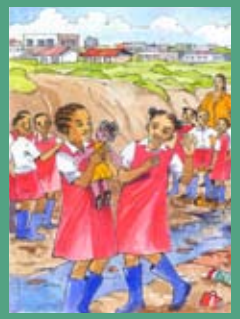
Marias Doll

The heavens seem angry. The rain pounds the earth, lightening strikes and the thunder roars. People are frightened. Water sweeps carrying away things on its paths. Maria's doll is swept away. Maria embarks on a search that leads her to an adventure of a lifetime. Will she ever find her doll? Find out in this surprising story.

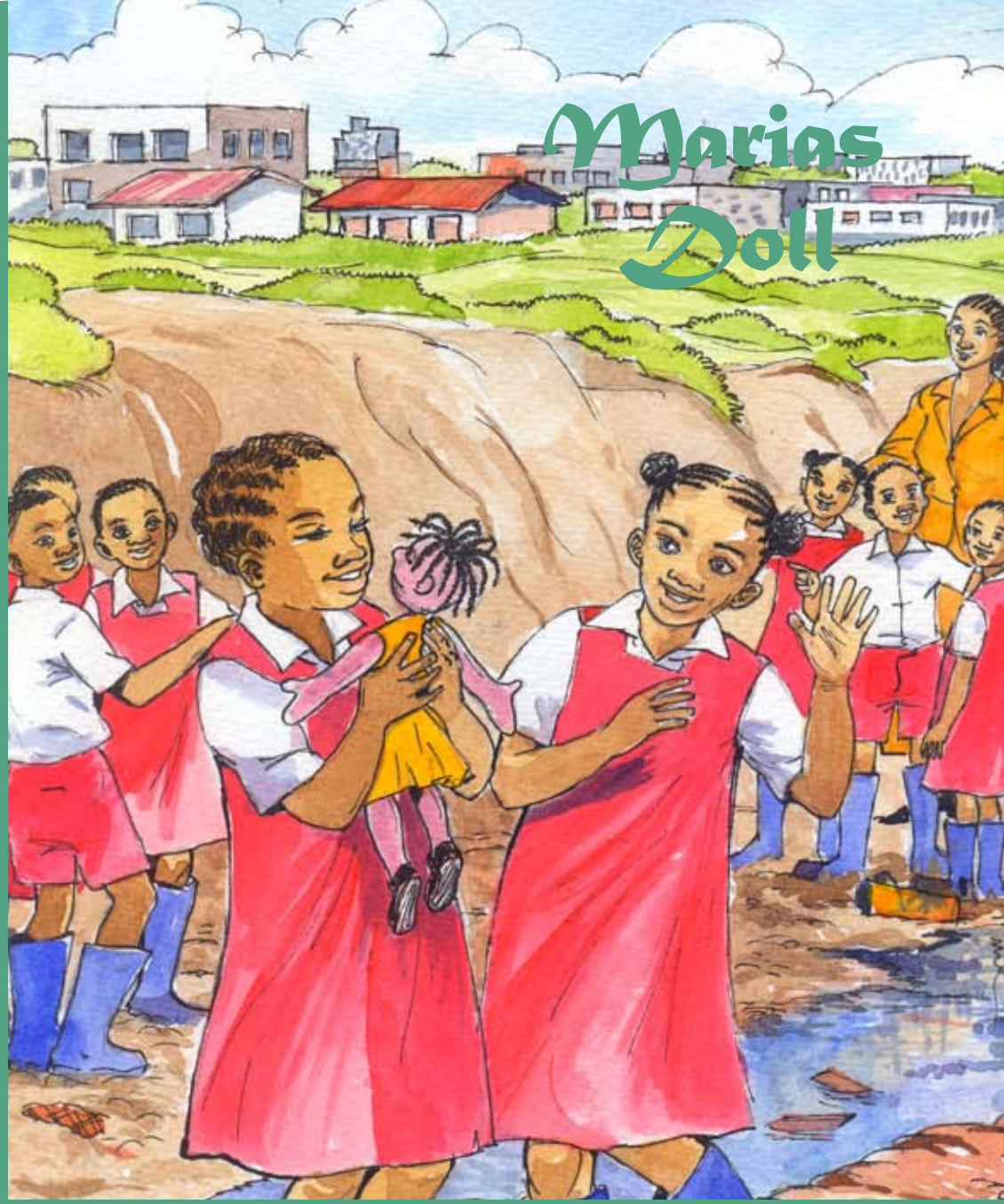


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Marias Doll

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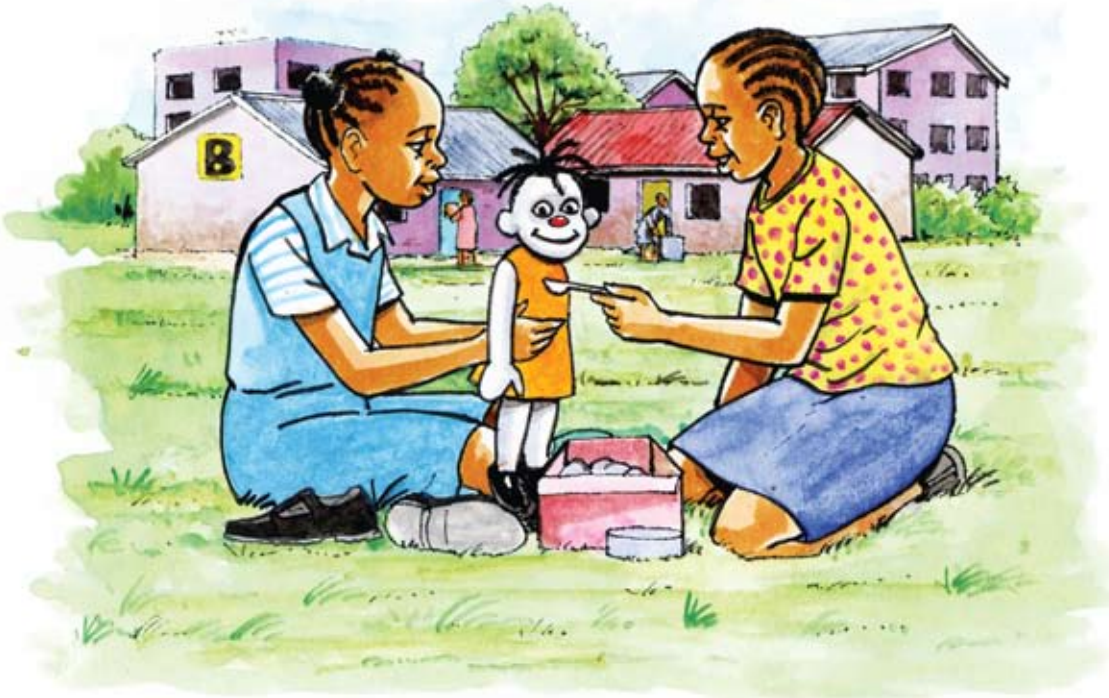
MARIA'S DOLL

UN-HABITAT
Series on Water and Sanitation
Lower Primary



My name is Shakira. I am in Standard Three.

My class teacher is Miss Tasha. There are many girls and boys in my class. Maria is my best friend. I like her because she is always happy.



During school days, Maria waits for me at her gate every morning. Then we walk to school together.

Maria has a beautiful doll. She calls her doll Jima. We like playing with Jima.

One day, it rained all night. There was thunder and lightning.

But the next morning, the beautiful sun had risen. I ran all the way to Maria's gate.

Maria was not at her gate.

There was a very long ditch near her gate.

Then, I saw her. She looked sad. Maria said that her doll was washed away when their house was flooded.

Everyday, we thought of a new place to look for Jima.

