

the hyena's revenge



a hanging library book

Story and illustrations by Ruth Herbert.



READING IS THE KEY TO LEARNING

How to keep wells clean and what makes them dirty and dangerous

These books have been developed from an idea by Hugh Hawes and Sam Muwonge and used since 2007 in schools in and around Kampala. The books have been revised since 2014 and new titles created.

We would like to thank Violet Mugusa and Jones Kyazze for their generous time and energy in facilitating visits in 2015 to Makindye Junior School, The Light Primary School Bulenga, Busaabala Primary School and Nakyessanja Primary School.

Our thanks go particularly to the schools for their feedback and especially their suggestions on how to improve the project.

This year it is dry. The rains are late. The hares' gardens are not growing well.

Night and morning Sonko fetches water for his garden. He fetches water for his mother's garden. He fetches water for his Aunty Patience's garden.

Aunty Patience's carrots are small and she hasn't enough to make her famous carrot cake.

It is a long way to the stream to get water and Sonko is tired.

'We need a well,' he thinks, 'but who will dig it? My paws are not strong enough to dig a deep hole to where the water lies under the ground.'

And then he remembers Dabgi, the aardvark.

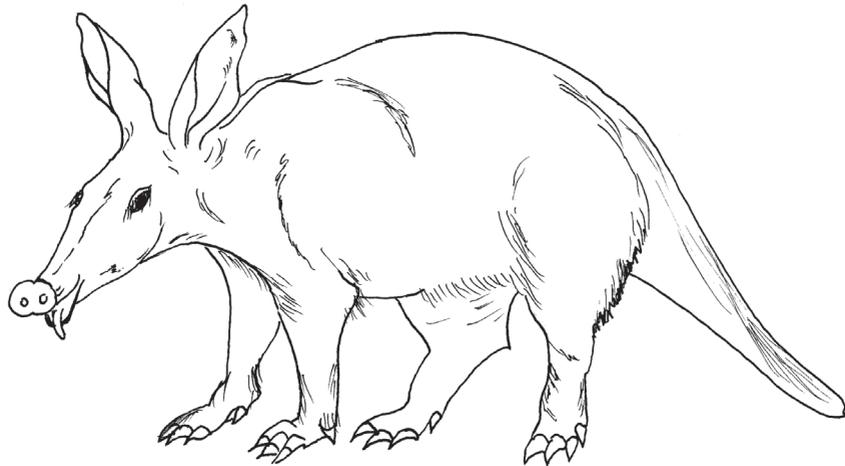
Dabgi is a champion digger. He could win the all Africa digging competition, maybe even an Olympic gold medal!



But Dabgi is shy.

Dagbi doesn't care for competitions.

Dabgi only comes out at night and digs for termites and ants for his dinner or to make himself a nice safe house away from Bouki and his big teeth; scary big teeth that would bite an aardvark in two.

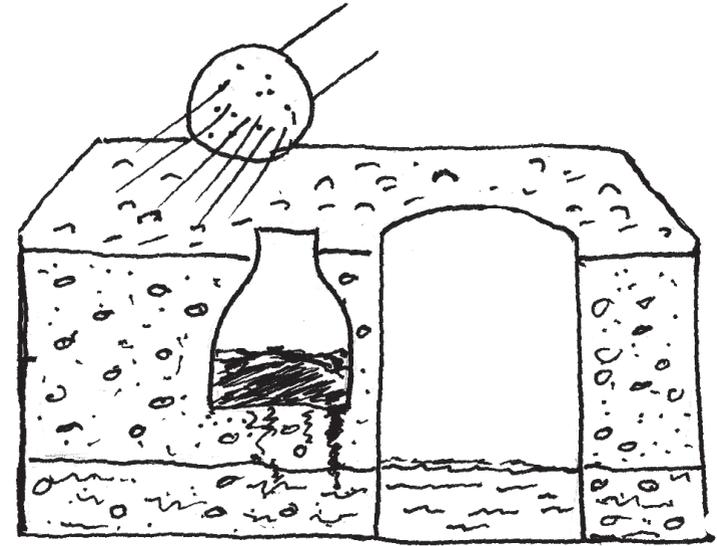


Sonko thinks, 'Dagbi hasn't heard how I tricked Bouki into losing some of his teeth, perhaps if I tell him he will help me dig my well.'

