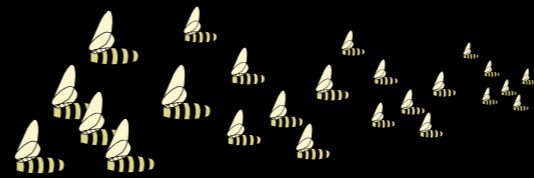


A quest for honey



*A dreamtime story based on sentences from Gaiarbau
from the book 'The Duun̄idjauw language of Southeast Queensland'
by Suzanne Kite and Stephen Wurm*

Jeremy Steele

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This is a dreamtime story about a quest for honey to cure sick children. Everyone started looking for honey. There was none to be found. A magic willy wagtail said that he had found a tree with bees, in another country. The mob found the tree, but no-one could climb it using notches cut with a hatchet. So one of them went to look for a relative living in that country who might be able to climb the tree. This was his brother-in-law: he came, and climbed the tree using vines, cutting down branch after branch bearing honey. The mob below praised him for this. But the willy wagtail was jealous as it was he who had found the tree. And being magic, he turned the brother-in-law into a 'woodpecker' [possibly brown treecreeper], which is why these birds are such good tree-climbers today.

dyigidyingi-ru buyi dyan-bam-a yuran-a

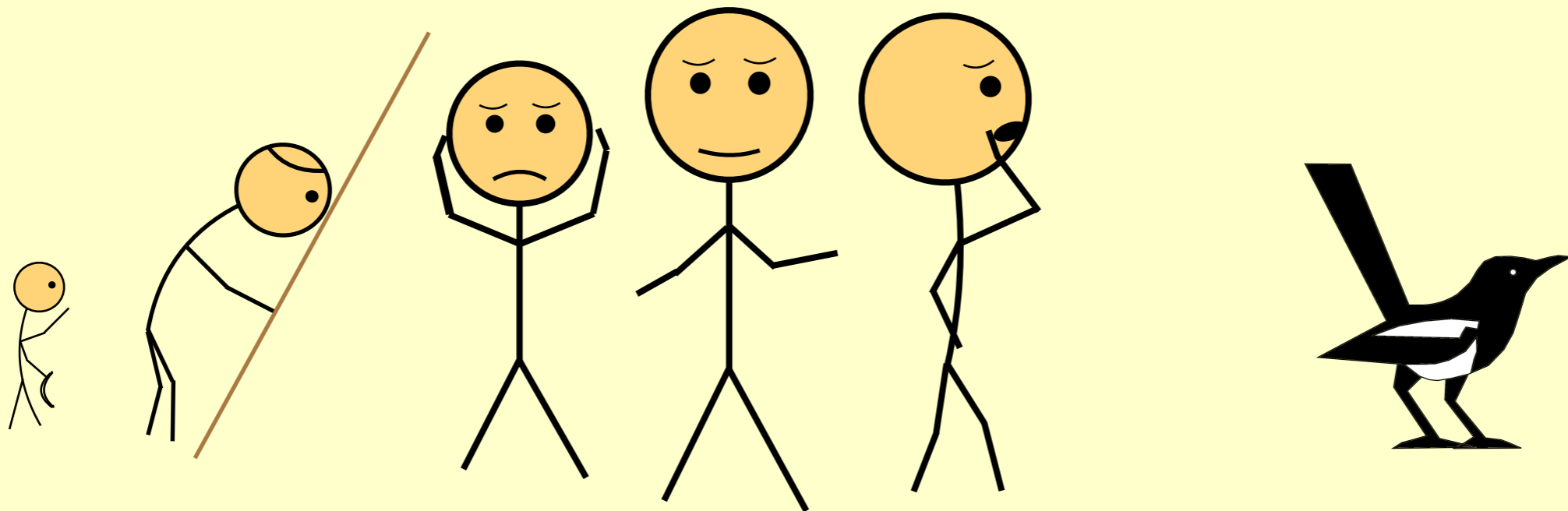
wagtail-ERG

remove

man-two-ACC

plenty-ACC

The willy wagtail took many men



ya-ndyi yuwi

go/come-PH they-all

They went

ndyunam-a buyi

child-ACC remove

[They] took the children

dyan badya ya-yi guwi yu-nga

man other speak-did then him-ACC

The other man said to him,

wandya-nga nguwi yana-ndi

where-to you-all go/come-did

Where are you all going to?

