

2009

## Let's Speak Bom! The First Bom Primer: A Graphic Introduction to the Bom Language of Sierra Leone

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George Tucker Childs

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# Yi Hə mBomdε!

## Let's Speak Bom!

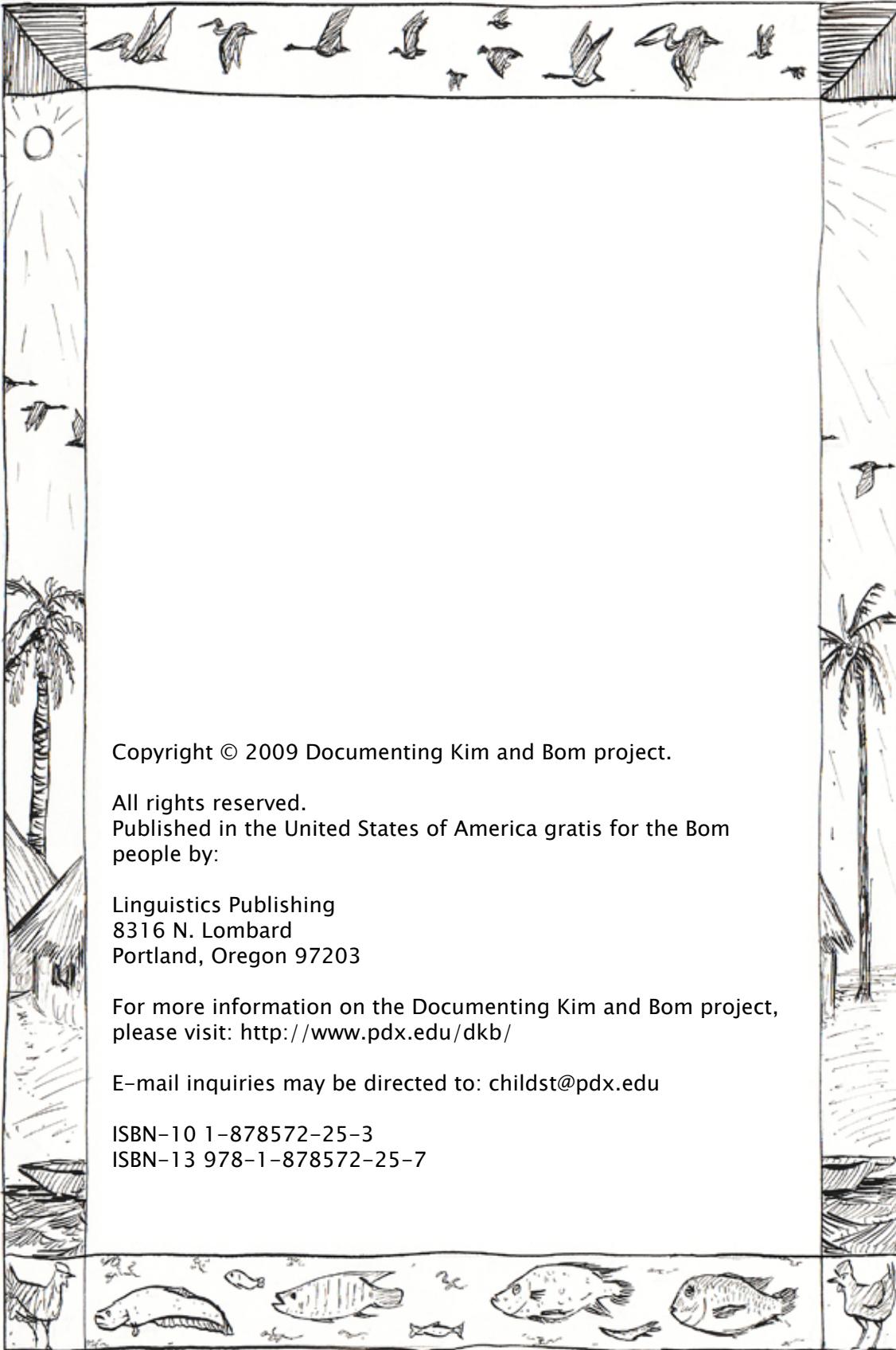
The First Bom Primer:  
A Graphic Introduction  
to the Bom Language  
of Sierra Leone

Based on the stories of Bom community elders

Compiled and illustrated by Hannah Sarvasy

With editorial assistance from Tucker Childs





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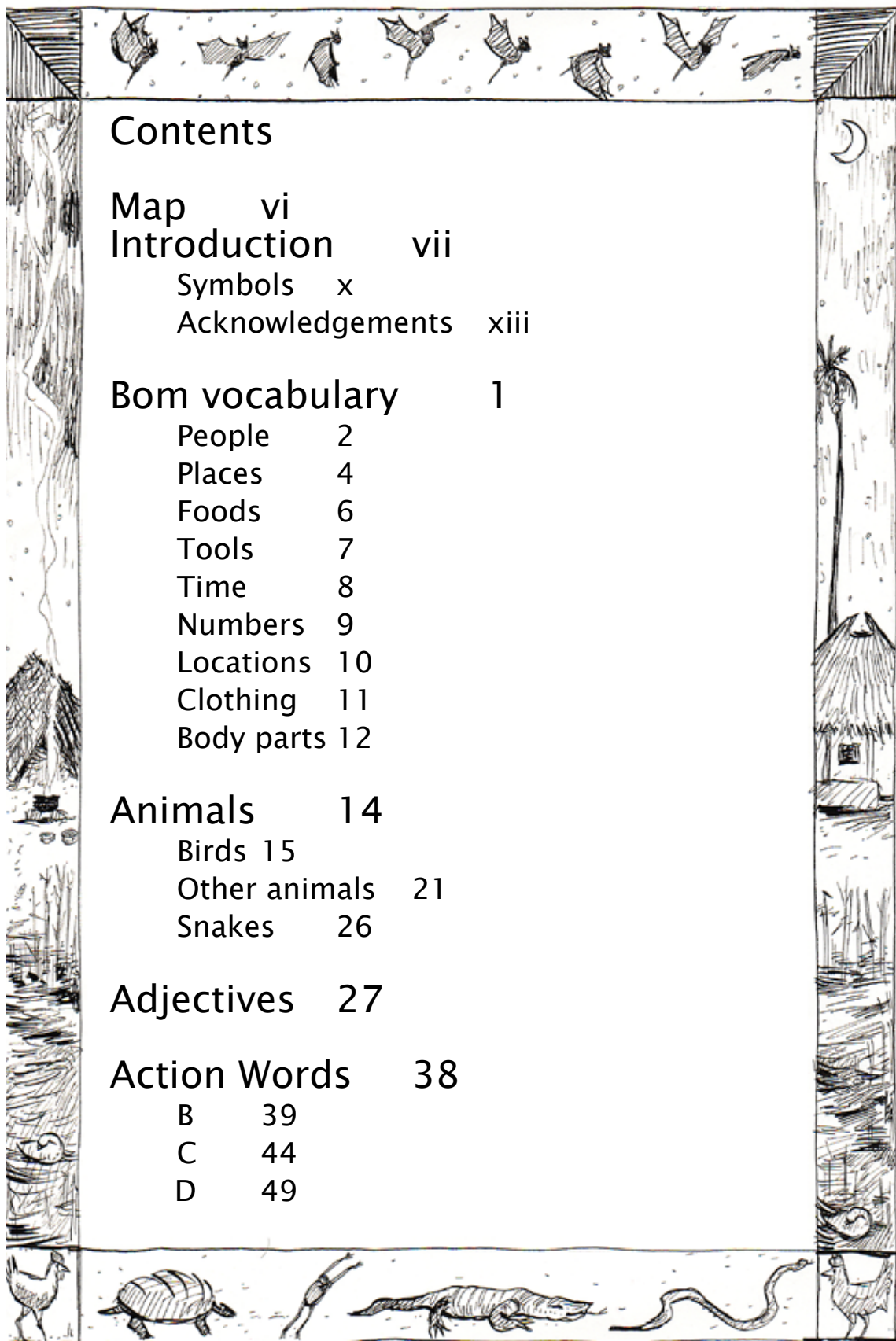
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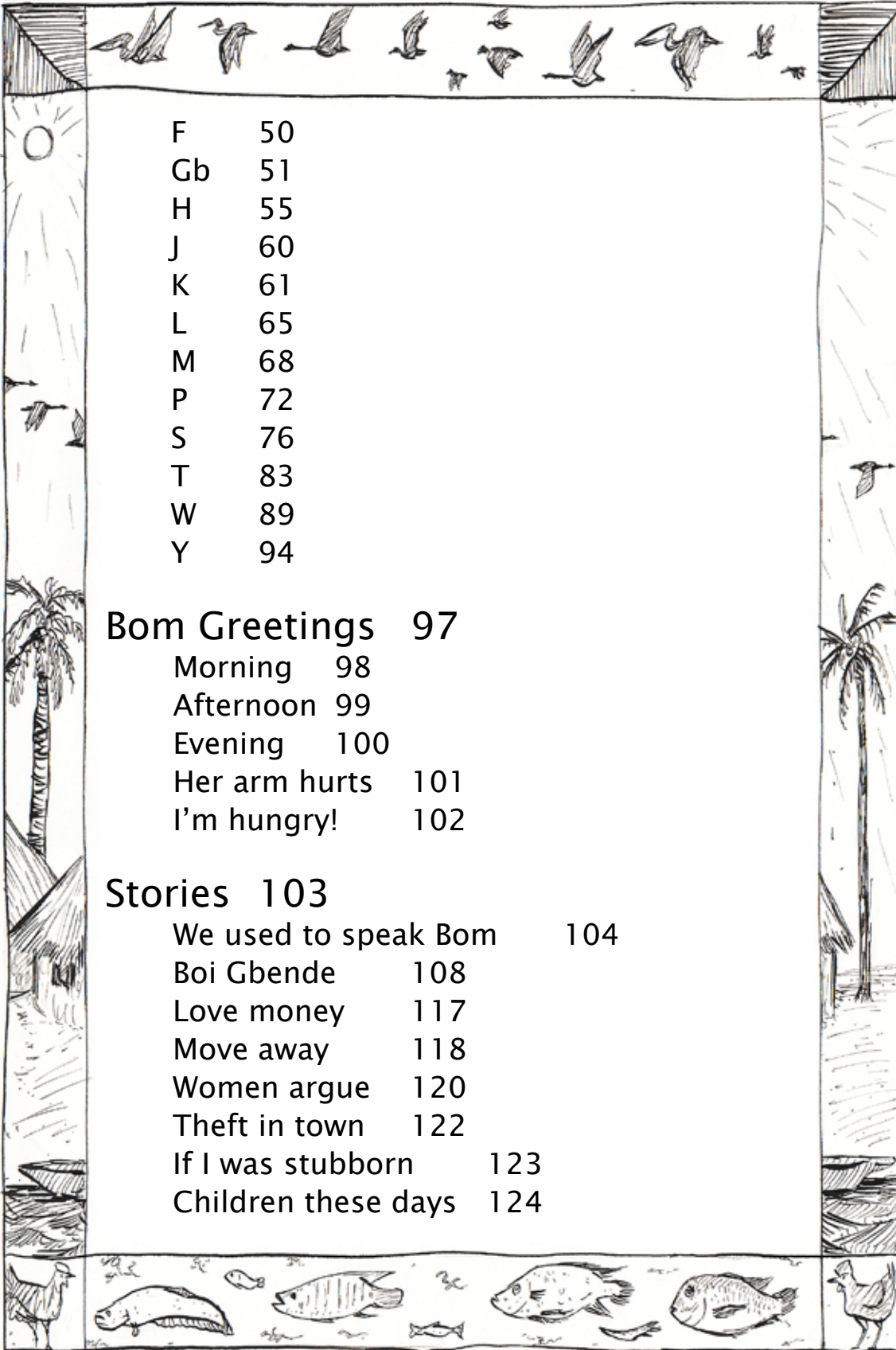
E-mail inquiries may be directed to: [childst@pdx.edu](mailto:childst@pdx.edu)

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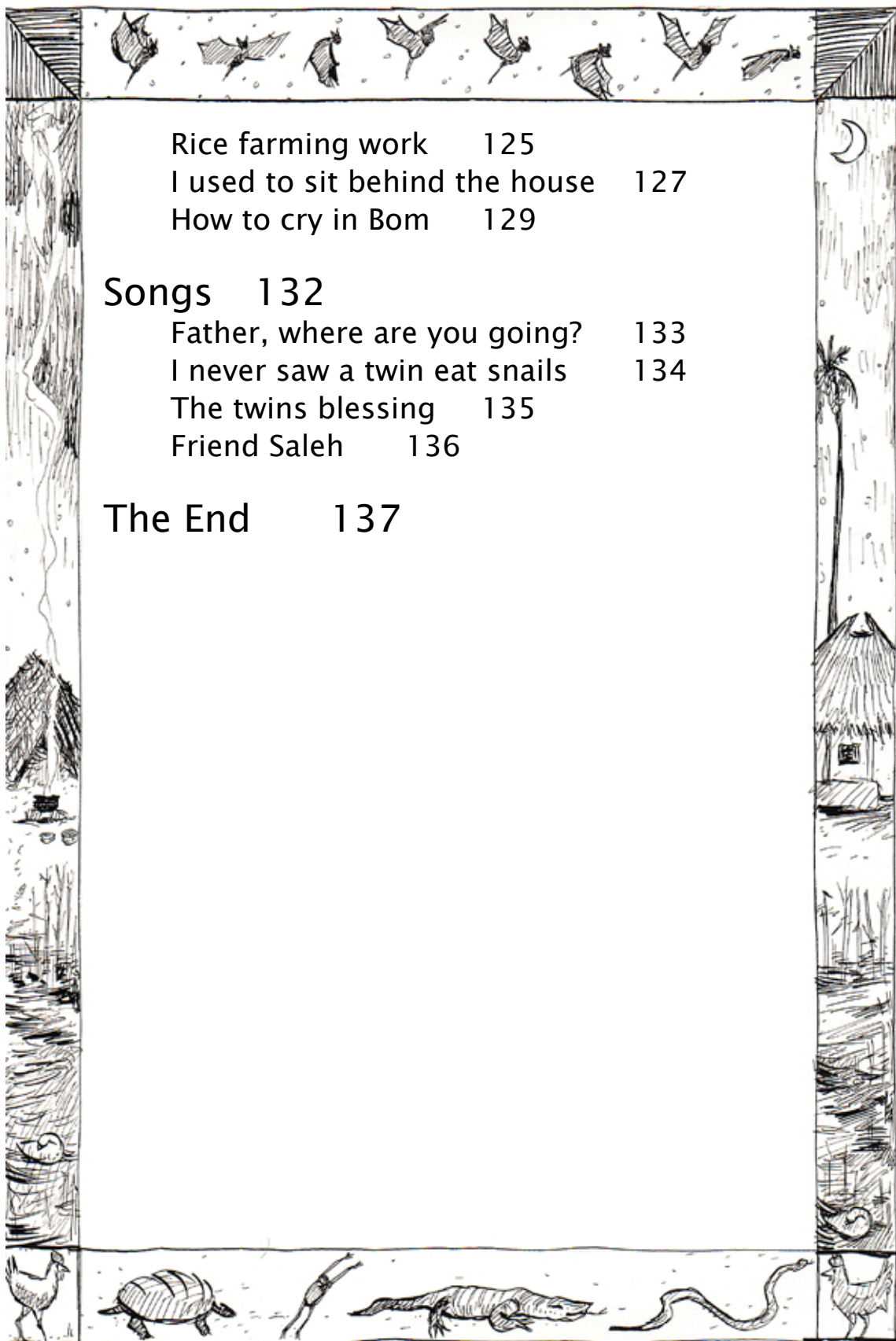
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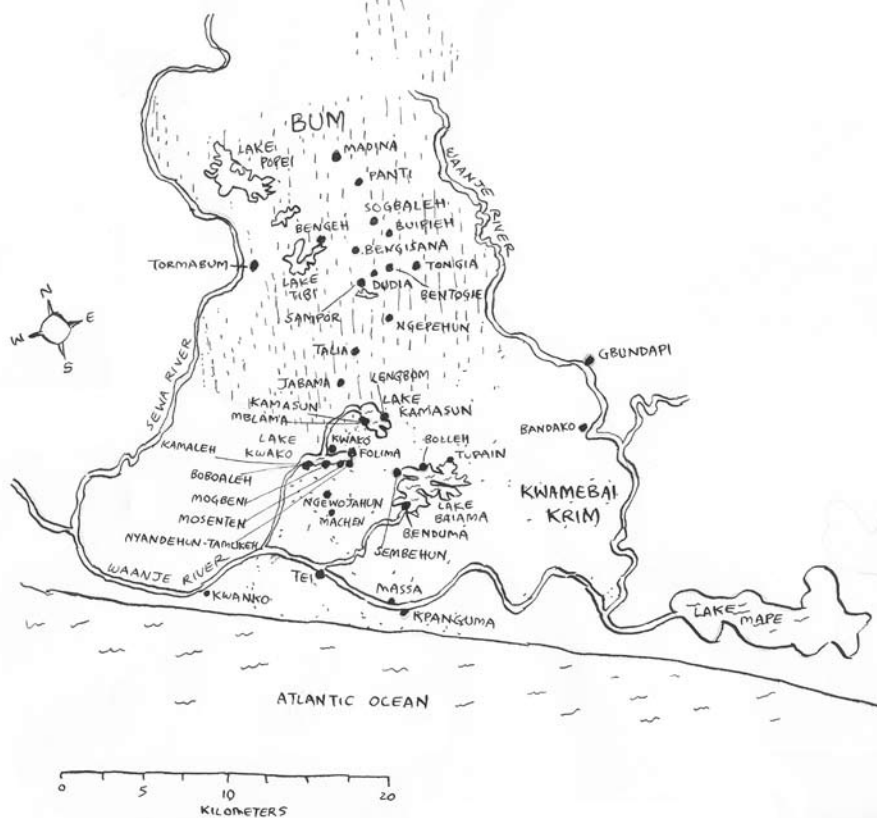


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## Selected Towns of the Bom and Kwamebai Krim Chiefdoms





# Introduction


Aɛgau, abenam!  
Greetings, my parents!  
– Bom respectful address

Welcome to this first primer for the Bom language!

The Bom language of Sierra Leone is in extreme danger of disappearing. In January 2006, Professor Tucker Childs launched the research project “Documenting the Kim and Bom Languages” (DKB) to create records of both the Bom language and of the Kim language, which was formerly spoken in the Krim Chiefdoms adjacent to the Bom-speaking region. Principal Investigator Tucker Childs, co-Principal Investigator Taziff Koroma (of Fourah Bay College), and research assistants Alie Turay and Hannah Sarvasy officially began fieldwork in September 2007 and continued through December 2009, focusing documentation efforts on the Bom and Kwamebai Kim chiefdoms of Sierra Leone’s Bonthé District in the Southern Province.

The DKB’s aim was to record and document the two critically-endangered languages Kim and Bom before they disappeared entirely. The fieldworkers discovered that the languages were spoken only by limited numbers of old people. They observed no children learning the languages.






Working in numerous villages and in Tei, their Waanje River research base, Childs, Sarvasy and Turay, along with some very helpful local language consultants, first assembled a corpus of transcribed and translated Kim and Bom recordings. These texts formed the foundation for Kim and Bom grammars, dictionaries, and language learning aids such as this primer.

Based on accepted scholarly reports, the researchers initially assumed that Kim was still spoken by several hundred people, but that the Bom language had already died out. In actuality, the team discovered spirited Bom speakers in most Bom chiefdom villages they visited, eager to share their language and Bom traditions! And with some eighty speakers in the villages in which the DKB worked, and an additional estimated eighty in other towns, Bom was much more alive than Kim. In fact, the research team found fewer than forty living Kim speakers!

By documenting these two languages, the DKB seeks to restore Bom and Kim to their rightful places in the body of world linguistic knowledge. DKB documentation materials will be stored at the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR) of the University of London as part of an international network of digital endangered language archives. Another Bom and Kim archive exists at Childs's home university, Portland State University, as detailed at our project website: <http://www.pdx.edu/dkb/>. Most importantly, this book, along with the Bom audio and video recordings we made, will be given to the Bom elders and village communities who supported the documentation of their language.





Making the results of our studies accessible to the Bom and Kim communities is a principal DKB goal. This book is thus meant to help:

1. Bom speakers to learn to read and write their language. As a bonus, since we use the same alphabet that is used for writing Mende, once Bom speakers have mastered reading and writing their own language, they will also be able to read and write Mende.
2. Non-Bom speakers to learn to speak, read, and write Bom. This is best accomplished by working together with a Bom speaker, who will demonstrate correct pronunciation and explain vocabulary use. Again, learning to read and write Bom enables anyone to easily read and write Mende as well.
3. The Bom people to celebrate and disseminate their cultural heritage. In this book, traditional songs and stories, along with descriptions of traditional farming, games, and rituals, offer a glimpse of the disappearing Bom culture.

This book progresses from basic Bom vocabulary to simple conversations, and concludes with more complex stories, songs, and conversations in Bom. Work with the book and, if possible, with a Bom speaker, can be supplemented by listening to the DKB Bom recordings.

Welcome, again, to the Bom language of Sierra Leone!



# Symbols

Yi kɔ, yi kɔ, yi kɔ, Baam Kain!  
Let's go, let's go, let's go, Father Khain!  
– Bom women's song

Literate Sierra Leoneans and speakers of many other African and European languages will have no problem with the sounds and symbols in this book. The symbols used here are also employed in the writing systems of Sierra Leone's national languages: Krio, Mende, and Temne.

The consonants are straightforward, even for non-Sierra Leoneans. A few consonant sounds and symbols, however, may be unfamiliar to readers. Explanations of these follow:

**ny** the medial sounds in “canyon” and “onion”

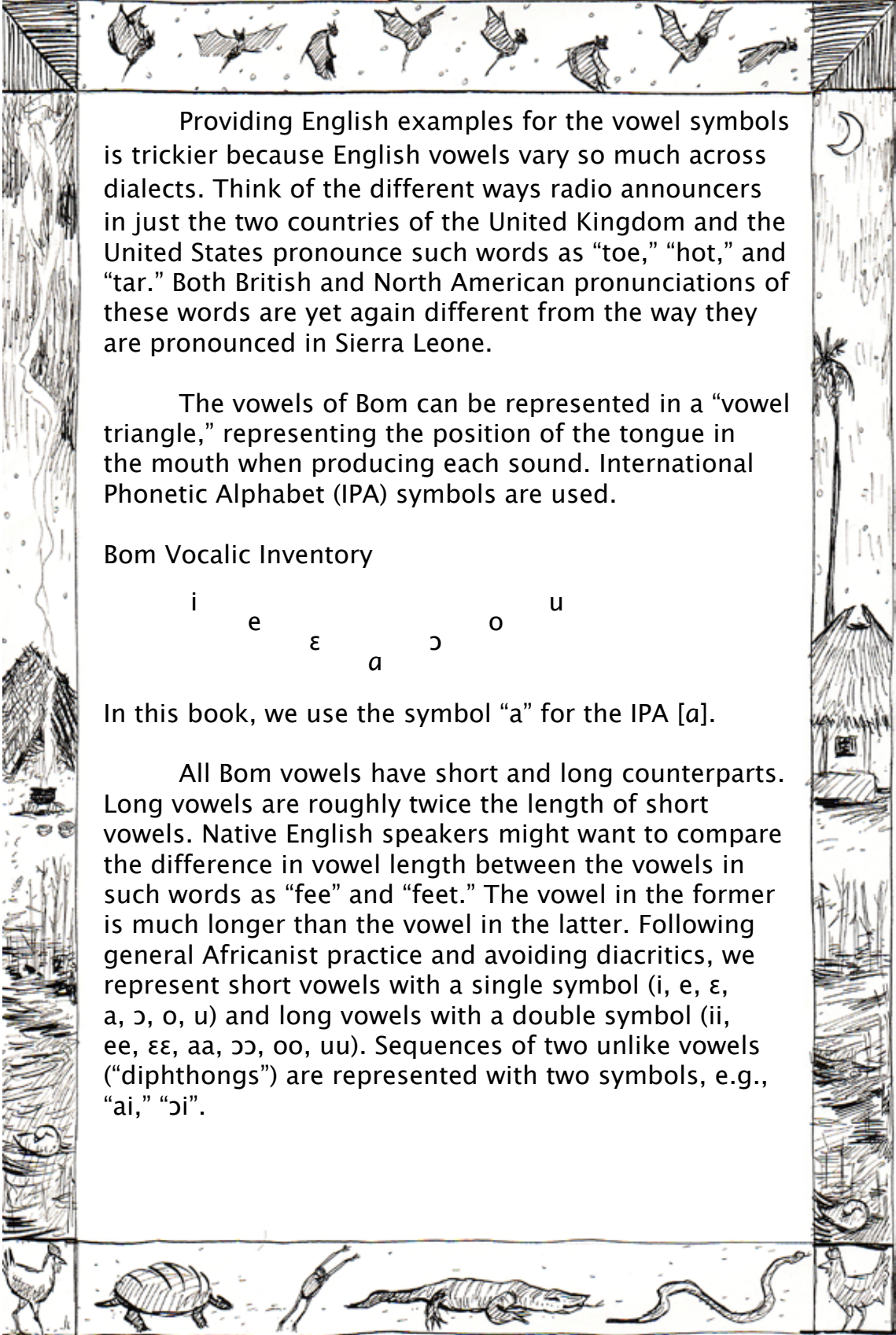
**ŋ** the final sound in “sing” and “long”; the medial sound in “singer,” but not the medial sound in “longer.”

**gb** this sound does not exist in English, except at the juncture between two parts of a compound like “bagboy,” or in a phrase, such as “big boy,” said rapidly. To produce it correctly, you must pronounce a “g” and “b” at the same time. This is a common sound in Sierra Leonean languages.

**c** the first and final sounds in “church”

**j** the first and final sounds in “judge”

**mb, nd, ng** known as prenasalized stops, these are single sounds beginning with a little nasality. English speakers should avoid pronouncing them as full syllables.



Providing English examples for the vowel symbols is trickier because English vowels vary so much across dialects. Think of the different ways radio announcers in just the two countries of the United Kingdom and the United States pronounce such words as “toe,” “hot,” and “tar.” Both British and North American pronunciations of these words are yet again different from the way they are pronounced in Sierra Leone.

The vowels of Bom can be represented in a “vowel triangle,” representing the position of the tongue in the mouth when producing each sound. International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols are used.

#### Bom Vocalic Inventory

i e ε a ɔ o u

In this book, we use the symbol “a” for the IPA [a].

All Bom vowels have short and long counterparts. Long vowels are roughly twice the length of short vowels. Native English speakers might want to compare the difference in vowel length between the vowels in such words as “fee” and “feet.” The vowel in the former is much longer than the vowel in the latter. Following general Africanist practice and avoiding diacritics, we represent short vowels with a single symbol (i, e, ε, a, ɔ, o, u) and long vowels with a double symbol (ii, ee, εε, aa, ɔɔ, oo, uu). Sequences of two unlike vowels (“diphthongs”) are represented with two symbols, e.g., “ai,” “ɔi”.



Here are some examples of the Bom vowel sounds to help English-speaking non-Sierra Leoneans. While American and British English vowels such as “e” and “o” are actually sequences of vowels or diphthongs, the vowels of Bom are “pure” or steady-state; there is no movement of the tongue or lips as they are produced. This is more like the sounds of Spanish or Italian.

The vowels of Bom and their symbols

	SAE	RP	Krio <sup>1</sup>
i	tea	tea	ti ‘tea’
e	say	say	se ‘say’
ɛ	let	let	lɛta ‘letter’
a	cot	cot	sa ‘sir’
ɔ	caught	caught	kɔt ‘cut’
o	coat		kot ‘coat’
u	suit	suit	sut ‘suit’

“SAE” = Standard American English; “RP” = Received Pronunciation, sometimes known as “BBC English”

<sup>1</sup> Krio examples come from Fyle, C. N. and E. D. Jones (1981). A Krio-English Dictionary. New York, Oxford University Press.





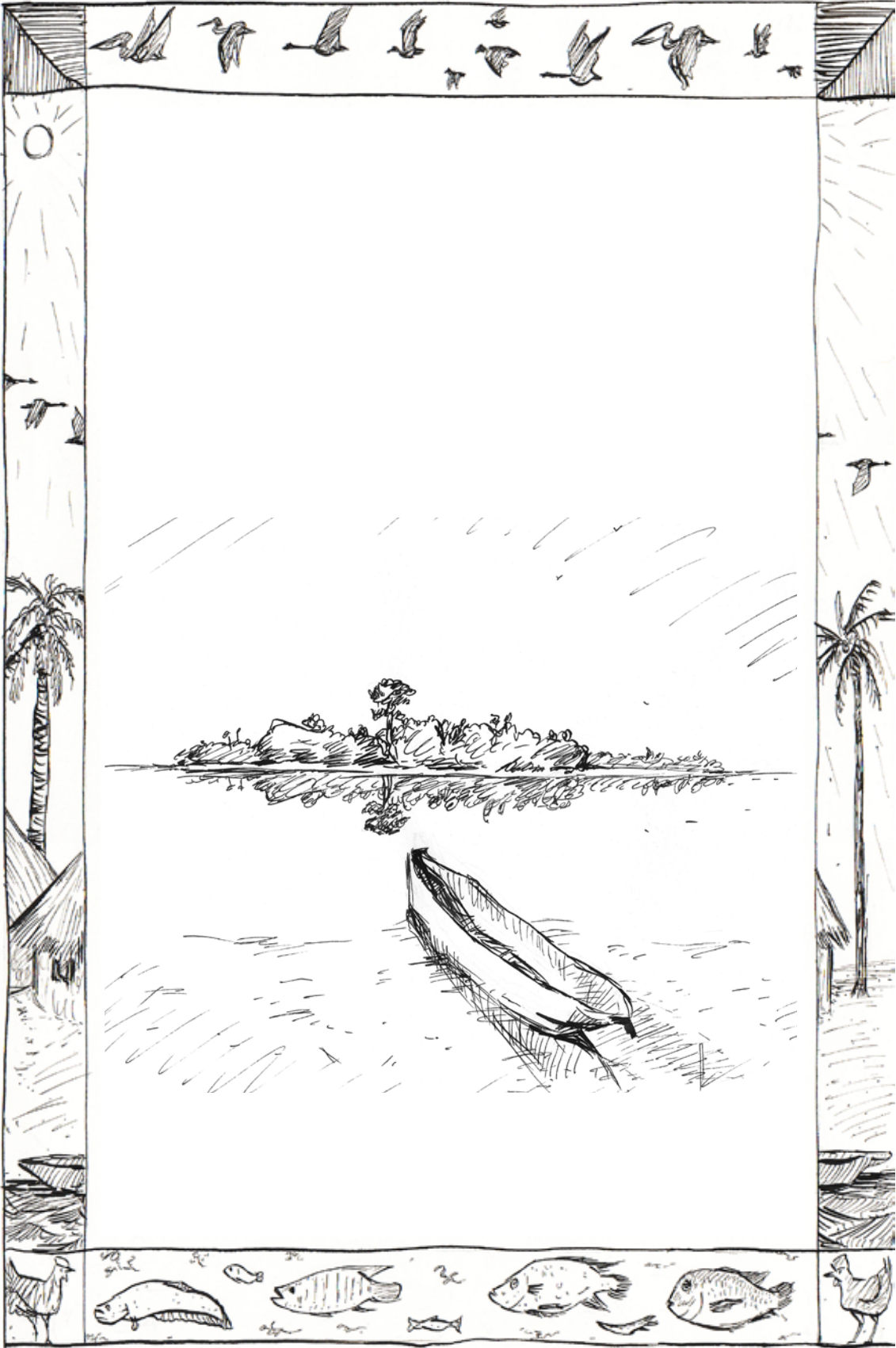
## Acknowledgements

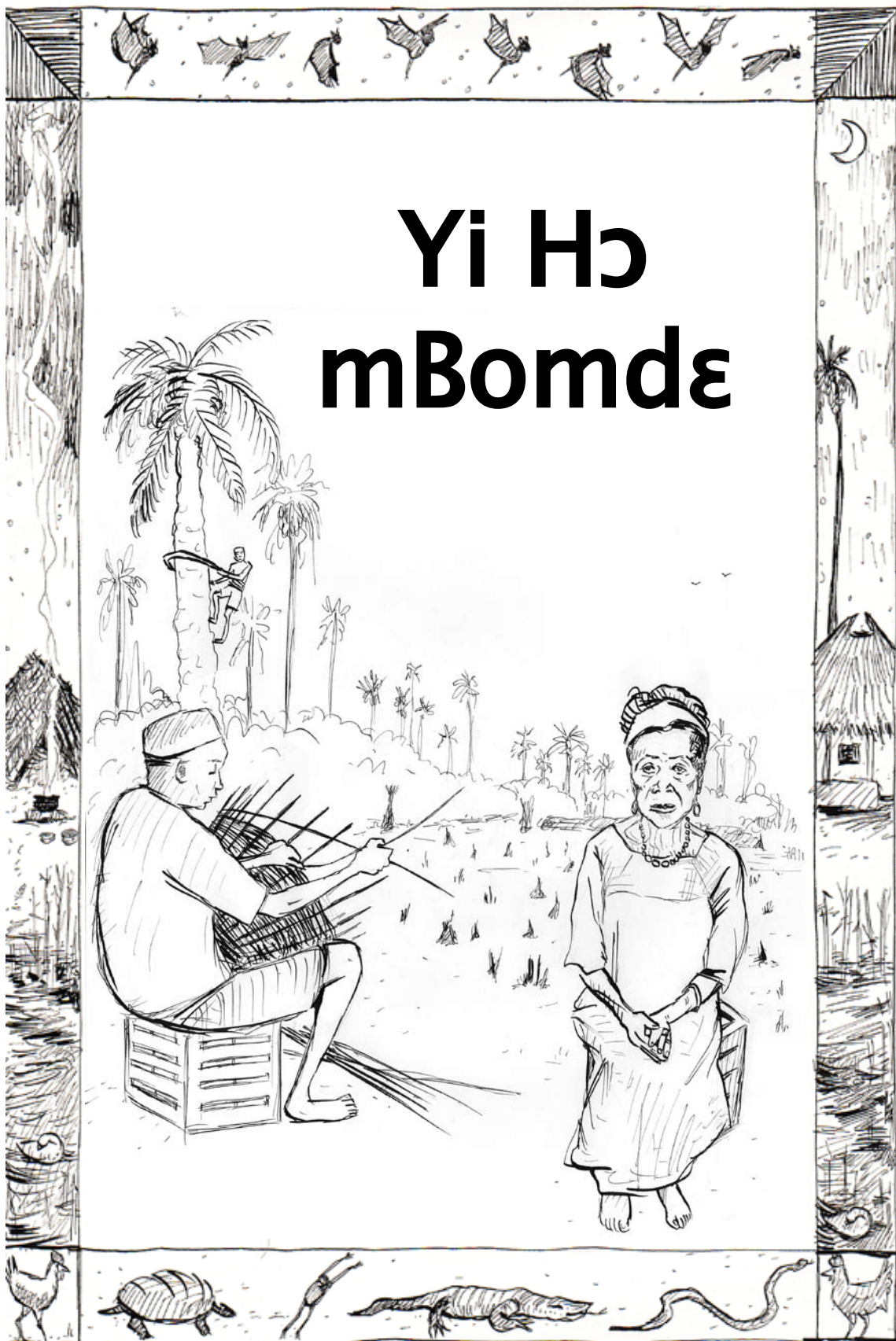
The DKB owes a great debt to language consultant Tommy Ngombu, “Professor of Bom,” who labored patiently with us in the field and at DKB headquarters helping us to transcribe our audio and video recordings in marathon sessions. We are deeply grateful to the chiefs of all the Bom towns and chiefdom sections in which we conducted our research. Alfa B. Kamara of Dudia, Kaddie Kamara of Sampor, and Mbimba Tua of Sogbaleh were especially supportive to us, as was Chief Tua’s daughter, Angela, also of Sogbaleh.

