



NOPIΓΓΔ ΙΓΓΙΡ ΓΕΡΙΟΥΡ

This is how we read Nubian

a Nubian alphabet book by Hatim Eujayl



Taras Press

This book is dedicated to all of its first readers: family members and friends who provided suggestions and encouragement from the book's inception to its completion. A special thanks goes to Hafiz, Aman, Kylie, Emily, and Vincent, the five people I probably pestered the most.

But even more importantly, this book is dedicated to the Nubians of the past and the present, whose heritage continues to form the core of my work.

I hope you will accept this book as a small token of my appreciation.

A NOTE ON THE TITLE

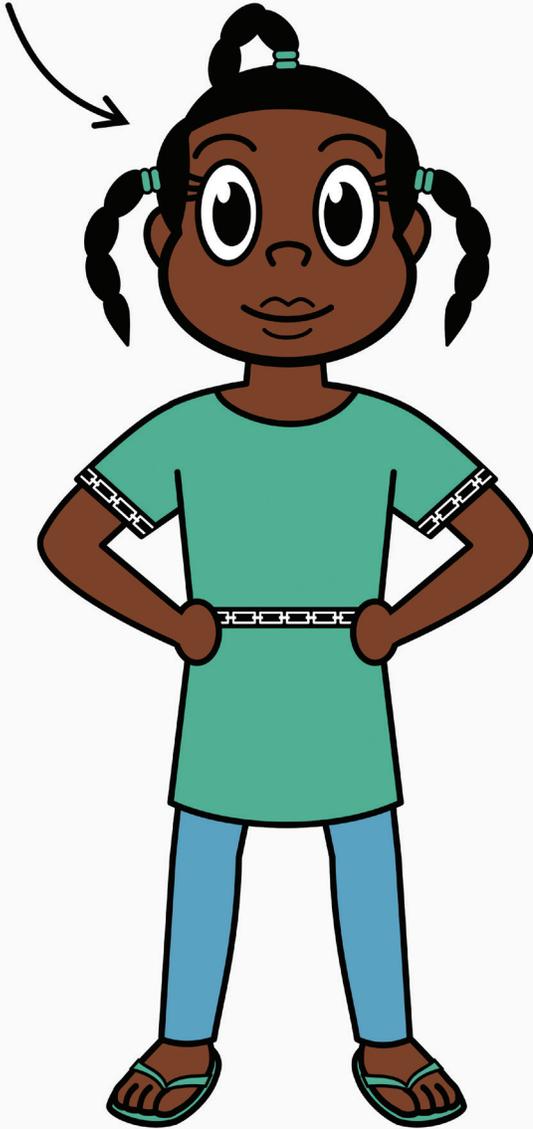
This book's subtitle - "this is how we read Nubian" - is a direct reference to Dr. Mukhtar Khalil Kabbara's seminal work on the Nubian alphabet, "ΝΟΠ̄ΙΝ-ΕΔ ΣΙΚ-ΚΙΡ Φ̄Δ̄ϊ-ΩΔ?" Published in 1997, Dr. Kabbara's book heralded a new era of Nubian literacy, simplifying the Old Nubian alphabet and laying the foundation for modern Nubian orthography. This book seeks to build on the work of Dr. Kabbara, his contemporaries, and all of his successors, without whom this book definitely wouldn't exist.

-Hatim

ΟΝΤΑΚΙΡΑΓΟΎΕΙΕ...

Listen, beloved...

This is Appa.



And this is her little brother, Khalil.



Appa and Khalil love each other.



Appa and Khalil also love mysteries.

And to Appa and Khalil, nothing was more mysterious than the cave outside their village.



All the adults told Appa and Khalil never to go there.



But Appa and Khalil weren't very good listeners.

So one night, the two kids snuck away to see the cave.



And what did they find?

Paintings of people.



Some were dancing...



Some wore crowns...



And some were dressed just like Khalil!

What they also found were symbols.



Lots and lots of symbols.



"What are these?"



"Who made these?"



And why hasn't anyone told us about these?

Suddenly, one of the paintings began to glow...

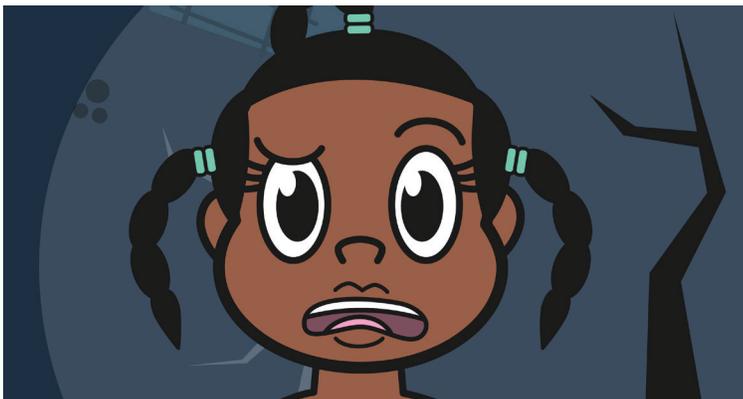


And then....

A man emerged from the painting.



Rejoice, my grandchildren.
I am Yosefi, the Great Suntuwe.



"Suntuwe?
What's a Suntuwe?"



"Someone whose job it is to write!"



"Write what?"



"This!"



"And what is that? English?"



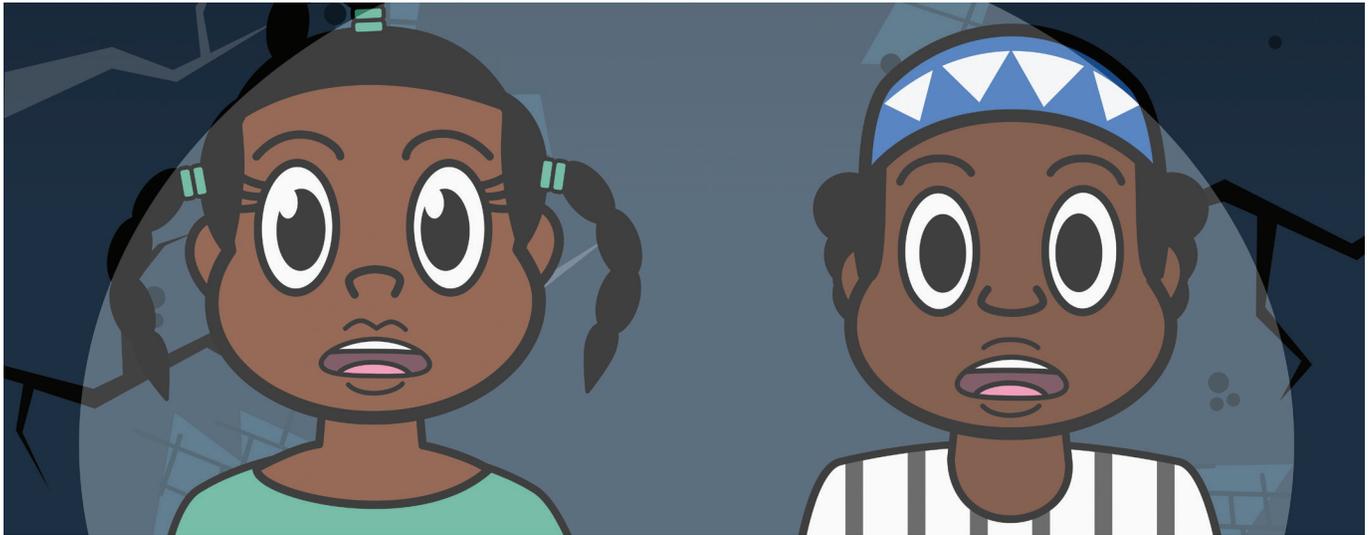
"No!"



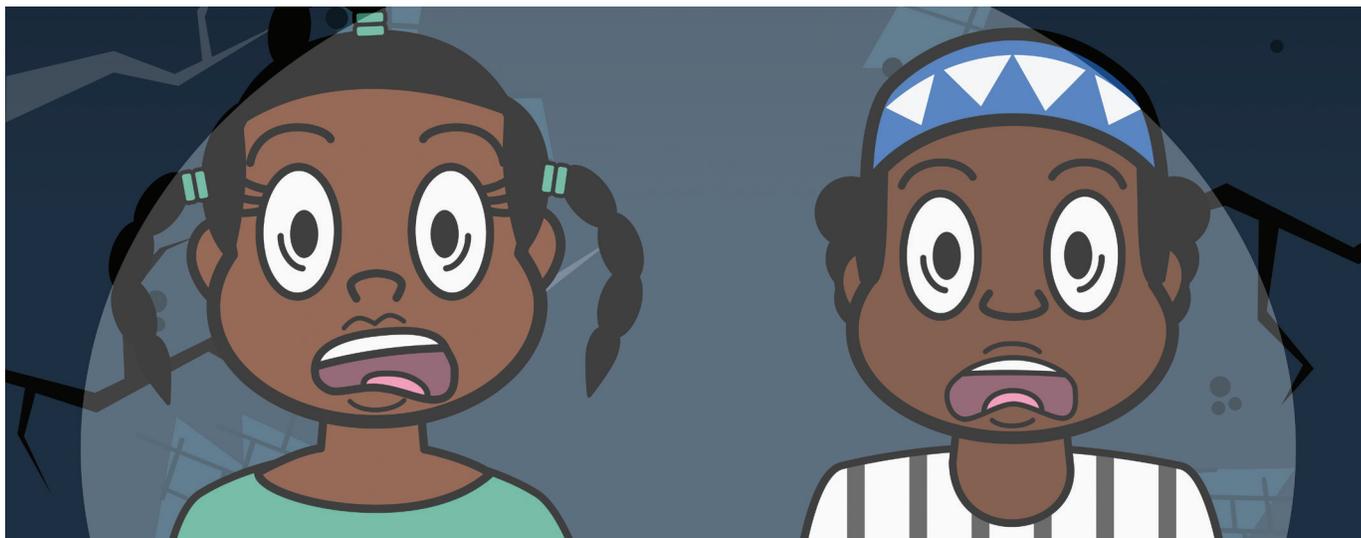
"Is it Arabic?"



"Of course not!"



