



KEZA AND THE GREEN CITY

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Designed by Joel Gisagara



FOREWORD

*by the Ambassador of the
Federal Republic of Germany*

For the last 60 years, Rwanda and Germany have worked together to improve governance, sustainable economic development and training.

In more recent years, our collaboration has strengthened to fight the consequences of climate change, which is having a devastating impact on Rwanda – putting livelihoods and lives at risk. To tackle this increasing issue, together our countries have been working to promote sustainable urban development – an initiative I’m very proud to be a part of.

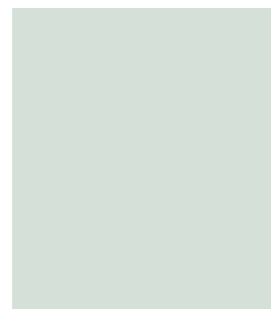
As Germany is a global leader in renewable energy research, urbanisation and the fight against climate change – it’s been an honour to share our knowledge and expertise with the Rwandan government.

Rwanda is a very special country, rich in diversity and natural beauty – the protection and advancement of it is at the heart of what we do. That said, in order for our ambitious sustainability goals to be a success, we need to equip the young people of Rwanda with the tools and education needed to carry our mission forward. Because if we want to improve the future – we need to empower the people of the future: Rwanda’s young people.

It is inspiring to see the vast array of talent and commitment so many young Rwandans have when it comes to making a difference in their community. This is evident in the book you’re about to read, as it was created by a young team of talented writers and illustrators here in Rwanda. With a little creativity, a story can be a powerful way to raise awareness about important topics such as sustainable urban development and climate change.

It’s been wonderful to support this creative initiative, and I hope that it empowers the young people of Rwanda to take matters into their own hands and build a more climate resilient and liveable country for all.

Together, we can make a difference.



Dr. Thomas Kurz
*Ambassador of the Federal
Republic of Germany*

FOREWORD

by the Minister of Education

“Sometimes when I am walking in the forest, I admire the birds up in the trees. The branches and leaves protect them from the sun, and when there is heavy rainfall, they serve as a roof so the birds stay dry. At night, the trees are a safe place to sleep. When the birds are hungry, they set out to pick up seeds and drink the fresh water from the nearby lake. The birds get everything they need from the forest.

For a lot of people though, sadly, their homes are not as suitable as the bird’s trees in the forest. When you live in the city, the dust from the streets burns your eyes and the streets are crowded. The noise gives you a headache, and you can’t even hear the birds.

Cities are growing fast in many places in Africa, and around the world. Humans are polluting the environment with garbage and emissions from factories and power plants. The emissions have a bad effect on the climate of our planet and change the weather conditions all over the world. In Rwanda, in some places heavy rain can cause floods, whereas in others, it can be very dry which threatens crops.

Consequently, many people must leave their homes, but also wild animals like the birds in the trees are losing their habitats. The lake might dry out or their forest homes burn down. This effect is called climate change – and we urgently need to change the way we live to slow it down.

One way is to build cities in a way so that they don’t harm nature and offer protection to its inhabitants – just like how the trees offer a safe home to the birds in the forest. The Government of Rwanda is already working on new ways to make cities greener by providing renewable energy, sustainable waste management, public transport and affordable houses that are built from natural materials like bamboo or clay and that are resistant to even heavy rains.

However, we cannot do this alone. We need you – the young generation of Rwanda – to help us.

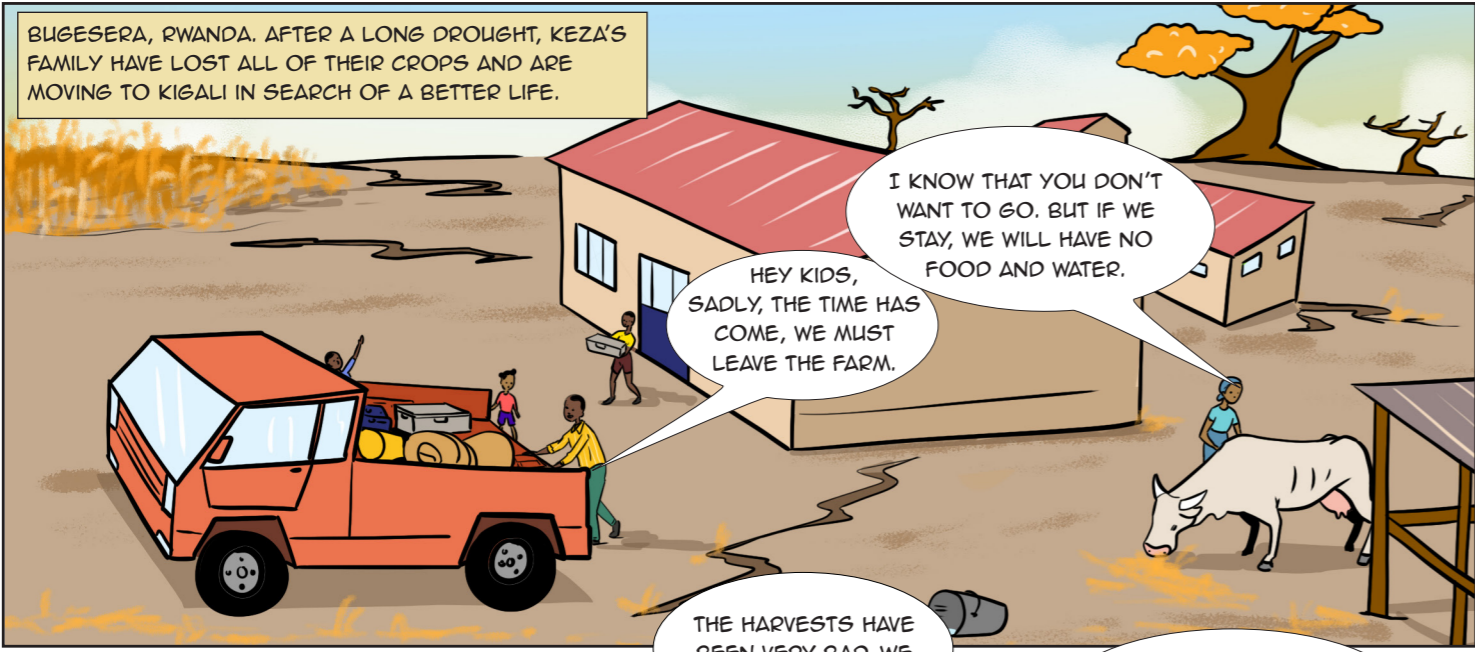
In this book, you are going to follow the inspiring adventures of Keza, Ntwali and Simbi, and learn how their ideas help the people of their neighbourhood, Kinyinya, build a green city for the future.

No matter how big or small your ideas – everyone can contribute in meaningful ways to build a more sustainable Rwanda. I urge you to raise your voice to tell your family, friends, and teachers about any ideas you might have on how to reduce waste, plant trees or use new technology. Now is the time to learn from each other and find solutions. Together, young and old, we can build greener cities and protect our planet.”



Hon. Dr. Valentine UWAMARIYA
Minister of Education

BUGESERA, RWANDA. AFTER A LONG DROUGHT, KEZA'S FAMILY HAVE LOST ALL OF THEIR CROPS AND ARE MOVING TO KIGALI IN SEARCH OF A BETTER LIFE.



I KNOW THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO GO. BUT IF WE STAY, WE WILL HAVE NO FOOD AND WATER.

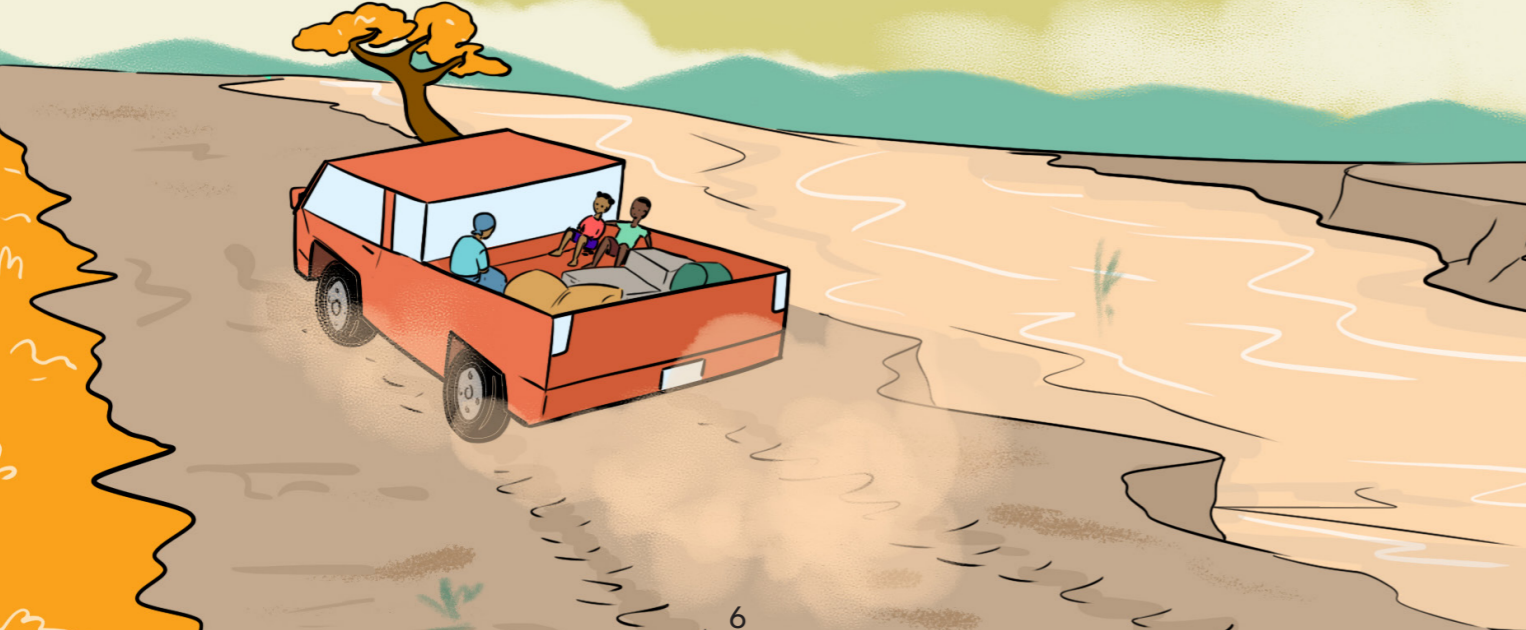
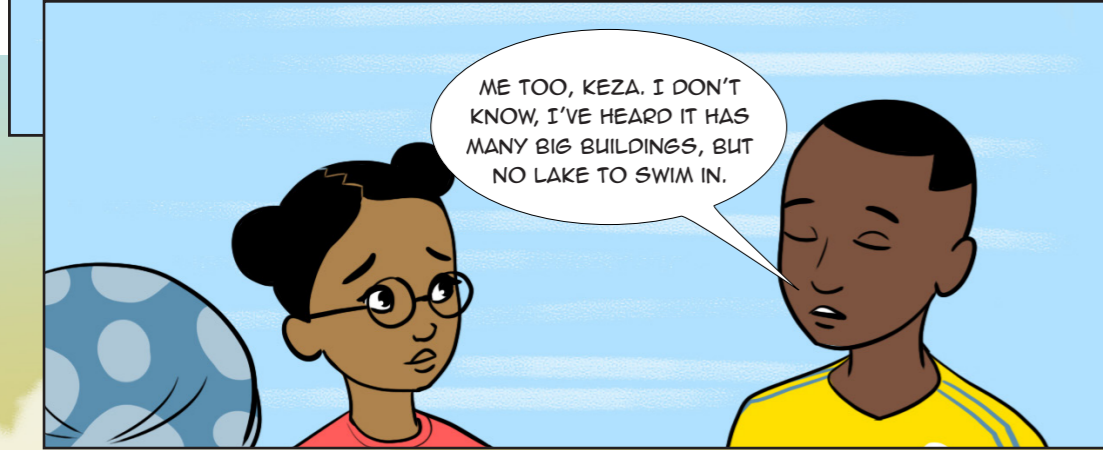
HEY KIDS, SADLY, THE TIME HAS COME, WE MUST LEAVE THE FARM.

THE HARVESTS HAVE BEEN VERY BAD, WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

WHAT DOES KIGALI LOOK LIKE? I FEEL SCARED... I DON'T WANT TO GO.



ME TOO, KEZA. I DON'T KNOW, I'VE HEARD IT HAS MANY BIG BUILDINGS, BUT NO LAKE TO SWIM IN.