gudya-gu

honey-for

for honey

ndyunam-gari

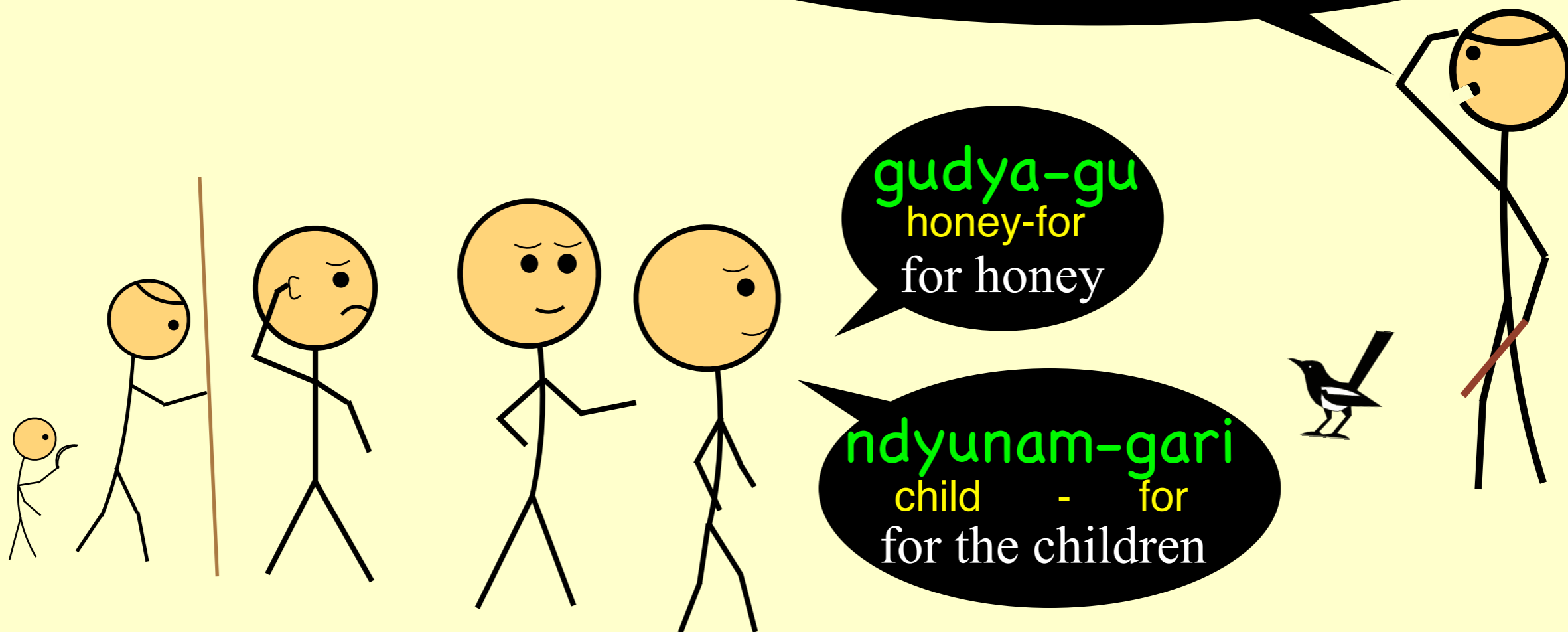
child - for

for the children

gari-ŋa djawun njewayi

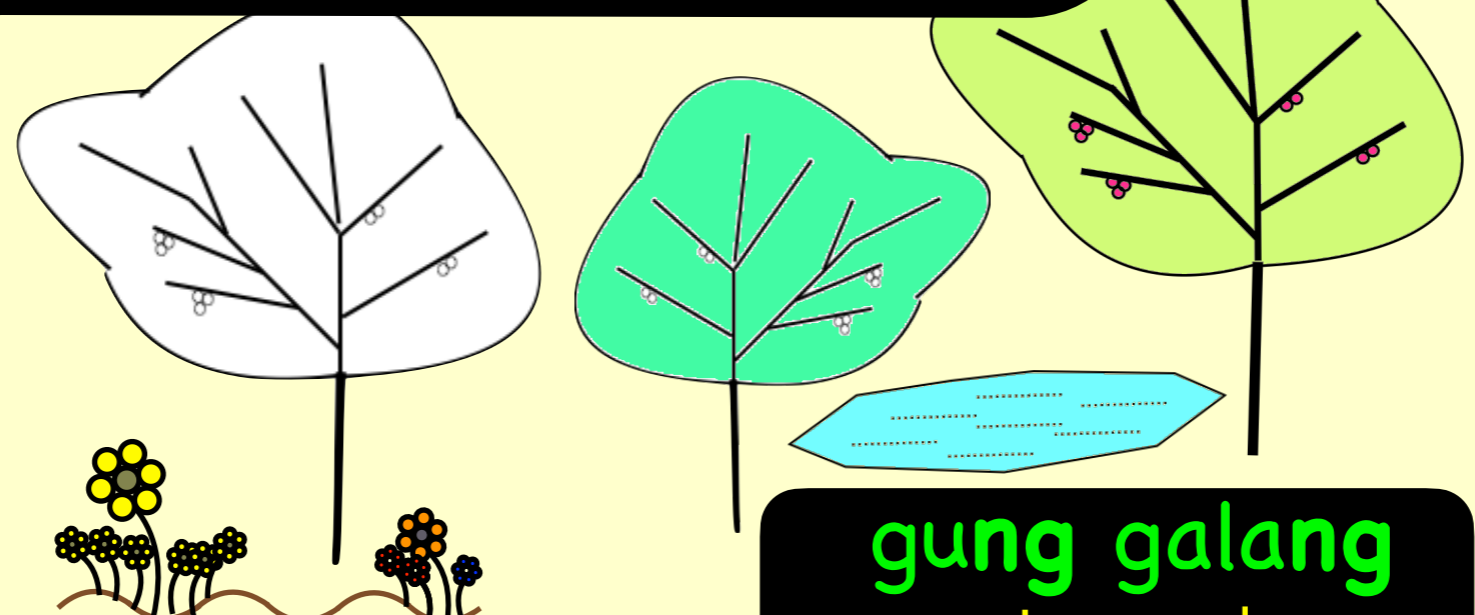
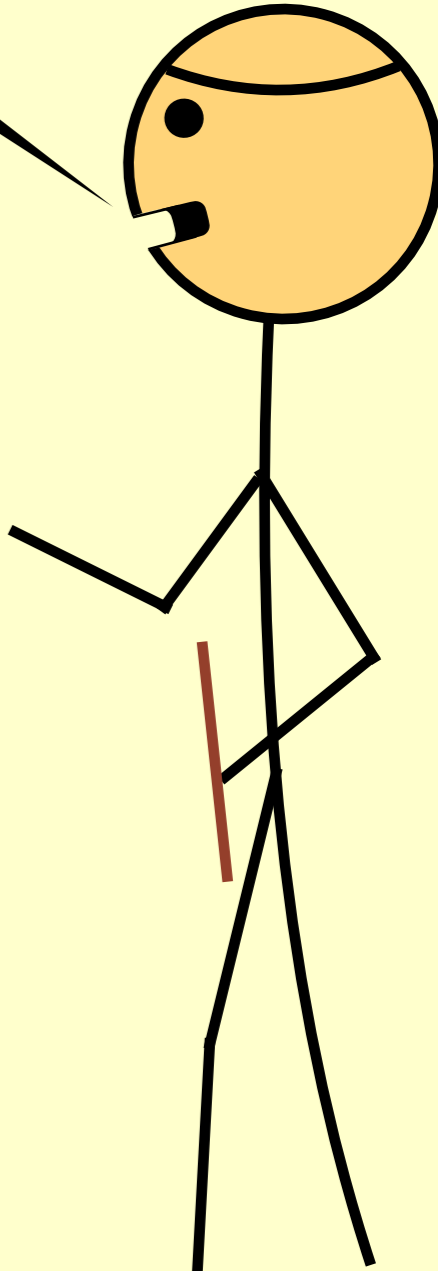
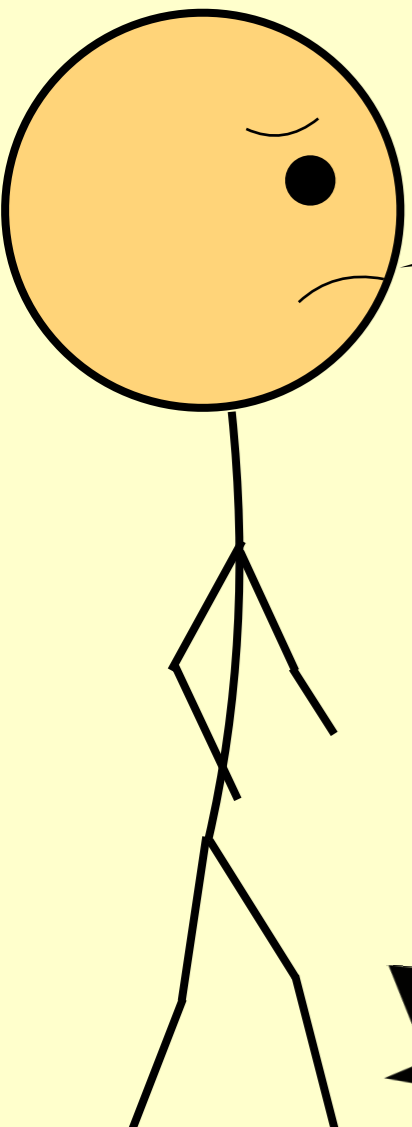
there-to country Neewai

This way in the district of Neewai



ngin-du binga gudya-dyam mara yi
thou-ERG know honey-lacking overthere be
Did you know that it is honeyless there

ya ndya-ni nga-dyu mana gawuRi wunba
yes see-did I-ERG that-fellow longago very
Yes, I saw that a very long time ago.



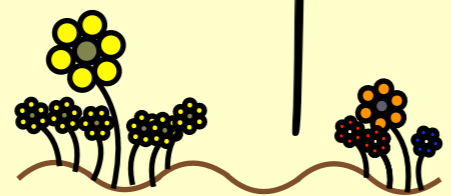
yara
flower
[There are] flowers

gung galang
water good
The water is good

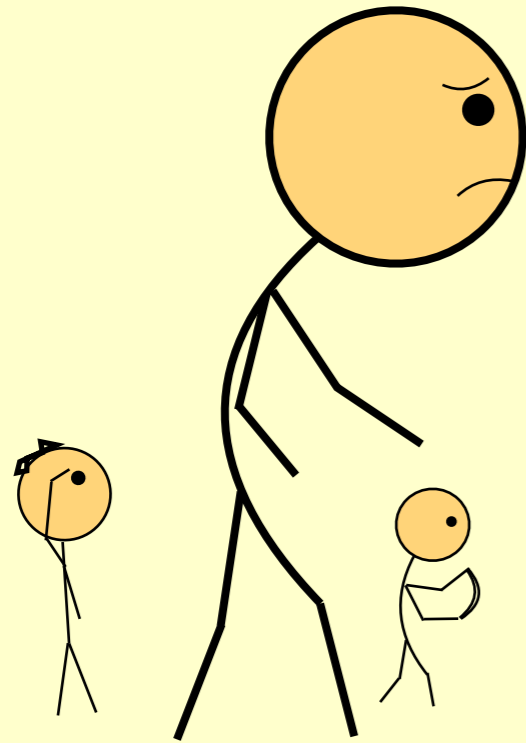
dadu yayumbi barandyi-nGi
tree same stand-did
The trees standing [here] are the same

dumung waga
bee no
[But] no bees

gudyawunba dumung waga
honey very bee no
No big wax bees



dyangar-u dyi wandya guwi girum-ba ya-nGu gari-nma
limb-INSTR go when then otherside-at go/come-will here-EMPH
Go speedily (lit. using legs) until you get to the other side there

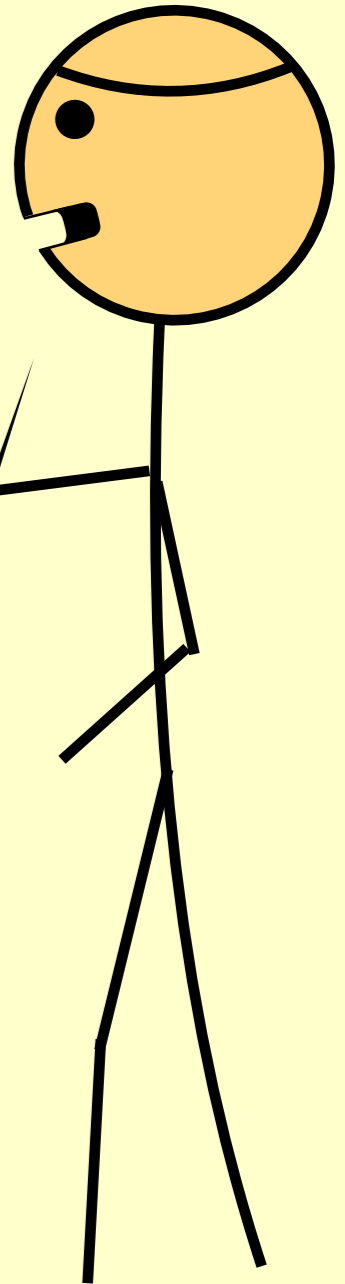


ngin-du ndya-ri-yu
thou-ERG see-ing-will
You continually look



ngin-du dya yangGa yangGa ndya ndyunam-gari
thou-ERG earth careful careful see child-to
You look carefully at a place for the children

yana yayumba-mi
go/come presently-SPEC
Go on now



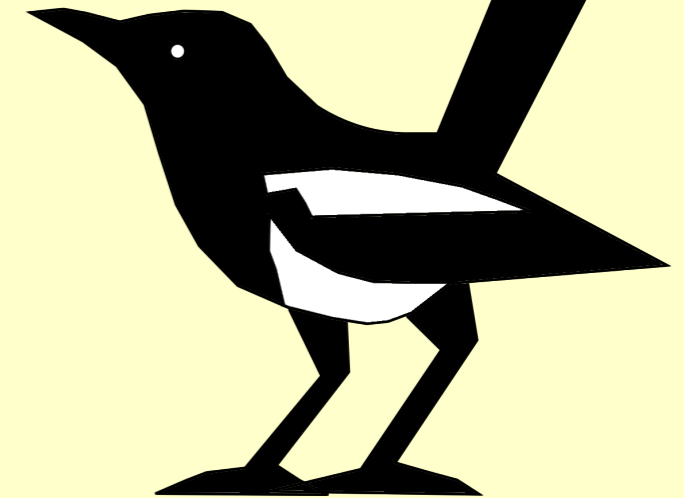
dyigidyingi-ru guwi ndya-ngi
wagtail-ERG then see-did
The willy wagtail looked

ndya-ngi gan wura dya
see-did this already earth
[He] had already seen this place



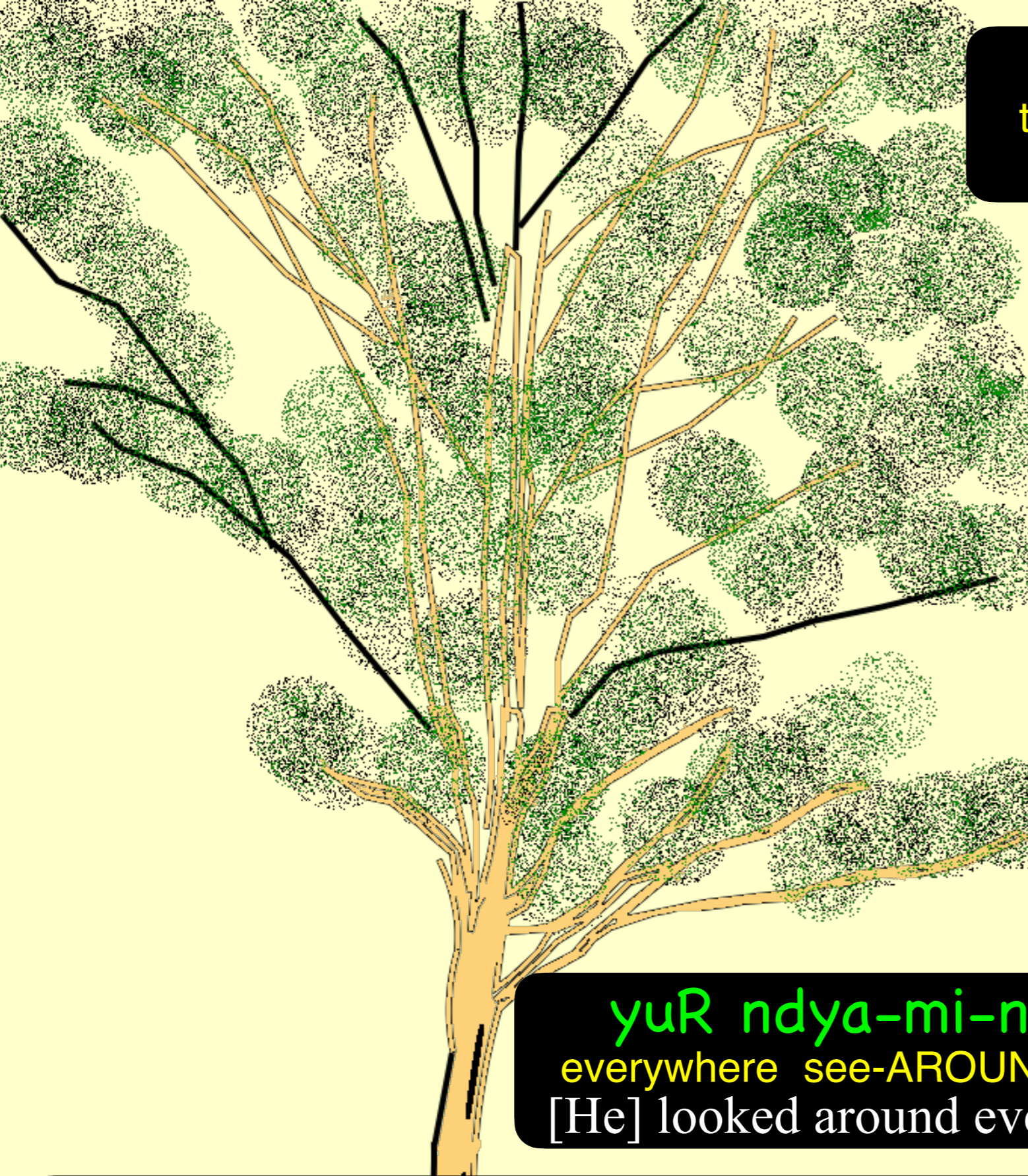
ya-yi guwi yuwan-a
speak-did then them-all-ACC
I said to them,

