

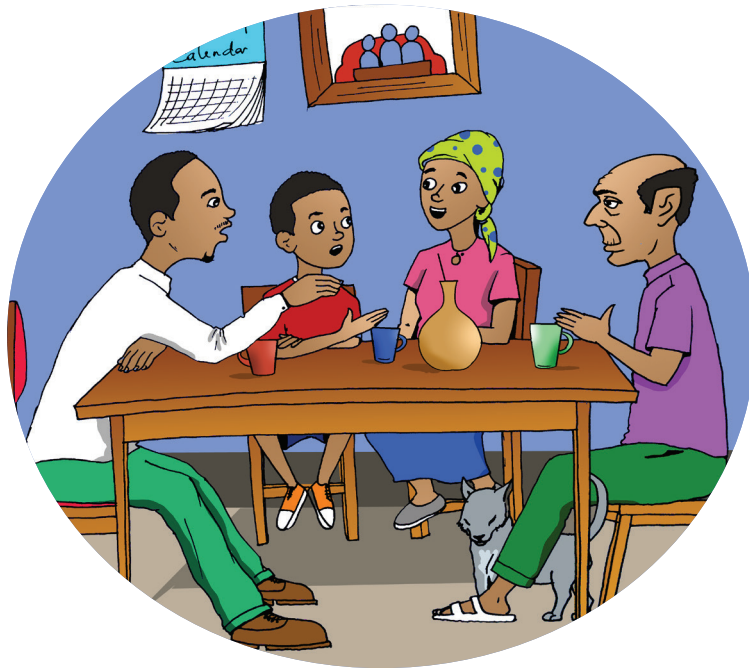
Matsiko Visits His Grandparents



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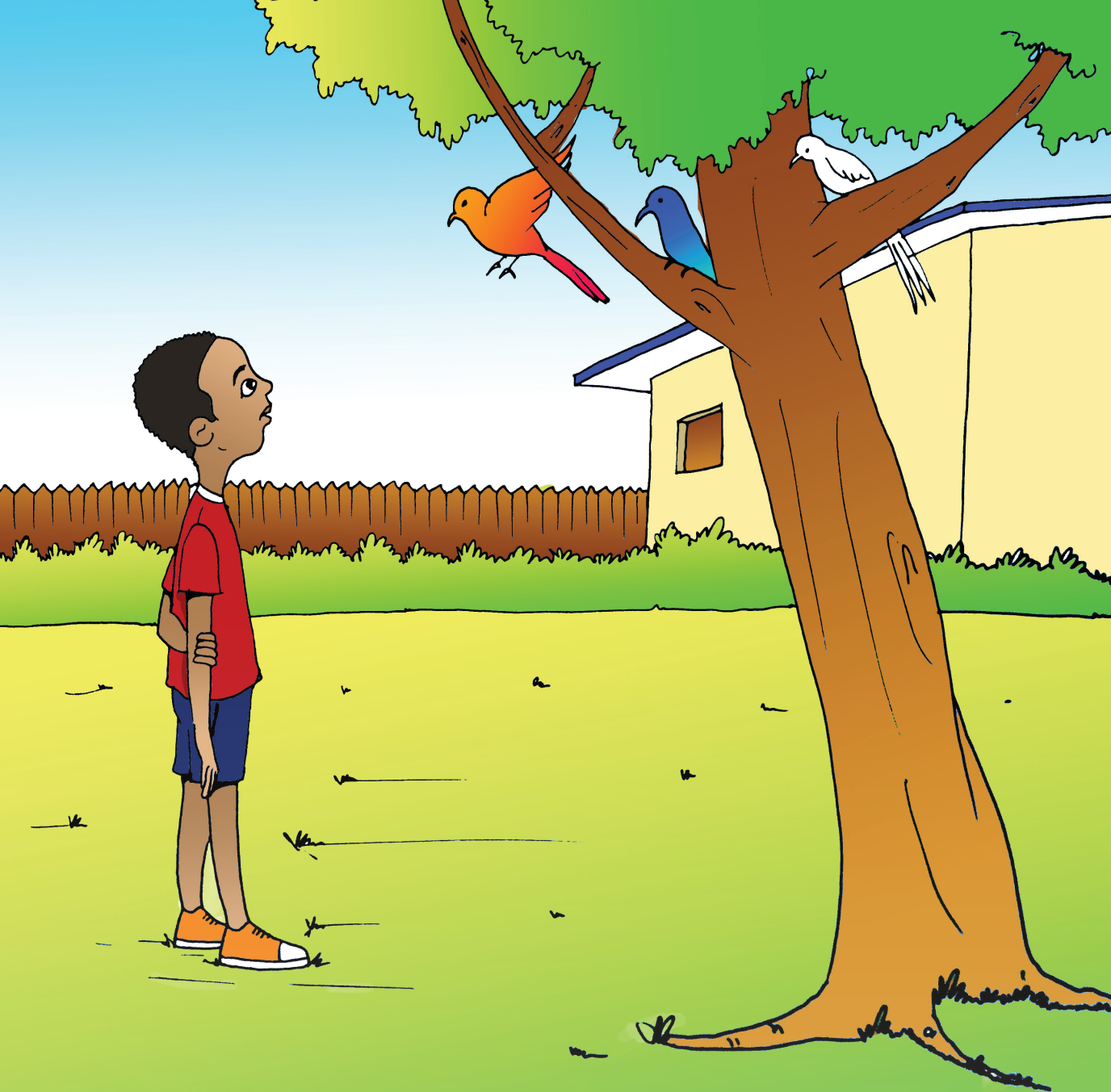
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Matsiko was in primary three. He was clever but careless. One day, he talked with his father, Migambi, who told him if he studied very hard, he would become rich. Since then, Matsiko put more effort in studying and he became the first in his class. Migambi promised to take Matsiko with him to his grandfather's home in Karama.



