

Level 5



Lena From Tongariki



By Kalo Pakoa
Illustrated by Nataliia Tymoshenko

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Lena lived in a small village near the big rocks on Tongariki Island. One morning, she found a red coconut that had fallen from a tall coconut tree.





"I'll share this with my family!" she exclaimed. But she could not use a knife properly, because she was born without one hand.



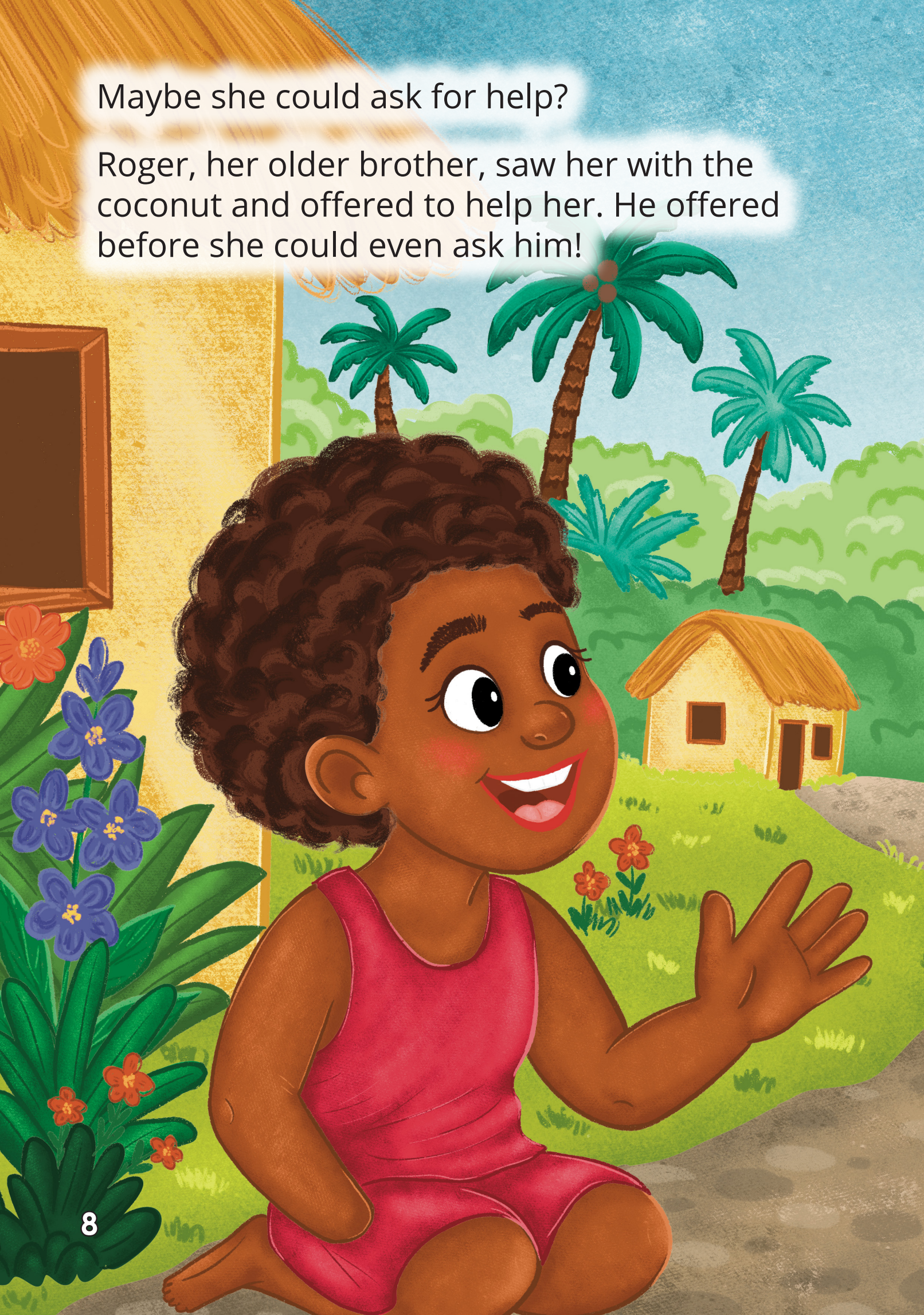


She carried the coconut home and tried to make a plan. To drink the coconut milk, she needed to cut it open. How could she do that?



Maybe she could ask for help?

Roger, her older brother, saw her with the coconut and offered to help her. He offered before she could even ask him!





When the coconut was cut open, he gave it to his sister. She thanked Roger and took the first drink. The coconut was very sweet.



"Would you like some coconut too?" she asked her brother.





Lena and Roger sat under the shade of their small hut, sharing the sweet coconut. Lena's joy was infectious as they laughed and talked about their plans for the day.



Lena had always been resourceful, never letting her disability hold her back, but she often relied on her family for tasks like this.





The village was quiet that afternoon, with only the sound of the ocean waves crashing against the distant rocks. But it wasn't long before dark clouds began to roll in, and the winds picked up. A strong wind was developing from Tongoa.





Lena was the first to notice the weather changing and hurried through the village to let everyone know.

“Please everyone, there’s a storm coming! Secure your houses!” she called as she ran. Roger, who hadn’t seen the clouds, followed her. He was proud of her concern for others.







Once the village started preparing for the storm, Lena and Roger ran quickly back to their village in Lewaima, just in time to warn the Ballu-Nambang community.





As the first drops of rain began to fall, Lena and Roger hurried inside their house.

"Thanks for your help, Lena!" Roger said.



**You can use these questions
to talk about this book with
your family, friends and
teachers.**



What was Lena born without?



**Why can Lena not cut the coconut with
only one hand?**



**Why would the villagers have to secure
their homes for the storm?**



**Have you ever warned others about a
storm?**

**Try to only use one hand for something
to understand Lena a little better!**

About the author

Kalo Pakoa was born on Tongoa Island, Shefa Province and now lives in Vila North. He loves going on wildlife adventures with family. As a child, Kalo loved the story of David and Goliath from the Bible.



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Save the Children



Original illustrations by Nataliia Tymoshenko

Lena From Tongariki

Pakoa, Kalo

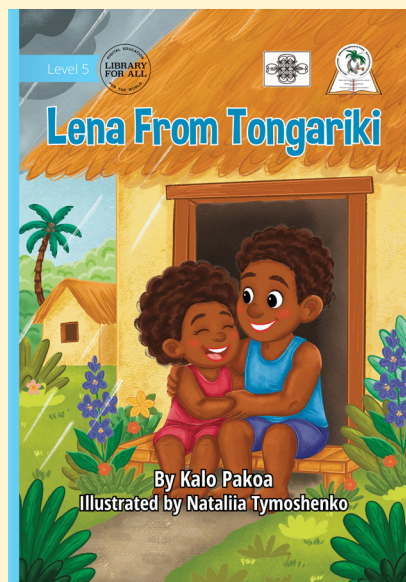
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Lena sometimes relies on help from her family for things due to her disability, but she does what she can for them in return!



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