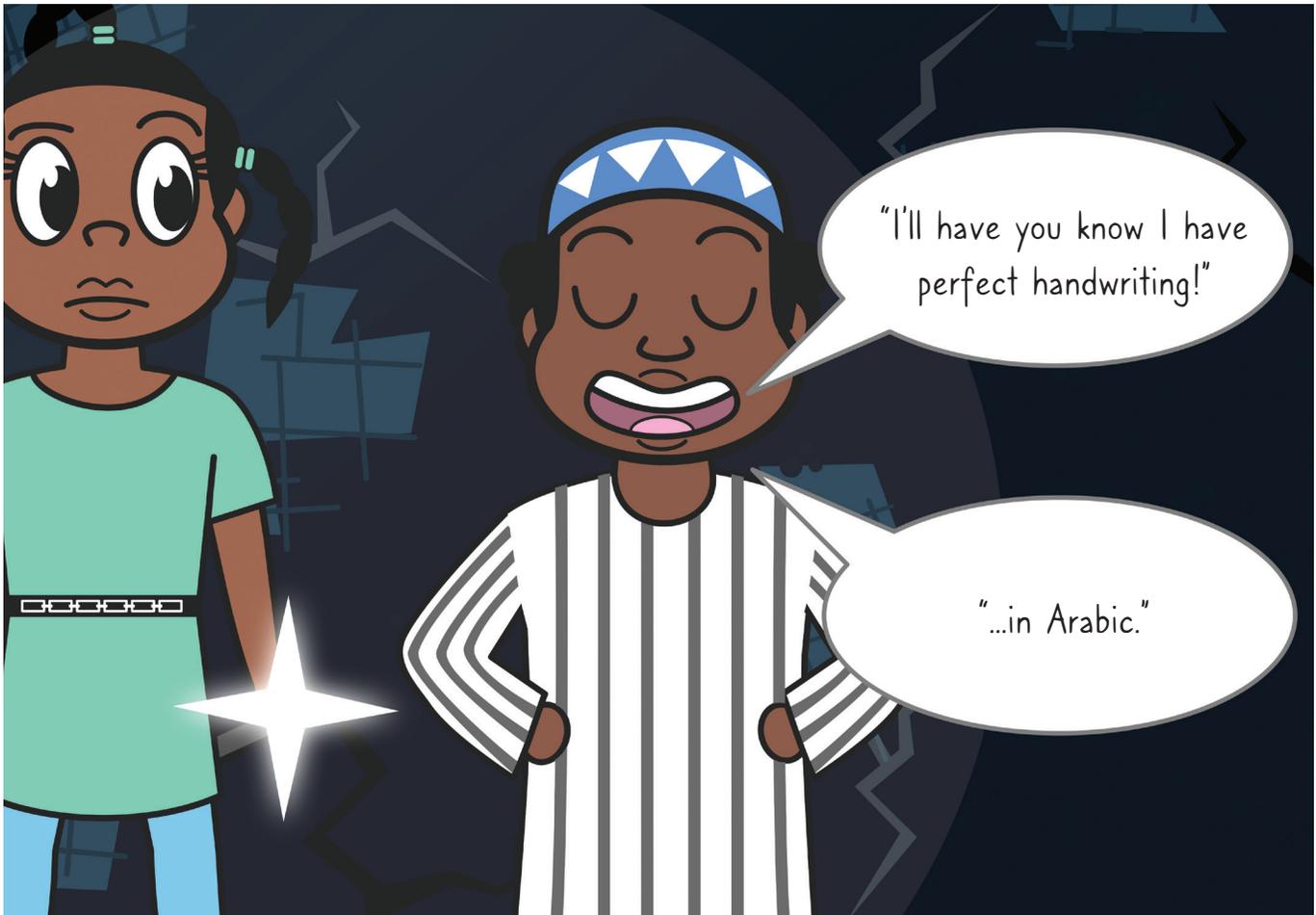
"Wait..."



"It's Nubian?!"



"Please don't tell me my people
have forgotten how to write."

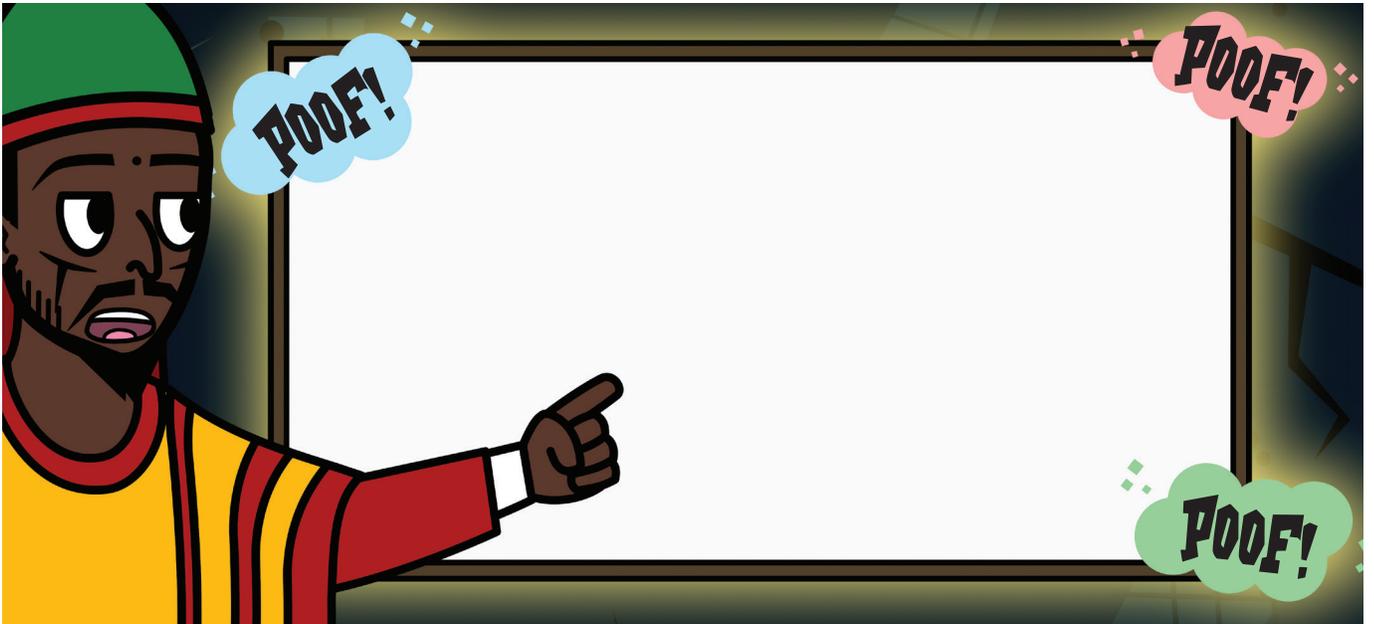


"I'll have you know I have
perfect handwriting!"

"...in Arabic."



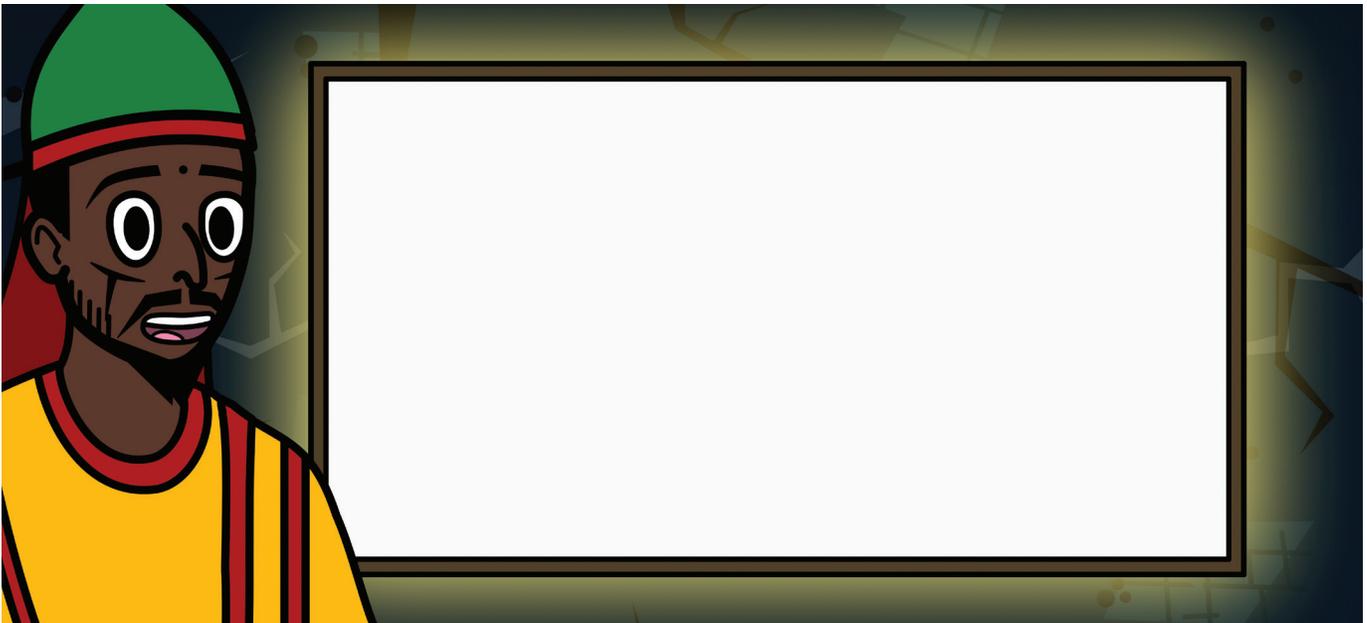
"That's it."



"You two need to learn how to write Nubian."

