

# Tselane and the giant

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English





Once upon a time there was a little girl called Tselane. After her father died, Tselane was left alone with her mother. One day her mother told Tselane that they were moving to a nearby village to start a new life.

Tselane did not want to leave her village and she cried very hard. Her mother was scared to leave her alone because this village was known to have many giants living in caves nearby. But Tselane cried so much that her mother gave in and agreed that she could stay behind.



Tselane's mother said that she would bring her food every day. "I will sing a song and you will know that it's me. Don't open the door for anyone else, my child," said Tselane's mother.



Tselane my child!  
Tselane my child!  
Come out and eat your porridge!  
Come out and eat your porridge!

Tselane ngwanaka!  
Tselane ngwanaka!  
Tla o tseye bogobe o je.  
Tla o tseye bogobe o je!

The next morning Tselane's mother came to the house to bring Tselane her food.

She started singing:  
Tselane my child! Come out and eat  
your porridge!

Tselane opened the door and ate  
her mother's delicious food.





Her mother kissed her and went back to her home.

Tselane went back inside her house and prepared her bed.

But a giant was hiding behind the bushes, watching and listening to Tselane and her mother!



When Tselane switched off her light,  
she heard a deep voice singing her  
mother's song outside the door:  
Tselane my child!  
Come out and eat your porridge!

"Go away! You are not my mother!"  
said Tselane. "You are a giant!"  
The giant walked away  
disappointed and disappeared into  
the caves.



Every morning and every evening,  
Tselane's mother brought her food.  
Every morning and every evening,  
the giant also came.  
But each time Tselane sent him  
away.  
She recognised his deep voice as he  
tried to sing her mother's song.



One day the giant came up with an idea: “I can change my voice to resemble that of Tselane’s mother!” He made a big fire and threw a round smooth stone into the fire. When the stone was very hot and red, he took it out of the fire and swallowed it! “Kudutlu!” went the hot stone through the throat of the giant.





The giant started singing to hear if his voice had changed. He jumped for joy when he heard his voice sounding as sweet as that of Tselane's mother!

Early the next day, the giant went to Tselane's house very early in the morning. When he got to the door of the house, he started singing:

Tselane my child!

Tselane my child!

Come out and eat your porridge!

Come out and eat your porridge!

Tselane ngwanaka!

Tselane ngwanaka!

Tla o tseye bogobe o je.

Tla o tseye bogobe o je!

Tselane was excited to hear her mother's sweet voice. She opened the door, and there was the giant! She tried to close the door but the giant was too quick. He grabbed Tselane and threw her into a sack.





The giant walked back to his cave, singing and happy.

“If only I had traditional beer, it would go so well with my dinner tonight. What a beautiful day!” he said to himself.

A little later in the morning, Tselane's mother came as usual to bring her daughter food. She sang her song, but Tselane did not come out. She sang her song again, but still Tselane did not come out. After singing for the third time, she kicked the door open. Tselane was nowhere to be found. She knew what had happened, and she quickly thought of a plan.





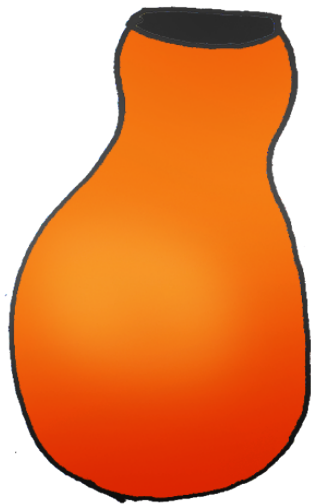
She poured some beer into a big calabash, put it on her head, walked down to the caves and knocked on the giant's door.

The giant smelled the delicious smell of traditional beer and opened the door quickly.

“Good evening, giant!” said Tselane's mother.

“I was passing through and I heard you singing beautifully. I am going to another village for a child's birthday party.”





The giant was not going to let the opportunity of drinking traditional beer pass him by! He invited Tselane's mother into his cave. "Let me pour you some beer before I get back on the road," said Tselane's mother. The giant was very happy and drank the beer in one gulp.

Tselane's mother gave him more and more - and more - until the calabash was empty. By now the giant was so drunk that he fell asleep on the floor.



When Tselane's mother heard the giant's loud snores, she opened the sack and out jumped Tselane. Tselane and her mother ran home as fast as they could.

From then on Tselane lived with her mother at the new village - very happily!



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