

The Lizard and The Termite



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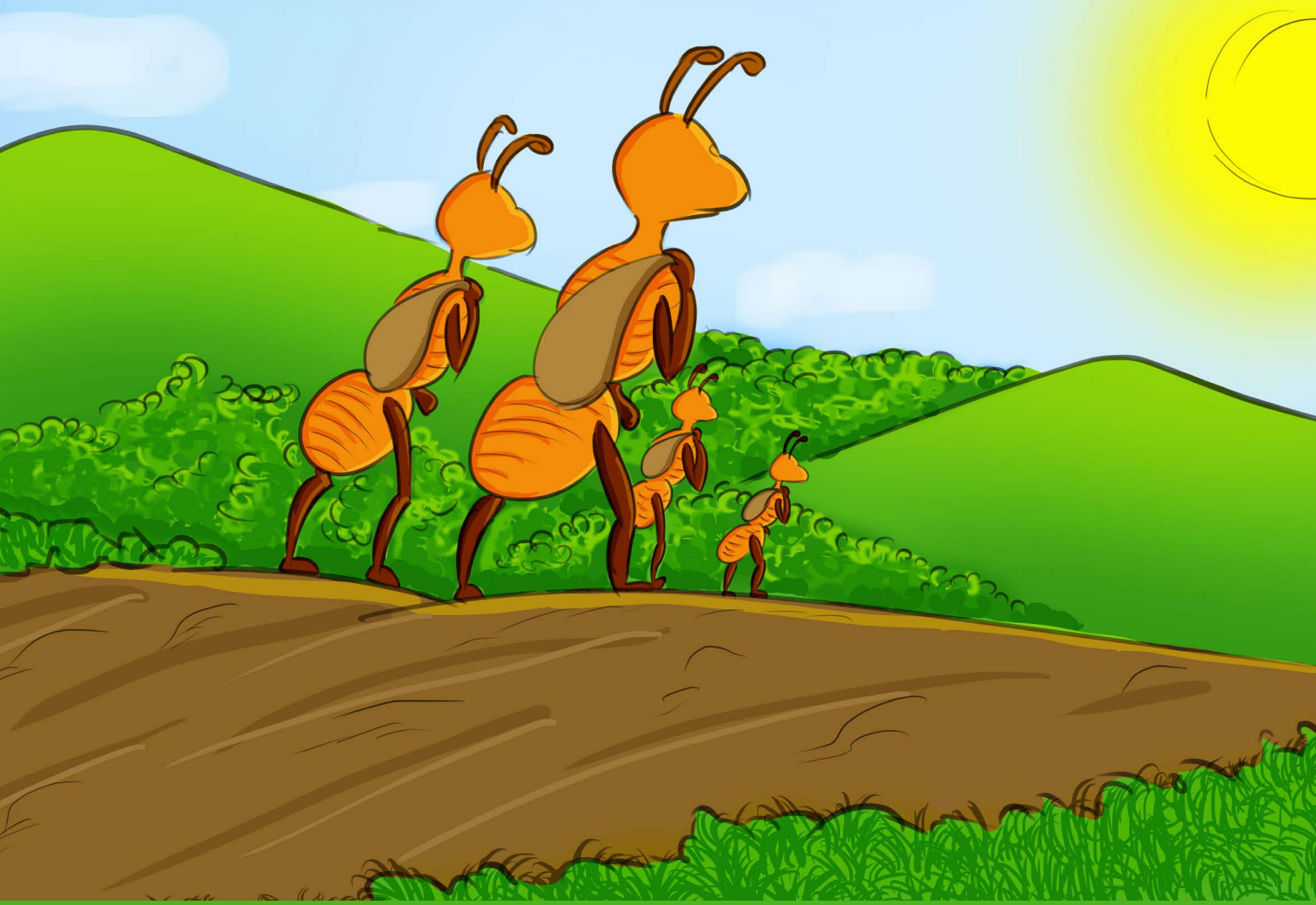


