

'M'e Maneo's pumpkin

Marion Drew
English

One day, 'M'e Maneo planted
a pumpkin seed.
It grew into a very big pumpkin.
It blocked her garden path.

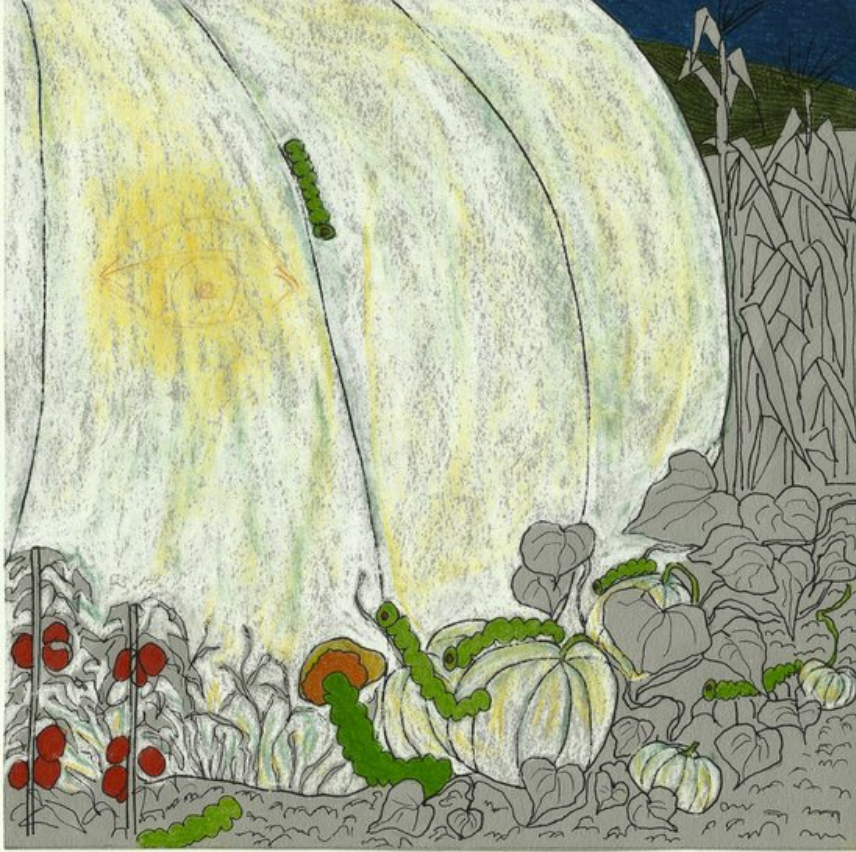




'M'e Maneo wanted to move the pumpkin.
She went to her neighbour.
"M'e Mapalesa,' she said, "please help me to move my pumpkin. It is blocking my path."
The two ladies pushed and pushed, but that pumpkin did not move.

They went to 'M'e Masello.
"Please help us move 'M'e Maneo's
pumpkin!" they asked.
'M'e Masello came to help them.
The three ladies pushed and pushed
that pumpkin, but still it did not move.
"I don't know what to do," said 'M'e
Maneo.





Just then a little worm came into 'M'e
Maneo's garden. It was hungry. It nibbled
the big pumpkin.

"Stop," said the pumpkin.

But the little worm nibbled again.

“Stop! You are tickling me,” said the pumpkin. “I don’t like it.”
And the pumpkin rolled away down the hill.





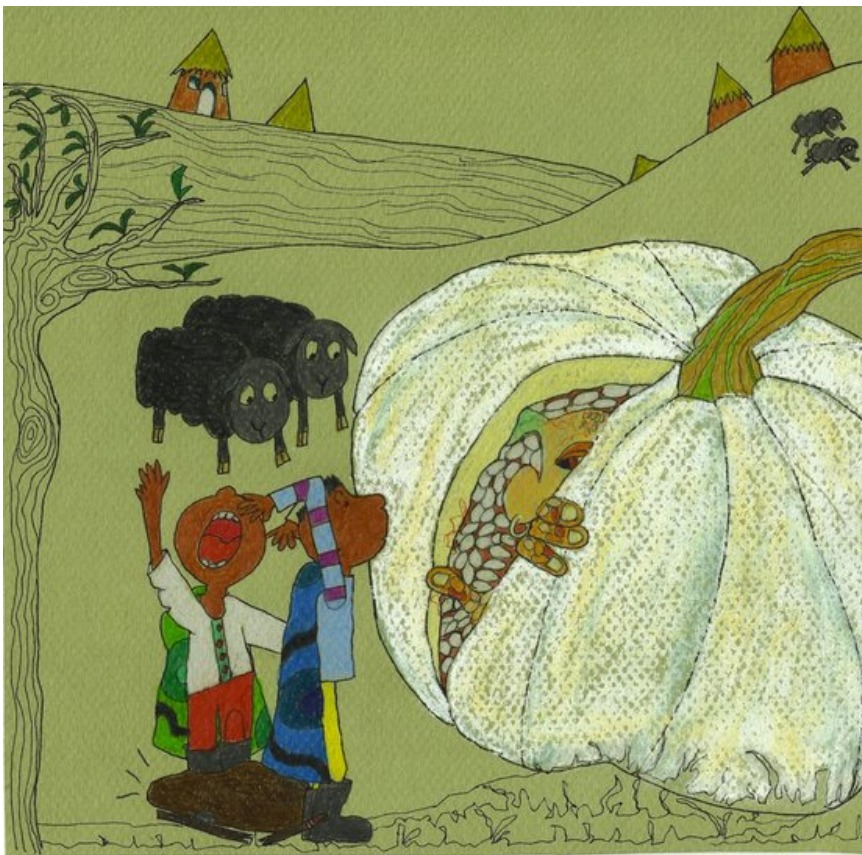
The pumpkin stopped in a field at the bottom of the hill. Two shepherds found it.