When it was time to leave, Matsiko was very eager to get in the car. While in the car, he carefully observed the hills, forests, birds, animals and everything they came across. On reaching Karama, they got out of the car and walked the remaining distance. As they approached a forest, Matsiko heard birds singing.



He observed the birds and said, “Jwi! Jwi!” His father took a step backward, held his hand and they continued. As they approached a cow, Matsiko heard moo-moo. He moved towards the cow and touched it, “Mbaa! Mbaa! Hello!” he said.

He also heard goats bleating. He ran from his father and said, “Let me see what happened to them.” He found that they were fine and only made sounds because they heard them approaching. Matsiko ran back to his father.



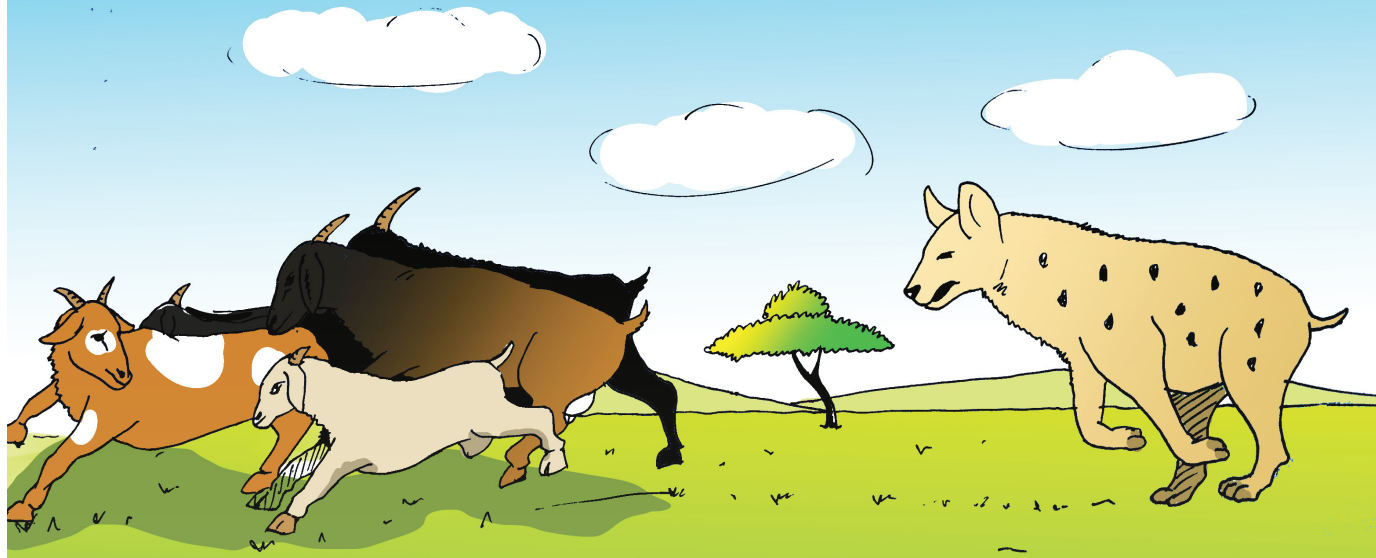
When they arrived at his grandfather's home, a dog barked loudly and Matsiko was scared. His grandfather, Sayinzoga, told him, "Worry not. This dog does not bite but it is just informing me that a stranger is coming."

