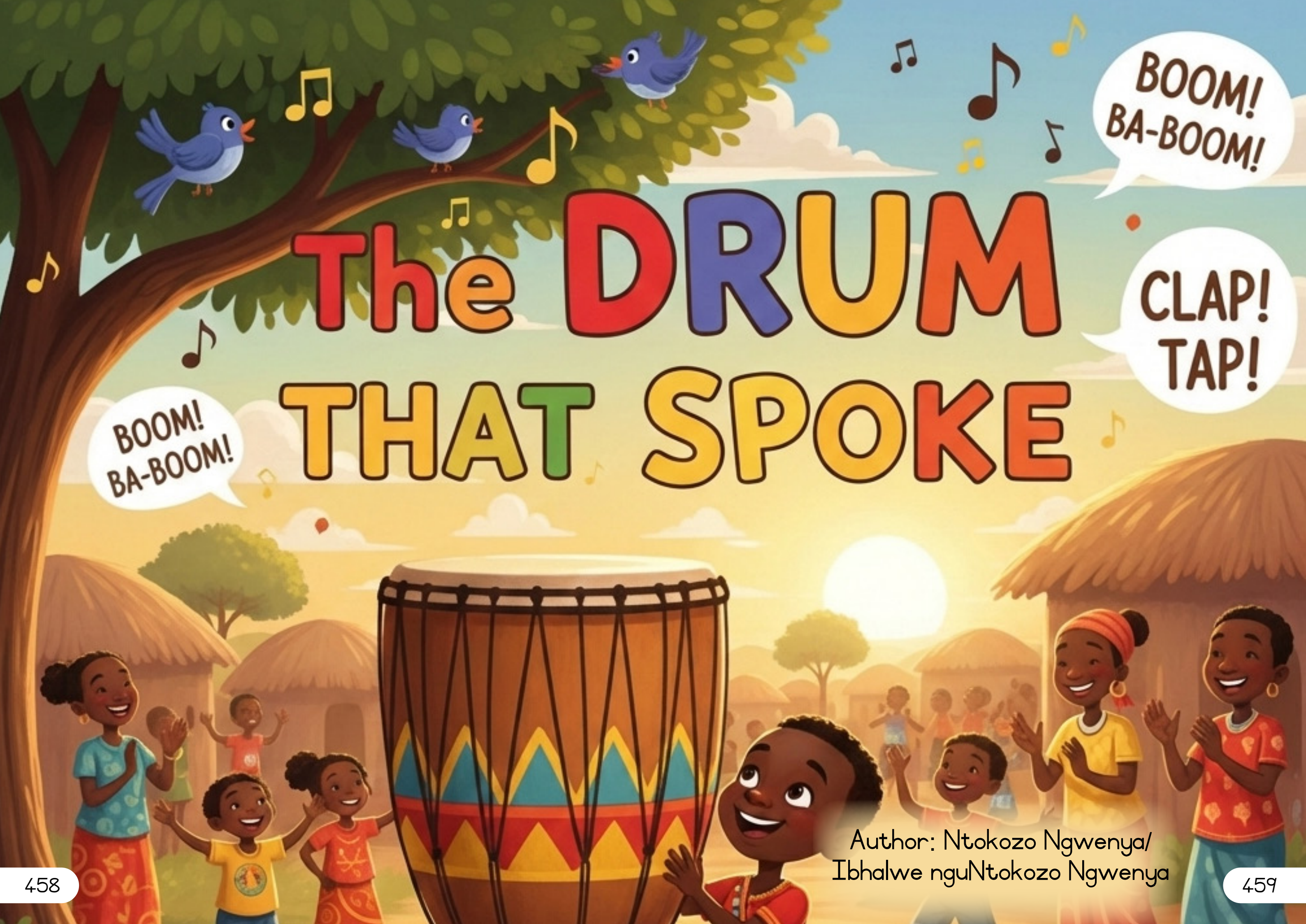




The DRUM THAT SPOKE

BOOM!
BA-BOOM!

