

Fati and the Soup Pot

Osu Library Fund



Fati and the Soup Pot

An original story from
Osu Library Fund

Illustrated by Eric Nii Addy



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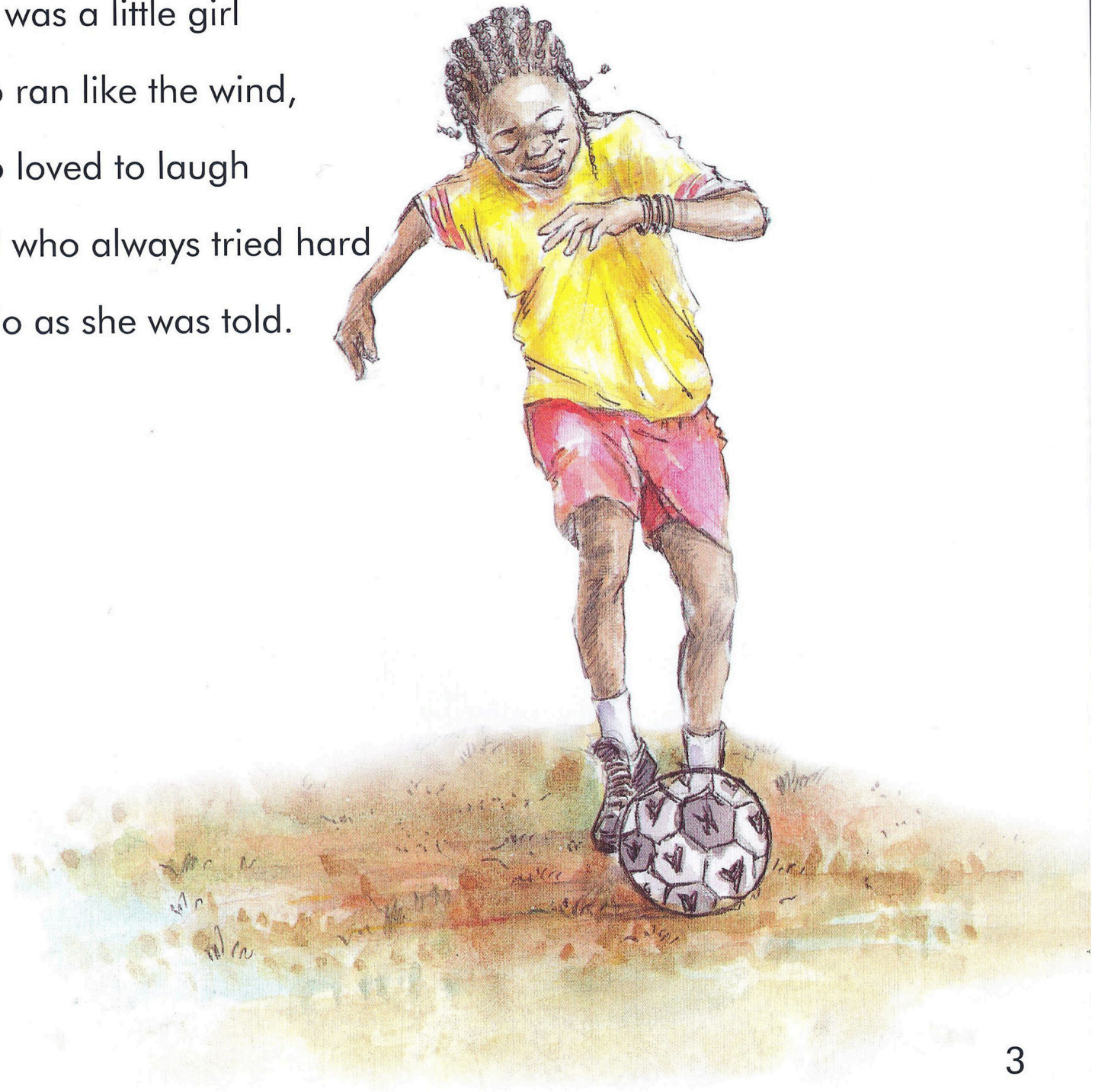
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For Pieludong Kyeselle and all patient mothers everywhere. M.A.H.



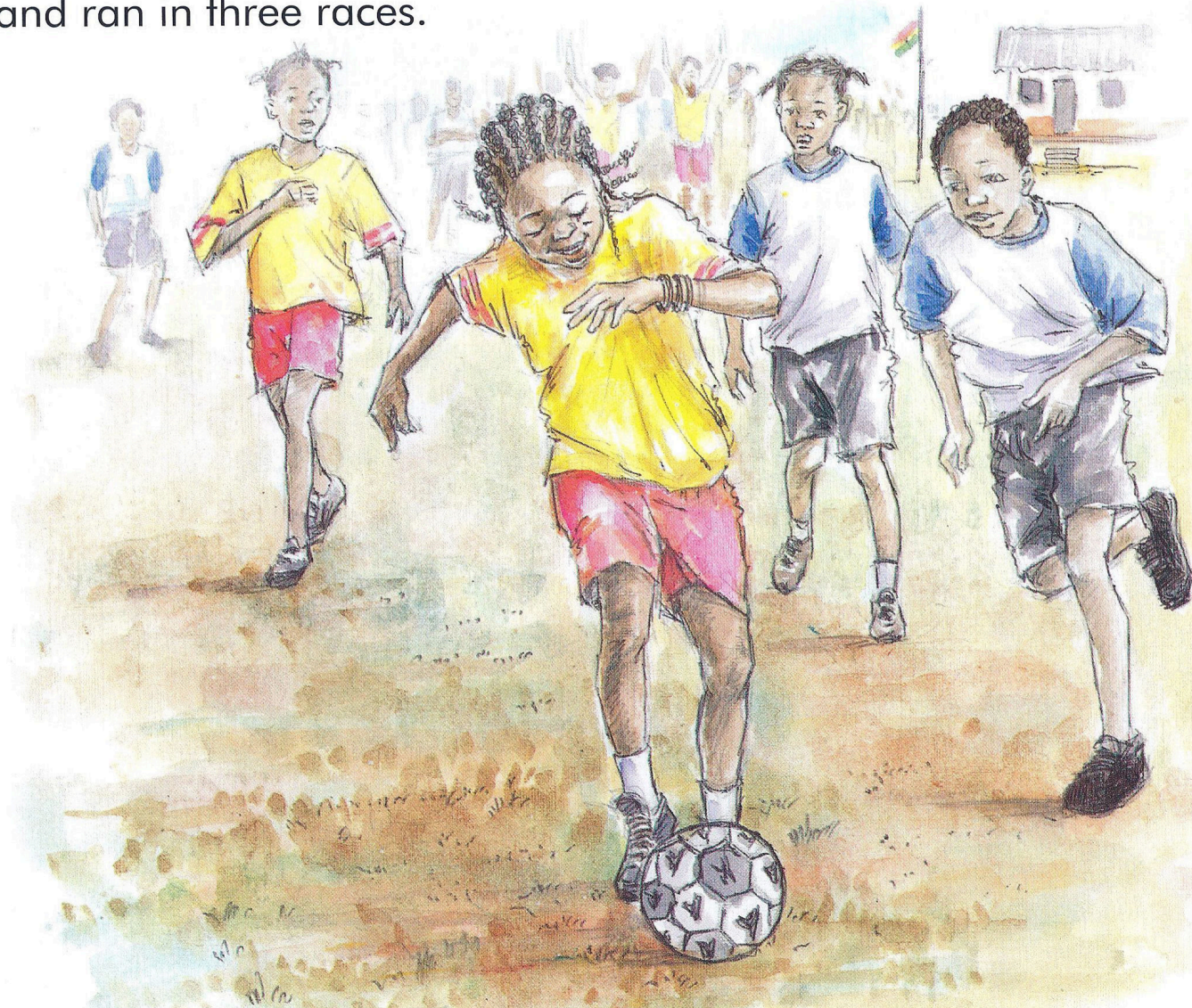
Lydia Tingan, whose childhood stories inspired the Fati series, is with her mother, Pieludong Kyeselle.