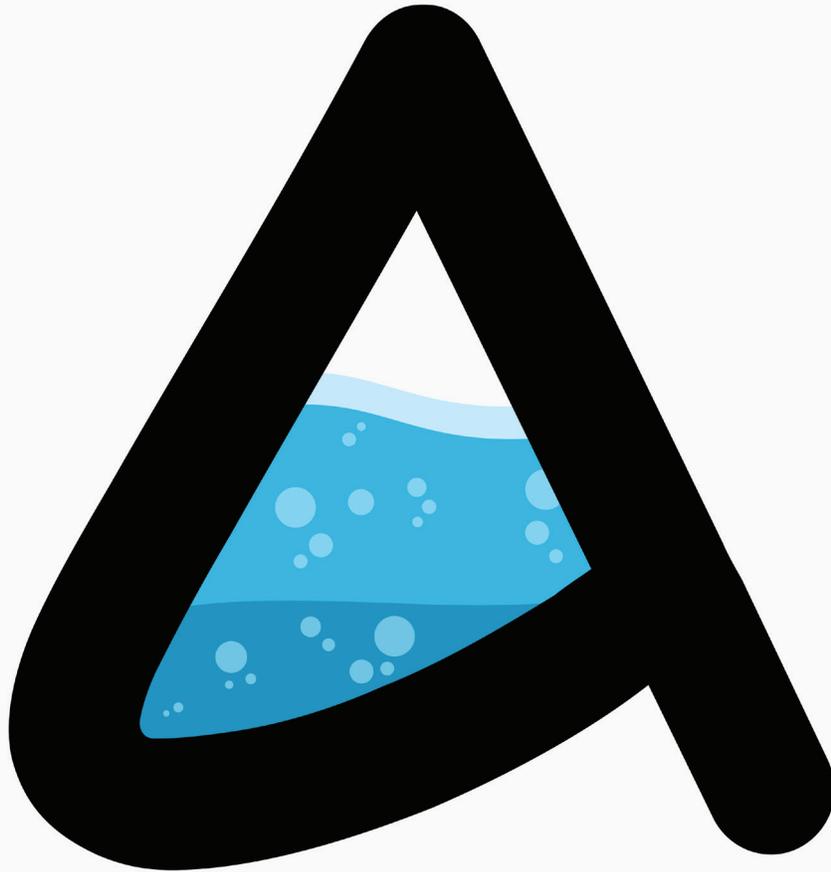


"Is it hard?"



"Not at all! Let's get started, shall we?"

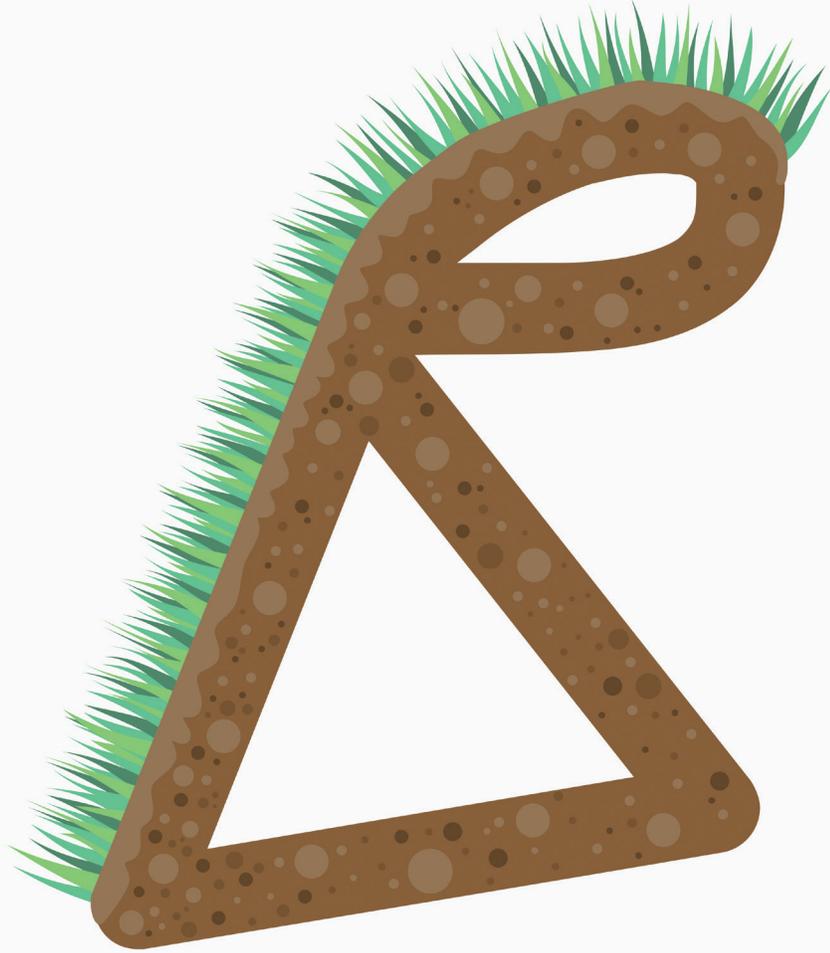
ALFA



Alfa is for **AMAN** ("aman"), which means "water."



BĪTA



Bīta is for **βουνδι** ("bundi"), which means "grass."



G A M M A



Gamma is for **ΓΑΣΤΙ** ("gasti"), which means "smoke."



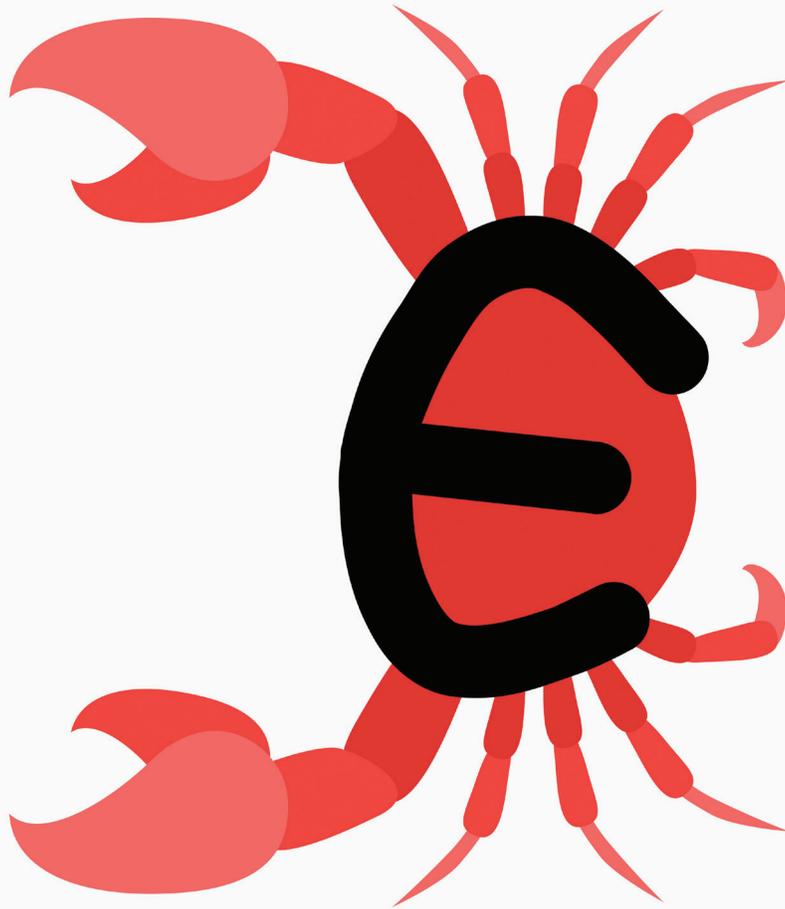
DELTA



Delta is for Δ *darīra* ("darīra"), which means "butterfly."



EPSILON



Epsilon is for **εCCIN εḶḶIN** ("essin echīn"), which means "crab."



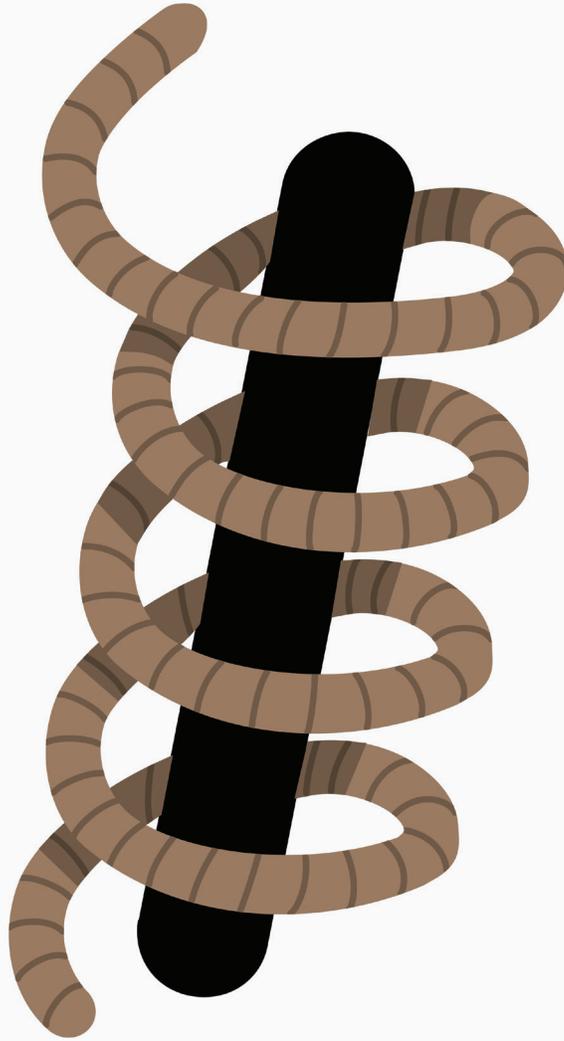
ZĪTA



Zīta is for **ز**INNI ("zinni"), which means "bee."



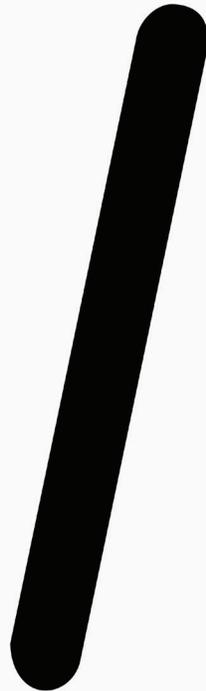
YŌTA



Yōta is for *ipi* ("iri"), which means "rope."