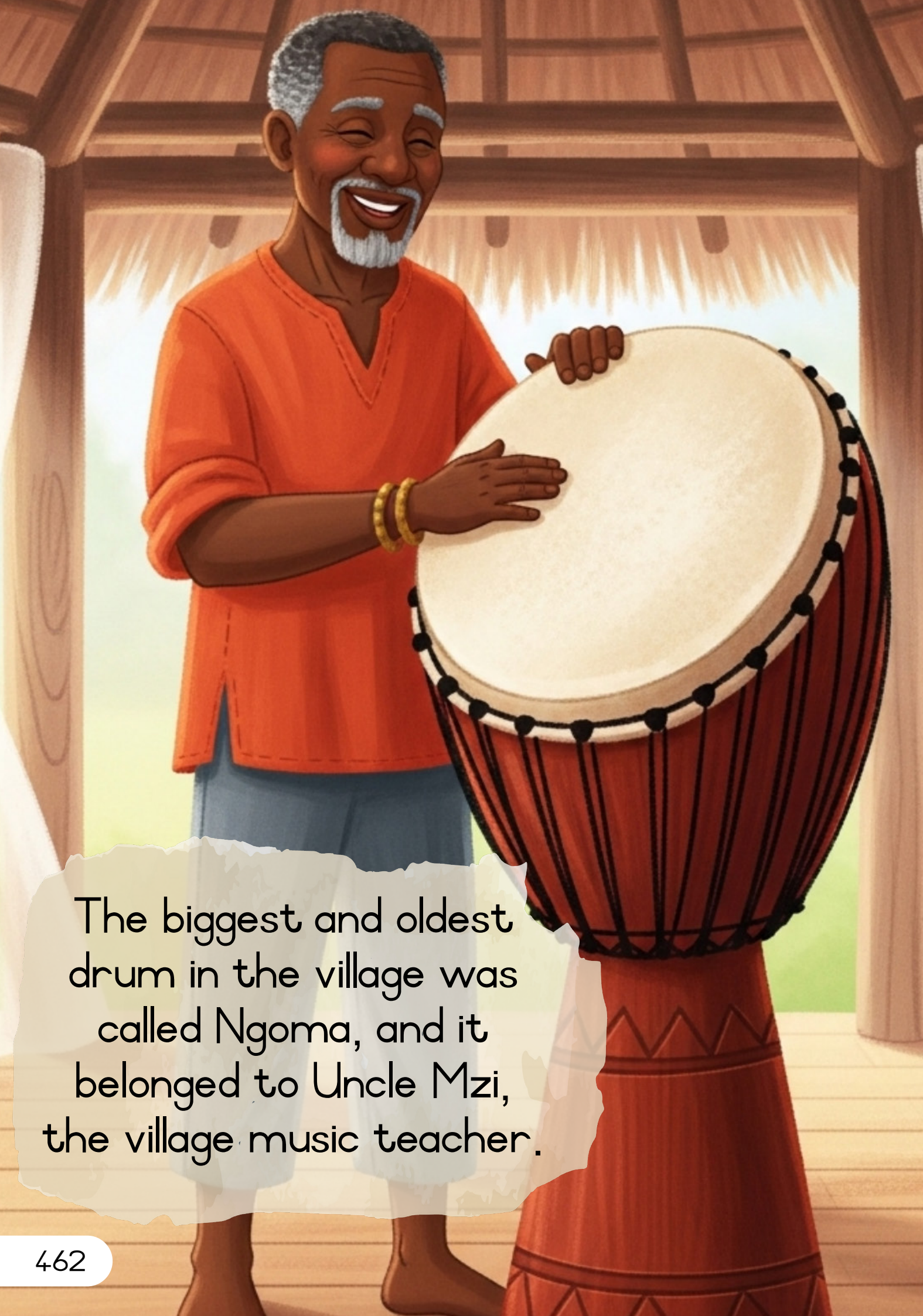
BOOM!
BA-BOOM!

CLAP!
TAP!