Fati was a little girl
who ran like the wind,
who loved to laugh
and who always tried hard
to do as she was told.



Today was Sports Day at school.

Fati played football
and ran in three races.



After school, she walked home

with her good friend Hawa.

Hawa said, "Fati, you are a fast runner!"



Fati arrived home
and found her mother
in the kitchen.

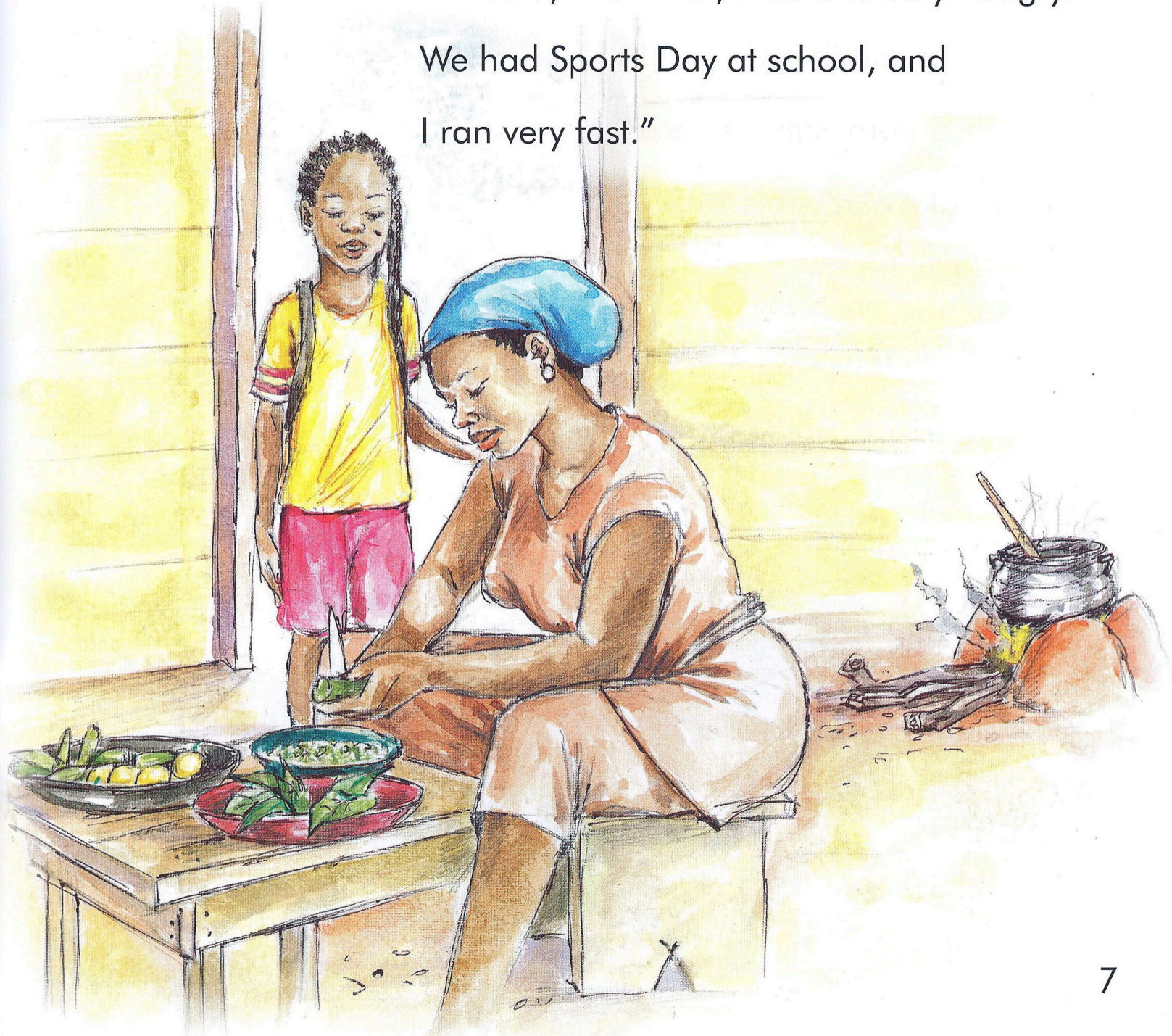
She said, "Mother, good evening."

Fati's mother replied, "Fine evening.