After many days, we stopped looking. We thought Jima was lost forever. Maria was sad but she tried to look happy

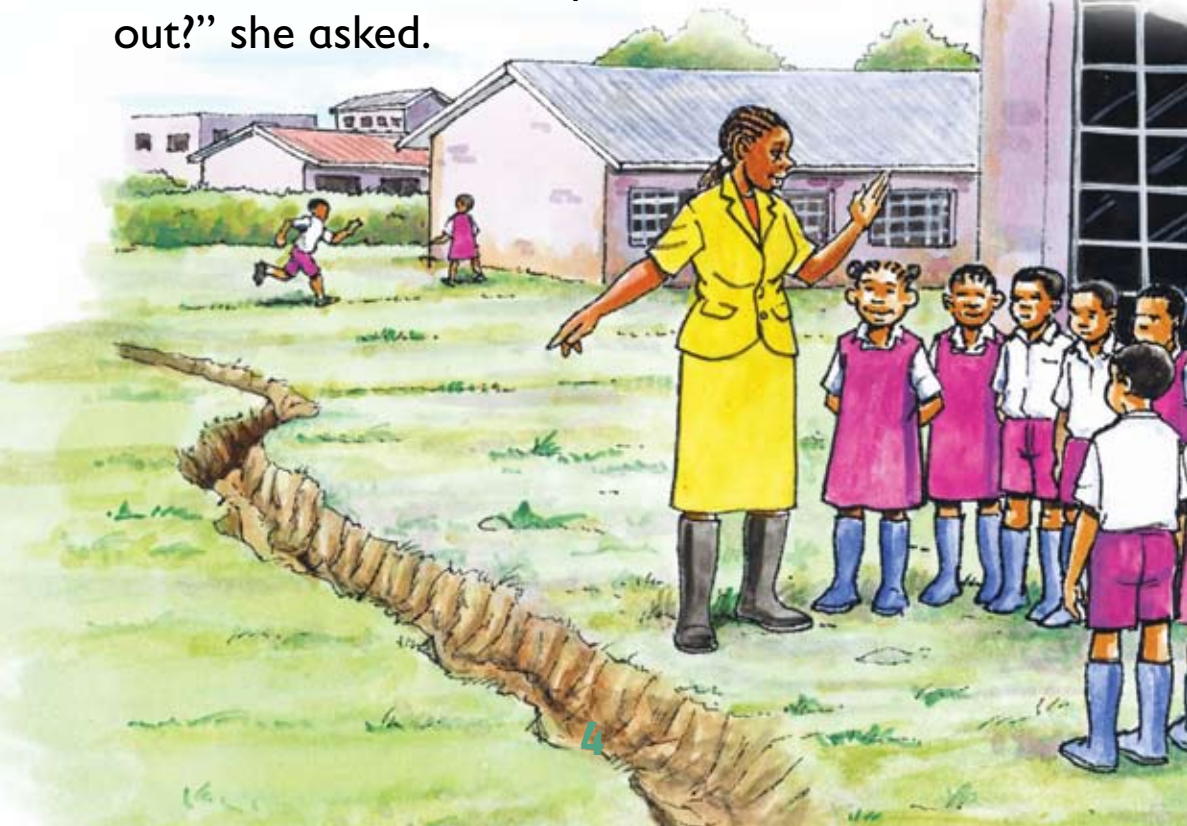


One day, Miss Tasha took our class behind the classroom block. She showed us a ditch. She asked, "What made this ditch?"

"Maria said, "Rain water dug the ditch just like the one at our house. "Yes, very good," said Miss Tasha. "When rain falls from the roof to the ground, it digs a ditch."

She asked, "Where did the water take the soil from the ditch?"

No one answered the question. "Shall we find out?" she asked.



"Yes!" We said happily. When we go for lessons outdoors, Miss Tasha says it is called a nature walk.