gara guwi muru-ngi
here then ignite-RFLX
Make a camp here

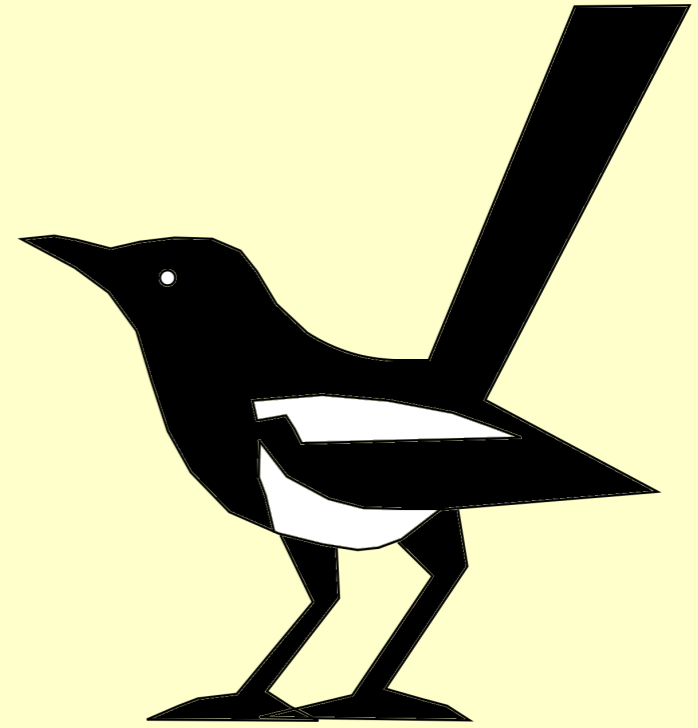


nguwim wura ndyinda-ri-ndyi dyuyu dyuyu
sun already descend-ing-PH evening
The sun was already going down in the evening

ndya-ngi guwi yu gan wura dya
see-did then he this already earth
He had already seen this place



dadu mana yi-*ngi* biRan
tree that-fellow be-did lengthy
The tree was wide



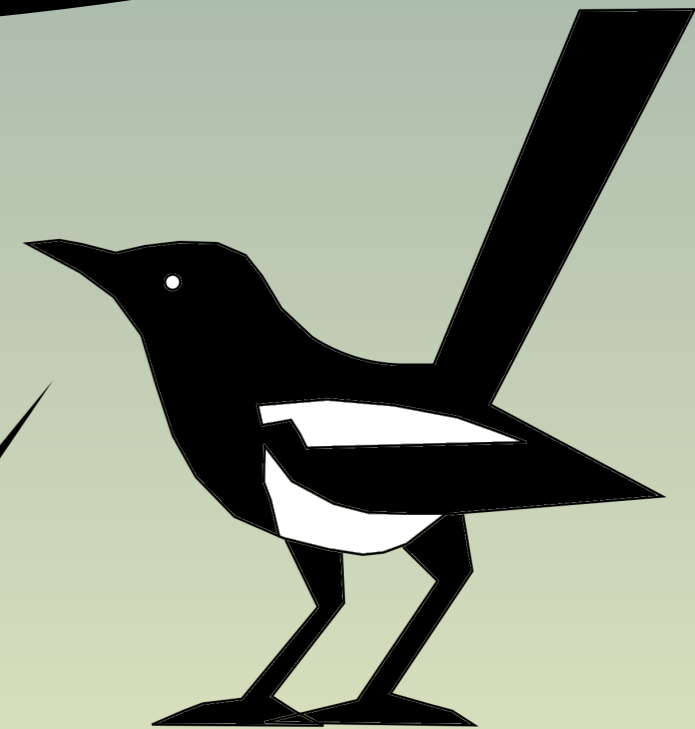
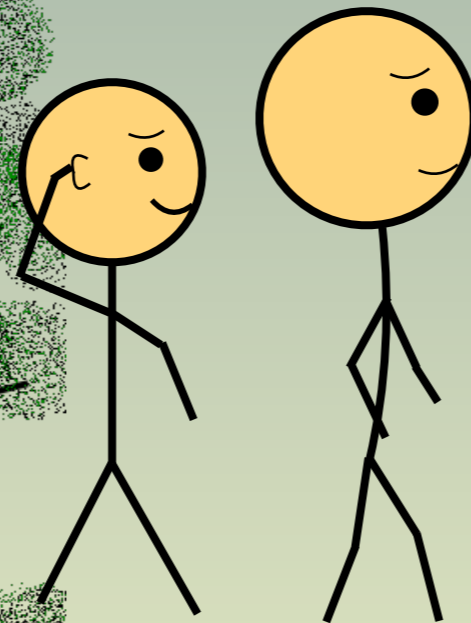
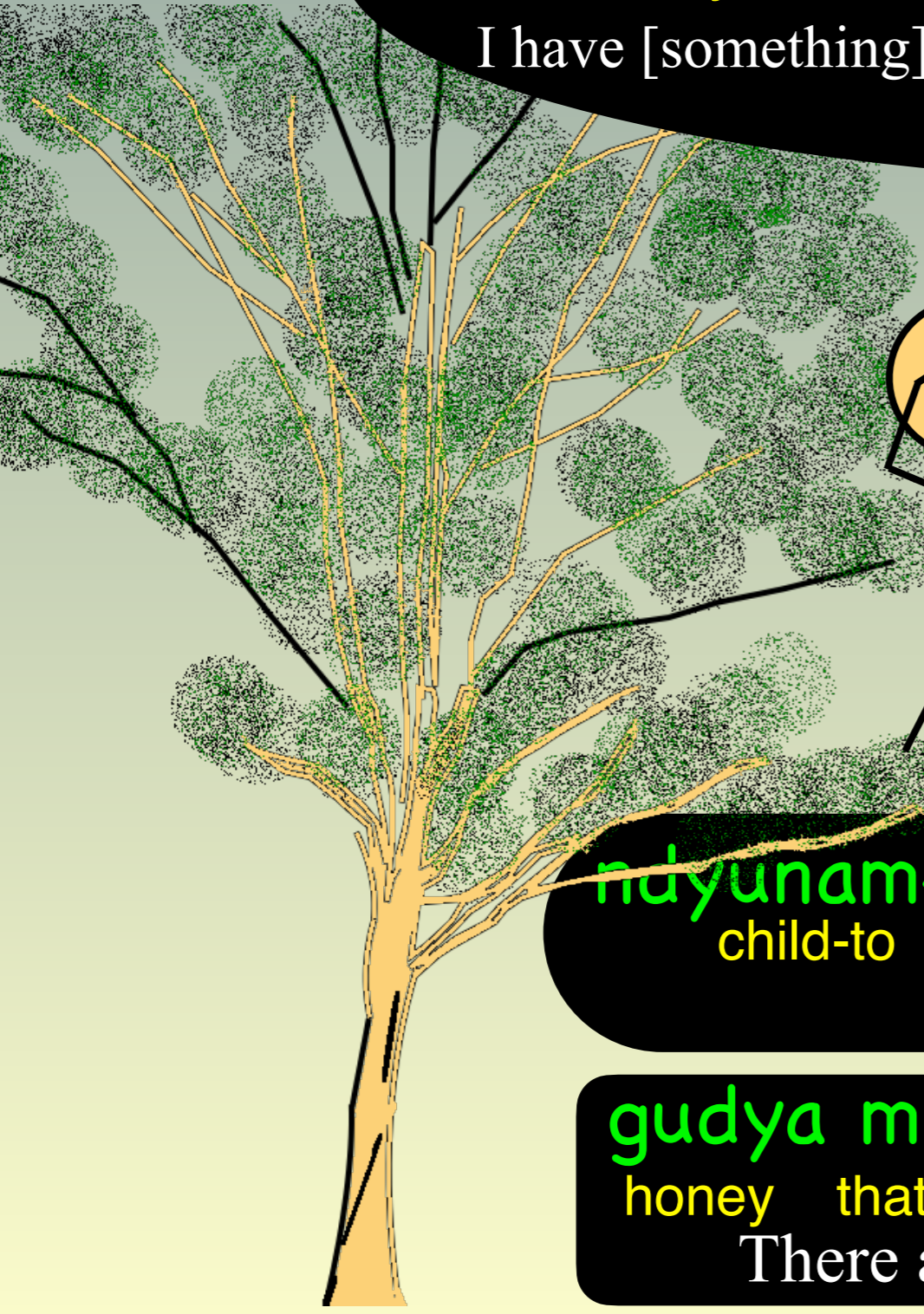
yuR ndya-mi-ndyi dadu guwi ndya-*ngi*
everywhere see-AROUND-PH tree then see-did
[He] looked around everywhere and then he saw a tree

dadu ndya-*ngi* dyagar mana dyanar yuran muwanin wunba
tree see-did branch that-fellow branch plenty big very
[He] saw the tree's branches, many very big branches

ngu ya-yi guwi
night speak-did then
That night [he] said,



na-dyu nguwi-na galang-dyi-di ya-li ndyunam-a
I-ERG ye-two-ACC good-FACT-FUT speak-ing child-ACC
I have [something] to tell you all [that] will make the children well.