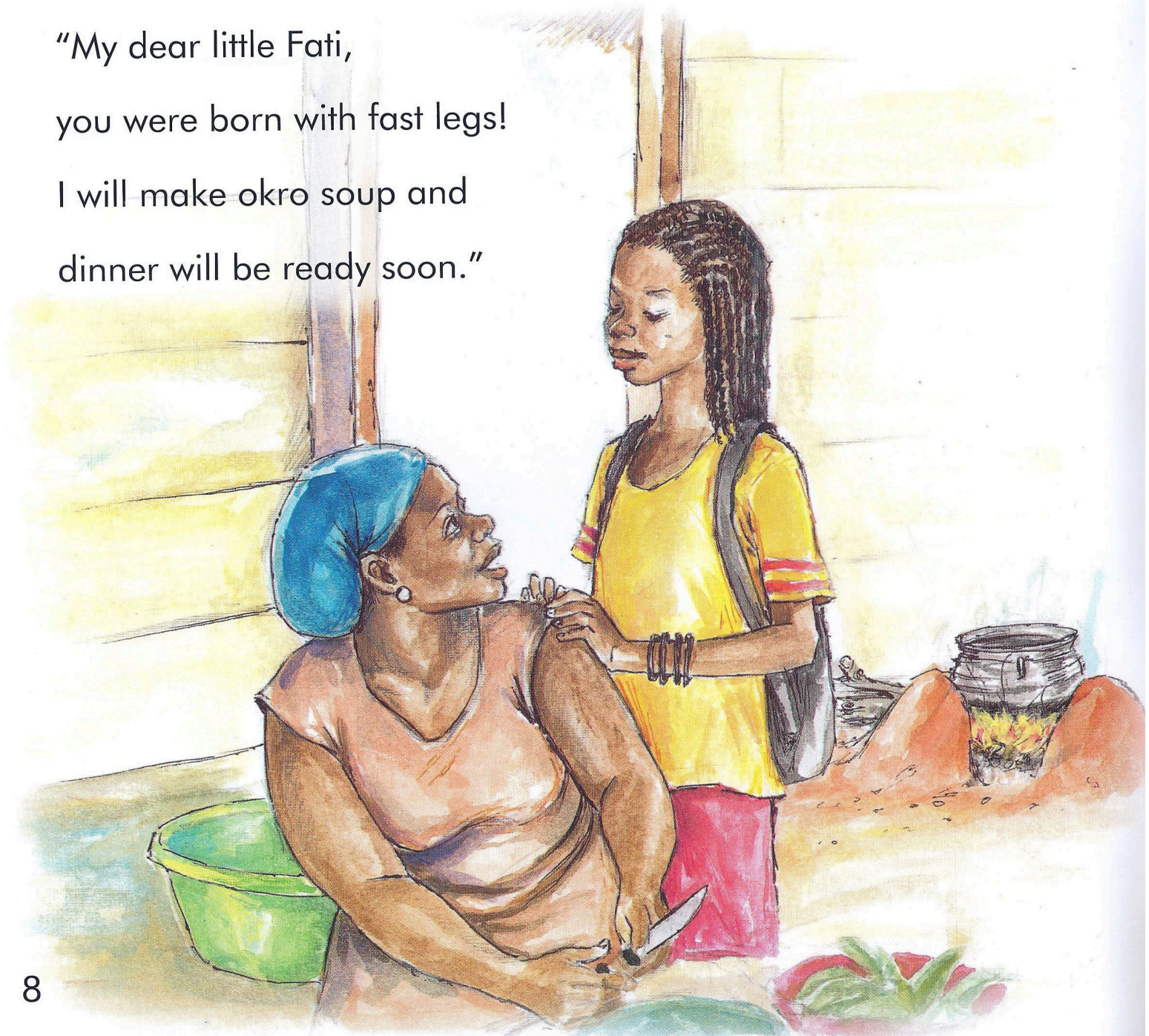
How are you?"



Fati said, "I am hot, tired and very hungry.
We had Sports Day at school, and
I ran very fast."



Mother laughed and said,
"My dear little Fati,
you were born with fast legs!
I will make okro soup and
dinner will be ready soon."



Mother put some palm oil

in a big cooking pot

and placed it on the fire.

