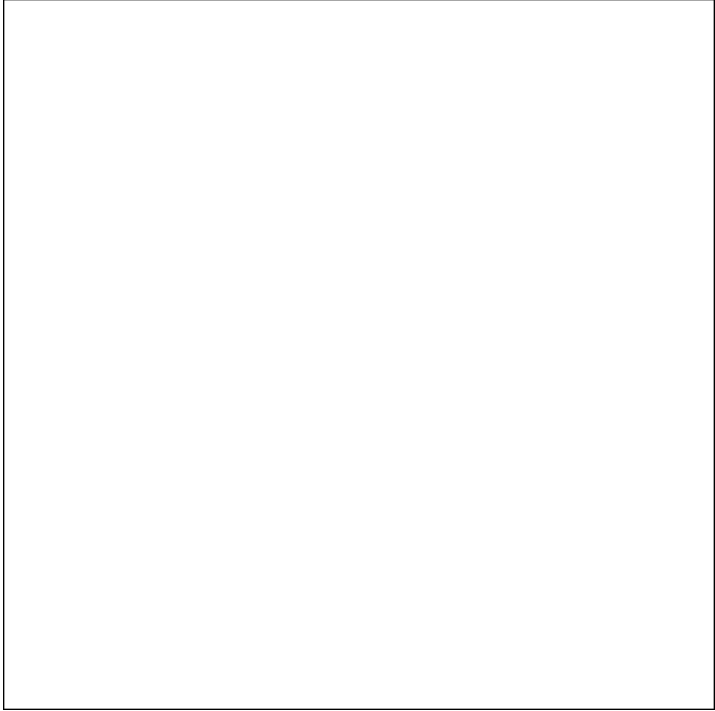




(imageless edition)

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🗣️ Italian / English  
📖 Level 5



Simbegwire

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# Storybooks Canada

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Simbegwire / Simbegwire

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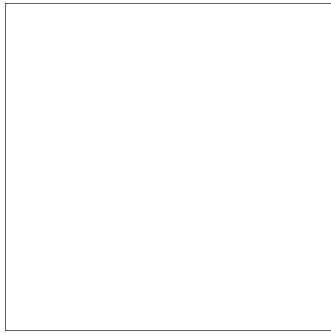
This story originates from the African Storybook ([africanstorybook.org](http://africanstorybook.org)) and is brought to you by Storybooks Canada in an effort to provide children's stories in Canada's many languages.



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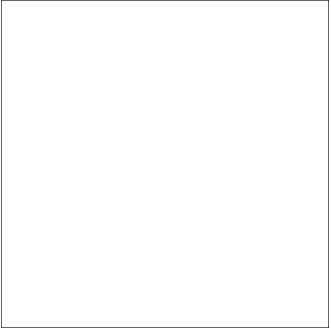
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Quando la madre di Simbegwire morì, lei era molto triste. Il padre di Simbegwire fece del suo meglio per prendersi cura di sua figlia. Lentamente, impararono ad essere felici di nuovo, senza la madre Simbegwire. Tutte le mattine si sedevano e parlavano della giornata a venire. Tutte le sere cucinavano la cena insieme. Dopo aver lavato i piatti, il papà di Simbegwire la aiutava con i compiti.

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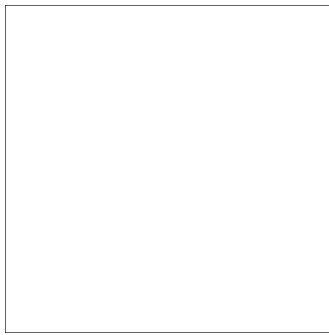
When Simbegwire's mother died, she was very sad. Simbegwire's father did his best to take care of his daughter. Slowly, they learned to feel happy again, without Simbegwire's mother. Every morning they sat and talked about the day ahead. Every evening they made dinner together. After they washed the dishes, Simbegwire's father helped her with homework.



Un giorno, il papà di Simbegwire tornò a casa più tardi del solito. "Dove sei bambina mia?" La chiamò. Simbegwire corse dal padre. Si fermò immobile quando vide che teneva per mano una donna. "Voglio presentarti qualcuno di speciale, bambina mia. Questa è Anita," disse sorridendo.