ndyunam-gari dadu nga-dyu badyi muwanin-a
child-to tree I-ERG find big-ACC

I have found a big tree for the children

gudya man yi gari-nGi dyangar-dyin-u yuran
honey that-fellow towards here-at limb-PLUR-at plenty
There are honey [bees] entering into many branches



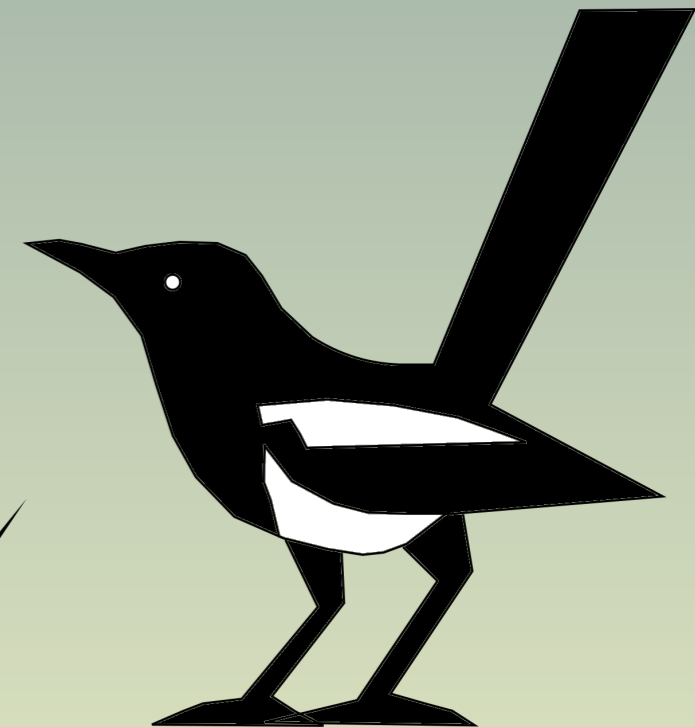
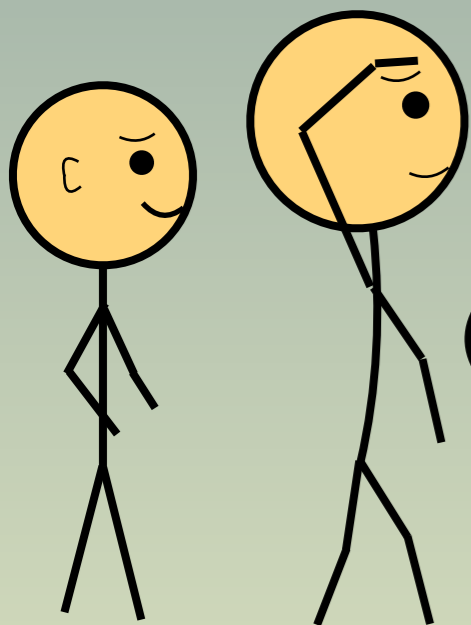
guwi nga dyi-yu dulara-mi
then we-all go/come-will nextday-SPEC
We will all go there in the morning

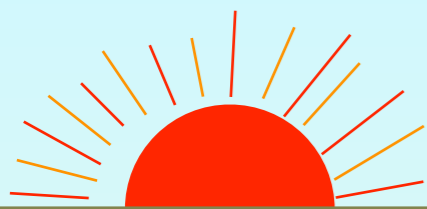
nguwi ndya-wu
you-all see-will
You will all see

nga-dyu nguwi-na buyi-li
I-ERG thee-ACC carry-ing
I will take you all along

wa guwi
climb then
Then [we] can climb up

mandi yangGa
step make
[We] will make steps

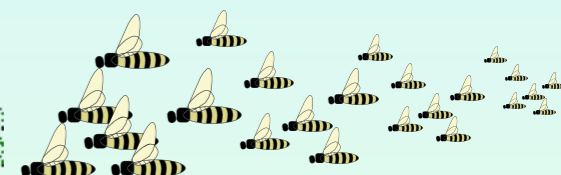
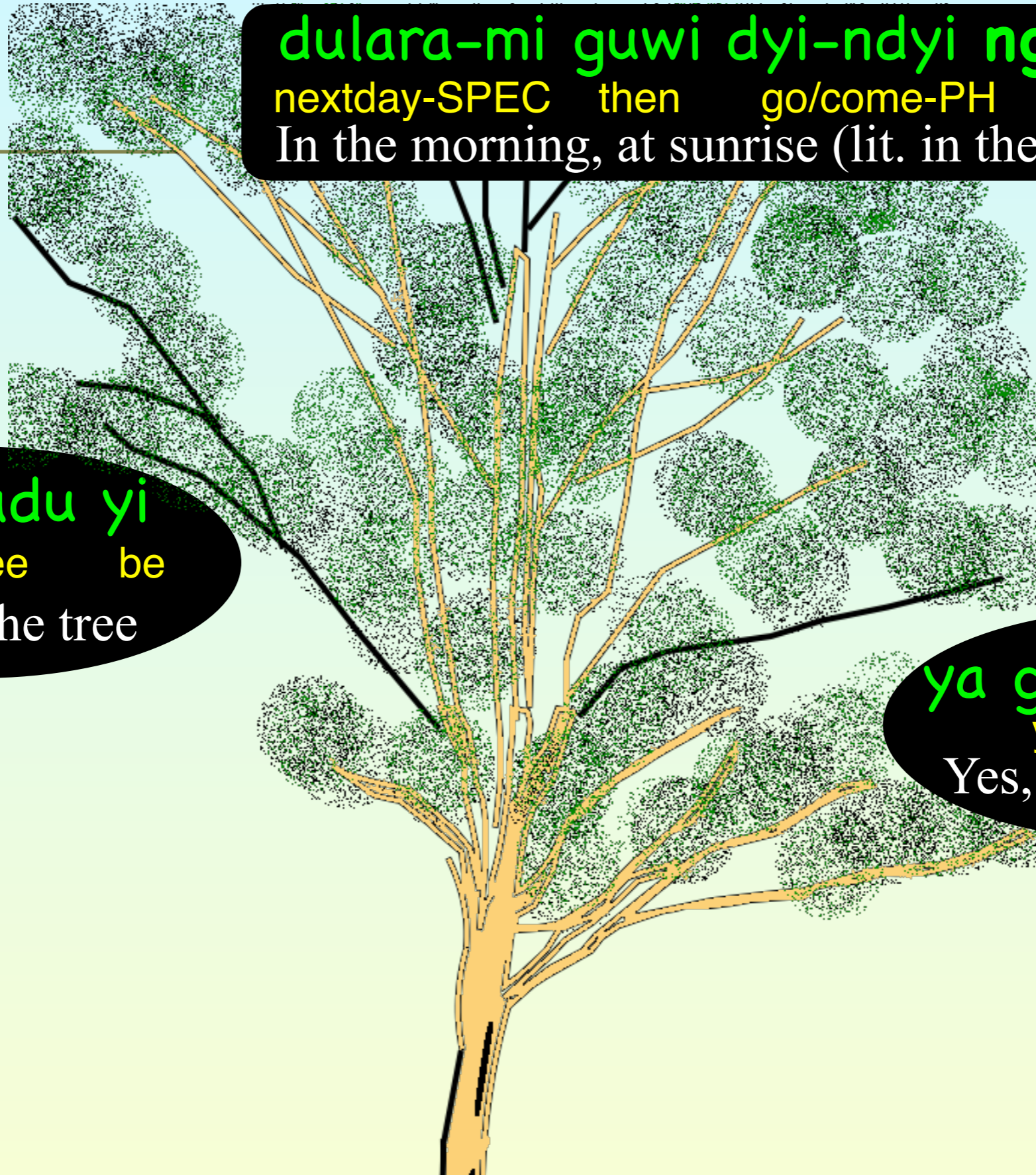




dulara-mi guwi dyi-ndyi nguwim-ba

nextday-SPEC then go/come-PH sun-at

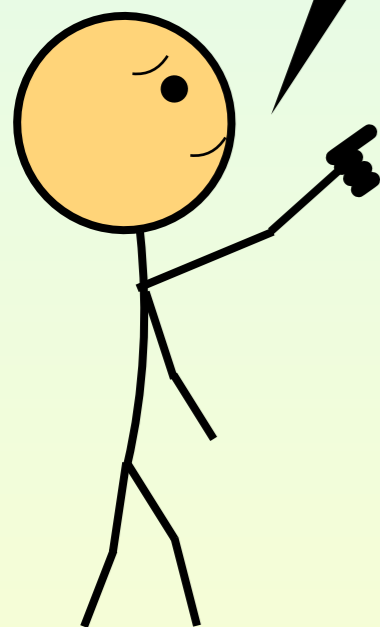
In the morning, at sunrise (lit. in the sun) [they] went



gana dadu yi

this tree be

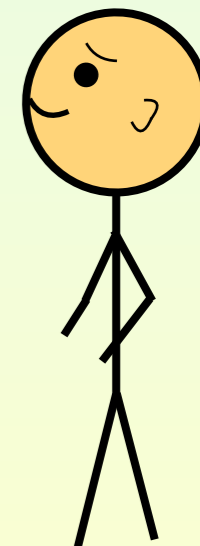
This is the tree



ya gana dadu

yes this tree

Yes, this is the tree



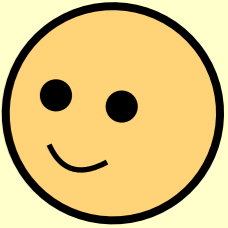
dumung mana ndya-ngi guwi gari-ndyi-na

bee that-fellow see-did then enter-did-ACC

They saw the bees which were going in

ya-yi guwi
speak-did then
[He] said,

wa
climb
Let's climb up.

