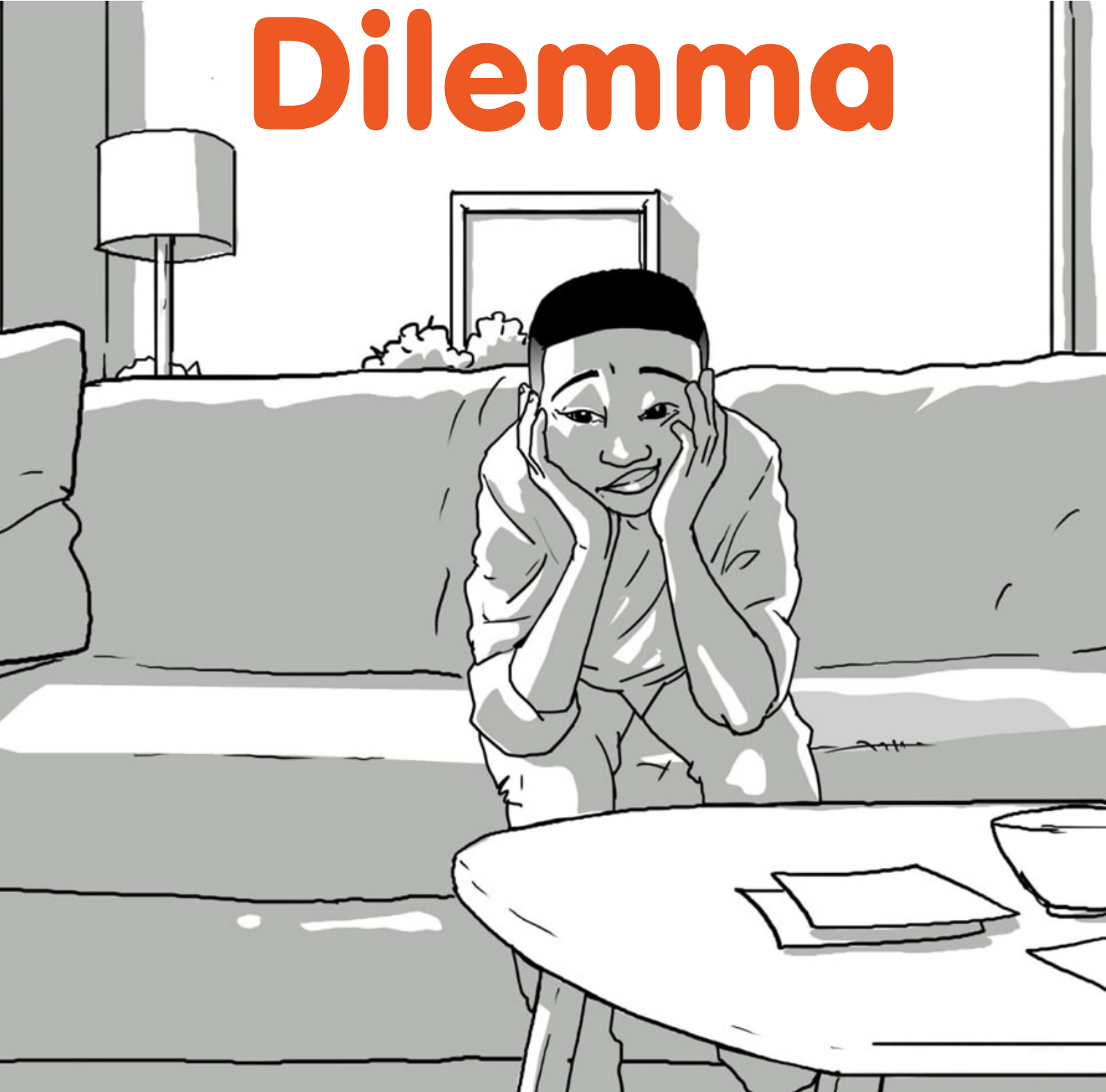


Terdo's Dilemma



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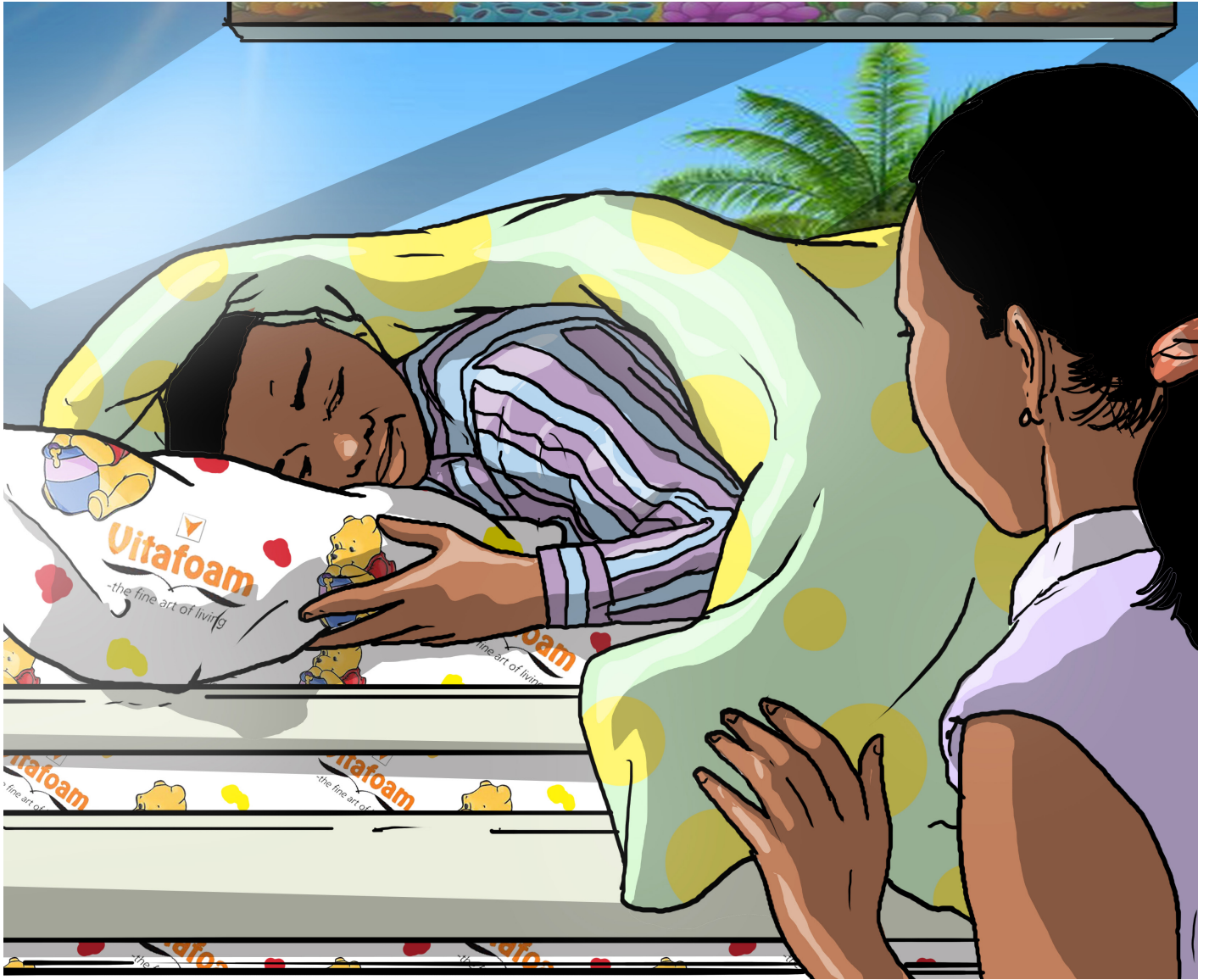


A story about Change and the Beauty of Multi-Cultural Diversity

Terdo's eyes slowly opened in response to the incessant ring of his mom's voice, calling for him to wake up.

