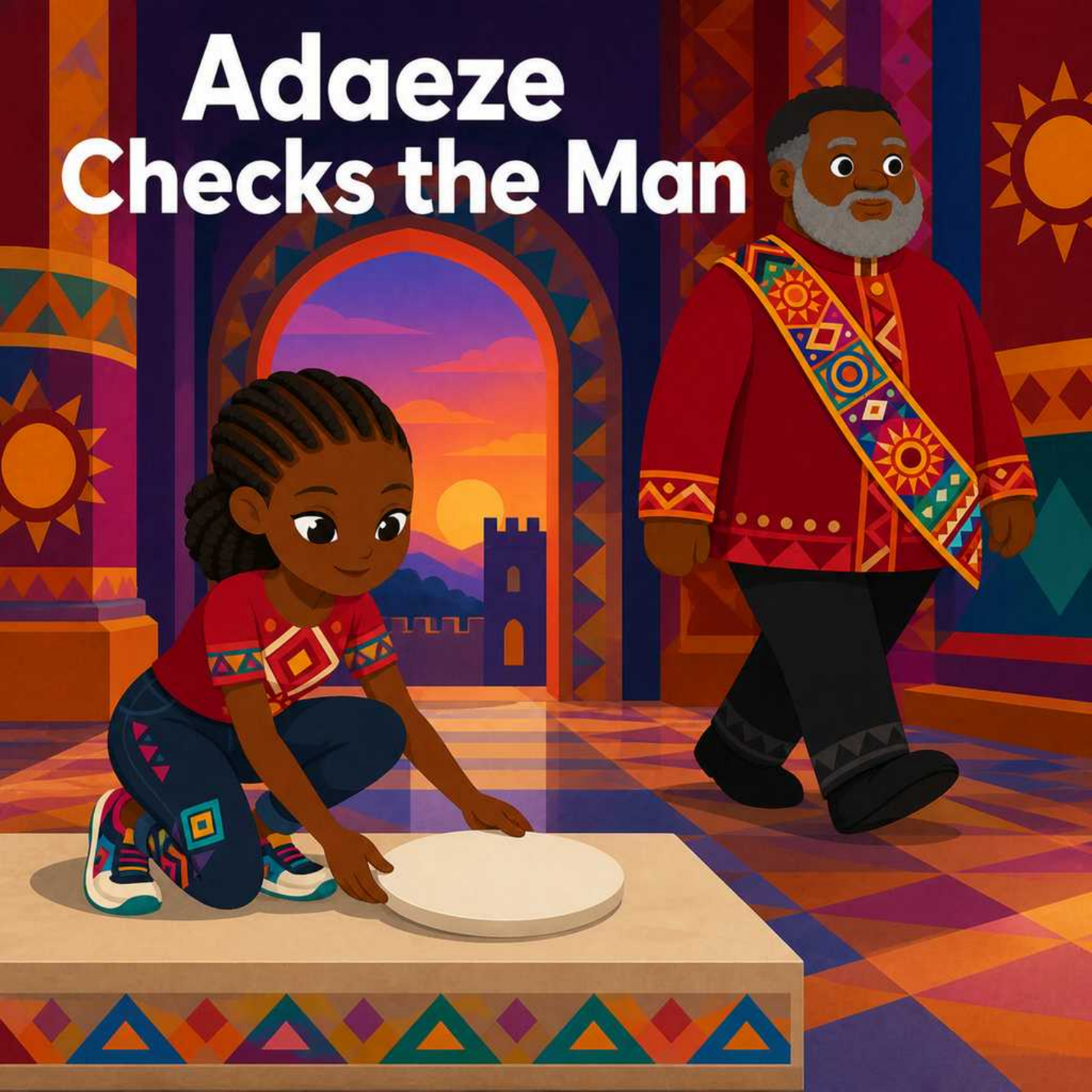


Adaeze Checks the Man



This is Adaeze. She
is the King's kid.

Adaeze stands by
the wide, still lake.
She looks, and she
thinks, and she
thinks.





A tall man visits the King. All grin at the tall man, and the King is glad.

But Adaeze thinks the man is odd. She will not trust him yet.

At dusk, Adaeze sits by the lake. A
wise friend, Mama Nhaji, hands
Adaeze a flat, white ash disc. 'Set it
where he must step,' she says.
'Then check it.'



Adaeze sets the
ash disc flat in
the hall. It is pale
like the slab, so it
is well hidden. The
man glides past
it. Swish, swish!





Adaeze checks
the ash disc. Two
long lines cross
it. It is a snake
track! Adaeze
must make a
plan, and quick.

Adaeze has a plan. 'In Oguta, we drip water on the hands,' she says. 'The hands must be flat and still.' The man just grins and nods.



Adaeze tips the glass
jug. Drip, drip! The
water spills on two
flat hands.

Then a hand shifts,
and black snake
scales shine on the
skin! All in the hall
gasp.





'It is a trick!' he yells. Adaeze lifts up the ash disc. 'Two long lines,' she says. 'A snake slid past!' Then the man begins to rise, up and up.

The man is a huge snake! All
run back, but Adaeze stands
still. 'I see the trick,' she says.



'I can not win,'
the snake hisses.
'I will go.' 'Go,'
says Adaeze,
'and do not glide
back.' She lifts
up the ash disc.





The snake slides
into the lake, and
then all is still.

Adaeze and the
King sit hand in
hand by the
water. Mama
Nnaji nods from
the plants.

At sunset, Adaeze sits by
the still lake. Many kids ask,
'What is the trick?' 'Look well,
and trust the facts,' says
Adaeze with a grin.





Adaeze Checks the Man

A tall man visits the king and asks for a girl's hand, and everyone but her is dazzled. She thinks he is odd and will not trust him yet, so a wise friend hands her a flat ash disc to set where he must step, but will the tracks it catches reveal the trick he is hiding? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 66: Closed & Open Syllables), this book practices words like 'hand', 'trust', 'check', 'track', 'still'.

Phonics Focus: Closed & Open Syllables

and, ash, ask, at, back, be, begin, black, but, can, check, cross, disc, drip, dusk, facts, flat, from, gasp, glad, go, grin, hall, hand, has, he, hidden, him, in, is, it, jug, just, kid, kids, king, lake, lift, long, make, man, must, not, odd, on, past, plan, plant, quick, run, set, she, shifts, sit, skin, slab, slid, so, spills, stands, still, sunset, swish, tall, then, thinks, this, tip, track, trick, trust, up, visit, we, well, what, will, win, with, yell, yet

Bookbot is not endorsed by or affiliated with UFLI (the University of Florida Literacy Institute) or Jolly Learning Ltd. UFLI Foundations and Jolly Phonics are trademarks of their respective owners.

Learn to read with confidence

The Bookbot app and its carefully designed decodable books help children practise the sounds and words they are learning, building strong phonics and reading skills one step at a time. In the app, children can listen to stories read aloud, follow highlighted words as they are spoken, and read independently when they are ready. Together, the decodable books and oral reading support help develop accuracy, fluency, confidence and a love of reading. Learn more at www.bookbotkids.com.