The texts in this book are only a sampling of the many hours of spoken and sung Bom that we recorded over the course of the project. We thank all the wonderful Bom elders who welcomed us into their communities and supported our work.

Funding for the DKB was provided by the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Documentation Project in the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and the National Science Foundation of the United States.

The project was affiliated with Fourah Bay College, the University of Sierra Leone, especially the African Studies Center and the Linguistics Program in the Department of Modern Languages. Personnel who have been particularly helpful at the University are Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Jonas A.S. Redwood-Sawyer, Deputy Registrar S.N. Dumbuya, Dean Joe A.D. Alie of the Faculty of Arts, and Modern Languages Chair Kenneth Osho.





# Yi Ho mBomde





# Anyalɛ



abɛna



apuma



# Amalɛ

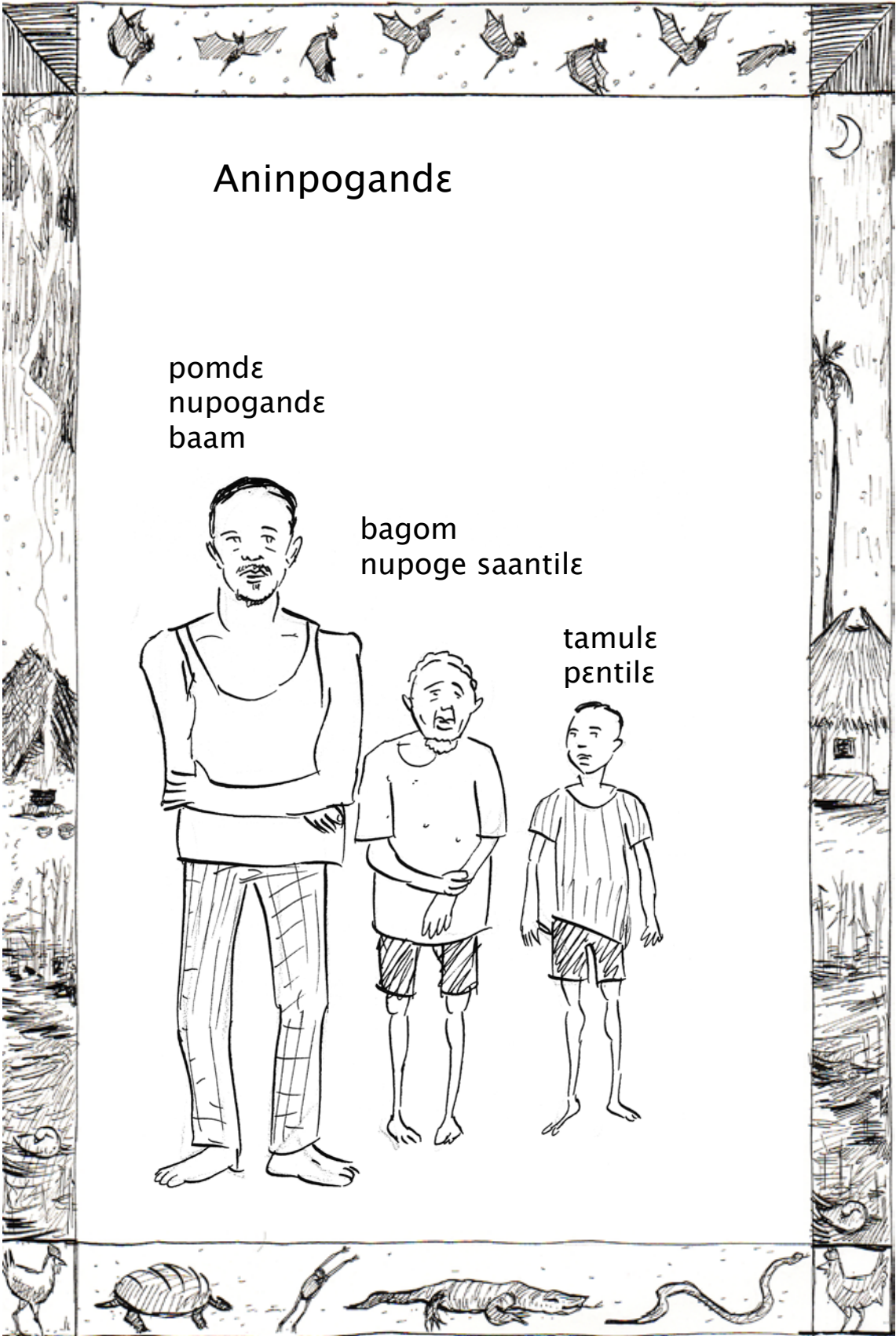
laa  
numalɛ  
yaam

wandalɛ  
wantele

taam  
numa saantile

duantile  
cualɛ





Aninpogandε

pomδ  
nupogandε  
baam

bagom  
nupoge saantile

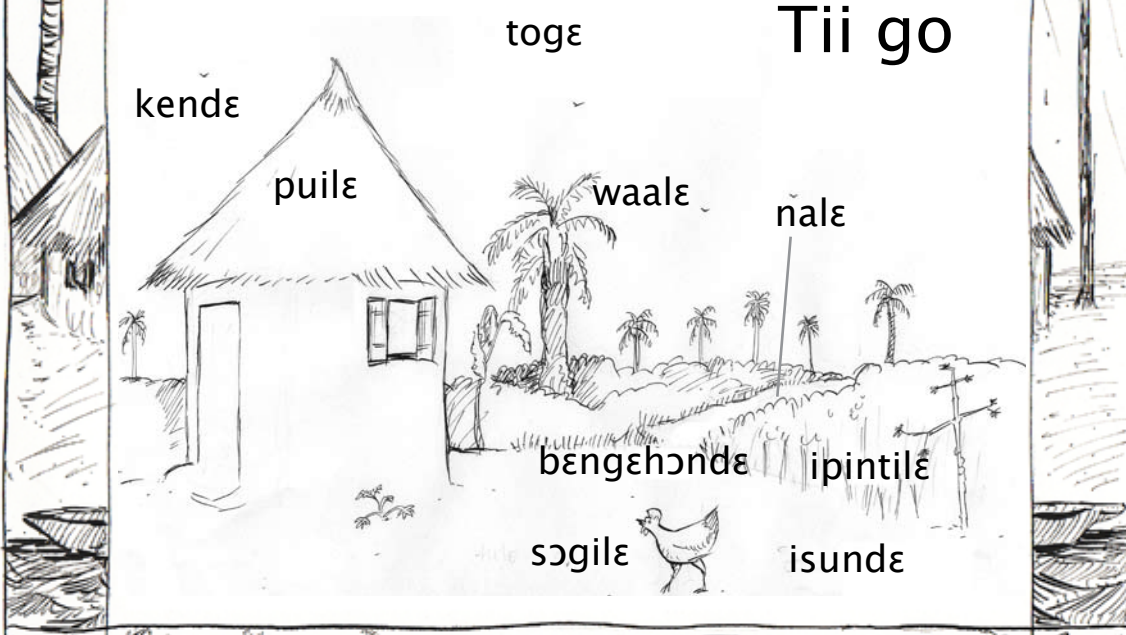
tamule  
pentile



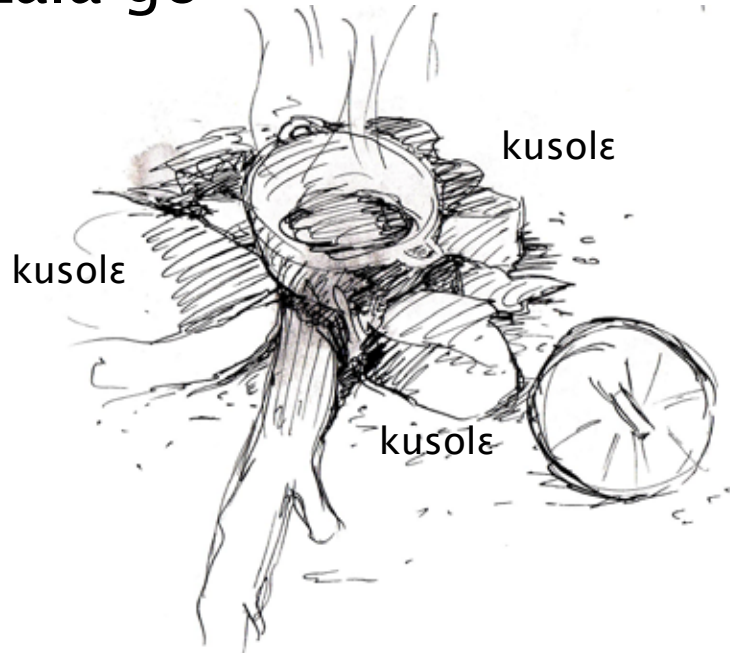
# Hopa go



# Tii go



Lala go

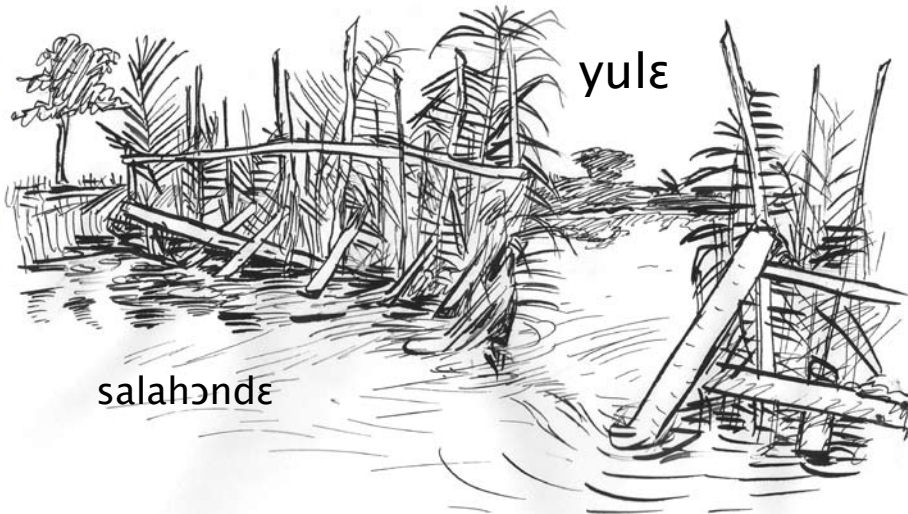


kusole

kusole

kusole

Pue go

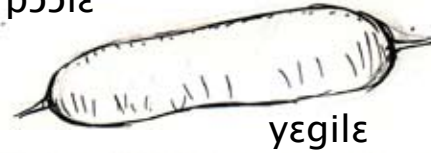
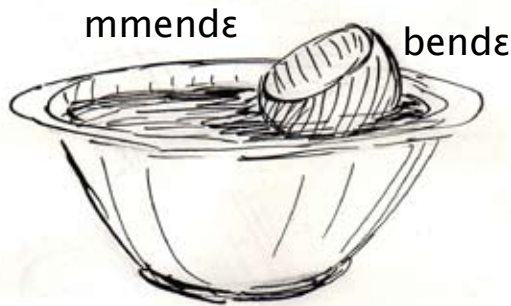


yule

salahõnde



# Ben go

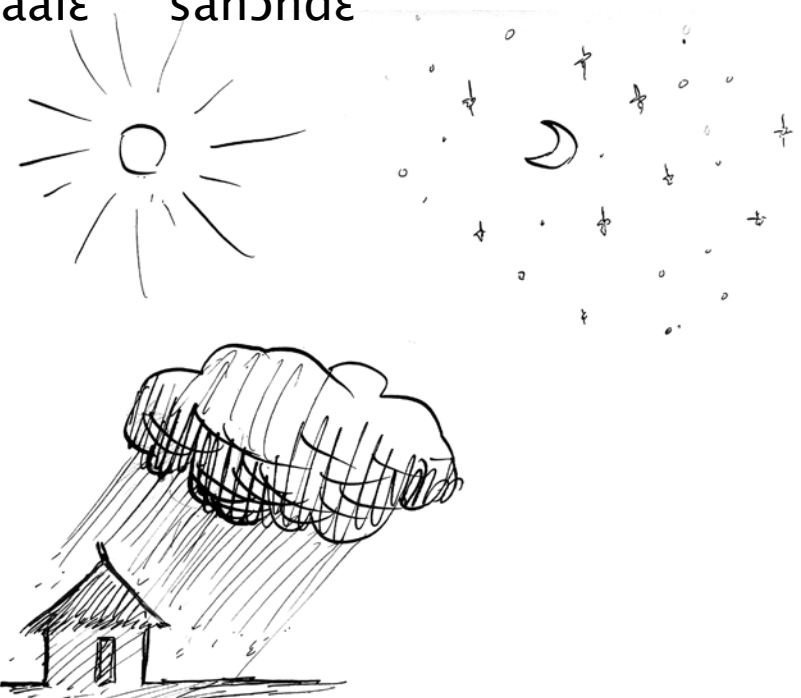


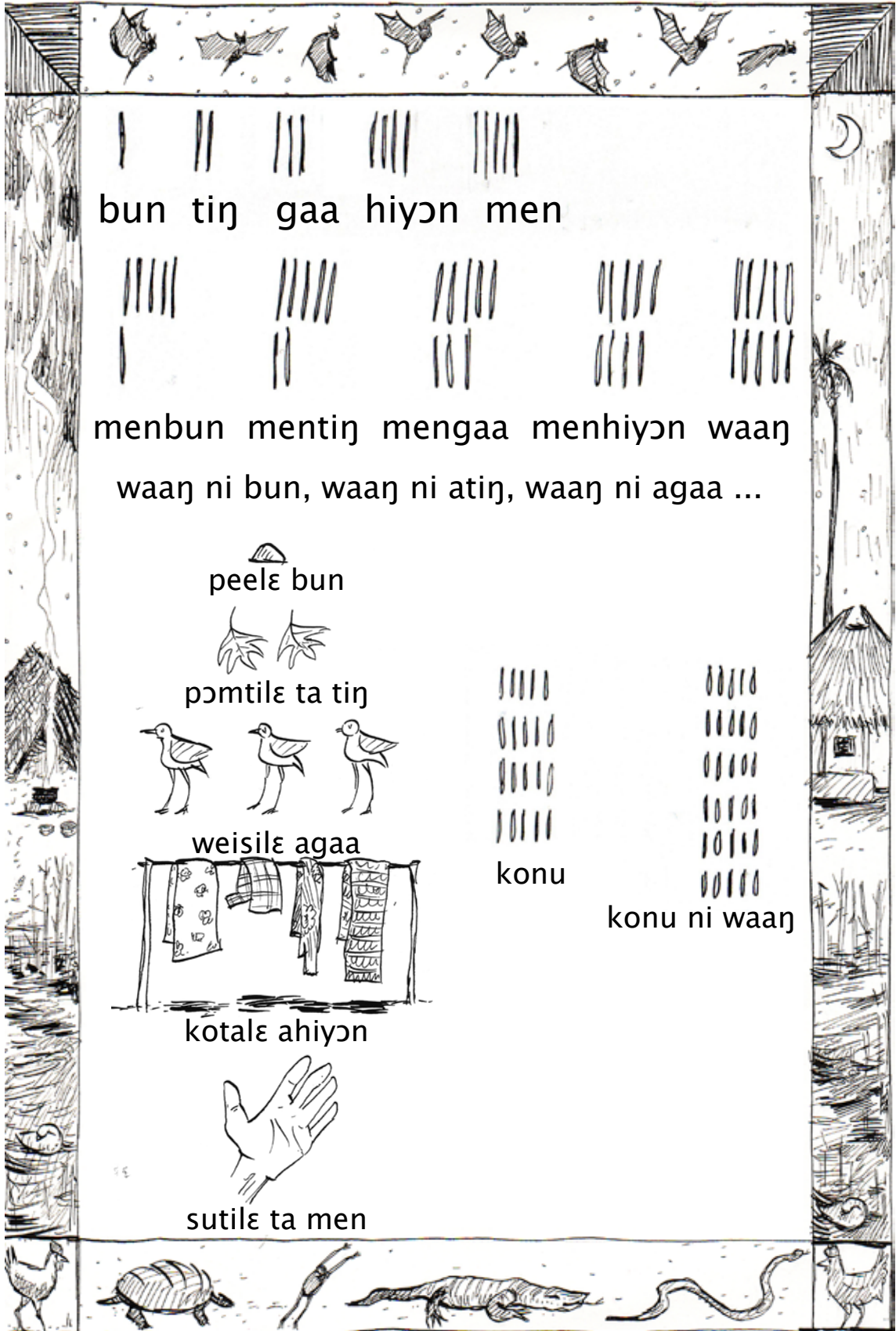
# Nyegile






O Tεmδε  
 ca nan gben jεg  
 lɔɔ paandε nendε  
 isɔε isɔ bom huεε pandε  
 paandε cɔndε pali cɔli  
 saale sahɔndε



  
 bun tij gaa hiyɔn men

  
 menbun mentij mengaa menhiyɔn waan  
 waan ni bun, waan ni atij, waan ni agaa ...

  
 peelɛ bun

  
 pɔmtilɛ ta tij



weisilɛ agaa



kotalɛ ahiyɔn



sutilɛ ta men



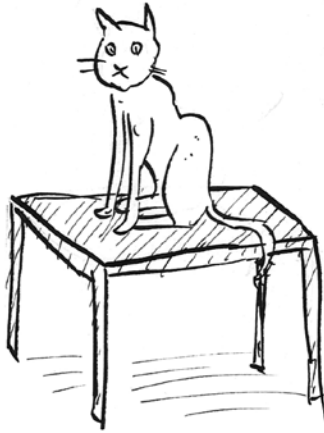
konu



konu ni waan

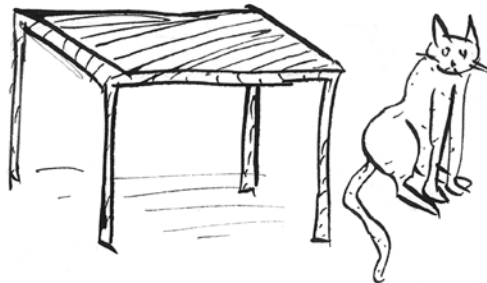


Togi, tɛnti, welenɟ, kengen



togi

Yaile wɔ can tebile  
togi.



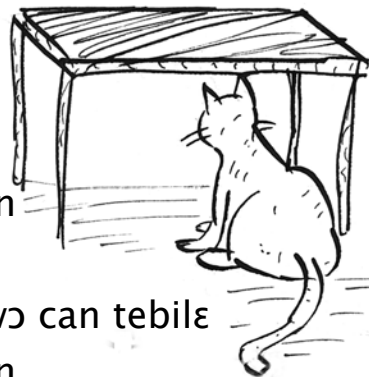
tɛnti

Yaile wɔ can  
tebile tɛnti.

welenɟ

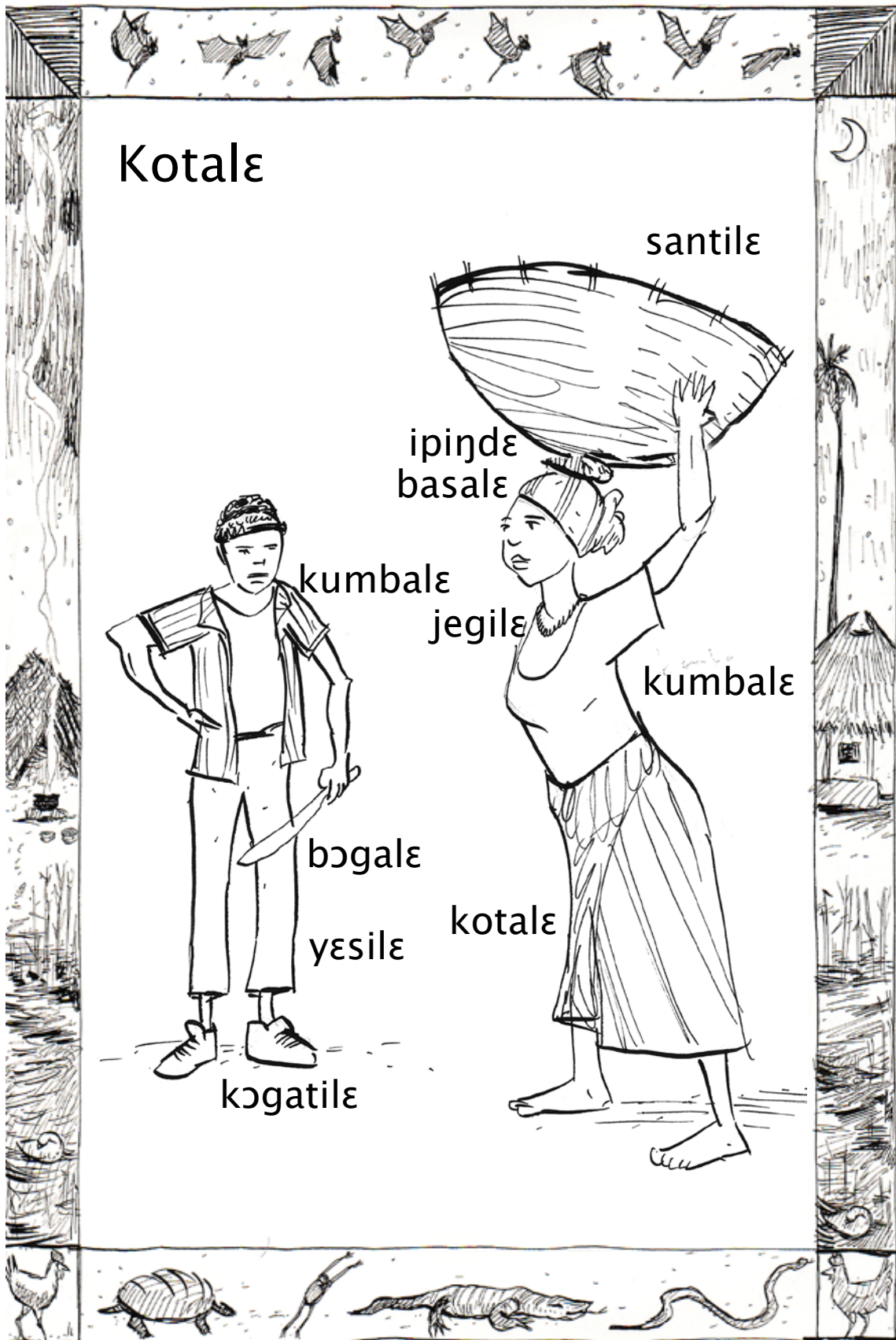


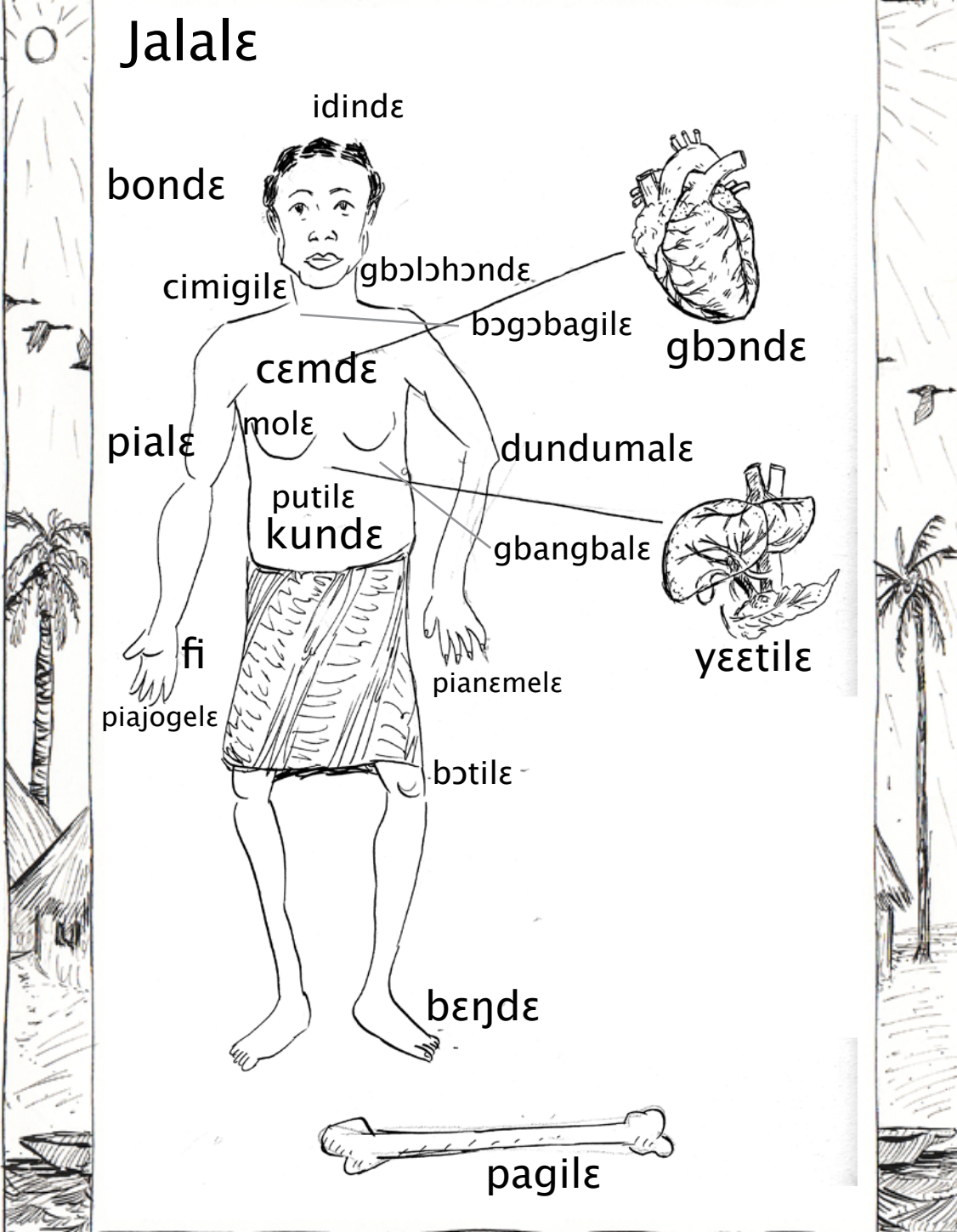
Yaile wɔ can tebile  
welenɟ.