Sayinzoga greeted them, welcomed them inside the house and gave them seats. He brought a pot full of juice, served them in cups and they conversed with other family members.



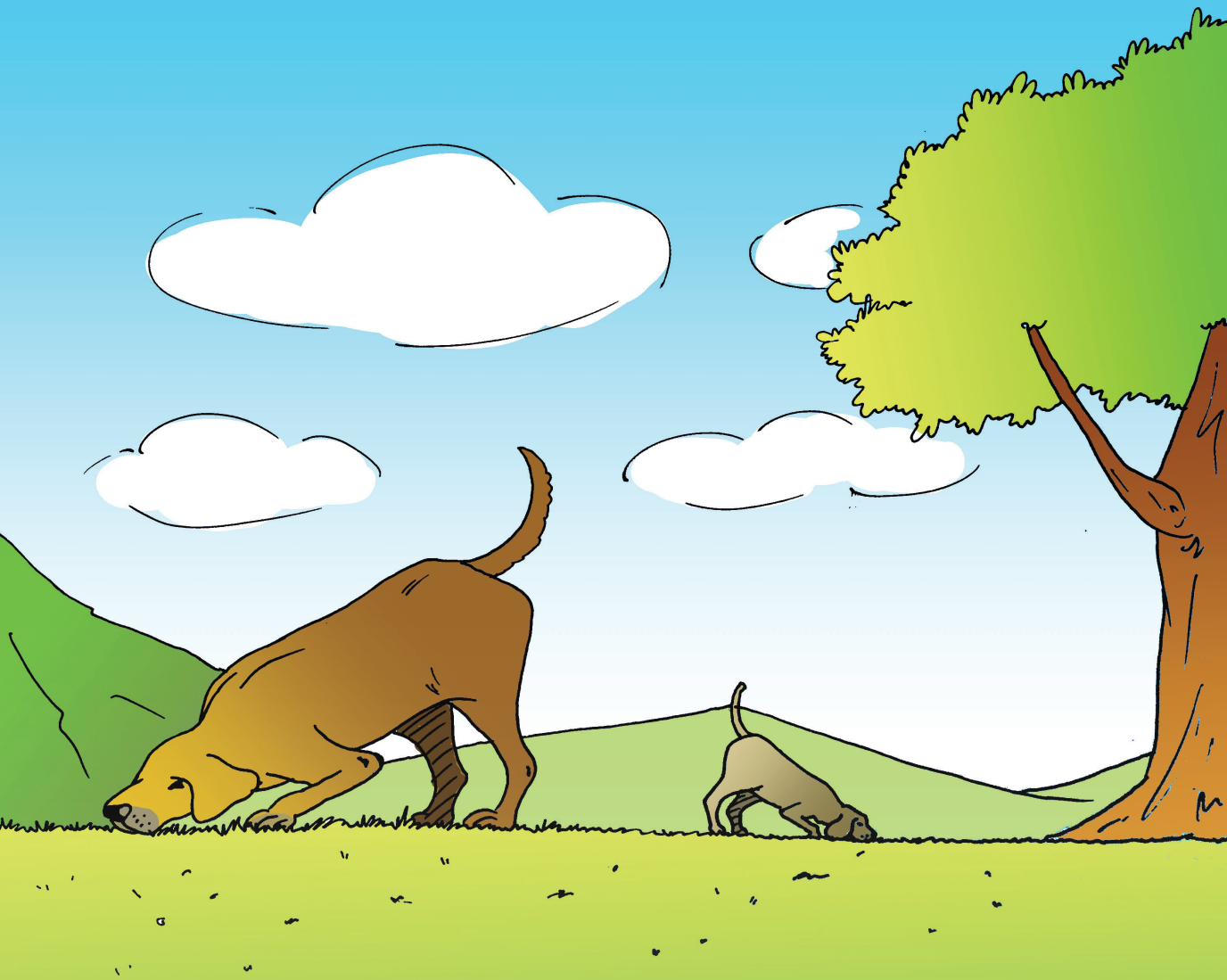
After a while, a cat said, “Mew! Mew!” Matsiko imitated it.

It rubbed itself against Sayinzoga’s legs. Matisko observed it and asked his grandfather, “Why is it that animals of the same species sound the same: cows moo, goats bleat, dogs bark,... but humans speak multiple languages?”



