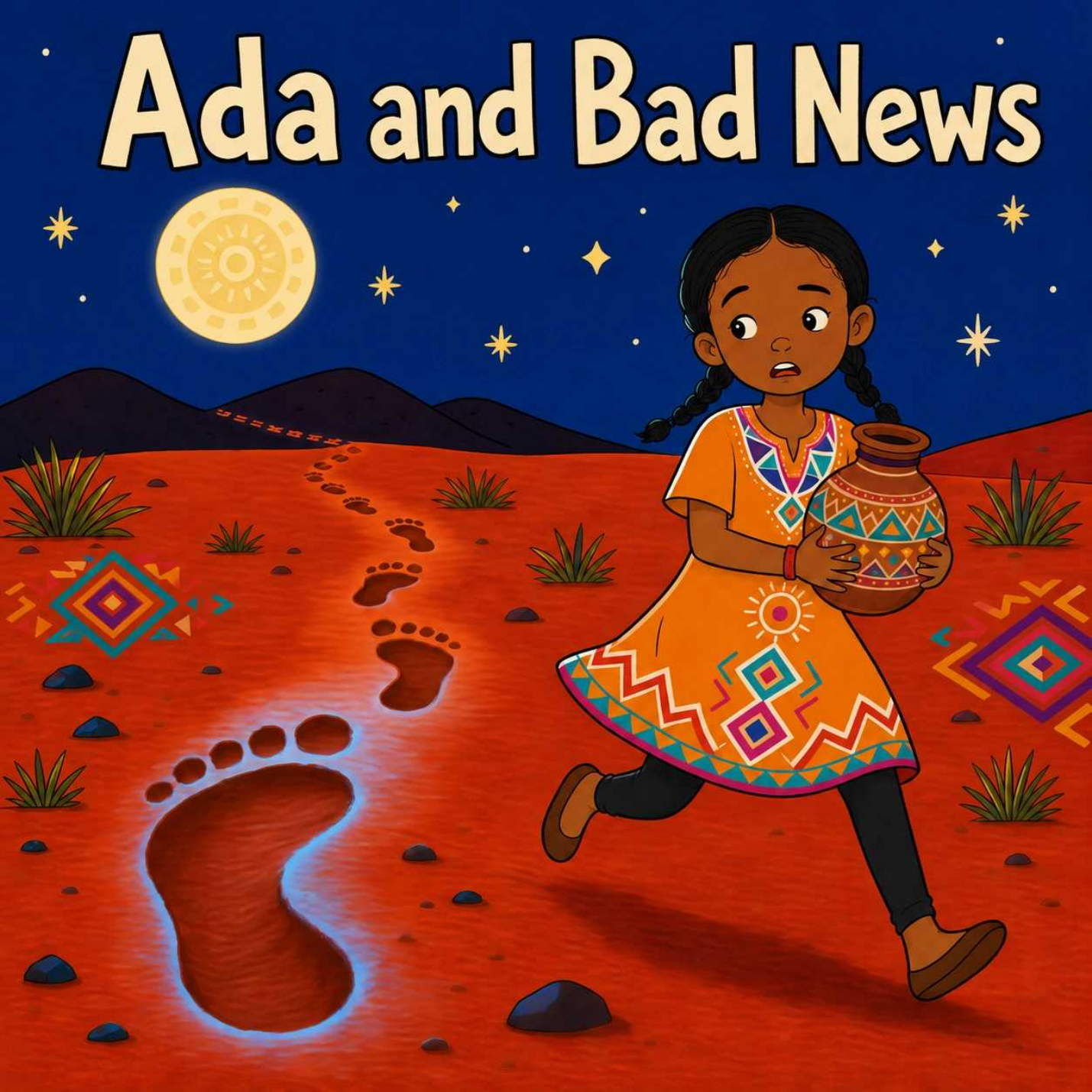