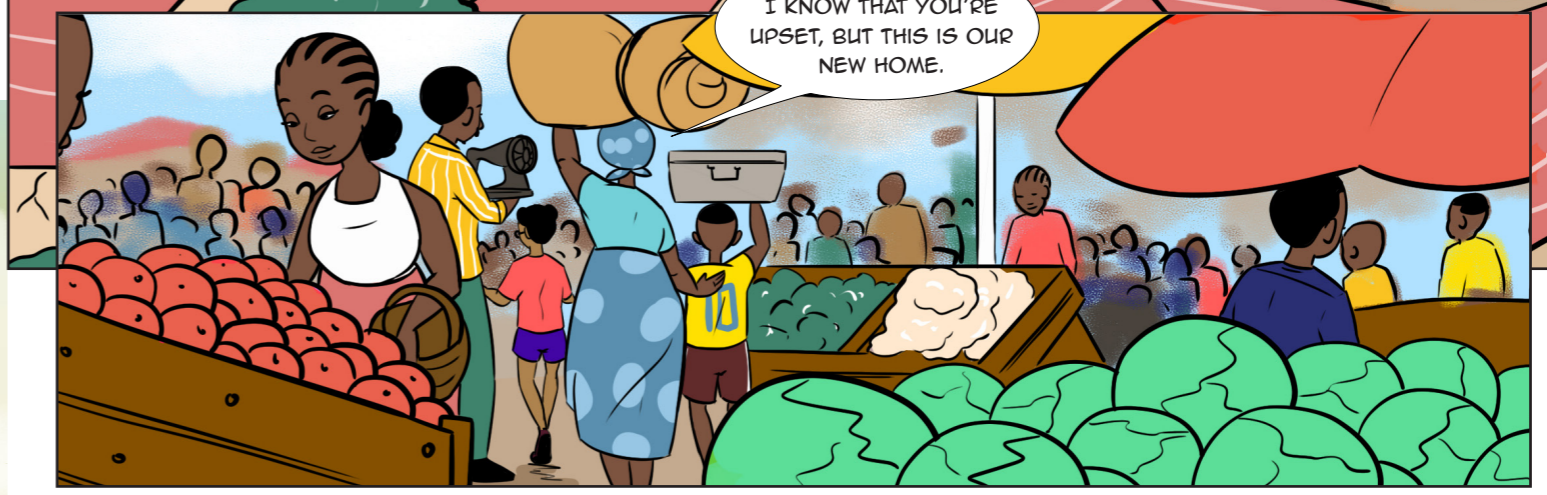
ON THAT SAME DAY, ARRIVING IN KIGALI.



IS THIS THE CITY? IT'S SO CROWDED HERE. I DON'T LIKE IT!

MAMA, CAN WE PLEASE GO BACK? I WANT TO GO BACK HOME!

I KNOW THAT YOU'RE UPSET, BUT THIS IS OUR NEW HOME.



THINGS WILL GET BETTER. SOON I'LL FIND A JOB AND YOU'LL GO TO A NEW SCHOOL.





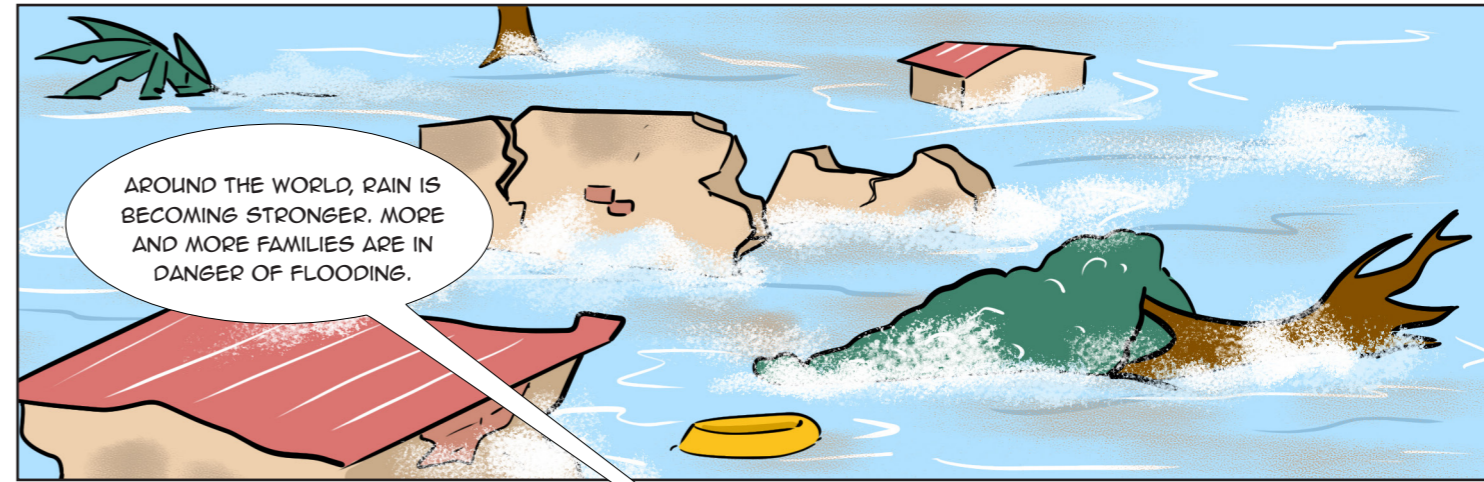
MEANWHILE, AT THE CITY HALL, THE MAYOR AND HIS TEAM HEAR ABOUT THE TERRIBLE DROUGHT AFFECTING THE COUNTRY...

THIS IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER!

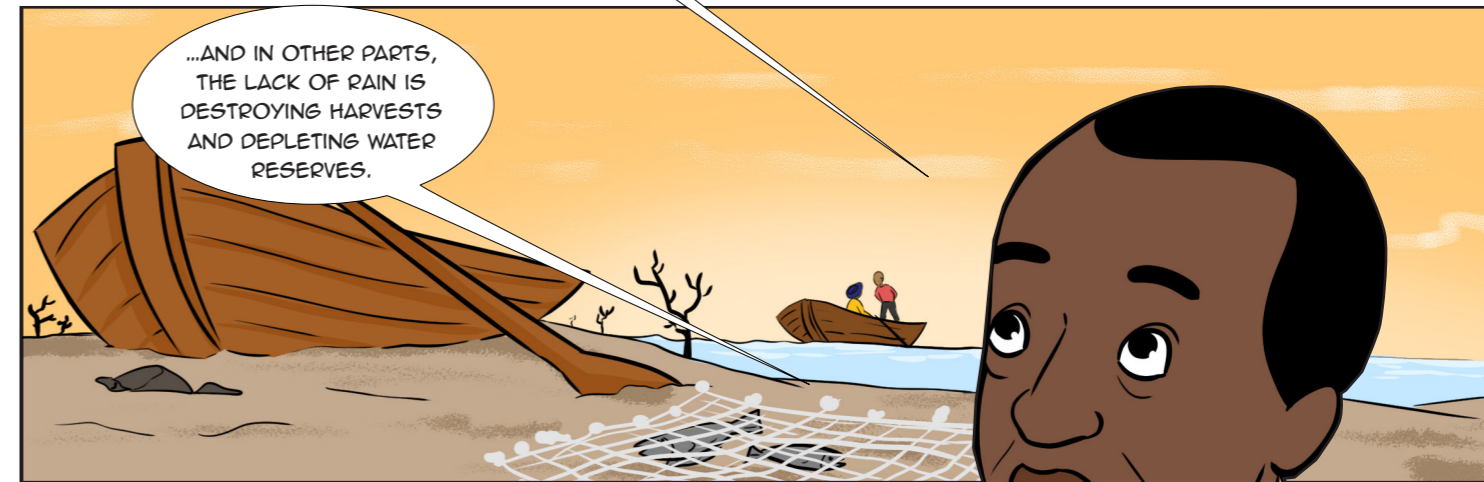
WE MUST DO SOMETHING!



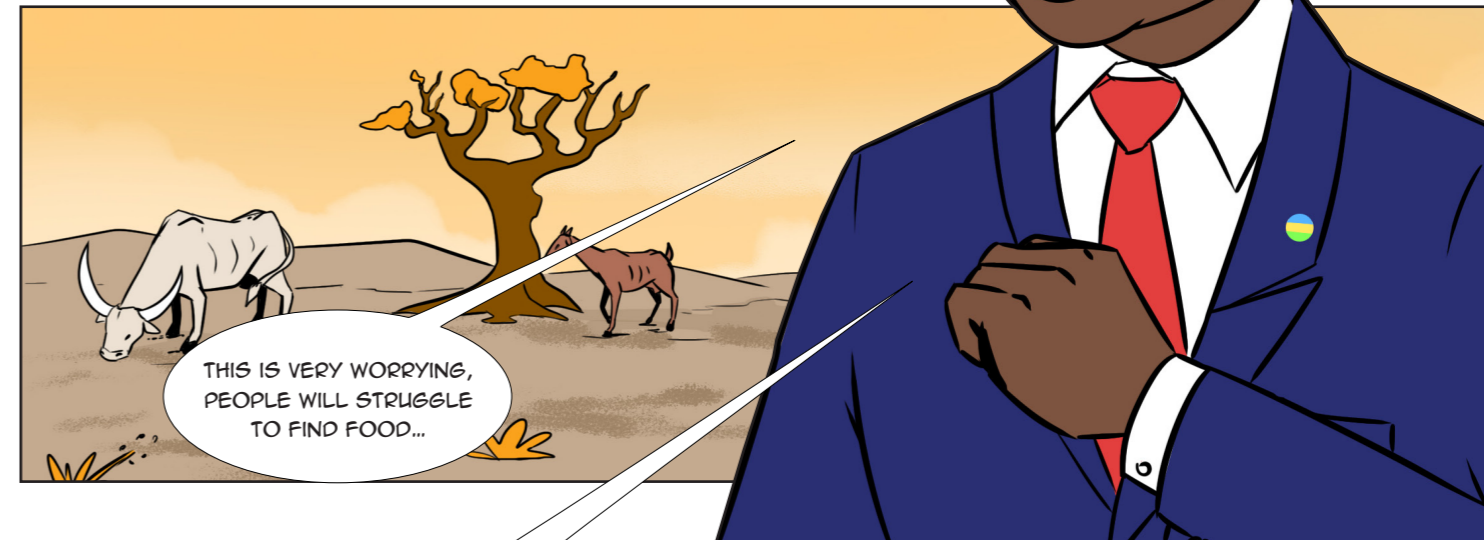
THE DROUGHT IN BUGESERA AND NYAGATARE IS GETTING WORSE. THE MAYOR AND HIS TEAM ARE WORRIED BECAUSE MANY CITIZENS HAVE HAD TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES.



AROUND THE WORLD, RAIN IS BECOMING STRONGER. MORE AND MORE FAMILIES ARE IN DANGER OF FLOODING.