Author: Ntokozo Ngwenya/
Ibhalwe nguNtokozo Ngwenya

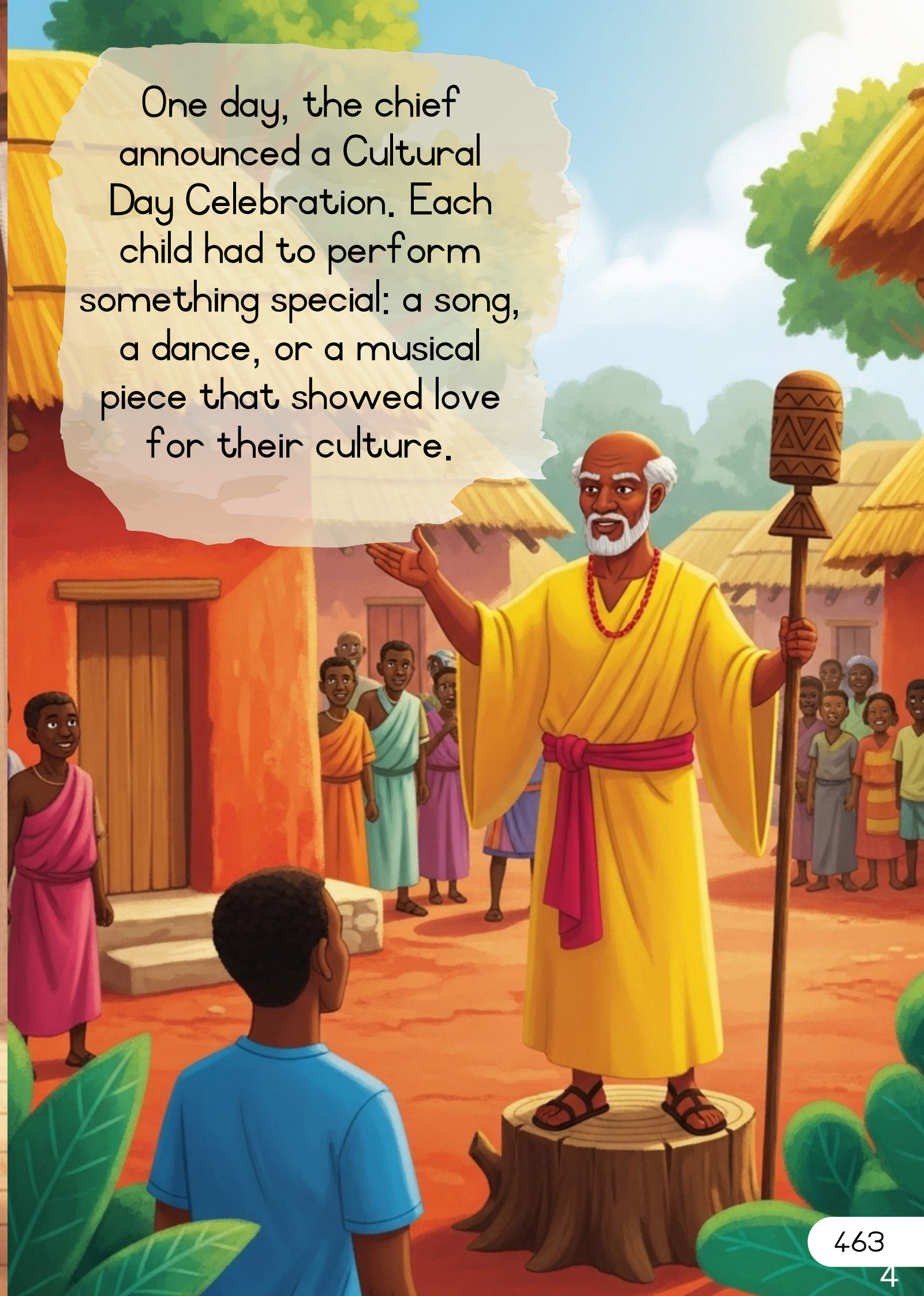
In the lively village of Emthonjeni, everyone loved music. Every evening, children played, birds sang, and the sound of drums filled the air.