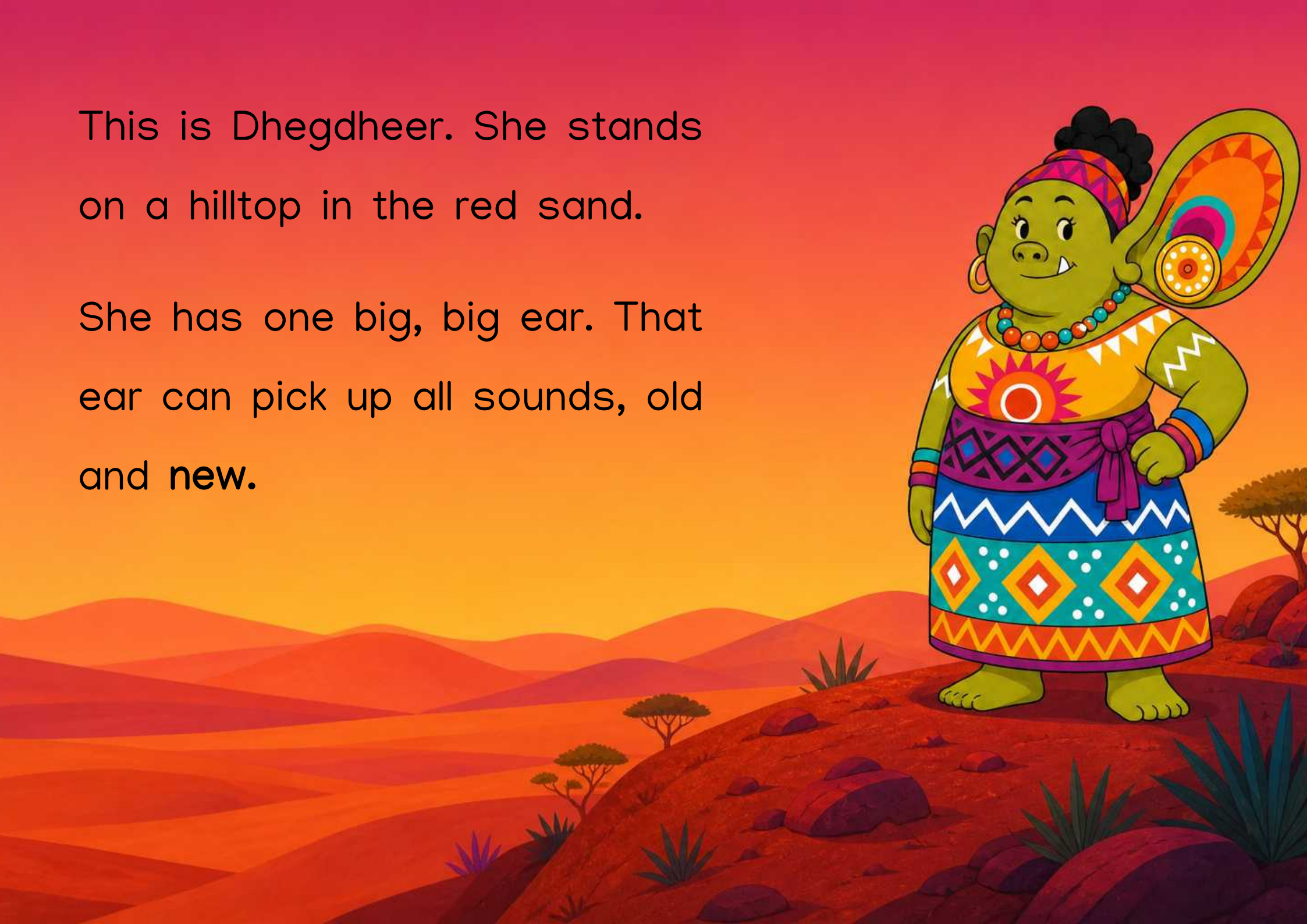
Ada and Bad News