Sayinzoga replied, “Animals cannot speak because they lack intelligence. They have signs and sounds they use between themselves when they sense danger to warn each other.”

Matsiko said, “There are animals that are intelligent. Why can a dog recognize its owner?” Migambi helped Sayinzoga and said, “The way God created animals, they can hear and smell, and this helps them recognize who they live with or sense danger nearby.”



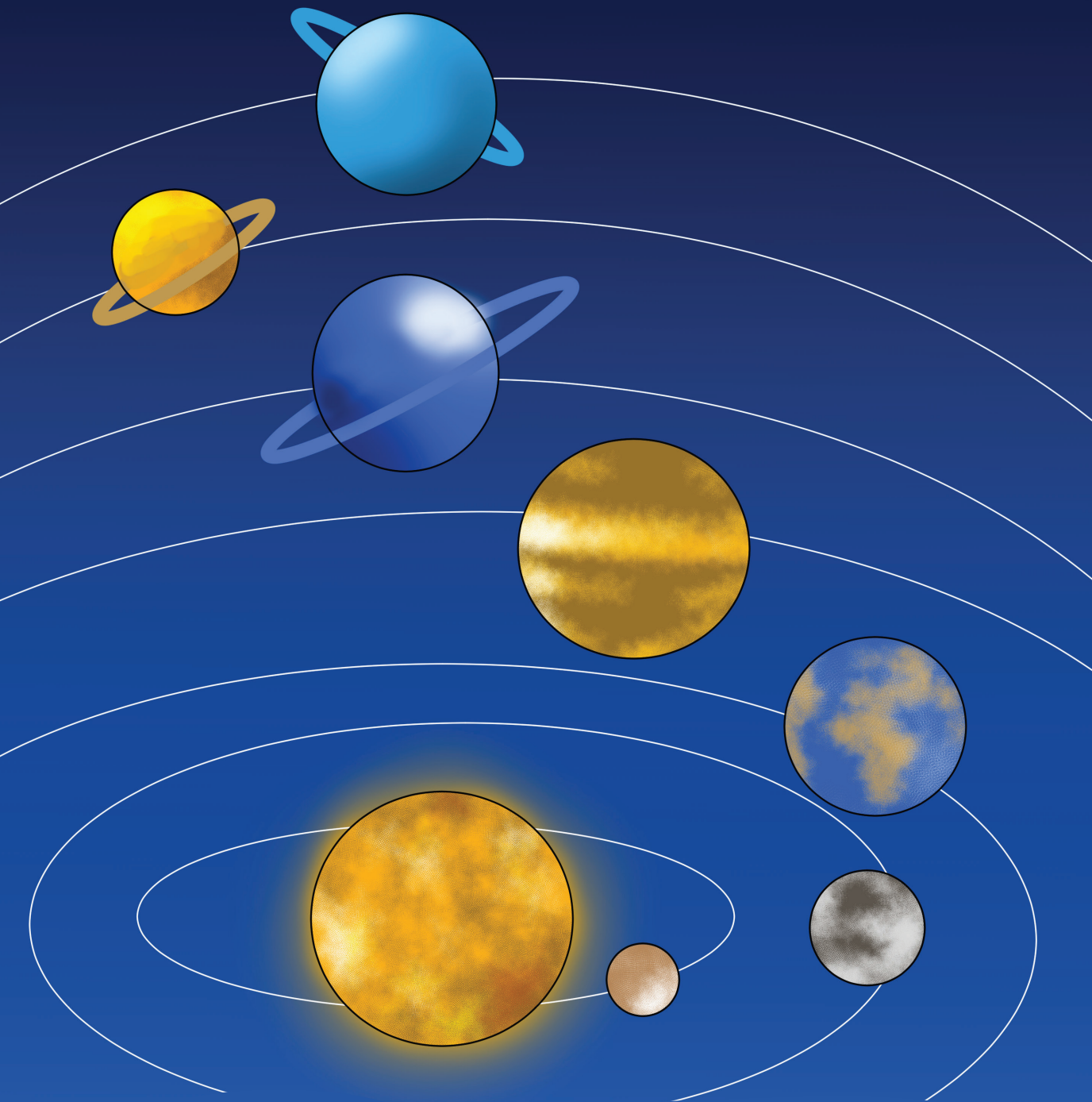
Matsiko asked his father again, “Are the dogs that work with the police more intelligent than some people?” Migambi replied, “Those dogs can smell and know where there are explosives. They do not have any other intelligence.”

Matsiko said, “I’ll study hard to know a lot of human and animal languages so that I can communicate with them and tell humans what they want.”