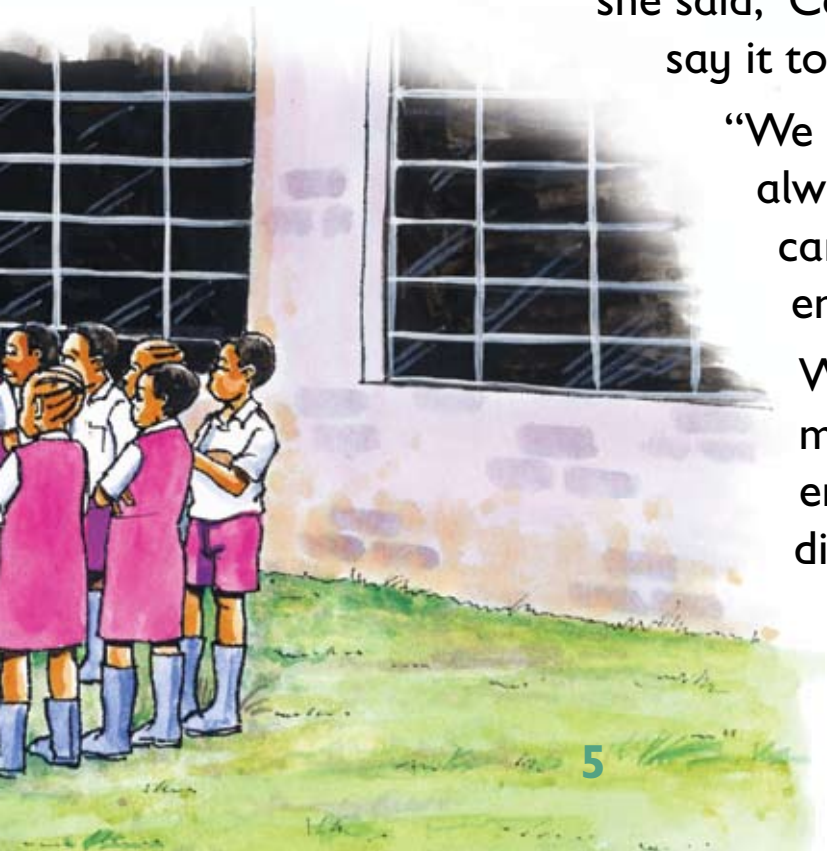
Miss Tasha said, "We shall follow the ditch to see where the water took the soil."

"There is something we say when we go for a nature walk. Who can remind us?" Miss Tasha asked.

We all knew the answer. So she said, "Can we all say it together?"

"We must always take care of our environment.

We must not make our environment dirty."



"Good," Miss Tasha said. "We should not use the bush as a toilet. What do we do before we go for a nature walk?"

"Use the latrines," We sang.

We all ran to the toilets.

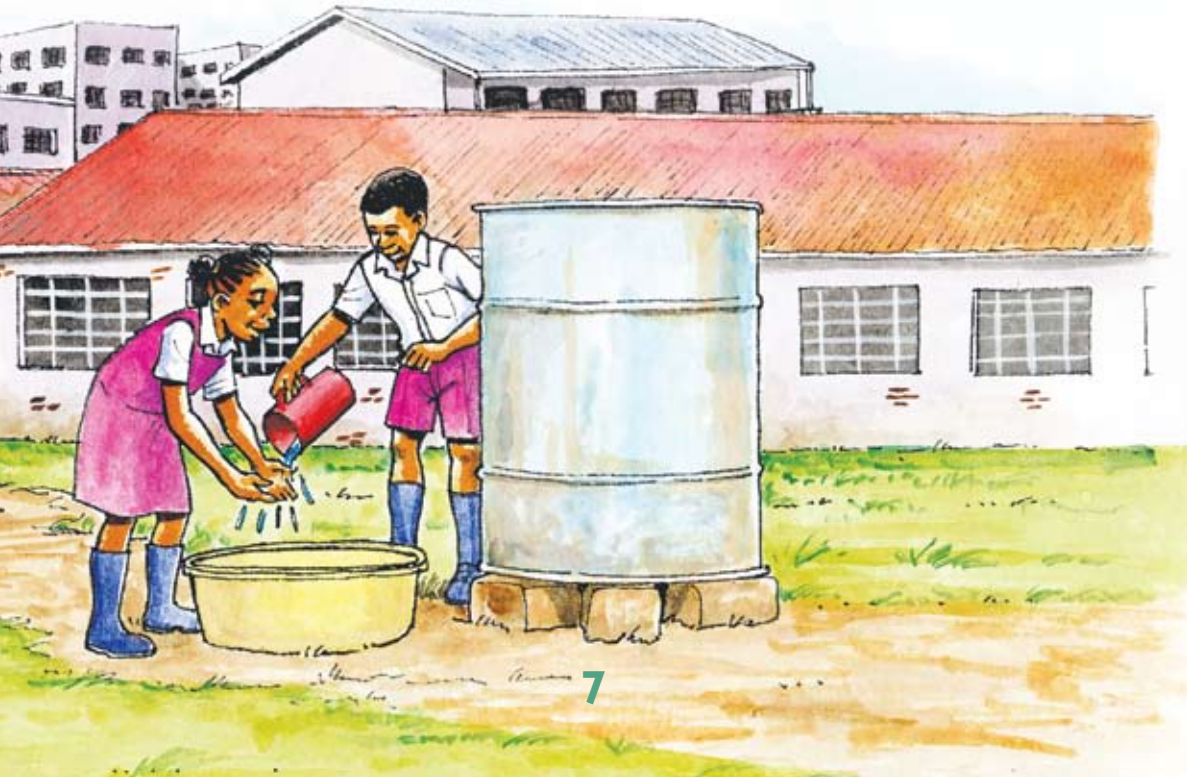
We have pit latrines in our school. Some latrines are for girls only. Others are for boys only. We must not use the bush.

