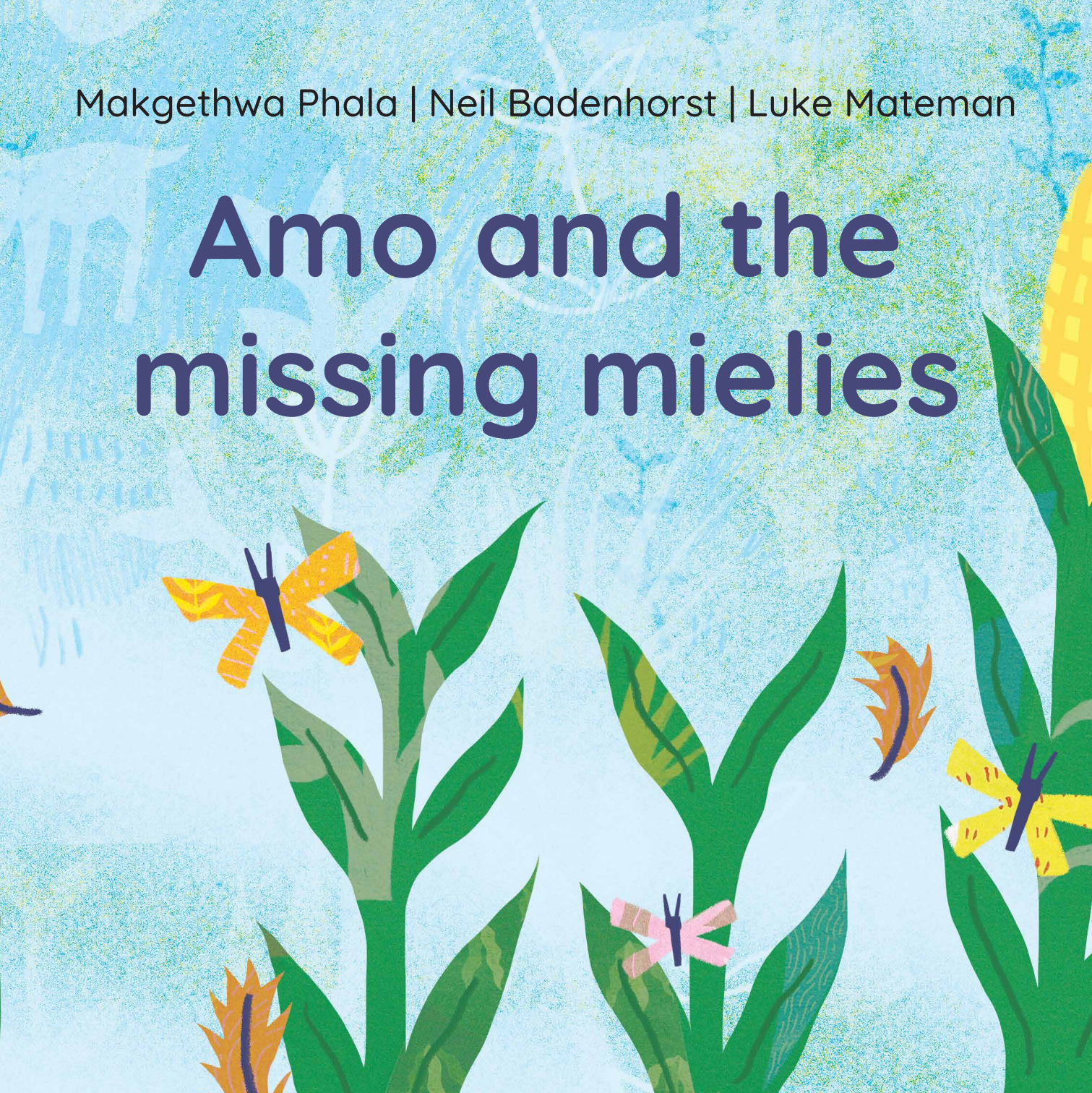


Makgethwa Phala | Neil Badenhorst | Luke Mateman

Amo and the missing mielies



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Amo and the missing mielies

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with the help of the Book Dash participants in Johannesburg on 19 September 2026.

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Amo loves playing in the mielie garden
and listening to the birds sing.





Every day after school,
she goes to count the mielies.

“Mielies! Mielies!”

She calls out.