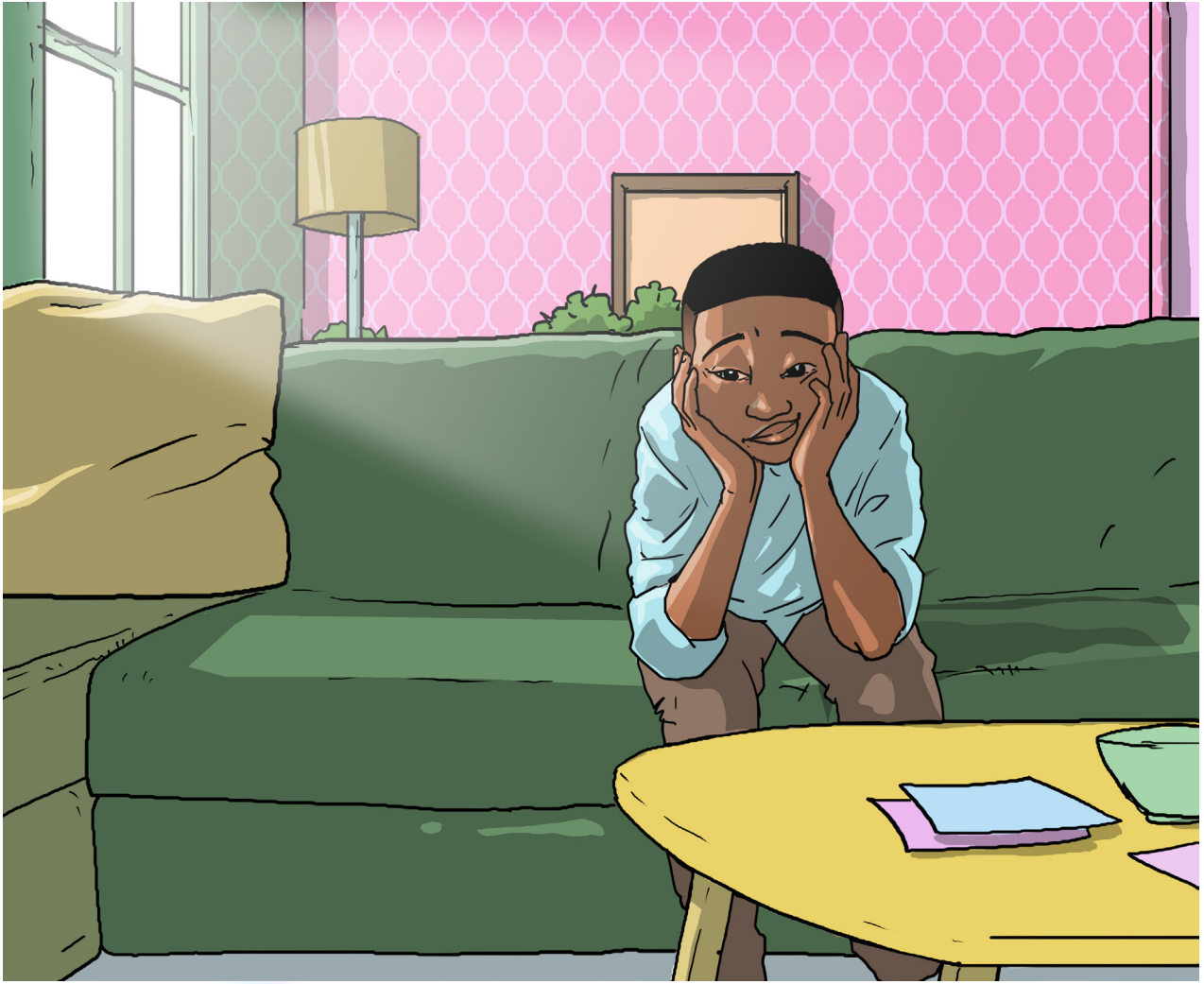
Simultaneously, his lips broke into an upward curve as he turned to give his mommy a huge good morning smile.

Laughing, mommy said, 'From what I see, someone definitely had an amazing first night'.



Actually, last night was Terdo and his family's first night in their new home, located in Lagos State, Nigeria.

You see, the family had moved all the way from Gboko in Benue State when Terdo's dad got a big promotion at work. A promotion which involved new, big responsibilities at his office's headquarters in Lagos!



Terdo had been somewhat apprehensive about the move. If there was one thing he hated, it was change. Any type of change tensed him up. This type of change, especially so!

What had troubled Terdo most was the fact that he would have to change schools and he would have to make new friends. Would his new school mates understand his native language of Tiv?

Terdo really, really needed them to because he often won friends over with his jokes. Many of his jokes were told in the Tiv language because as his dad often said, 'Some jokes are best enjoyed in Tiv'.

Terdo had looked up to his 72-year old grandma for comfort and advice.

A little part of him also hoped she would instruct his parents not to move. After all, she was the matriarch of the family and everyone often looked to her for advice and guidance.

However, on a sunny Sunday afternoon, after treating Terdo to a delicious meal of Ruam Kumen, grandma softly but firmly said, 'Terdo, I will miss you very much but you must remember this - 'Change is the only constant thing in life. So, embrace it'.



Ruam Kumen is Terdo's favorite food, as it is for most Gboko natives.

However, in that moment, the lingering delight that comes from enjoying a spread of one's favorite food quickly disappeared as Terdo tried fighting back tears.

Grandma immediately pulled her favorite grandson in for a long, warm hug. 'I will miss you very much', she said. 'And I believe it's about time I let you teach me all I need to know about video calls so that we can make the best of what I'm afraid is going to be a long distance grandma-grandson relationship', she added with a chuckle.

Grandma then went on to help Terdo focus on the positives which accompanied the impending big move.



Terdo's chat with grandma left him with an all-new perspective. He was determined to make the best of the inevitable change.

