

## **The Race**

Mozambican folktale English





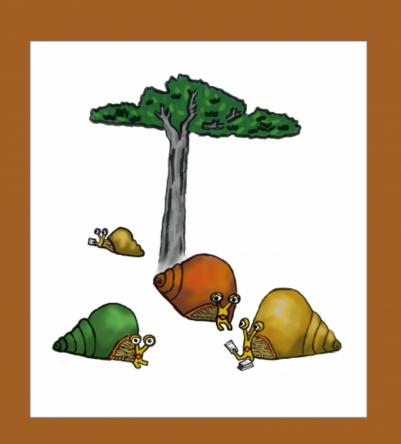
One day the rabbit found a snail. He said to the snail, "You can't run! All you know is how to crawl in the soil."



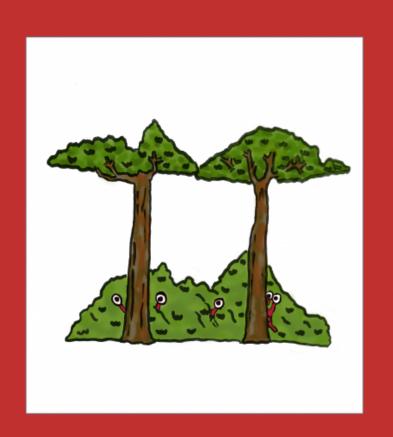
The snail says, "You come on Sunday and you will see."



The snail prepared a hundred bits of paper and wrote some words on them, but the message was always the same.



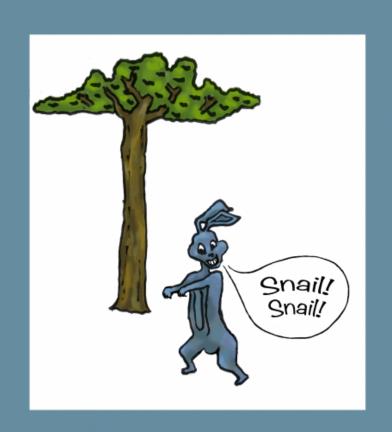
The snail handed out the papers to his friends and said, "When the rabbit comes here calling me, one of you must say: I am the snail."



Then the snail told his friends to hide behind the bushes where the rabbit and the snail will pass.



On Sunday the rabbit arrived and found the snail. The rabbit says, "Let's have a race. But I will win."



So the snail hid behind the bush and let the rabbit run. During the race, the rabbit called out, "Snail, snail!"



And one of the snails hidden behind the bushes answered, "I am the snail, I am the snail."



Finally, the rabbit was very tired and he lay down, saying, "Snail, I am so tired; you have won."



So the snail won because of his cleverness!

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Writer: Mozambican folktale Illustration: Amir Bachir António Necas Language: English





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This story was written down in 2013 by students at Universidade Pedagógica, Mozambique, from their memory of what was told at home, and edited by their English teacher, Ingrid Schechter.