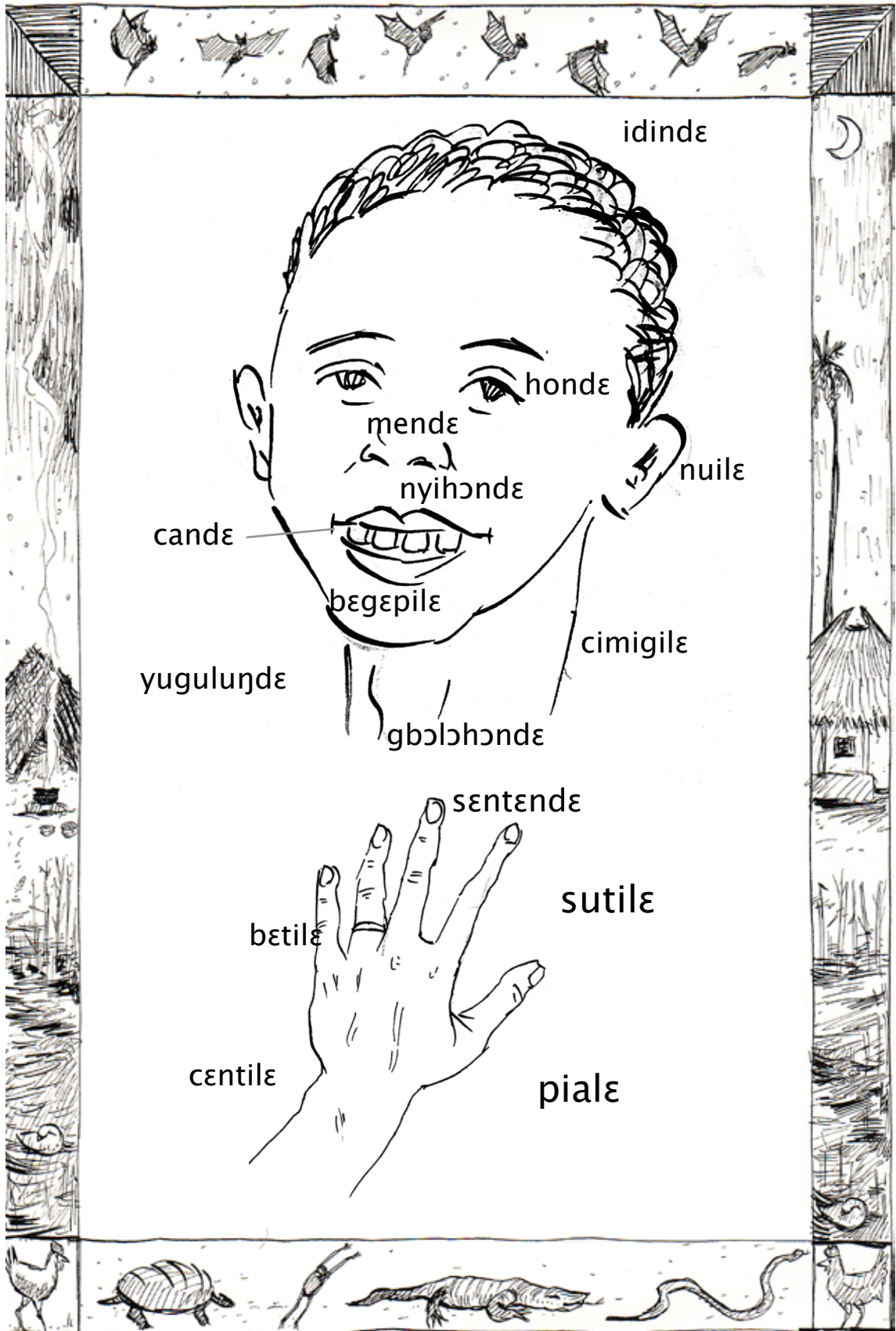


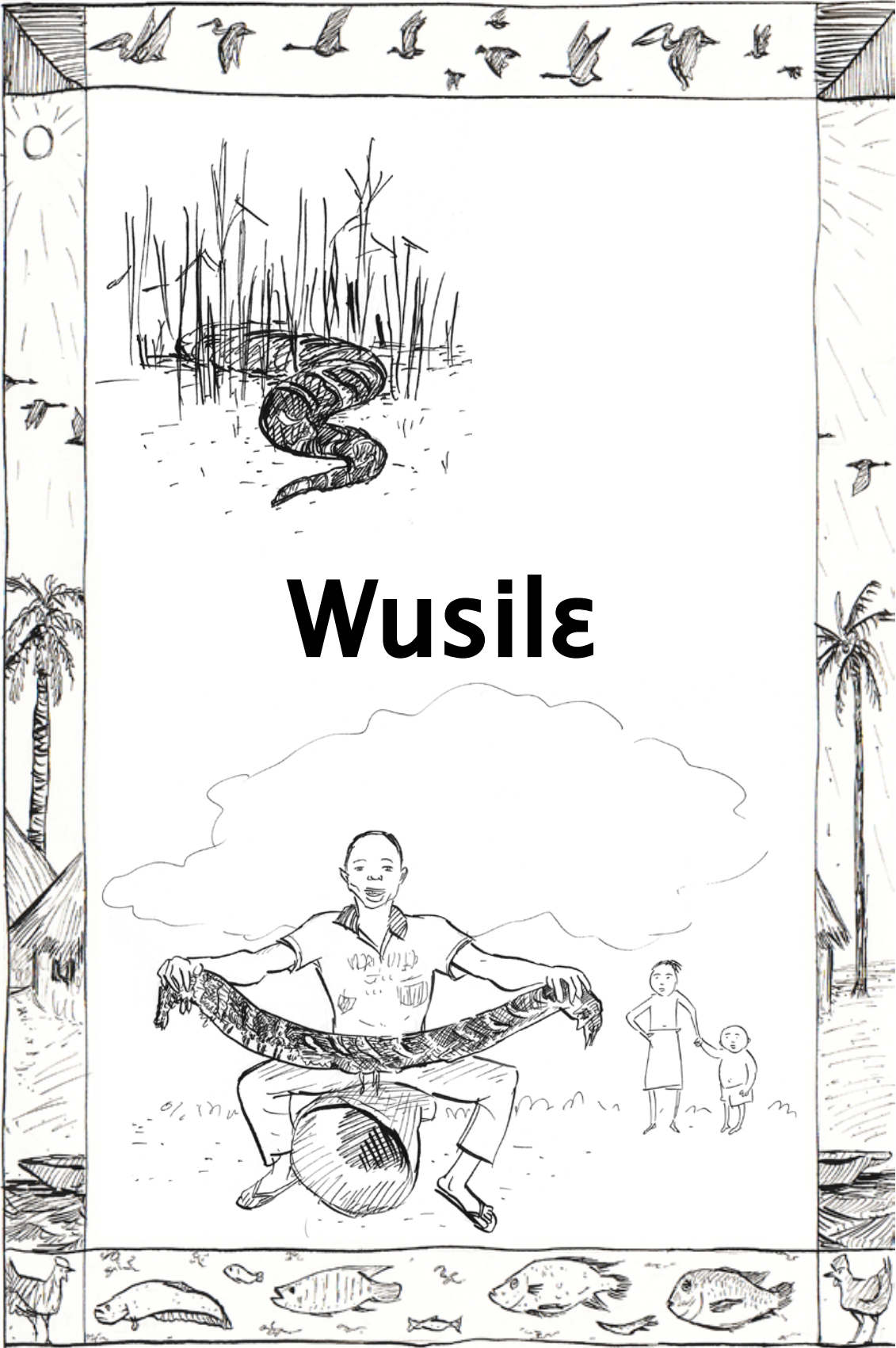
kengen

Yaile wɔ can tebile  
kengen.







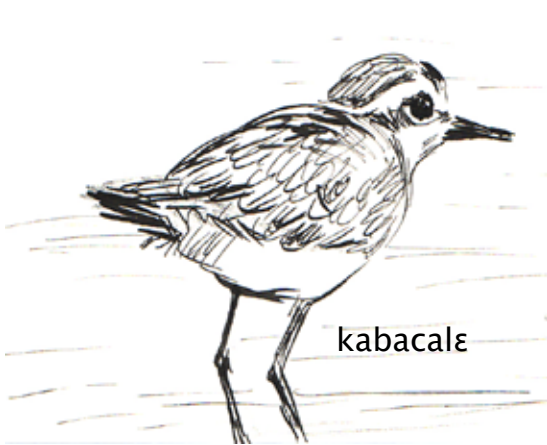


# Wusile

# Weisile



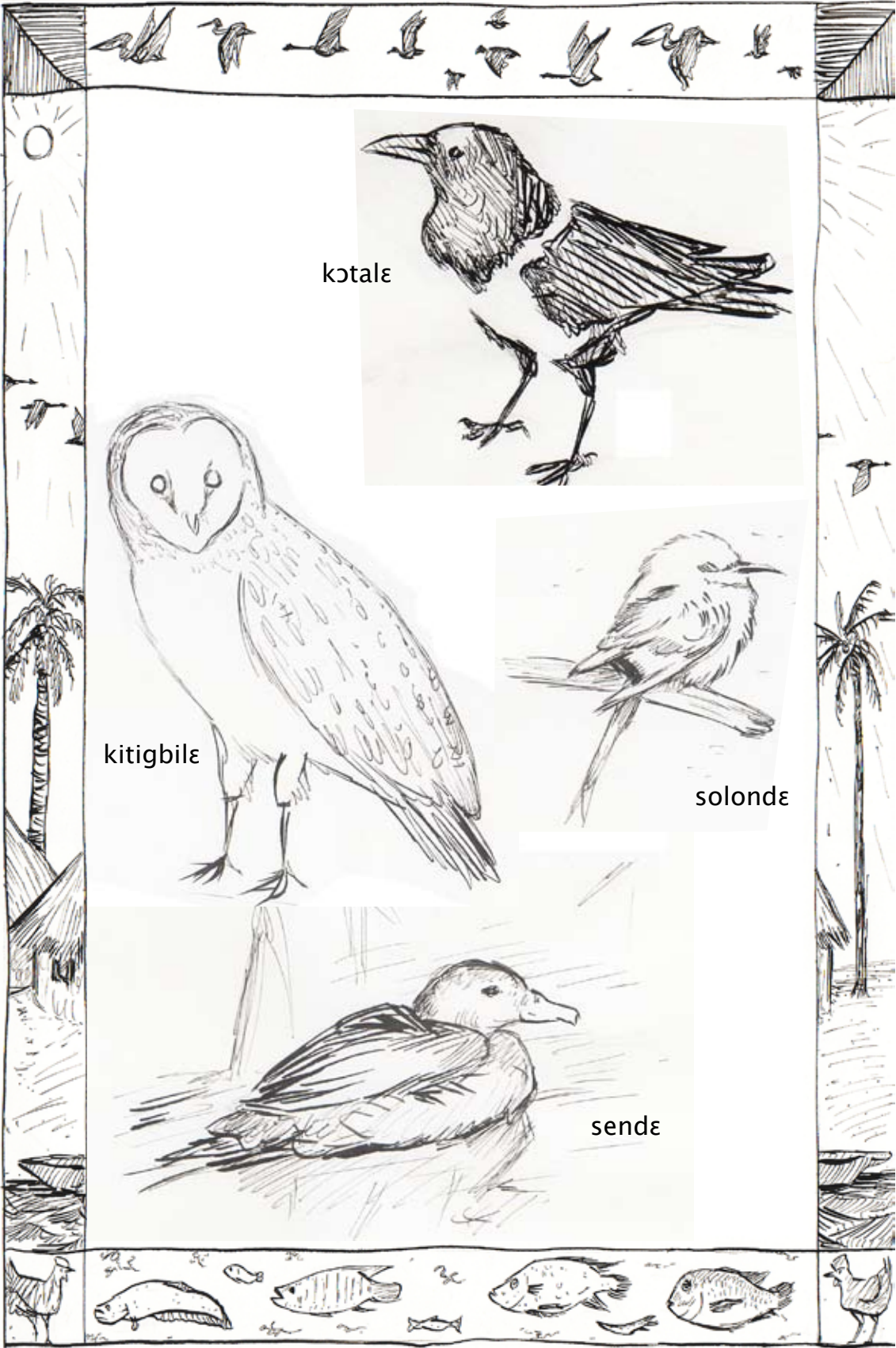
yibale



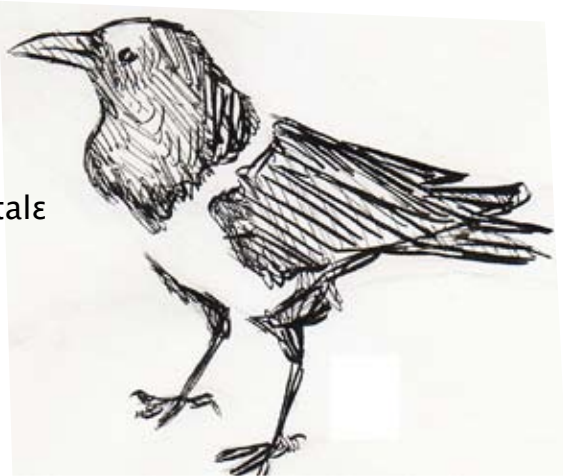
kabacale



sogile



kotale



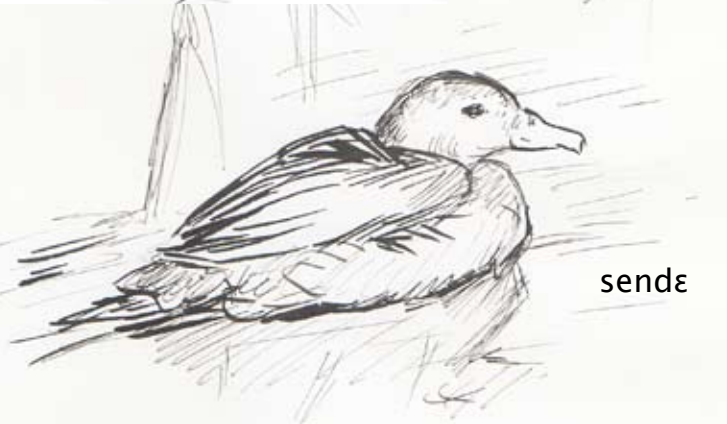
kitigbile

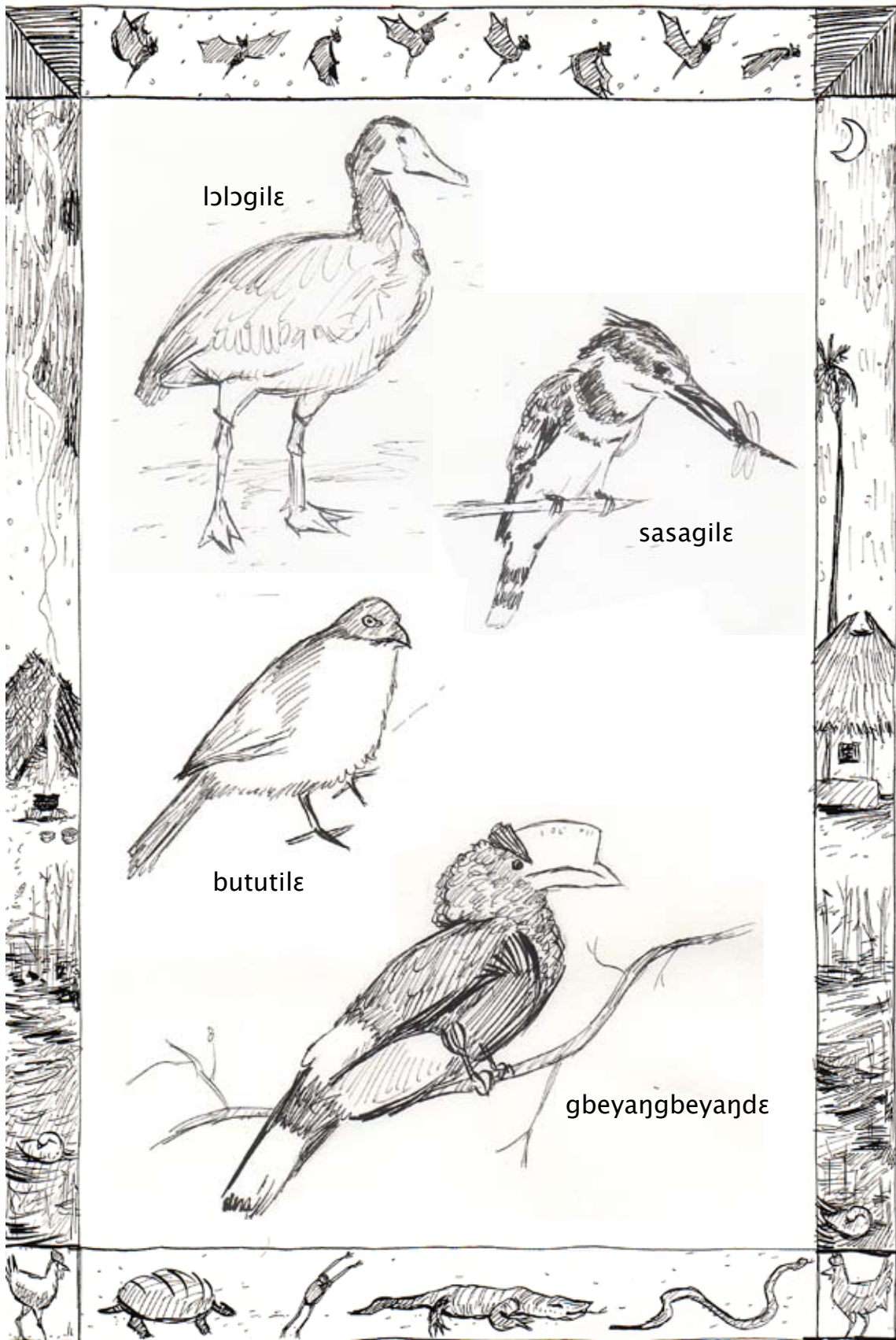


solonde



sende





lɔɔgile



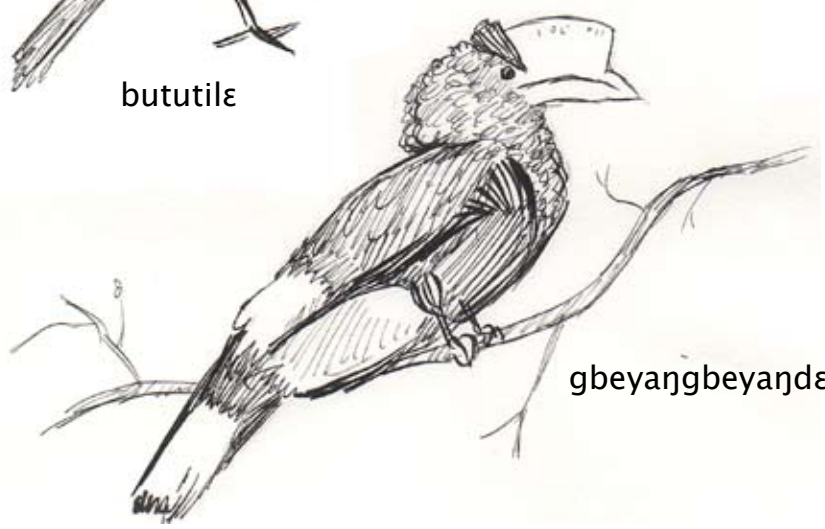
sasagile



bututile



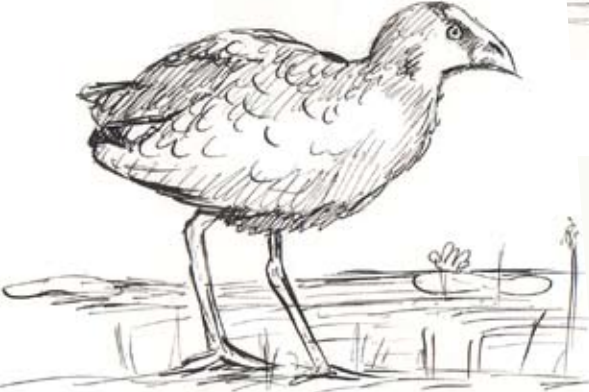
gbeyangbeyande







cancalole

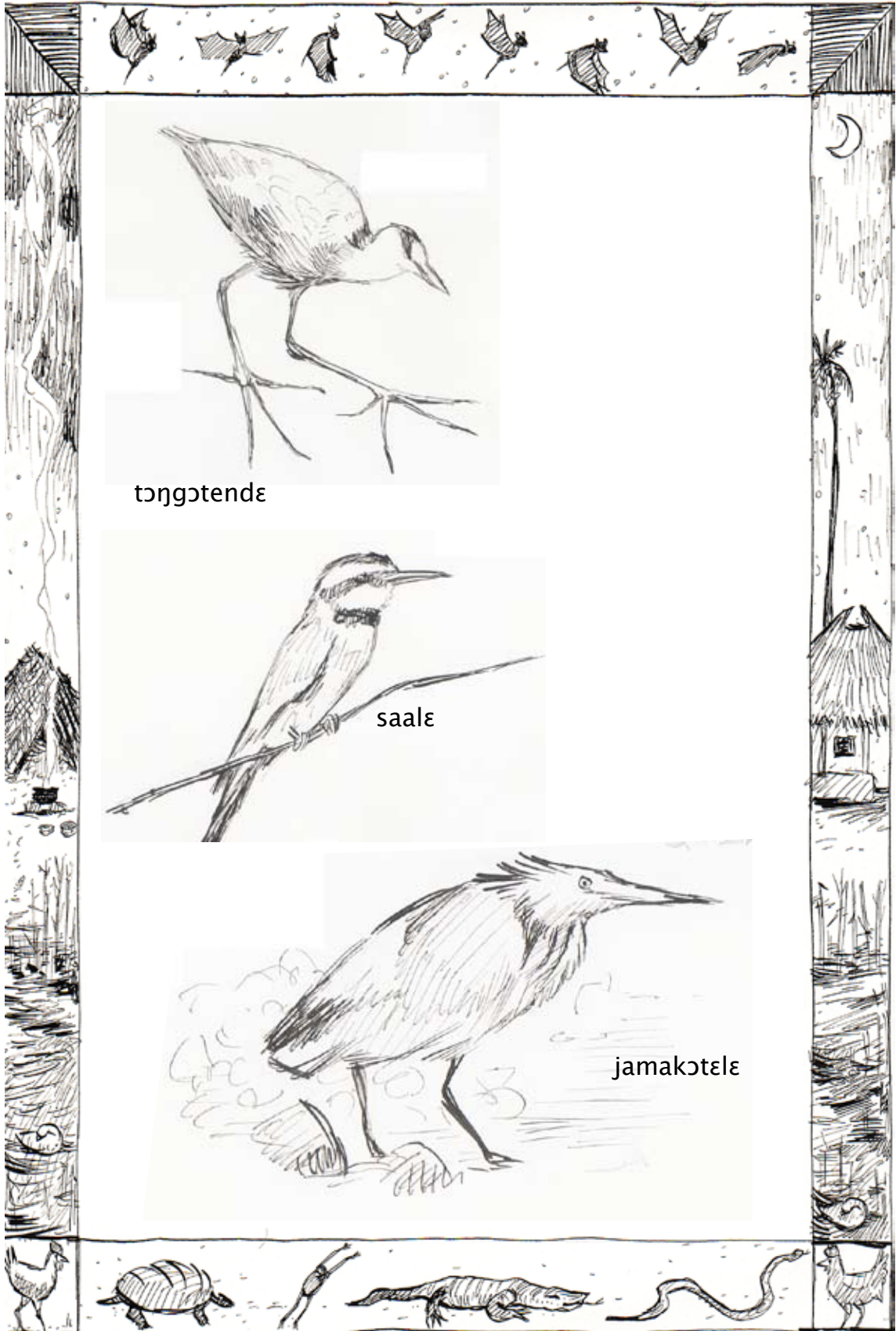


centile



pumpumde





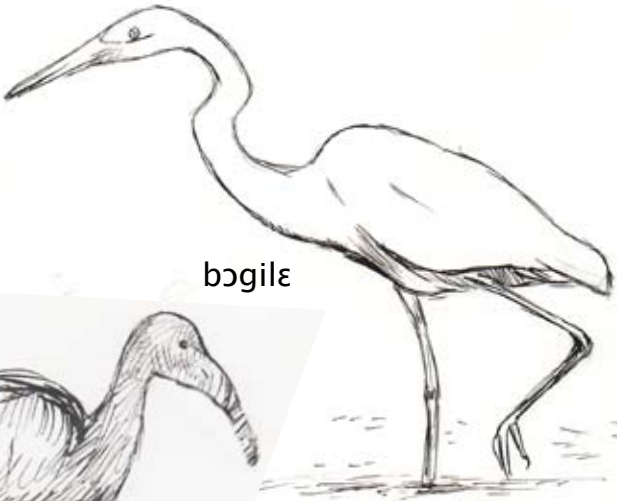
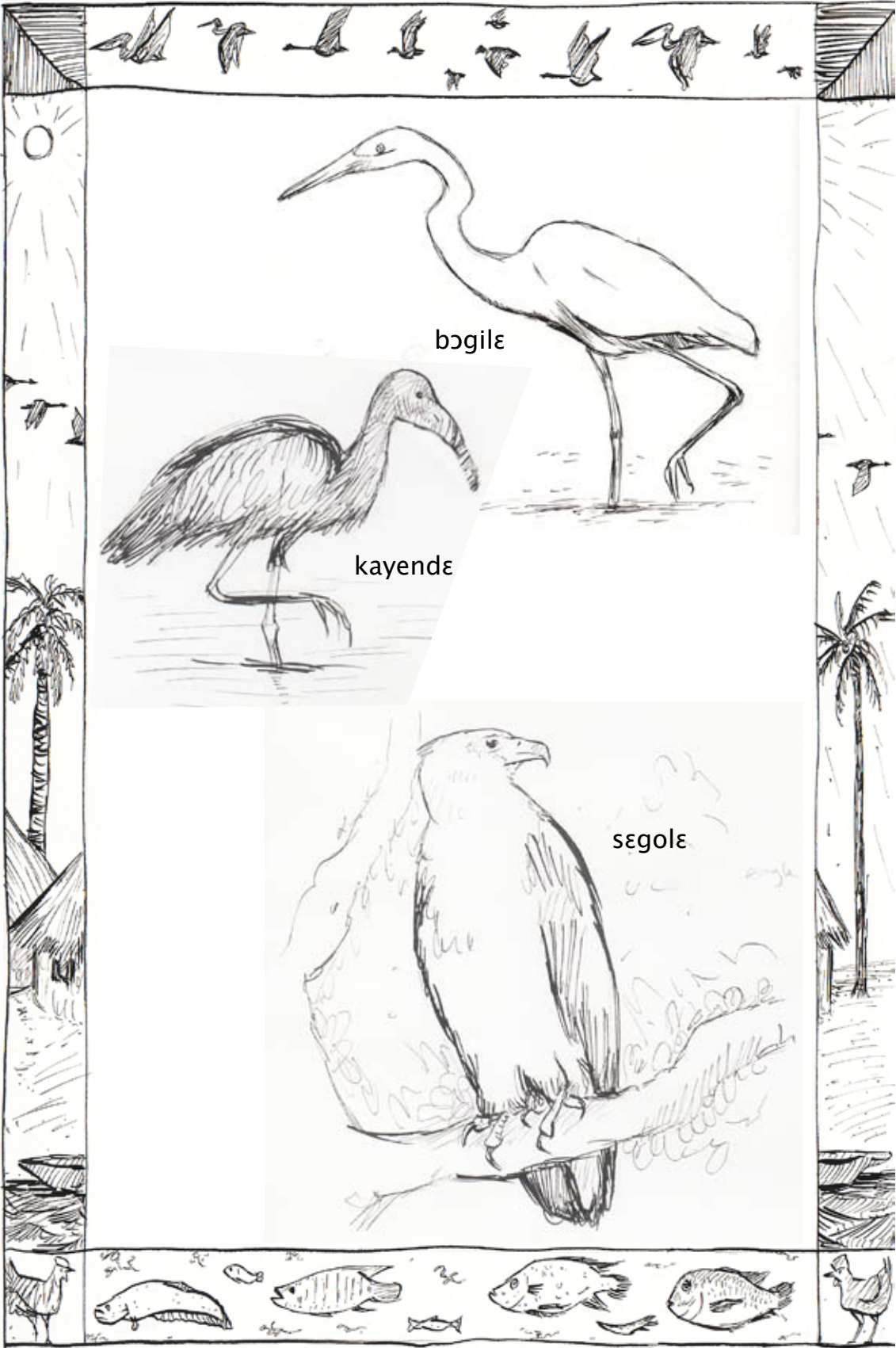
tɔŋɔtende



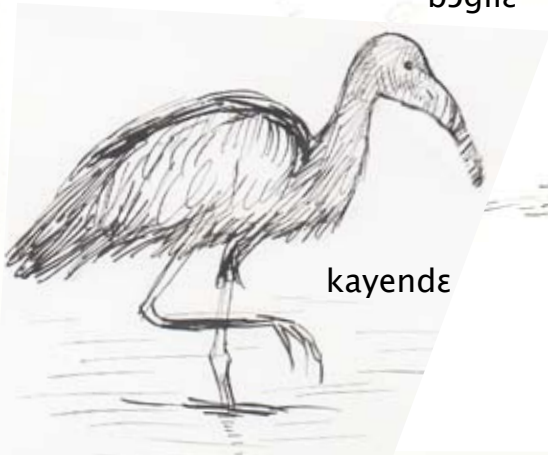
saale



jamakɔtɛɛ



bɔgile

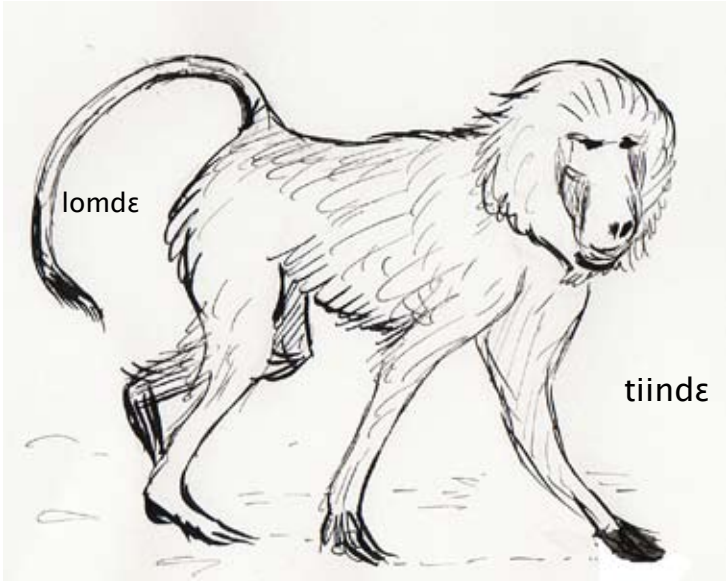
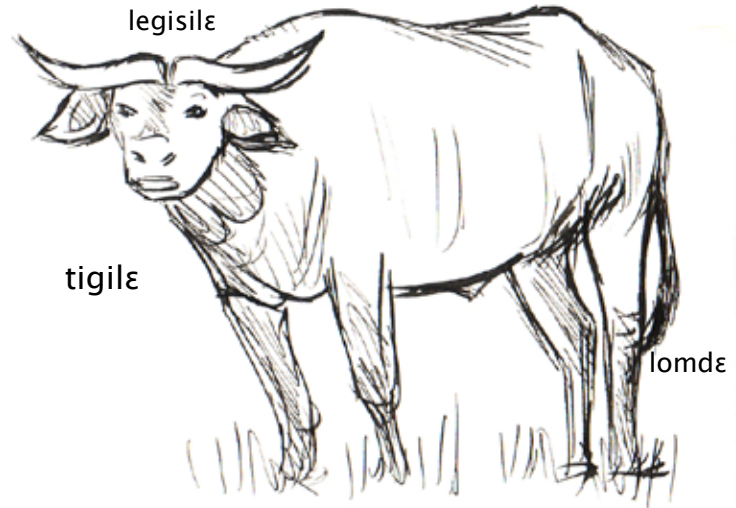