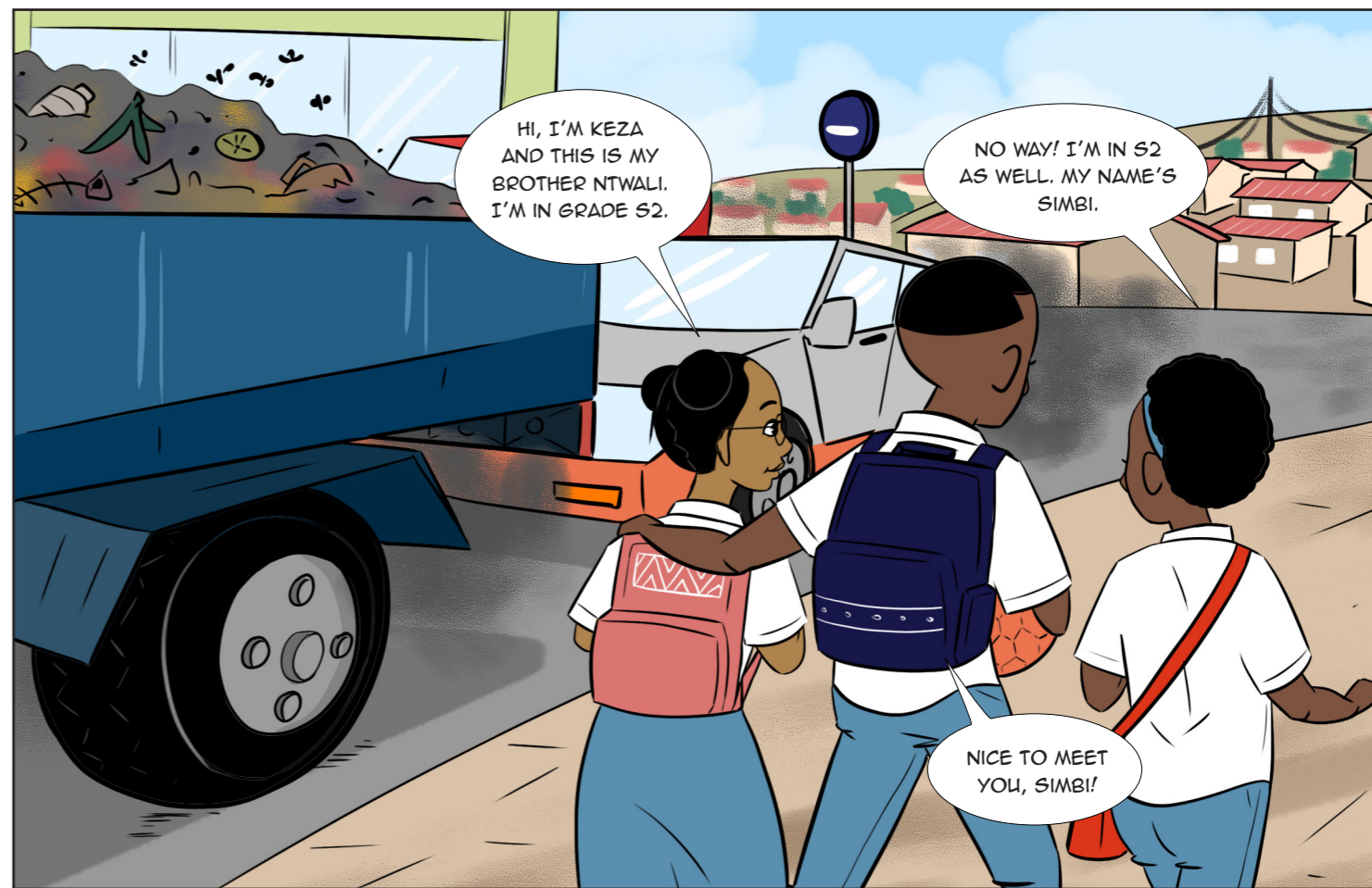
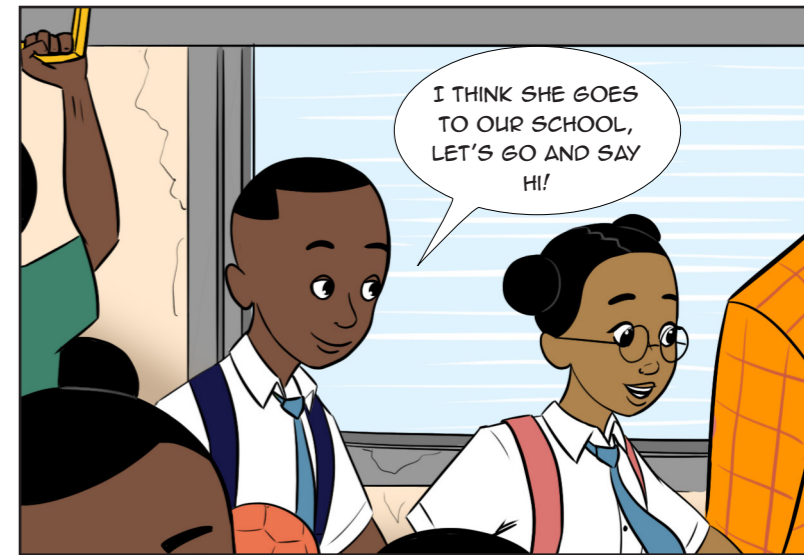
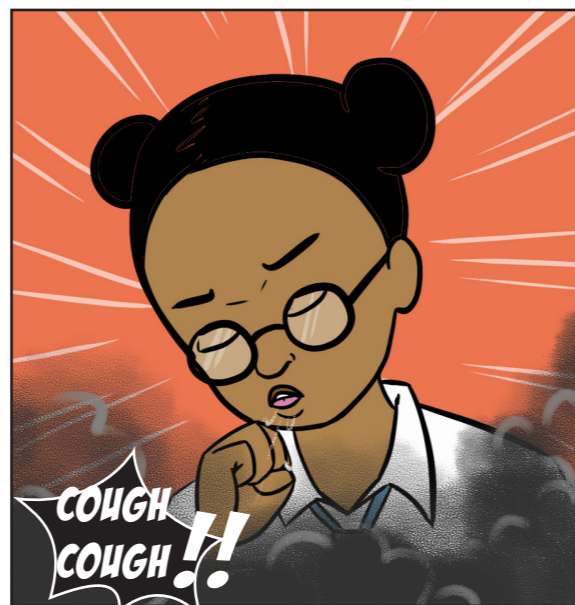
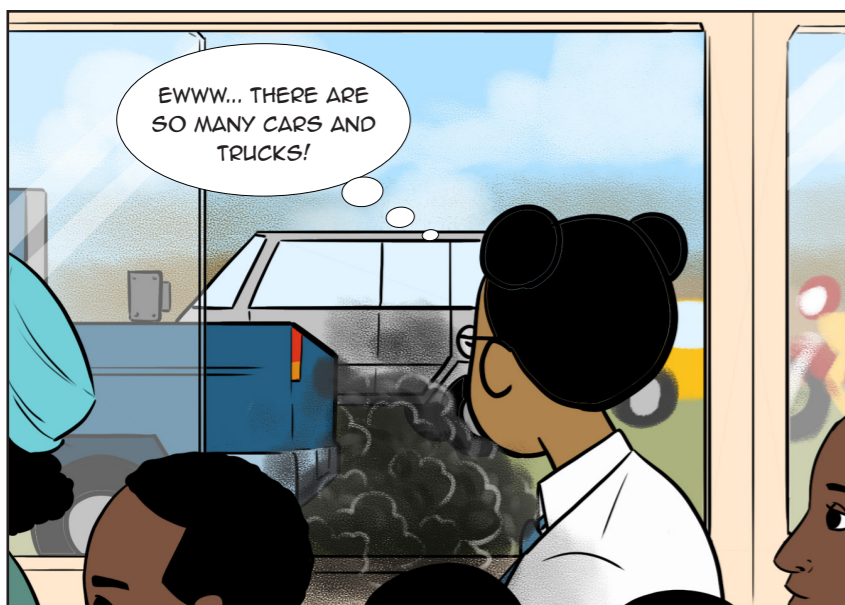
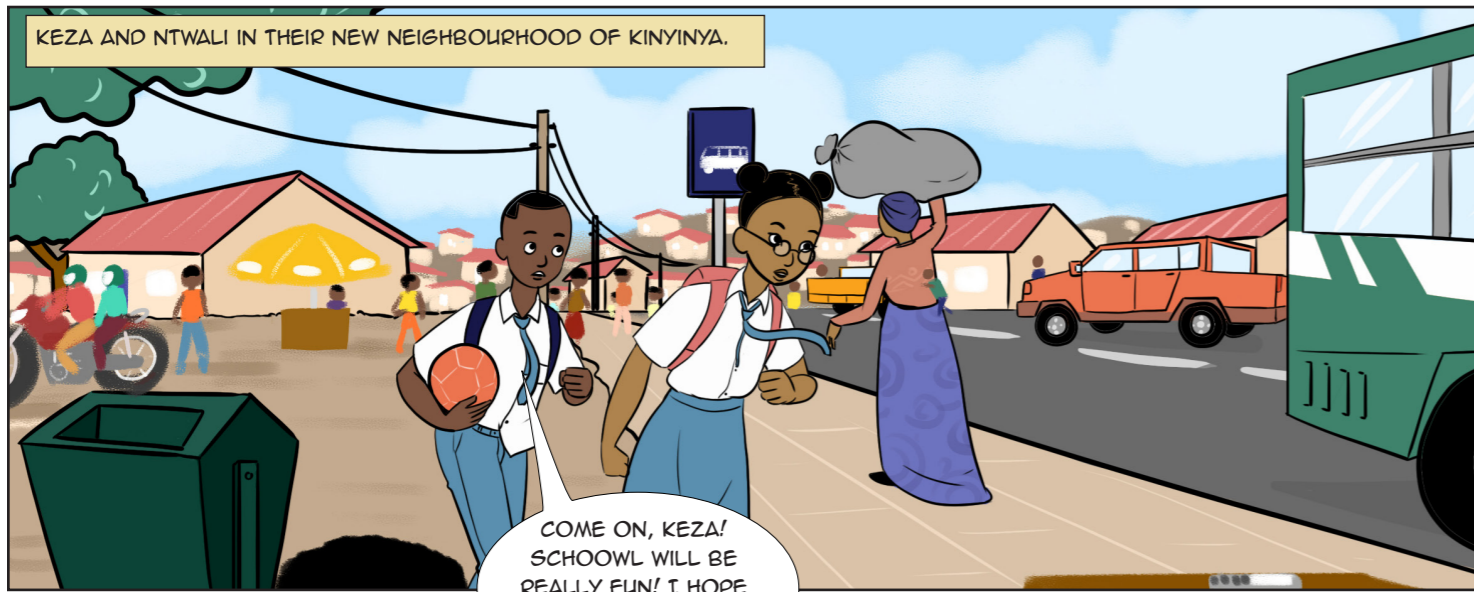
...AND IN OTHER PARTS, THE LACK OF RAIN IS DESTROYING HARVESTS AND DEPLETING WATER RESERVES.