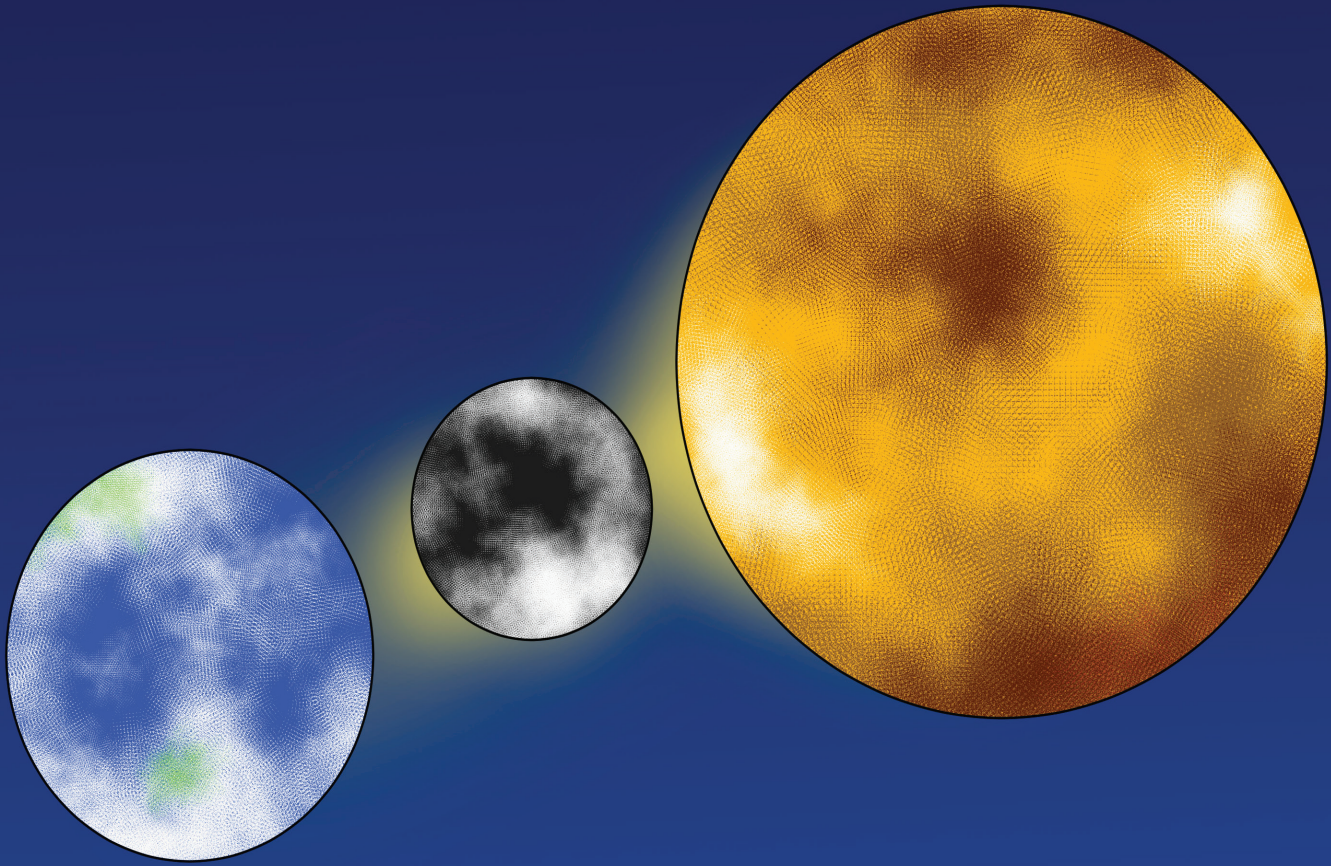


Migambi said to Matsiko, “Now, go outside in the compound with the other children.” And they started running. As they walked, the moon followed them. They ran faster and tried to leave it far behind them, but it was impossible.

When they got back, Matsiko asked his father, “Why do we feel warm when the sun shines, but feel cold when the moon is out?”



Migambi replied, “The moon is an astronomical body found in the sky and it rotates around the Earth. The Earth also rotates around the sun. In some parts of the Earth, where the sun is seen, it is day time, and in other parts, it is night time.”



The moon itself has no light. But at night, there are times when part of the moon is exposed to light rays from the sun. Then, when the rays of the sun hit the exposed part, this reflects the light which is observed on the Earth and illuminates that part of the Earth.

After understanding, Matsiko said, “Although there is no electricity in this area, at least it is illuminated by the moon.”