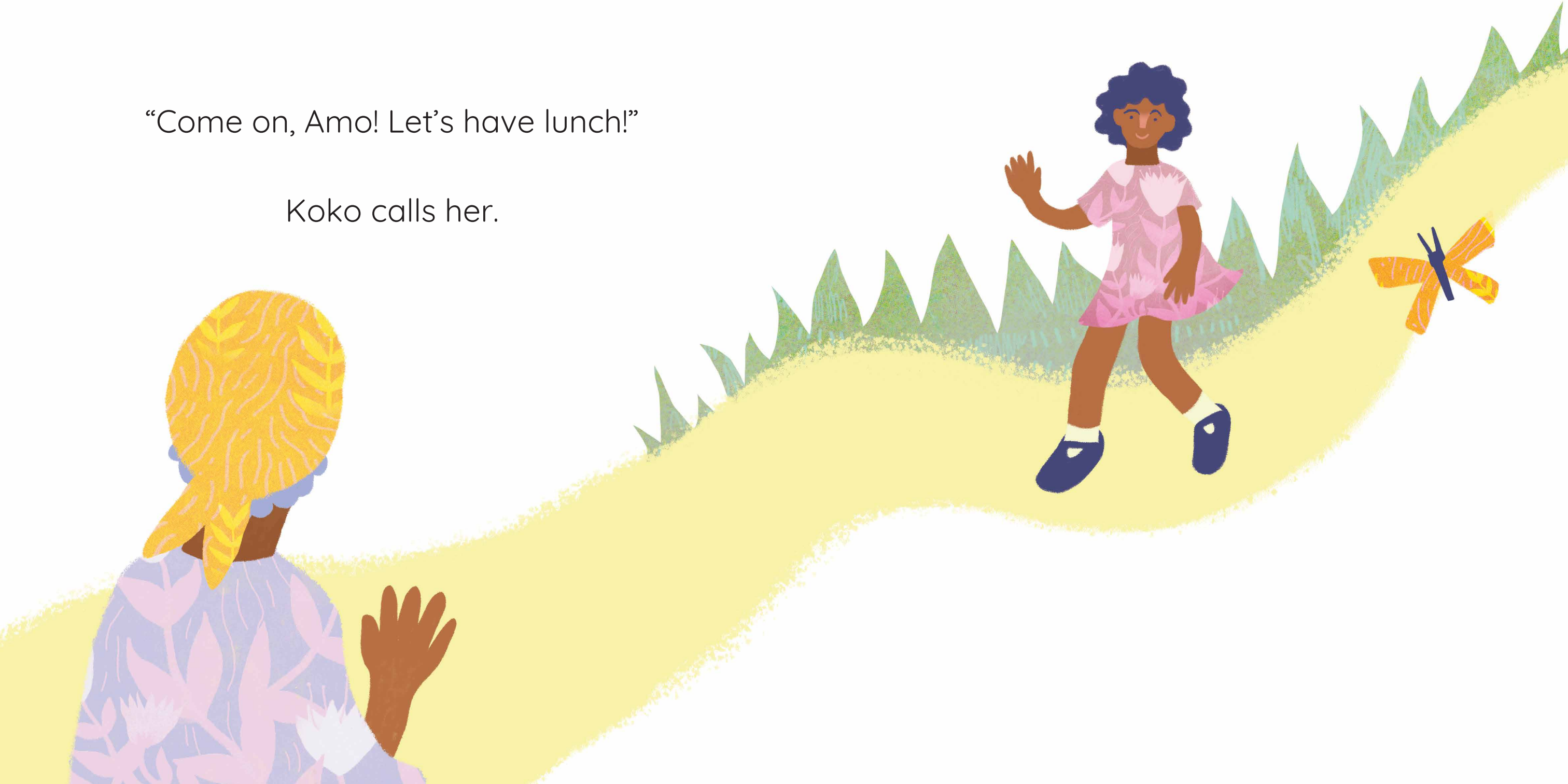


1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ... 6



“Come on, Amo! Let’s have lunch!”

Koko calls her.





“When can we eat the mielies, Koko?”
Amo asks.

“Soon,” Koko always answers.



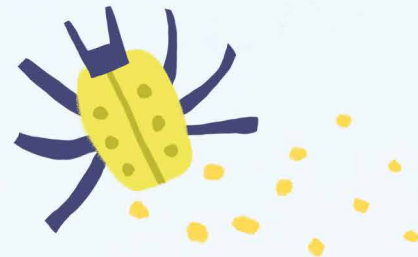
The next afternoon Amo goes
to count the mielies.

1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ... 5 ...





She counts again.



“Koko!
One mielie is missing!”



“Let’s have lunch now,
we’ll check the mielies tomorrow.”



Amo goes to the garden with Koko
the next day.



“Mielies! Mielies!”
she calls out.

1 ... 2 ... 3 ... 4 ...

She stops.





**“Koko! Now two mielies are missing!
What happened?”**

“Hmm ... I think the birds ate them,”
says Koko.

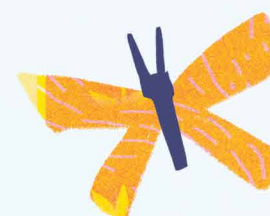
Amo is sad.
“Do we have to chase them away?”





“I have an idea!” says Koko.

“Let’s get some plastic bottles.”





“See! Now the mielies are safe,
and you can still see the birds.”



