

WHY THE SUN AND THE MOON LIVE IN THE SKY

AN AFRICAN TALE



Retold by Myrna Estes

Illustrated by Jing Lili

ABOUT THIS STORY

Children around the world love to hear folk tales, and parents and grandparents love to tell them. Folk tales are very, very old stories that have been passed down from great-grandparents to grandparents, from grandparents to parents, and from parents to children for hundreds of years!

People keep telling these stories year after year because they help us learn about ourselves. As you read, think about the story. It might make you think about your own life.

The folk tale in this book comes from Western Africa. When you read it, you will learn about traditions and cultures that may be different from your own.

When you think and talk about the things you read, you will discover that books contain all kinds of ideas. These ideas can help you learn about yourself, other books that you've read, and the world you live in!



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Adapted from *Folk Stories from Southern Nigeria, West Africa* by Elphinstone Dayrell, F.R.G.S., F.R.A.I, 1910.

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A long time ago, the sun and the water were good friends. They both lived on the earth together.

The sun visited the water often, but the water never came to visit the sun.







The sun asked the water, "Why don't you come to my house?"

The water said, "Your house is too small. If I came with all my people, it would drive you out! You need a bigger house."



The sun promised the water that he would make his house bigger.

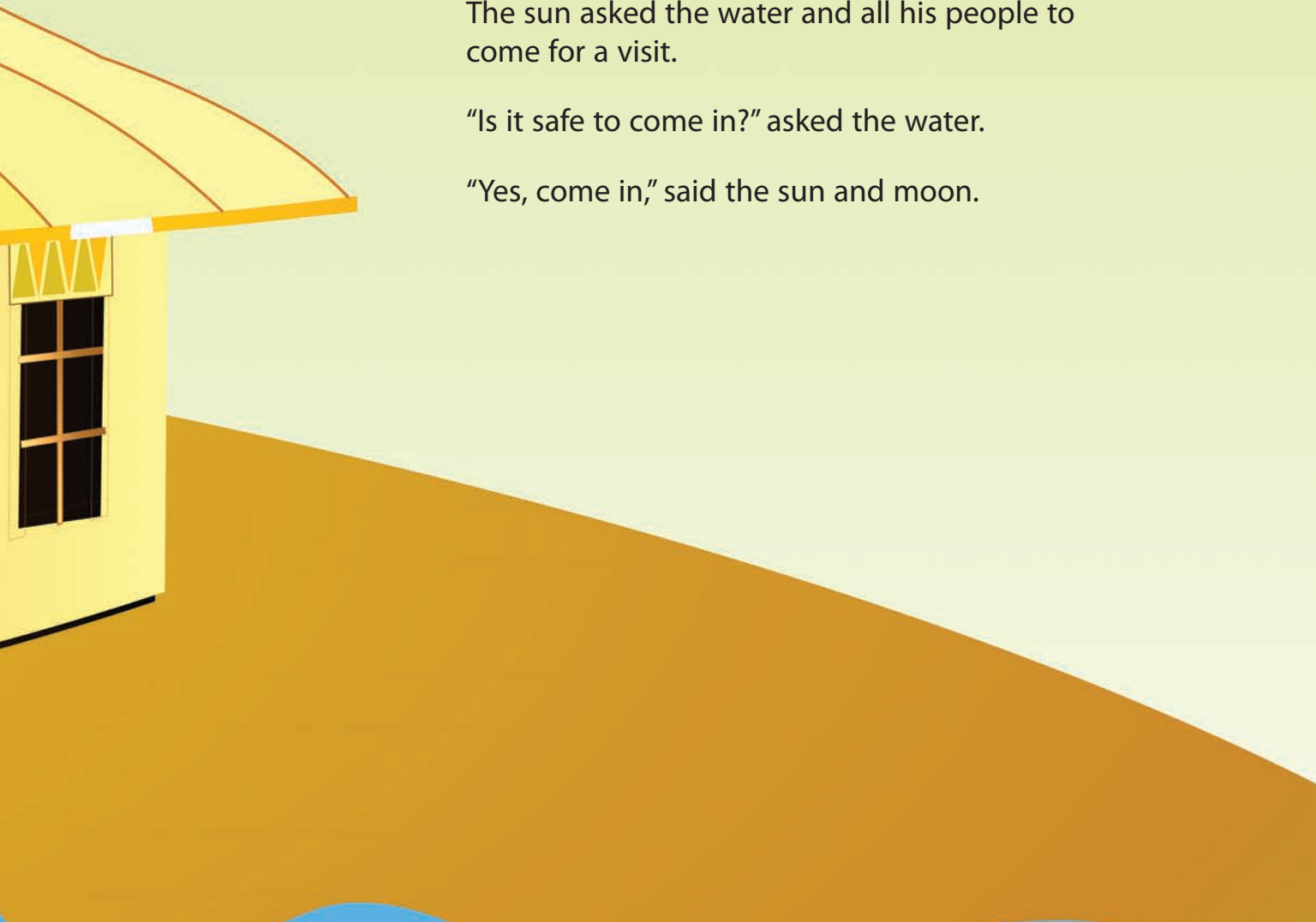
The sun went home and told his wife, the moon, about his promise.