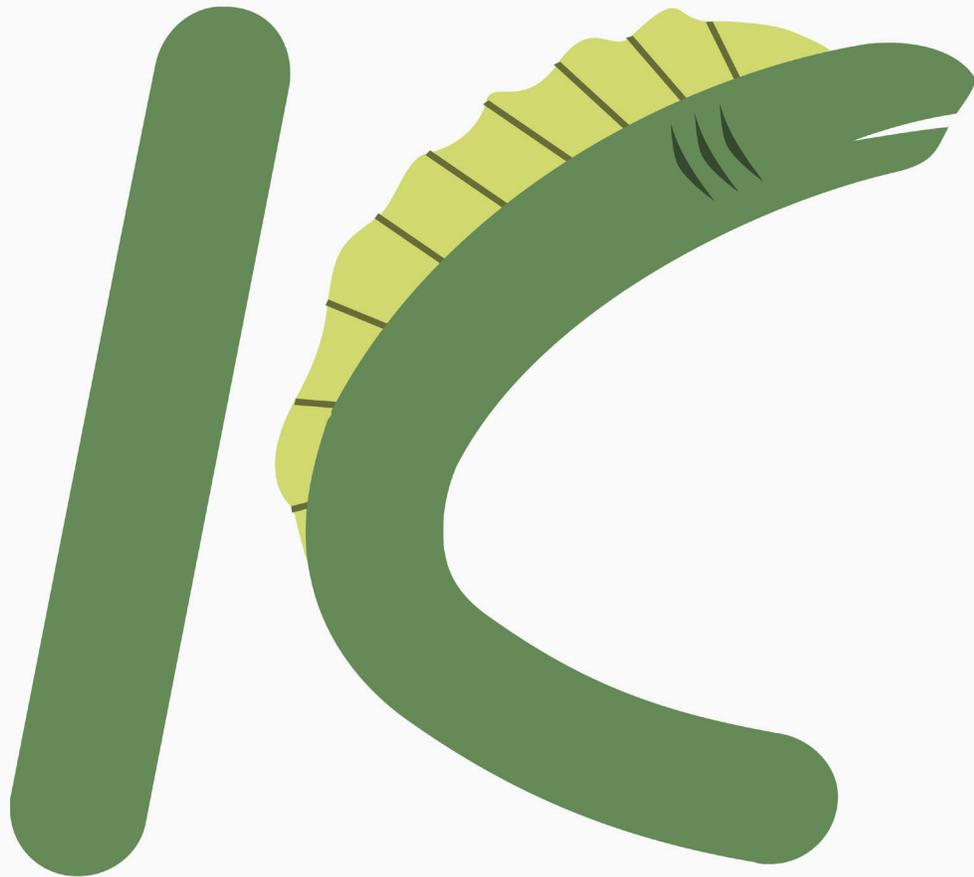
YŌTA NASSI



Yōta nassi is for **ōjē** ("ōyē"), which means "fruit."



KAPPA



Kappa is for **εCCIN KĀΓ** ("essin kāg"), which means "eel."



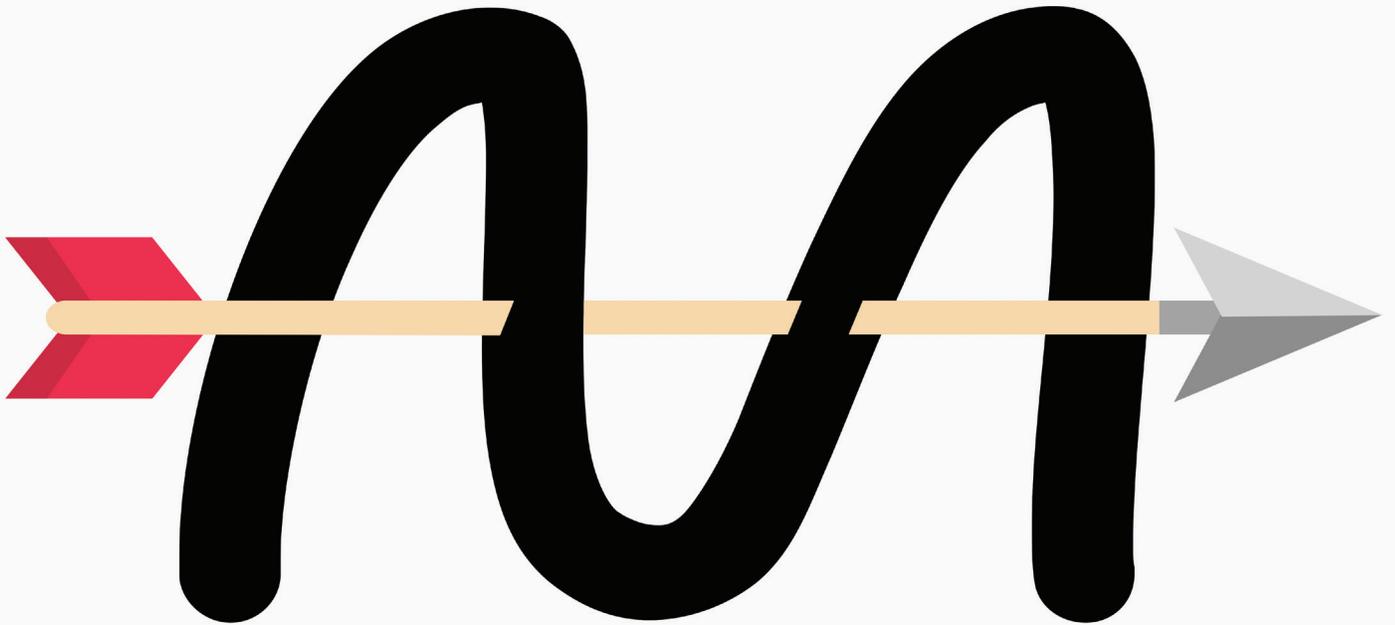
LĀMDA



Lāmda is for **मॊुलॆ** ("mulē"), which means "mountain."



Mī



Mī is for *mirī* ("mirī"), which means "arrow."



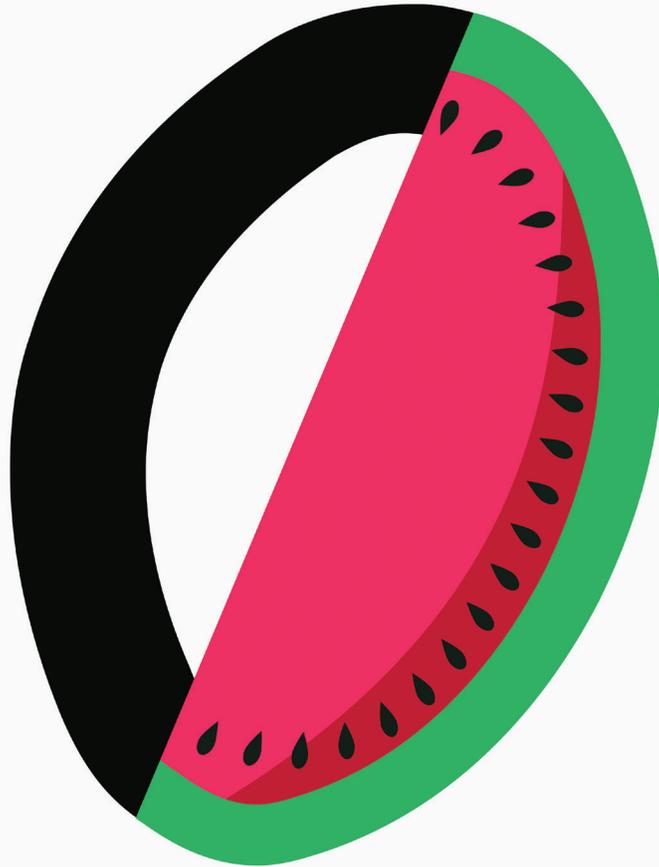
Nī



Nī is for **नाब** ("nab"), which means "gold."



O M I K R O N



Omikron is for $\delta\omicron\delta\omicron\rho\iota\bar{\nu}$ ("j \omicron bor ι n"), which means "watermelon."



OMIKRON-UPSILON



Omikron-upsilon is for *ουρσε* ("urse"), which means "roots."



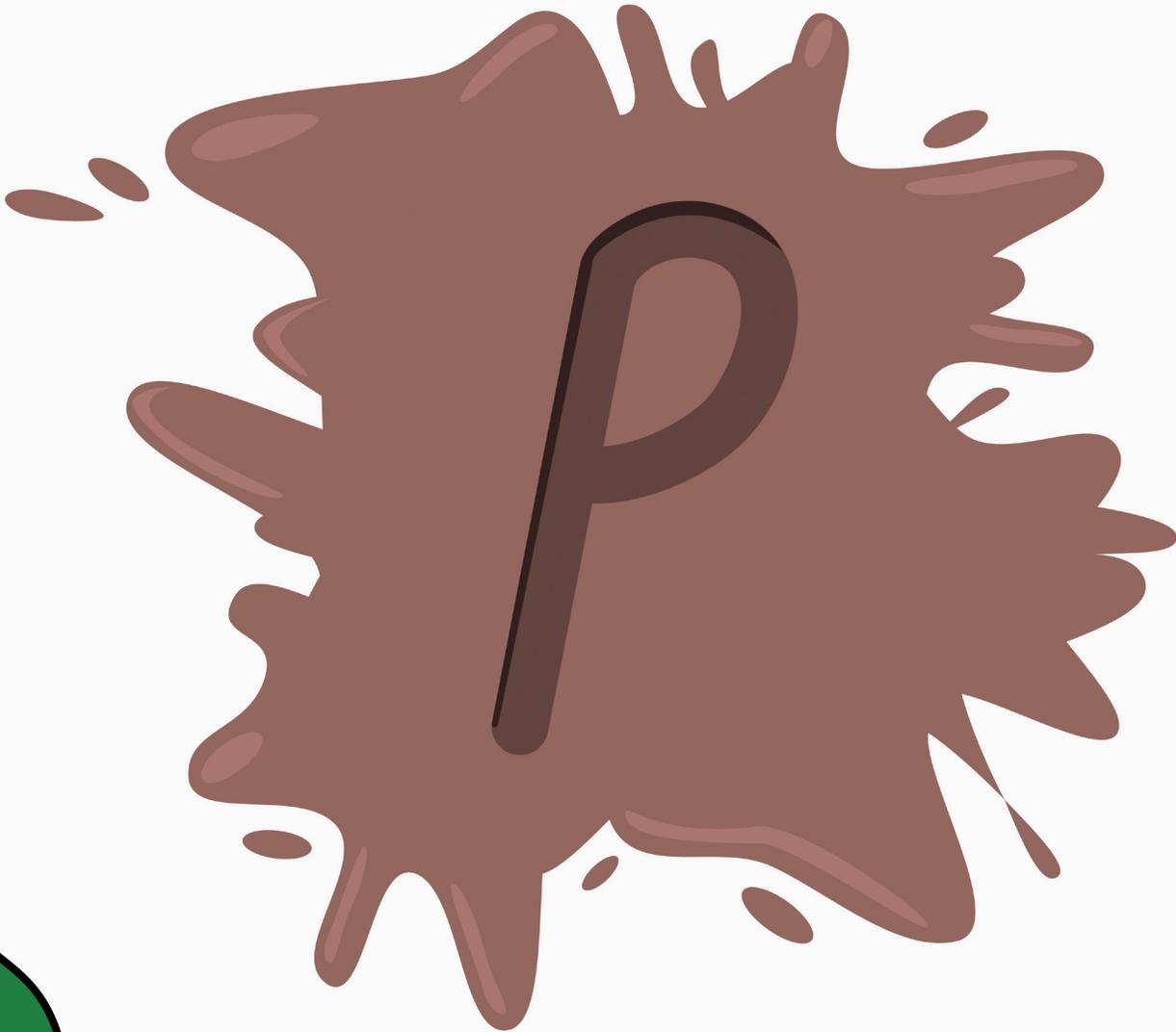
BĪ



BĪ is for **בִּשְׂרִיף** ("bishir"), which means "feather."