When the oil was hot,

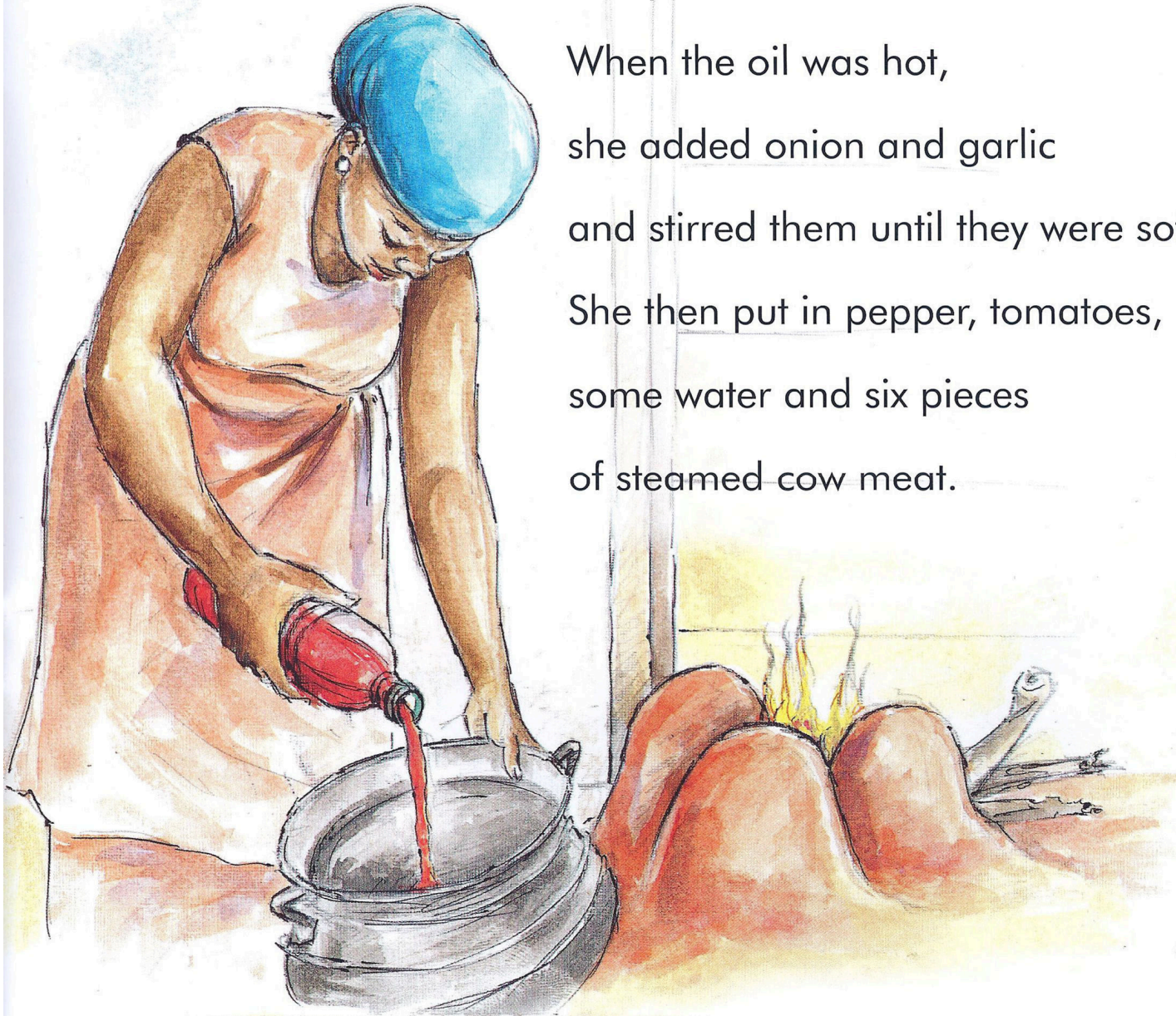
she added onion and garlic

and stirred them until they were soft.

She then put in pepper, tomatoes,

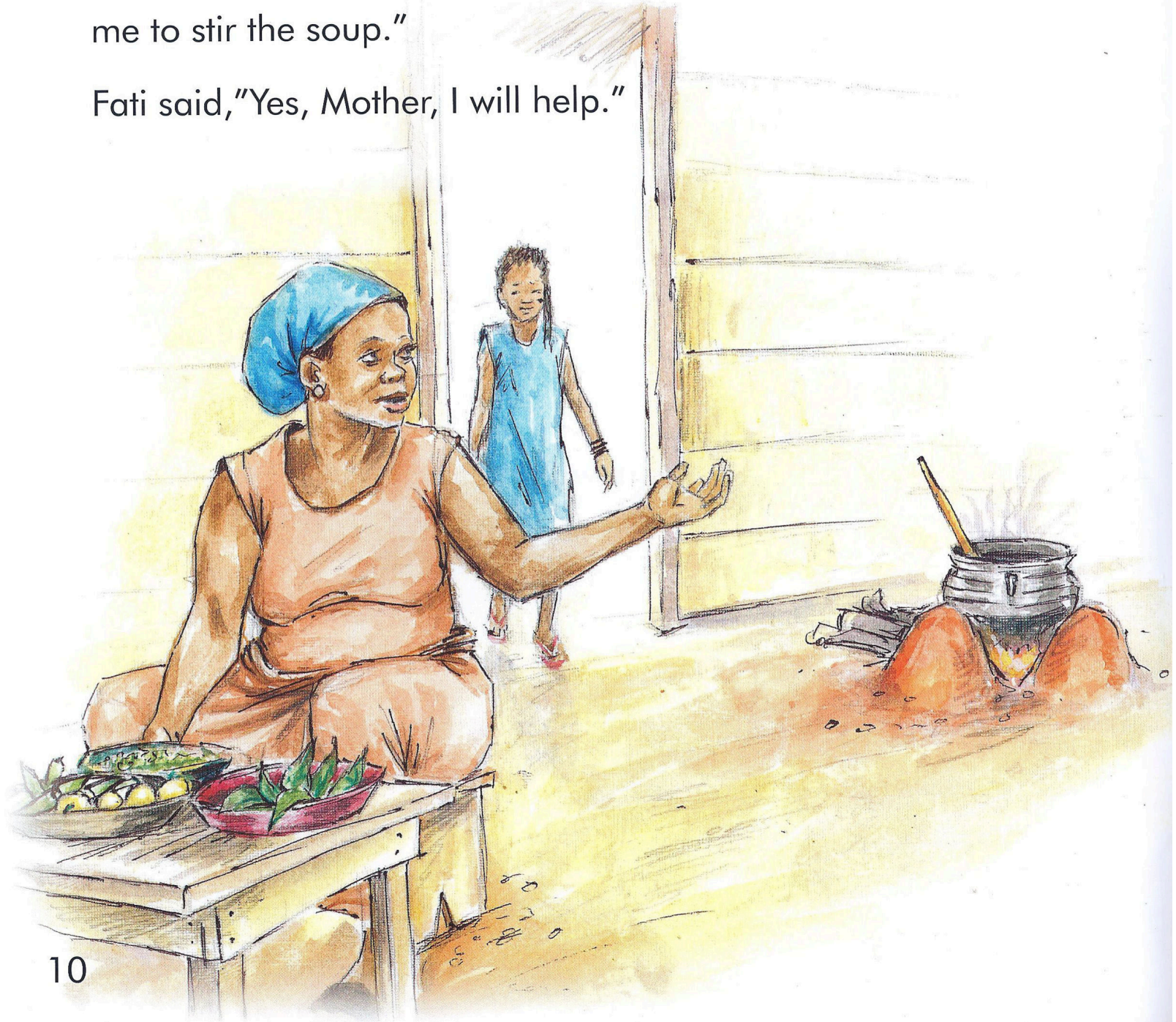
some water and six pieces

of steamed cow meat.