The latrines are cleaned every day. Flies like to stay in dirty latrines.



There is a drum of water outside the latrines. Every child must wash his or her hands after visiting the latrine. We must not wash our hands inside the drum. If a sick child washes his hands in the drum, he can pass a disease to other children. A jug is used to draw water from the drum. Then only a little water is used for cleaning hands.

Water falls in a basin near the drum. The water is used for cleaning the latrine floors. This way, it is not wasted.

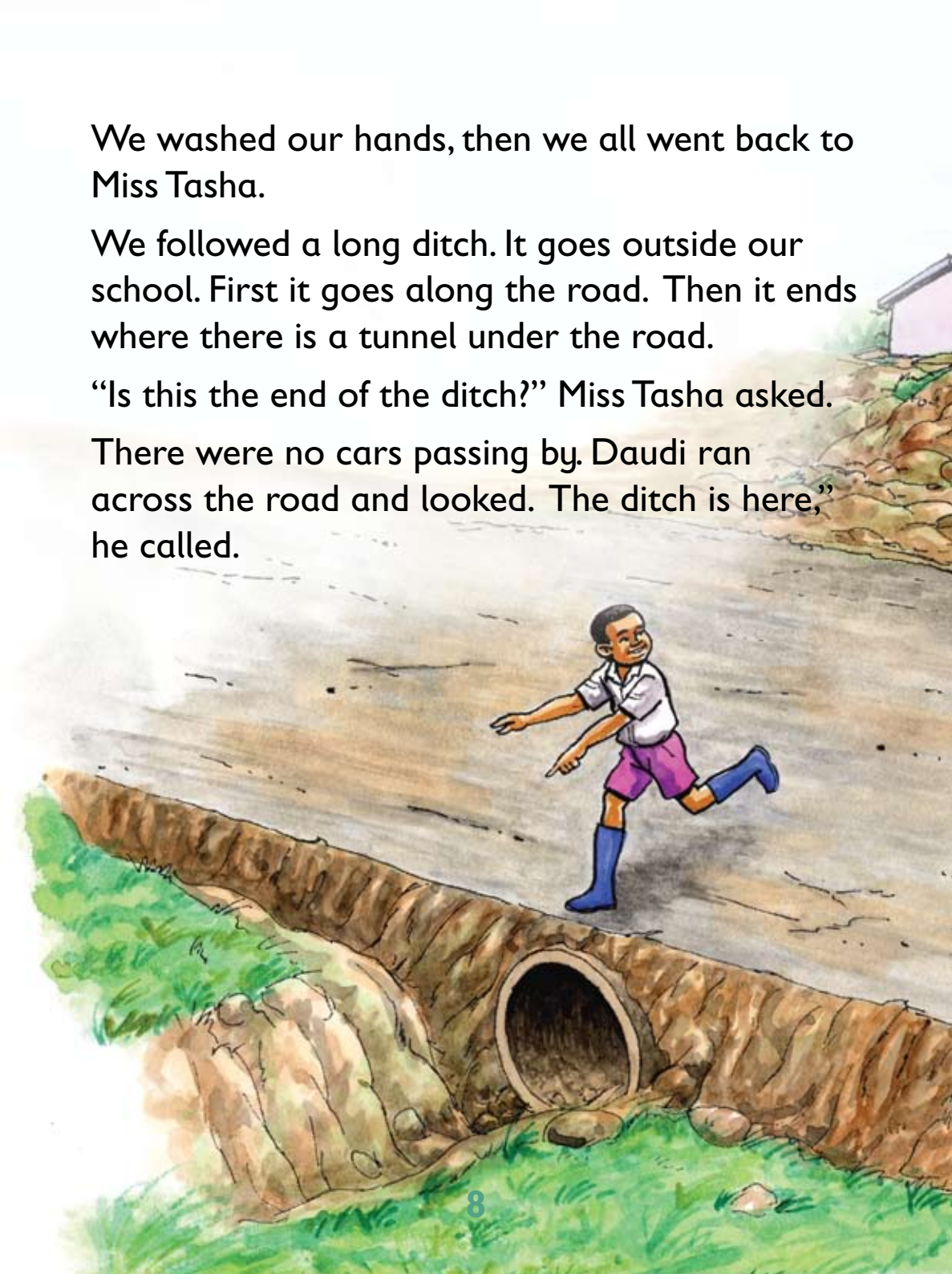