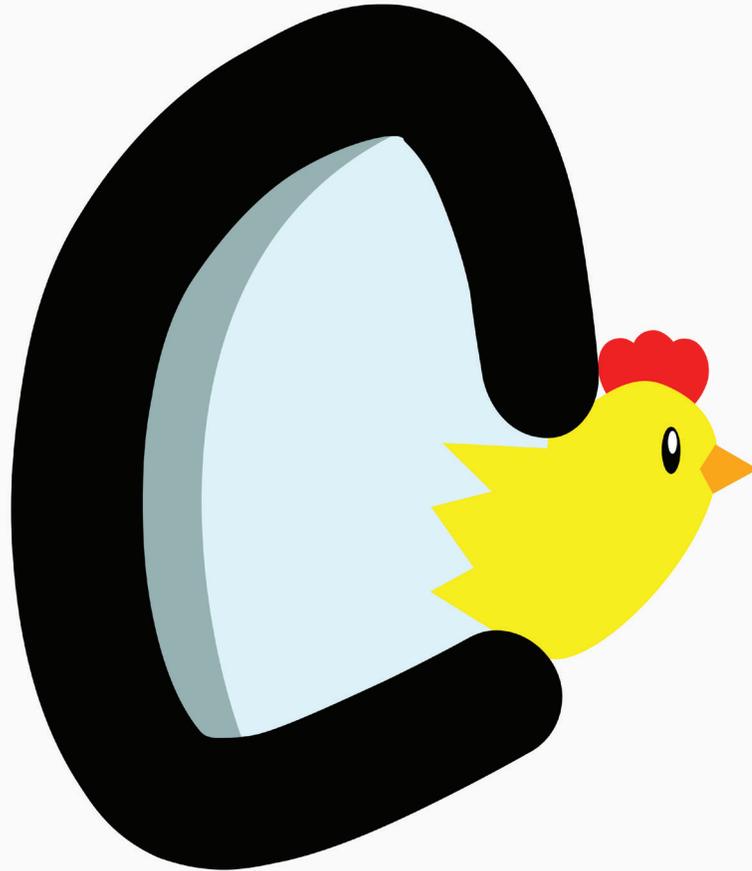
R Ō



Rō is for *ariki* ("arki"), which means "mud."



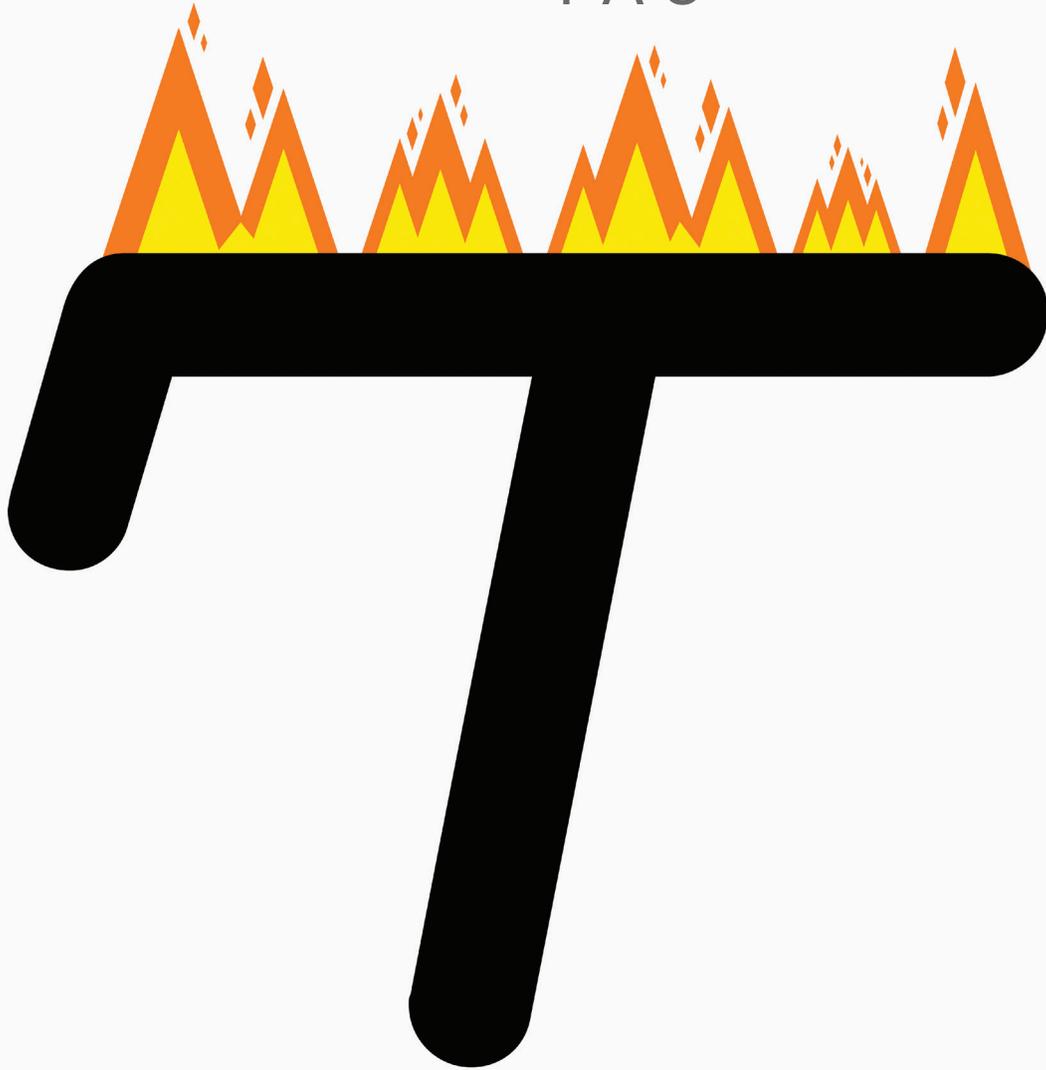
SIGMA



Sigma is for **σιῦσιῦ** ("siwsīw"), which means "chick."



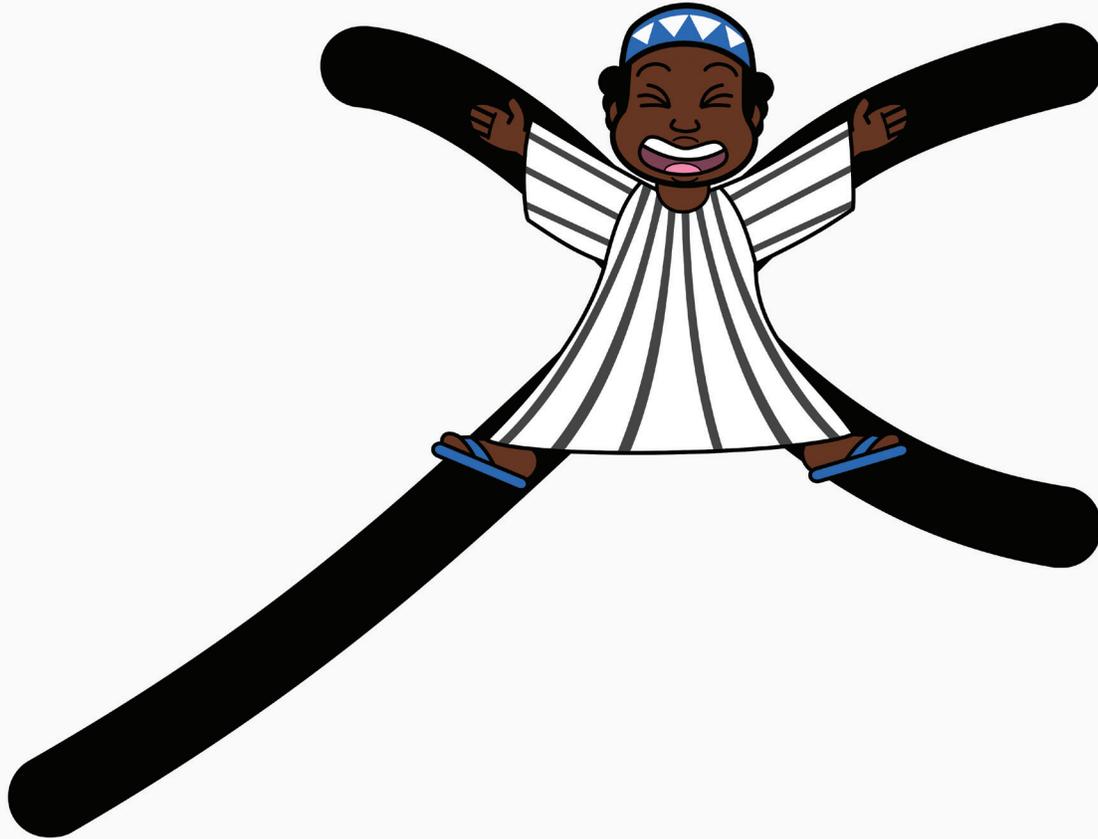
TĀU



Tāu is for **ΤΟΥΛΛΙΚΙΡ** ("tullikir"), which means "burn."



KHĪ



The letter khī is only used to write Arabic words and names, like **خَالِئ** ("khalī").



Fī



Fī is for *Φαραν* ("farañ"), which means "sword."