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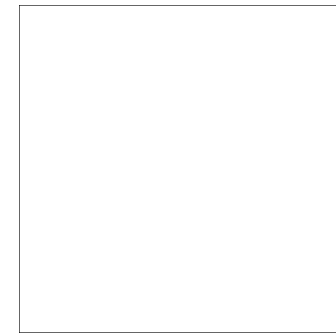
One day, Simbegwire's father came home later than usual. "Where are you my child?" he called. Simbegwire ran to her father. She stopped still when she saw that he was holding a woman's hand. "I want you to meet someone special, my child. This is Anita," he said smiling.



“Ciao Simbegwire, tuo padre mi ha parlato molto di te,” disse Anita, ma non sorrise o prese la mano della bambina. Il papà di Simbegwire era emozionato e felice. Parlò di andare a vivere loro tre insieme e di come sarebbe bella la loro vita. “Bambina mia, spero accetterai Anita come la tua nuova madre,” disse.

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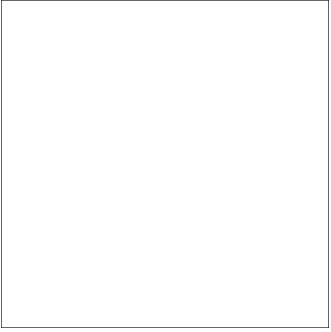
“Hello Simbegwire, your father told me a lot about you,” said Anita. But she did not smile or take the girl’s hand. Simbegwire’s father was happy and excited. He talked about the three of them living together, and how good their life would be. “My child, I hope you will accept Anita as your mother,” he said.



La settimana seguente, Anita invitò Simbegwire a casa, insieme a sua zia e i suoi cugini, per una cena. Che festa! Anita preparò tutte le pietanze preferite di Simbegwire e tutti mangiarono a sazietà. Dopo, i bambini giocavano mentre i grandi parlavano. Simbegwire si sentì felice e coraggiosa. Decise che presto, molto presto, sarebbe tornata a casa per vivere con suo padre e la sua matrigna.

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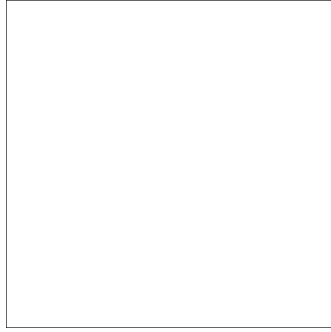
The next week, Anita invited Simbegwire, with her cousins and aunt, to the house for a meal. What a feast! Anita prepared all of Simbegwire’s favourite foods, and everyone ate until they were full. Then the children played while the adults talked. Simbegwire felt happy and brave. She decided that soon, very soon, she would return home to live with her father and her stepmother.



La vita di Simbegwire cambiò. Non aveva più tempo di sedersi con suo padre le mattine. Anita le dava così tante faccende di casa da fare che era sempre troppo stanca per fare i compiti la sera. Andava dritta a letto dopo cena. Il suo unico conforto era la copertina colorata che sua madre le diede. Il papà di Simbegwire non sembrava notare che sua figlia fosse infelice.

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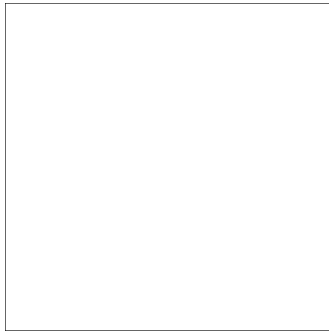
Simbegwire's life changed. She no longer had time to sit with her father in the mornings. Anita gave her so many household chores that she was too tired to do her school work in the evenings. She went straight to bed after dinner. Her only comfort was the colourful blanket her mother gave her. Simbegwire's father did not seem to notice that his daughter was unhappy.



Suo padre la visitò ogni giorno. Una volta venne con Anita. Lei prese la mano di Simbegwire. "Ti chiedo scusa piccolina, mi sbagliavo," pianse. "Mi daresti un'altra possibilità?" Simbegwire guardò suo padre e la sua faccia preoccupata. Poi, lentamente, fece un passo verso Anita e la abbracciò.

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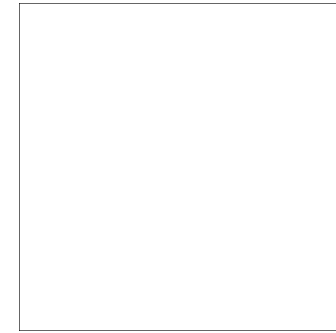
Her father visited her every day. Eventually, he came with Anita. She reached out for Simbegwire's hand. "I'm so sorry little one, I was wrong," she cried. "Will you let me try again?" Simbegwire looked at her father and his worried face. Then she stepped forward slowly and put her arms around Anita.