We washed our hands, then we all went back to Miss Tasha.

We followed a long ditch. It goes outside our school. First it goes along the road. Then it ends where there is a tunnel under the road.

"Is this the end of the ditch?" Miss Tasha asked.

There were no cars passing by. Daudi ran across the road and looked. The ditch is here," he called.





We crossed the road. We walked along the ditch down the slope. We reached the valley bottom.

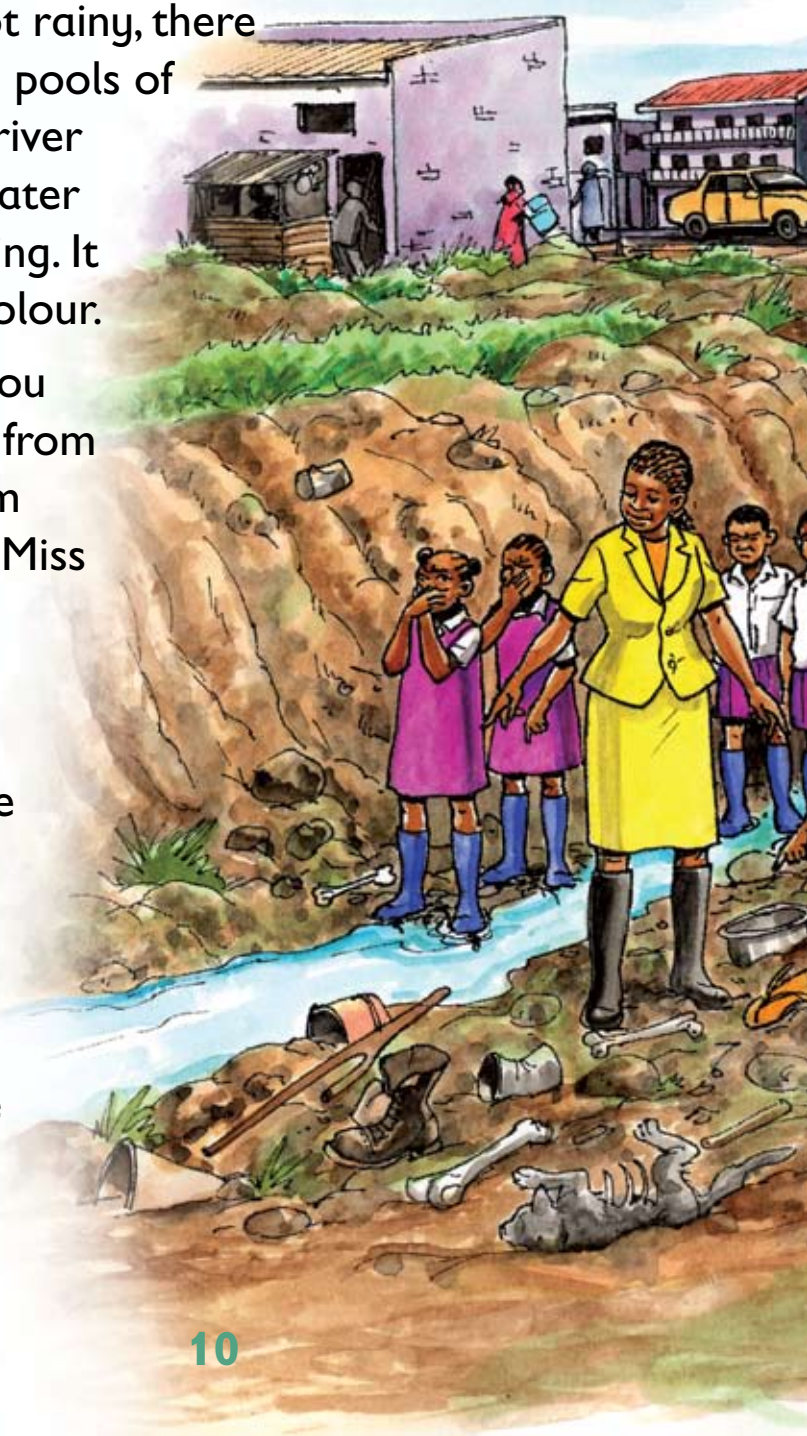
There is a river bed at the bottom of the valley.