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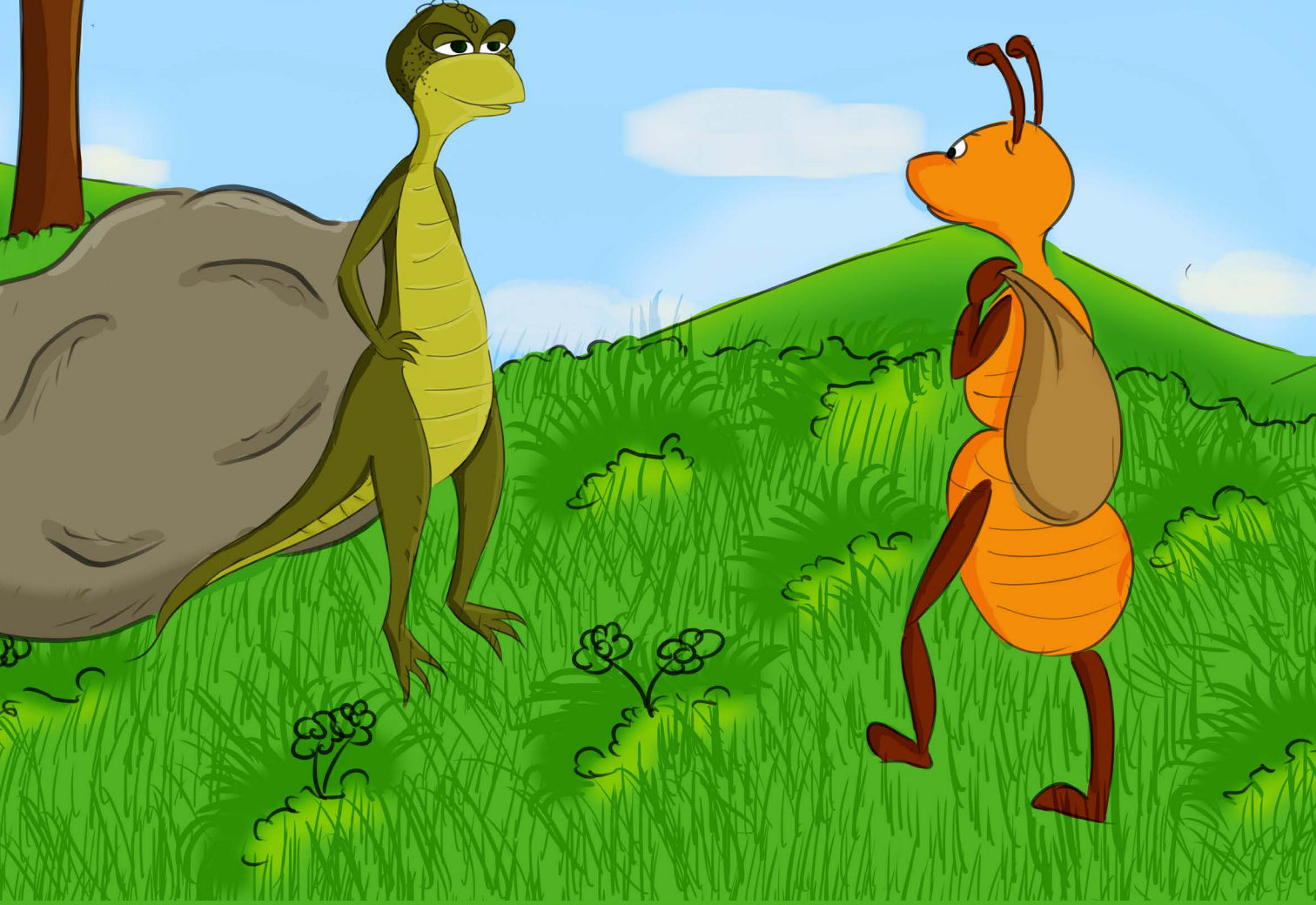
Once upon a time, there was a lizard living on the mountain named Rubuye. He liked taking a stroll in the sun and he would always wait in his hole for the sun to rise. Then, when it did, he got out, leaned his head against a rock and sometimes he fell asleep.



One beautiful sunny morning, when the termite was walking around on the mountain, he heard some news that there was going to be a heavy rainfall and that it would last a long time, so he decided to go East for more provisions.



On his way, the Termite met Mr. Lizard with his head leaned on the rock and he thought he was sick. He stopped and touched his tail to wake the lizard, the lizard jumped up and screamed, “Why did you wake me up when I was about to dream of something amazing?”



“I am very sorry Mr. Lizard, I thought you were sick and I wanted to take you to the hospital,” the Termite replied apologetically and continued, “My family and I, we are going to the East for more provisions. Join us, you need to get ready for the heavy rain coming soon.”



"You go. I can not travel in this sunshine. I have enough money to buy what I need from nearby markets," The Lizard answered proudly, and the Termite left.



After sunset, the Lizard climbed a strawberry tree nearby and ate as much as he could. Then he jumped back into his hole and started snoring.



In the market, the Termite bought all sorts of food; fruits, vegetables, beans, cassava and more. He built granaries and stored all the food.



The Lizard was telling himself, I have money, I will still shop nearby. Every sunny morning, he would come out, rest his head against the rock, eat strawberries from the tree and once he was full, he would jump back into his hole and snore. One early morning, the birds were singing from their nests, the Lizard was woken up by a strong rushing wind with raindrops.