This is Dhegdheer. She stands on a hilltop in the red sand.

She has one big, big ear. That ear can pick up all sounds, old and **new.**



This is Ada. Ada's mum is not back.

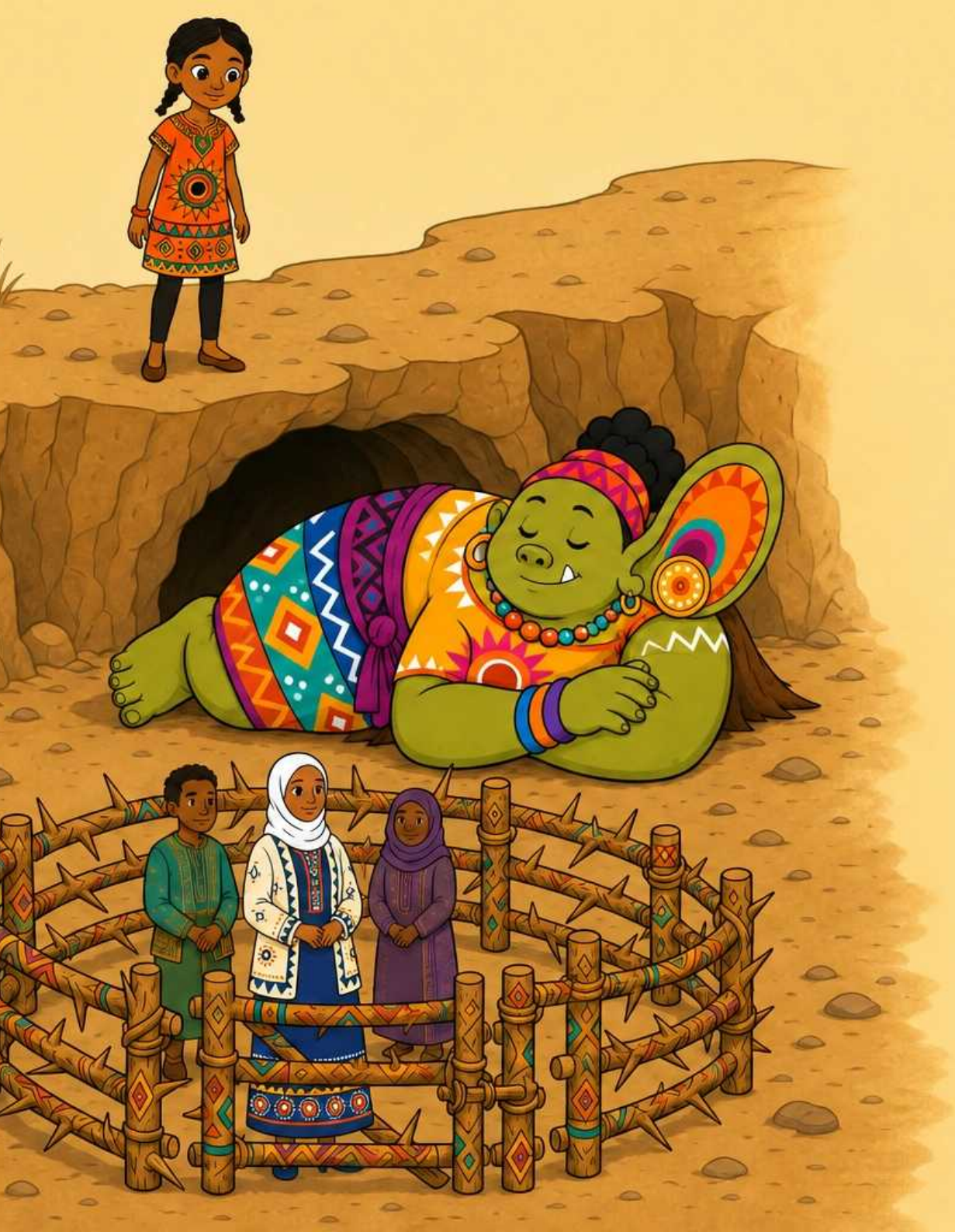
Ada looks and looks. She spots a big footprint in the sand. This is bad **news**!

Ada brings the sad **news** to old Nuur.

'Take this pod, Ada,' he says. 'The pod can make a sound and trick Dhegdheer.'

Ada ties the pod to her wrist and tracks the big footprints.

A **few** steps in, she stops and thinks. All her steps ring out loud on this vast, pale pan.

