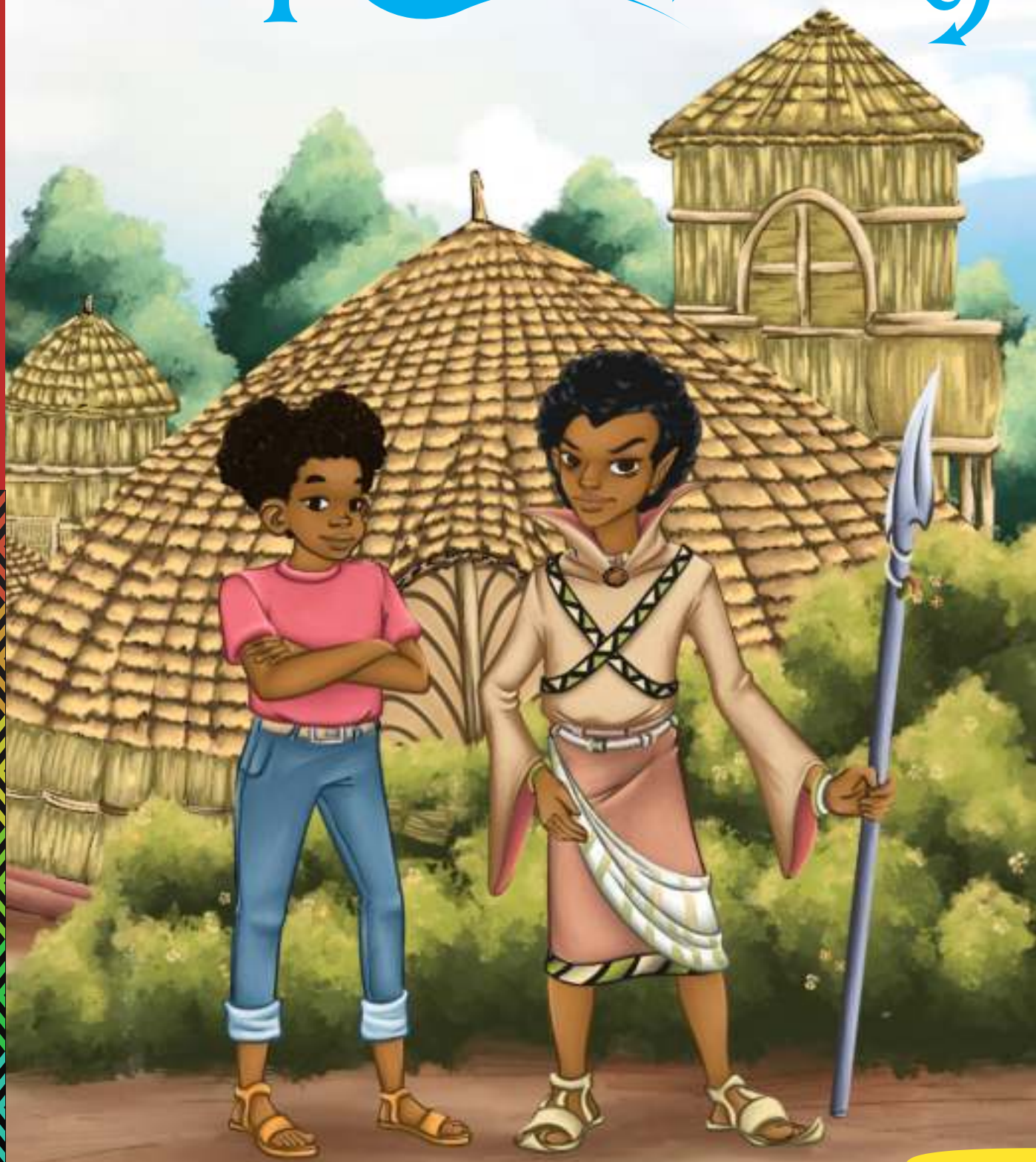


NABU

COUNT COUGH-ULA

HEALTH

CREATED IN RWANDA



AUTHOR:
Michael Ross

ILLUSTRATOR:
Odile Uwera

**HELPING CHILDREN
FIGHT COVID-19**

NABU

NABU's mission

NABU is a New York-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, with a mission to solve the imbalance in children's book creation and distribution, so all children can read and rise to their full potential. We disrupt the cycle of poverty by leveraging technology to publish children's books for free on digital platforms in mother tongue languages.