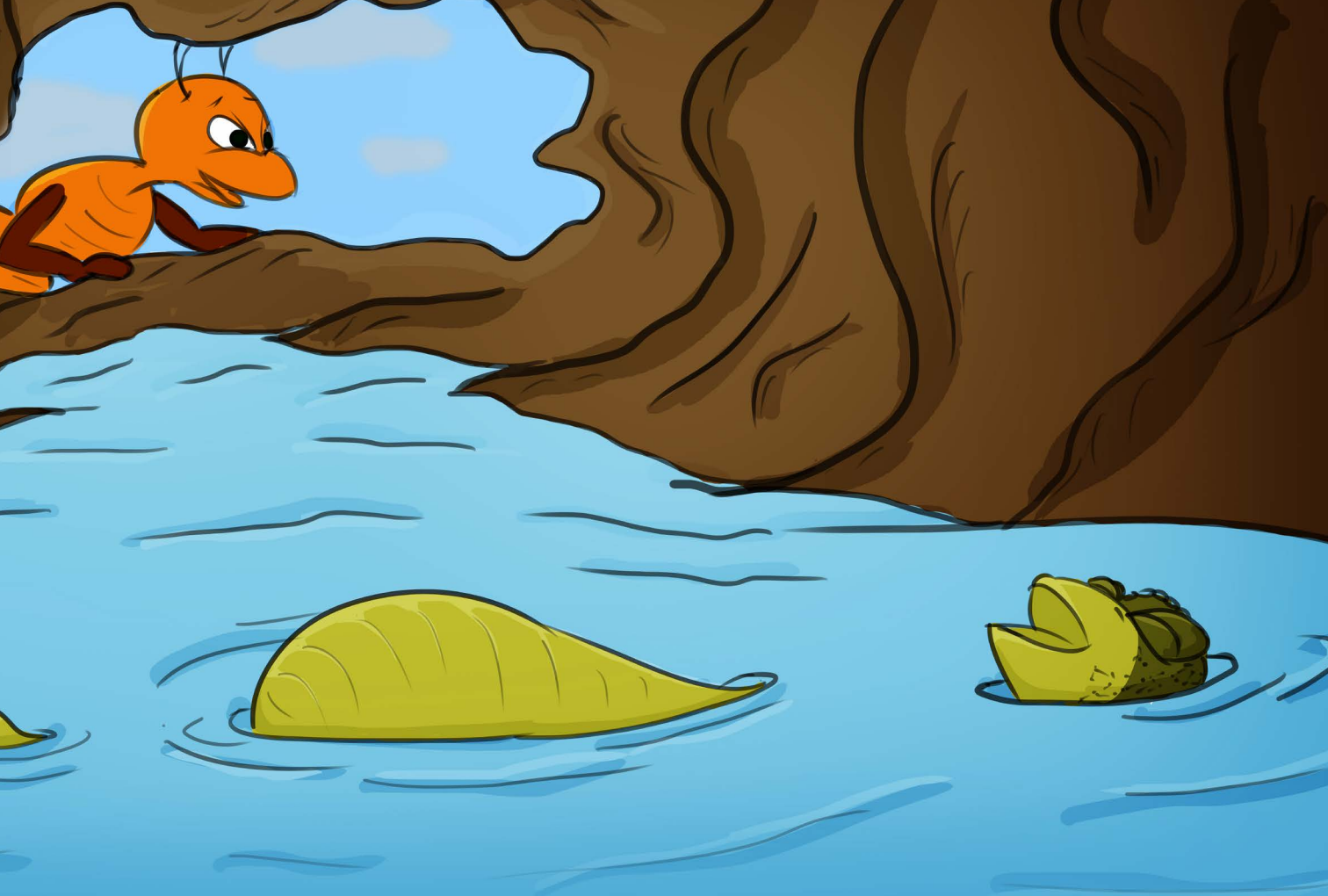
The next day, the sun did not rise as usual. The animals who could get out of their holes to sunbathe only met coldness and went back, thinking that the next day would be better.



Early in the morning, as the termite was fetching water, he saw a dark cloud and thought it was going to be a rainy day. It told its children to enter the tunnel and they closed it to prevent water from entering.



Soon enough, it started raining, the wind blew harshly and thunder stroke. There was heavy rainfall and it flooded everywhere, it rained and kept on raining for several days that followed.



On the fifth day, it stopped raining. The dark cloud cleared up from the sky and the animals came out, but the Lizard was nowhere to be seen. They thought, “The Lizard that said he had a lot of money must have ran away,” but the Termite didn’t think so and he went to check. He found the lizard in his hole, starving and freezing. The Lizard’s hole was full of water and the Lizard was floating on top with no strength to get itself out of the hole.



The Termite called for help, the other animals came and they made a big fire to try and warm up the Lizard. They brought the remaining food to feed him but before they did, the Termite said to the Lizard, "You should be ashamed of yourself, we used to pass by you sleeping on that rock when we went to fetch food. We built tunnels for shelter when you were enjoying the sun and bragging about your money, where is the money now? Was it not taken by the floods?"



The Lizard apologized. He accepted to build a strong shelter for himself and to stock food for the future. They fed him and the Lizard was well again. In order to thank them, the Lizard made a flute and played music for them. They rejoiced, danced and laughed till dawn.



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