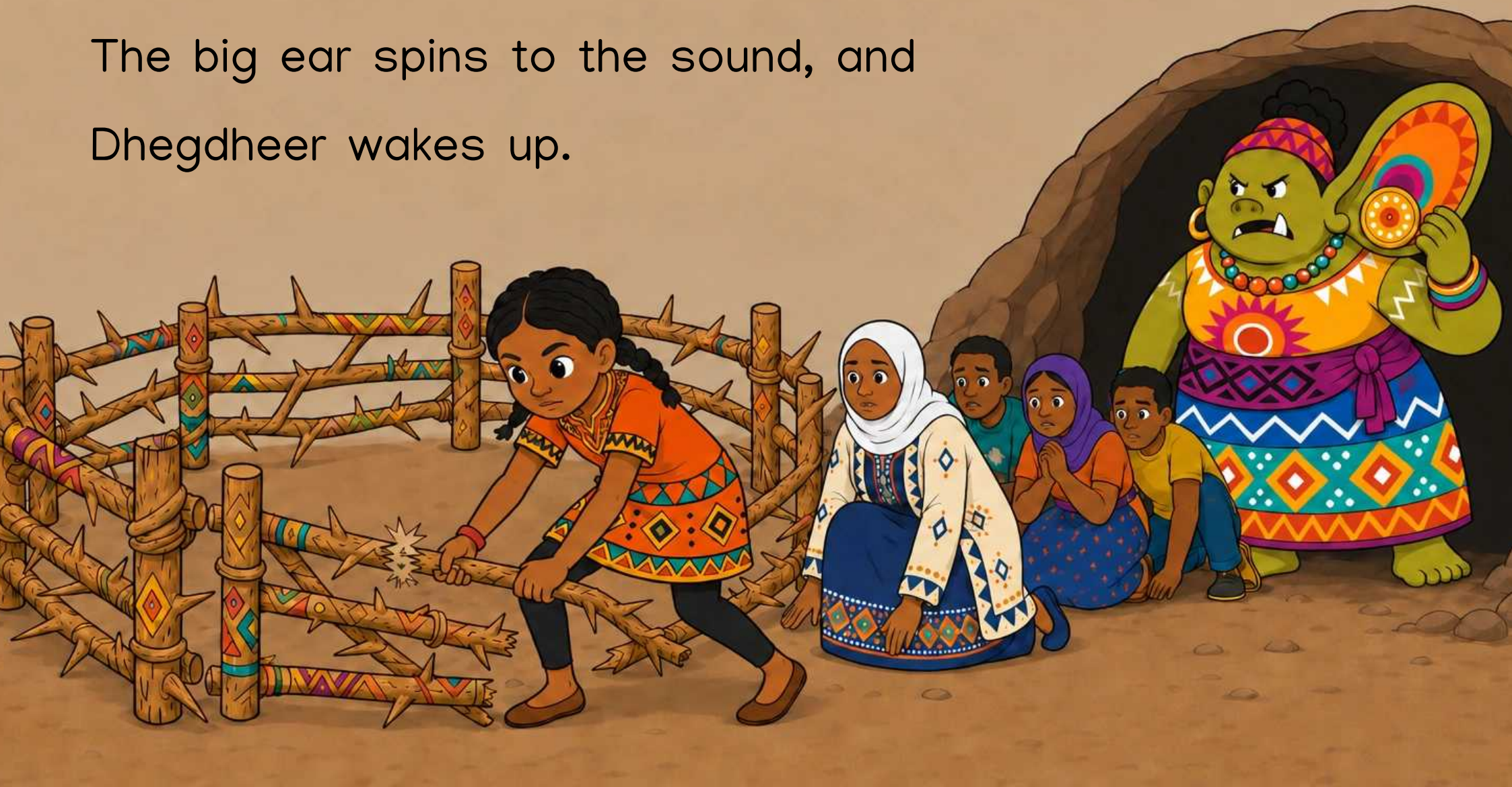


Ada peeps down at the cave. A **few** men, mums and kids sit in a thorn pen, and Ada's mum is there!

Dhegdheer sleeps by the cave. Her big ear is still.

Ada creeps down and tugs at a thorn branch. It hangs **askew,** then... crack!

The big ear spins to the sound, and Dhegdheer wakes up.



Ada runs, but Dhegdheer chases her. The big ear locks on to her feet.