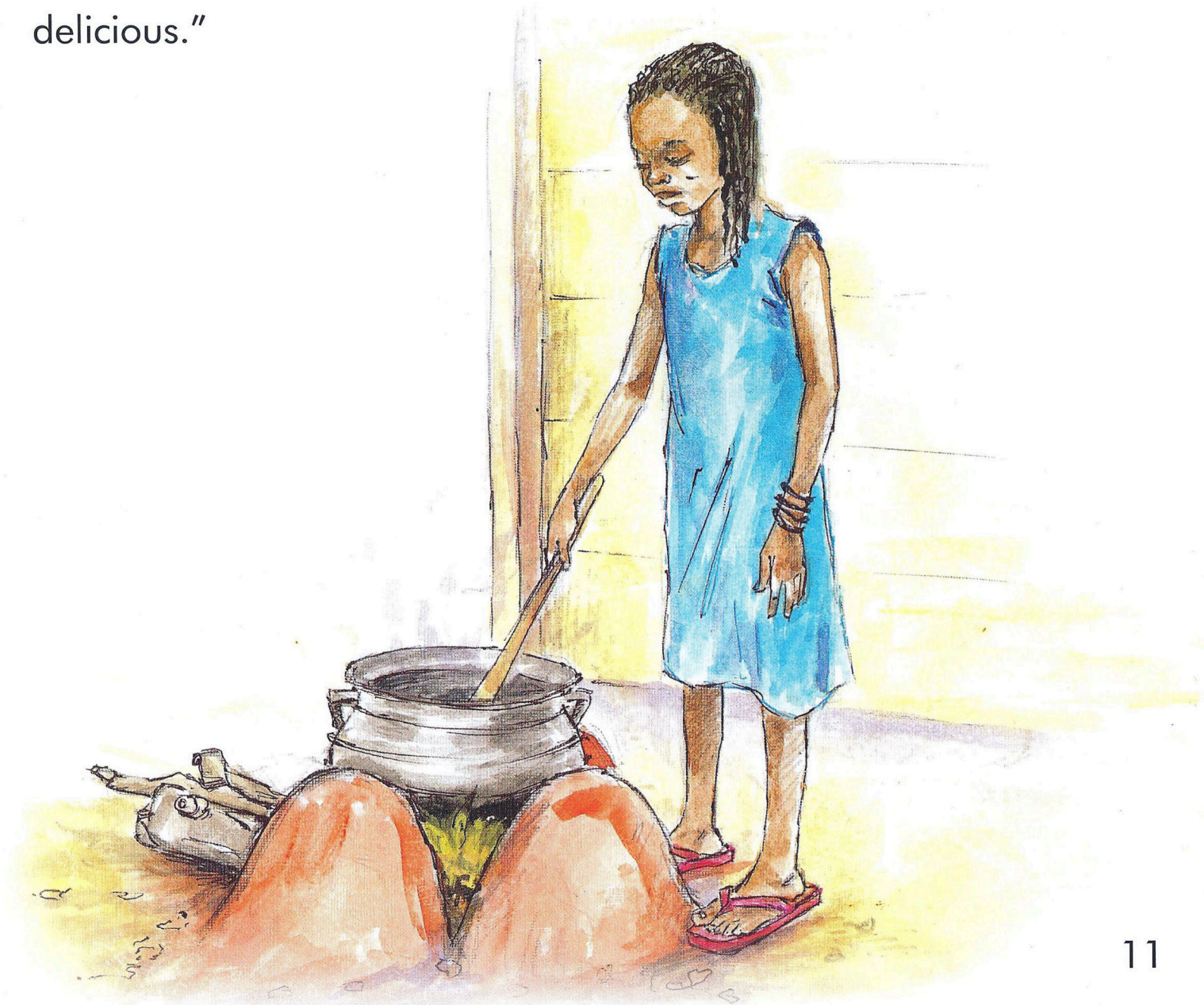
Mother said, "Fati, please help
me to stir the soup."

Fati said, "Yes, Mother, I will help."



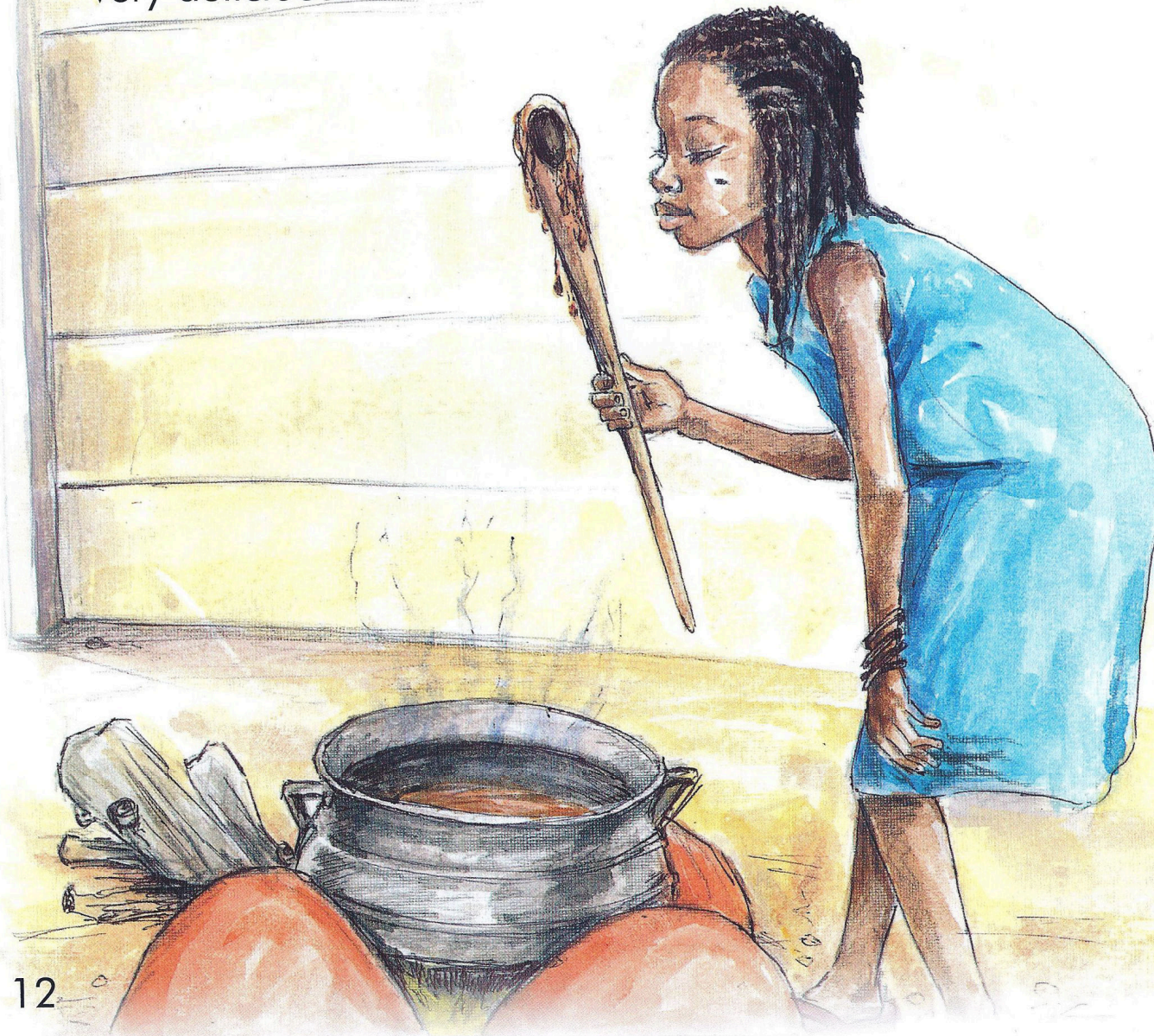
Fati stirred the soup once.

