

Maguru gives out legs

Mutugi Kamundi
English

Long time ago, no animal had legs.

They all used to crawl.





Only human beings had legs
because Maguru had given them.

One day, Maguru decided to give legs to every animal.

He walked round the village announcing from a loudspeaker.

He wanted each animal to walk like a human being.





The animals were happy when they heard that they would be given legs.

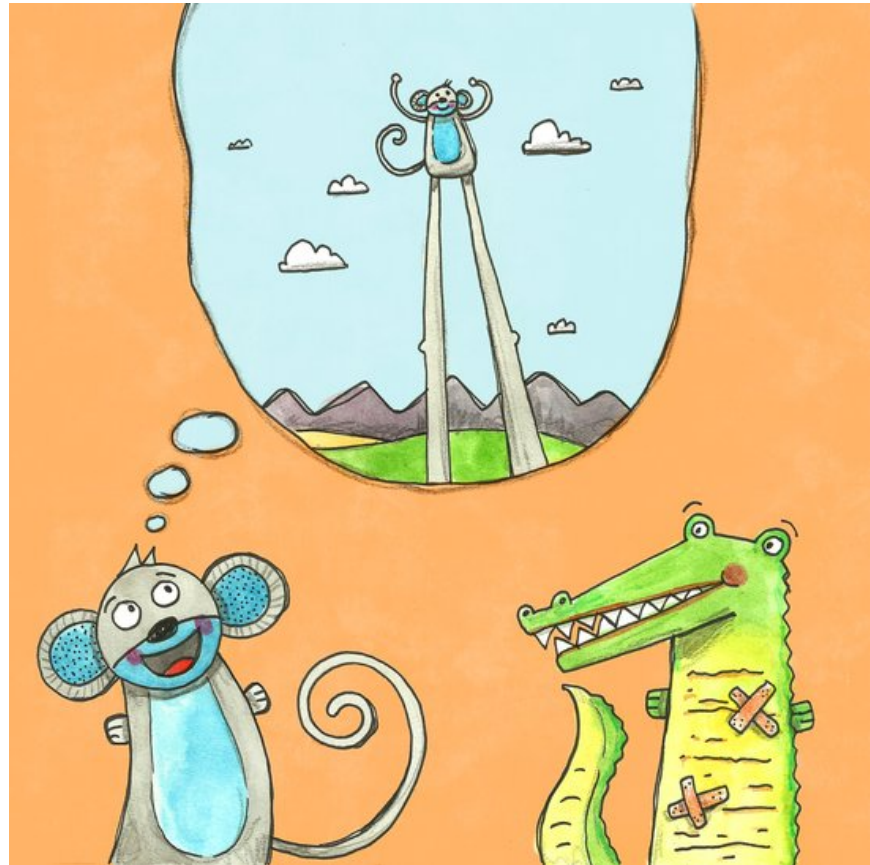
Each animal wanted to have legs so that it could walk and run.

They sang, wagged their tails and flapped their wings.

Animals gathered and discussed
how difficult it was to crawl.

The ground scratched their bellies.

Legs would help them to stand and
see far, like human beings did.



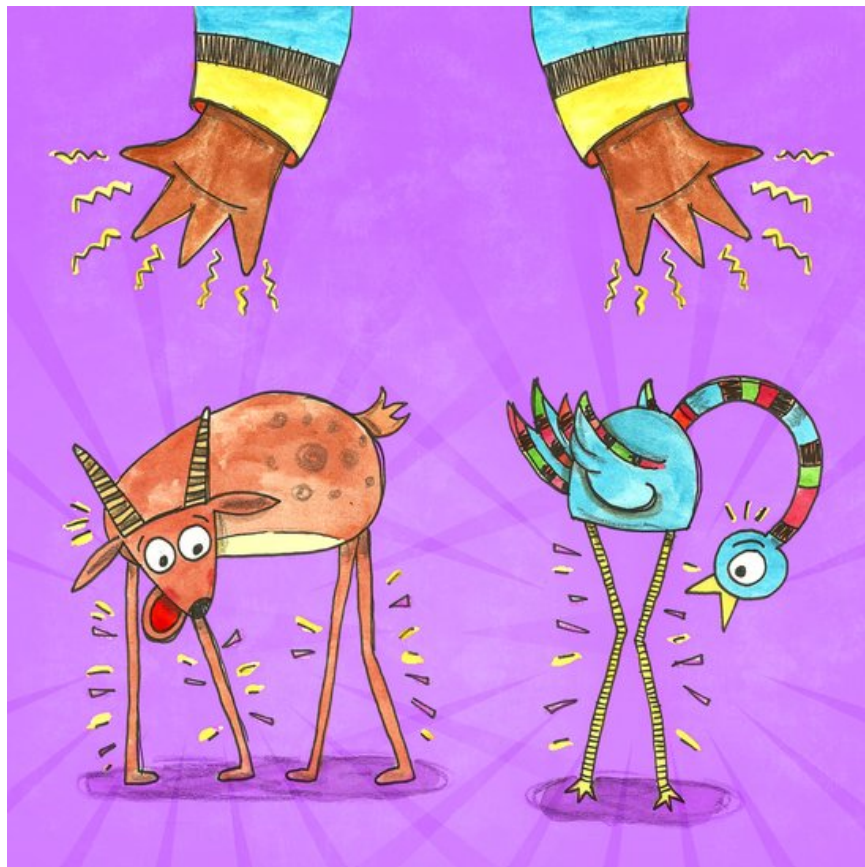


When the day came, many animals crawled to Maguru's house to get their legs.

Giraffes, lions, elephants, rabbits, crocodiles, and birds queued and waited to be given legs.

Each animal was given four legs.

Birds were given two legs each.





Animals looked different on legs.

Some danced in joy.

Others had difficulty walking and fell down.

They walked round the village showing off to human beings.

All the animals said, "We will never crawl again."





The last animal in the queue was the millipede.

Maguru asked, "Is there anyone else after you?"

"No, I am the last one," Millipede answered.

Maguru thought, "If there is no one else, what will I do with the rest of the legs?"

Maguru gave all the remaining legs to Millipede.





Millipede went away very happy because he had many legs.

"I will move faster than any of them," he thought.

As soon as Millipede had left, the snake came to Maguru's house.

"Maguru, please give me some legs," Snake begged.





"I have given out all the legs. Where were you?" Maguru asked.

"I over-slept," Snake replied.

Maguru checked in his house to see whether there were any legs remaining.

But he did not find any.





Maguru came out and said, "Sorry, Snake, there are no legs remaining."

Snake had to crawl back home without legs.

Since that day Snake does not sleep much.

He is always waiting for the next chance to get legs.

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