So Sonko waits near the termite hill at night until Dagbi appears for his dinner and he tells Dagbi the story of the Hyena's teeth. (This is in another book.)

'So Dagbi,' he says, 'you don't need to be so afraid

Next place the neck tube (your latrine) in the container near the well and continue filling the container with sand to near the top of the well and the latrine.



Water the sand round the well and you will see the well fill up as the water trickles down and collects in the bottom of the container. This is a good model for how the rain runs through the ground to form the 'water table'.

To see how the water in the well gets dirty from the latrine just pour some ink or paint into the latrine.

What happens? How long does it take?

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4 Questions

1. What is good and what is bad about where Dagbi and Sonko build the first well?
2. After Bouki throws dirty old meat into the well, how does Sonko clean it and stop things falling into it?
3. What does Bouki do to make the water in the well dirty and full of germs the second time?
4. Where will Sonko build the new well?

Something to do

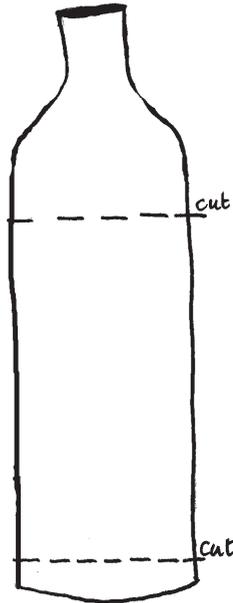
Make a model to show how the water in a well can get dirty from a latrine.

This is a good class project.

Choose a large container and find an old plastic bottle with a long neck.

Cut the bottom off the bottle and then cut off the neck. You will have two plastic tubes. One is a well and the other is a latrine.

Place the longer fatter tube in the container and fill round it with sand (for the ground) to about half way up its length. This is your well.



of Bouki, he has lost half his teeth and can't chew animals as big as us. Please help me dig a well for our garden and I will ask my Aunty Patience to make an extra sweet carrot cake to attract many ants for you and your family.'



Dagbi and Sonko work hard all night. They dig the well at the very edge of the gardens. It is near the fence, just below a little hill covered in thorn bushes. The well is fine and deep and they line it with good bricks to keep the earth from falling in. They see the clean water collect at the bottom. They tie a bucket onto a rope to put down the well to draw up the water.

Bouki, on his night time hunt for small animals that he can still eat, sees them. He wonders what they are doing. He creeps quietly up behind the thorn bushes.



'Well, Well, Well,' thinks Bouki, 'here's my revenge.'
Early in the morning Sonko and Dagbi go to bed.

Sonko falls asleep quickly, happy that he does not have to go and fetch water from the stream. Bouki goes to the edge of the well, fills the bucket with old bones and meat full of worms that he has stolen from the lion's leftovers, and throws the whole lot down the well.

He slinks off quickly.

When Sonko wakes he finds the well full of worms. Flies buzz round. The bucket is at the bottom of the well and the water is dirty and smelly.

Then the rains come. The stream fills and the plants start to grow well again.

Sonko plans to dig another well in a better place where it cannot become dirty from latrines.

And he thinks of how to get his own back on Bouki!