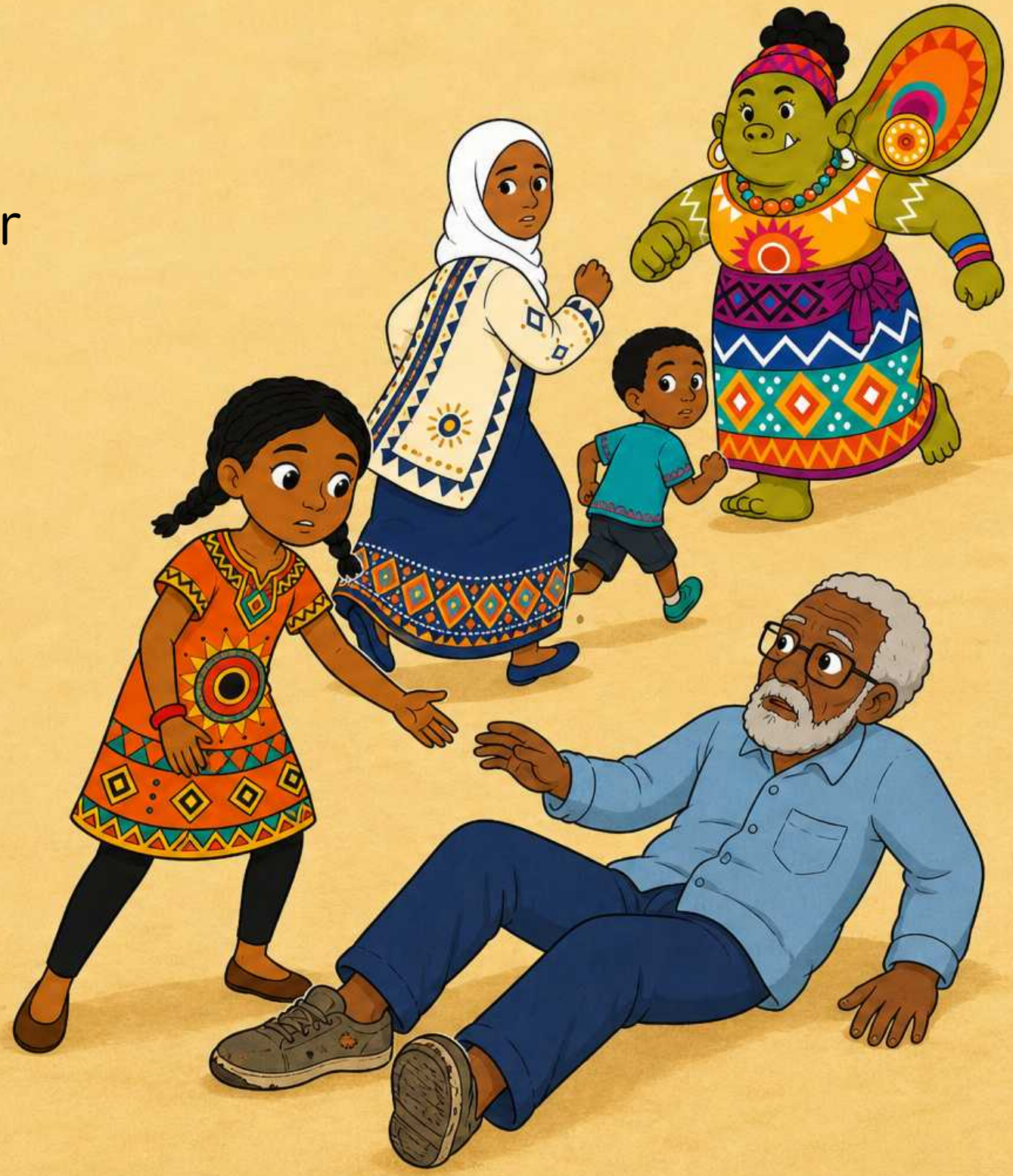
Ada can not flee fast on soft sand, so she thinks up a **shrewd** plan.

Ada gets to the flat pan. She stops and throws the pod far. Clack, clack! It hops on the crust, and the sound skews far left.

The big ear spins left, and Dhegdheer chases the sound, not Ada.

Ada sprints back and rips a gap in the pen. 'Come quick, and keep soft feet!' she calls. She grabs her mum's hand, and they all creep out in the **dewy** dark.

A big howl splits the night. Dhegdheer has the pod. It is a trick! Her ear hunts **anew,** and she comes back fast. An old man trips and drops down in the sand.



Ada drags the old man to the flat pan. She stamps and stamps, and the din rings out on all sides. Dhegdheer grabs her ear and howls in pain. She flees far to the dark hills.

All get home safe. Ada's mum **brews** hot tea, and old Nuur comes to sit and drink with them. 'What a **shrewd** kid!' he says with a grin, and the **news** zooms far and wide.

UE EW U_E

Ada and Bad News

Ada's mother never came back from the well, just an empty jug and one enormous footprint in the sand. Everyone fears Dhegdheer's giant ear, which hears every sound for miles. Can a quick-thinking girl outwit an ogress who never misses a footstep? Written for Jolly Phonics classrooms (Step 2, Unit 12: ue, ew, u_e as in glue, new, cube), this book practises words like 'news', 'few', 'shrewd', 'askew', 'dewy'.

Phonics Focus: <ue> <ew> <u_e>

anew, askew, brews, dewy, few, new, news, shrewd, skew

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