OMEGA



Omega is for **ωιρδι** ("wiñji"), which means "star."

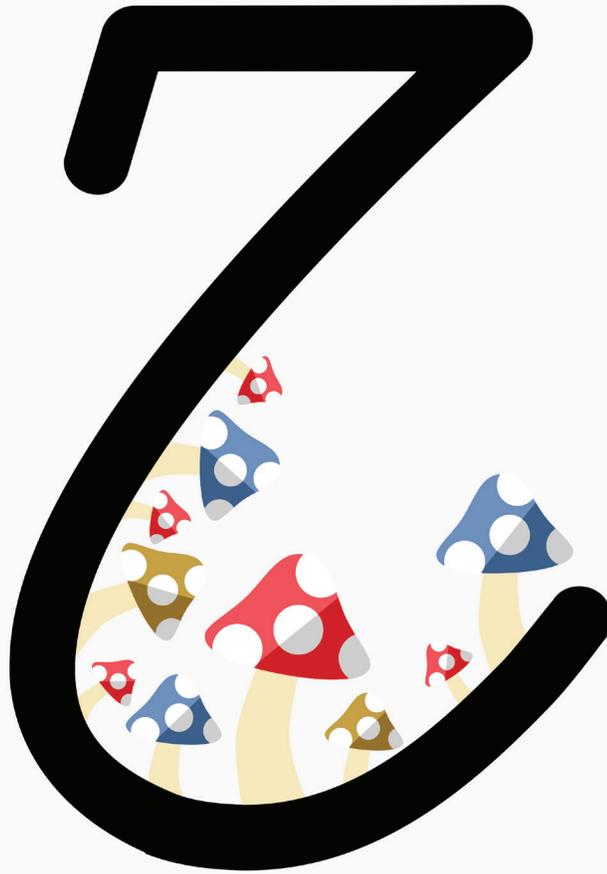


SHĀI

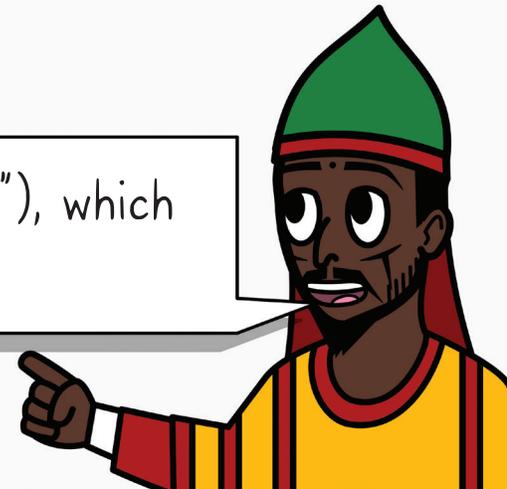


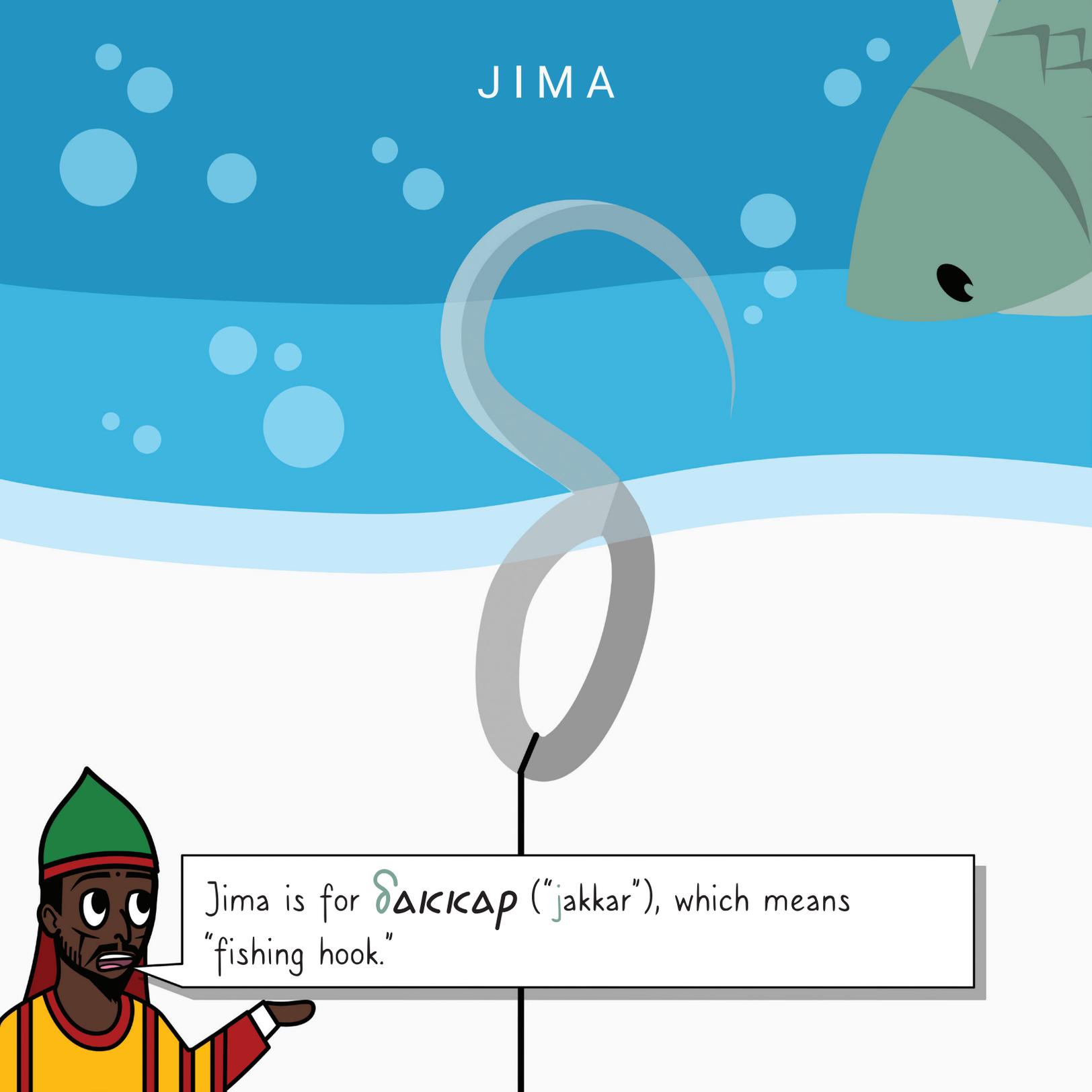
Shāi is for शिल्लिङ्ग ("shilling"), which means "bell."

HORI



Hori is for **ΖΑΝΘΥΝ ΦΘΥΡ** ("hanūn fūr"), which means "mushroom."



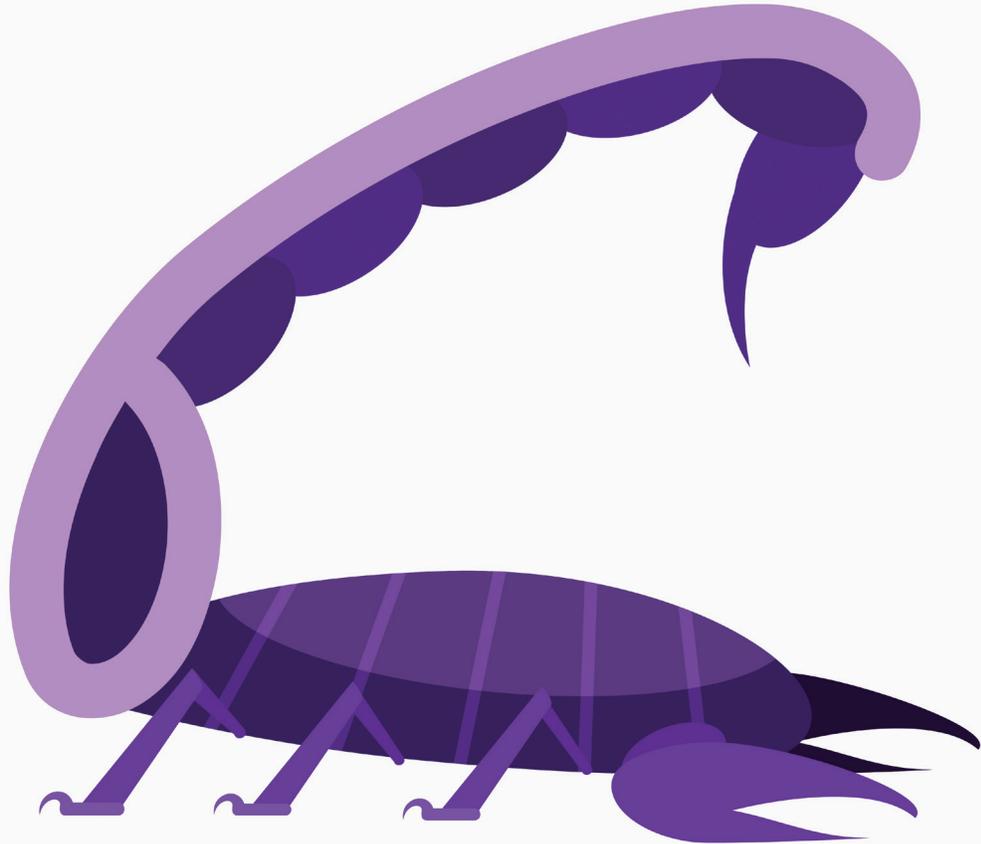


J I M A



Jima is for *δακικαρ* ("jakkar"), which means "fishing hook."