“What shall we do with this pumpkin?” they asked.

“Let’s eat it,” they said, “it looks delicious.”

They took a big stone and tried to break open the pumpkin.





“No!” cried the pumpkin.
The shepherds jumped back.
The pumpkin began to open.

Out of the pumpkin came a moloï.
She had one arm, one eye and one leg.
She looked terrible.
“Don’t disturb me,” said the moloï
in a big voice, “I am the pumpkin chief.”
The pumpkin closed again.

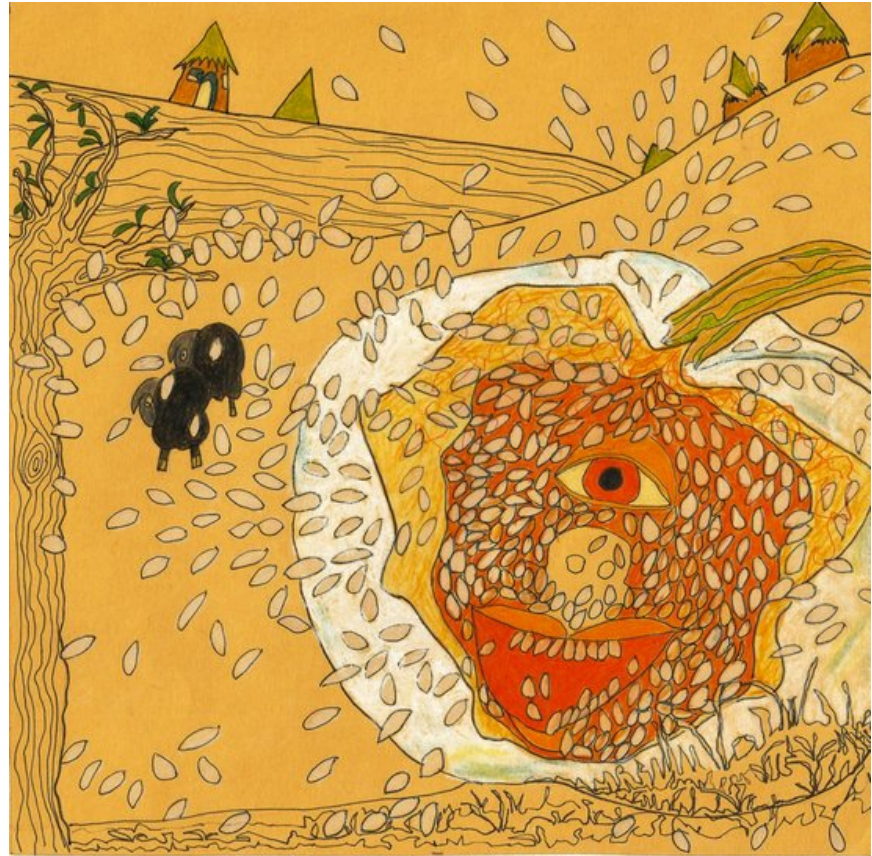




The shepherds were very frightened. They ran home to tell their parents. "Oh! We are so lucky!" said their parents. "Don't you know about the pumpkin moloi?" "It is a very special pumpkin," said the shepherds' parents. "You must leave it alone."

"Next summer the pumpkin will open again and the moloï will scatter pumpkin seeds all over our villages. We will have many, many pumpkins to eat," said the shepherd's parents.

And so it happened that the next summer, 'M'e Maneo's pumpkin burst open. It was full of many, many seeds.





Out came the pumpkin moli.
With her one leg she climbed out
of the pumpkin.
With her one eye she looked across
all the villages.
With her one arm she threw all
those seeds across the valley.

The seeds grew into beautiful big pumpkins in all the gardens in the valley. That winter everyone in the villages had lots of pumpkins to eat. They went to 'M'e Maneo. "Thank you, 'M'e Maneo!" they cried.



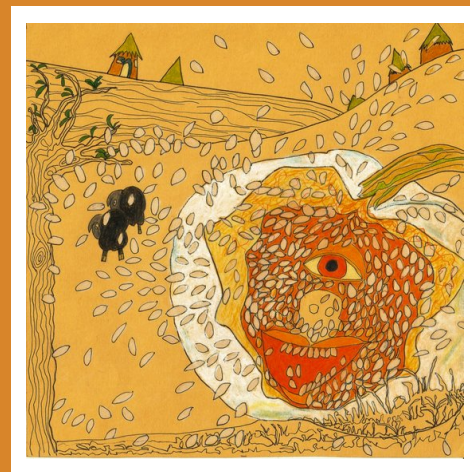
'M'e Maneo's pumpkin

Writer: Marion Drew

Illustration: Marion Drew

Translated By: Khothatso Ranoosi and Marion Drew

Language: English



'M'e Maneo's pumpkin was created in Paleng Children's Centre, Lesotho. This story is dedicated to Mogau Marang Trok-Maboya.

© African Storybook Initiative, 2015



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution
(CC-BY 4.0) Version 4.0 International Licence

Disclaimer: You are free to download, copy, translate or adapt this story and use the illustrations as long as you attribute or credit the original author/s and illustrator/s.

Saide 
South African Institute
for Distance Education

www.africanstorybook.org
A Saide Initiative