She said, "This soup smells
delicious."



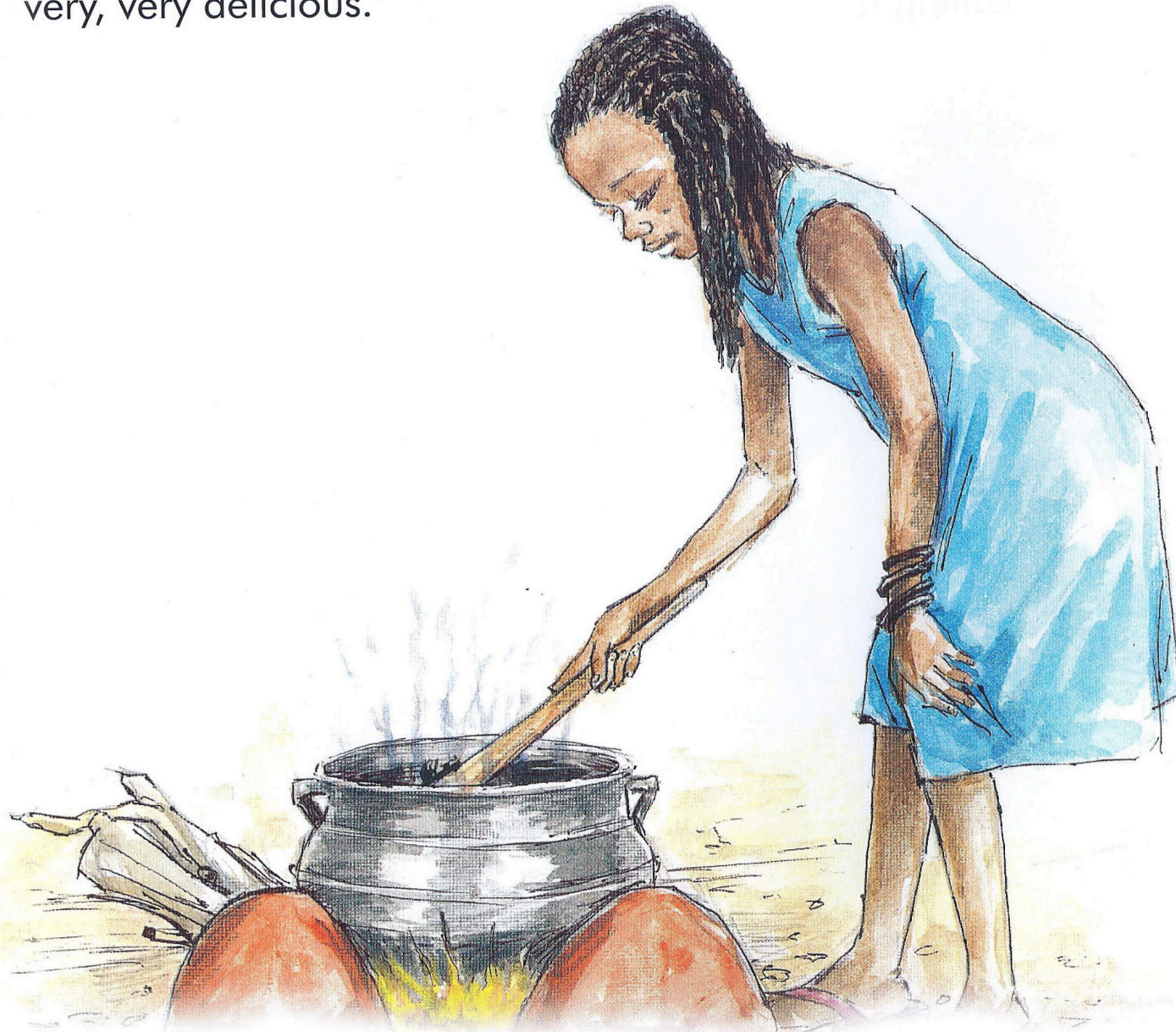
Fati stirred the soup twice.

She said, "This soup smells
very delicious."



Fati stirred the soup three times.

She said, "This soup smells
very, very delicious."



Then, Fati looked at her mother.

Her mother was not looking her way.

She was cutting green leaves for the soup.



Fati took one piece of meat from the pot
and ate it.

Fati said, "Mmm!"



Again, Fati looked at her mother.

Her mother was not looking her way.

She was cutting garden eggs for the soup.



Fati quickly took a second piece of meat

from the pot and ate it.