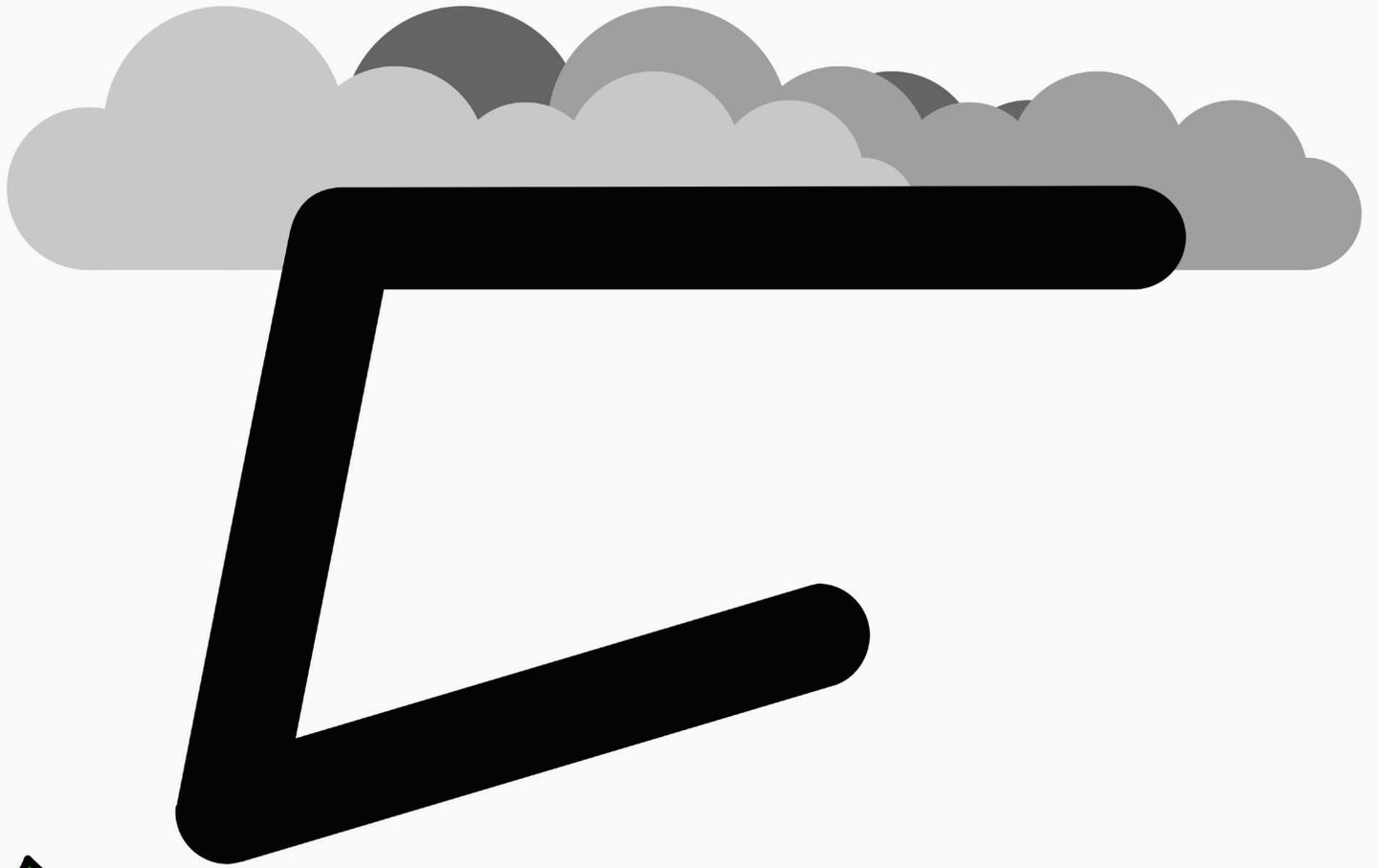
CHIMA



Chima is for **ᛋᛁᛚᛁᚾ** ("echīn"), which means "scorpion."



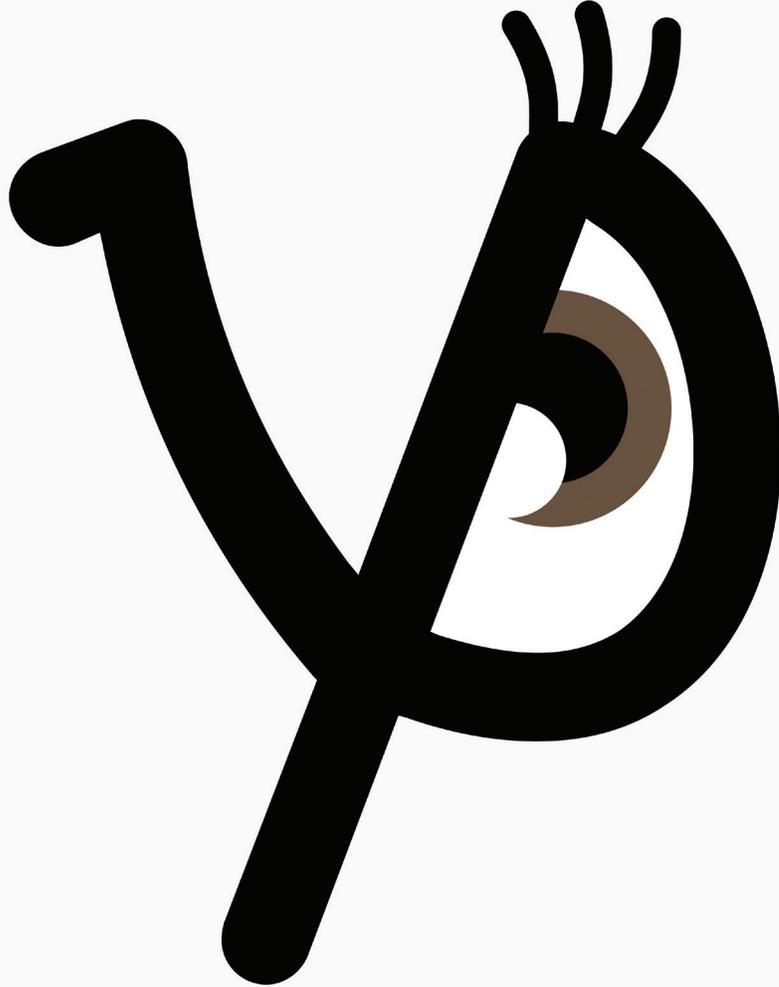
ENGMA



Engma is for *κоруγ*ⲉⲁⲗ ("korungād"), which means "cloud."



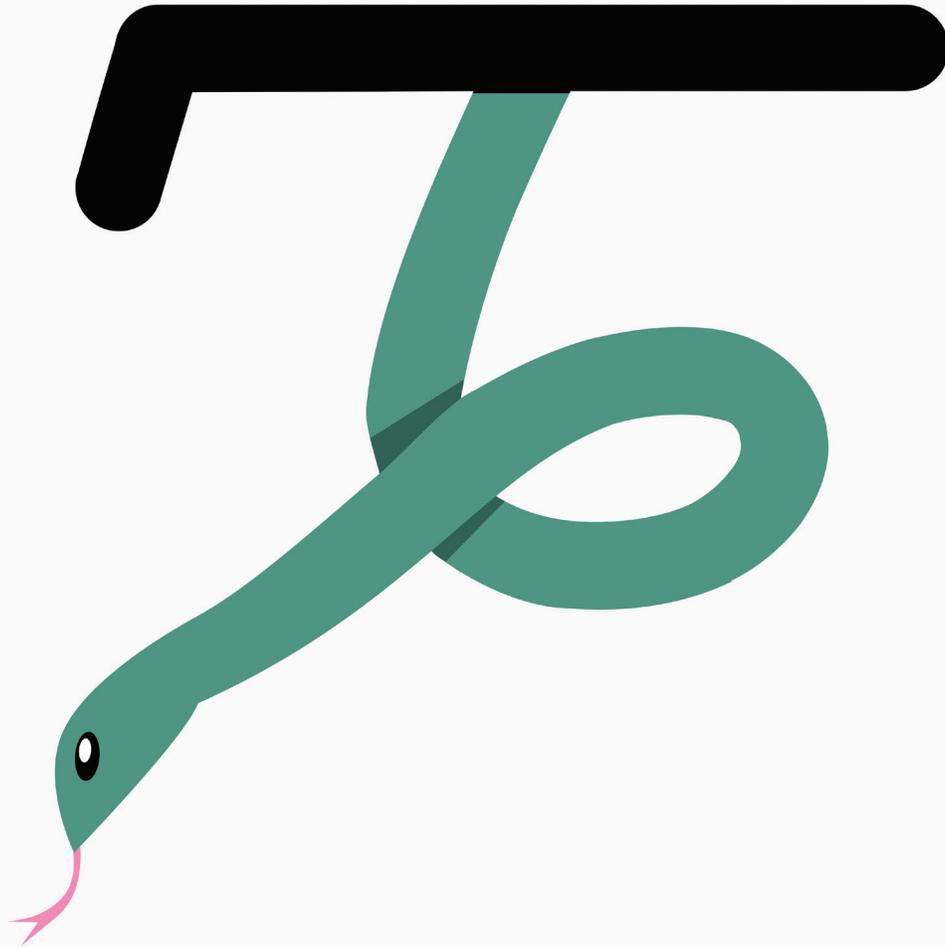
IÑI



Iñi is for *may* ("mañ"), which means "eye."



W Ā W

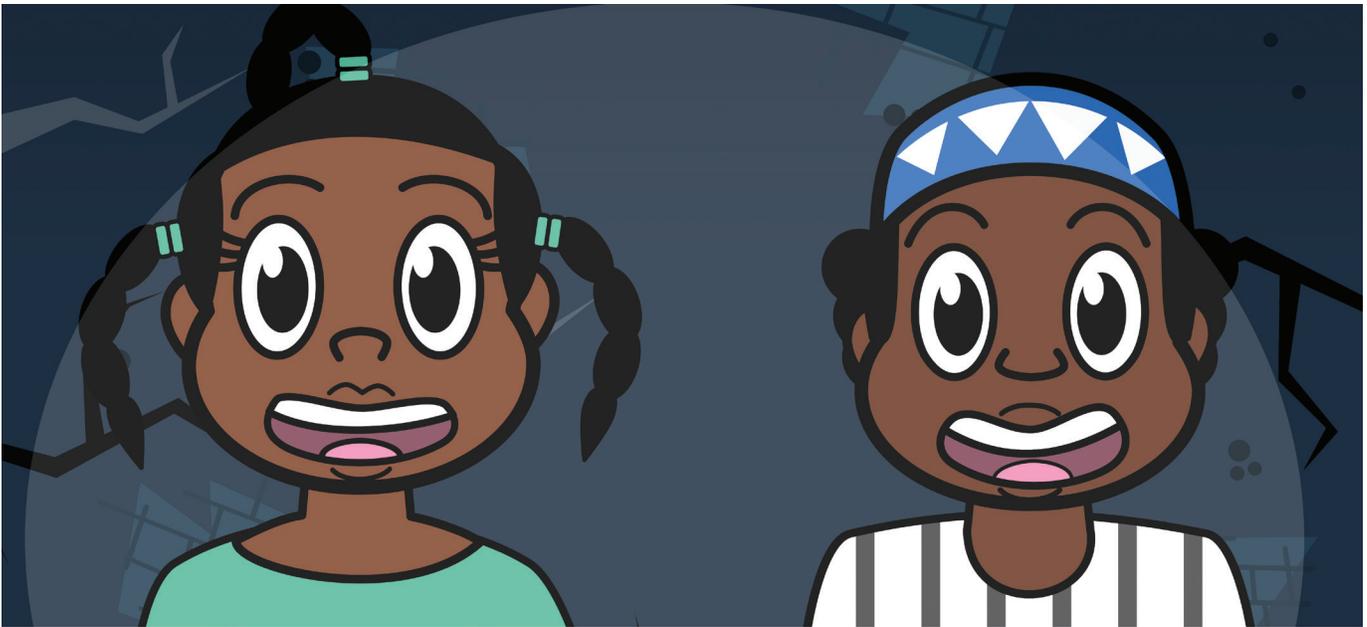


Wāw is for **ϜΙΣΛΑΓΙ** ("wislangi"), which means "snake."