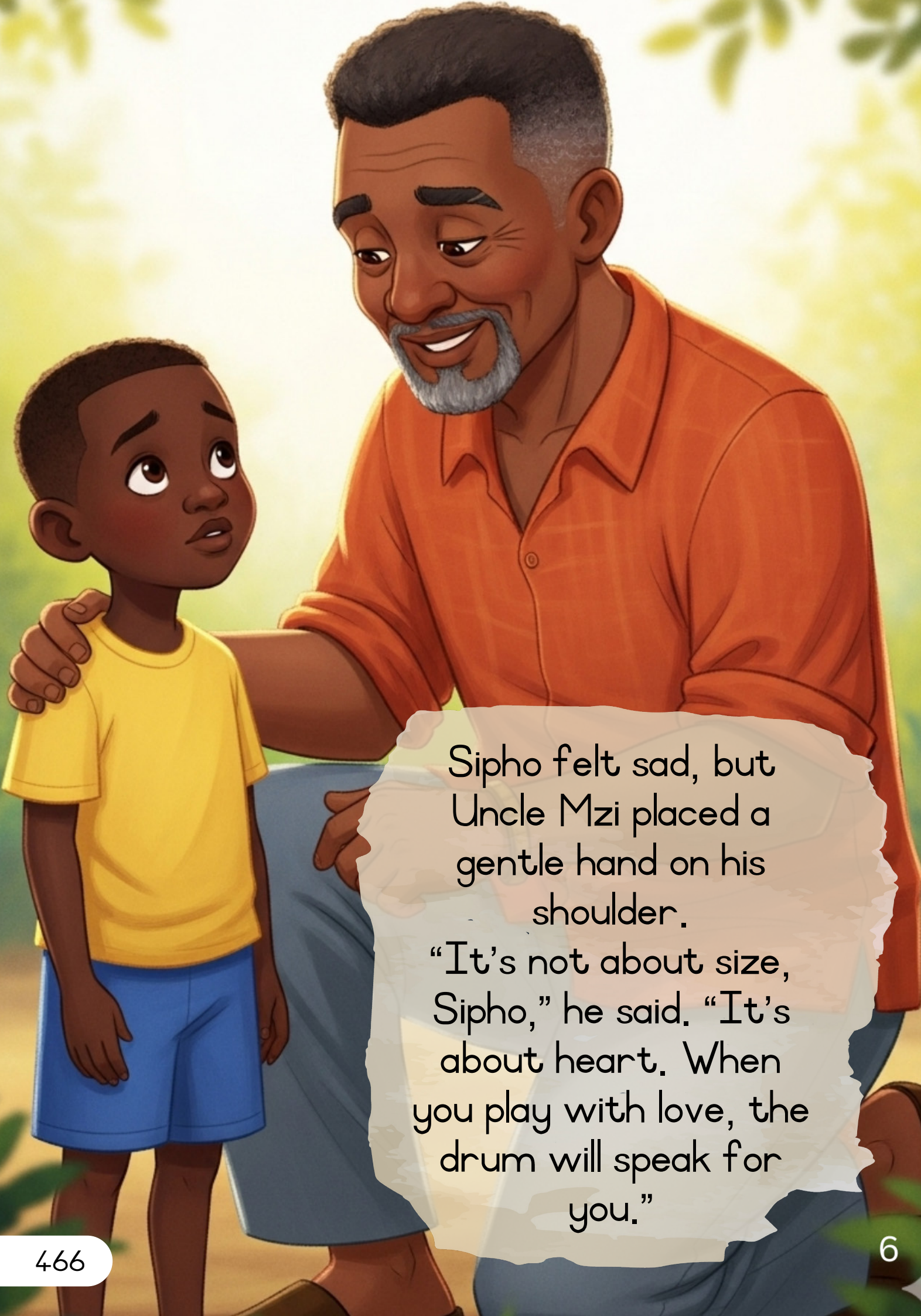
The biggest and oldest drum in the village was called Ngoma, and it belonged to Uncle Mzi, the village music teacher.

One day, the chief announced a Cultural Day Celebration. Each child had to perform something special: a song, a dance, or a musical piece that showed love for their culture.



Little Sipho, who was only six years old, wanted to play Ngoma. But everyone laughed. "You're too small," they said. "That drum is bigger than you!"





Siphon felt sad, but Uncle Mzi placed a gentle hand on his shoulder.

“It’s not about size, Siphon,” he said. “It’s about heart. When you play with love, the drum will speak for you.”

Every day after school, Siphon practiced quietly. He listened to the rhythm of the rain, the whisper of the wind, and even the beat of his own heartbeat. Shhh-shhh!