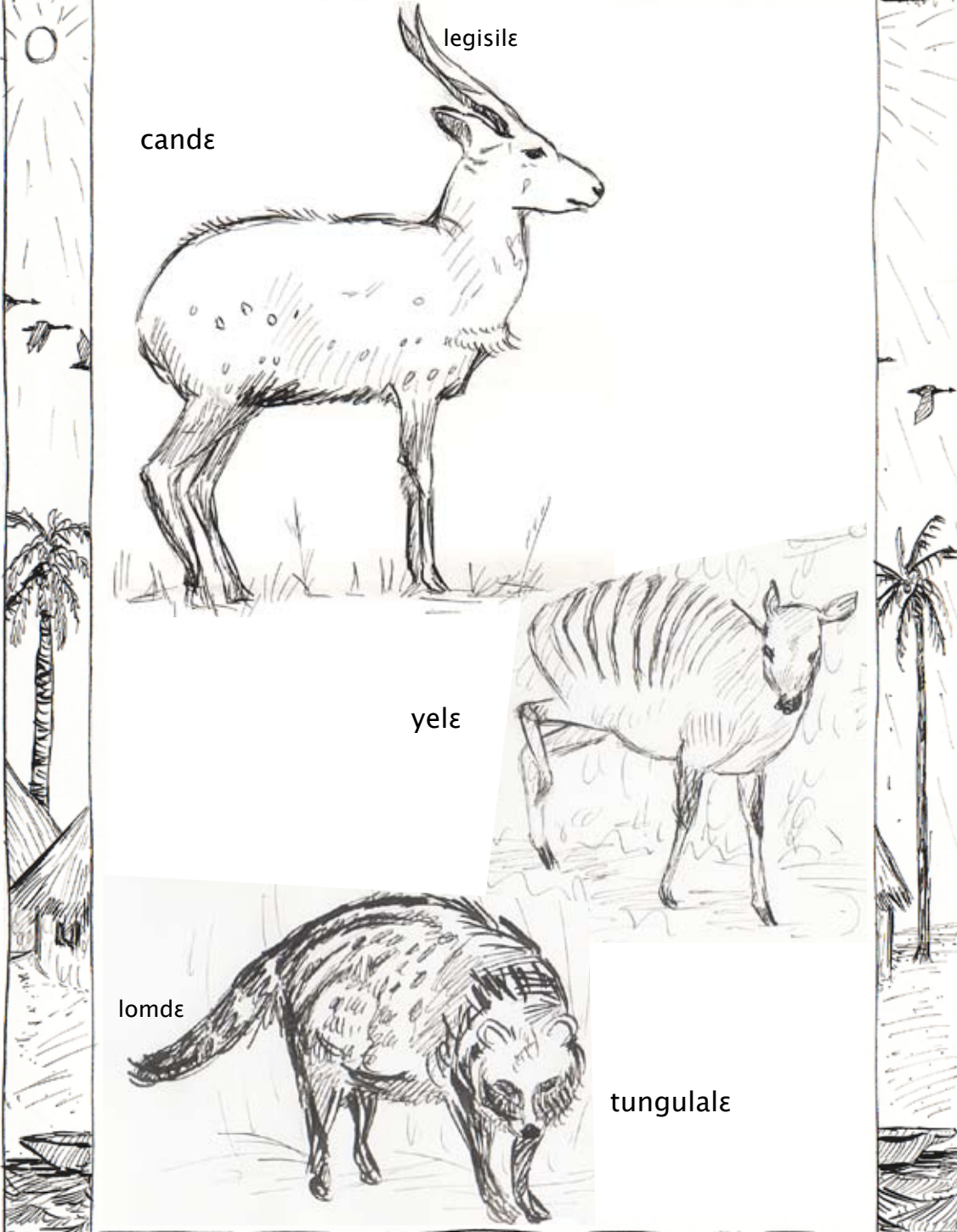
kayende



sɛgole

# Wusile





legisile

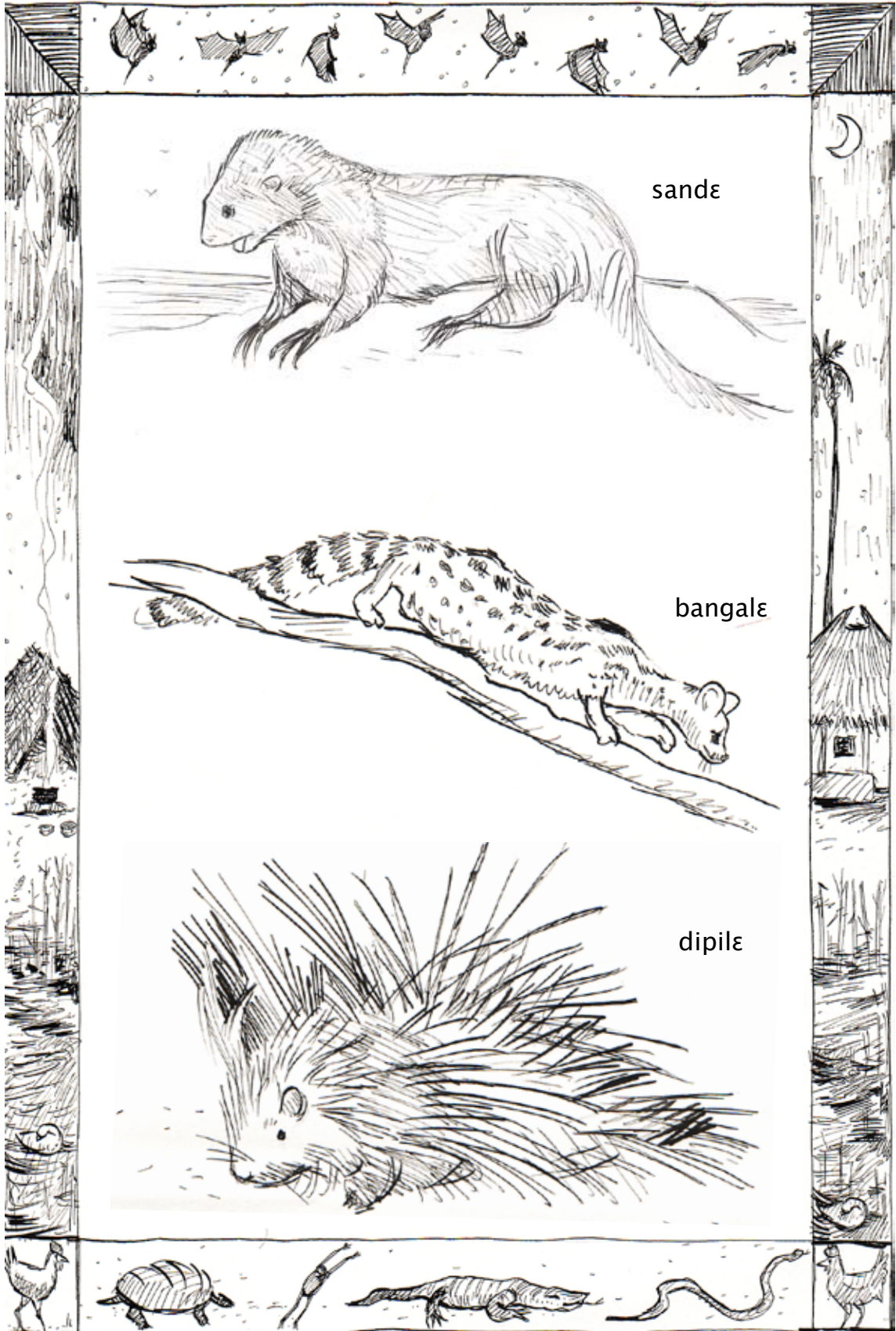
candε

yelε

lomε

tungulale

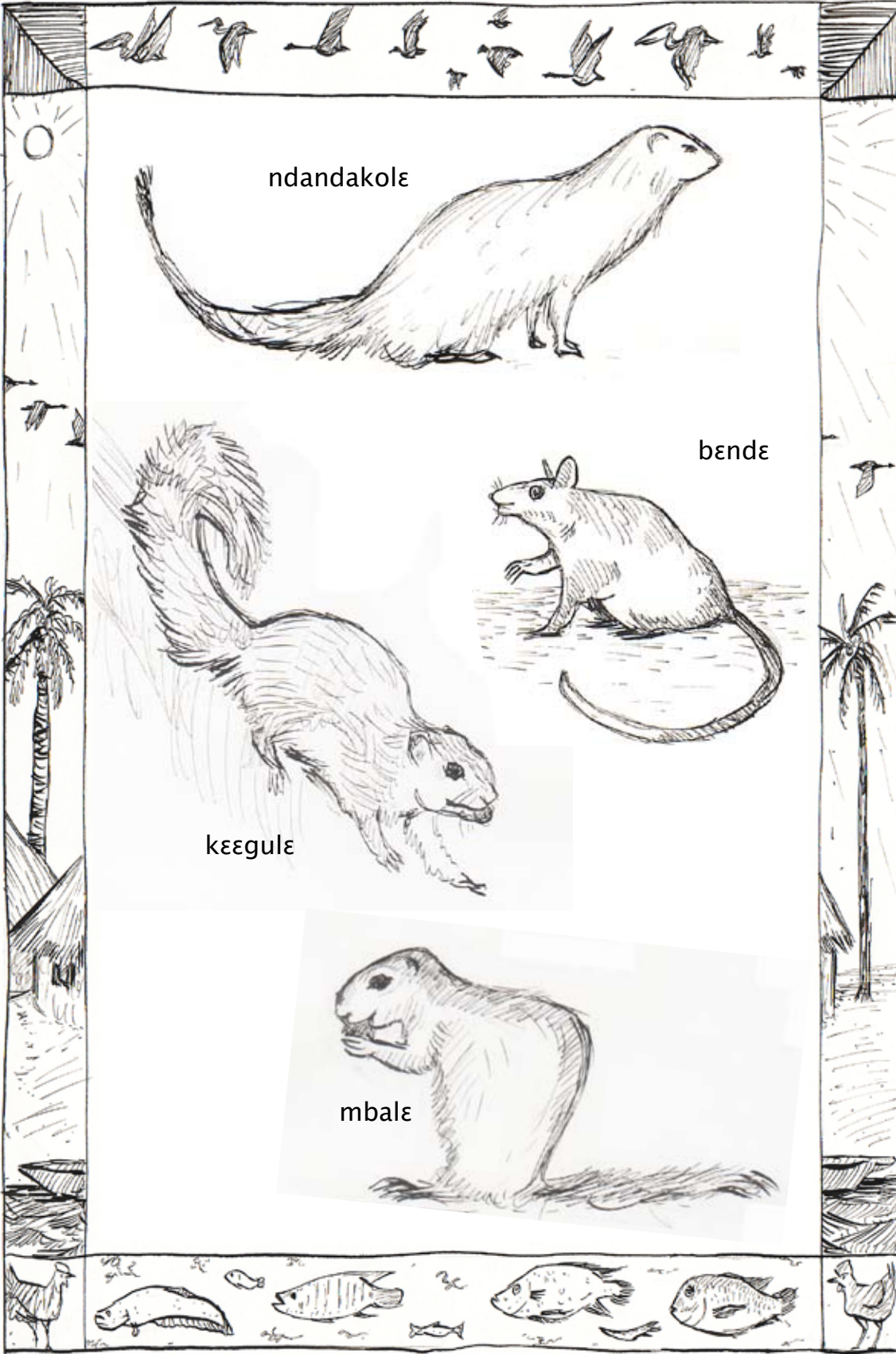




sande

bangale

dipile



ndandakole



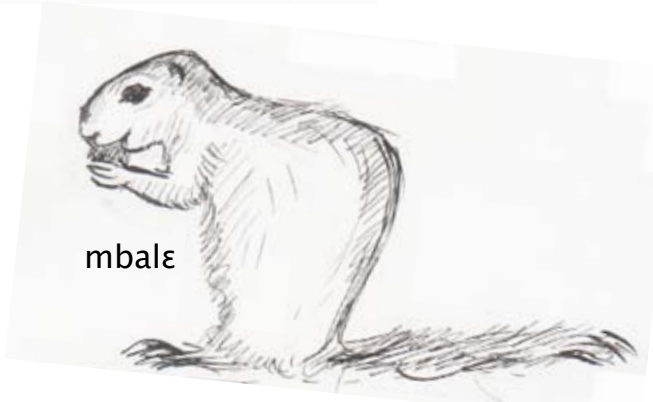
bende

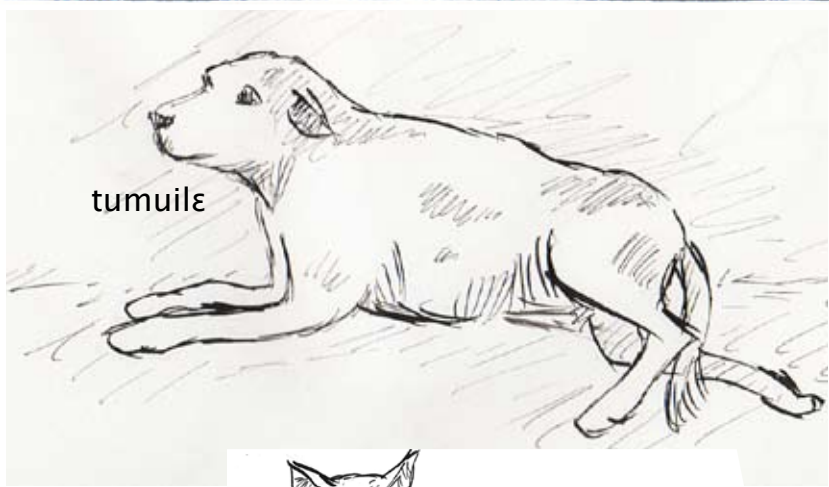


kεεgule



mbale





tumuile

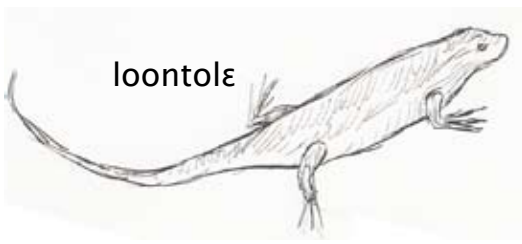


ihunde

yaile



hamde



loontole



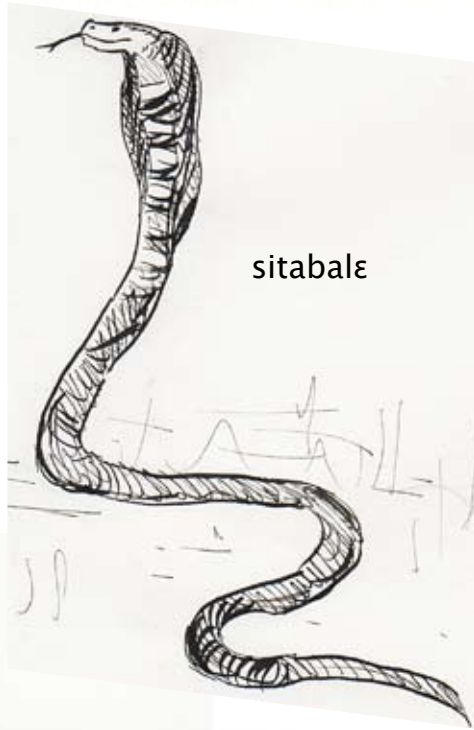
yeele





○

# Κεεσιλε



sitabale



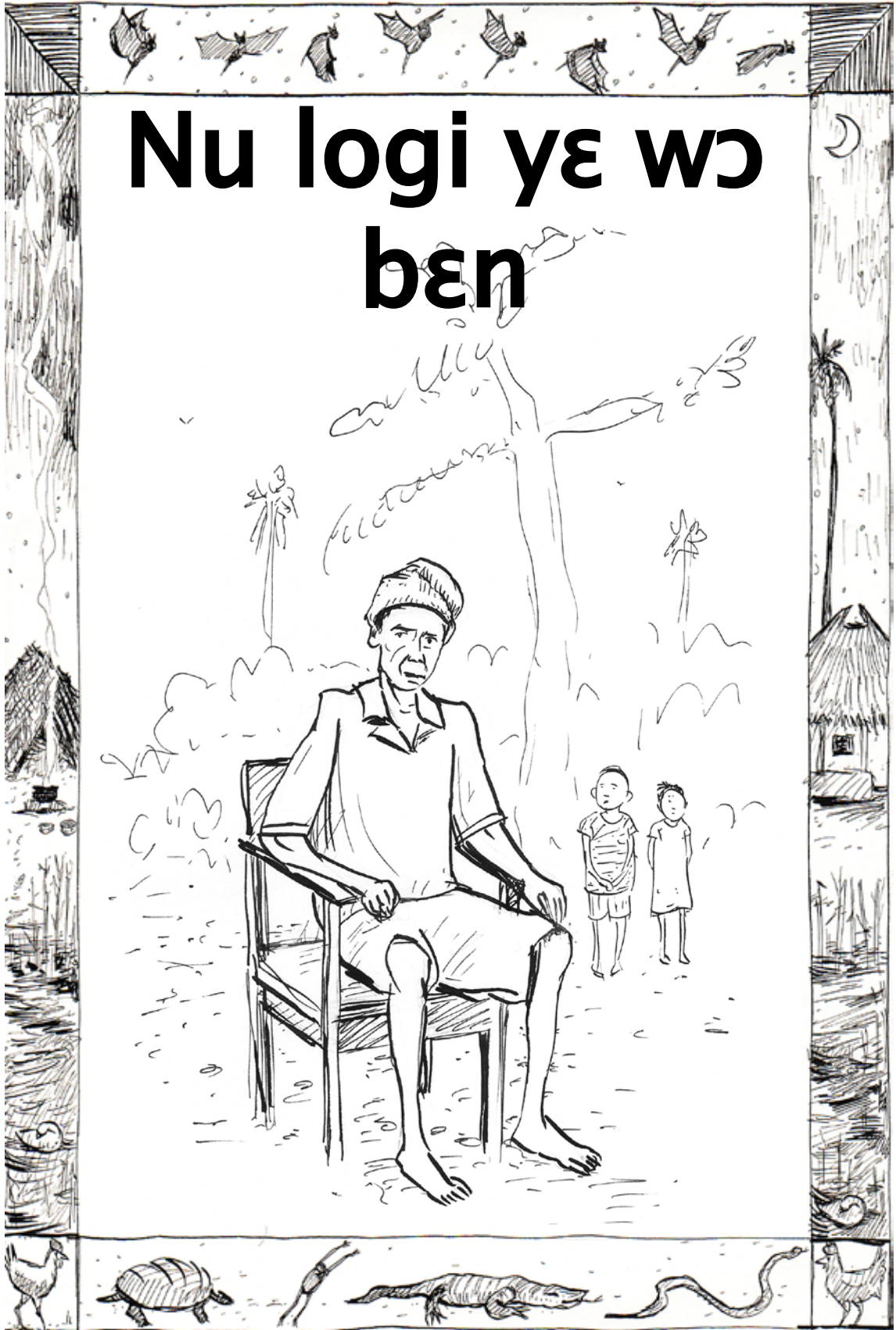
ρεελε

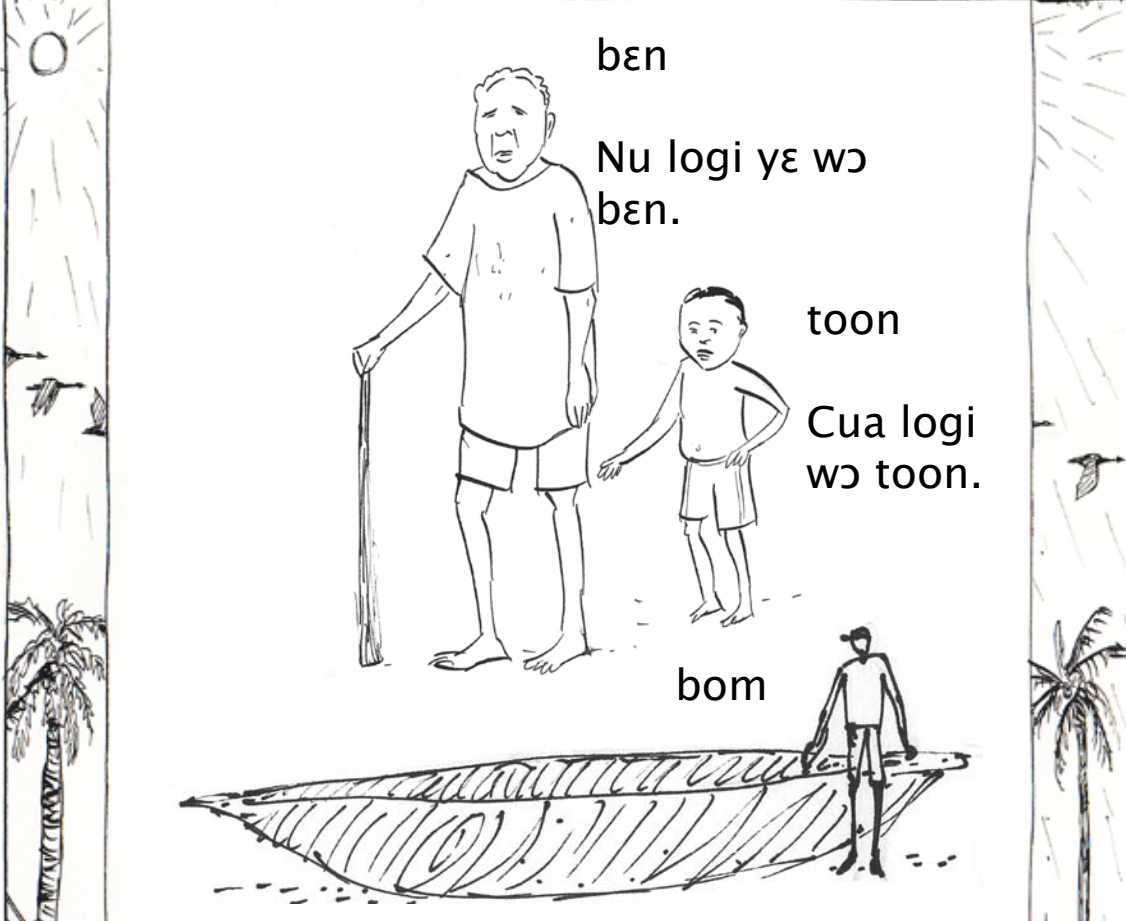


ndovoboελε



# Nu logi ye wo ben





ben

Nu logi ye wa  
ben.

toon

Cua logi  
wa toon.

bom



wom bomde

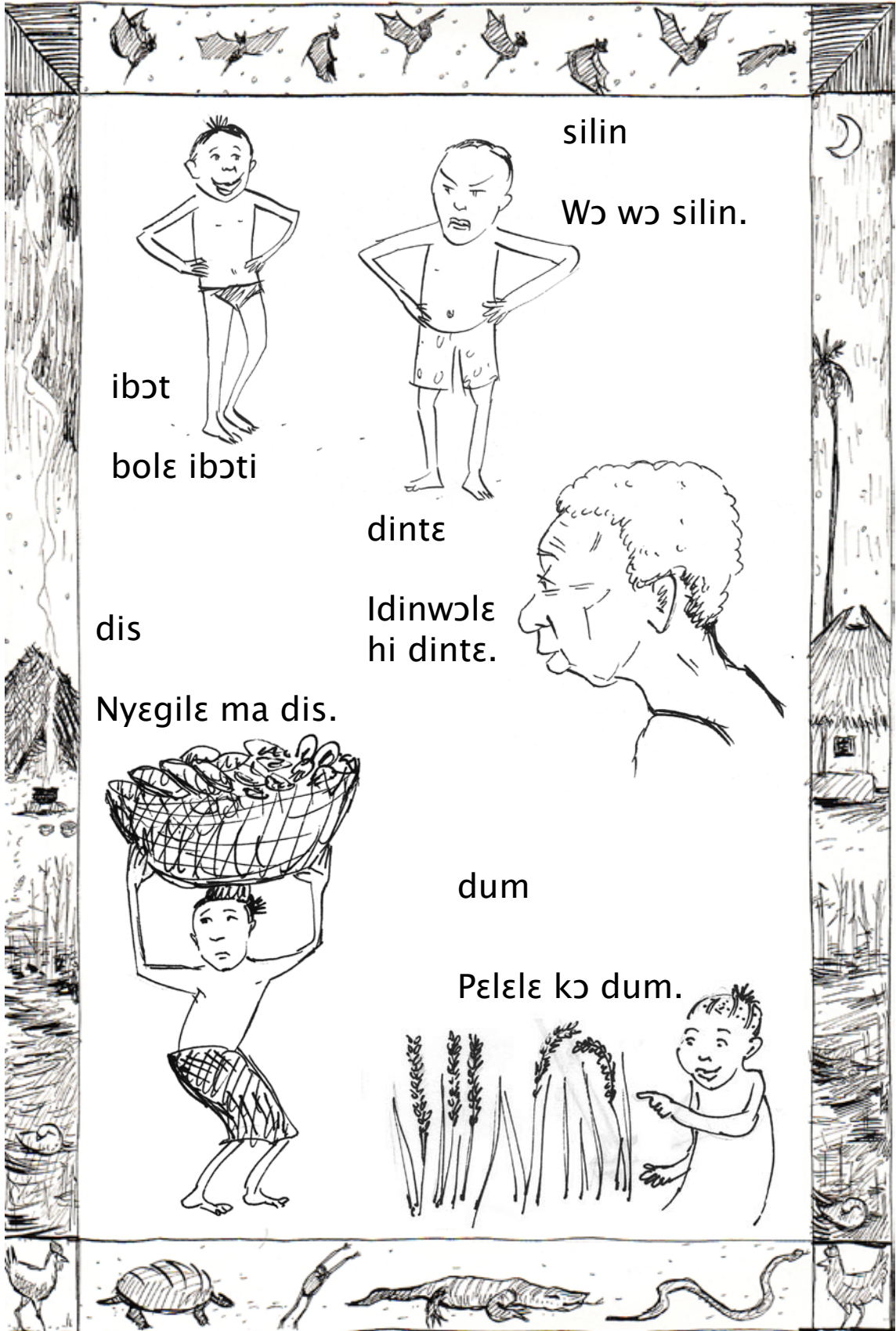
gban

Ya ga ce le gban.

bocnu

Yanbe, ya le bocnu.





silin

Wə wə silin.

ibət

bole ibəti

dintə

Idinwələ  
hi dintə.

dis

Nyegile ma dis.

dum

Pələlə kə dum.



fɔɔsa

Cua logi ye wɔ le nu fɔɔsa.



gbe

Apumale ha gbe!

gbɛt

Kotatile ta gbɛt.



gboga

Nule we wɔ gboga.



gbɔɔŋ

mmendɛ ma  
gbɔɔŋ



tugun

mmendɛ ma tugun

igbot

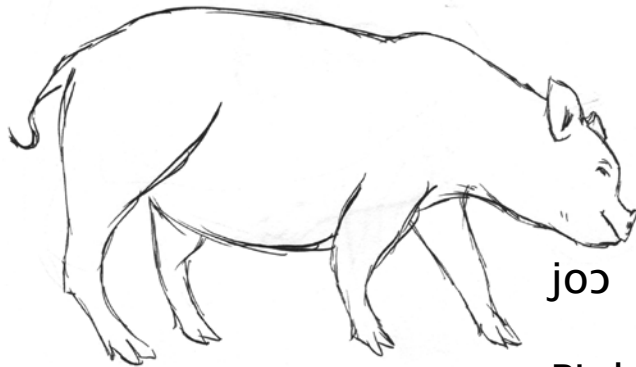
Cualɛ wɛ wɔ ha  
igbot.





gbun

Numale wɔ le gbun. Wɔ yema gbem.



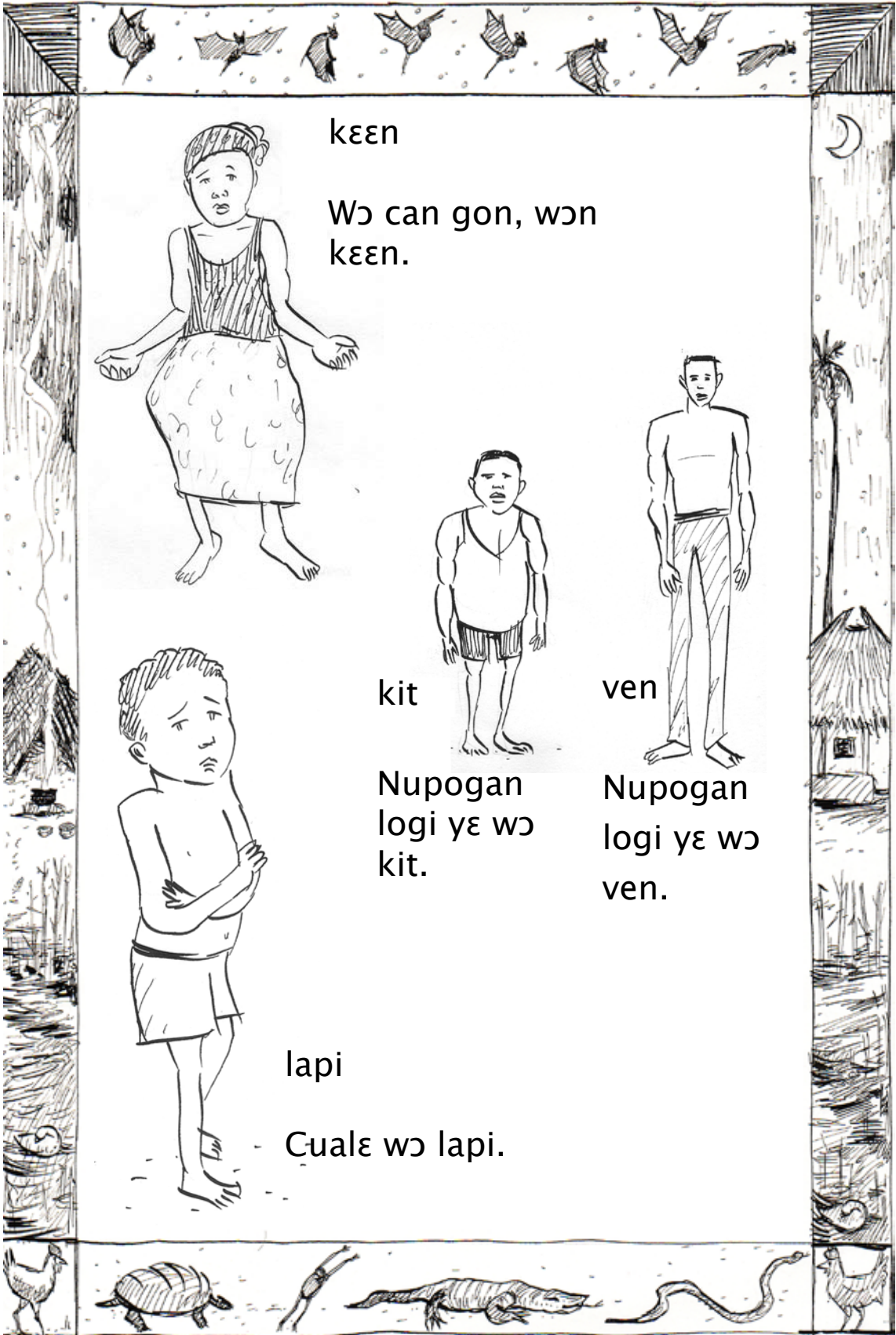
joɔ

Piole wɔ joɔ.

kat

Mpanti ma tofe logi ma kat!





κεεη

Wɔ can gon, wɔη  
κεεη.



kit

Nupogan  
logi ye wɔ  
kit.



ven

Nupogan  
logi ye wɔ  
ven.



lapi

Cuale wɔ lapi.





pət



Məəm logi ye ma  
pət!

pit

Idinwələ  
hi pita.



saantə

Nulə wə wə  
saantə.



sana

Kendə wə hu go sana.



togetoge

Wanda logi wa tɔn togetoge.



lon

Wanda logi wa tɔn lilon.



wɛi

Wanda logi wa ha jali wɛiɛ.



kɛɛn

Wanda logi wa han jali wɛiɛ, wa kɛɛn.





yenkelen

Wɔni wɔ si yati  
yenkelen!

yeti

Ken logi ye  
hu yeti.



Nule we wə ʔəsa.

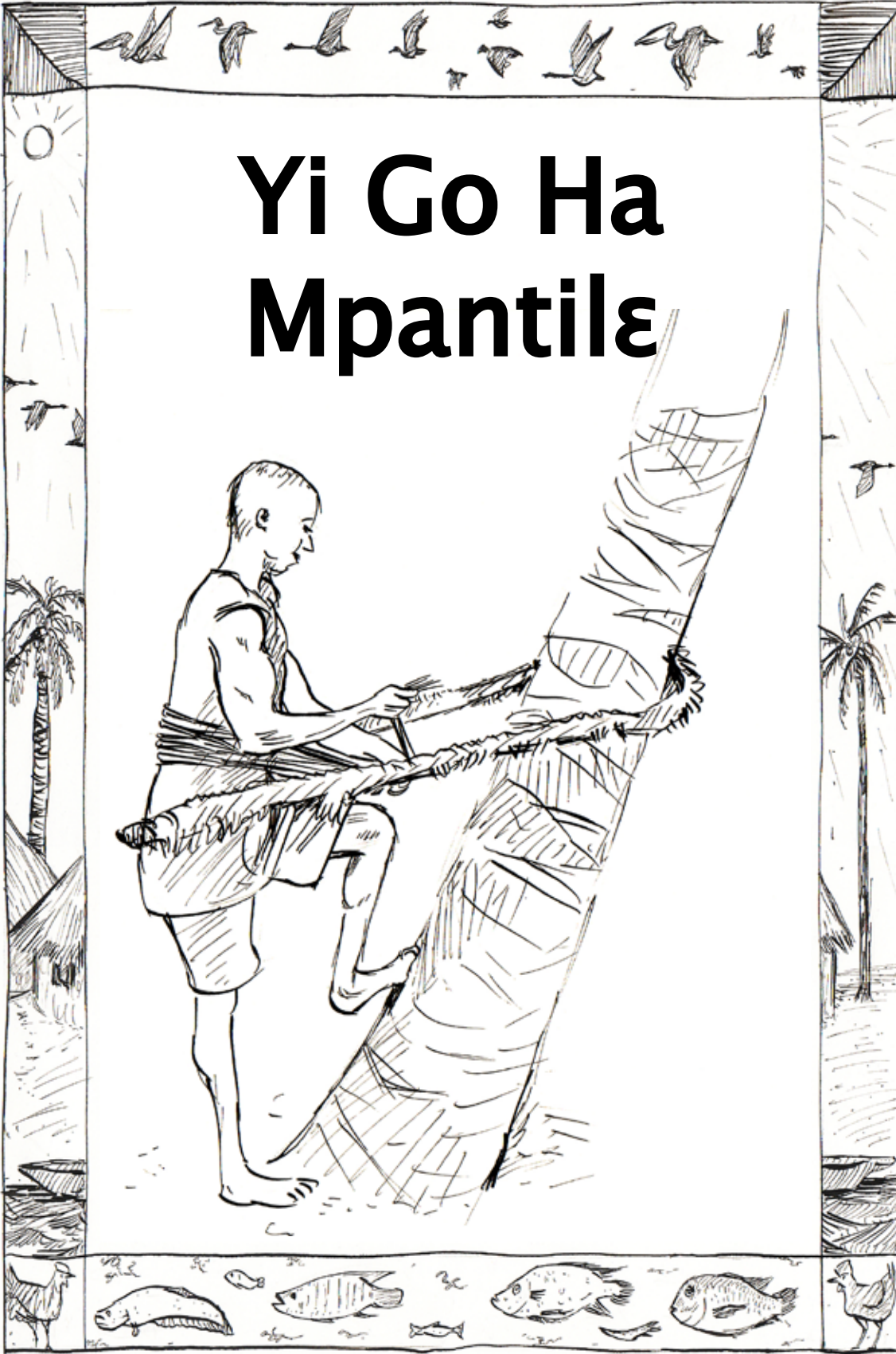
ʔə si yati wəmdε yenkεlεŋ.

Nupogandε we ʔə ven.

ʔə cen bεn ni wənbε ʔə cen  
toon.

ʔə cen bəʔnu!