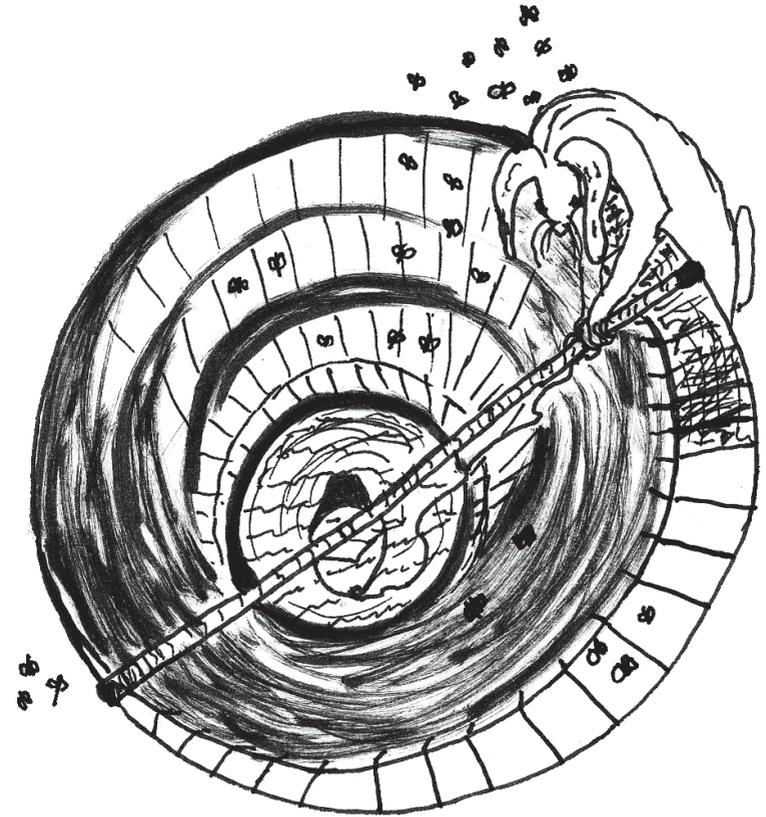
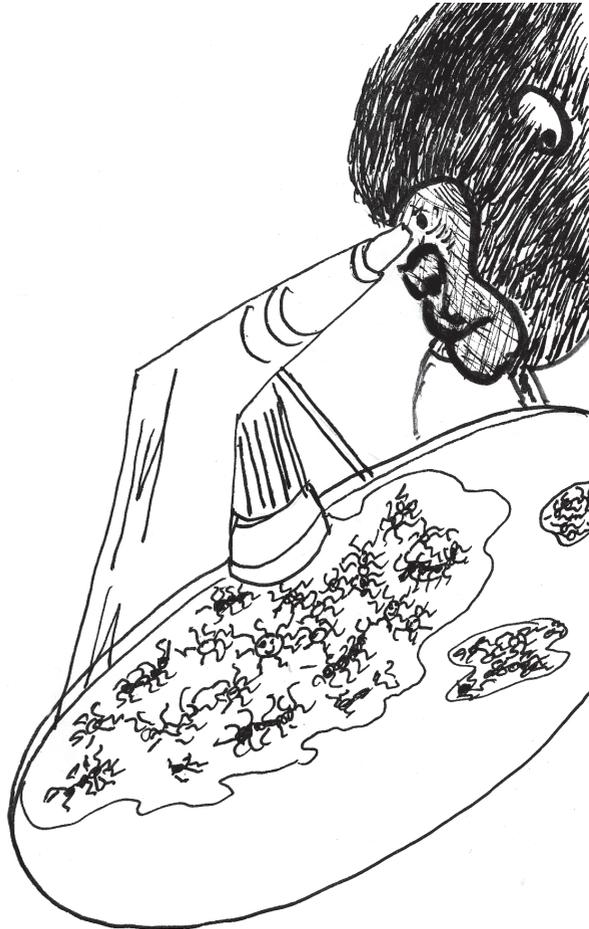


The plants look well but the hares get sick. The little hares are too ill to go to the clinic. They have a temperature and diarrhoea.

