

Deep into the Mabira Forest in Uganda, there was a small village surrounded by beautiful giant trees and the houses were made of wood and thatched roofs. Children played joyfully near the houses, Adia and her family were the first people to settle in the forest. Adia's mother was a porter, well known for making beautiful plates with creative decorations. Her father was a teacher at her school and she had 2 friends named Amina and Kansiime. They all attended the same school and went there together every day. Adia admired her mother's pottery skills and often watched how she would softly hold her clay and shape the plates. After finishing making the plates, she would put them in a pit full of wood, light a fire, and close the pit. She would wait for some time and then go back to collect the plates, which amazed Adia every time she watched it. Adia was a brilliant student and admired by most of her teachers and her parents were proud of her. Amina one of Adia's friends always complimented her painting skills and she would encourage her to create more paintings. Although she didn't have much to use, her father bought her what he could afford. One day she had a dream about a magical world with beautiful creatures some she had never seen; she woke up and began to draw the creatures she had seen in her dream. The next morning, she showed her parents her painting and they all thought she had a strange dream. After finishing school, she planned to build a small thatched house in the forest where she and her friends could play. Amina and Kansiime later came to Adia's house and they all went to do what they had planned. After building the hut they decided to look for more things to decorate it, they came across a strange stone shaped like a ball and with strange colors. Amina thought it would be great for decorating their hut so she went to pick it up, Adia wasn't sure about the idea and told her to leave it. Amina refused, and when she tried to pick it up, it felt heavy. She asked Adia and Kansiime to help her and then a magical door appeared, they were both scared but Amina was excited and she encouraged them to come and open the door. They went inside the door and started flying in the clouds and they screamed,

thinking they were going to fall and die. Amina touched the clouds and they were fluffy. She told Adia to touch the clouds they were amazed by how fluffy they were. They started seeing strange-shaped huts with colorful decorations and landed on one of the huts. They went down, looked around, and were amazed by what they were seeing. In one of the huts they heard a strange noise, they were scared and started stepping back and there came a lion with unusual colors and it looked scary and it started walking towards them. It came close to Adia who was scared and it said 'Welcome to your beautiful world we were expecting you'. They all looked at each realizing it was speaking and Adia said "How do you know my name?" the lion said 'oh, you have forgotten about me. You drew me on your 6th birthday don't you remember? And she said "But why are you pink colored" and the lion laughed and said, "Oh that's how you painted me". look around, you created this world and everything you drew exists here and she looked around and saw green-colored monkeys with pink tails. They all laughed and the lion said "Take a walk with me and we have to visit the wise owl. The owl greeted them and wasn't surprised to see her. The lion said "Oh he told us that you were coming today because he knows everything and everyone here. The owl replied, "Yes that's true I am honored to meet you". And they looked around and admired how peaceful it was, despite the strange colors of all the animals, rivers, and trees. The lion informed them that they were organizing a ceremony to welcome them. They went back to the lion's house, where they were welcomed by a big fire and animals were dancing and celebrating her arrival. Back home their parents were searching for them. When they went into the forest, they only saw the thatched hut and some of Adia's drawings. The lion asked if they were planning to stay forever and Adia said they should go back because they couldn't live here. The lion told them if they went back, everything would be erased and she said "Yes, we still want to go back". The lion showed them the door that would lead them back. They entered the door and went back to the forest, where they

heard their parents calling for them and they went to meet their parents, who were worried about them. They told them to be careful while playing in the forest. Adia went back and they all talked about what they had seen but their parents couldn't believe them. Adia took a break from painting because she was sad that her paintings were destroyed.

The End