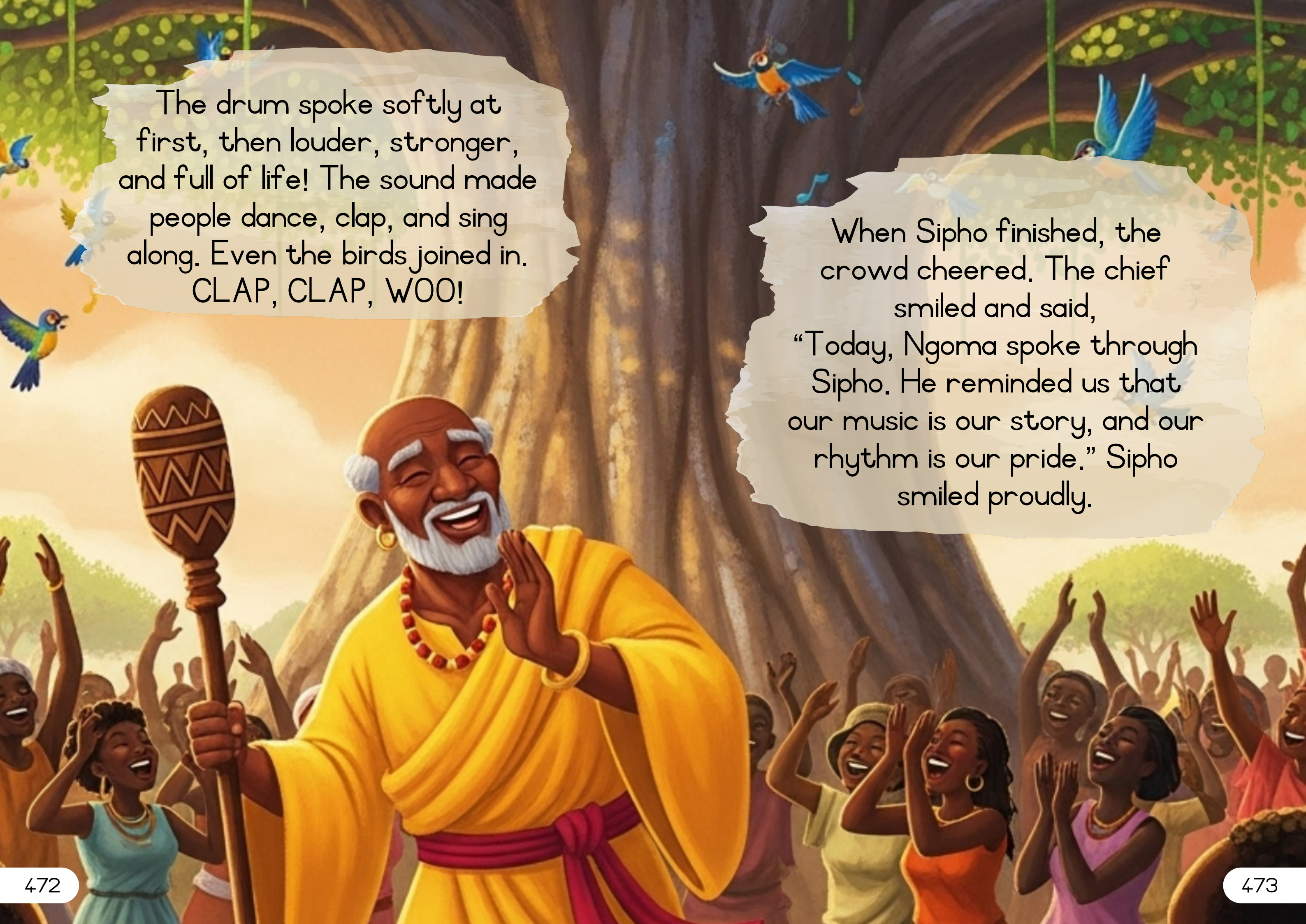
A young boy with dark skin and short hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt, is playing a large, round ngoma drum. The drum has a white head and a black frame decorated with red beads. He is smiling and looking towards the drum. The background is a vibrant orange and red with radiating lines. A speech bubble in the top right corner contains text.

Soon, Ngoma began
to make warm, deep
sounds. Boom, boom,
ba-boom!

On the day of the celebration, everyone gathered under the big tree.