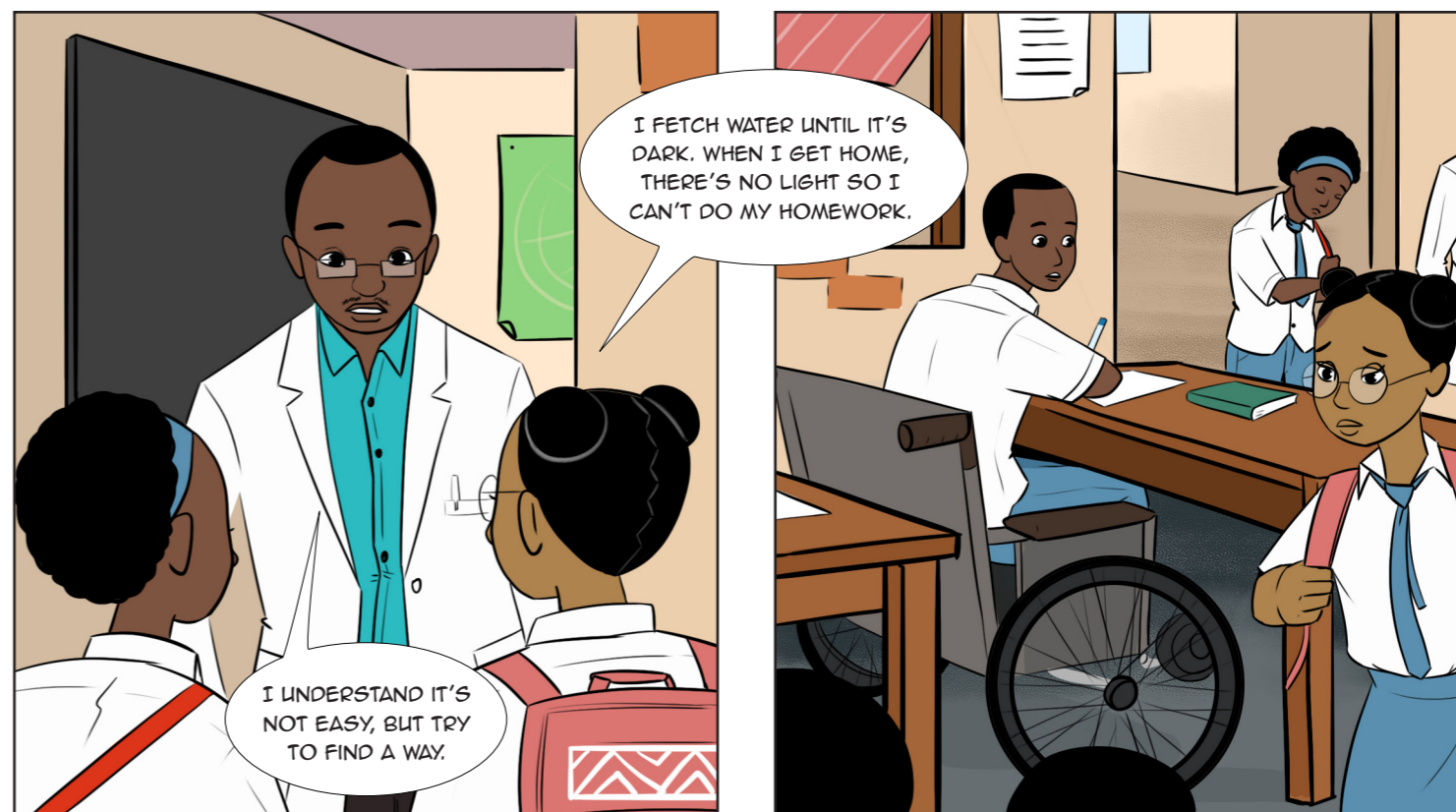
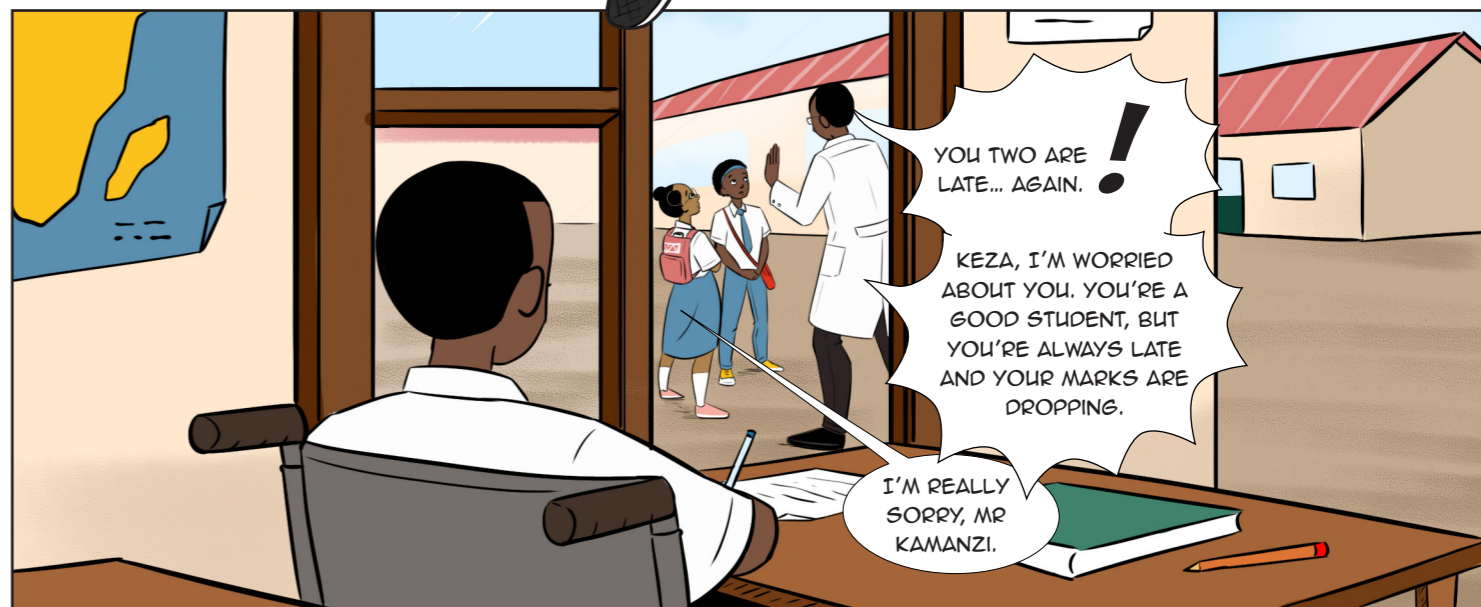
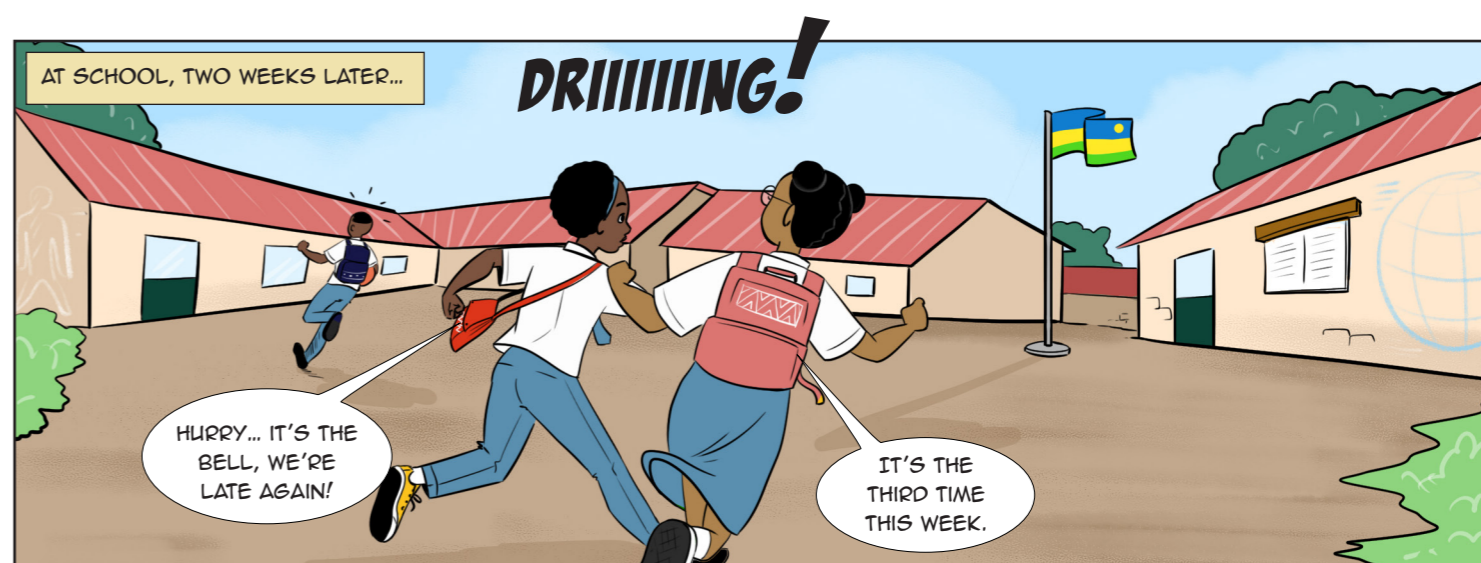
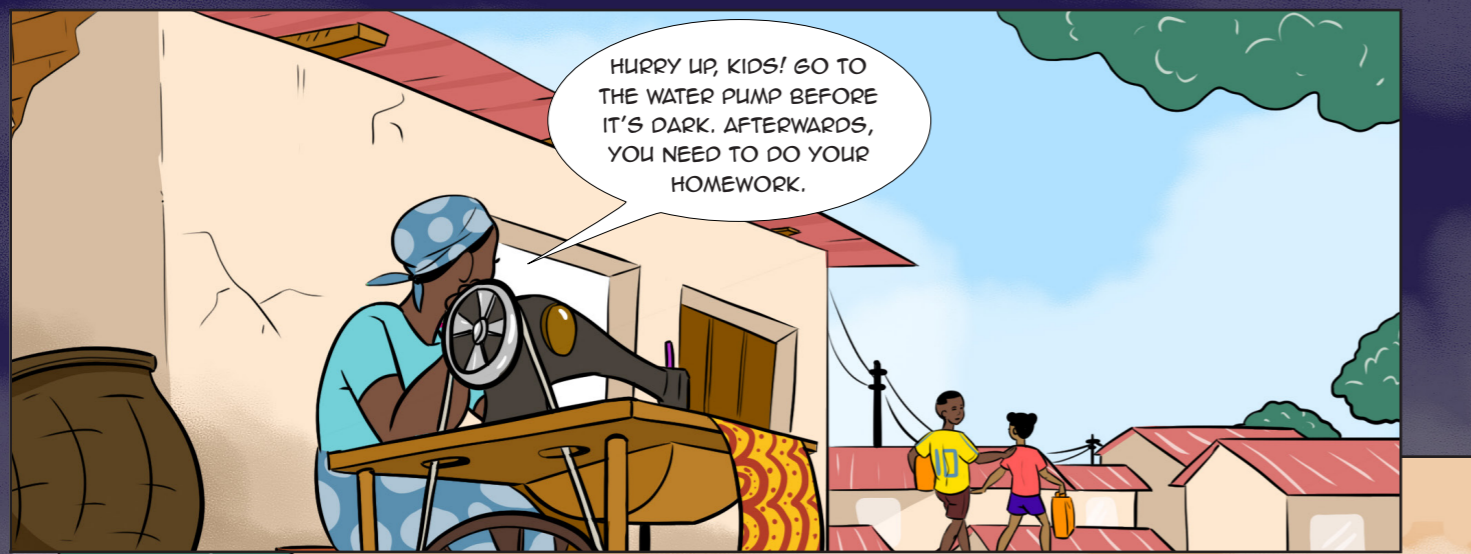


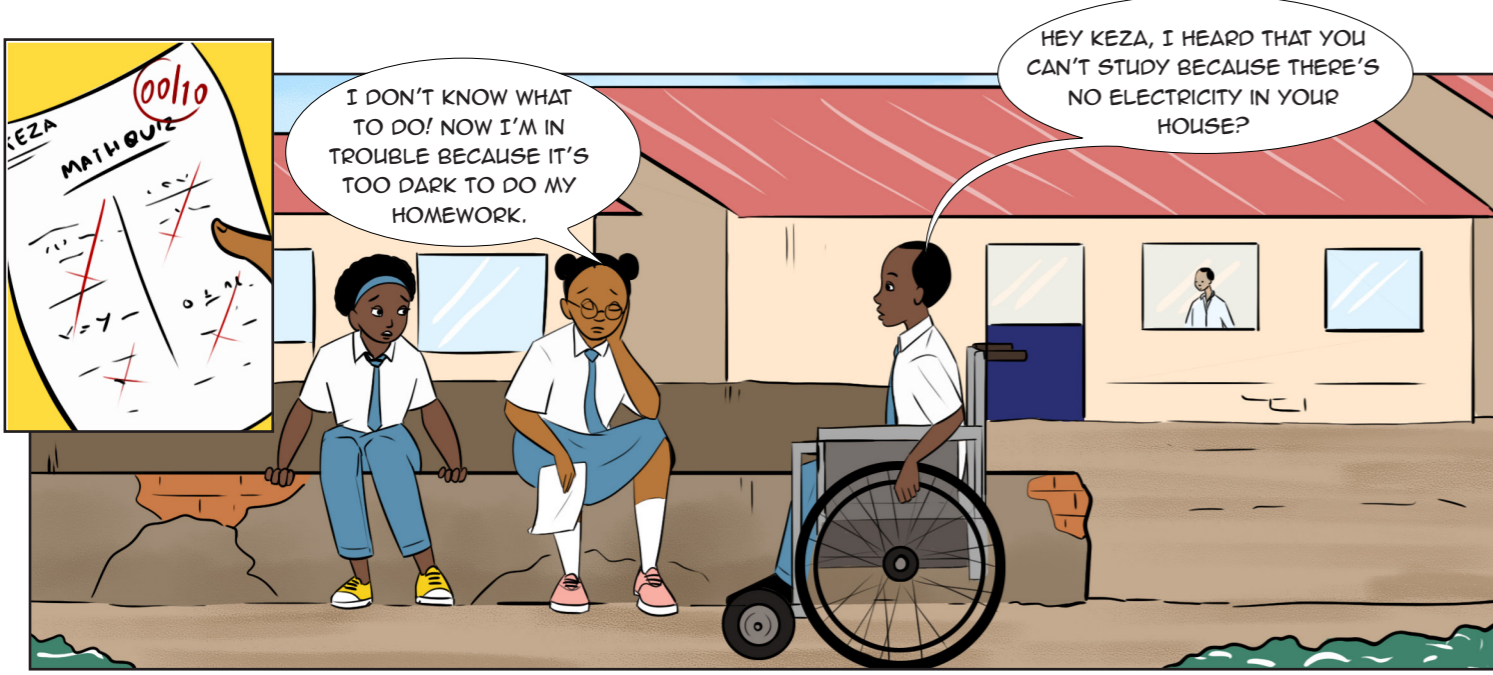
THIS IS VERY WORRYING, PEOPLE WILL STRUGGLE TO FIND FOOD...



THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY SO MANY PEOPLE ARE MOVING TO KIGALI IN HOPE OF A BETTER LIFE. I FEAR THIS WILL OVERBURDEN OUR CITY THOUGH AND THAT'S A PROBLEM!







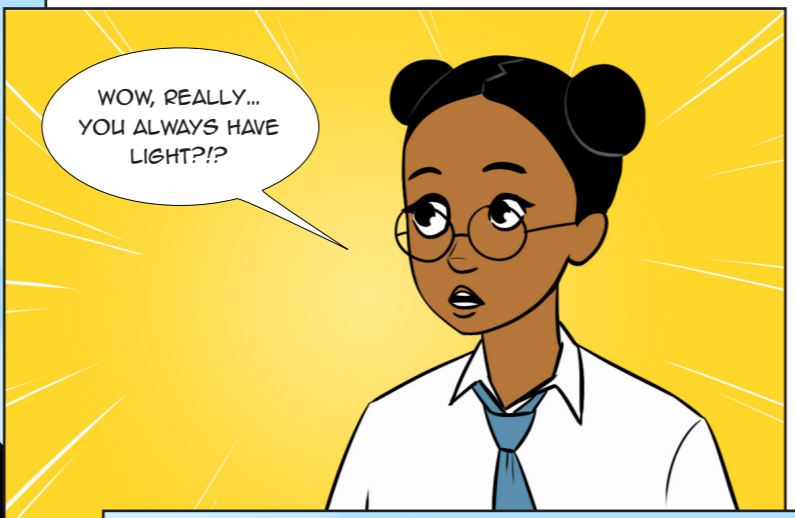
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! NOW I'M IN TROUBLE BECAUSE IT'S TOO DARK TO DO MY HOMEWORK.

HEY KEZA, I HEARD THAT YOU CAN'T STUDY BECAUSE THERE'S NO ELECTRICITY IN YOUR HOUSE?

KEZA
MATHS
1.1
2.2
3.3
4.4
5.5
6.6
7.7
8.8
9.9
10.10
11.11
12.12



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT SIMBI'S CRAZY INVENTIONS? SHE BROUGHT HER SOLAR LAMPS TO OUR ENVIRONMENTAL "GO GREEN CLUB." NOW WE ALWAYS HAVE LIGHT!



WOW, REALLY... YOU ALWAYS HAVE LIGHT?!



YES! JOIN THE GO GREEN CLUB TOMORROW SO I CAN SHOW YOU!



THE NEXT WEEK, AT KEZA'S HOUSE...