About the Health - COVID-19 Collection

As we publish this book in April 2020, the world is facing a global pandemic which will impact children and their families in every country. As a result of COVID-19, an estimated 1.37 billion students globally are out of school today and face interruptions to their learning. As a digital platform, NABU is providing the most vulnerable children with resources at home to ensure that they are able to stay safe and continue their learning. Moreover, misinformation about the virus is pervasive, and parents and families need access to accurate information and sensitive ways to talk to their children about the virus, to help keep them and their communities safe.

In response, NABU created this collection with the support of experts in the field of health, neuroscience and child development, and a team of authors who pitched in to create information-rich, compelling stories. Created in Rwanda and illustrated by NABU's incredible Rwandan illustrators, the stories were published in Kinyarwanda, and also made available in English for families globally. Wherever you are reading, we hope you and your family stay safe and that this story brings you comfort and hope for brighter days ahead.

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Count Cough-ula

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CREATIVE DIRECTOR:
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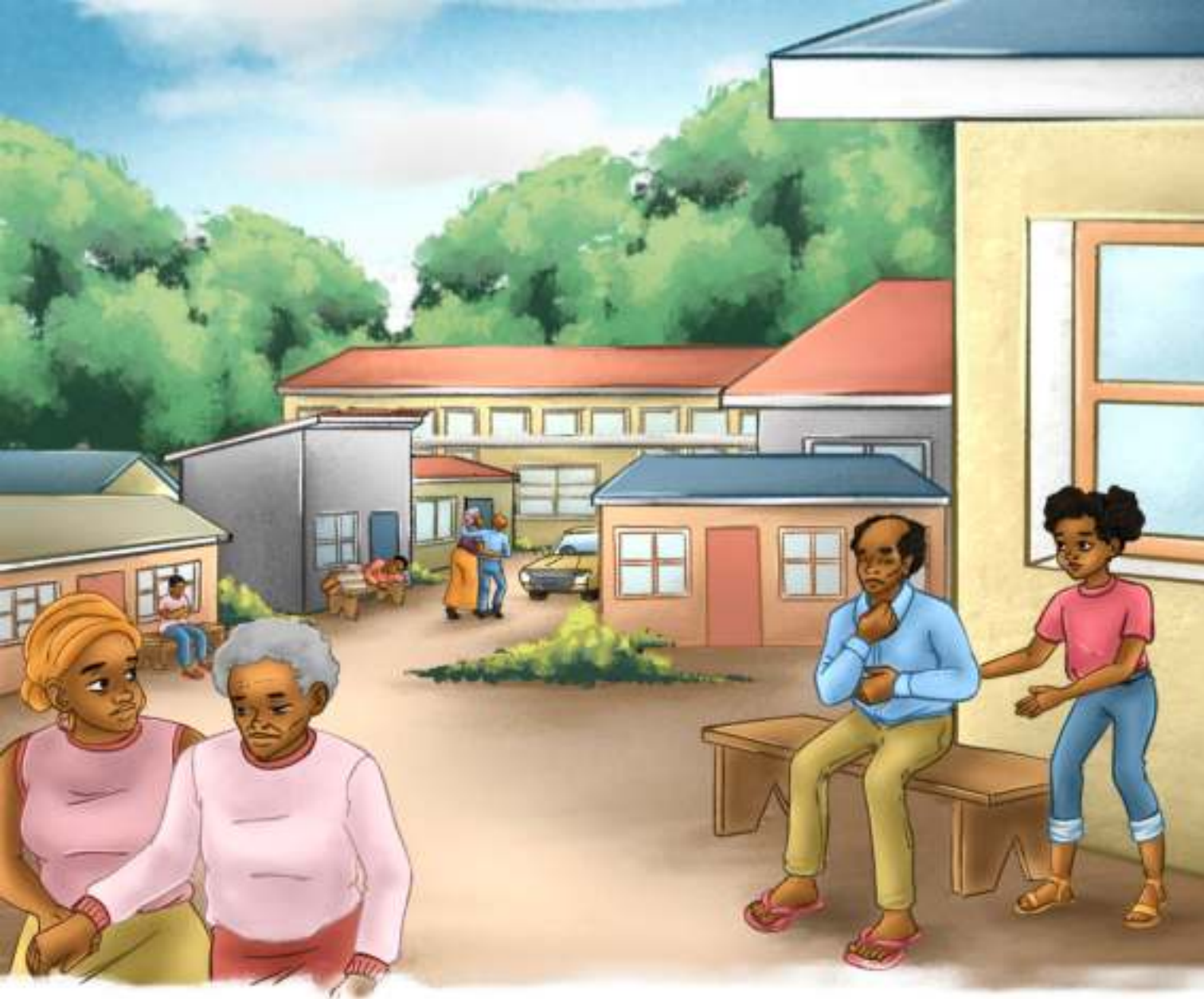


