

**Khalai talks to plants**

**Khalai akakanaya n'ebirimwa**

• Olukonjo  / English 

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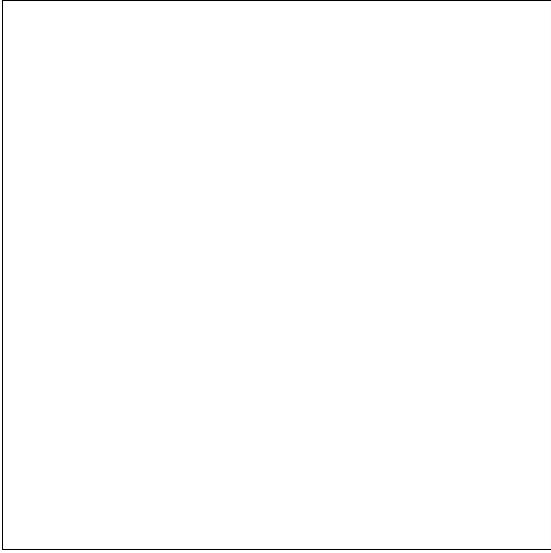
■ Ursula Nafula

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Khalai talks to plants**

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Ono ni Khalai. Awithe myaka musangyu.  
Erina liwe omwalhulimi lwiwe,  
o'Lubukusu, limanyisaya "omubuya".

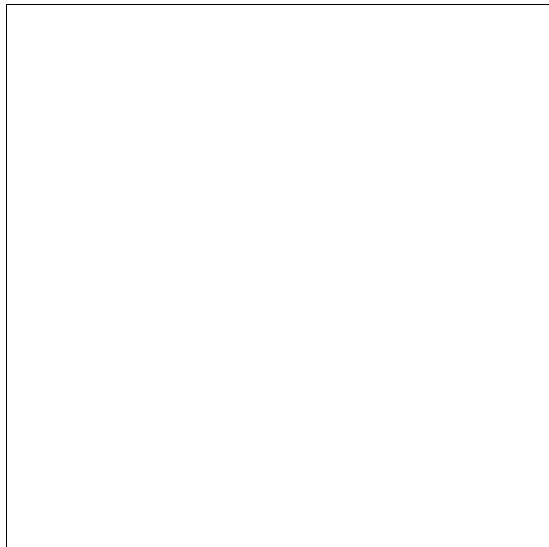
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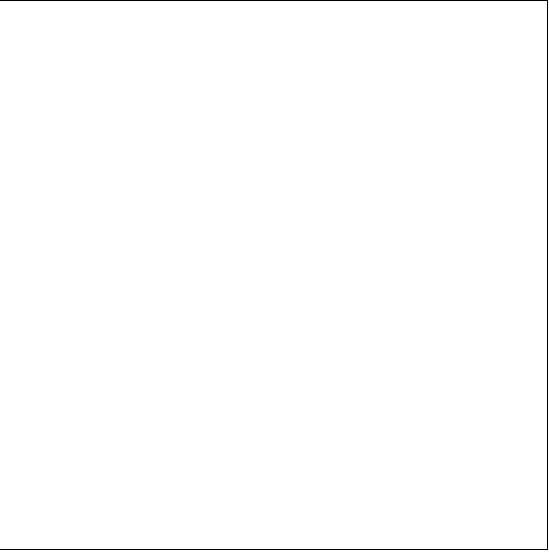
This is Khalai. She is seven years old.  
Her name means 'the good one' in her  
language, Lubukusu.

Khalai wakes up and talks to the orange tree. "Please orange tree, grow big and give us lots of ripe oranges."

...

Khalai akabuka omwathulho neryo inyakania nomuthi we mintsingwe athi, "kyisi muthi wemitsungwe, kuhla ihubaluba wangatuherrya ebighuma by'emsitusingwe".

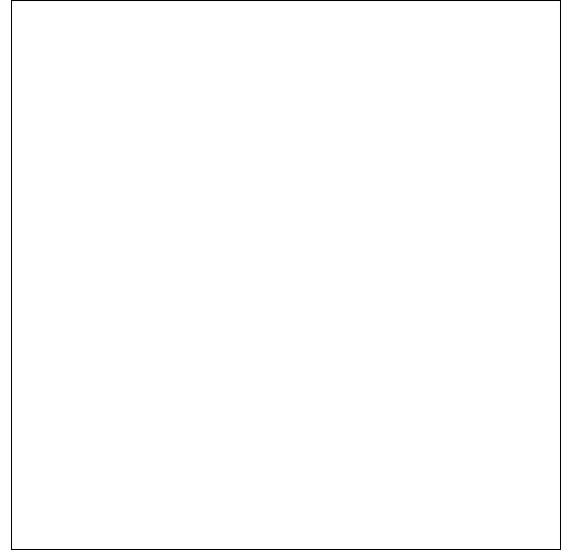




Khalai akaghenda omwabisando  
akayasoma. Neryo akabugha nebithi  
athi, "kyisi bithi, mukule, kandi muleke  
eryuma"

...