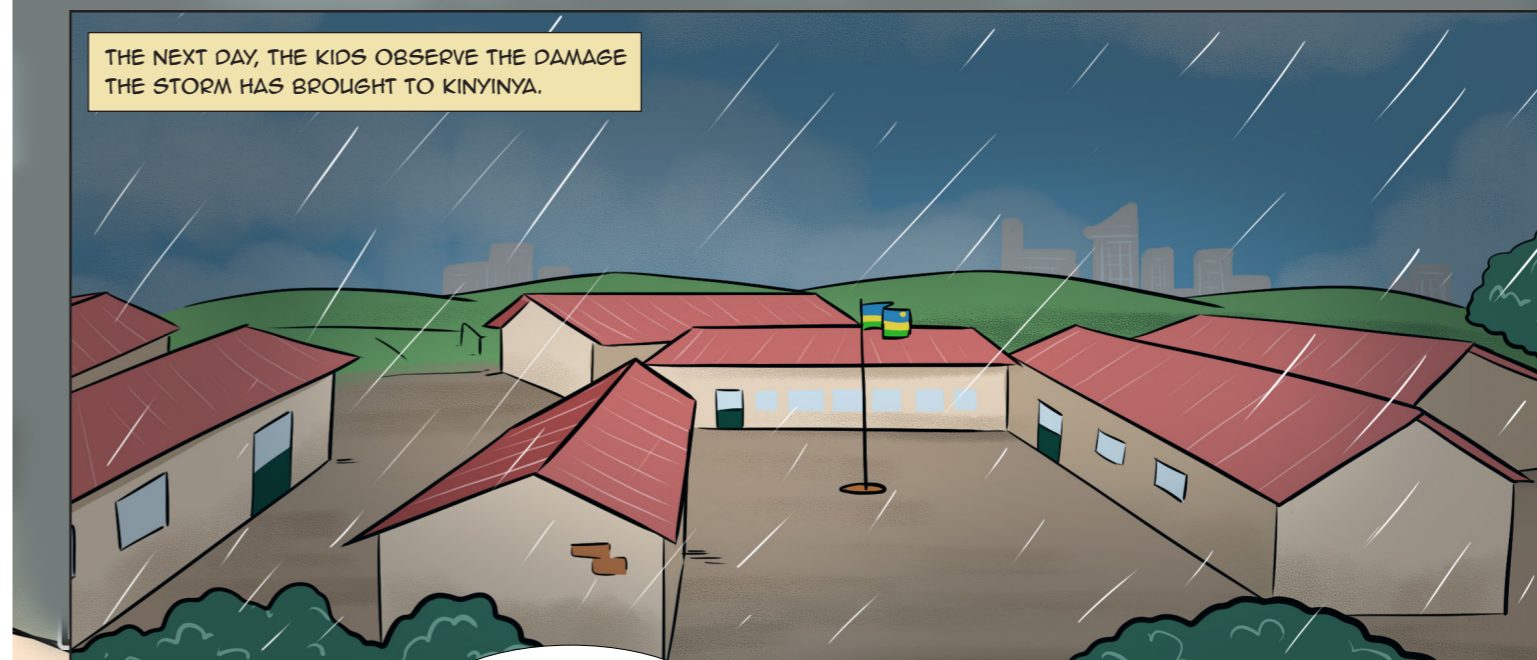
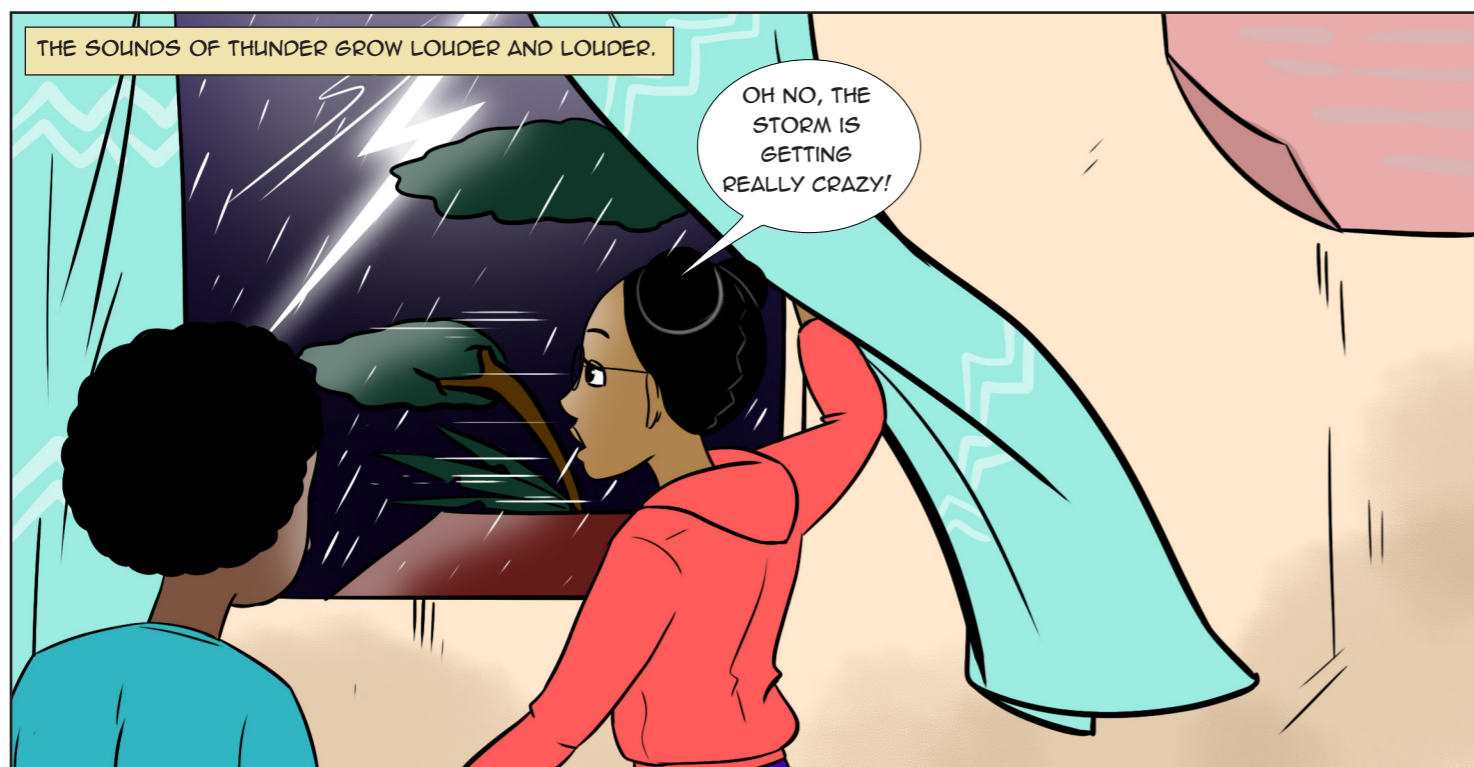
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

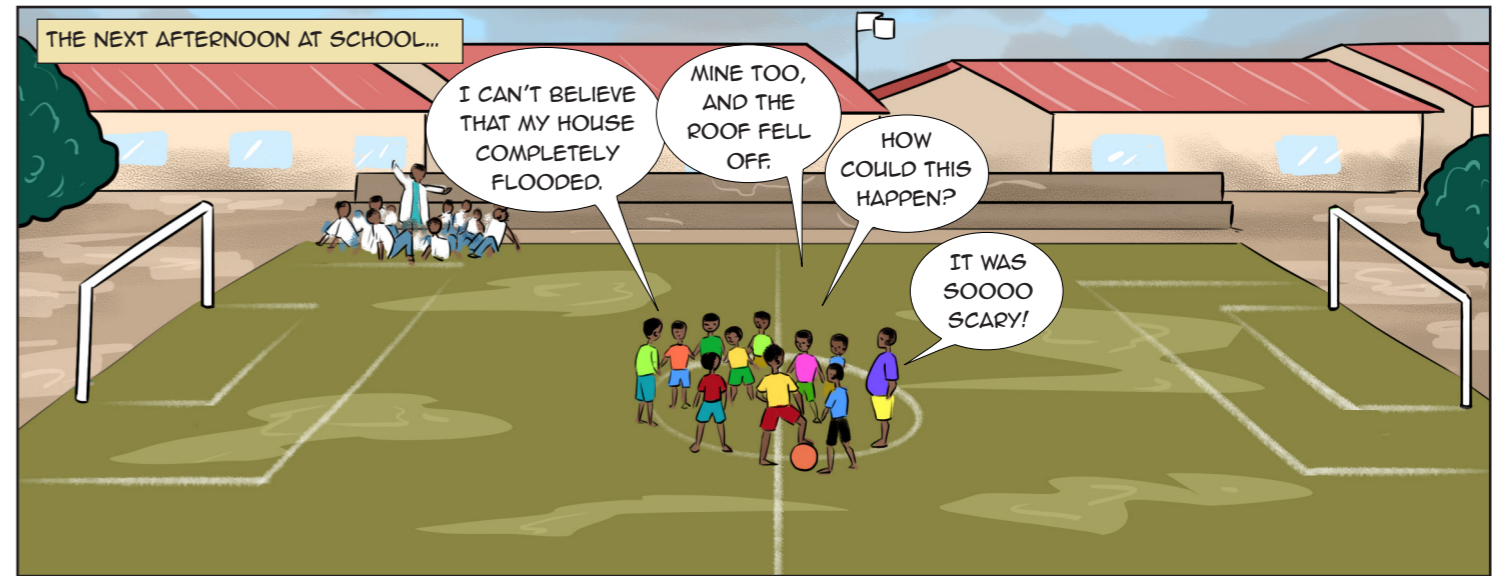
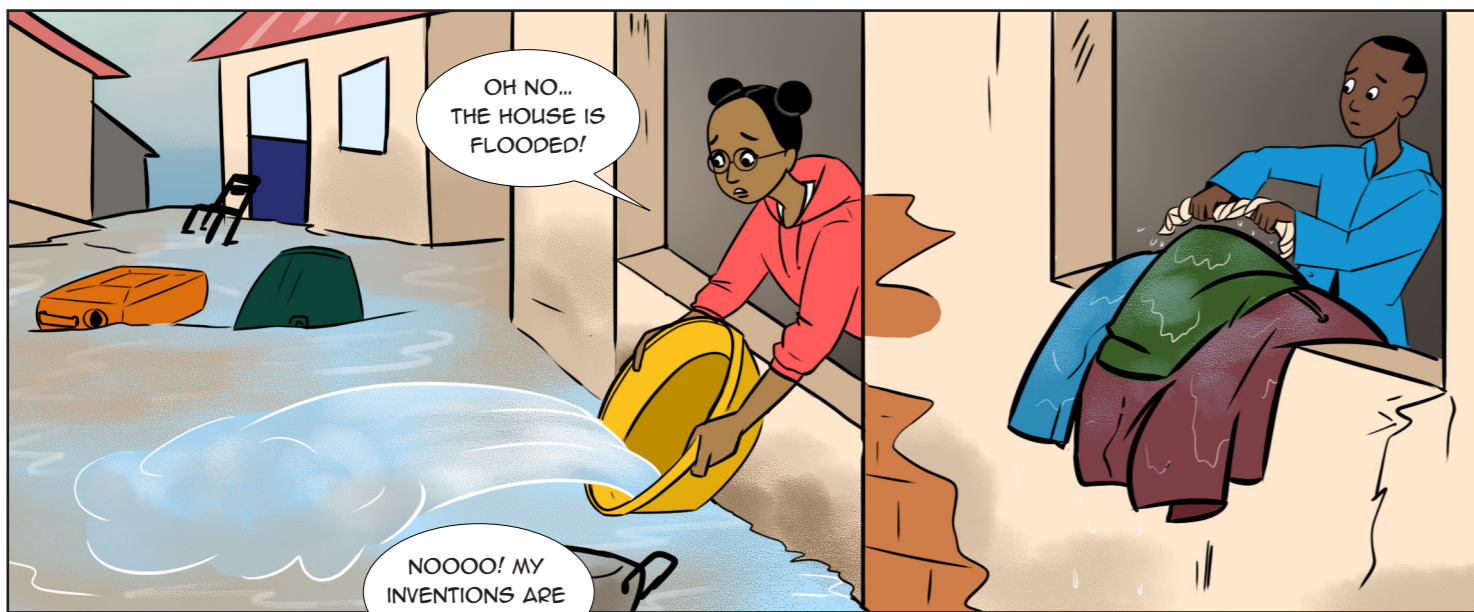
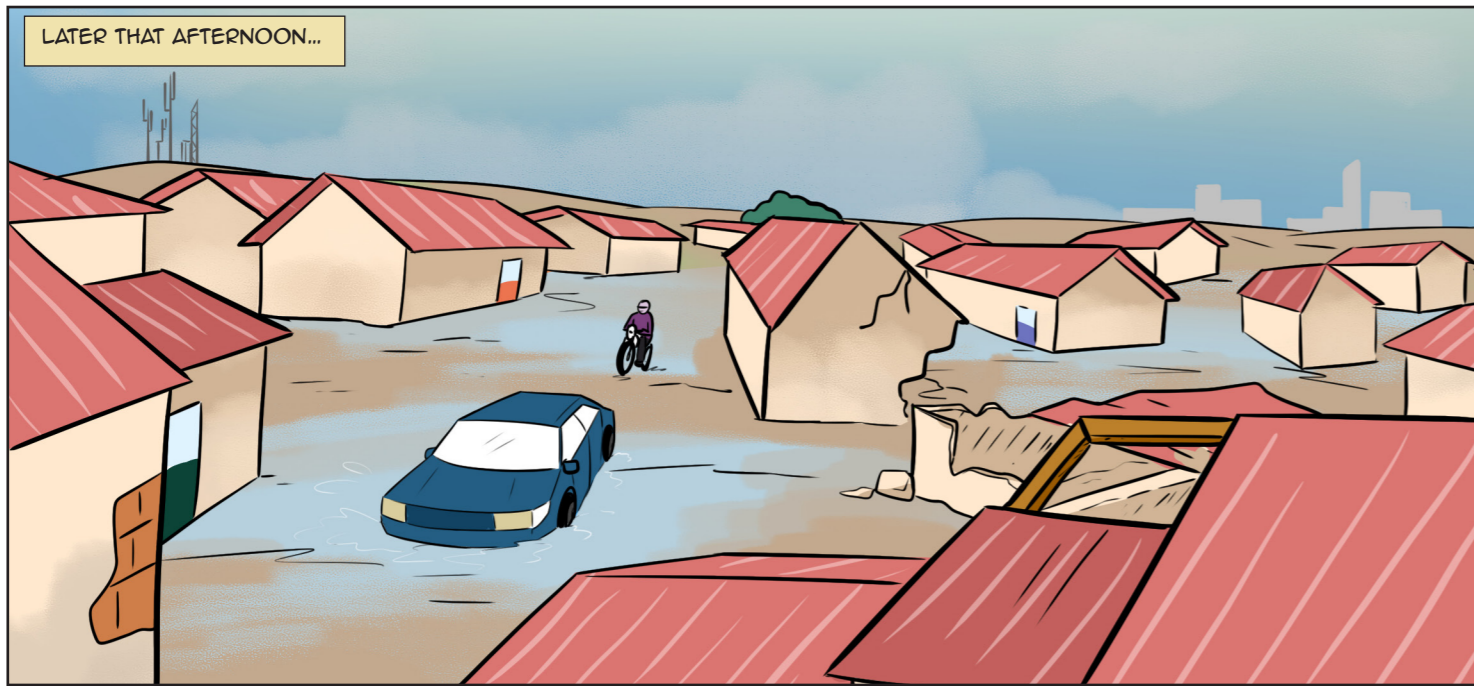
I'M HARVESTING RAIN SO WE DON'T HAVE TO GO TO THE WATER PUMP!