Above the clouds, in a beautiful ancient palace nestled in the peaks of the Nyanza mountains of Rwanda, lives a friendly vampire called Count Cough-ula.

The Count is a kind vampire and he is trusted and respected by all for his bountiful wisdom and magic.



Count Cough-ula has been in a deep sleep for one hundred years. But the people of Rwanda need him. A virus is making people very ill, and they need Count Cough-ula's help!



Luckily, a brave girl called Garuka lives nearby. Garuka and the other children are not falling ill to the virus. But it is making parents and grandparents very sick. Garuka decides to climb the Nyanza mountains to wake Cough-ula.



Garuka hikes through the mountains for two long days until she finally finds the palace.

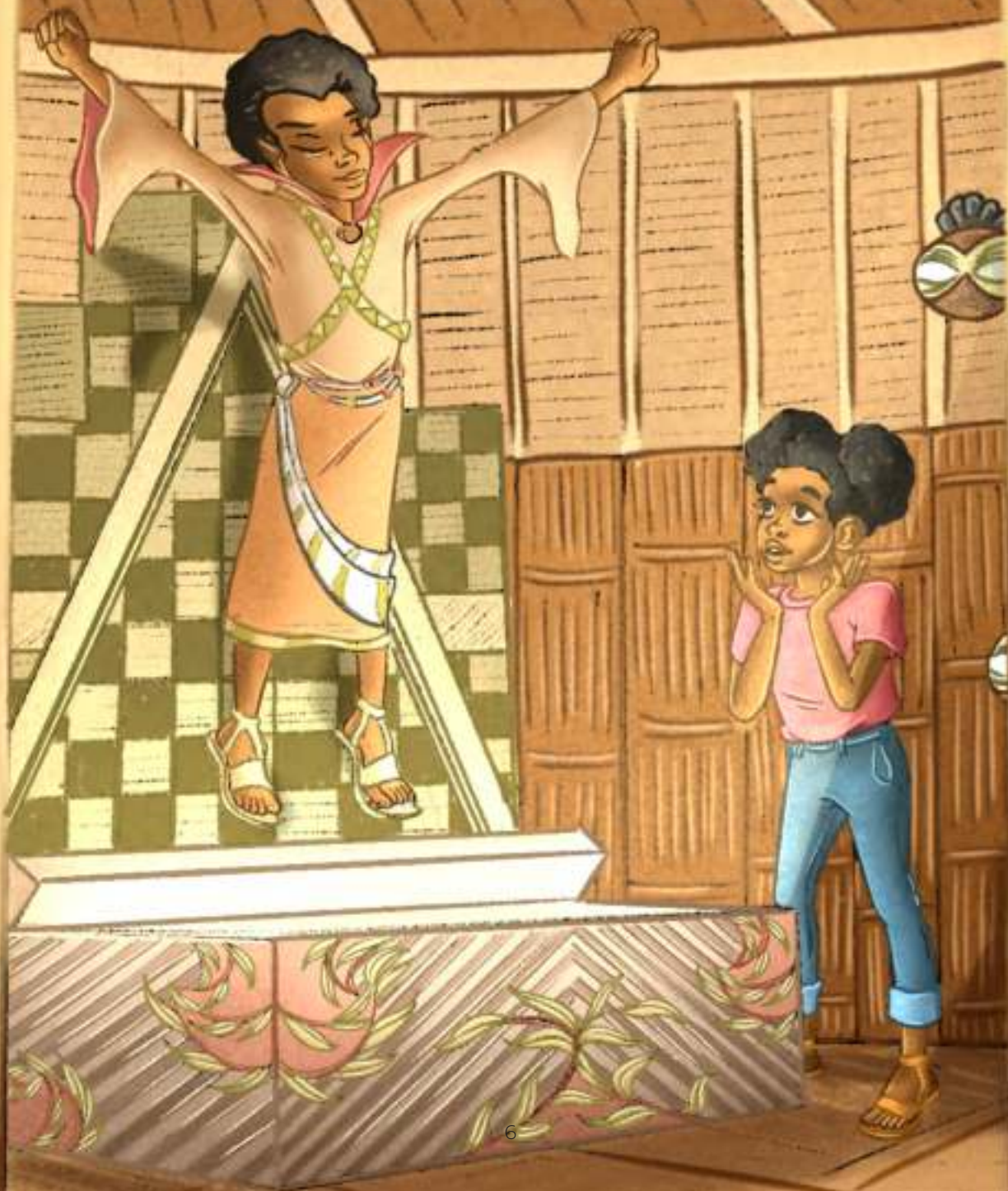
It is the most wonderful place she has ever seen!