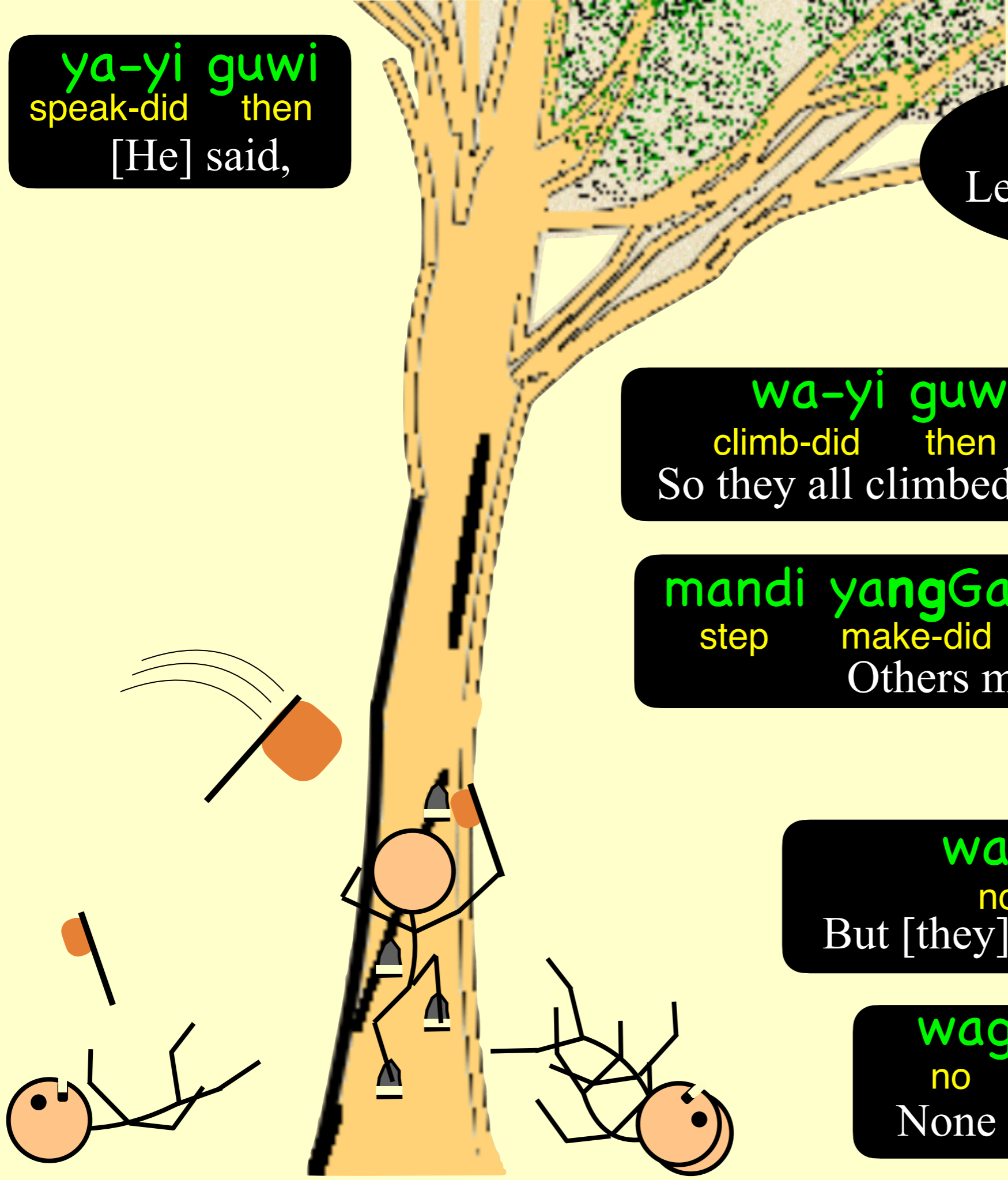


wa-yi guwi yuwi wa-yi
climb-did then they-all climb-did
So they all climbed up, they climbed up.

mandi yangGa-yi badya-ri-ndu
step make-did other-PLUR-ERG
Others made steps

waga guwi
no then
But [they] couldn't [climb up]

waga guwi wa
no then climb
None could climb up

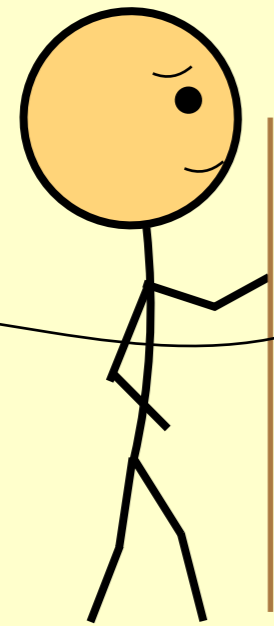


yu gana yayumba dyi-ndyi ndya-ndyi-nda gayi-wa gimngin-Gari

he that presently go/come-PH see-did-SIMULT seek-INT brother-in-law-for
He went soon after while [the others] were looking, intending to look for his brother-in-law

dyawun man gimngin-Gari gana yi-ngi

country that-fellow brother-in-law-of that be-did
This (region) was the brother-in-law's home country



yuR ya-n-mi-ndyi bayir-dyin-da

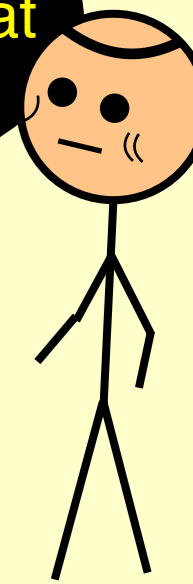
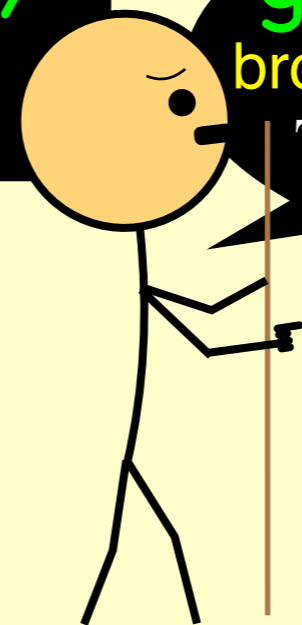
everywhere go-AROUND-PH hill-PLUR-at
[He] went around everywhere in the mountains

dyandyum guwi ndya-ngdyi-ndyi

near then see-RECIP-PH
Then they looked at each other up close

gimngin nga-ri gana

brother-in-law me-of that
This is my brother-in-law.



ya-yi guwi
speak-did then
Then [he] said,

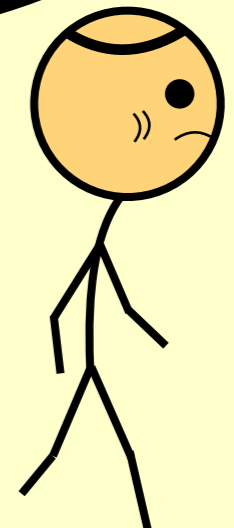
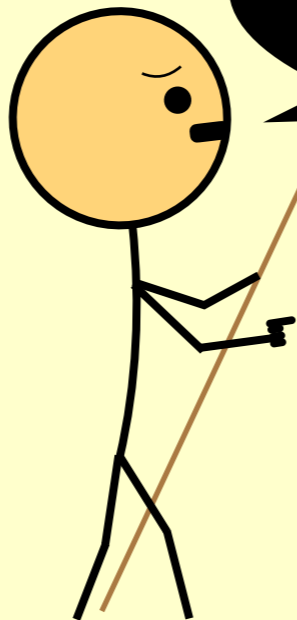
mindya-ngGu ba-yi
what-for come-did
Why did [you] come?

ngin-Gari ngayi ba-yi dadu-nu wa-wa
thee-to I come-did tree-at climb-DES
I came to you [because I] want to climb up on a tree

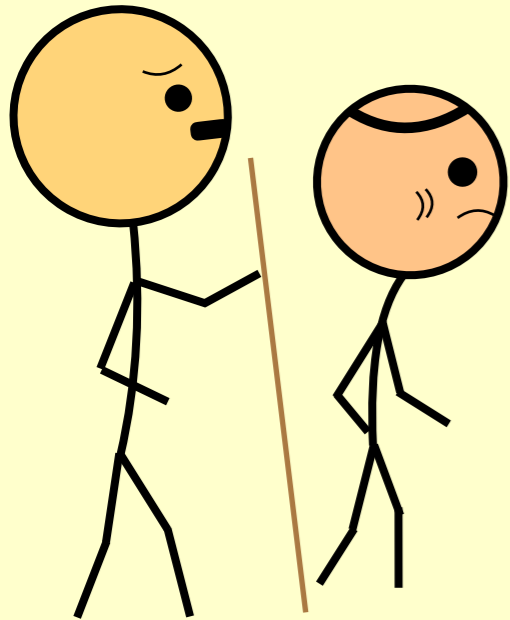
waga gan yuwi-ru gir yangGa
no this they-all-ERG attempt make
They (my people) tried to do it, [but] they could not

yuwam dyi-ndyi
they-two go/come-PH
They two went

man guyum dyandyum
that-fellow camp near
The camp is close



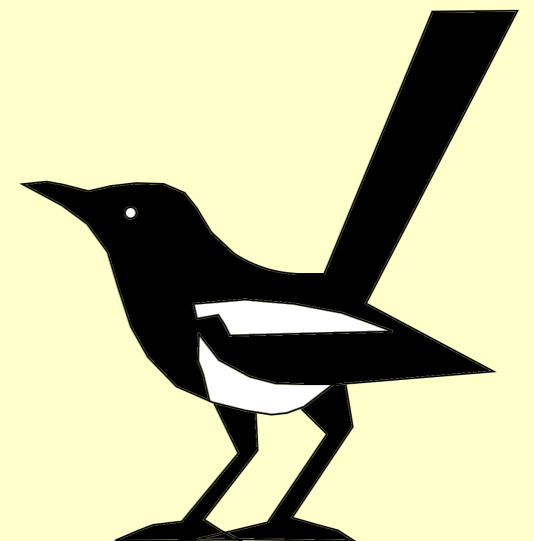
man yuwam dyandyum dyi-ri-ndyi guwi gari-nga murumuru
that-fellow they-all near go/come-ing-PH then there-to camp
They two went close up to the main camp