HMMM, IS THIS ONE OF THE STRANGE IDEAS FROM YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB?

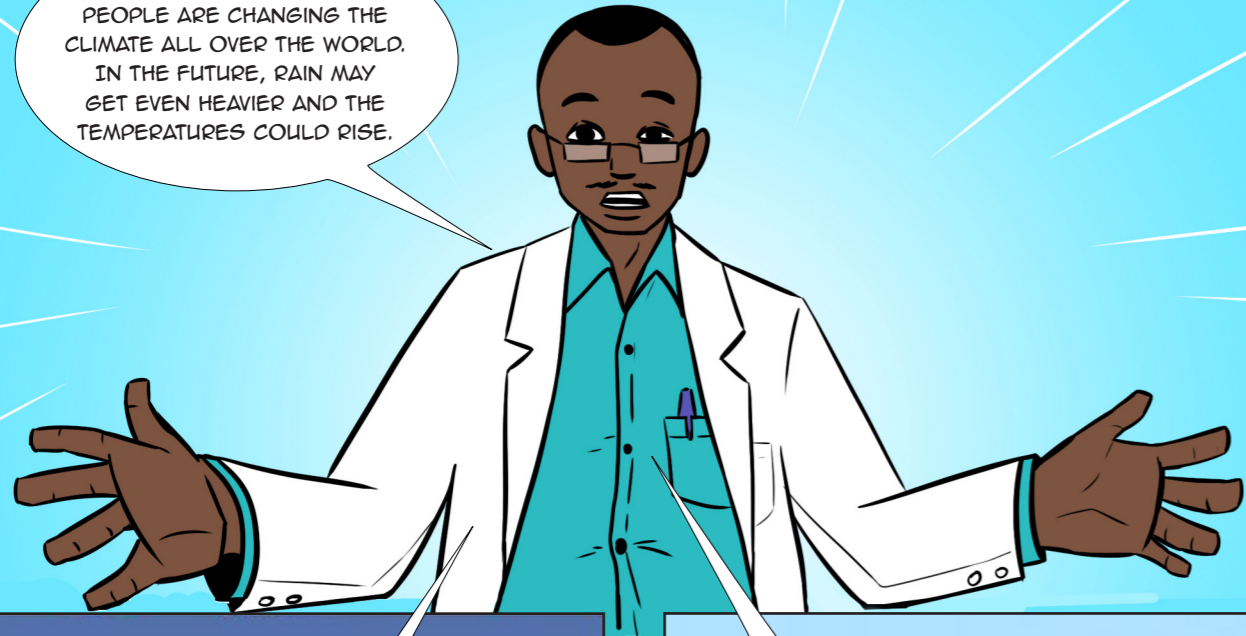
IT IS! AND NOW WE CAN FINALLY STUDY IN THE AFTERNOON INSTEAD OF LATE AT NIGHT.

WOW, SO COOL! THIS GO GREEN CLUB IS AWESOME!





THE EMISSIONS CAUSED BY PEOPLE ARE CHANGING THE CLIMATE ALL OVER THE WORLD. IN THE FUTURE, RAIN MAY GET EVEN HEAVIER AND THE TEMPERATURES COULD RISE.



EXTREME HEAT AND DROUGHT IS CAUSING TERRIBLE FIRES, THREATENING ENTIRE ECOSYSTEMS.

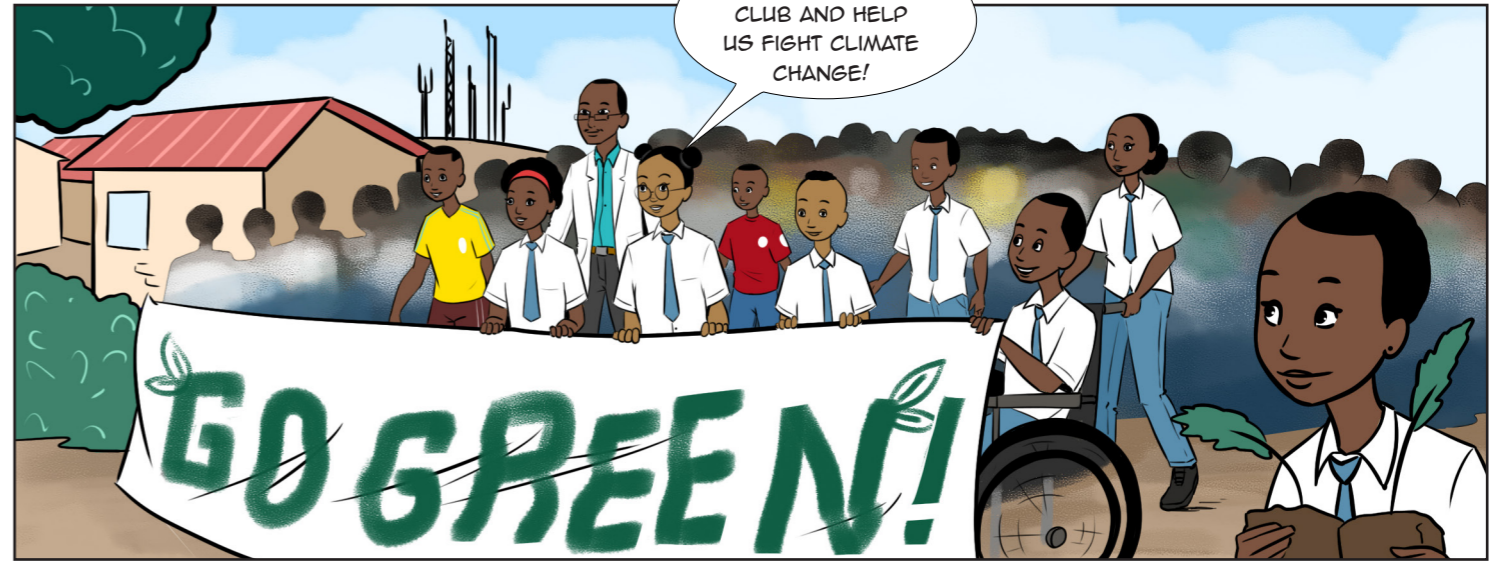


HUMANS ARE POLLUTING THE AIR AND THE WATER, AND PUTTING LIVES IN SERIOUS DANGER.

BUT IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.



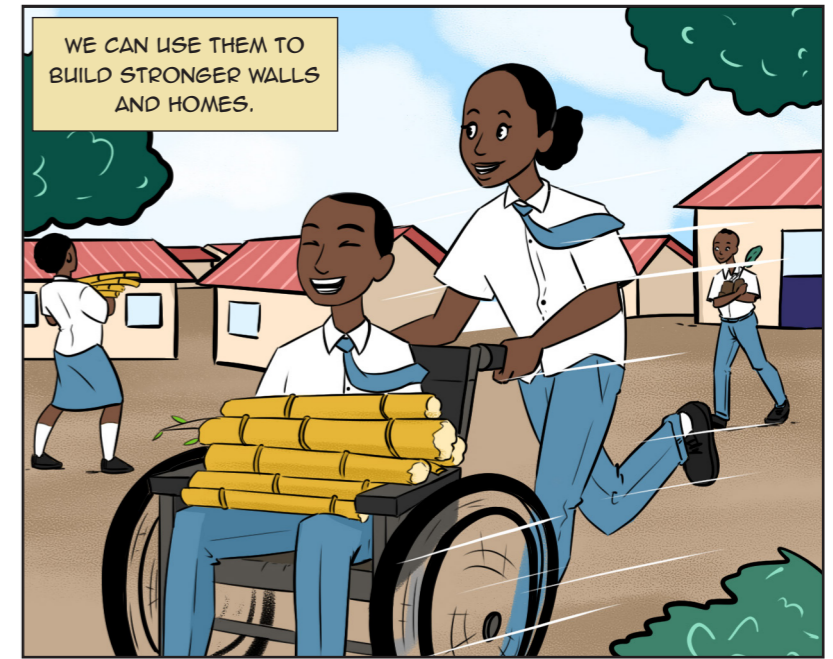
JOIN THE GO GREEN CLUB AND HELP US FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE!



WE CAN USE THEM TO BUILD STRONGER WALLS AND HOMES.

