

Level 5

A circular illustration showing a man and a young girl standing in a lush garden. The man, on the right, has a beard and is wearing a blue t-shirt and blue shorts. He is smiling and has his hand on the girl's shoulder. The girl, on the left, is wearing a pink t-shirt and a blue skirt. They are both smiling. The background is filled with large green leaves and plants.

The Family Garden Rescue

By Jenalima Kasso
Illustrated by Kit Turner

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In Anna's village, gardening was an important activity that most children did during the day, especially on weekends.

Anna loved her family's garden. Growing her own food made her feel warm and happy.





It was a bright and beautiful Sunday morning. Anna woke up, went to the kitchen, and ate her breakfast. She would be going to the garden today with her family and she was excited!

During breakfast, Anna's father said, "Let's do some weeding and plant new crops in the garden today. It's the perfect day to do it."

Anna nodded, grinning. She quickly finished her food.







The family set off to the garden, which was several hundred metres from their home.

They arrived safely and began pulling weeds, burning the dried ones, and making room for new taro root shoots.





“I think that’s all of them,” Anna said, wiping her forehead. She’d just planted the last taro shoot.

“Yes,” her dad said. “Well done, Anna!”

An illustration of a man and a young child walking away from a large pile of burning rubbish in a field. The man, on the left, has a beard and is wearing a blue t-shirt and shorts. The child, on the right, is wearing a pink t-shirt and a blue skirt. In the background, there is a field of green plants and a large, billowing cloud of white smoke rising from the burning pile. The ground is brown and uneven.

They collected and burned the rubbish, then headed back home. It had grown dark by then.





After that, Anna visited the garden every day to check on the taro shoots. She made sure the crops were growing well and that no animals ate them. After a month, the garden was full of colourful vegetables and plants. Anna's dad was very happy!

On another bright Sunday, Anna went to check on the garden. But when she arrived, she was horrified.





“The cows!” she gasped.
“They’ve destroyed the
garden!”

Anna realised that she and her dad had never built a fence around their garden to keep pigs and cows out.