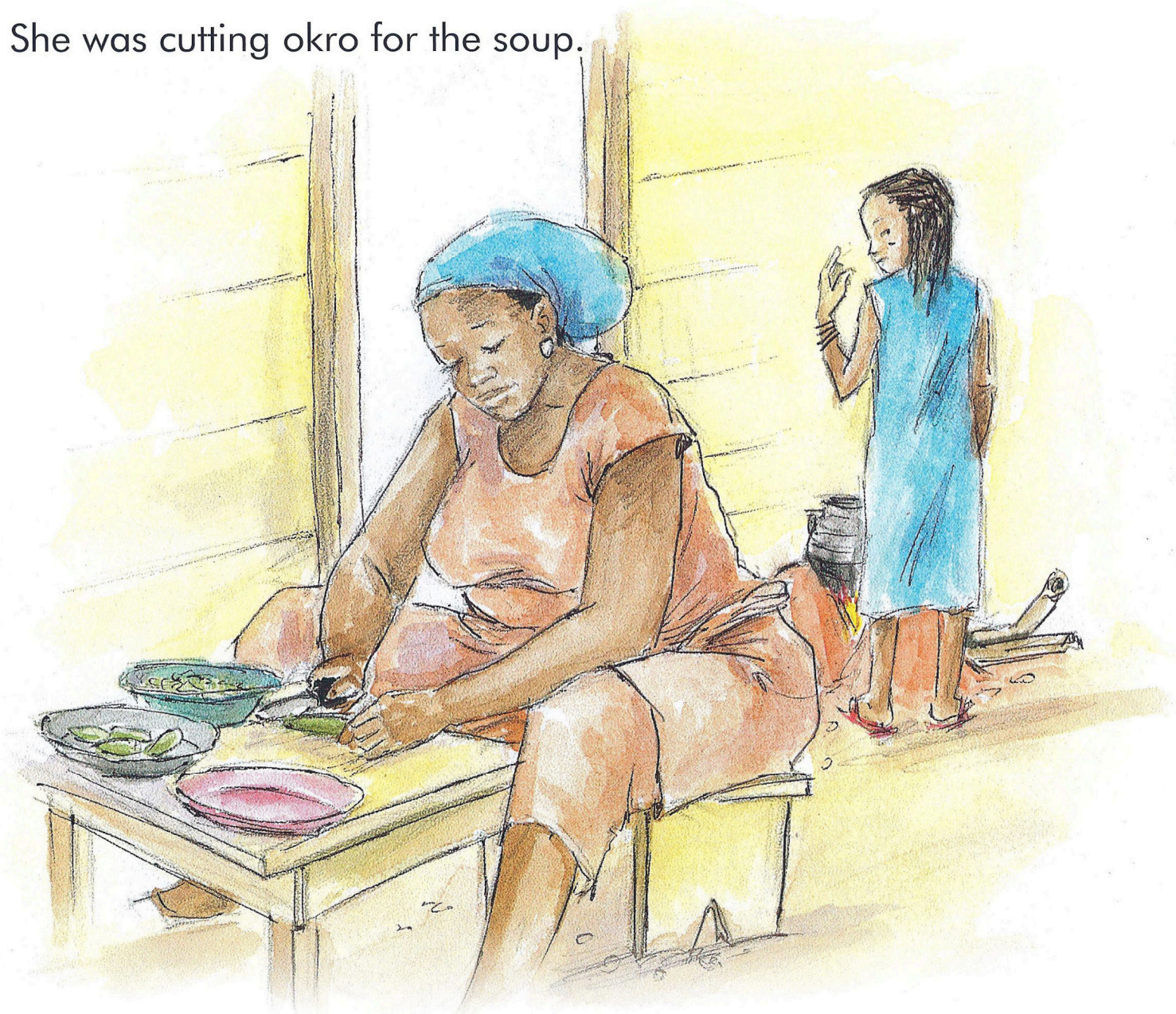
Fati said, "Mmm! Mmm!"



Once more, Fati looked at her mother.

Her mother was not looking her way.

She was cutting okro for the soup.



Fati very quickly took a third piece of meat

from the pot and ate it too!

Fati said, "Mmm! Mmm! Mmm!"

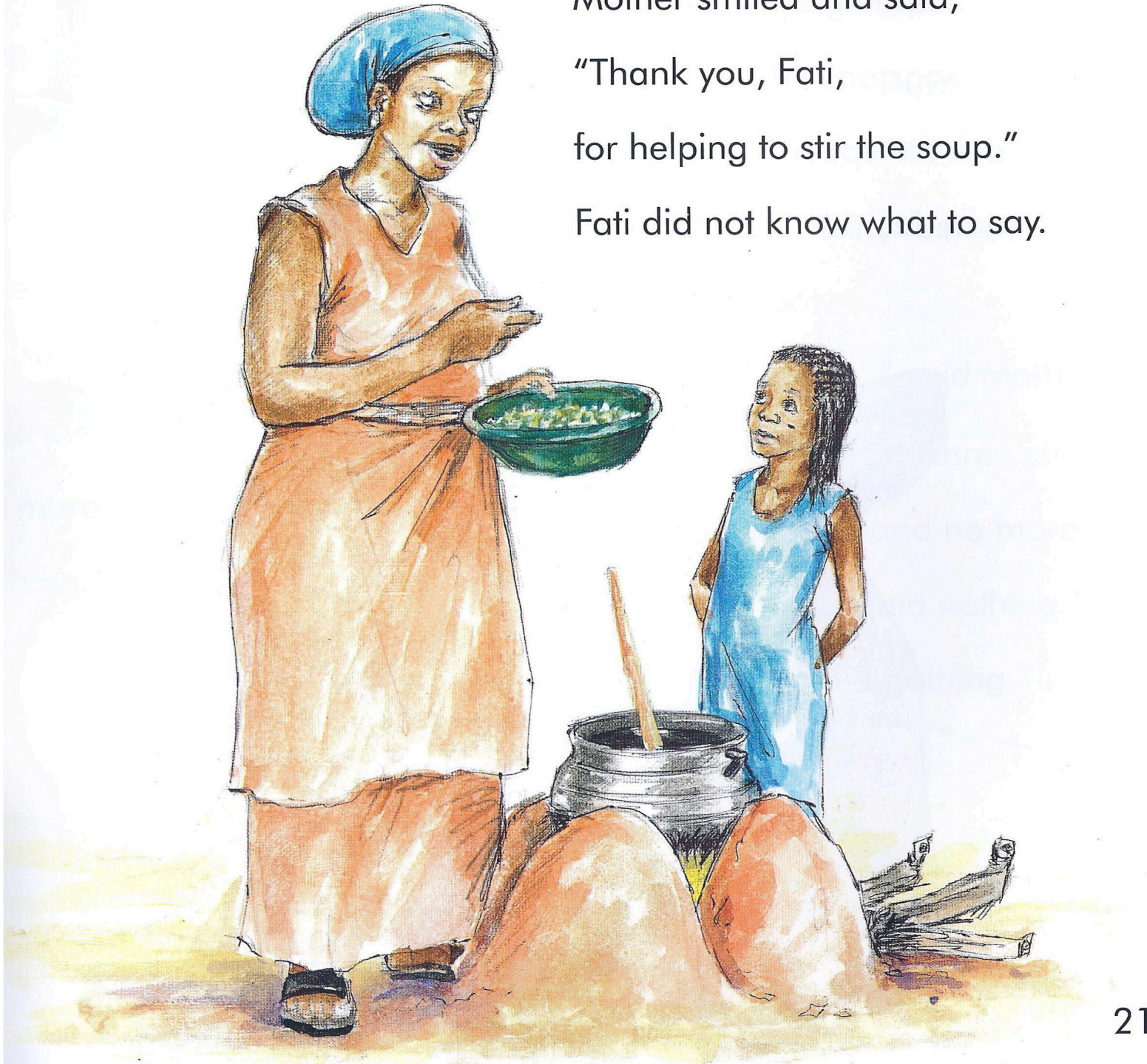


Soon, Mother came to the fire with the green leaves, garden eggs and okro.

Fati was still holding the big wooden spoon.