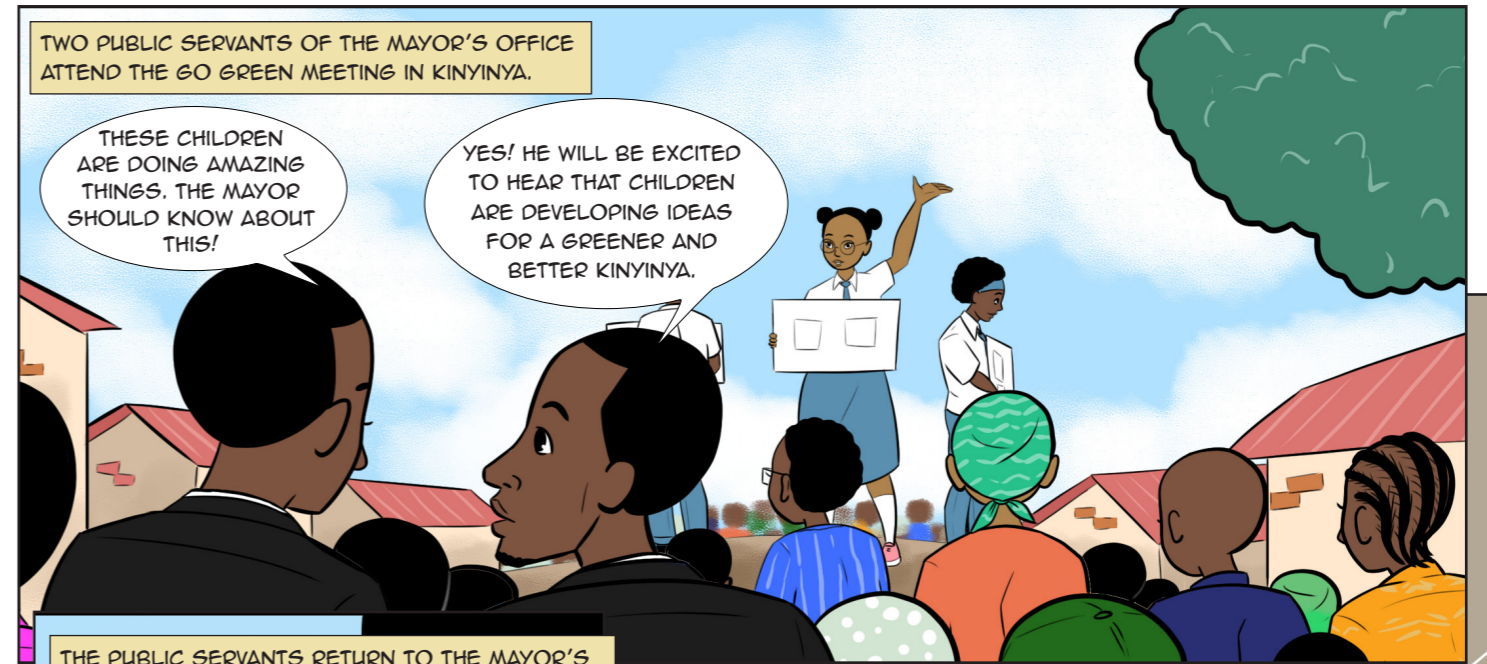
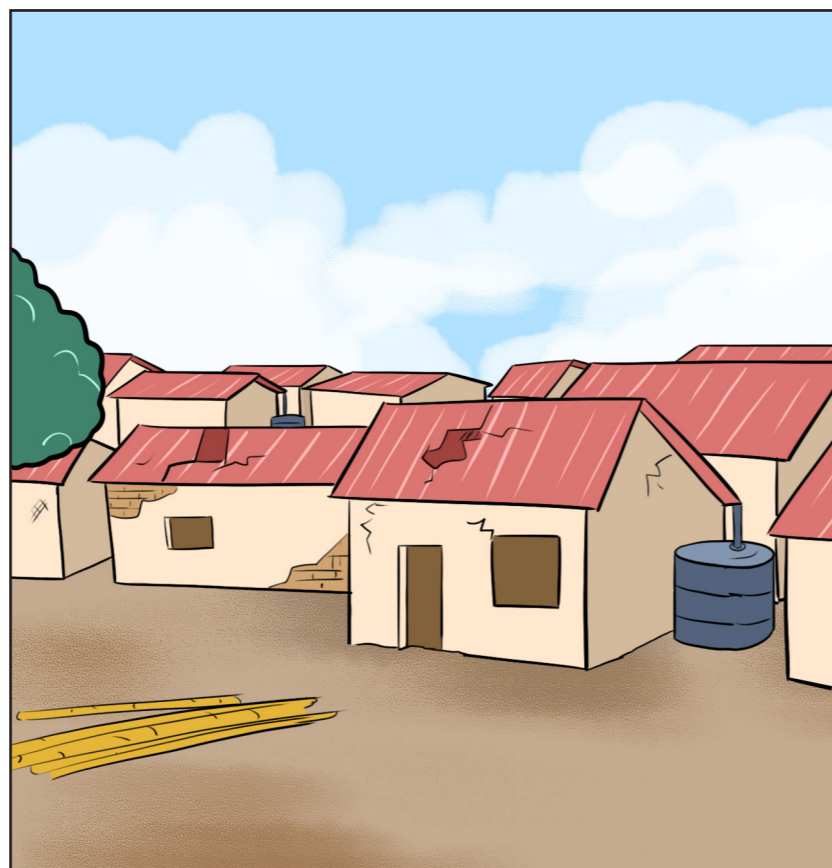
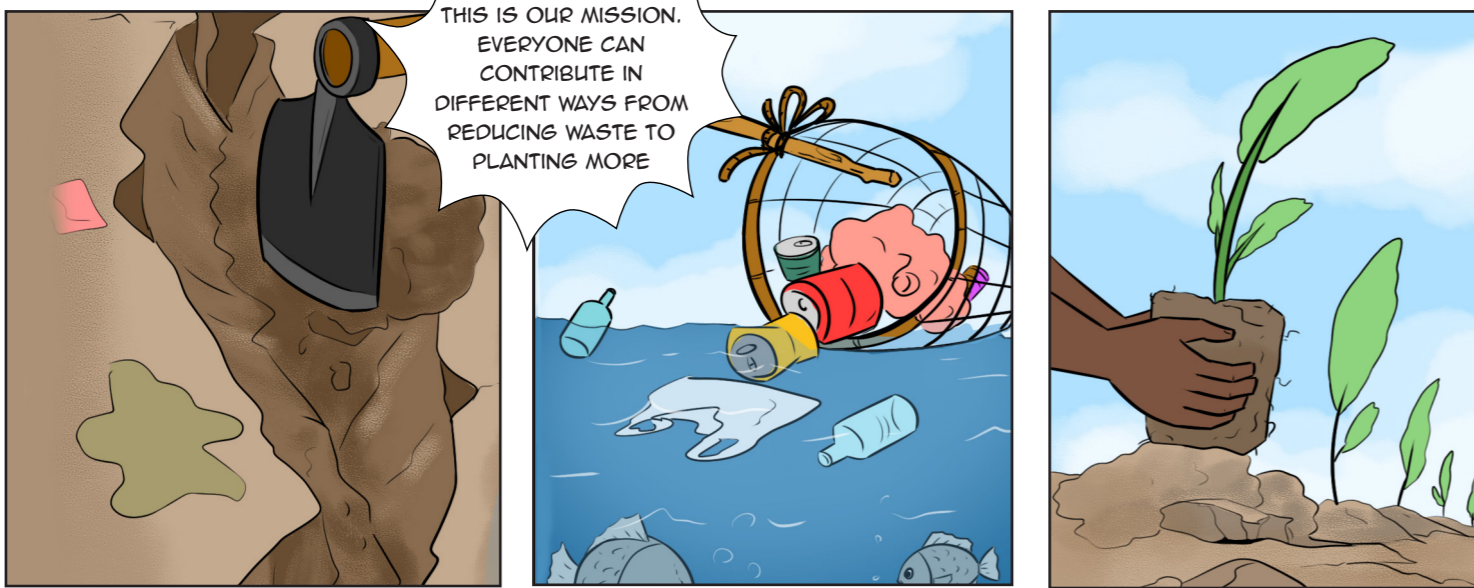
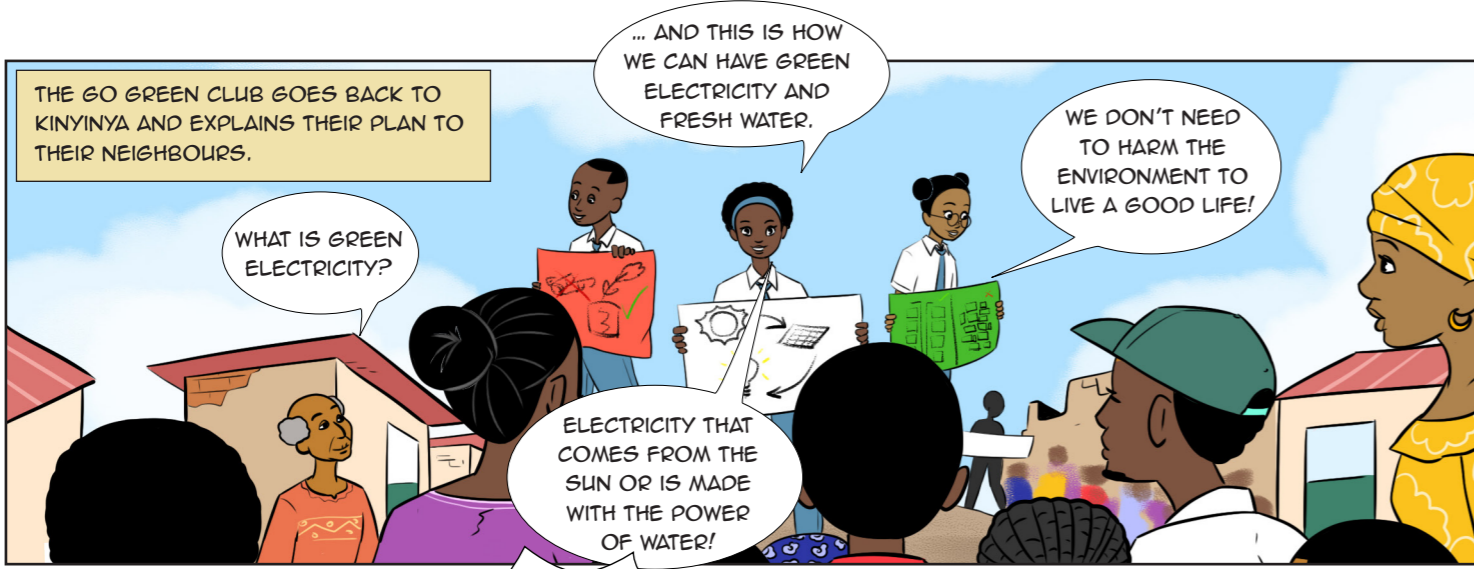


NATURAL MATERIALS LIKE BAMBOO, CLAY AND WOOD DO LESS DAMAGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT.



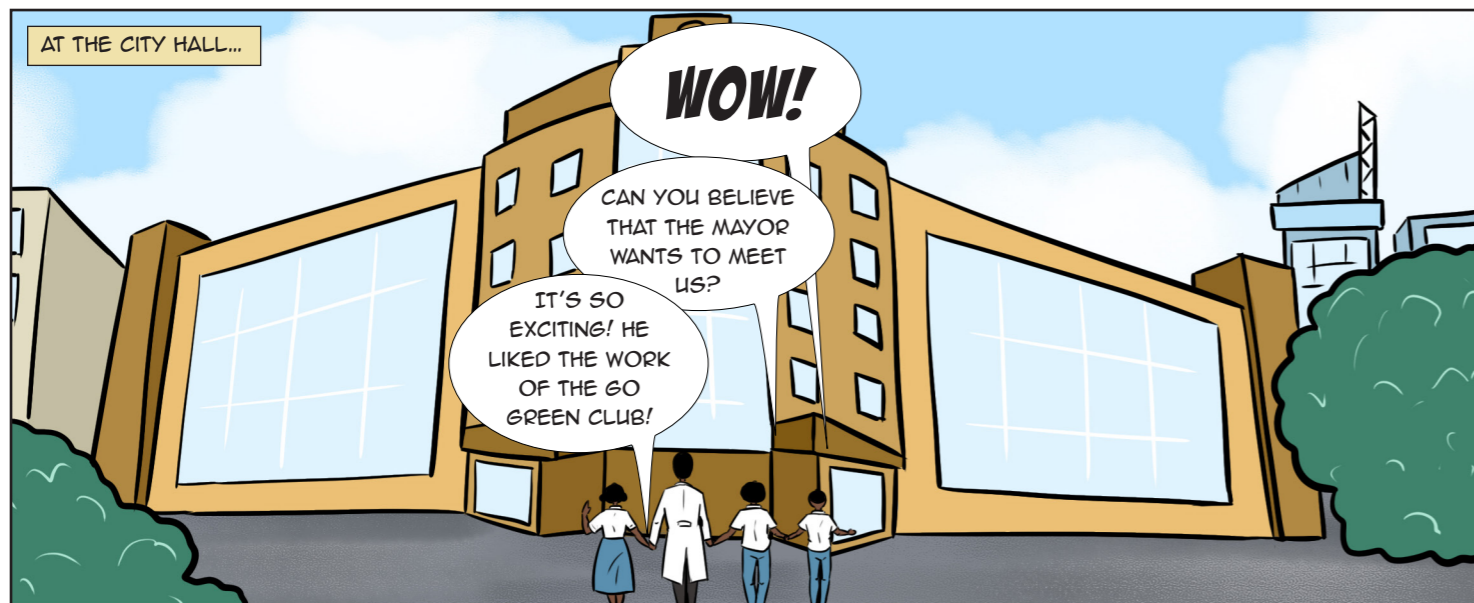
OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD WILL BE CLEAN AND GREEN!





THE PUBLIC SERVANTS RETURN TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE TO BRING HIM THE GOOD NEWS.



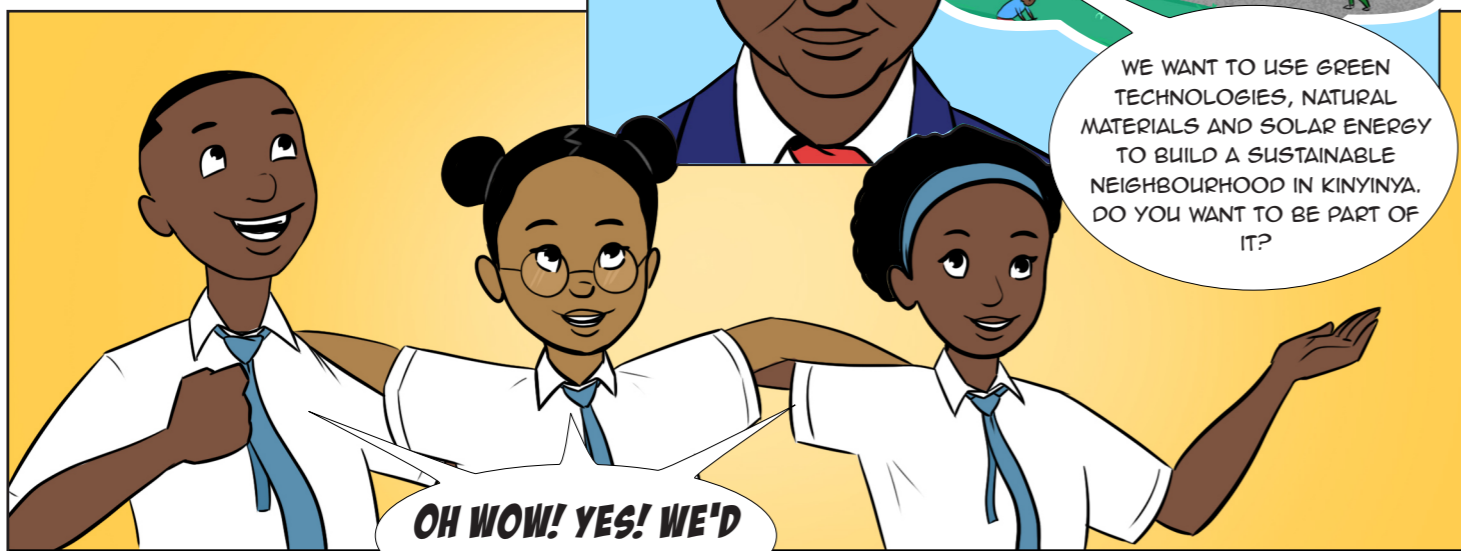
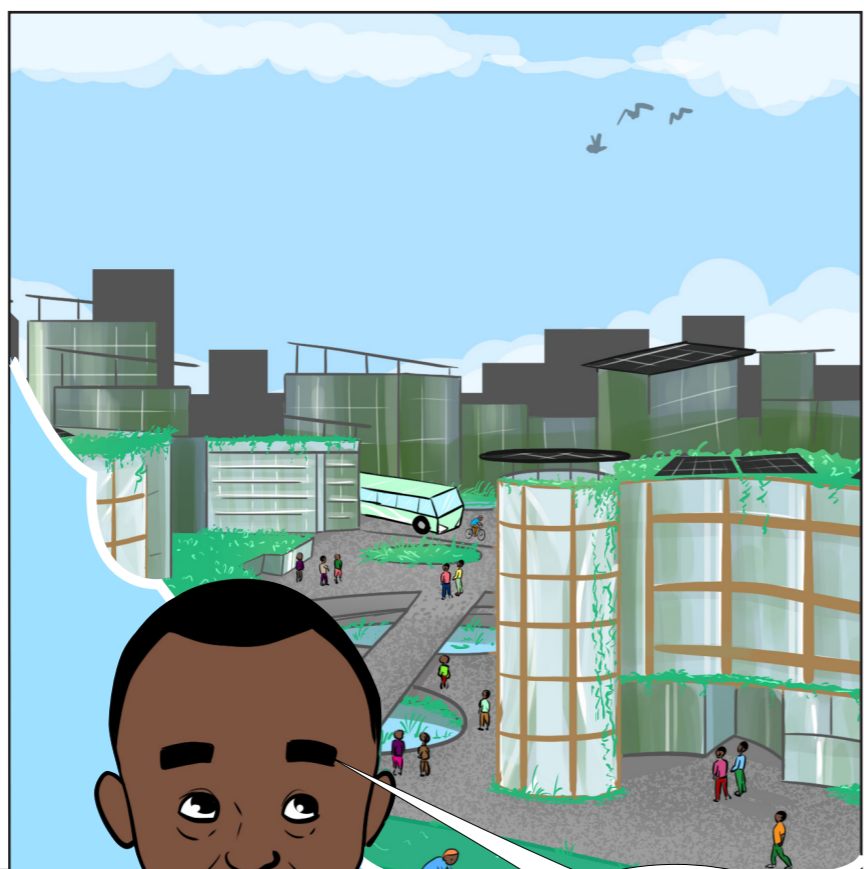