When it is not rainy, there are only little pools of water in the river valley. The water was not flowing. It had a dirty colour.

"Where do you think the soil from our classroom block went?" Miss Tasha asked.

It is here! It came to this river bed," We said.

She saw us holding our noses. What is causing the smell?" She asked.





"The smell is from the things in the water," Hanna said pointing. "Look, there is a dead animal.

"Very good Hanna," Miss Tasha said. "Who else has noted something?"

We all looked for things around us. I saw an old black boot. There were plastic papers, bottles, tin-cans, clothes and even bones.

“Should these things be in the water?” Miss Tasha asked.

“Nooo!” We said.

“Is this good water to drink?”

“Nooo!”

“Is it good water to bath in?”

“Nooo!”

“What should we do to make it good?” she asked.

“Cleanup!” We said.

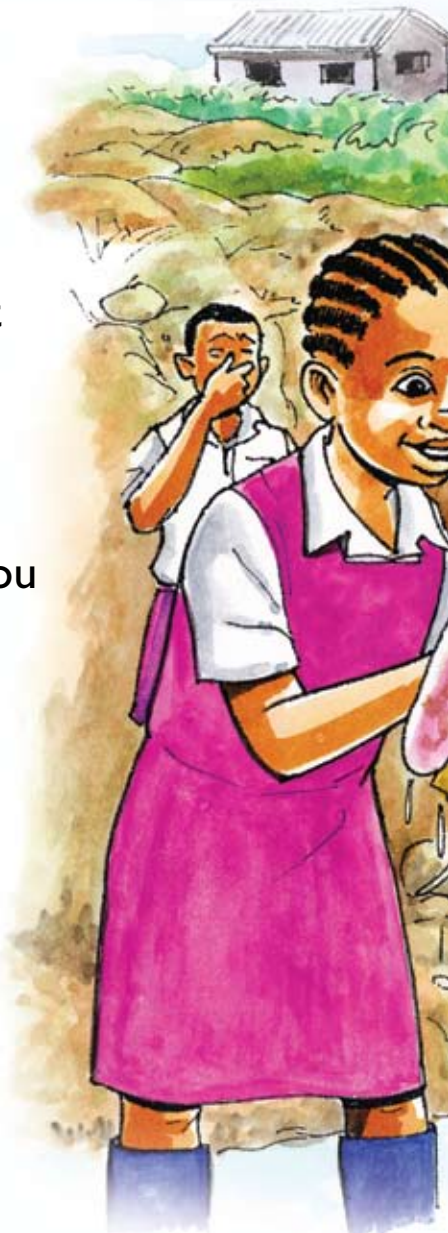
“Good. We shall have a clean-up day next weekend. I’ll give you letters to take to your parents.

“Will you all come to do the clean-up?”

“Yeeess!”