Mother smiled and said,
“Thank you, Fati,
for helping to stir the soup.”
Fati did not know what to say.



Mother put the green leaves,
garden eggs and okro in the soup
and took the spoon from Fati.
She started to stir the soup.



Mother looked into the pot.

She could see the soup

bubbling on the hot fire.

Mother looked for the six pieces

of meat in the pot.

"One...two...three...," said Mother.

Mother saw three pieces
of meat and no more.

Mother said nothing.

Fati said nothing.



When Mother served the soup,

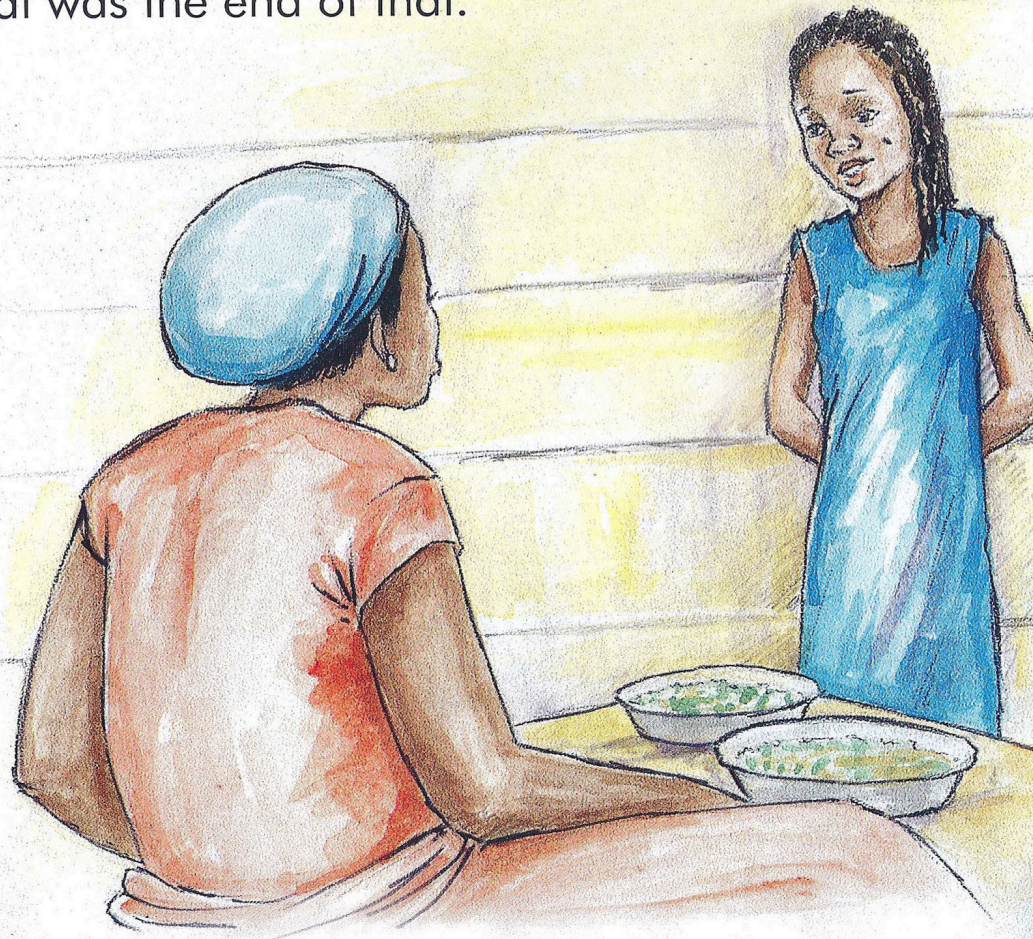
Fati did not get any meat.

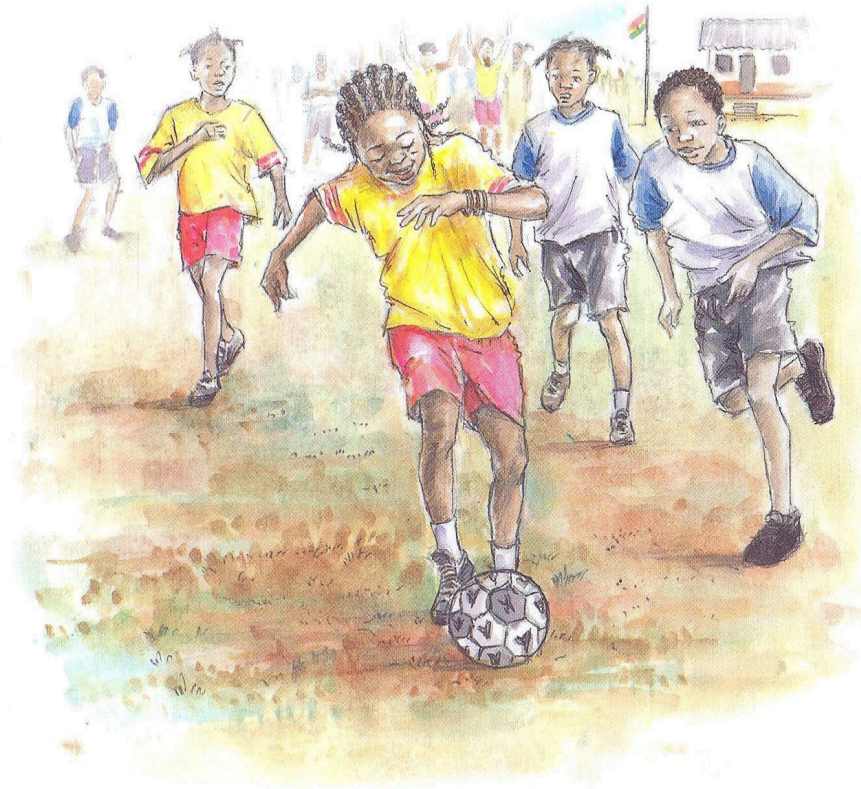
Fati said, "Mother, I am sorry.

I will not do that again."

And she never did.

And that was the end of that.





Fati has always been a fast runner, and she proves this once again at her school's Sports Festival. When she returns home from school, she helps her mother prepare okro soup. The soup smells delicious, and Fati is tempted!

FATI AND THE SOUP POT is the fourth book in the Fati series, and is based on the real life adventures of a girl growing up in northern Ghana. It has been adapted for print by the Osu Library Fund, an organization which promotes literacy in Ghana.

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