The very next day the sun and the moon began to make their house bigger.

They worked very hard and soon their big house was finished!





A yellow house with a window is on the left side of the page. The background is a light green sky and a brown hillside. The water is blue with wavy lines.

The sun asked the water and all his people to come for a visit.

"Is it safe to come in?" asked the water.

"Yes, come in," said the sun and moon.





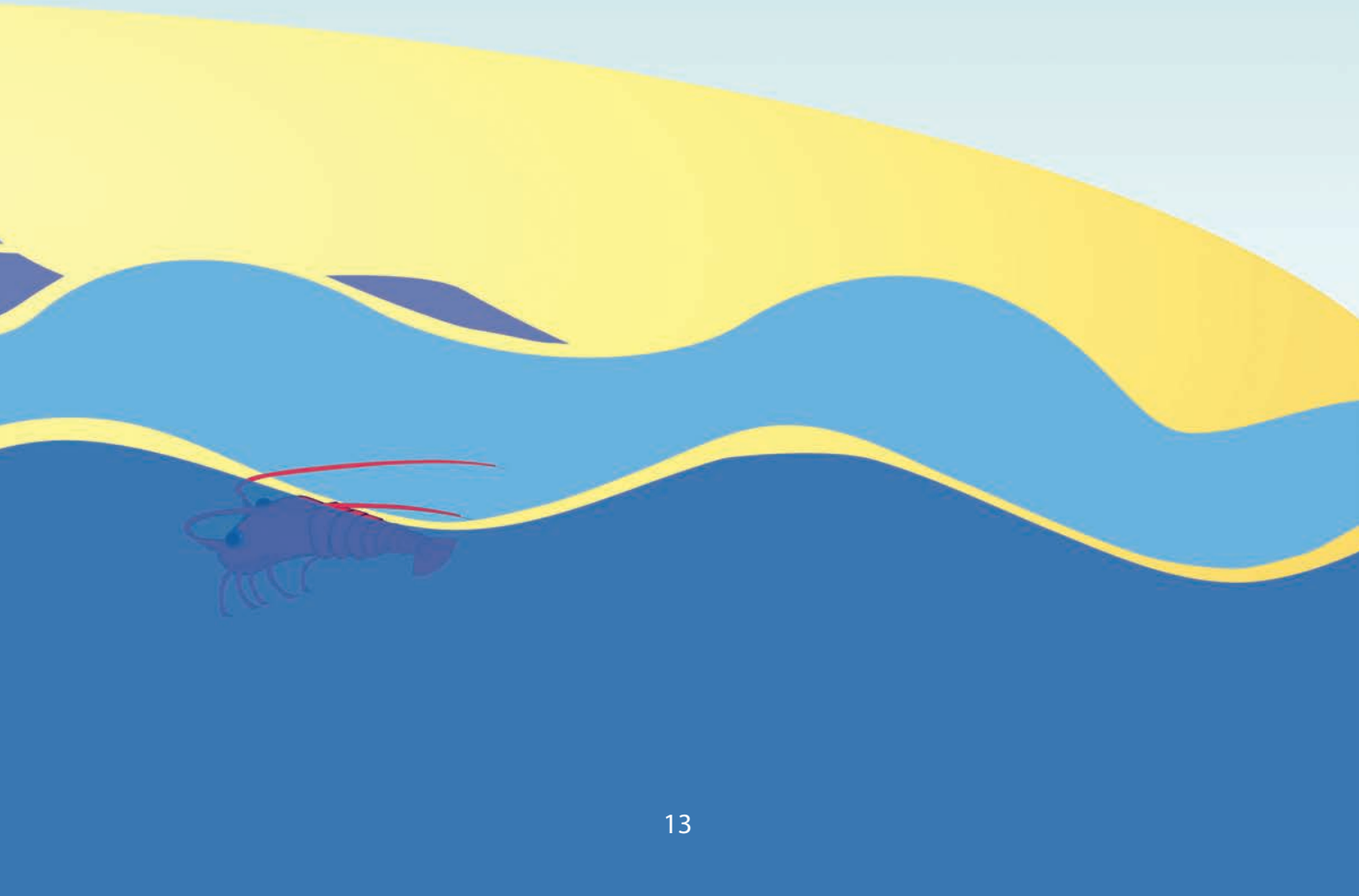
The water began to flow in, followed by the fish
and all the other water animals!

At first, the water was up to the sun's knees.

"Is it still safe to come in?" asked the water.

The sun said, "Yes!"

So more water flowed in.





Now the water was up to the sun's neck.

"Is it still safe to come in?" asked the water.

Not knowing any better, the sun and the moon said, "Yes."

So more and more water flowed in!





Now the sun and the moon had to stand on
top of their roof!

"Is it still safe to come in?" asked the water.

Again the sun and the moon said, "Yes."

The water soon went over the top of the roof.



The sun and the moon couldn't live in their house anymore, so they moved up into the sky... and they have lived there ever since!