# Yi Go Ha Mpantile



**B**

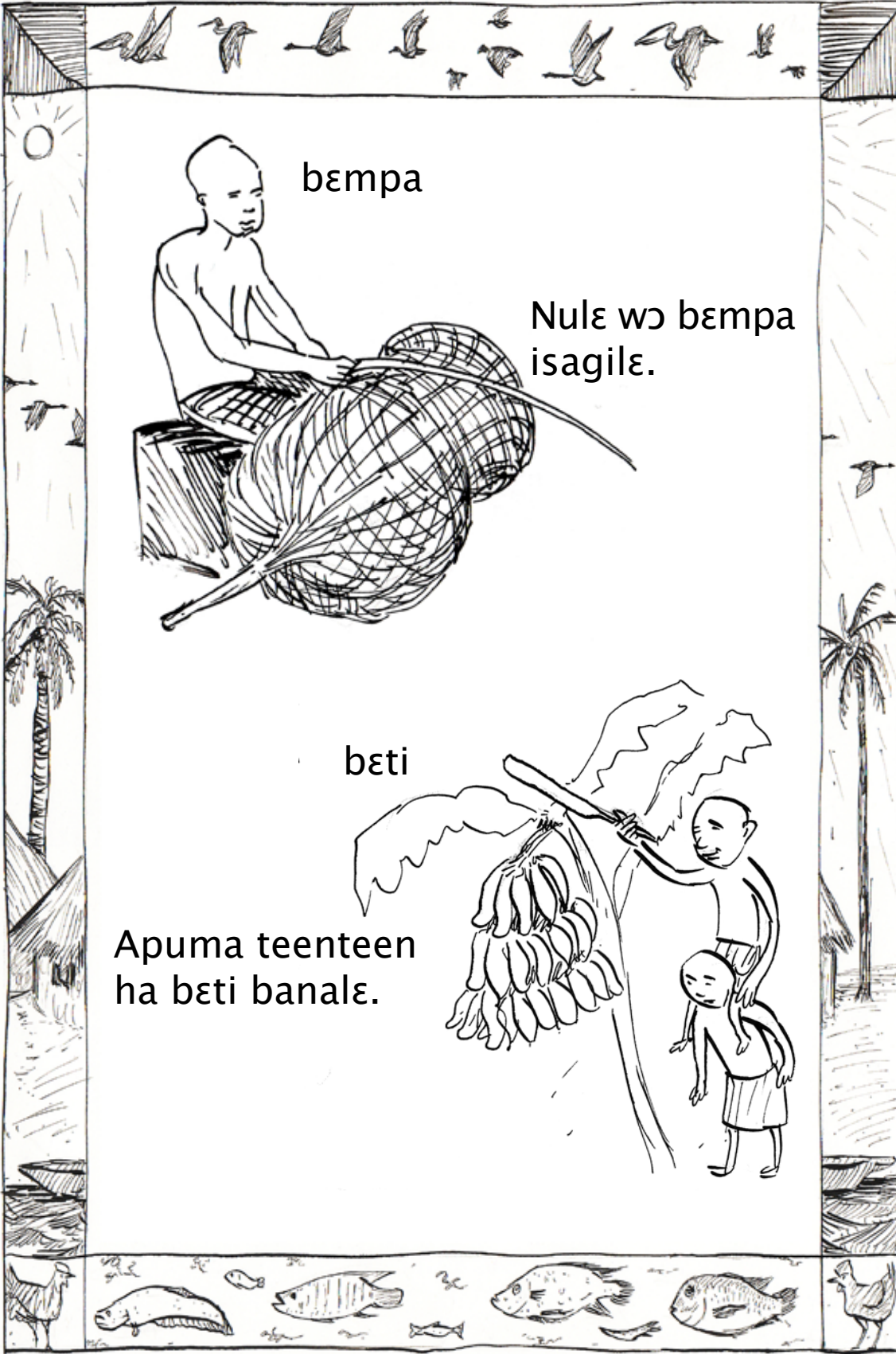
**b**

basi

A koeɣe besile,  
si ya ye basi.

bema

Cuale wo bema  
yaawɔle.

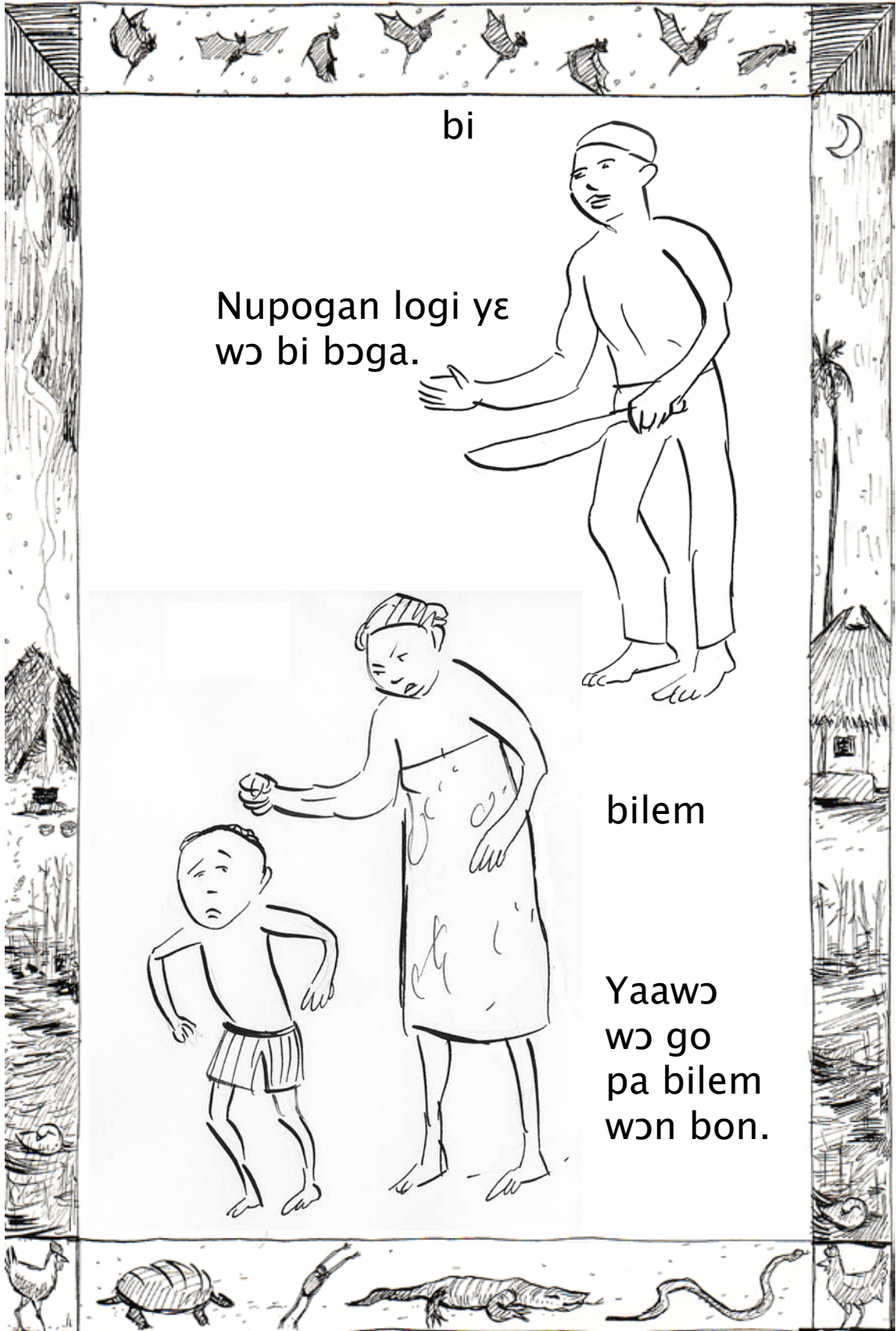


bempa

Nule wə bempa  
isagile.

beti

Apuma teenteen  
ha beti banale.



bi

Nupogan logi ye  
wo bi bogga.

bilem

Yaawo  
wo go  
pa bilem  
won bon.





bonj



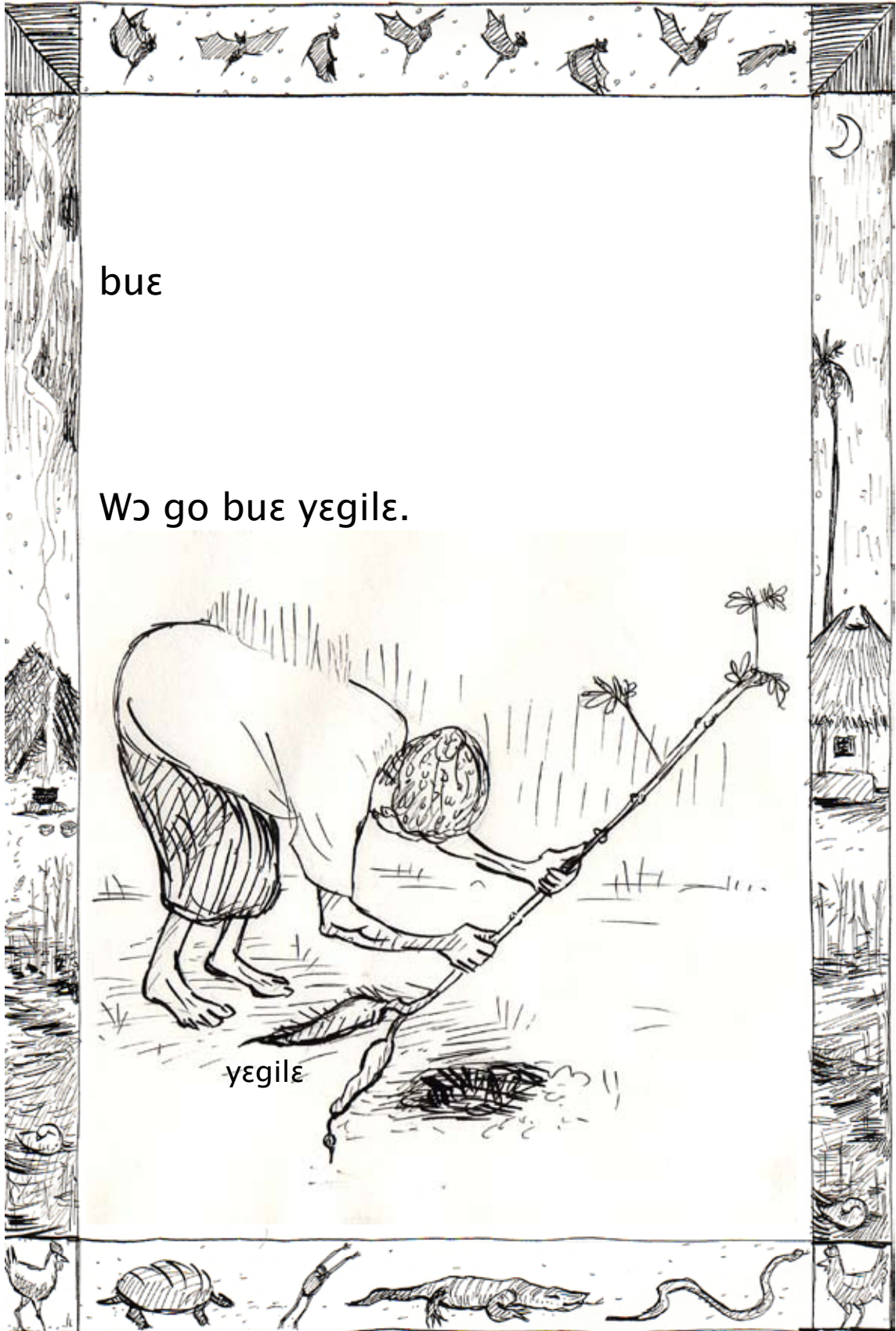
Numale wɔ bonj  
cuawɔɛ.

bɔnti



Numale we  
wɔ bɔnti  
nupogande  
we tolai.





bue

Wə go bue yegile.

yegile



C

C



cagam

Wɔ cagam kondɛ.



can

Bɛɛɛ wɔ can cala togi.



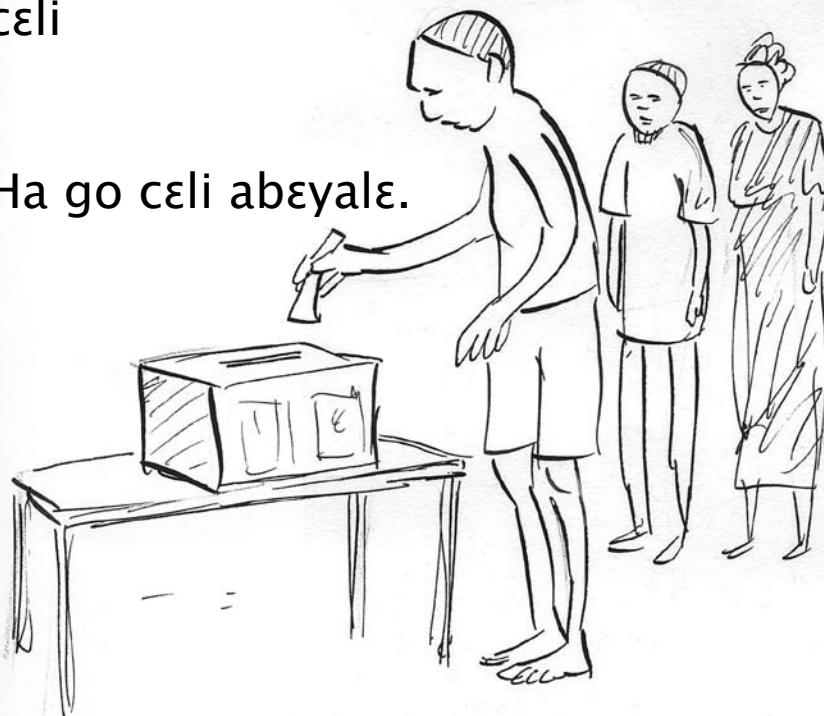
caη

Βεε we wɔ caη  
βεε logi γε.



ceλι

Ha go ceλι abeyale.





сengi тѐми

Si wɔ ha jali weile,  
wɔnbɛ сengi тѐми.



сѐти

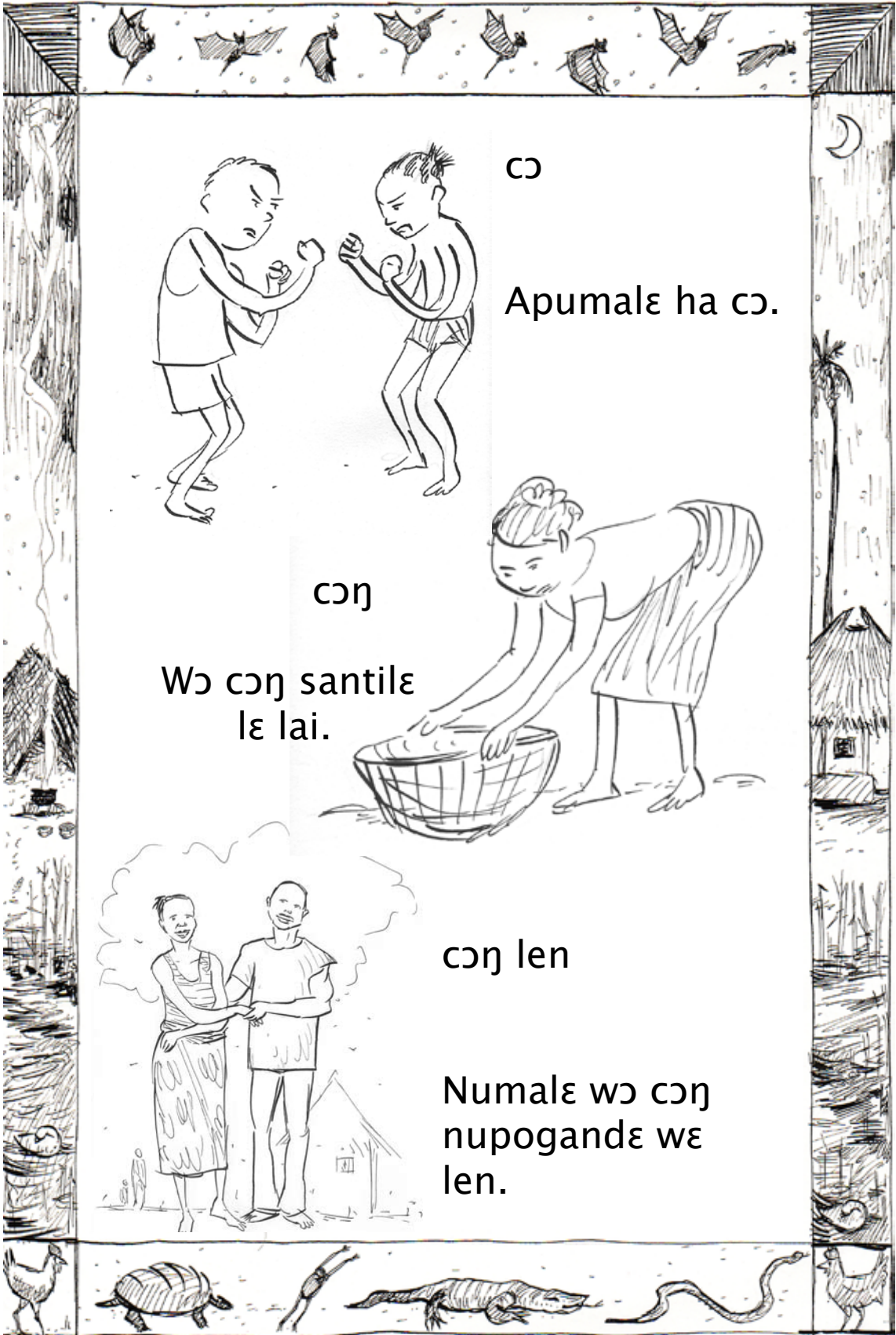
Numa logi  
wɔ сѐти  
sagile.



ci

Wandale wɔ ci  
mende ha yaawɔ.





Ծ

Արմալէ Կա Ծ.

ԾԴ

ՄԾ ԾԴ սանտիլէ  
Լէ Լալ.

ԾԴ Լեն

Նումալէ մԾ ԾԴ  
նոքոցանձէ մէ  
Լեն.



cu

Wɛɛɛ hu cu wɔ  
bɔtilɛ.



cun

Cuale wɔ  
cun ibacilɛ.



cusun

Wanda logi  
wɔ cusun  
lɛlɛ.





**D**

**d**

dugi

Tamule dugi go  
benpotu lai.

dui

Numale wo dui scgile.





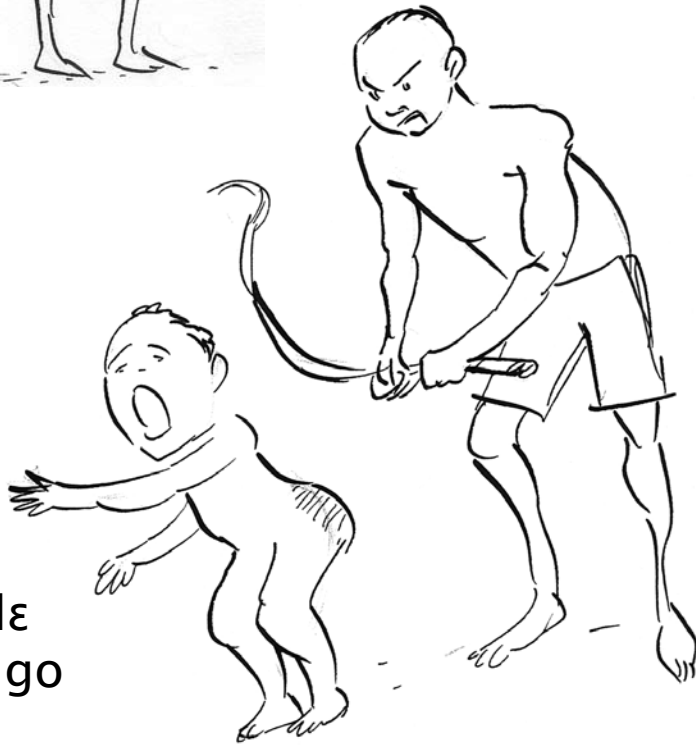
**F**

**f**



fi

Felε ce min pεi fi!



fonti

Baawolε  
wɔ wɔ go  
fonti.



**Gb**

**gb**

gban

Wɔ gban yaale.



gbasi

Wɔ gbasɪ yegile.





gbata

Wɔ gbata wɔ go  
wɔn te.



gbem

Numa logi  
wɔ koŋ gbem  
apumale gbɛ!





gbε

Nupogandε wε  
wɔ gbε.

gbεgi

Wɔ gbεgi masi  
logeyε.

gbi

Numalε wε wɔ  
gbi yεgilε.



gbɔ

Wɔni wɔ gbɔ ci tɔgi logi yɛ.



Wɔni wɔ cen gbɔ ci tɔgi logi yɛ.



gbɔsi

Tamulɛ wɔ gbɔsi isɔlɛ.



H

h

ha

Wɔ ha  
mpantile.



hei

Wɔ hei men logi.





hin

Ἐνδε, apumale  
ha hin.



hin



Weisile ha hin.

ho

Ρελεε κῶ ho!





hogi

Wɔ hogi ken lai.

Ya huni!



honggo

Numale wɔ honggo pɛle lai.



Segau!

hɔ

Numale wɔ hɔ mBomde.

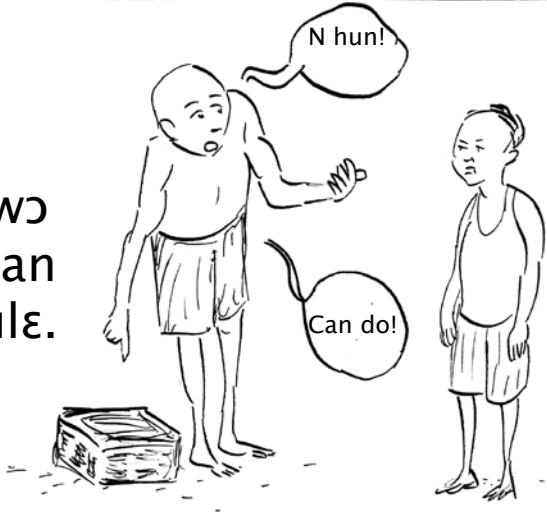






hun

Nupogandε wɔ  
le: "N hun! Can  
do!" ha tamulε.



huem

Nupogandε wɔ huem anyalε.





huti

Wɔ kɔ huti puɛ go.



J

j



ji

Tamule wo ji  
sogile.

jo

Amaa logi ye ha  
jo jole.



**K**

**k**



ka

Cuale wε wɔ ka  
sɔmma ha bagom.



ke

Bata go, nule wɔ  
ke liven!



ken

Kile wɔ ken nule wε.

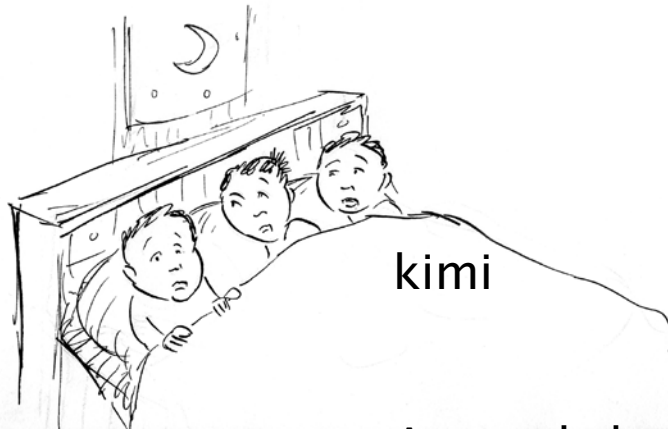




ket

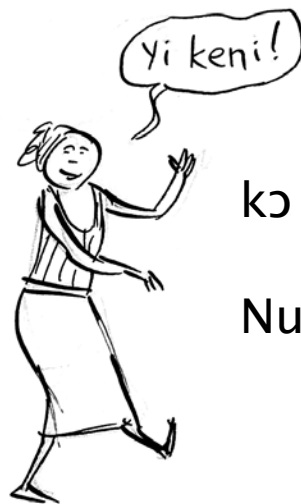


Σεεε κω κетен.



kimi

Αρυμαε ha kimi  
cнде.



κω

Numale wω κων!



konti

Wɔ konti  
cuale to lai.



kɔŋ

Si nule wɔ wu, ha wɔ gon kɔŋ  
kambɛŋ go.





kun

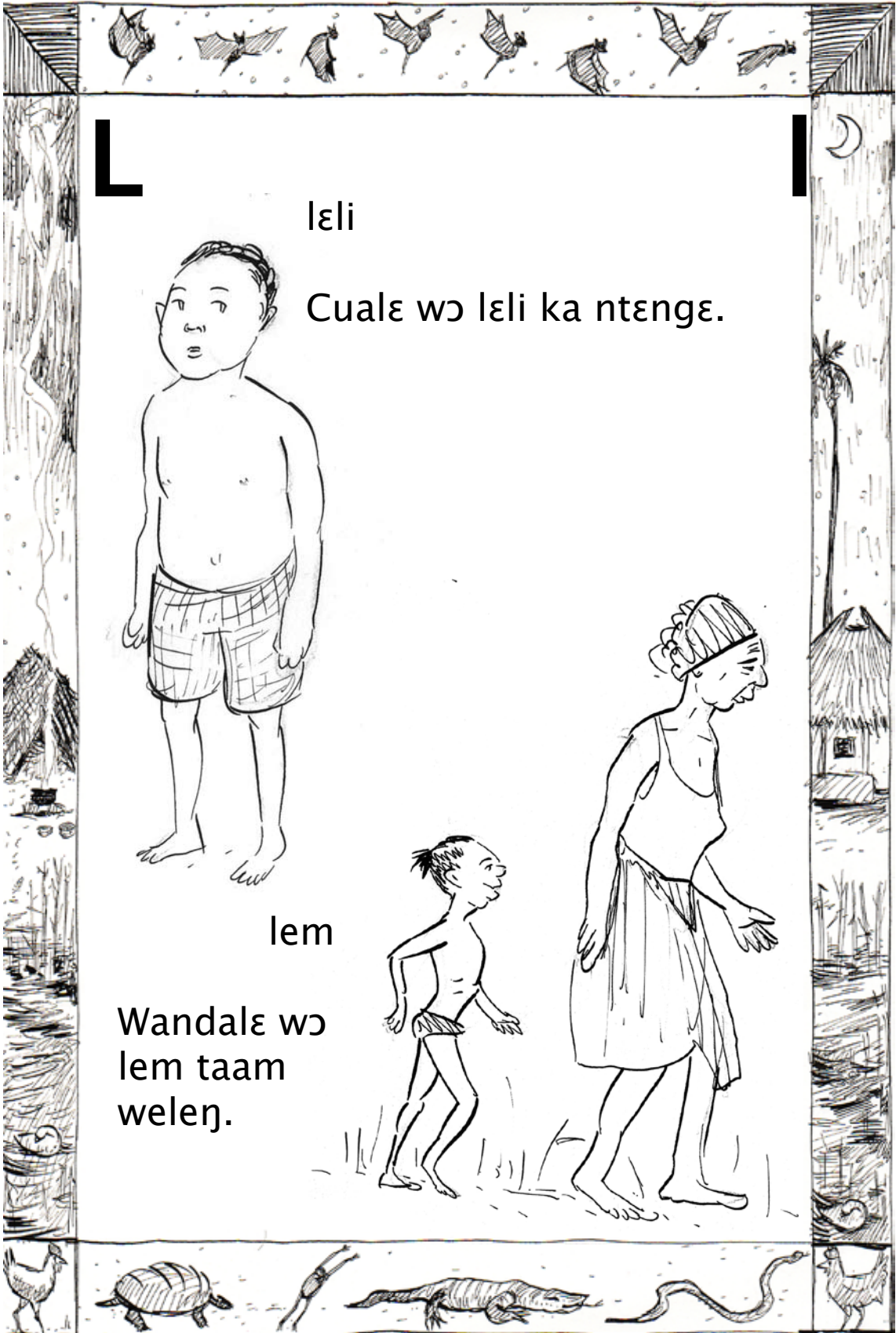
Nupogande wə  
kun muile.

kuta

Wə kuta icεge  
go.

koe

Wə koe bɔgale.



L

lɛli

Cualɛ wɔ lɛli ka ntɛngɛ.

lem

Wandalɛ wɔ  
lem taam  
wɛlɛŋ.





lo

Wɔni wɔ lo  
idinde ha wɔn.

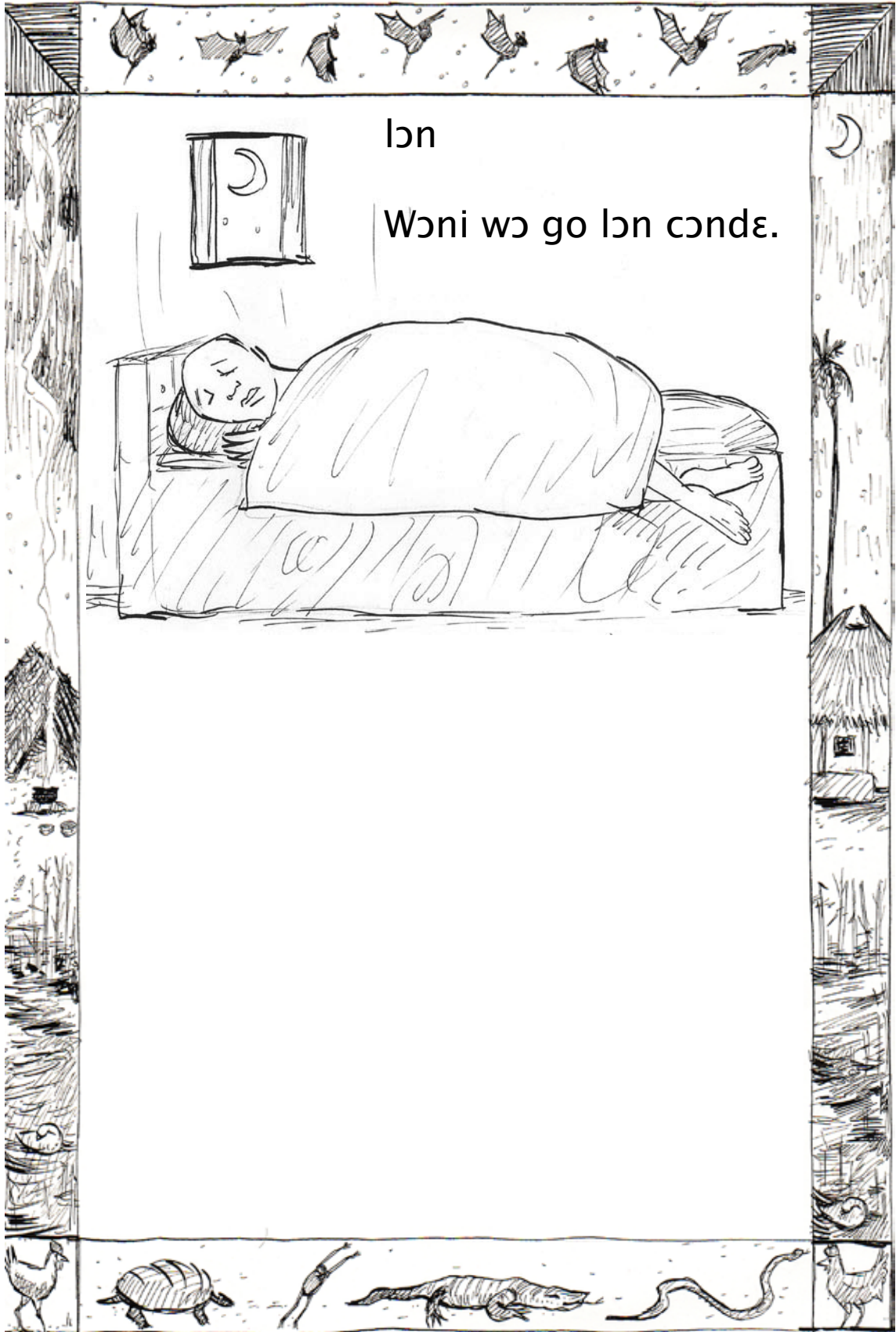
loli

Wɔ loli cualɛ men lai.

logi

Wɔ logi sangbale.





לון

לוןי כו go לון כנדע.



**M**

**m**



mam

Numa logi ye wə  
mam.

matin

Wama logi wə go  
matin to lai.



mbɔngi

Numale wɔ  
mbɔngi yɛgile.



mui

Hawa wɔ mui ko  
yaawɔ.



mun

Anyale ha mun  
tii go paandɛ.