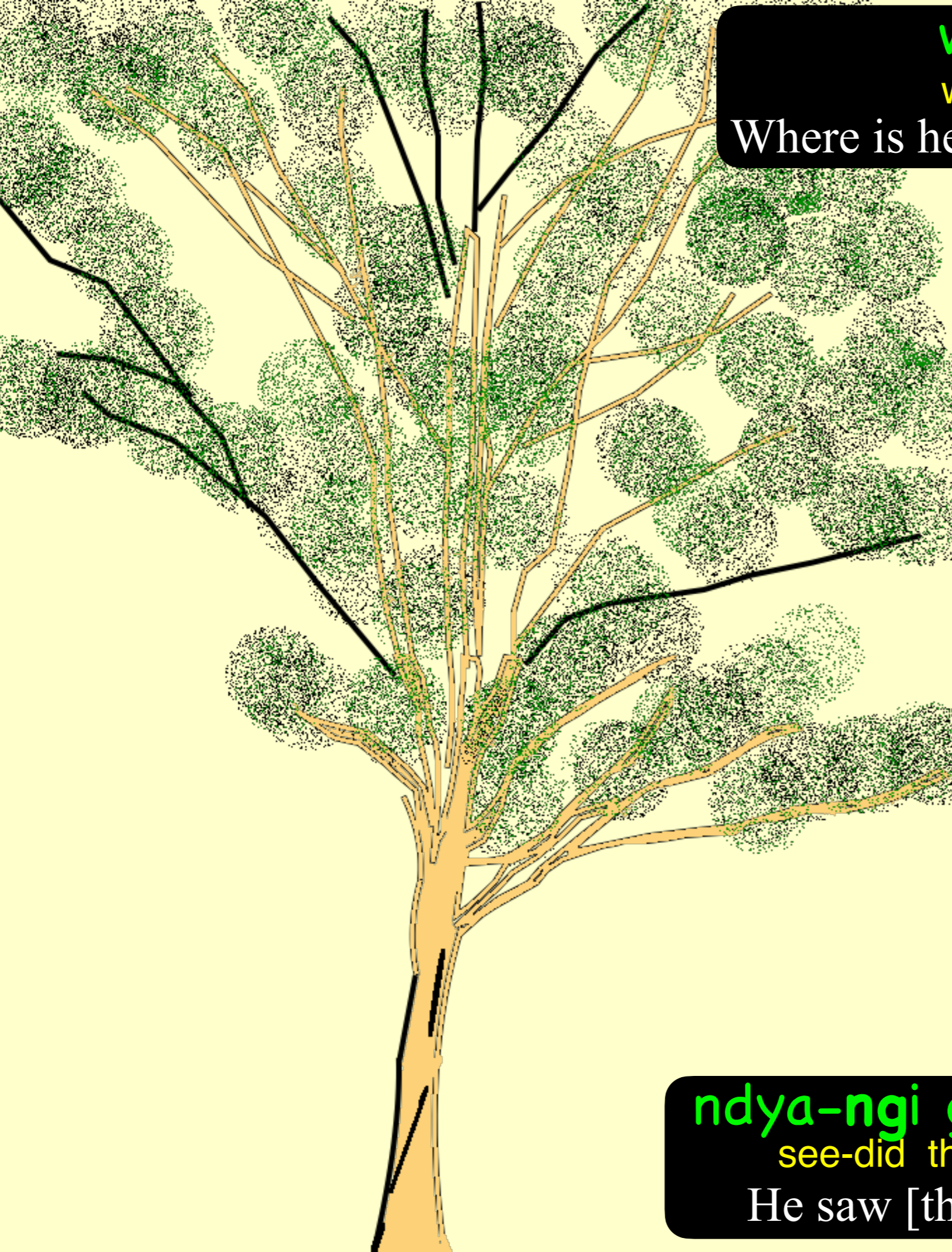


yuwi yuni-ndyi
they-all sleep-PH
They were all sleeping

yu dyi-ndyi yungam-ba dyigidingi
he go/come-PH in front-at wagtail
He, the willy wagtail, went out in front

gangGi-ndyi guwi
call-PH then
Then [he] called out





wandya yu gimngin

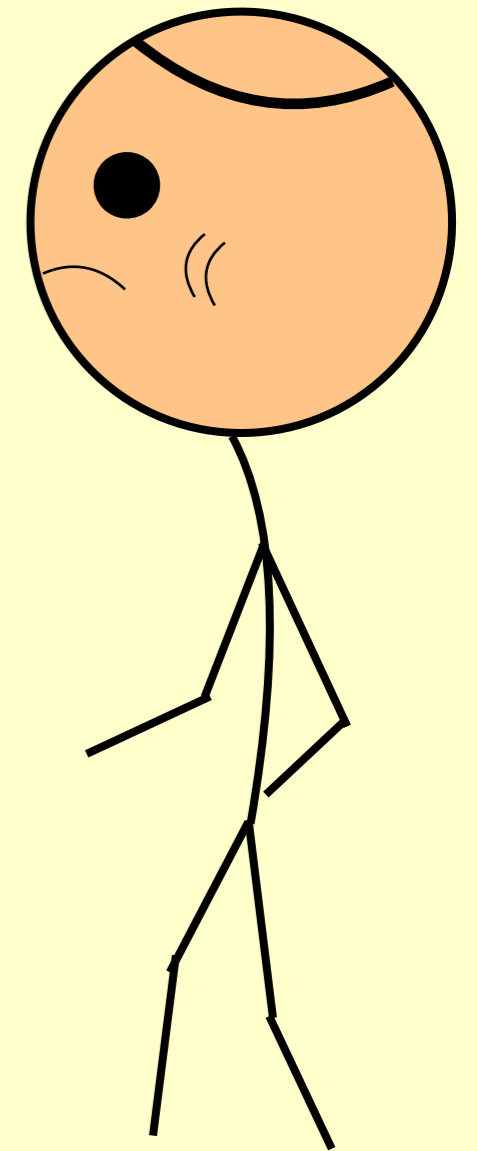
where he brother-in-law

Where is he, the brother-in-law? (they asked)

gan-ma bigi-ndyu ba-yi

here-EMPH behind-at come-now

[He] is coming behind here.



ndya-ngi guwi yu

see-did then he

He saw [the big tree]

dyunga yu biya-yu-na buyi

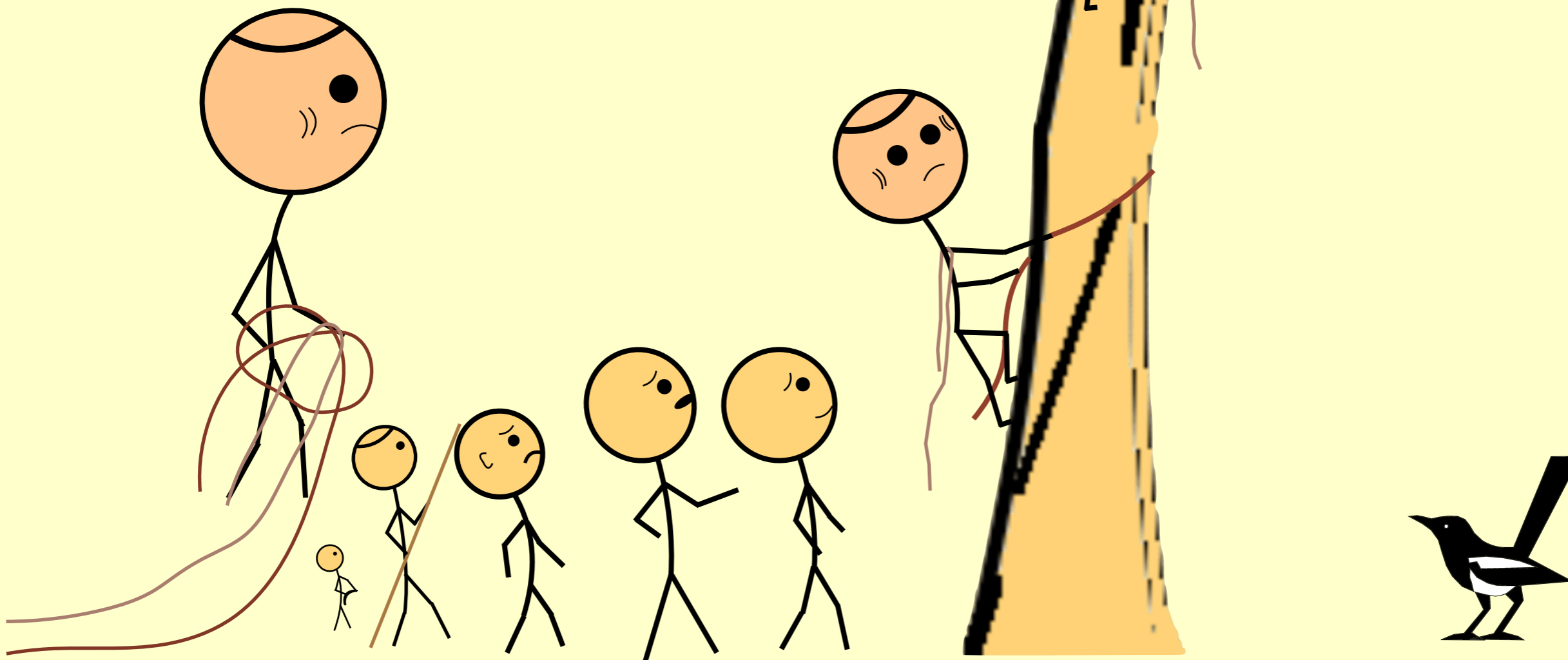
vinehe two-ACC remove

He took two vines

wa-yi guwi yu

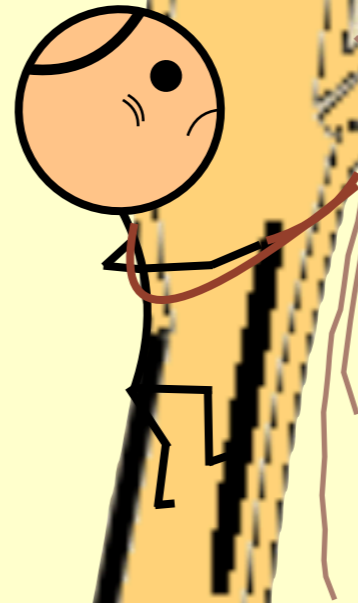
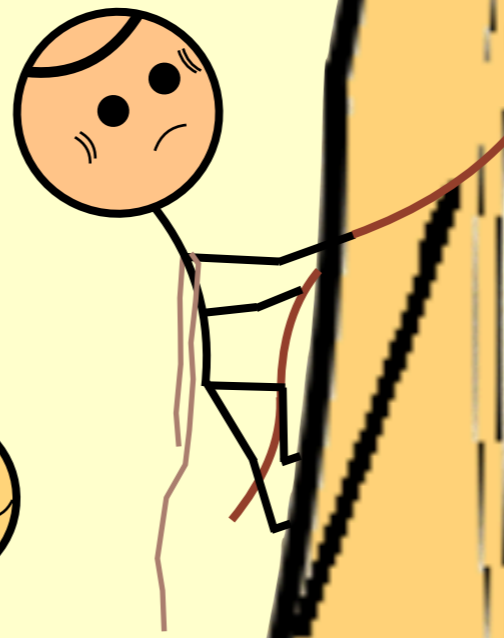
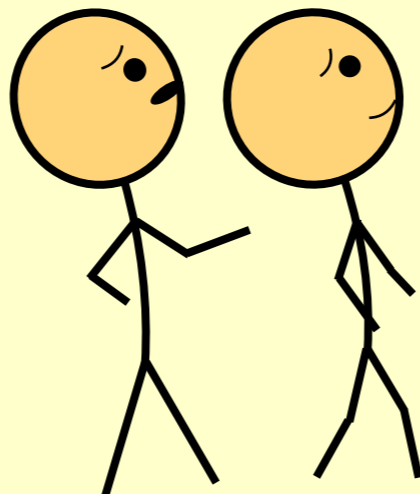
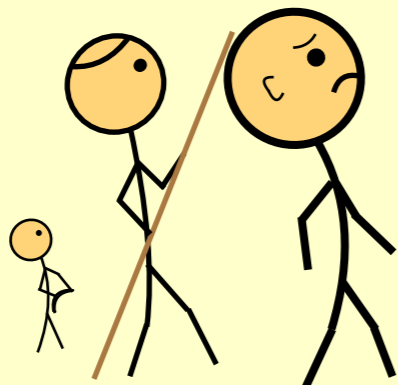
climb-did then he