Dr Gazali visits. 'Water, plenty of clean water,' he says. 'Don't use the well. Boil all the water. There must be something wrong.' He takes some water from the well to his clinic to look at under the microscope.

Under the microscope he can see germs; many of them, wriggling and squiggling and multiplying very fast.

The hares look everywhere to find what is making their well dirty. They find Bouki's latrine. They must start all over again. Everyone is sad and tired.

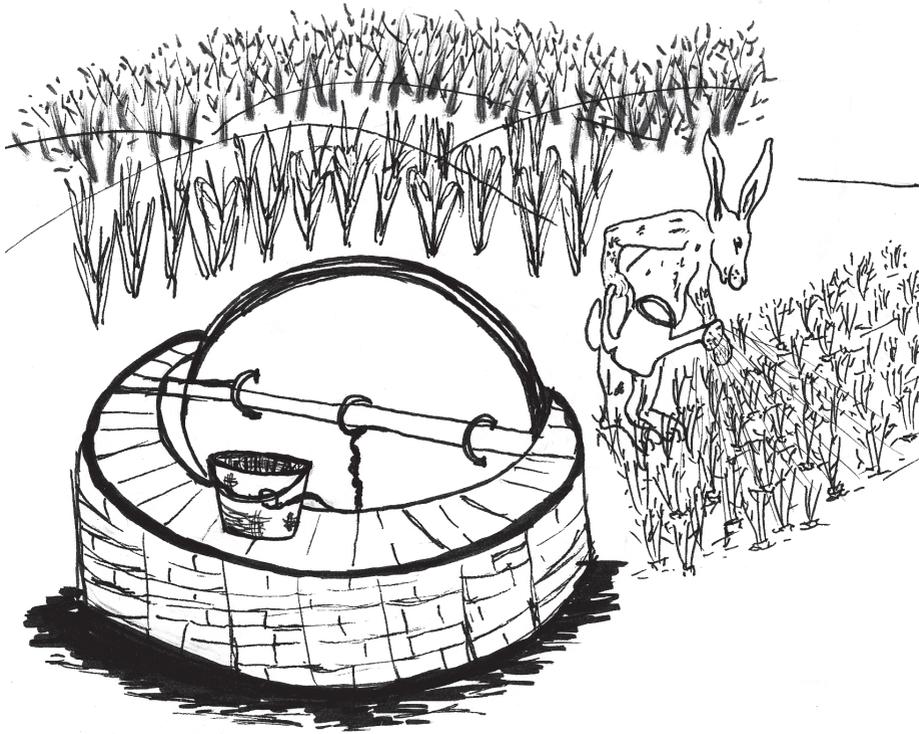


The sun is high in the sky and the plants are wilting. He goes slowly off to the stream to get water, very tired and sad.

Over the next week Sonko empties the well of the bad water and pours lime down the well to disinfect it. He builds a wall round the well to keep things from falling in and make it safe for the small hares. He finds a cover to protect it and cleans the rope and the bucket.

The water in the stream is getting less and less and Sonko is getting more and more tired fetching it and working on the well.

At last Sonko's well is full of clear, clean water. He waters the gardens. The plants stand tall and proud and the carrots start to swell.



Aunt Patience makes her famous carrot cake for everyone and bakes an extra sweet one to attract the ants for Dagbi's dinner. There is fresh water for everyone to drink. They party into the night by the light of a full moon.

Bouki watches from behind a bush, just behind the garden fence on the little hill above the well and thinks. He is angry and tired and he has a stomach ache from the lion's leftovers. He is thirsty. The stream is now only a dirty trickle. The well water looks so fresh. The party looks fun and he is not invited!



Then suddenly he has an idea. Quickly, he digs himself a deep latrine just there where he is and fills it with his dung. 'I will beat Dagbi at digging and get my own back on all of them,' he thinks.

Day after day he uses the latrine behind the bush above the well. He covers the latrine with sweet smelling grass to disguise the smell.