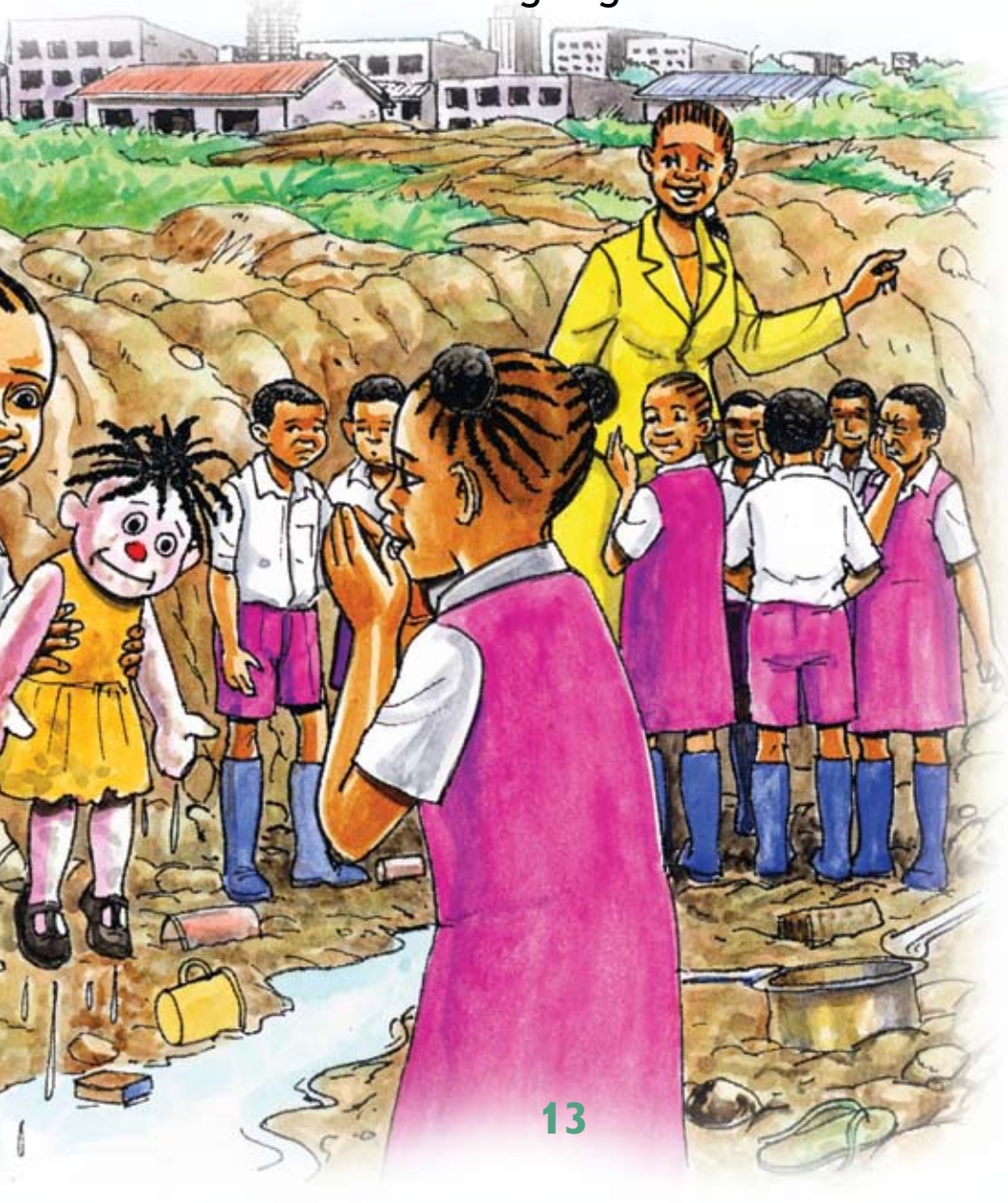
Maria was looking keenly at the dirty water

“Maria!” Miss Tasha called,



"What are you doing there?"

Maria stood up. She was holding a doll in her hands. She started laughing.



Then she called my name. "Shakira! I have found Jima!"

I ran to Maria. I looked at the doll in her hands. It was Jima!

Maria and I held hands and danced. We were laughing very loudly.

The other children looked at us. They all started to laugh. Miss Tasha started to laugh too.