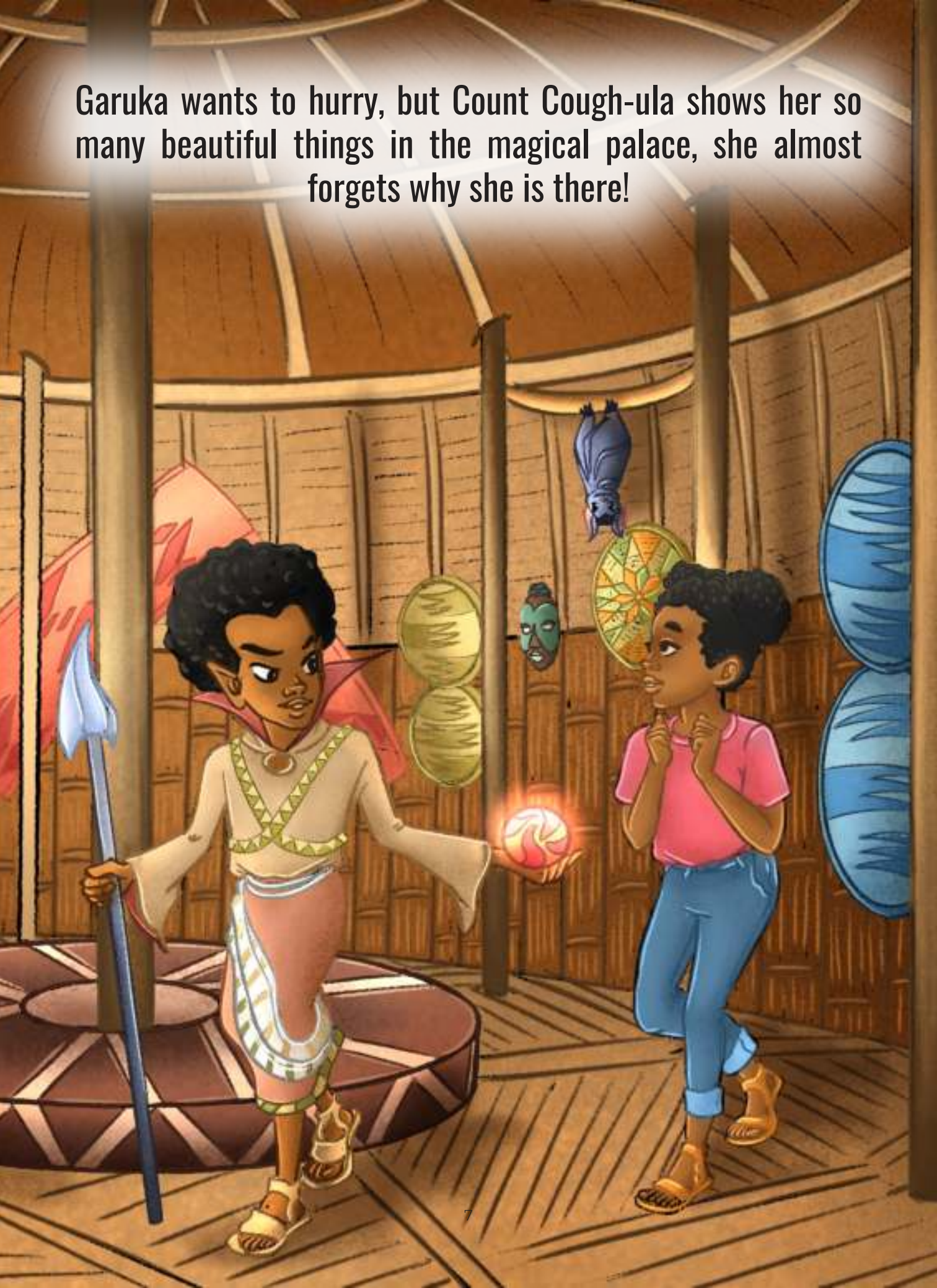
**Garuka enters the palace through the heavy doors.
She approaches the coffin where Count Cough-ula sleeps.
The coffin is made of beautiful carved wood.
Garuka knocks three times, and the coffin opens.**

Count Cough-ula emerges from the coffin.
An amazing glow surrounds him as he stretches in mid-air.

“Thank you for waking me up! It feels like I have been sleeping forever. Please, let me give you a tour of my palace.”



Garuka wants to hurry, but Count Cough-ula shows her so many beautiful things in the magical palace, she almost forgets why she is there!





When the tour is over, Garuka says, “Count Cough-ula, there is a virus that is making our parents and grandparents sick. We need your help!”

Count Cough-ula replies, “Garuka, I am 800 years old. I have seen many illnesses in my time. My magic protects me from them. I will teach your village how to protect yourselves.”



Count Cough-ula swings Garuka onto his back. Together, they fly over the mountains towards her village. She has never been so high in the sky!

**Garuka is filled with love for the world.
“I want to help everyone!”**



Soon they arrive back at Garuka’s village. Everyone is so happy to see them.