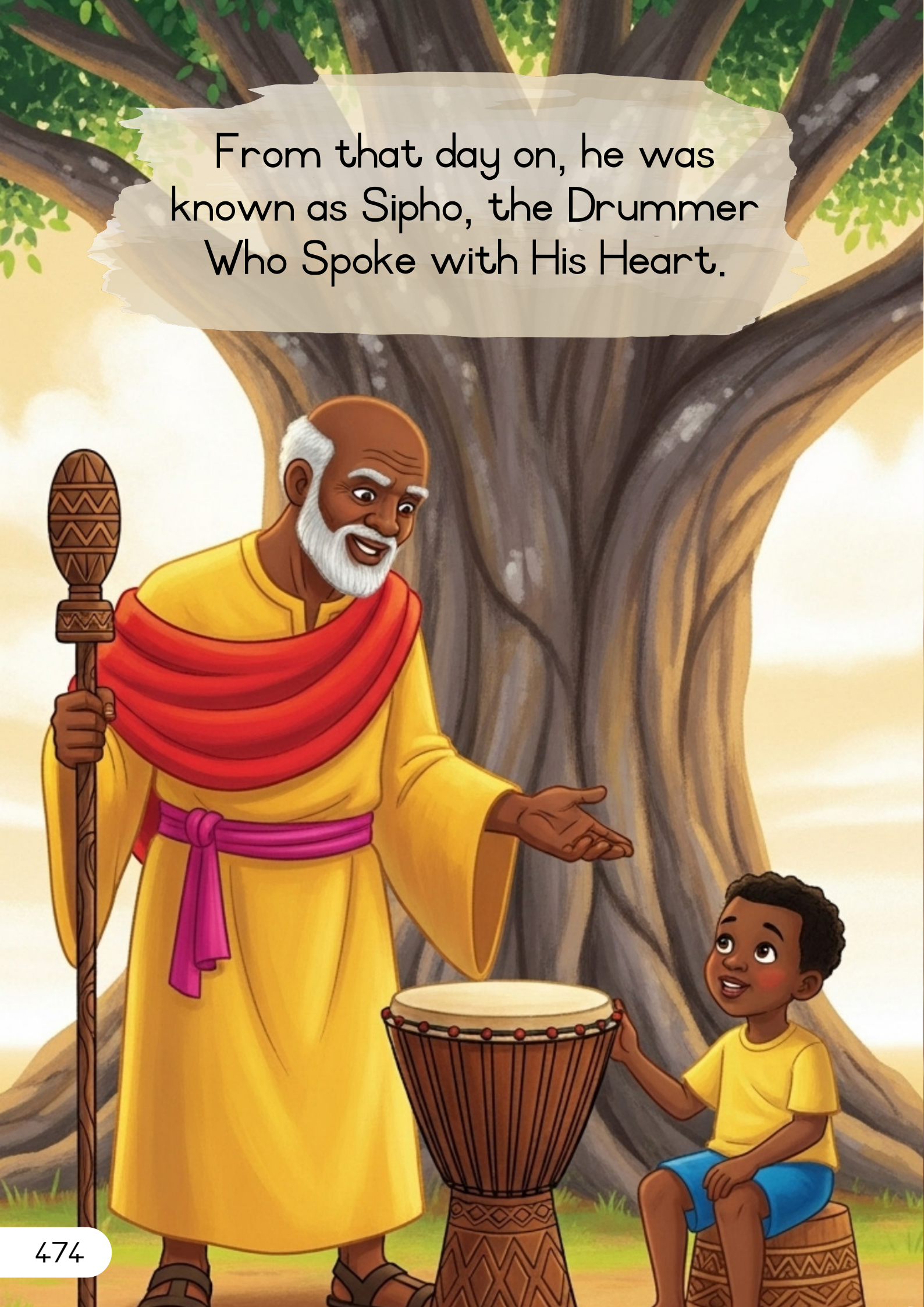
Sipho sat in front of Ngoma. His hands trembled at first, but then he remembered Uncle Mzi's words. He took a deep breath and began to play.





The drum spoke softly at first, then louder, stronger, and full of life! The sound made people dance, clap, and sing along. Even the birds joined in. CLAP, CLAP, WOO!

When Sipho finished, the crowd cheered. The chief smiled and said, "Today, Ngoma spoke through Sipho. He reminded us that our music is our story, and our rhythm is our pride." Sipho smiled proudly.



From that day on, he was known as Sipho, the Drummer Who Spoke with His Heart.



You are never too small to create something big. Music and art connect us all through love, courage, and tradition.