**N**

**n**

negi

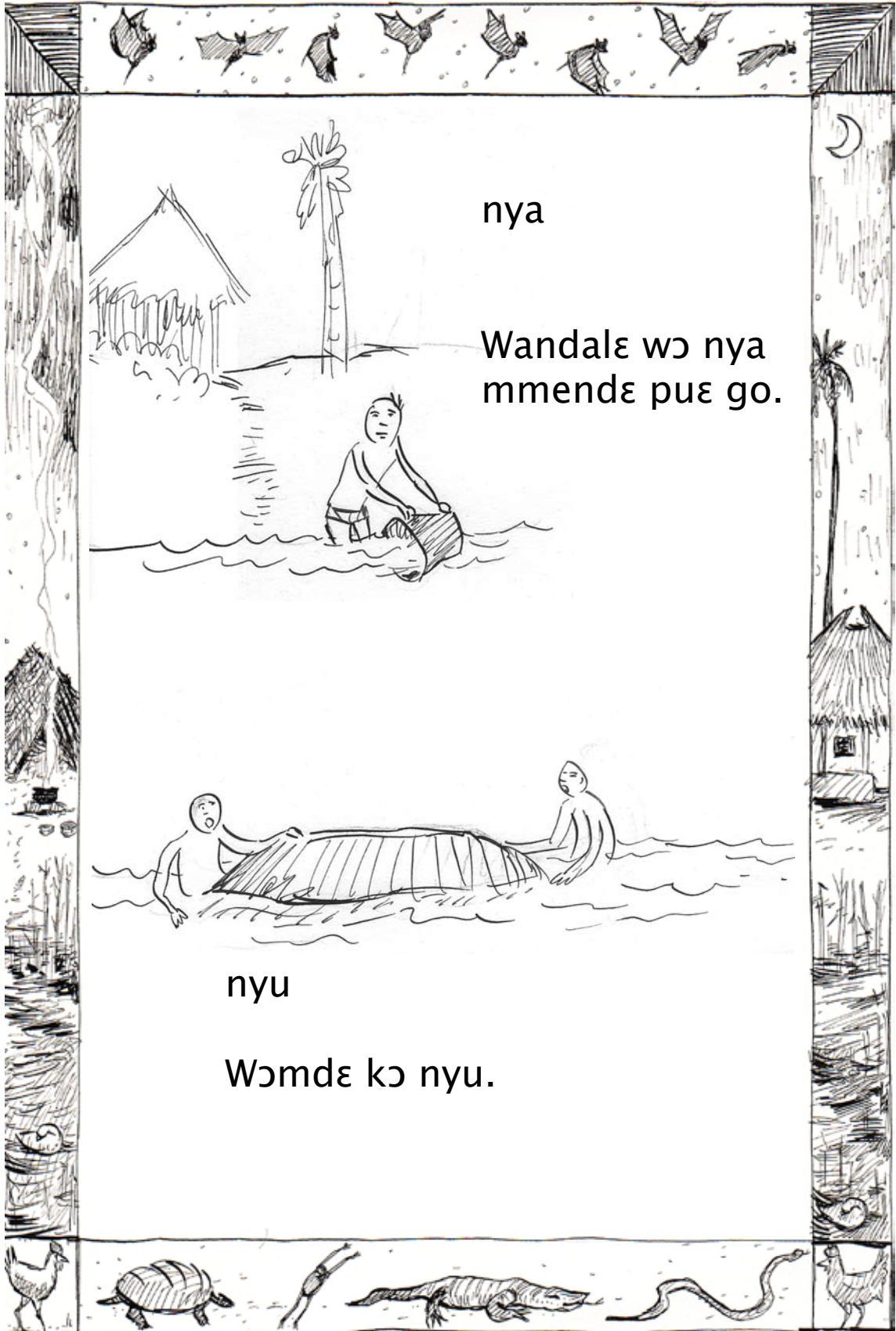
Numale, piawole  
ko go negi.



nei

Boi wo nei Tɔŋ.





nya

Wandale wɔ nya  
mmende pue go.

nyu

Wɔmde kɔ nyu.



P

p

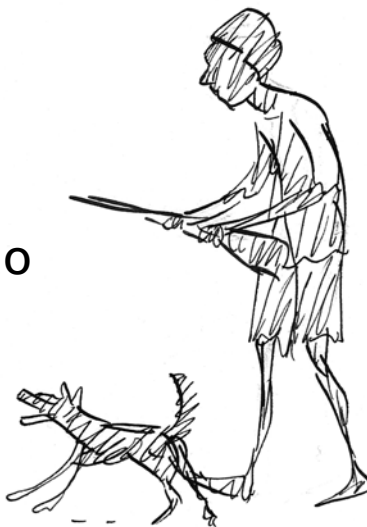


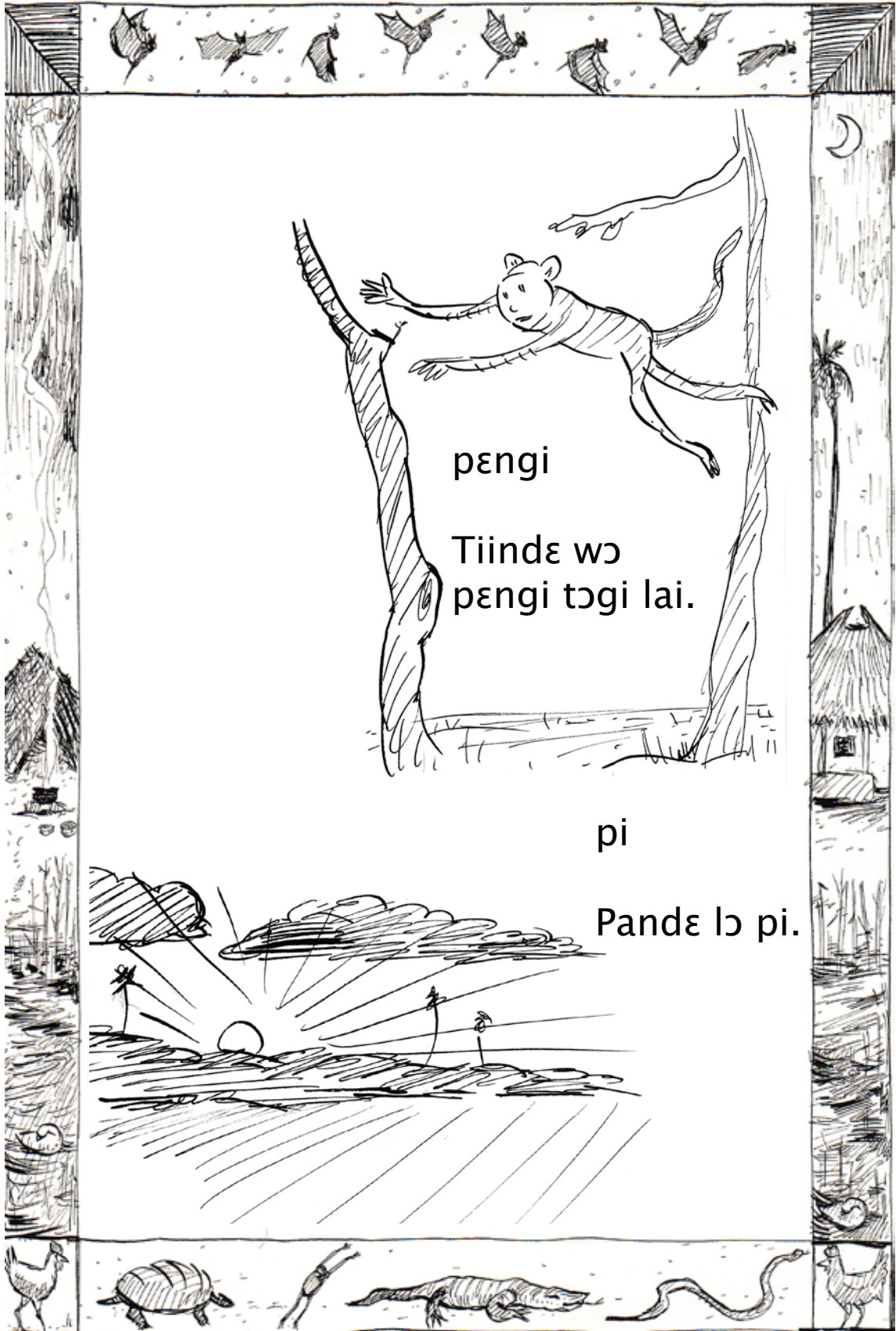
panti

Cua logi ye wə  
panti puile.

pen

Kamajole wə go  
pen tigusile.





բքցի

Tiinde wə  
բքցի տցի լաի.

քի

Pande Լք քի.





piŋ

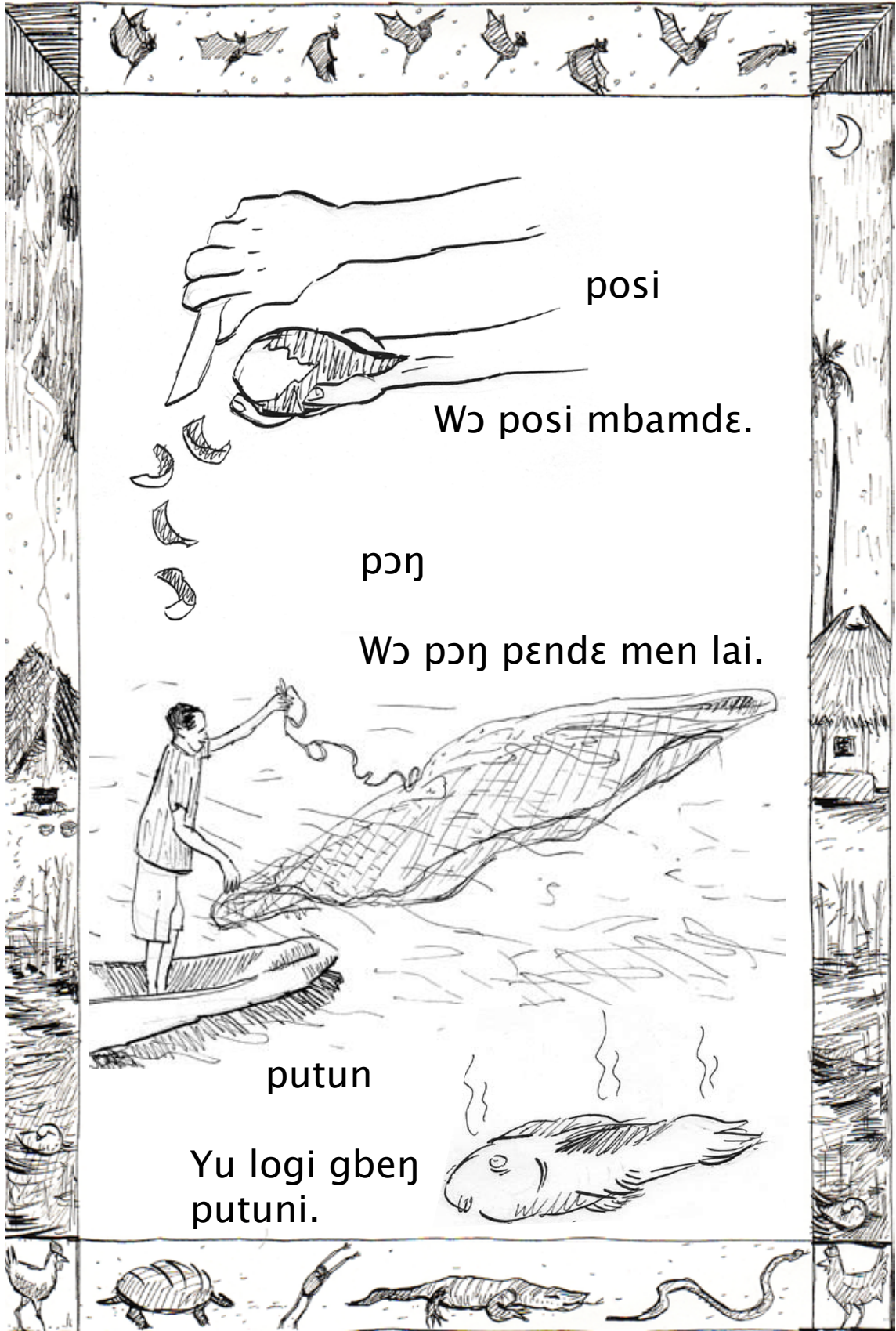
Wə wən ibendε si wənbe piŋ pɛlɛ.



po

Numa bun wə  
can si tɛmawɔlɛ  
wə po gon.





posi

Wɔ posi mbamɔ.

ɔɔ

Wɔ ɔɔ pɛndɛ men lai.

putun

Yu logi gben  
putuni.





**S**

**S**

sagan

Wə sagan  
men lai.

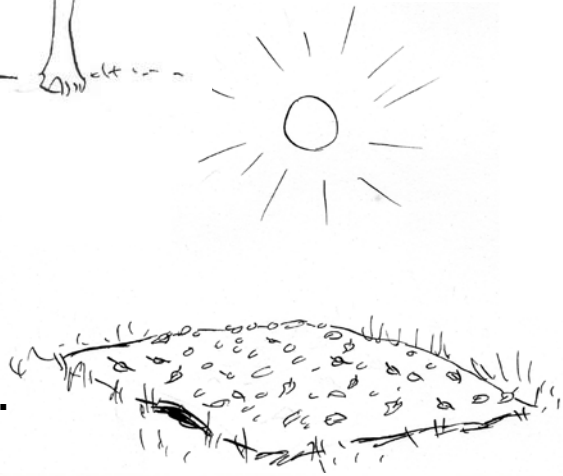


saŋ

Nupogandε wə  
saŋ pεlεε.

sεgen

Pεlεε kə kon  
sεgen pan lai.





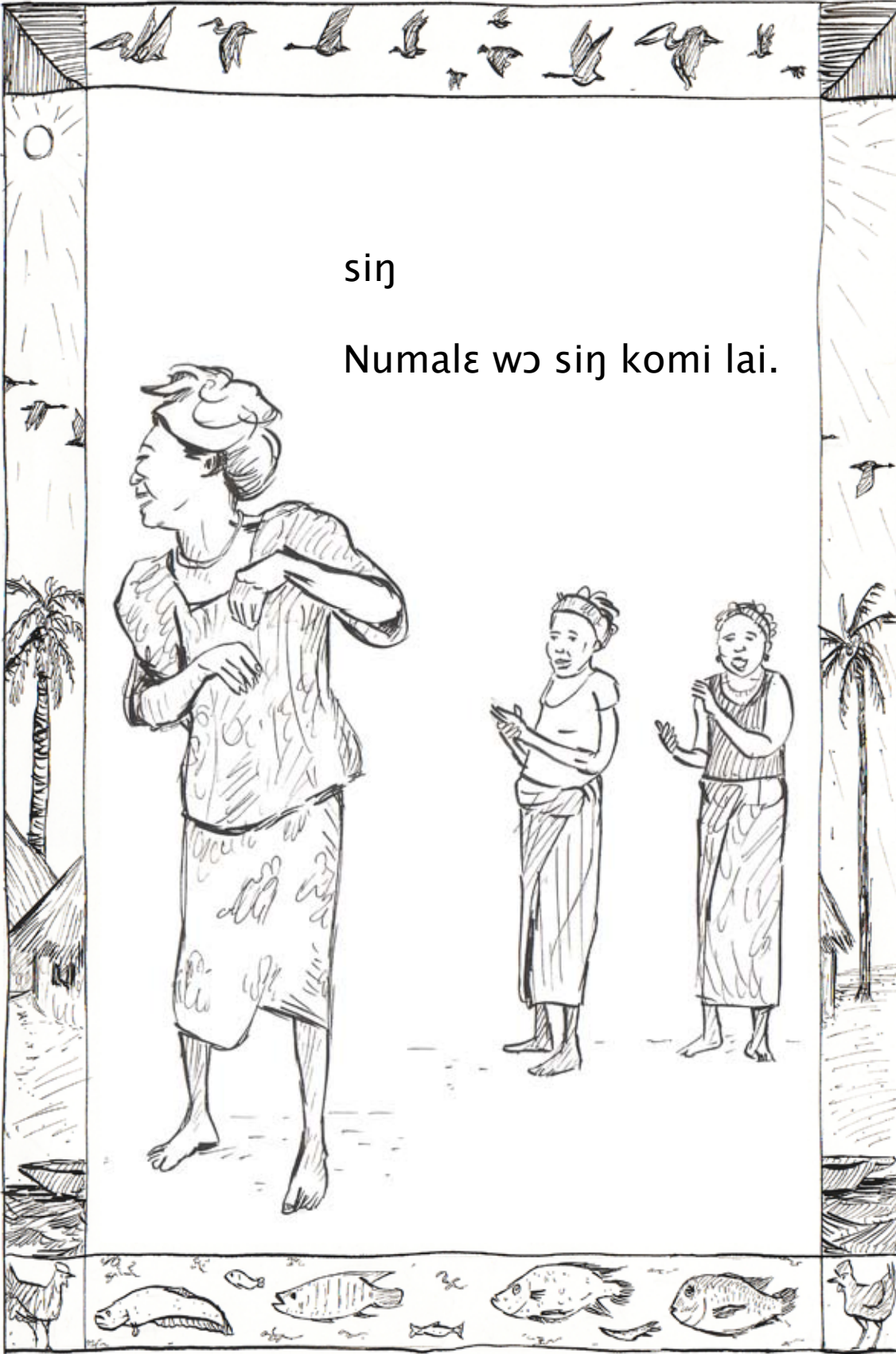
sem

Wo sem kende welenj.

yinbe  
kon

si

Numa ben logi  
wo si mBomde!



siŋ

Numalɛ wɔ siŋ komi lai.



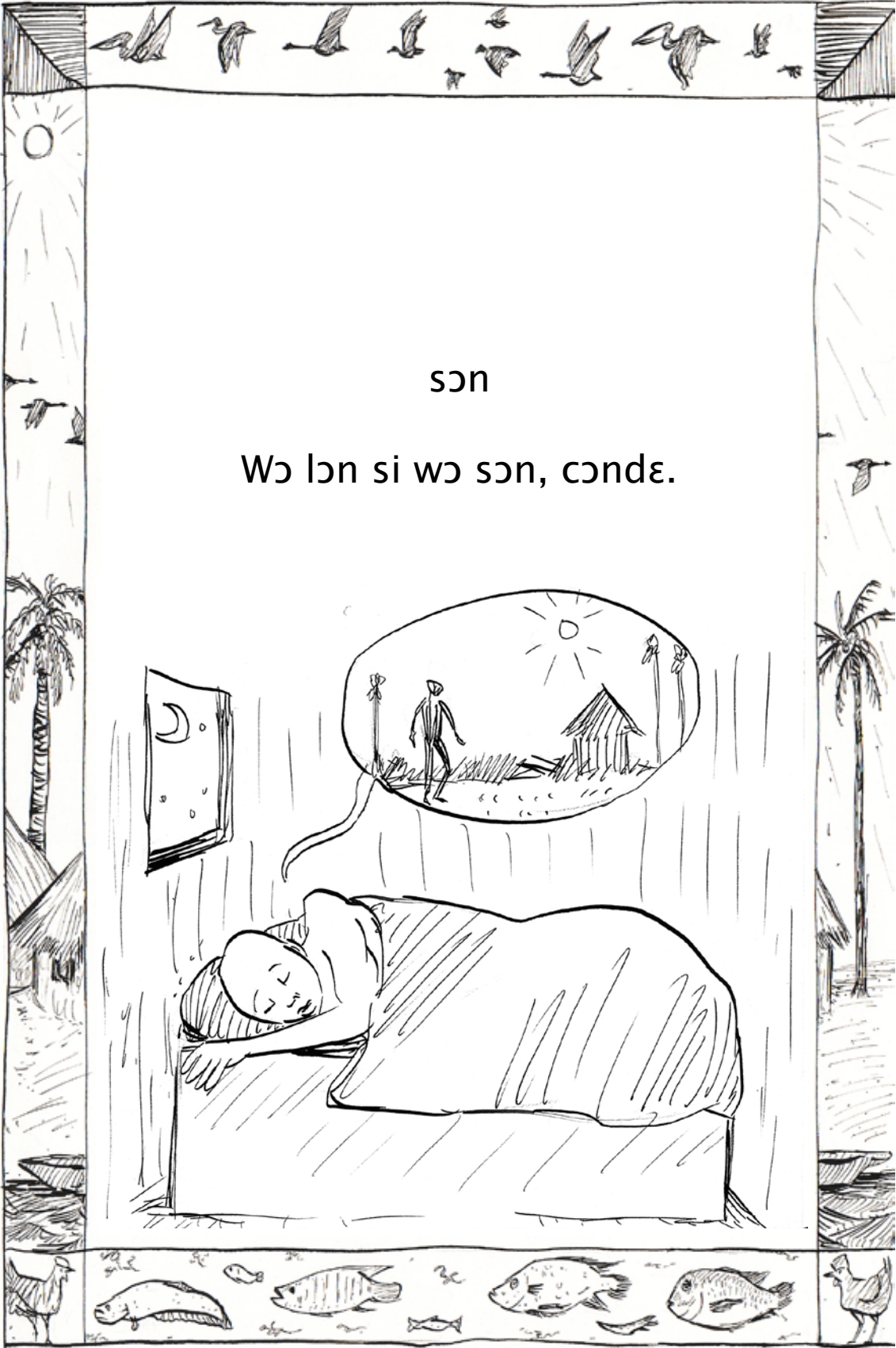
soti

Ipintile kɔ  
go soti.

sɔm

Wandale wɔ  
sɔm yule.





שכח

כאשר שכח, שכח, שכח.



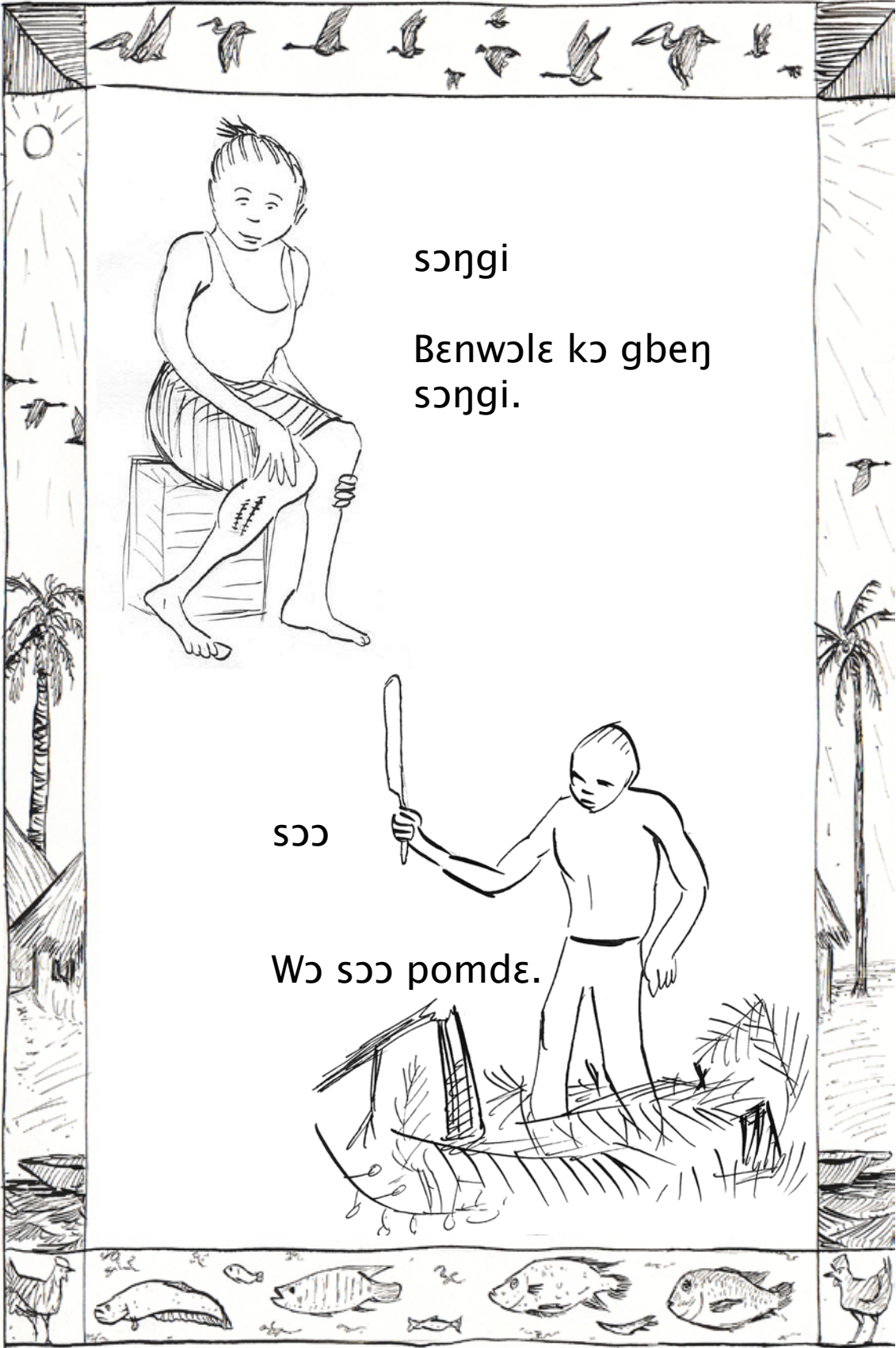
sonti

Nupogandε  
wε wɔ sɔnti  
kumbalε.

sɔɲ

Wɔ sɔɲ puimdε.





սոյցի

Եւնալե կօ ցբեյ  
սոյցի.

սոս

Կօ սոս քօմճէ.

T

t



tagi

Wɔ tagi  
idinwɔɛ.

taŋ

Ye nulɛ ka wulɛ,  
anyalɛ ha taŋ.





te

Nule we wo te luumde.



tei

Cuale wo tei koonde.

teli

Anya bendε  
ha teli pali.



tɛm

Numalɛ wɛ wɔ  
can si wɔ tɛm  
ibɛndɛ.



to

Si wɔ ha jali wɛilɛ,  
yaawɔ wɔ wɔ to.





tom  
 Nupogande  
 wə tom  
 numale fele.

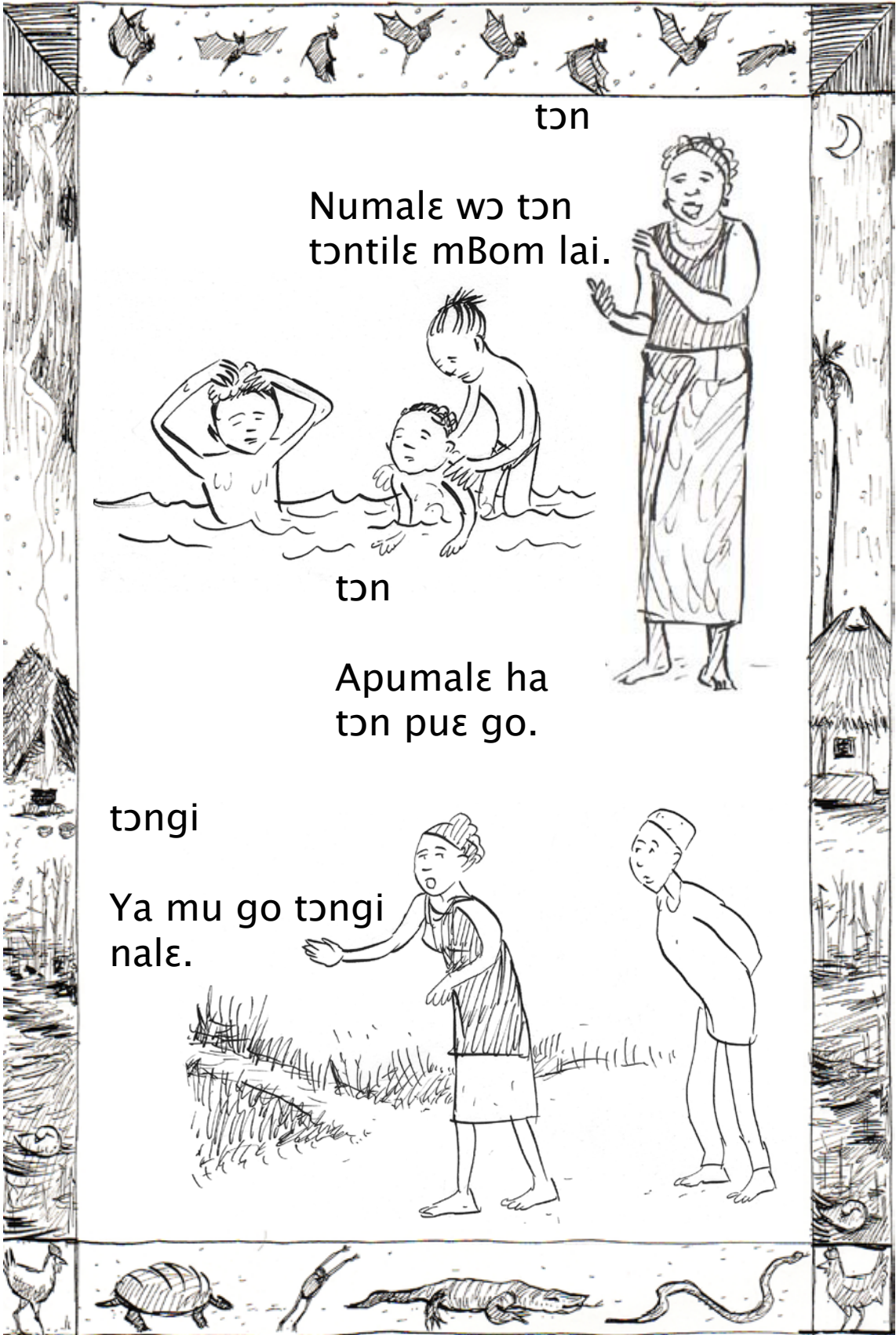


too  
 Tamule wə too ibacile.



təgi  
 Numa logi wə  
 təgi kotawole.





tɔn

Numalɛ wɔ tɔn  
tɔntilɛ mBom lai.

tɔn

Apumalɛ ha  
tɔn puɛ go.

tɔngi

Ya mu go tɔngi  
nalɛ.



tuε

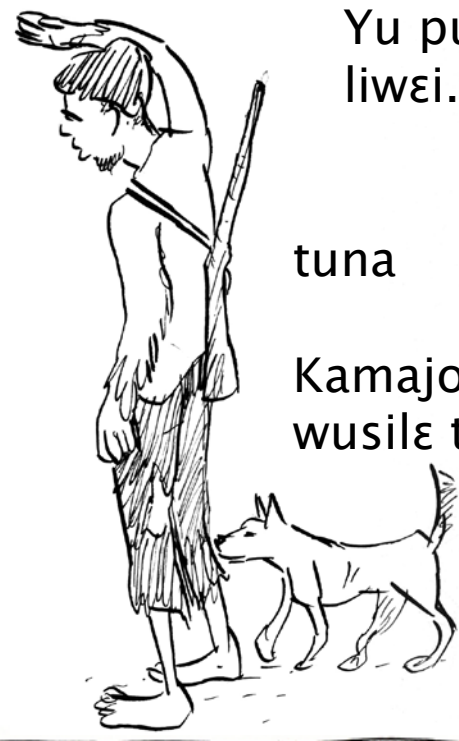
Numale wɔ tuε  
kumba bomde.



tun



Yu putunde hu tun  
liwei.



tuna

Kamajole wɔ go tuna  
wusile to lai.



W

W

wei

Anyale ha wei  
berogile.



Bokai!

wen

Yaawo wo wen  
icege go.







wom

Anyawɔɛ  
ha wɔ wom  
kooŋ.

woo

Wɔ wooga benile.





wagi

Numa logi wā wagi pēlē.



wam

Baawo ka ka  
wam icege go.



won

Gbundapi go, anyale  
ha won nyegile gbe!



wow

Nupogan logi ye  
wo wow mbende.



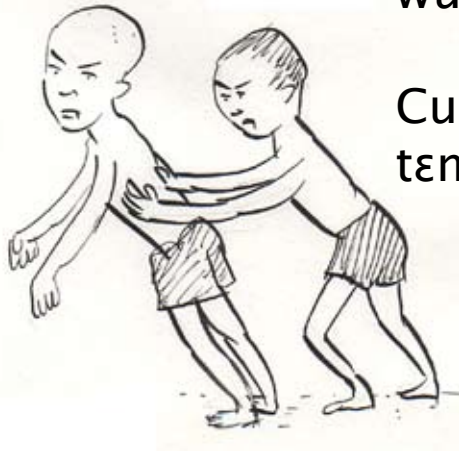
wu

Taam wɔ negin, si wɔnbɛ wu.



wunti

Cuale wɔ wunti  
tɛmawɔɛ.



wuti

Numalɛ wɔ wuti  
kunde, wɔ go gbem.



Y

y

ya

Wandale wo  
ya jole.



yati

Nupogan logi wo  
yati wɔmɔɛ.



yegi

Anyapogandε  
ha yegi kelε.



yey

Nupogandε wɔ  
yey.



yii

Ticalε wɔ yii  
apumalε.



yom

Ծառի կառուցում,  
կառուցում ես կառուցում.



պոլի

Ծառի կառուցում  
գո, սի կառուցում  
պոլի բոն տոգ.



պոլի

Ծառի կառուցում.