Then he climbed up



garu-ndu wa-yi
one-using climb-did

Using one [of the vines], [he] climbed up



Let's look
at that
again

biyi-ndyi guwi guruh-ba

throw-PH then fork-at

Then [he] threw [it] around the fork

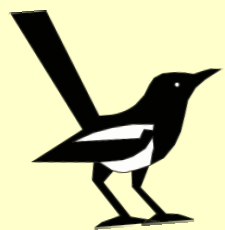
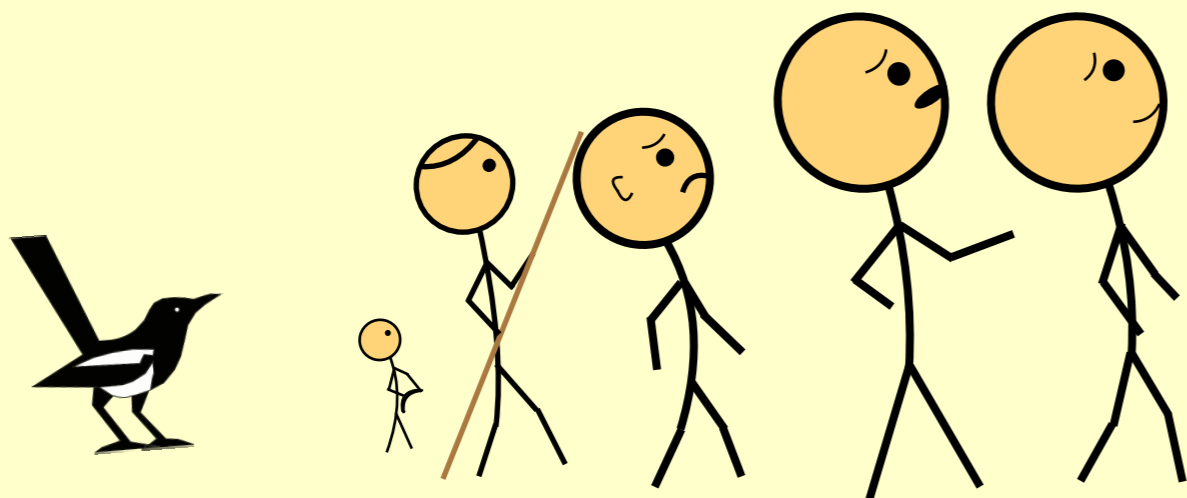
dari-ngi-ndyi wa-yi guwi

strain-RFLX-PH climb-did then

[He] pulled himself up and then climbed up



This again too



ndyini-ndyi gari-nma guruh-u yu

sit-PH here-EMPH fork-at he

He sat down here in the fork

yu-nga gungba-yi

him-ACC praise-did

[They] praised him

galang

good

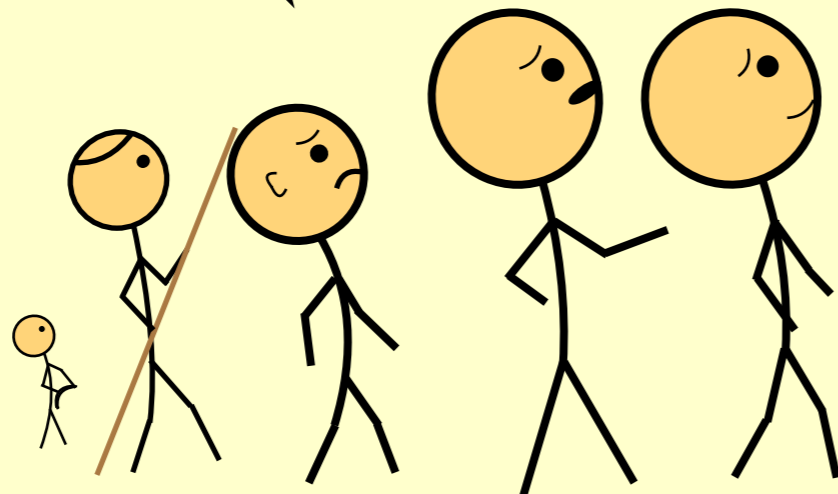
Well done!

wunba galang

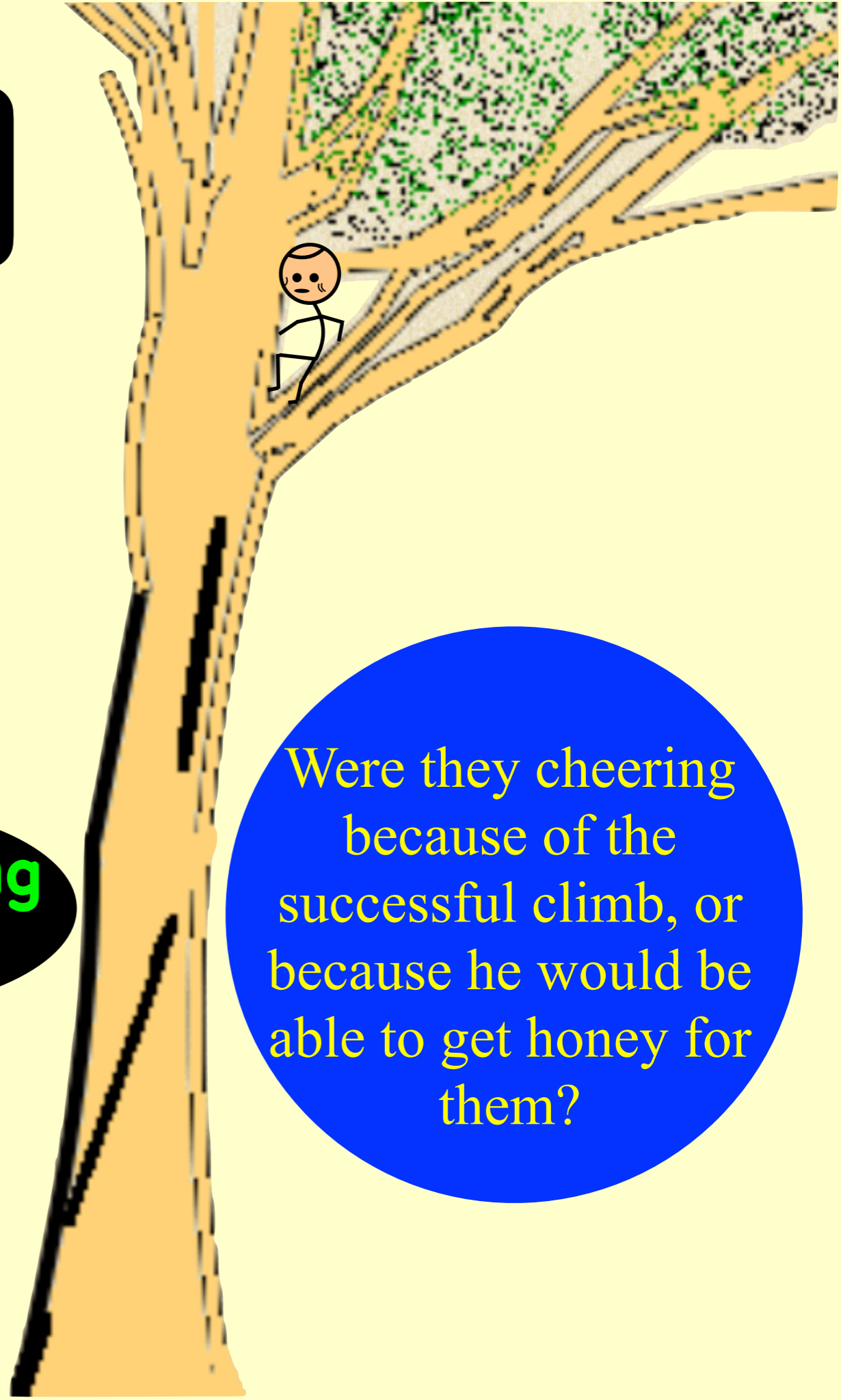
very good

Fantastic!

Willy
wagtail not
pleased



Were they cheering
because of the
successful climb, or
because he would be
able to get honey for
them?



dyangar guwi gawami-ndyi yu

limb then chop-PH he

Then he chopped off a limb

gana nguwi-ri dyurundy-dyin-Gari

this ye-all-to class-PLUR-to

This is for you, for the djoronj [people]

