

Reading for Meaning

Welcome, story supporter!

**We hope that you and your child
have fun with this story.**

**Nurturing and supporting
your child is important for
their physical, emotional and
academic development.**

**ZERO
DROP/OUT**

Part of the Zero Dropout campaign working towards
halving the rate of school dropout by 2030.

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The tree that saved a village

PART 2



Thaimi was calling out to everyone in the village, “Run, run! Men are coming to steal our cattle and burn our village!”

The villagers were scared. They ran every which way like ants when a cow treads on a heap.

They did not know where to hide or what to do.

Where could they hide their cattle?

Where could they hide their grain?

Where could they hide themselves? Thaimi was very frightened. Then she remembered something. She remembered the place where she and Angula sometimes went to play. A safe place. A secret place.

“I have a place!” she cried. “I know a place where we will all be safe!”

But the villagers could not hear her. They were making too much noise. How could she make the villagers listen to her?

She picked up a drum and began to hit it as hard as she could.

Bam Bam Bam Boom Boom Boom

All the villagers stopped.

Thaimi called out. "I have a place to hide. Follow me!" She took Angula by the arm.

"Come, we'll take everyone to our tree. We will all be safe there!"

Her brother shook his head. "No, Thaimi. This is our secret. You said we must never tell anyone."

"Yes "she said. "It was a secret. But now we are all in danger."

Thaimi and Angula led the way to the baobab tree which stood at the edge of the village.

Nobody could understand why.

"Why have you brought us here? We cannot hide here," they said.

Then Thaimi said to her father, "Come I'll show you." They climbed up the tree to the small opening that Thaimi and Angula knew so well. Thaimi and her father slid down into the big trunk. It was hollow. It was huge.

'But all the people can't come in through such a small hole," said her father.

"No said Thaimi."Bring axes and we will make an opening in the trunk."

And that is what they did. They cut an opening in the side of the tree. Then they cut two small openings for air to get in, so that they could breathe. Some villagers collected the grain and the pots. Others collected the goats and the cattle.

They all made their way through the opening in the great hollow inside the baobab tree. And the strange thing was that there was room for everyone.

The sun went down. It grew dark and the night was quiet and cold.

The raiders crept towards the village. It was dark. "Everyone must be asleep," they said.

Inside the great tree the villagers waited.

They were cold. They were hungry. And they were afraid. Then Thaimi said softly, "It is cold. Let's make a fire." And she took two stones and struck them together. The sparks caught the grass and small flames flared. Soon a bright warm fire was burning.

Outside the raiders crept closer and closer. Then one of them gave a cry and pointed to the tree. Light flamed from the tree. Fiery eyes shone from the tree. Bright tongues licked the branches. Smoke curled into the sky.

"It's a great spirit!" they cried in fear. "Eee!"

First one raider turned and ran. Then another, and another, until they had all run away. From

inside the tree, the people of the village could hear their cries “Eee...eee ... eee” getting fainter as they ran away into the night.

The raiders were gone, and they would never return to the village with its fiery spirit. The people of the village of Ombalantu were safe.

And do you know, you can still go to that village and see that tree, the huge baobab tree with the hollow trunk, the tree that saved the village of Ombalantu.

Based on “The Tree that saved the village of Ombalantu” by Karen van Wiese, Beryl Salt, Muhdni Grimwood, Barbara Meyerowitz with additional information from Wikipedia and www.namibian.com

EXTEND THE STORY...

Illustrate the story



**ARTS &
CRAFTS**

WHAT TO USE

Pen / pencil, coloured pencils, piece of paper

WHAT TO DO

- Ask your child to draw and colour a picture of the Baobab tree showing the different things that the people of Ombalantu loved about the tree.

EXTEND THE STORY...

What's
happening?



**WRITING
ACTIVITIES**

WHAT TO USE

Pen / pencil, piece of paper

WHAT TO DO

- Ask them to write down a short description of what is happening in the picture that they have drawn.

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