# Nei mBom lai

Baige, mui!

Mui, bagom!







# Isɔɛ

Ɔɔ, saga!

Saga mbaa!

Ɔɛgau, wei?

Humbɛ Ɔɛgau!

La mu paga?

Kasi cen  
Hɔbatugɛɛ!  
ɔ huma?

Yanbɛ, kasi cen  
Bɛɛbundɛ!



Yi keni, wei?

Yi keni!



# Pande

Maan, mui!

Hawa, mui!

Sεgau, wei?

Sεgau!  
Lo mu kōna?

Ya kōn kēben  
go! Huma?

Yanbe, ya kōn  
pue go!

Mu go tōgi kotalē?

M-m, ya  
go tōn!  
Huma?

Yanbe, ya go  
bue yegile.  
Yi keni tii ga, wei?

Yi keni!

# Paanɖe

Piga, atemamɖe!

Piga, bagom!

Asegau, wei?

Humbɛ, segau!

La lɔ koo, tii kohan go?

Kasi cen Hɔbatugɛ!  
La lɔ tii gagi ya?

Kasi cen Bɛɛbunde!

Lɔn yenkɛɛn,  
wei?

Humbɛ, lɔn  
yenkɛɛn, wei?

Yi gben  
keni, wei?

Yi gben keni!



# Πιαωλε κῶ negi

Yim Hawa, mui?

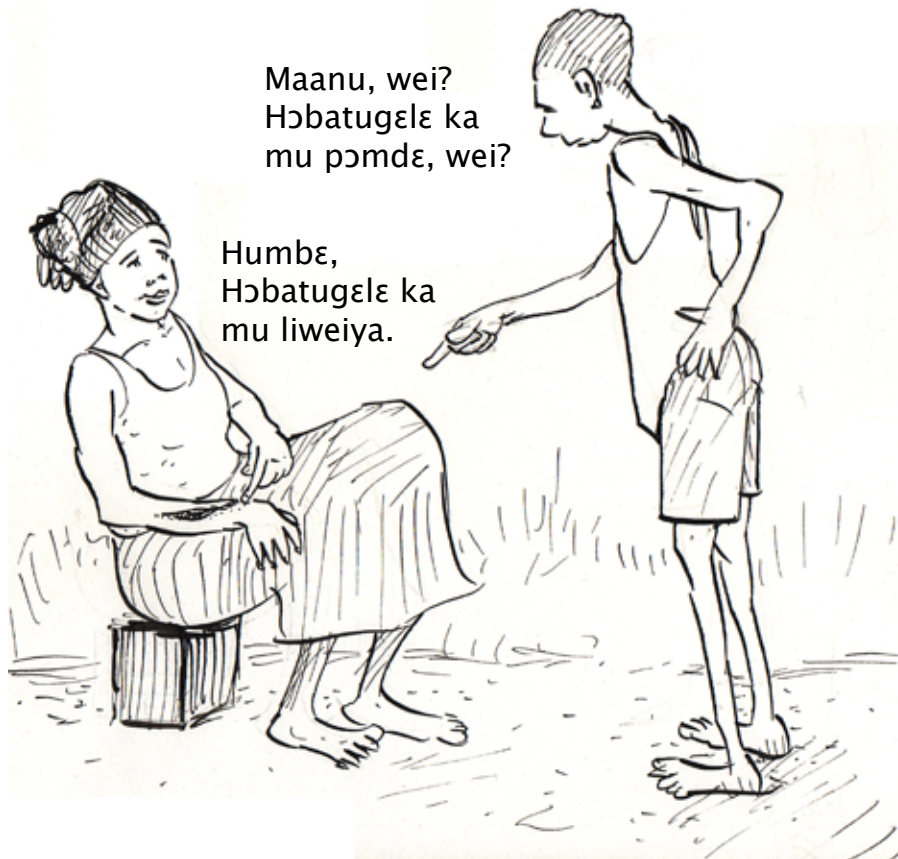
Mui, bagom!

La mu paga?

Oo, bagom,  
piamde κῶ negi!

Maanu, wei?  
Hῶbatugele ka  
mu pῶmde, wei?

Humbε,  
Hῶbatugele ka  
mu liweiya.





# Ndegile mam!

Saga bagom!

Saga mbaa!

La mu jala?

Kasi cen  
Bɛɛbunde, ke  
ndegile mam  
oo!

Ndegile  
mamu?

N hun gbi  
yegile oo!

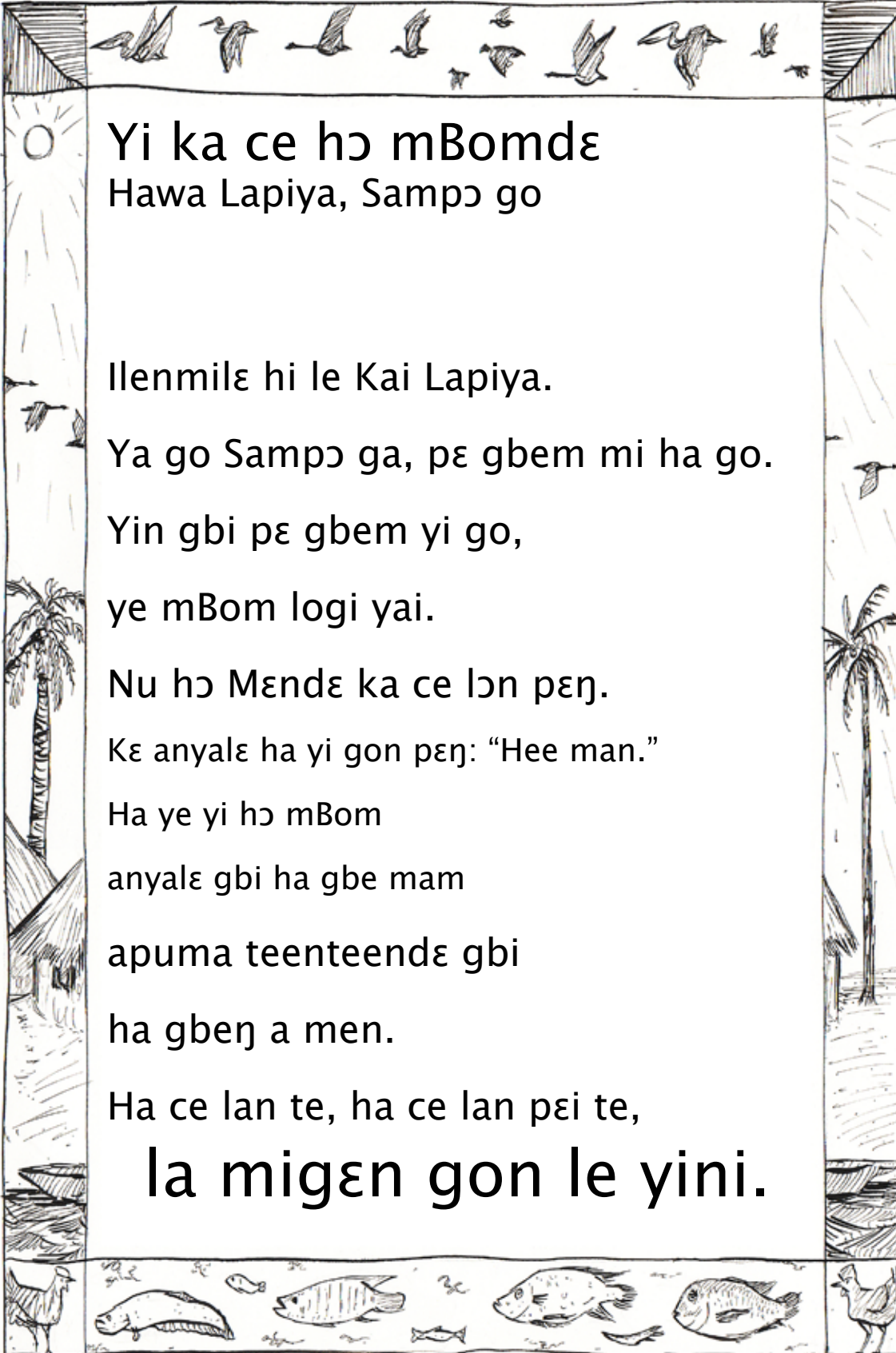
Ya huni!  
Ya huni!  
Lɔ mu  
cala?

Yi cala  
kendɛ go.





# Tensile



○

Yi ka ce hɔ mBomde

Hawa Lapiya, Sampɔ go

Ilenmile hi le Kai Lapiya.

Ya go Sampɔ ga, pe gbem mi ha go.

Yin gbi pe gbem yi go,

ye mBom logi yai.

Nu hɔ Mendɛ ka ce lon peɲ.

Ke anyale ha yi gon peɲ: "Hee man."

Ha ye yi hɔ mBom

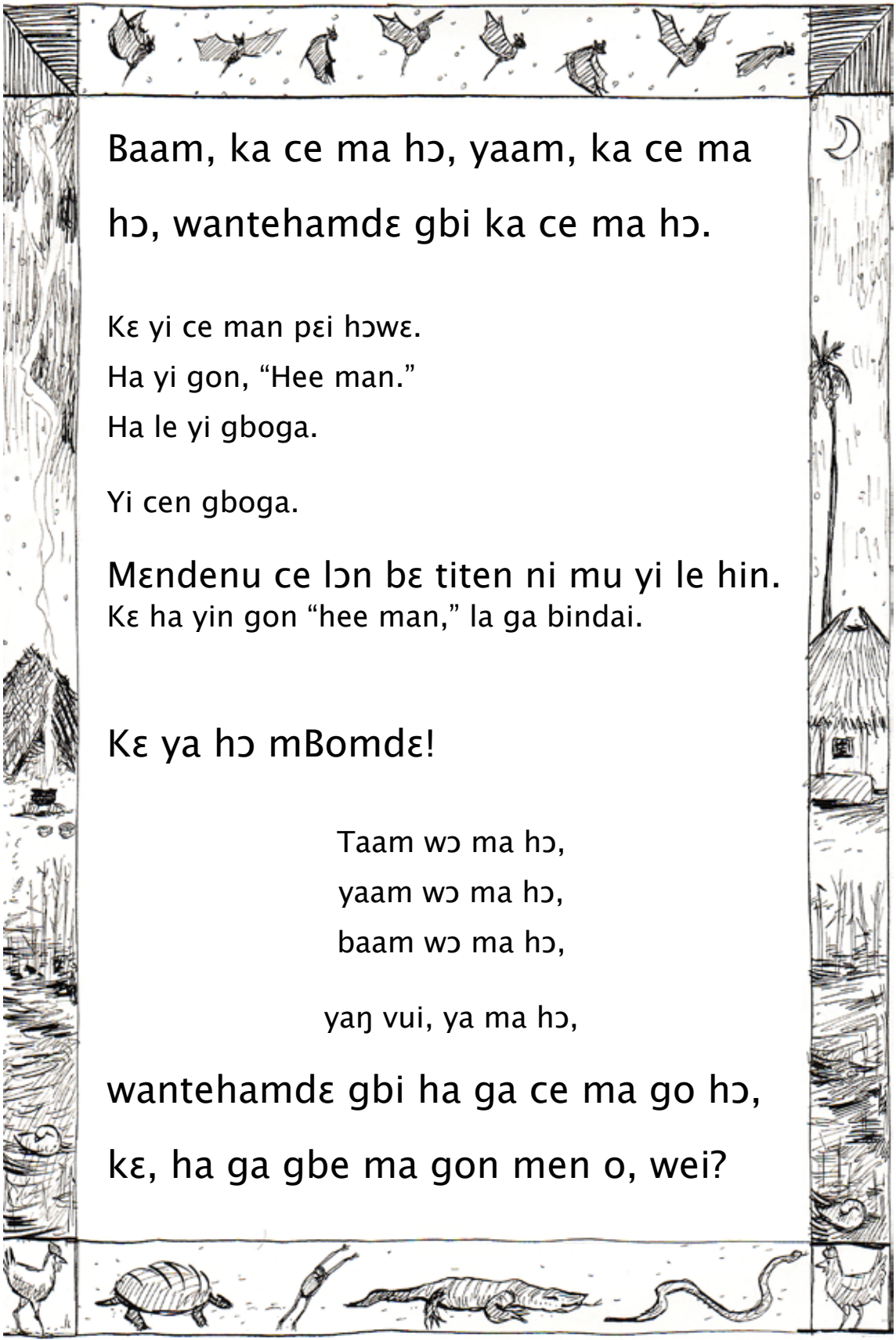
anyale gbi ha gbe mam

apuma teenteende gbi

ha gbeɲ a men.

Ha ce lan te, ha ce lan pei te,

**la migɛn gon le yini.**



Baam, ka ce ma hɔ, yaam, ka ce ma  
hɔ, wantehamɗe gbi ka ce ma hɔ.

Ƙe yi ce man pɛi hɔwɛ.

Ha yi gon, "Hee man."

Ha le yi gboga.

Yi cen gboga.

Mɛndenu ce lɔn bɛ titen ni mu yi le hin.

Ƙe ha yin gon "hee man," la ga bindai.

Ƙe ya hɔ mBomɗe!

Taam wɔ ma hɔ,

yaam wɔ ma hɔ,

baam wɔ ma hɔ,

yaŋ vui, ya ma hɔ,

wantehamɗe gbi ha ga ce ma go hɔ,

ƙe, ha ga gbe ma gon men o, wei?






Apuma teenteen,  
 ha lo penpen ha cen te pei man.  
 Cen wo hun lai?  
 Ye ka ce ha bangakese logi,  
 ye ka ce ha bangakese logi, yi siŋ.

# Sasapwi, saapwi, sasapwi!

SAAPWI  
 SASAPWI  
 SAAPWI





Sasapwi, saapwi,  
sasapwi!

Leni gbi yi ce lɔn pɛi ha, Mɛndɛ lai lɔ  
gon.

Ƙɛ, pɔgiyi logi, Hɔbatugɛɛ jahun,  
hun cen koŋ.

Hun cen koŋ gbi.

Oo, ƙɛ yaŋ ƙɛɛn  
gon,  
ya la teyɛ,  
ya ma hɔyɛ.

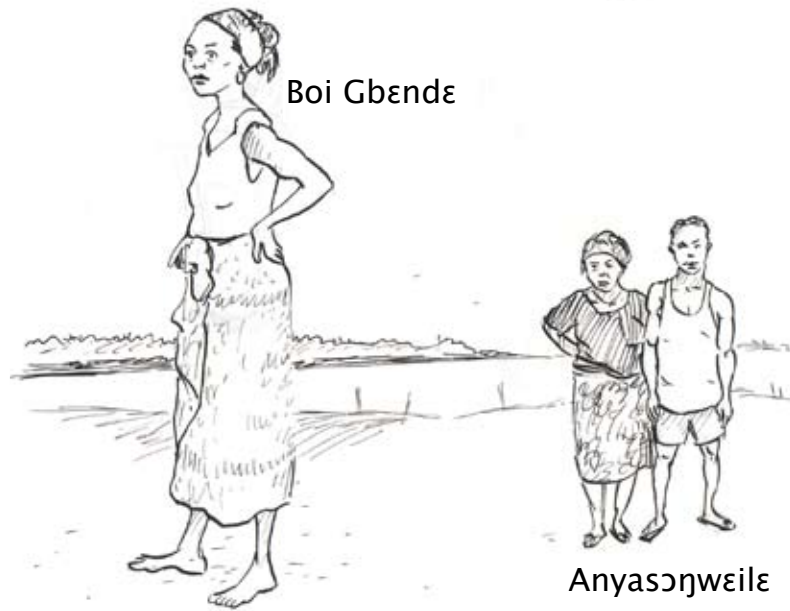


# Boi Gbende

J. J. Kɔngaima, Sɔgbale go

Numa bun wɔ ha ga cengi pɛi tii  
gagi ye,

ka ce le Boi Gbende.



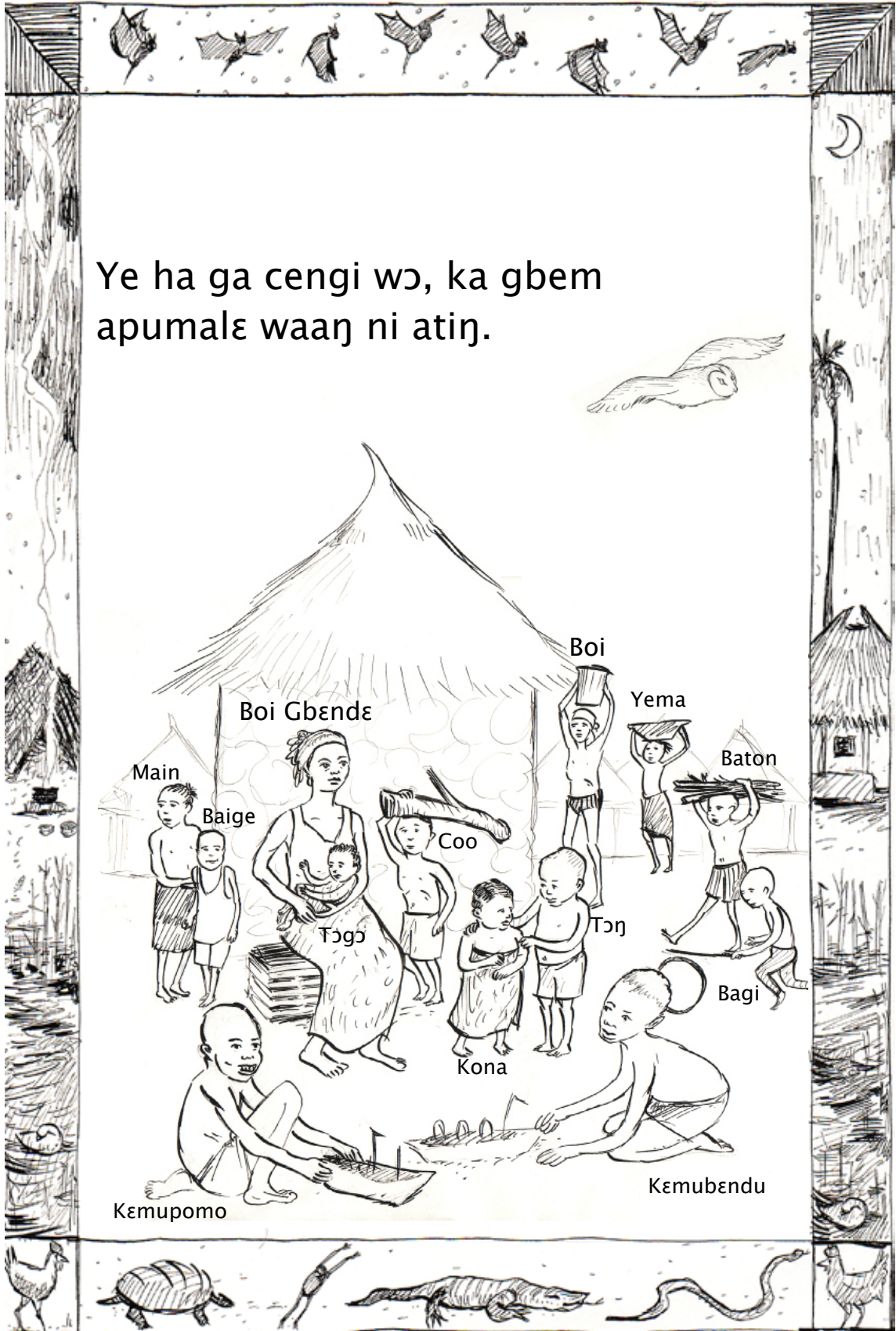
Boi Gbende

Anyasɔɔweile

Anyale ha ga ce wɔn  
hin sɔɔweile.

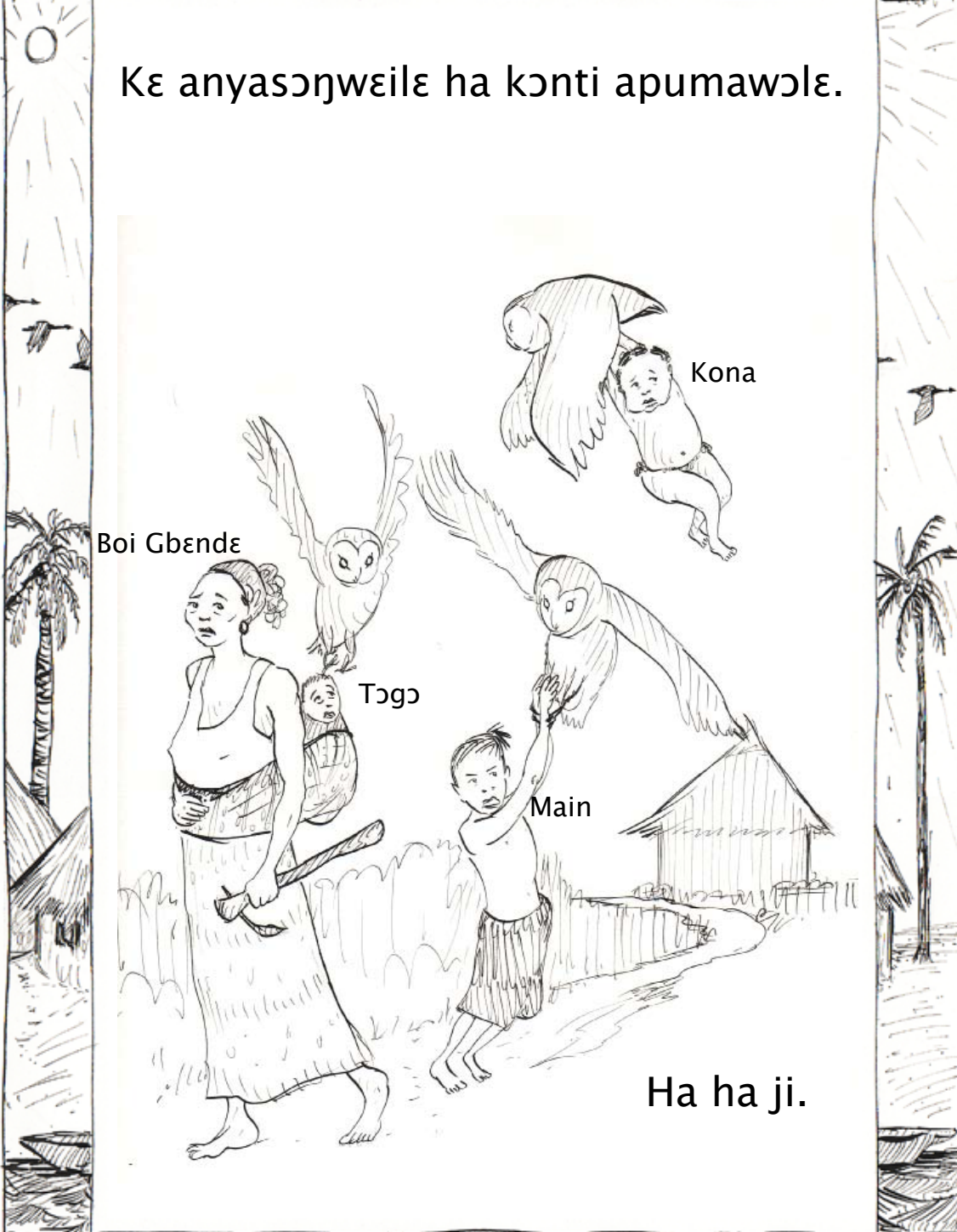


Ye ha ga cengi wɔ, ka gbem apumaleε waanɔ ni atinɔ.





Κε anyasɔŋweile ha kɔnti apumawɔle.



Ha ha ji.



Apumawɔɛ ha ga lee atɪ.

Powɔɛ wɔ  
ga ce le  
Biafɔgbɔɛ.

Boi Gbendɛ

Biafɔgbɔ

Kemubendu

Kemupomo

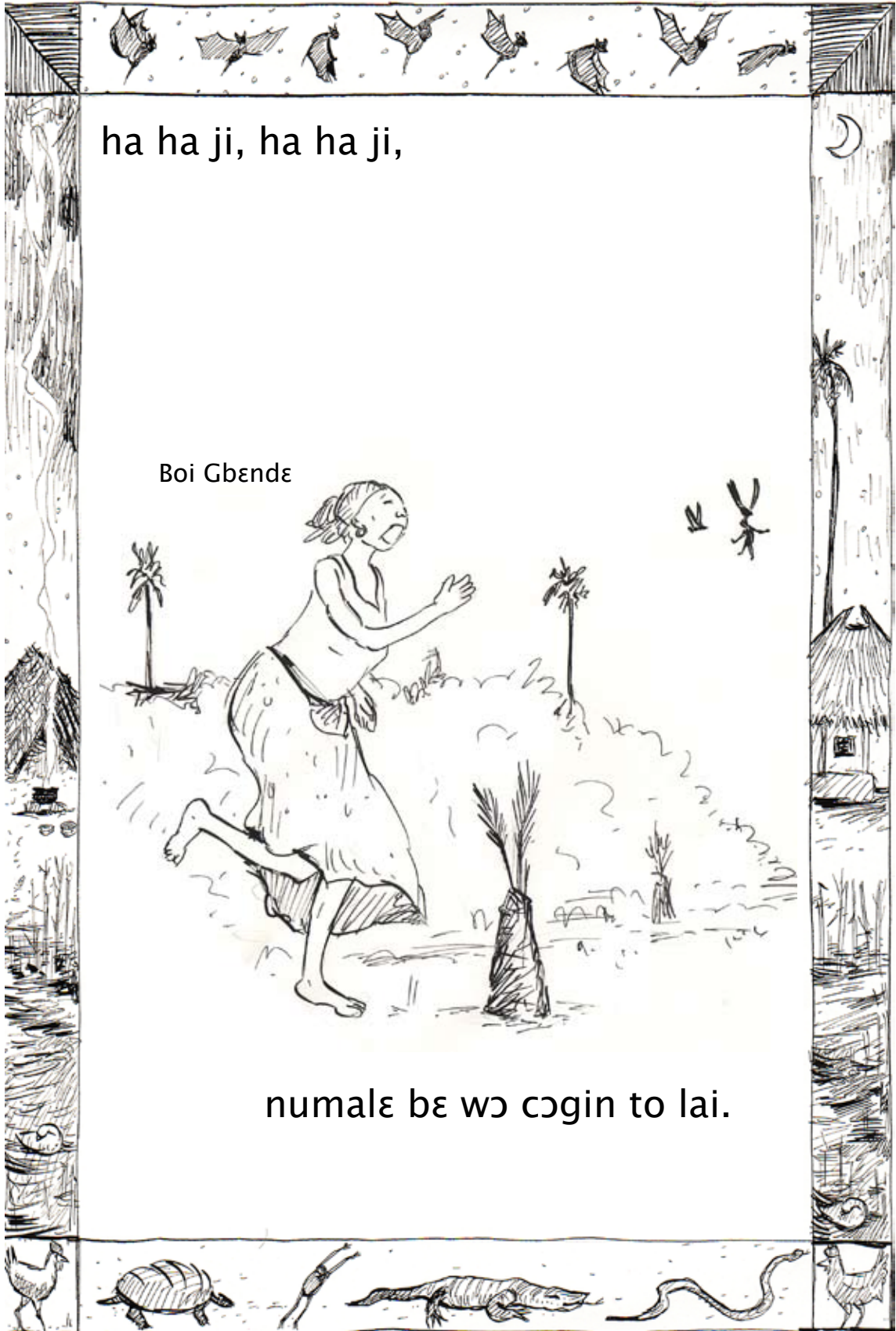


Ye ha ji  
apumawɔɛ,



Κεμπομο





ha ha ji, ha ha ji,

Boi Gbende

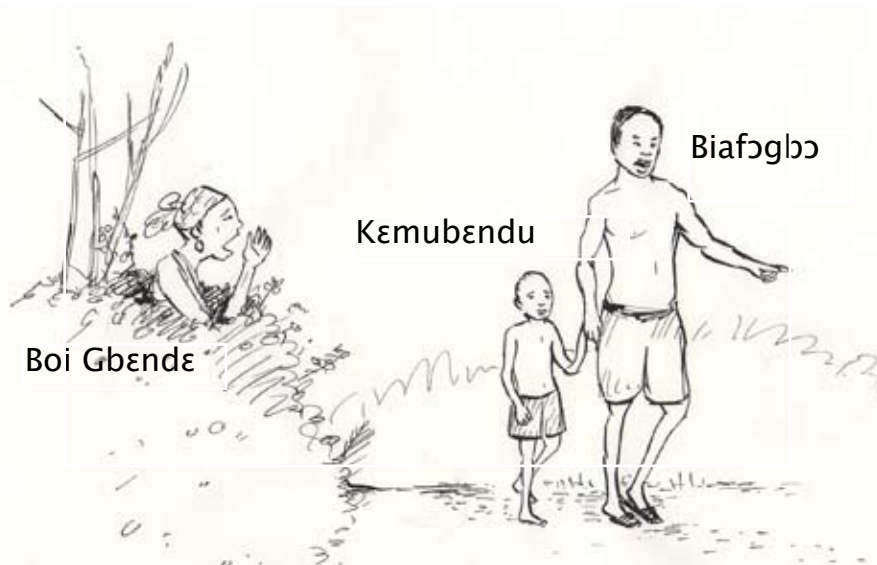
numale be wo cugin to lai.



○ Hu wɔ ga ce gon tanɔi:


N kɔ, Biafɔgbɔ!

N kɔ, Biafɔgbɔ!



N kɔ, n kɔ, Biafɔgbɔ,  
n kɔ la hɔ Kemubendu,

Kemupomo kende oo.

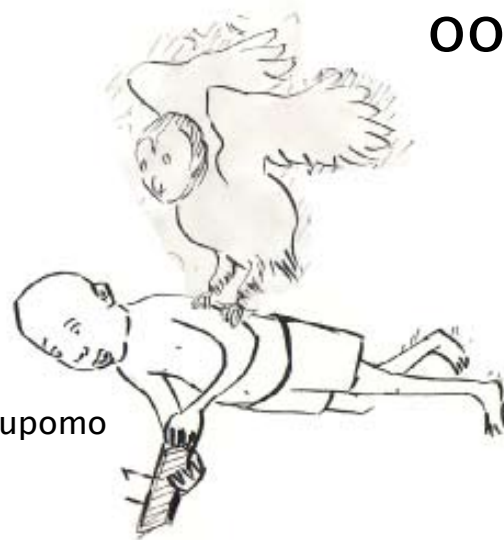



Oo, Santempi booni oo,  
n kɔ go go, Santempi  
booni oo.



Oo, oo, Santempi booni oo,  
n kɔ go go, Santempi booni  
oo.

Kemupomo





Ni kitigbile wɔ ye hun can kenwɔle  
bon, paandɛ.

Hɔɛ, Boi Gbendɛ mui?

Mm, lɔ wɔ hoga. Nule wɔ matin tolai.

Kon jɛge, kon jɛge jɛge, kon  
jɛge, Gbendɛ muin mɔ.

Boi Gbendɛ wɔ ga matin li benbenben.



Hɔɛ, 

A lapa oo, yɔ lapa go  
yim oo, ya lapa oo,  
ee, ye ye. Hum mu  
kele go yandem la.

La migɛn gon.



Fe mpolε

Hawa Sanja,  
Sɔgbalε go

Ye a ga poε,

ye a ga ce ha  
mpolε?

Le nu kam go fe  
mpolε, ya wɔ ka  
mɔmɔdε.

Kε le, ka min go  
fe mpo, a ce wɔn  
ka sɔmamɔdε, wei?  
A ce wɔn ka gbi  
sɔmamɔdε!

Yanbε, ya go faan  
yendε hu wɔm kalε:  
hu hu a pingi  
pεlεlε si ya ye ya, si  
ya ka wɔ.

Kε nu ka mun  
wε, mu wɔ go ka  
mɔmamulε,

kε si n dugeye  
yen, taama kεen!

Kε- numdε wɔm  
ka felε, he!

Mpolε ma go pa  
benben benben,  
gi ma benben, gi  
ma **benben!**





# Βῶγι Ια γο

Βετι Μαφῶ, Σαμῶ γο

Τεμδε hu pomδε wue,  
ye wu goni,  
haa-a, liweiyε haa,  
nupogan logi toη wῶm go welen,  
toη wῶm welen.

Υαηβε ke nu, ya ye hῶ ya ye.  
Ya ye, a cῶmun len.

Wῶ ci muile.  
wῶ ka abenamδε.

Ya ye, a cῶmun len.  
κῶ, wῶ ye, wῶm welen.

Ya ye, koη guε.  
Le mum go welen, a cῶmun len.

Le a cῶmun len, toη mum go welen,  
kesi n ha.