**“My dearest friends,” calls Count Cough-ula,
“I’m here to teach you how to bring this virus to an end!”**



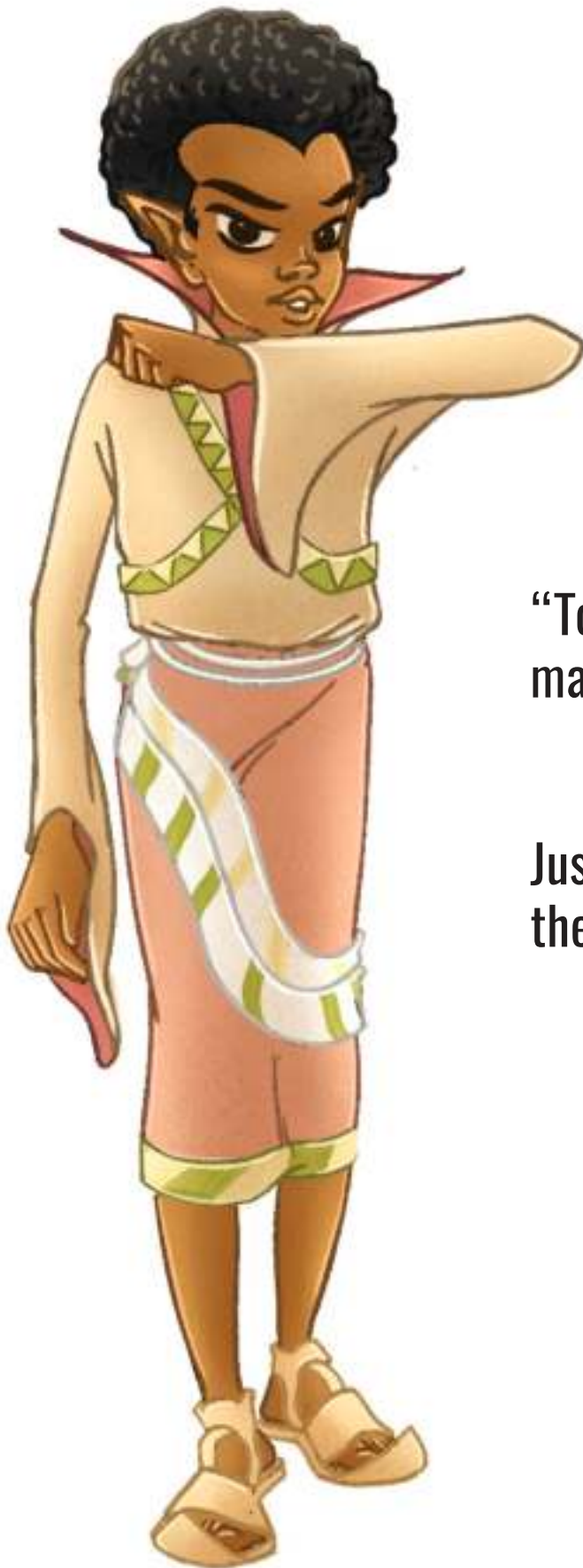
He begins to sing in his silvery sweet voice.

**“Let’s start by spreading apart.
When we’re in a group, we need to be smart.**

**Keep one and a half metres away from each other,
unless it’s from your sister or brother.”**



**“You must wash your hands with soap,
then the virus will have no hope!”**



“To stop the virus from making you sick, use my special vampire trick:

Just block your sneeze from the breeze, you can do it with great ease!”



**“Shield your cough with your arm,
it simply works like a charm!”**



**Everyone in the village danced and sang with
Count Cough-ula.**

**Garuka was grateful for the vampire's help,
but she still felt sad. She was worried about all
the other people in the world.**



Count Cough-ula used his magic to see into Garuka’s heart.

“Don’t worry, I will visit every country and teach everyone how to defeat this virus!”



After Rwanda, Cough-ula visited Haiti, followed by Zimbabwe, and soon all of Africa.



**And before long, he had traveled the entire globe,
just as he promised Garuka.**

The End

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About NABU Stories

NABU creates children's stories with a cultural point of view. Children who are exposed to multiple cultures and languages are more likely to become lifelong learners and compassionate global citizens. We believe that culturally relevant stories that reflect who children see when they look in the mirror help to develop healthy self-esteem and a sense of pride, and children who learn about cultures different from their own are much more likely to develop into adults who value the dignity of human life and making the world a better place for all.



ODILE UWERA

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Odile UWERA is a trained illustrator and graphic designer specialising in Children's books. She joined the NABU team in a permanent capacity in March 2019, providing expertise in the fields of content creation and illustrator workshops. In her free time, Uwera practices fine art, and has participated in a joint exhibition of Rwandan women artists in March 2020 as a celebration of women's month. She is currently pursuing her studies in Business Management and Entrepreneurship at Davis College – Akilah Campus.

COUNT COUGH-ULA

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