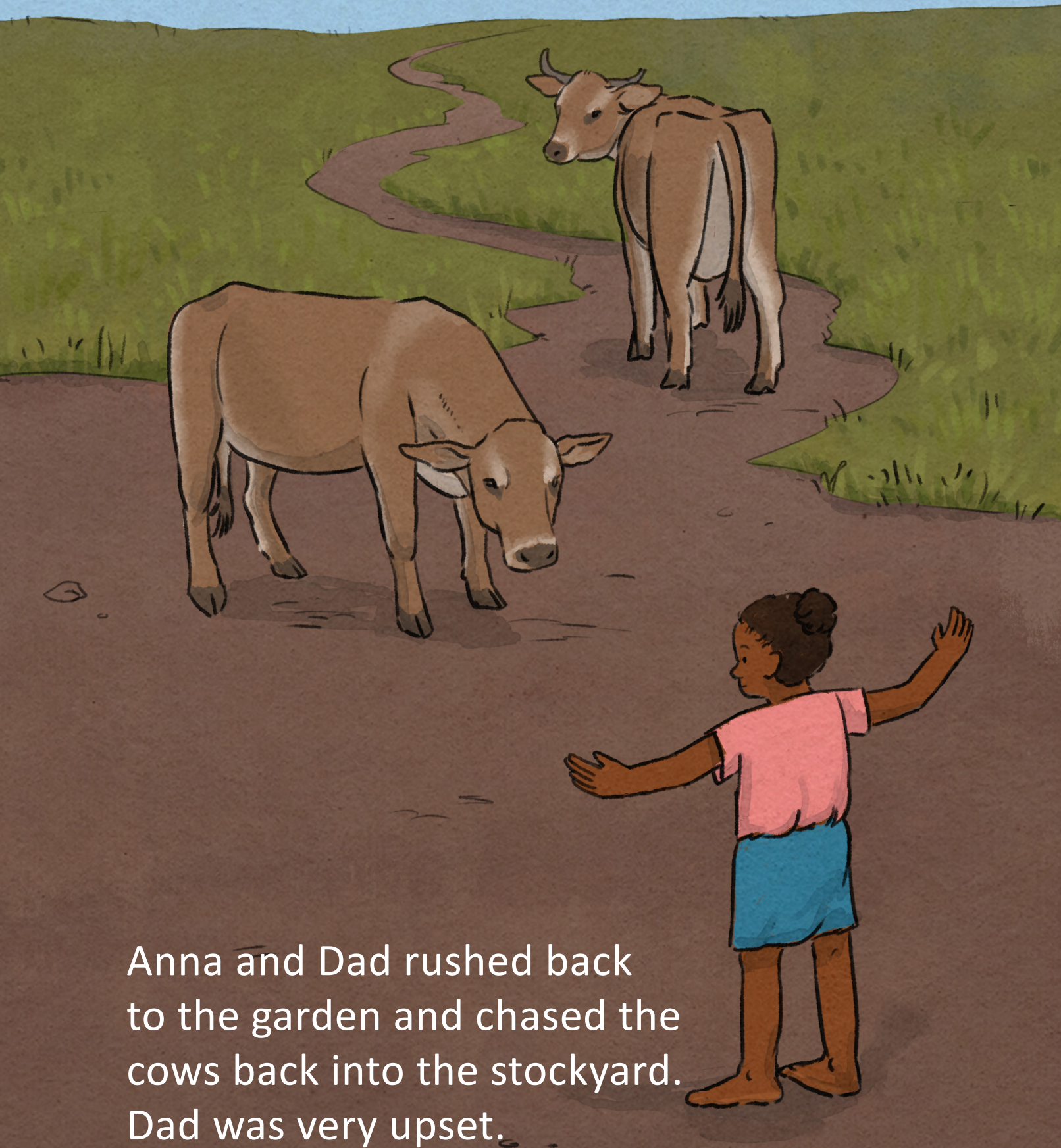


She ran home and found her dad.





“Dad!” Anna cried. “We forgot to build a fence, and now the cows have trampled our garden!”



Anna and Dad rushed back to the garden and chased the cows back into the stockyard. Dad was very upset.

The next day, Anna and her dad rescued what taro shoots they could and planted new ones.

“We won’t forget the fence this time,” Dad promised, and they built a strong fence around the garden.





Weeks later, Anna reported back to her dad that the taro had grown beautifully. Their garden was safe.

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



**What did Anna and her dad plant
in their garden?**



**How does a fence keep the
garden safe?**



**Why did Anna visit the garden
every day?**

**What would you plant in a
family garden?**



**Draw or describe your own
dream garden!**

About the author

Jenalima was born in Tanna and now lives in Port Vila.

She wanted to write a story to help children learn about Vanuatu customs and old stories. Custom stories were her favourite stories to read as a child. When Jenalima spends time with friends and family, she likes to tell stories and prepare traditional food.



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Save the Children



Original illustrations by Kit Turner

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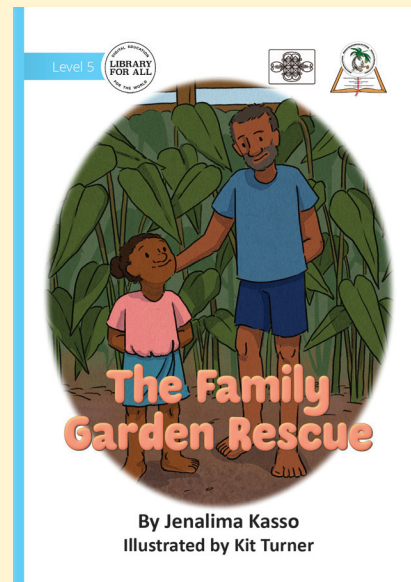
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Anna and her dad plant new taro shoots in their family garden, but they forget to build a fence! What happens when the garden is destroyed by cows?



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