Khalai walks to school. On the way she  
talks to the grass. "Please grass, grow  
greener and don't dry up."



"Emitsungwe yikine makuke" uhmm...  
"ngendisyakulebya omungya muthi  
w'emitsungwe". Khalai akabugha athia.  
"Obundi lero ukendisyabya  
n'omutsungwe owerire."

...

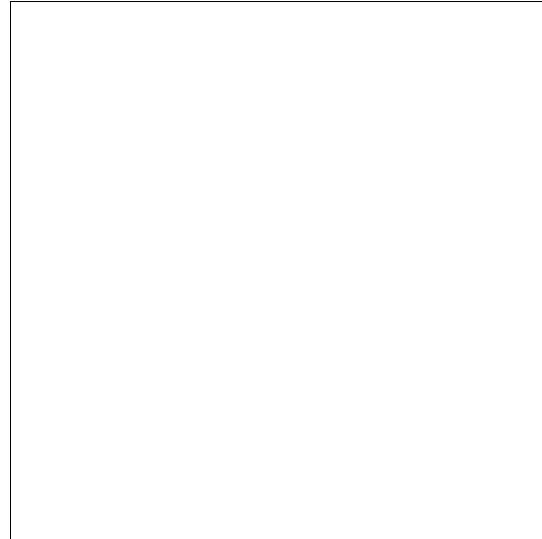
"The oranges are still green," sighs  
Khalai. "I will see you tomorrow orange  
tree," says Khalai. "Perhaps then you  
will have a ripe orange for me!"

Khalai akalhaba okwa bimole "kyisi  
 bimole, musanzuhayé neryo  
 nangabahira omwa muthwe waghe"  
 ...

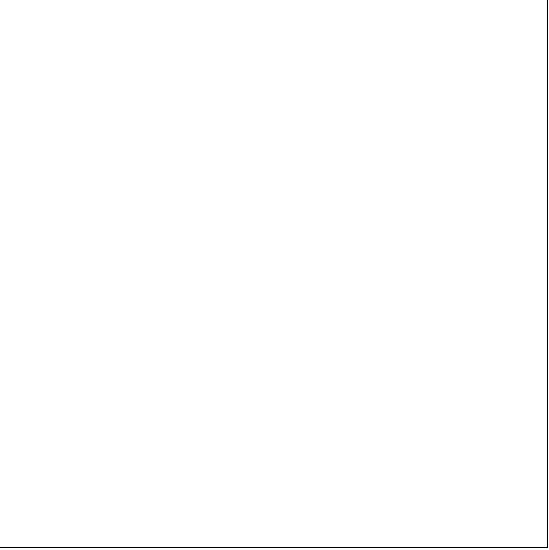


Khalai passes wild flowers. "Please  
 flowers, keep blooming so I can put you  
 in my hair."

Neryo khalai akabya akalhawa  
 okw'isomero akayalebaya omuthi  
 wemitsungwe. "emitsungwe yaghu  
 siyiryanera kwehi?"  
 ...



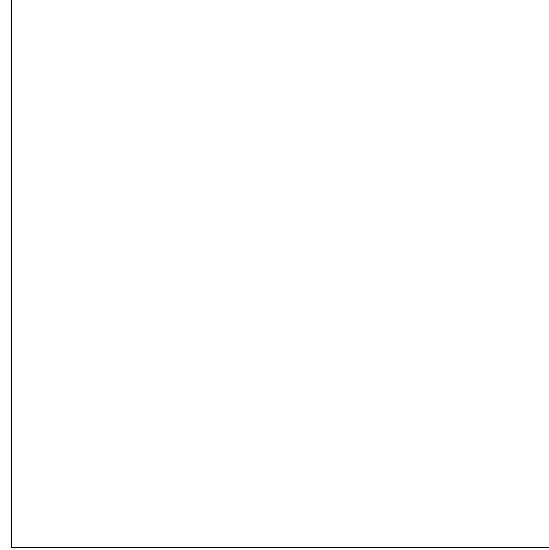
When Khalai returns home from school,  
 she visits the orange tree. "Are your  
 oranges ripe yet?" asks Khalai.



Okw'Isomero, Khalai akabwira omuthi  
athi, "kyisi muthi iwe kulhaya emithahi  
minene thwangatunga ekitsutsu"

...

At school, Khalai talks to the tree in the  
middle of the compound. "Please tree,  
put out big branches so we can read  
under your shade."



Khalai akabwira olhughuthu  
lw'okwisomero athi, "kyisi lhughuthu  
ubye namani wangaleka abandu babi  
erithendithwingirira.

...

Khalai talks to the hedge around her  
school. "Please grow strong and stop  
bad people from coming in."