Ya hɔe, hogim welenɔ.  
Hɔe, ye melɛm gi,  
ye melɛm logi ye, yanɔe,  
ya gon hɔ:

**Bɔgi la go! Bɔgi la go!  
Bɔgi la go, bɔgi la go...**





○ Amalɛ ha hɔ

Hawa Bangura ni Hawa Dugba,  
Bɛngɛ go

Aa, hum waa logi, len da a mu hɛ,  
lani la ga ham puɛ go,  
ye la ga gbom negi,  
la gbeŋ gbelɛŋ ni.

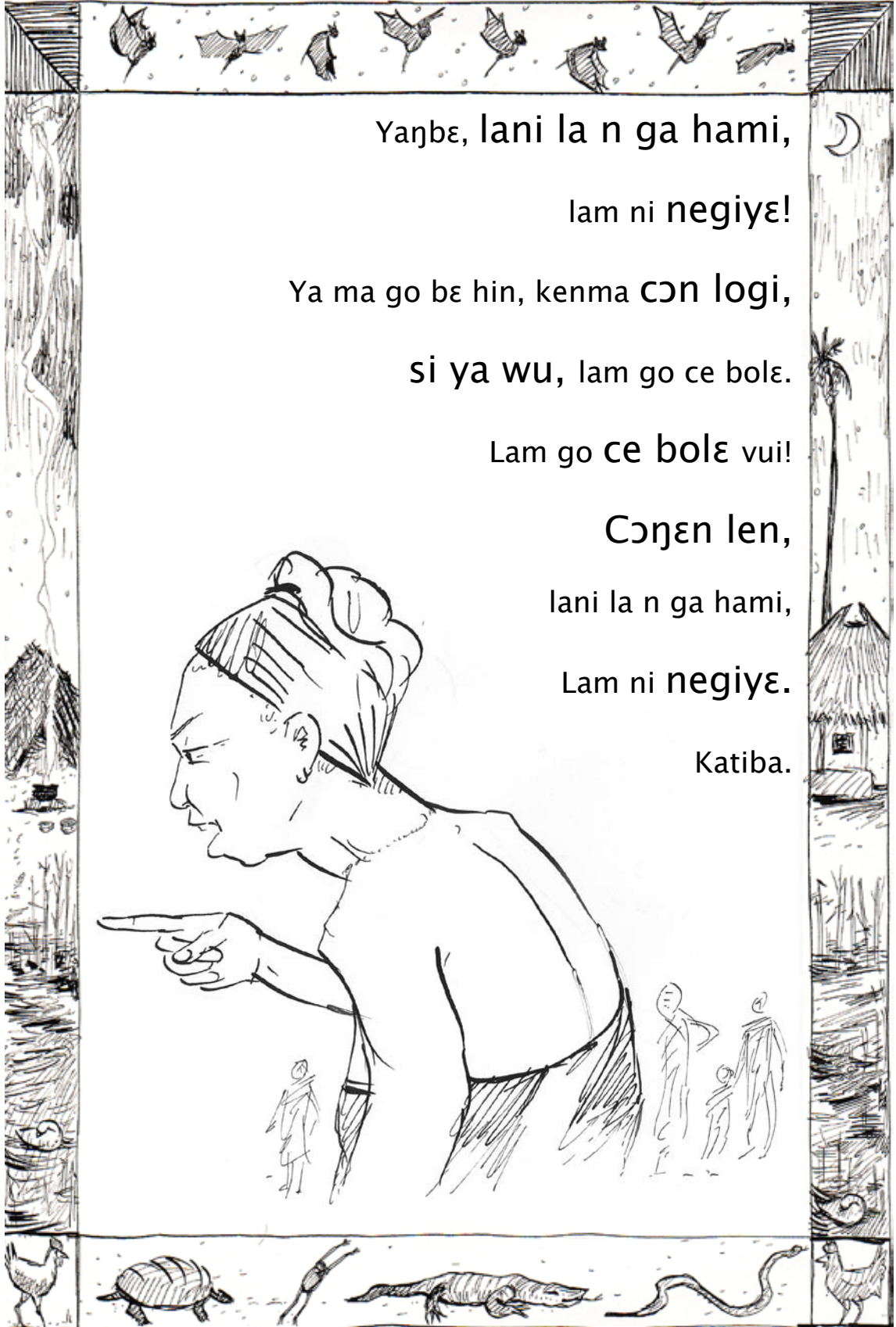
Kenma bɛ pan logi lam go bolɛ,  
kɛ kona fo,  
lani la ham logi yɛ,  
la ce min hogi bolɛ oo.

Ye yanbɛ  
can logi yɛ,  
pan logi bɛ,  
lam negiyɛ!

Lani la ga hamɔɔ,  
a mbaalɛ la ga negiyɛm,  
kona fo mam hɔ lani!

Kona fo mam hɔ lani.  
Lam ni negiyɛ vui,  
lam ni negiyɛ.





Yaηβε, lani la n ga hami,

lam ni negiyε!

Ya ma go be hin, kenma cɔn logi,

si ya wu, lam go ce bole.

Lam go ce bole vui!

Cɔηen len,

lani la n ga hami,

Lam ni negiyε.

Katiba.





# Iduile tii ga

Hawa Sanja, Sɔgbale go

Iduile hi gbe ga go tii ga gbi!

Apuma teenteen idui, idui,

ken be we hu semi,  
le ma lo gon,

ham beti ken,  
si hanbe cengi ma,  
si ha kon!


Pe ma go be yii,

“Hina wo beti  
mbana logi ya?”

Nu cen ho.

Ha dui sɔgisile!  
Ha som!





# Si ya ha gbotigbotile

## Hawa Sanja, Sɔgbale go

Ye a ha gbotigbotile yaam wɔ koe sɔndɛ,  
wɔm go togi, wɔm go gbatɪ kɔn.

Yanɓɛ, si a ye le matan,

ye a gon matendɛ wɛ,

a gon koe pandɛ si ya ye kɔn tii kɔhin go pɛɲ.

Kolɔ pɛ ga gbemwɔlɛ, si ya lɔ ye lɛ mui.

Ya ye, wantimulɛ hɔɛ,

n hu wɔ huntɔ kooɲ,

wɔ gbeɲ hogi saandilɛ.

Ye a gon hundɛ,

“Aye, wamɔɛ,”

ya ye, “Ha mam hun ce!

Cen hum mu ga cem towɛ?

Mum boɲ ka tɔgilɛ!”



○ **Apuma tɛmi logi**  
Hawa Sanja, Sɔgbalɛ go

Kɛ ha logi, apuma logi, **han**, ha hi gbem gon logi.

Hin, hi ga ce go hɔ mBomɔɔ,  
**abɛnahilɛ** ha hɔ hi go mBomɔɔ.

Kɛ, la gon logi kiniɲ hin, aha ha lɔ kiniɲ ha ha gbemi,  
**ha cen hɔ mBom!**

Ha cen hɔ mBom **gbi!**

Cuapumulɛ bɛ ka ce go pa cani,  
“N kɔ” pa. Hɔɔ, “A ce kɔ a yen!”

Ni a le wɔ le **gbata n te**,  
yaɲbɛ, wei? Gbotigboti hu cen kɛlɛɲ.

Lɛ hi **gbenti han go**,  
ha hi go **boɲ!**

Aha logi ha hi gbem logi yɛ.

Ha hi go **boɲ!**

Ha cen te **luumhilɛ.**

ɔɔ. Ha cen te **luumhilɛ.**



**Mpantima  
icεgile**

**Bɔkai Gbandiya  
ni Abdulai Janga  
ni Tɔmi Ngɔmbu,  
Sampɔ go**

Hi ha mpantima icεgile.

Hi pεη kɔ **yεti tole.**  
Hi ye kɔ yɔgi bɔgale teiη  
lai.

**Hi ha icεgi logi ye.**

Hi gon **tε icεgile.**

Hi gbeη **hei.**

Hi gbeη go **hei,**  
hi hu ye **kuta.**

Hi ɔ pεη **saη pεlele.**

Hi wɔm **kuta hun.**

Hi go **beti ketile.**

Ka ce **haya anyale** ha  
mpanti logi.

Hi **ya jole gbe,** si ha  
**jo go.**

Hi go jo, si hi gba,  
hi gba go.

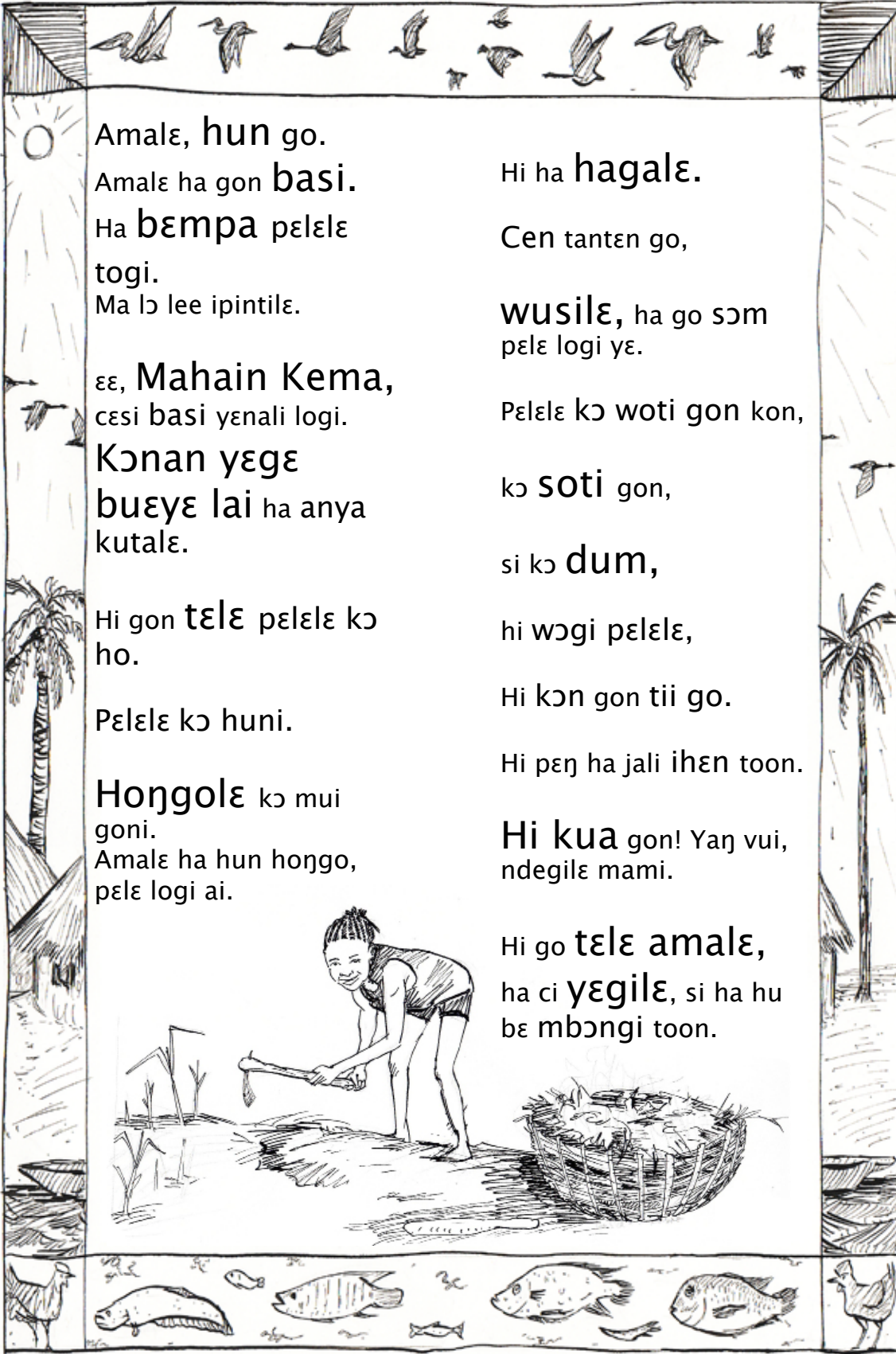
**Anya konu ni waan.**

**Oo, pεle logi kɔ hu  
ho yenkeleη.**

**Ayεnale vui ɔ likεleη.**  
**Lε logi ɔ likεleη.**

Ya ga bε **buse limen**  
gagi ye.





Amale, hun go.  
Amale ha gon basi.  
Ha bempa pelee  
togi.  
Ma lo lee ipintile.

εε, Mahain Kema,  
cesi basi yenali logi.  
Konan yegē  
bueye lai ha anya  
kutale.

Hi gon tele pelee ko  
ho.

Pelee ko huni.

Hongole ko mui  
goni.  
Amale ha hun honggo,  
pele logi ai.



Hi ha hagale.

Cen tanten go,

wusile, ha go som  
pele logi ye.

Pelee ko woti gon kon,

ko soti gon,

si ko dum,

hi wogi pelee,

Hi kon gon tii go.

Hi pen ha jali ihen toon.

Hi kua gon! Yan vui,  
ndegile mami.

Hi go tele amale,  
ha ci yegile, si ha hu  
be mbongi toon.



Ya ga ce go can kende  
welen

Hawa Sanja, Soɓbale go

Aa, mbaale, lani la ya ha pɔgi logi ye.

Ye a ga pole.

Yaŋ, a lee go toon.

Ni yaam wo ye wu.

Jiyɛ min saandɛ,

baam won jim go saandile.

Won bemam peŋ hogi.

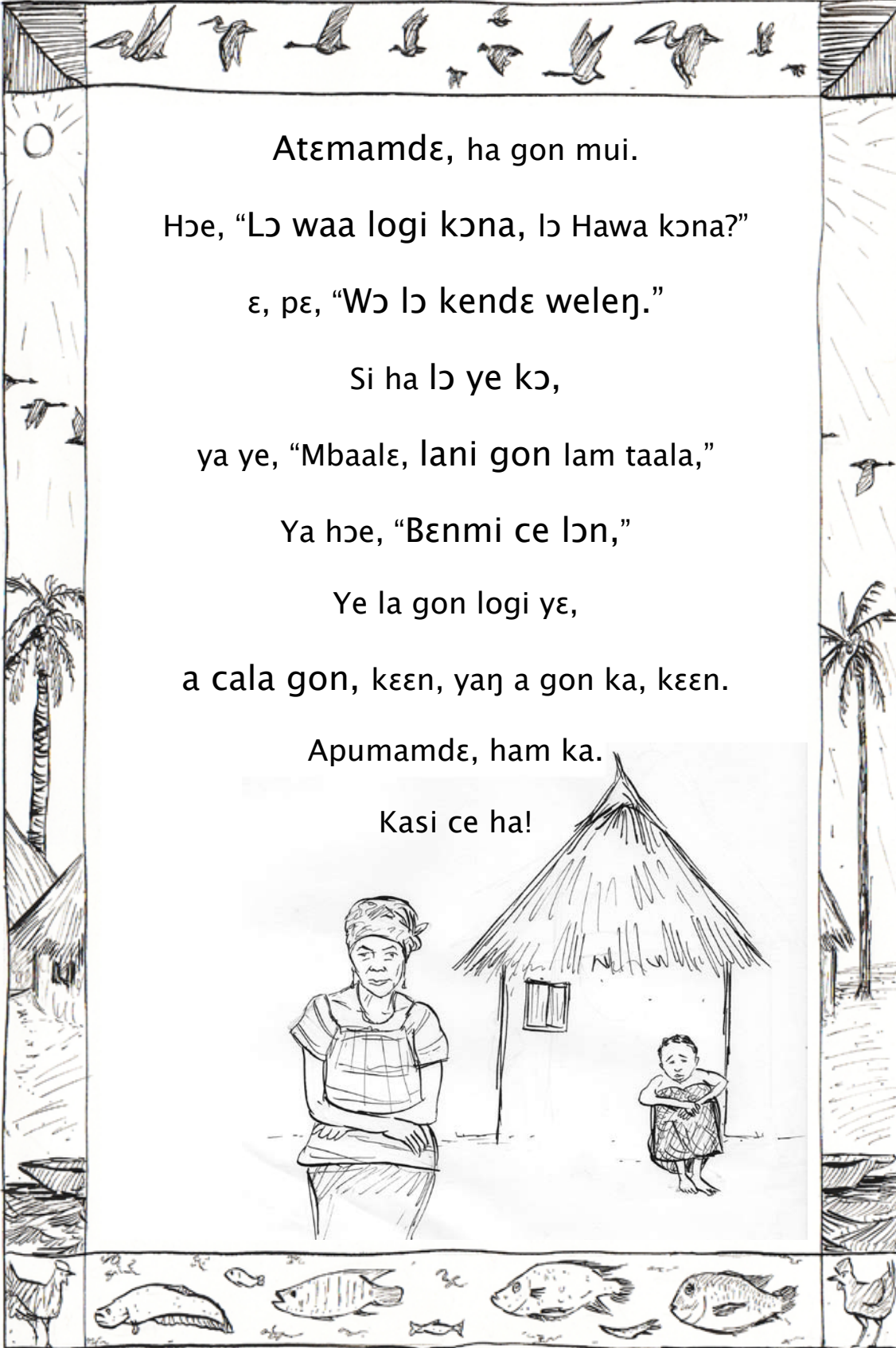
Ye yaam cen logile pei,

yema gon hogi saandile,

a ga ce go can kende welen

a ga ce can.





Atɛmamɔɔ, ha gon mui.

Hɔɛ, “Lɔ waa logi kɔna, lɔ Hawa kɔna?”

ɛ, pɛ, “Wɔ lɔ kendɛ welenj.”

Si ha lɔ ye kɔ,

ya ye, “Mbaalɛ, lani gon lam taala,”

Ya hɔɛ, “Bɛnmi ce lɔn,”

Ye la gon logi yɛ,

a cala gon, kɛɛn, yaŋ a gon ka, kɛɛn.

Apumamɔɔ, ham ka.

Kasi ce ha!





Nule wɔ taŋ mBom lai  
Hawa Dugba, Benge go

Ee yoo yaa.

Oo ya lee tii ga oo.

Anya gbi ha koŋ kɔn oo.

Anyale ha koŋ kɔn oo.

Ya lee tii ga, yaŋ keɛn oo.

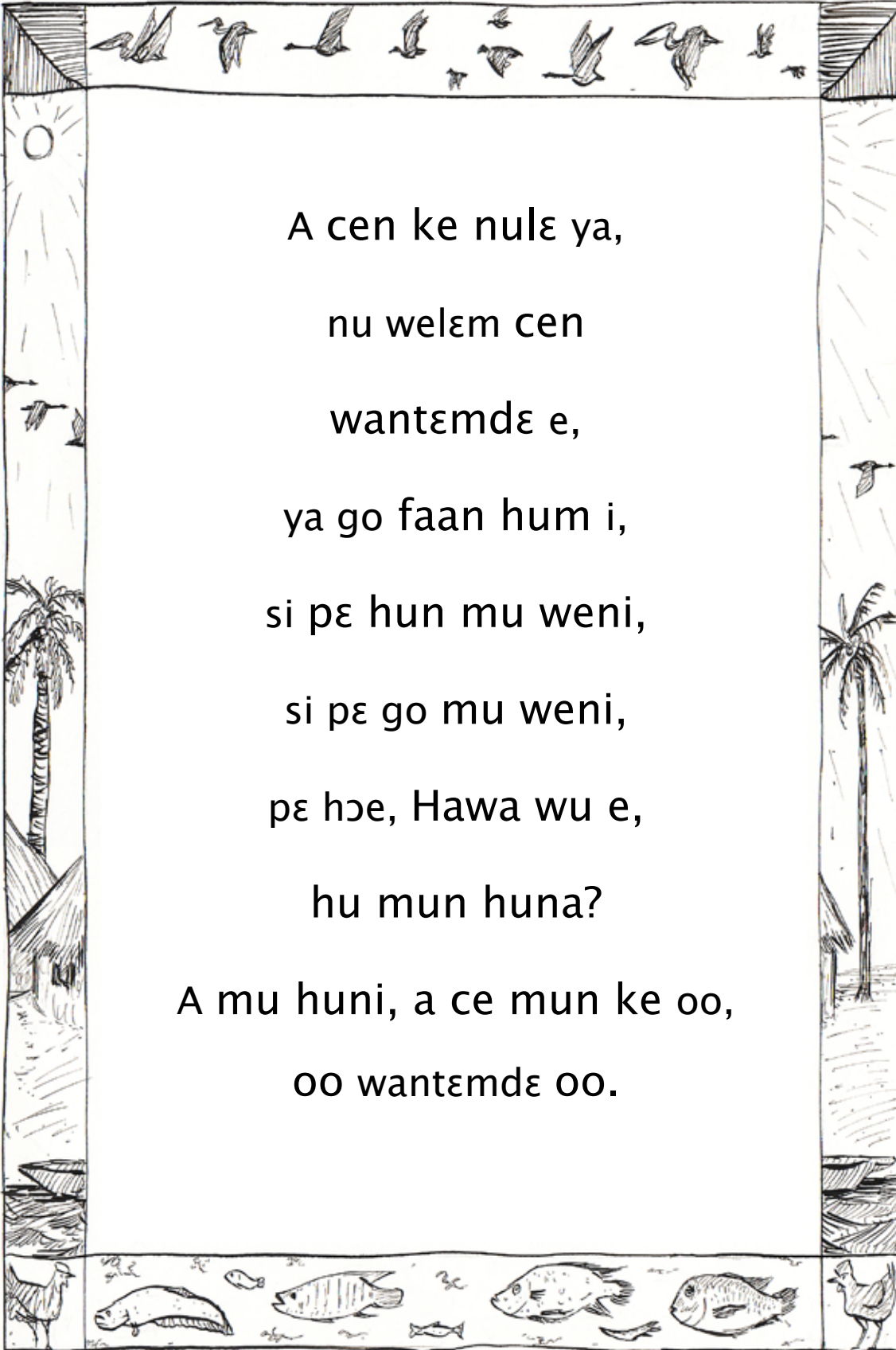
Ya gbemin huele oo.

Hina wɔm na ha oo?


Ye pem go hu cɔŋga,

hina wɔm ka?





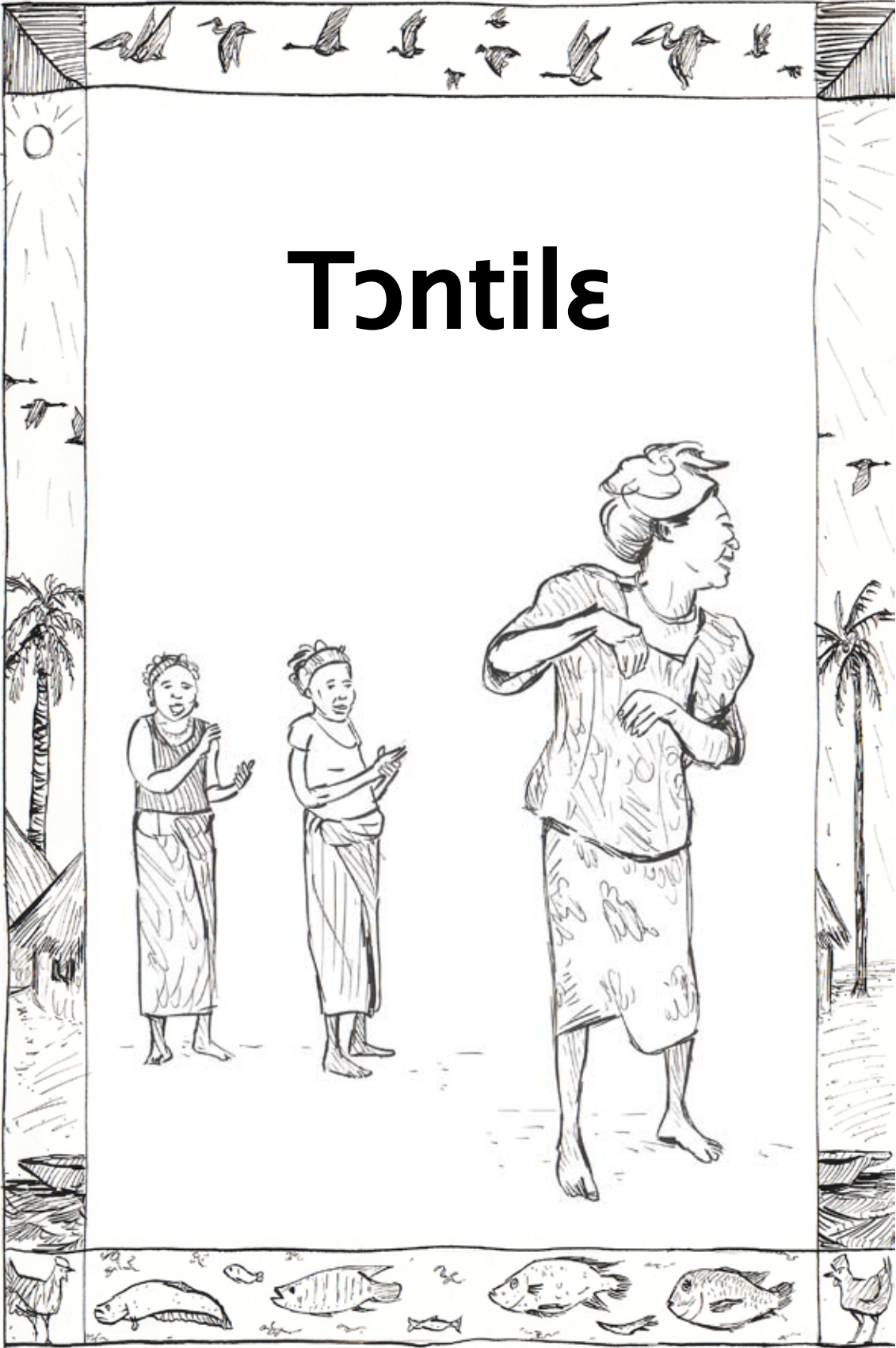
A cen ke nulε ya,  
nu welεm cen  
wantεmdε e,  
ya go faan hum i,  
si pε hun mu weni,  
si pε go mu weni,  
pε hεe, Hawa wu e,  
hu mun huna?  
A mu huni, a ce mun ke oo,  
oo wantεmdε oo.



Baam ce lɔn oo, yaam ce lɔn oo,  
ya pɛi waa lo.

Ye o we yaa, a lee can geɣe yaa.





# Tontile

Baam, lo mu kona?

Amaa Sogbale

Baam lo mu kona?

A kon keben go!

Geden gedem gedem.

Baam lo mu kona?

Hɛ, a kon keben go!

Hɛ, yenge bom lai!

Gulem gulem gulem.

E, ya ga hundɛ!





# Ya ken mɔ penti sɔm itɔ Hawa Dugba, Benge go

Le nu mu koeɣe ipentinule,  
nule wɔ sɔm itɔle,  
cen mui koo, pe semi isabole.

Ce lan mui, wei?  
Tɔnti lan tai, wei?

Bayani oo, ya ken mɔ penti sɔmu itɔ.  
Le mu go sɔm itɔhamule,  
ma mui ga isabomde.



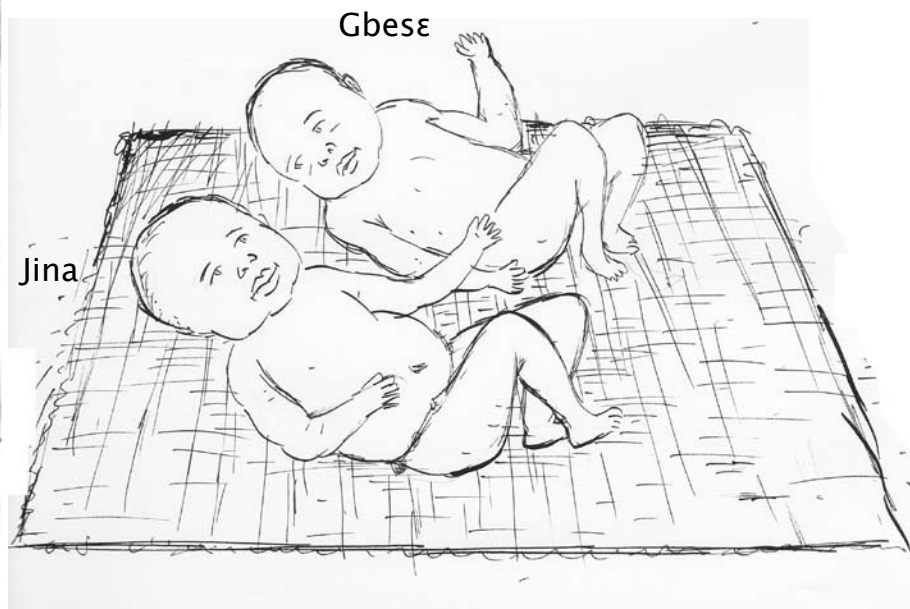
Tɔntilɛ ha ipɛntinulɛ  
Amaa Bɛngɛ

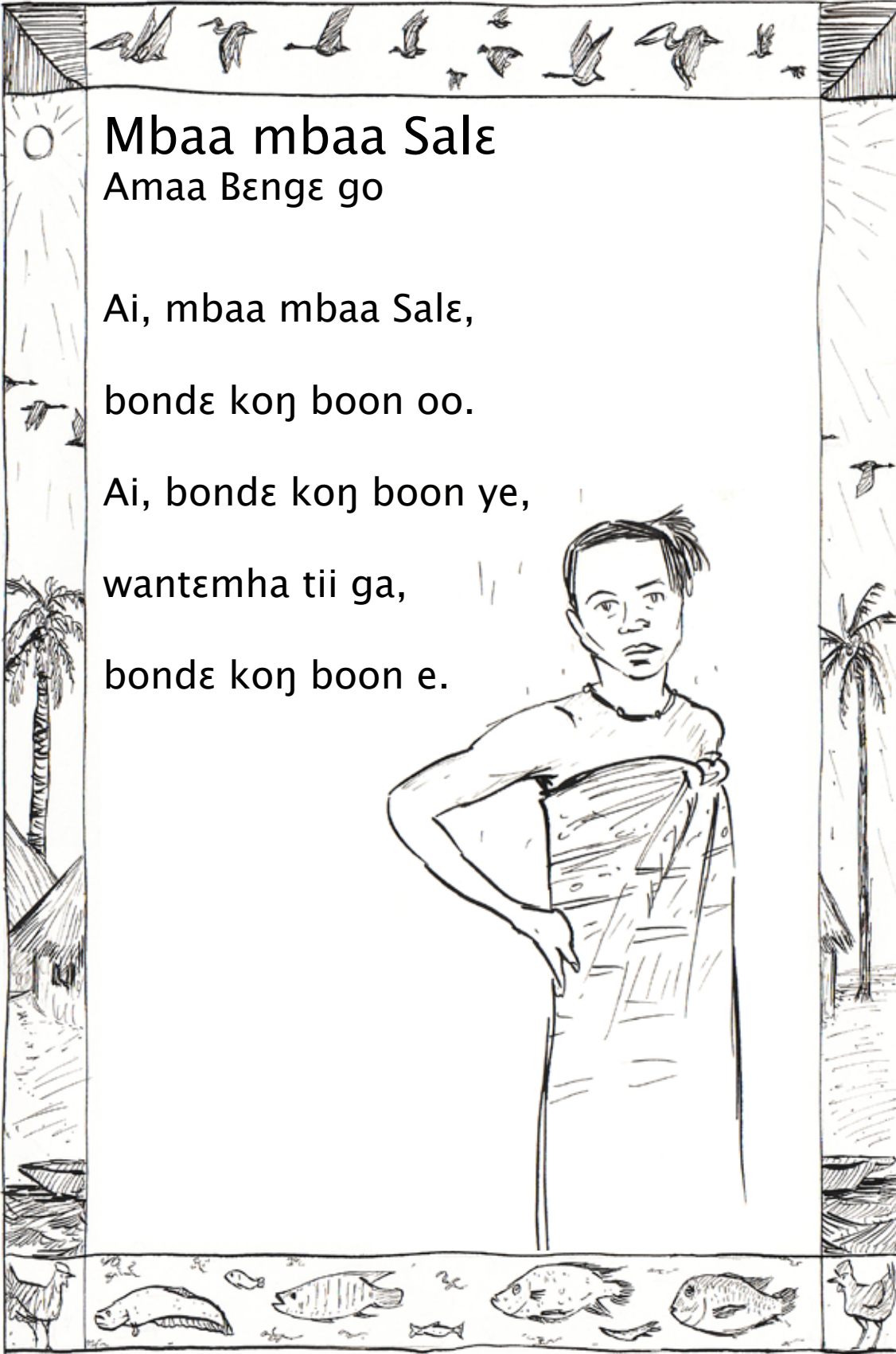
ƆƆ ƆƆ, ƆƆ ƆƆ.

ƆƆƆ ƆƆ!

Ha hayɛ gbelen!

Jali kelɛn Yaa Gbesɛ.





○

# Mbaa mbaa Sale

Amaa Benge go

Ai, mbaa mbaa Sale,

bondε koŋ boon oo.

Ai, bondε koŋ boon ye,

wantemha tii ga,

bondε koŋ boon e.



# La Migren Gon