AT THE CITY HALL...

WOW!

CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT THE MAYOR WANTS TO MEET US?

IT'S SO EXCITING! HE LIKED THE WORK OF THE GO GREEN CLUB!



WE WANT TO USE GREEN TECHNOLOGIES, NATURAL MATERIALS AND SOLAR ENERGY TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOOD IN KINYINYA. DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF IT?

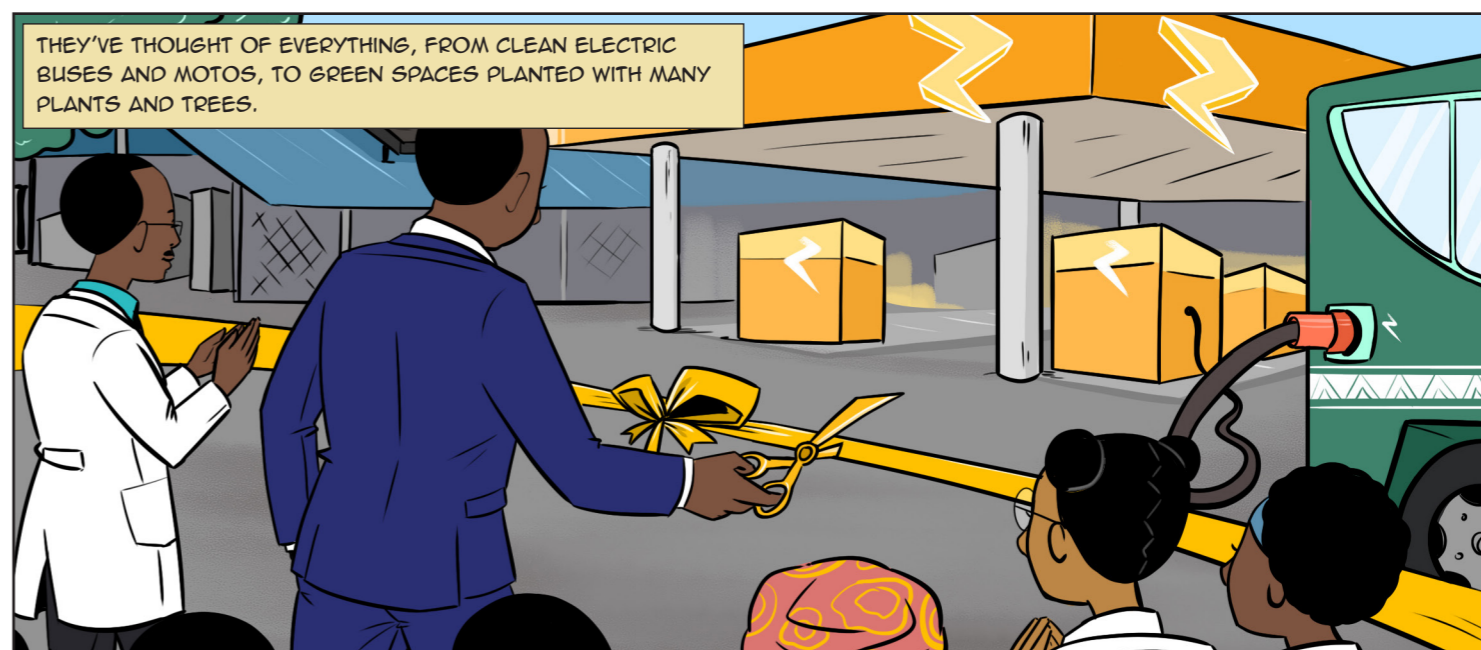
OH WOW! YES! WE'D LOVE TO!



THE MAYOR KEPT HIS PROMISE AND JOINED THE GO GREEN CLUB IN KINYINYA. THEY BUILT NEW HOUSES, SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS WITH CLAY, WOOD AND BAMBOO...

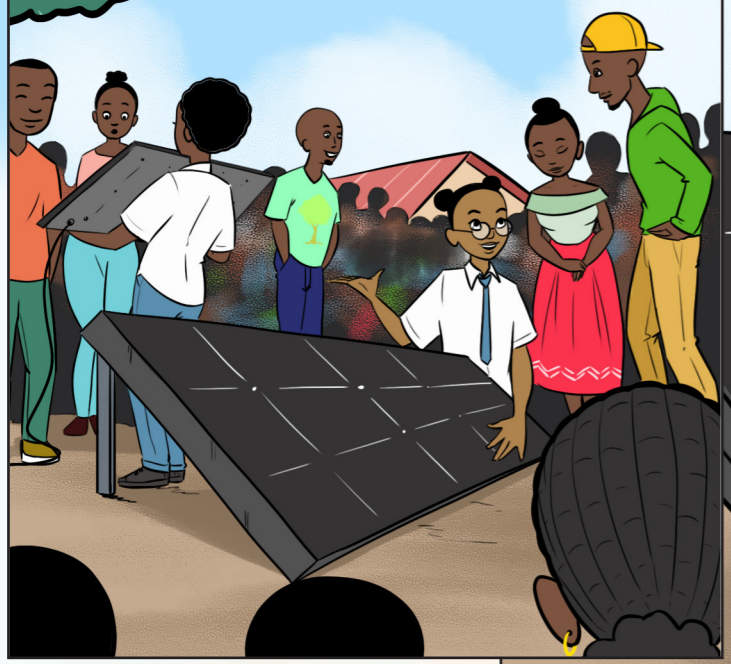


THE NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD WAS GREEN AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY. HOUSES WERE STRONGER AND COULD RESIST HEAVY RAIN. NOBODY HAD TO WORRY ANYMORE.



THEY'VE THOUGHT OF EVERYTHING, FROM CLEAN ELECTRIC BUSES AND MOTOS, TO GREEN SPACES PLANTED WITH MANY PLANTS AND TREES.

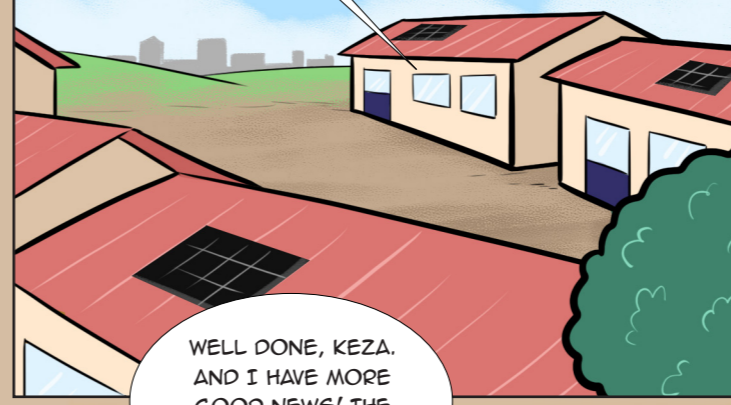
CLEAN SOLAR ENERGY ARRIVED IN KINYINYA. KEZA'S FAMILY NEVER HAD POWER CUTS AGAIN, AND THE KIDS COULD PLAY AND STUDY ANY TIME THEY WANTED TO ...



AND THEY WERE NOT THE ONLY ONES.



GREAT NEWS CLASS, EVERYONE PASSED!



WELL DONE, KEZA. AND I HAVE MORE GOOD NEWS! THE FIRST LADY WANTS TO MEET YOU.



OH WOW... I GOT 100%!



RWANDA IS SO PROUD OF YOU!

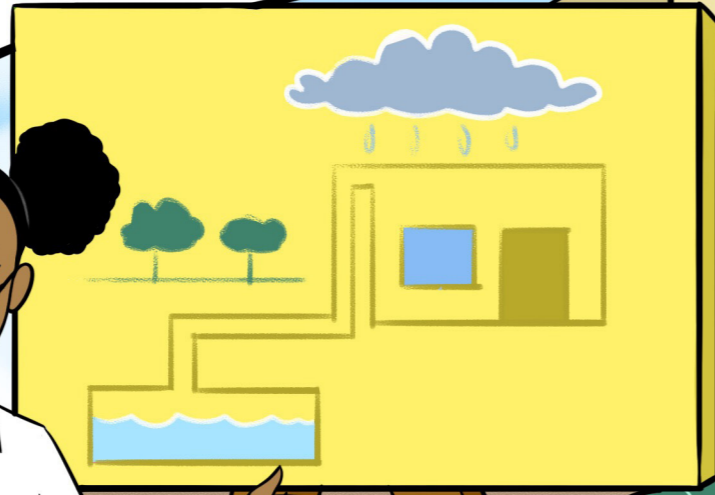


3 YEARS LATER...
KEZA IS NOW TRAVELLING ALL OVER RWANDA, TEACHING
PEOPLE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVING.

GREEN CITY KIGALI

MOVING HERE
WITH MY FAMILY CHANGED OUR
LIVES! NOW EVERY CITY IN
RWANDA IS BECOMING A GREEN
CITY, JUST LIKE KINYINYA.

AND YOU?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO
LIVE IN A GREEN CITY?



KINYINYA IS NOW A GREEN CITY AND AN INSPIRATION TO OTHER
CITIES IN RWANDA AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE. TOGETHER,
WE REALLY CAN SAVE THE PLANET!



ABOUT THE BOOK

Green City Kigali is a new sustainable neighbourhood for low and middle-income residents being developed by Rwanda's Green Fund (FONERWA) with financial support from the German Development Cooperation through KfW Development Bank, and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

At Green City Kigali, we believe that community participation, raising awareness and local engagement are essential to the success of an urban development project. For this reason, we collaborated with the Rwandan publishing house and social enterprise "Imagine We," to produce an educational comic book for children called Keza And The Green City.

The goal of the book is to educate the young people of Rwanda about sustainable urban development and its relevance for Rwanda's future growth. It was also created to empower Rwanda's children to become ambassadors for the environment.

Keza And The Green City revolves around an 11-year-old Rwandan girl called Keza. The story starts with Keza and her family leaving their home in Bugesera and moving to Kigali because extreme drought has destroyed their crops and livelihood.

Initially, Keza is very sad to have left her home and has a hard time adjusting to life in the city due to pollution, traffic and the crowded neighbourhood. Her grades at school also begin to suffer because she spends hours at the overcrowded water pump fetching water for her family instead of doing her homework.

One day, after heavy rain, her neighbourhood is completely flooded and mudslides cause many houses to collapse. The children, with the help of a young inventor and their science teacher, decide to take action and start rebuilding the houses using natural materials available in the area.

Meanwhile, the Mayor of Kigali is trying to find solutions to reduce the effects of climate change and to protect the citizens of Rwanda. He believes the only way forward is to build a green city that provides adequate shelter and protection while reducing harmful emissions.

When the Mayor finds out about the children's initiative, he joins their effort and immediately starts building sustainable houses, equips every house with solar panels, and introduces electric mobility.

When the Green City comes to life, the communities celebrate and Keza becomes the new Rwandan ambassador for climate change.

To find out more about Green City Kigali,
greencitykigali.org



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