"Did y'all get that?"



"Yeah!"

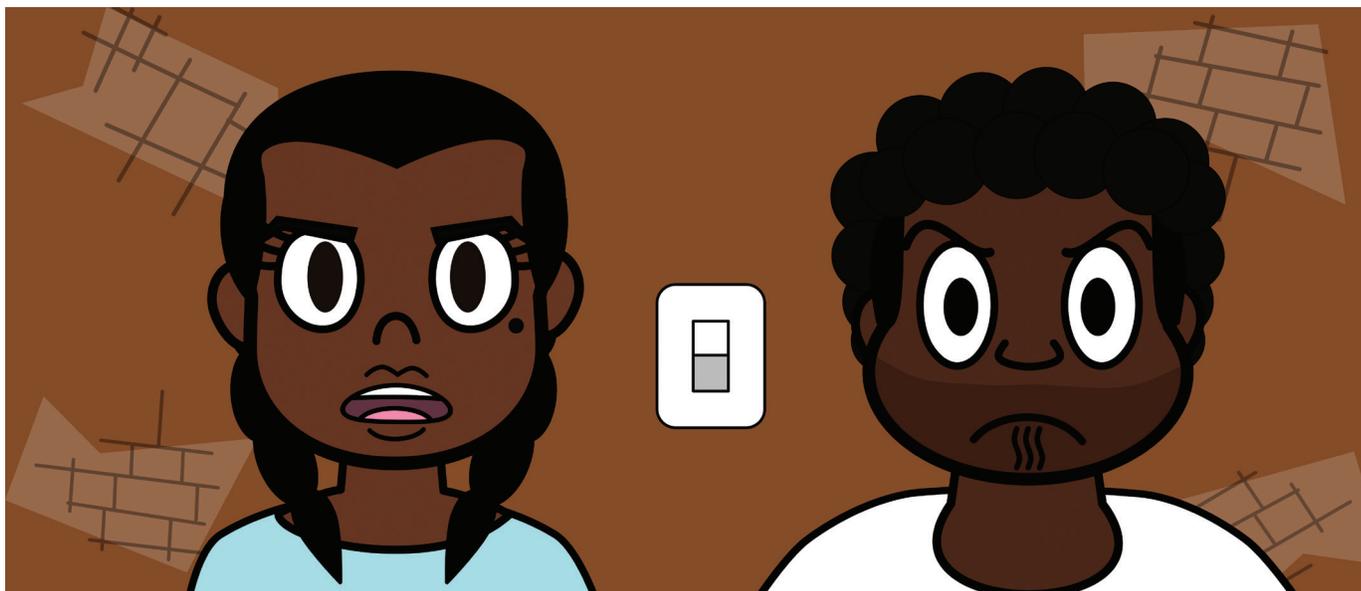


"In that case, I have a mission for you. To learn this alphabet is to adopt a great responsibility..."

A night scene with a dark purple sky filled with white stars. A large, glowing yellow moon is in the upper right corner. In the foreground, a brown hill slopes upwards from left to right. Two black silhouettes of figures are on the hill; one is taller and appears to be holding a staff or stick. On the left side of the hill, there is a dark, jagged rock formation. A white speech bubble with a grey outline is positioned in the middle-left of the sky.

"...it is now your job to...
wait, get back here!"

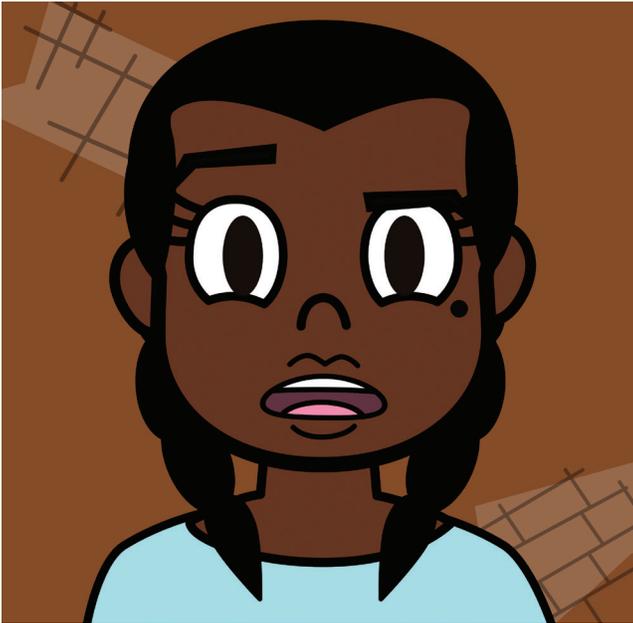
Appa and Khalil returned home, where they found their parents waiting for them.



"Where were you guys?!"



"We met a ghost!"



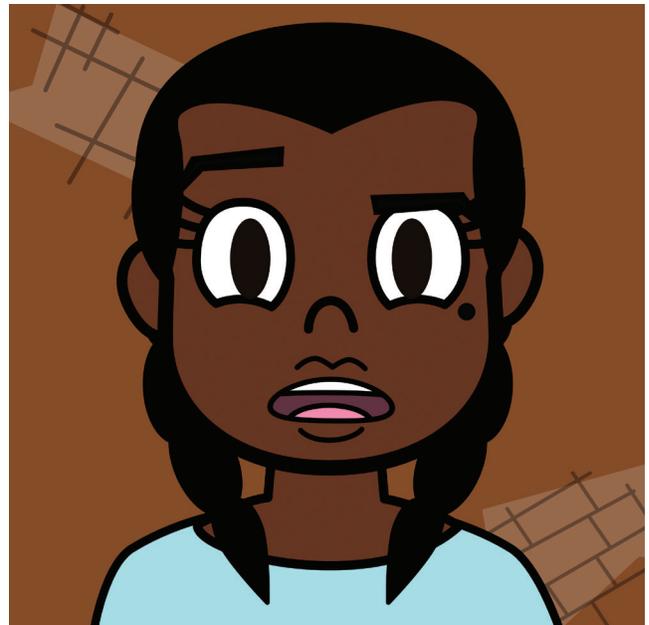
"A ghost?"



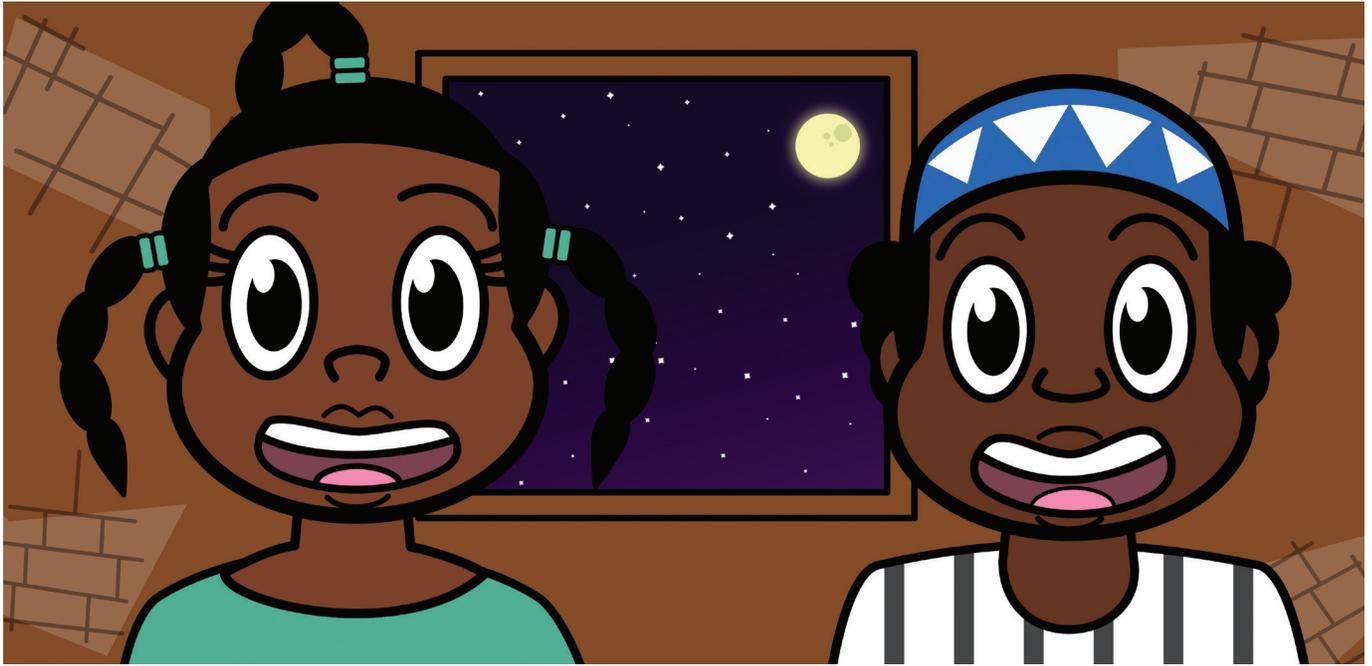
"Yeah, he lives in the cave!"



"And he taught us to write!"



"Write what?"



"Nubian!"



"There's a Nubian alphabet?
What would that even look like?!"

"Here, Baba. Let me show you."