Dopo alcuni mesi, il papà di Simbegwire disse loro che sarebbe stato via di casa per un po'. "Devo viaggiare per lavoro," disse: "Ma so che vi prenderete cura l'una dell'altra." Simbegwire aveva un' espressione triste ma suo padre non la notò. Anita non disse nulla, non era felice nemmeno lei.

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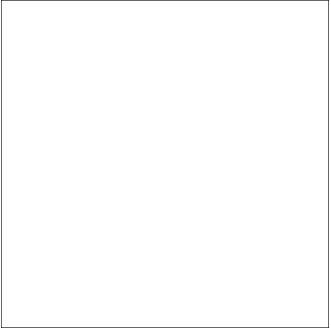
After a few months, Simbegwire's father told them that he would be away from home for a while. "I have to travel for my job," he said. "But I know you will look after each other." Simbegwire's face fell, but her father did not notice. Anita did not say anything. She was not happy either.



Simbegwire stava giocando con i suoi cuginetti quando vide suo padre da lontano. Aveva paura che fosse arrabbiato, quindi corse in casa per nascondersi. Ma il padre andò da lei e le disse "Simbegwire, tu hai trovato la madre perfetta per te. Una che ti ama e ti capisce. Sono fiero di te e ti voglio bene." Concordarono che Simbegwire sarebbe rimasta con sua zia per quanto avrebbe voluto.

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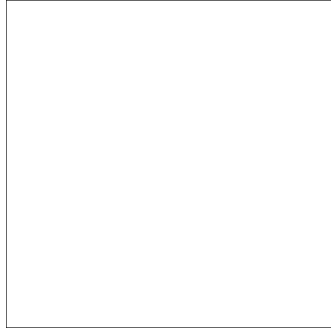
Simbegwire was playing with her cousins when she saw her father from far away. She was scared he might be angry, so she ran inside the house to hide. But her father went to her and said, "Simbegwire, you have found a perfect mother for yourself. One who loves you and understands you. I am proud of you and I love you." They agreed that Simbegwire would stay with her aunt as long as she wanted to.



Le cose peggiorarono per Simbegwire. Se non finiva le faccende o si lamentava, Anita la picchiava. A cena la donna mangiava gran parte del cibo, lasciando a Simbegwire solo alcuni avanzzi. Ogni notte Simbegwire piangeva fino ad addormentarsi, abbracciando la copertina della mamma.

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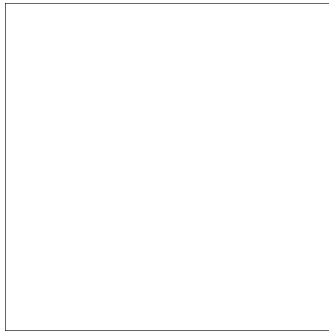
Things got worse for Simbegwire. If she didn't finish her chores, or she complained, Anita hit her. And at dinner, the woman ate most of the food, leaving Simbegwire with only a few scraps. Each night Simbegwire cried herself to sleep, hugging her mother's blanket.



Quando il padre di Simbegwire tornò a casa, trovò la sua cameretta vuota. "Cosa è successo Anita?" Chiese con il cuore pesante. La donna spiegò che Simbegwire era scappata via. "Volevo che mi rispettasse," disse. "Ma forse sono stata troppo severa." Il papà di Simbegwire lasciò casa e andò in direzione del ruscello. Raggiunse il villaggio della sorella e scoprì che lei aveva visto Simbegwire.

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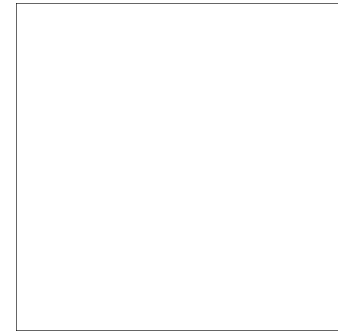
When Simbegwire's father returned home, he found her room empty. "What happened, Anita?" he asked with a heavy heart. The woman explained that Simbegwire had run away. "I wanted her to respect me," she said. "But perhaps I was too strict." Simbegwire's father left the house and went in the direction of the stream. He continued to his sister's village to find out if she had seen Simbegwire.