gana badya banda-ri

that other banda-to

This other one is for the banda

gana badya bandyur-gari

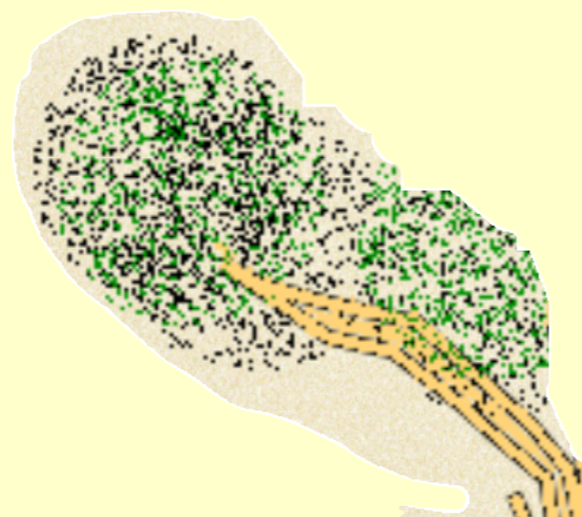
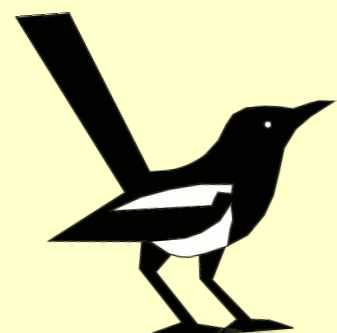
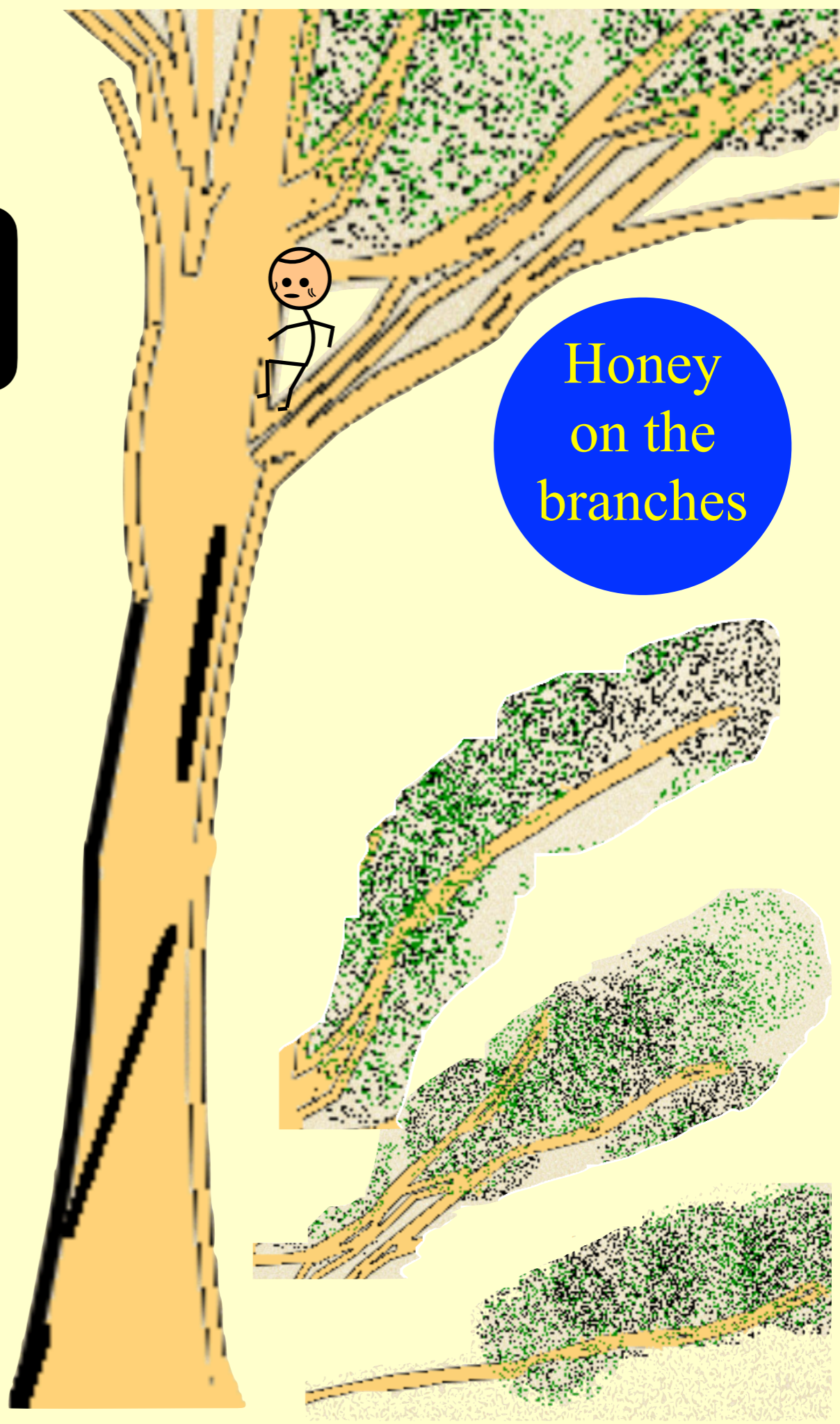
that other banjur-to

This other one is for the bandjur

gana badya barang-Gari

that other barang-to

This other one is for the barang

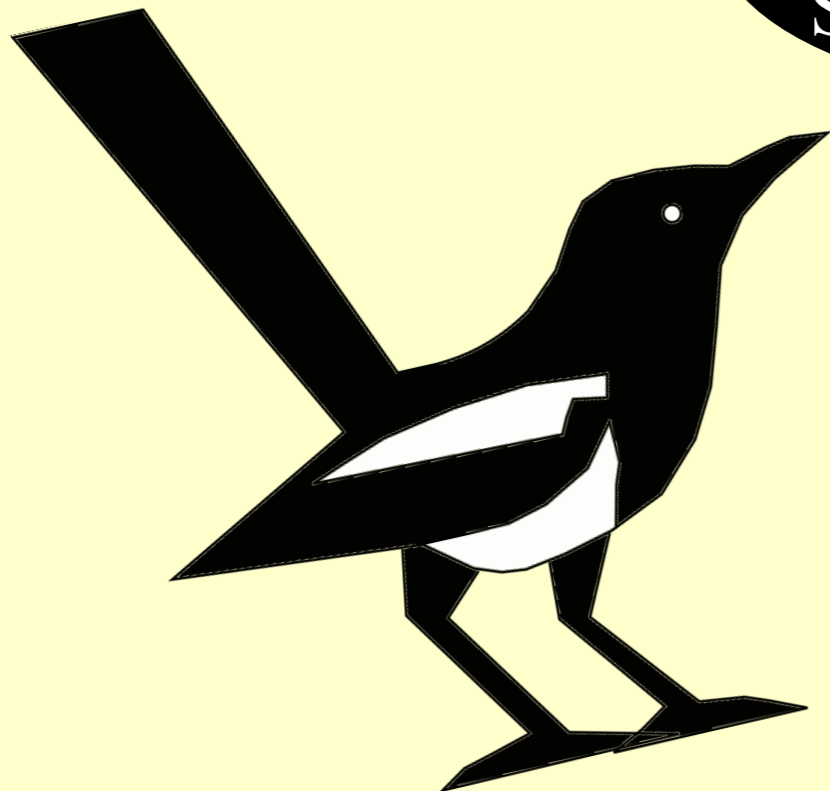


yu ya guwi yu-nga
he speak then him-ACC
Then he said to him

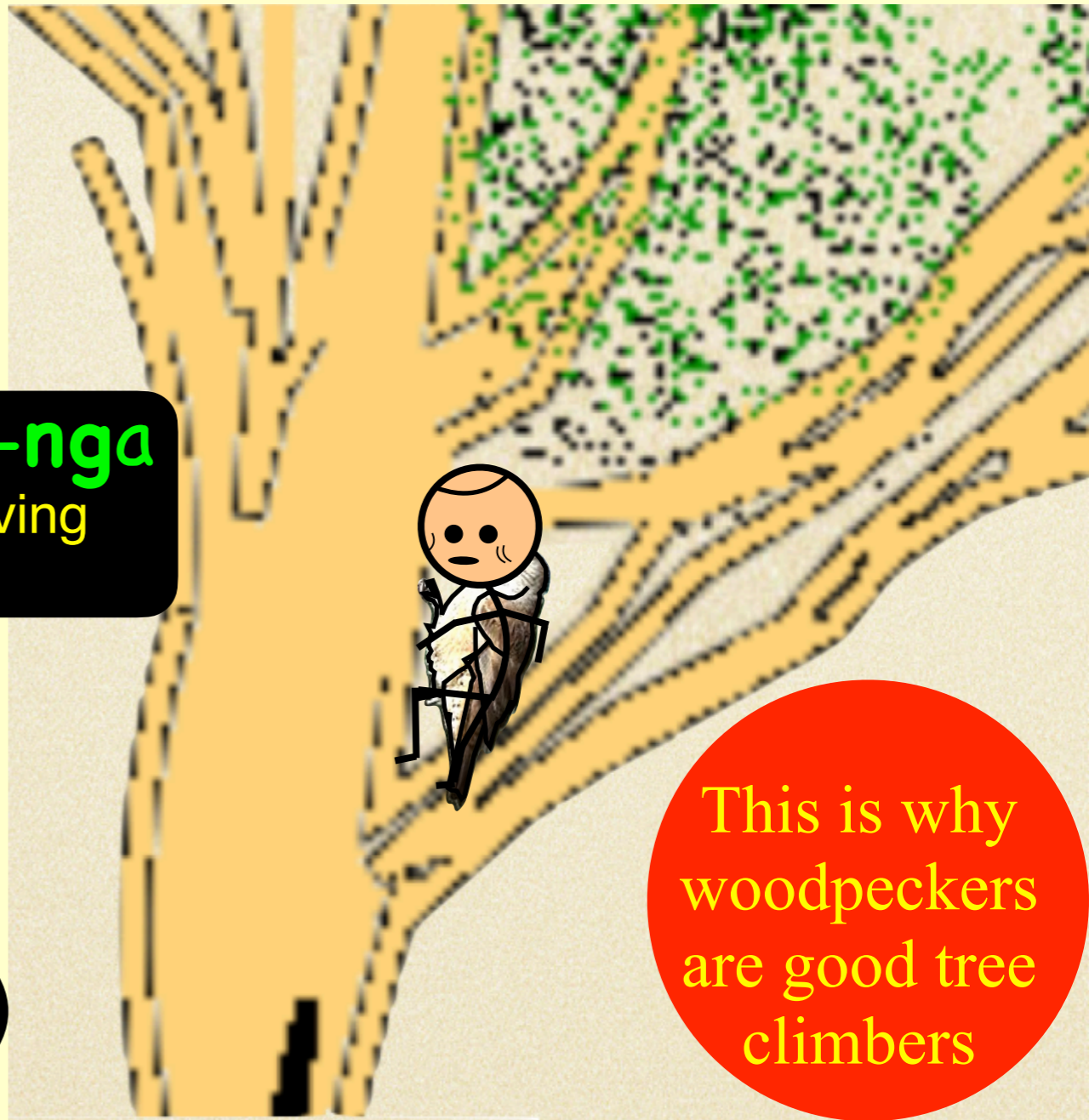
man guwi yu dyiwi yi-ngi bungbi-nga
that-fellow then he bird be-did feather-having
Then he was a bird with feathers

gari-nma ndyini-ndyi
here-EMPH sit-PH
[He] sat here

ju dyiwi yi
shoo bird be
Shoo, be a bird.



Who found
the honey
tree? Willy
wagtail!



This is why
woodpeckers
are good tree
climbers

dyiwi gu yi-ngi
bird this-one be-did
This one was a bird

dyiwi yi-ngi bindy
bird be-did birdtype [woodpecker]
[He] was a bird, a woodpecker

Goodbye

The end

in Biyal Biyal
na-ba-wi-nya
See you !

gari-nginu guwi
this END then
Well, this is the end

Jeremy
Steele
20240404