Una mattina, Simbegwire era ancora a letto, in ritardo. "Razza di pigrona!" Gridò Anita. Tirò Simbegwire fuori dal letto. La copertina preziosa si impigliò in un chiodo e si strappò in due pezzi.

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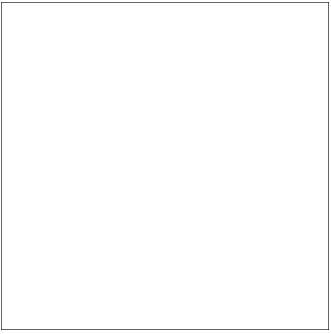
One morning, Simbegwire was late getting out of bed. "You lazy girl!" Anita shouted. She pulled Simbegwire out of bed. The precious blanket caught on a nail, and tore in two.



La zia di Simbegwire portò la bambina a casa con sé. Diede a Simbegwire cibo caldo e le rimboccò le coperte a letto lasciandole la copertina della mamma. Quella notte, Simbegwire pianse quando andò a letto. Ma erano lacrime di sollievo. Sapeva che sua zia si sarebbe presa cura di lei.

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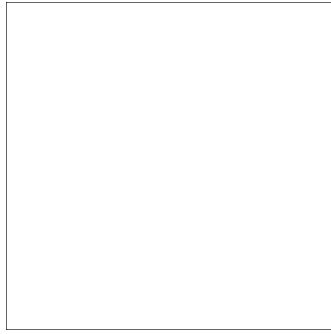
Simbegwire's aunt took the child to her own house. She gave Simbegwire warm food, and tucked her in bed with her mother's blanket. That night, Simbegwire cried as she went to sleep. But they were tears of relief. She knew her aunt would look after her.



Simbegwire era molto triste. Decise di scappare via di casa. Prese con sé i pezzi della copertina di sua madre, impacchettò un po' di cibo e andò via. Seguì la strada che suo padre prese quando andò via.

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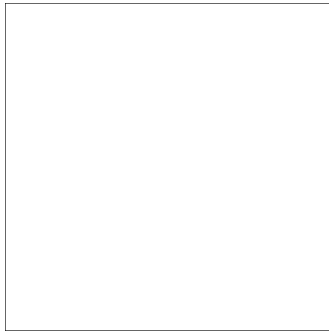
Simbegwire was very upset. She decided to run away from home. She took the pieces of her mother's blanket, packed some food, and left the house. She followed the road her father had taken.



La donna guardò sull'albero. Quando vide la bambina e pezzi della coperta colorata, cominciò a piangere. "Simbegwire, la figlia di mio fratello!" Le altre donne smisero di lavare e aiutarono Simbegwire a scendere dall'albero. Sua zia abbracciò la piccola e cercò di confortarla.

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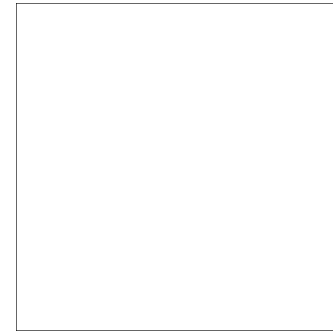
This woman looked up into the tree. When she saw the girl and the pieces of colourful blanket, she cried, "Simbegwire, my brother's child!" The other women stopped washing and helped Simbegwire to climb down from the tree. Her aunt hugged the little girl and tried to comfort her.



Quando la notte arrivò, si arrampicò su un albero alto, vicino ad un ruscello e si costruì un letto con i rami. Prima di addormentarsi, cantò: “Maamma, maamma, maamma, mi hai lasciato. Mi hai lasciato e non sei mai più tornata. Papà non mi vuole più bene. Mamma quando torni? mi hai lasciato.”

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When it came to evening, she climbed a tall tree near a stream and made a bed for herself in the branches. As she went to sleep, she sang: “Maama, maama, maama, you left me. You left me and never came back. Father doesn’t love me anymore. Mother, when are you coming back? You left me.”



La mattina seguente, Simbegwire cantò la canzone di nuovo. Quando le donne vennero al ruscello per fare il bucato, sentirono la triste canzone provenire dall’albero. Pensarono che fosse il vento sibilare tra le foglie e continuarono il loro lavoro. Ma una delle donne ascoltò attentamente la canzone.

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The next morning, Simbegwire sang the song again. When the women came to wash their clothes at the stream, they heard the sad song coming from the tall tree. They thought it was only the wind rustling the leaves, and carried on with their work. But one of the women listened very carefully to the song.