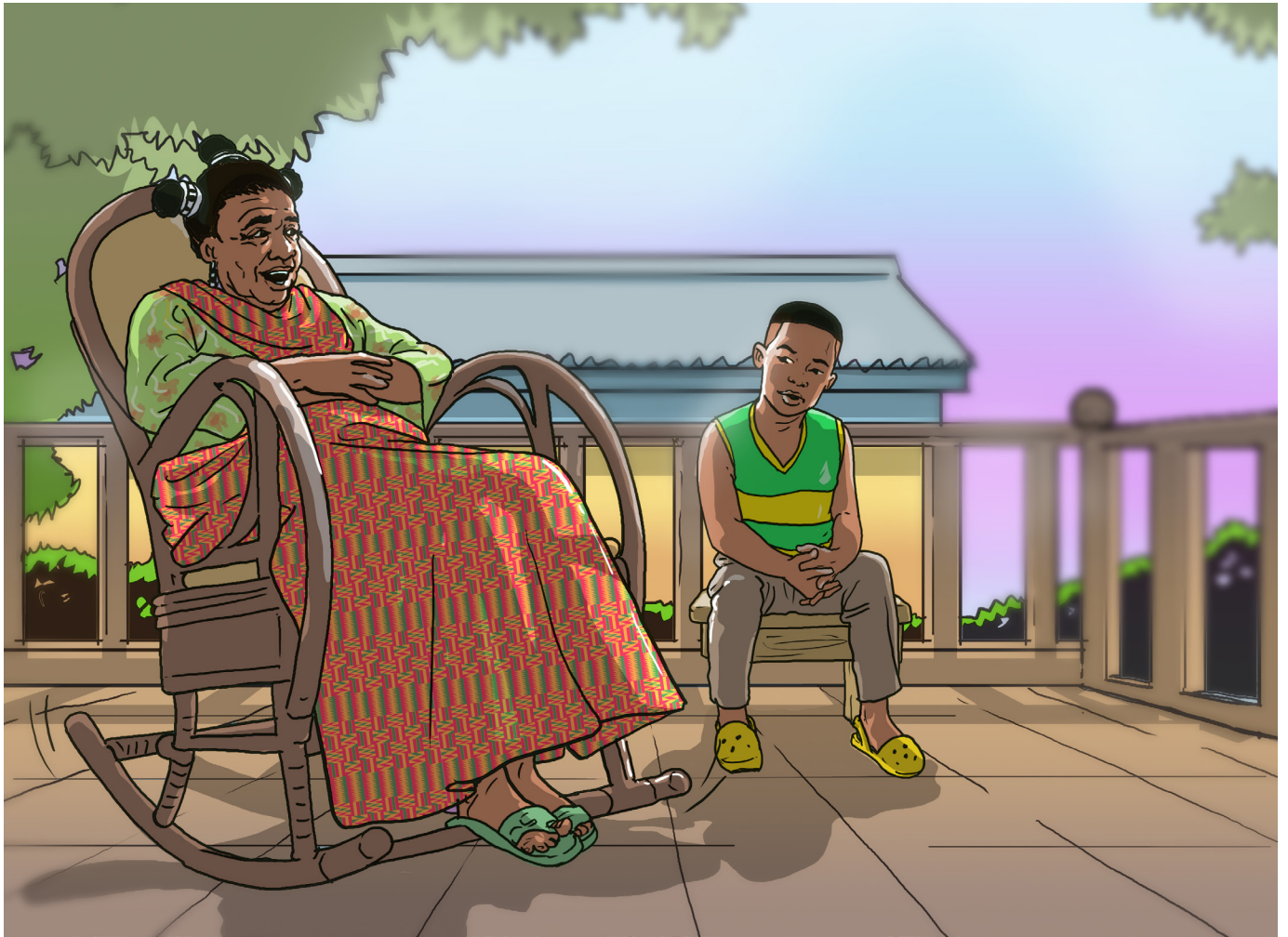
If his new school mates knew nothing about the Tiv language, then he will tell his jokes in English and perhaps gradually introduce them to Tiv, one word at a time.

Terdo was also excited about the prospect of learning Yoruba - the native language of the people of Lagos State.

In addition, he had plans to learn what he could about their cultural practices and teach them what he could about his.

During another visit to grandma, she had said cultural practices differ across states. She had added that these unique differences are what make Nigeria uniquely special as a country.

'But ... but ... isn't 'different' scary?', Terdo had wanted to know.



Enjoying the rhythm of her rocking chair, grandma slowly responded, 'Well, if the world was made up of people who looked exactly the same, thought exactly the same, dressed exactly the same and talked exactly the same,' wouldn't the world be one very boring place?

'Or, if your favorite football team was made up of only strikers ... no defenders, no mid-fielders, no goal keepers ... how would they ever be able to win a match?', grandma chuckled as she continued rolling out her words of wisdom.

'You see Terdo, 'different' is only scary when we choose to look down on each other and compete against one another, rather than respect each other, learn from each other and work together to achieve more as a team.'

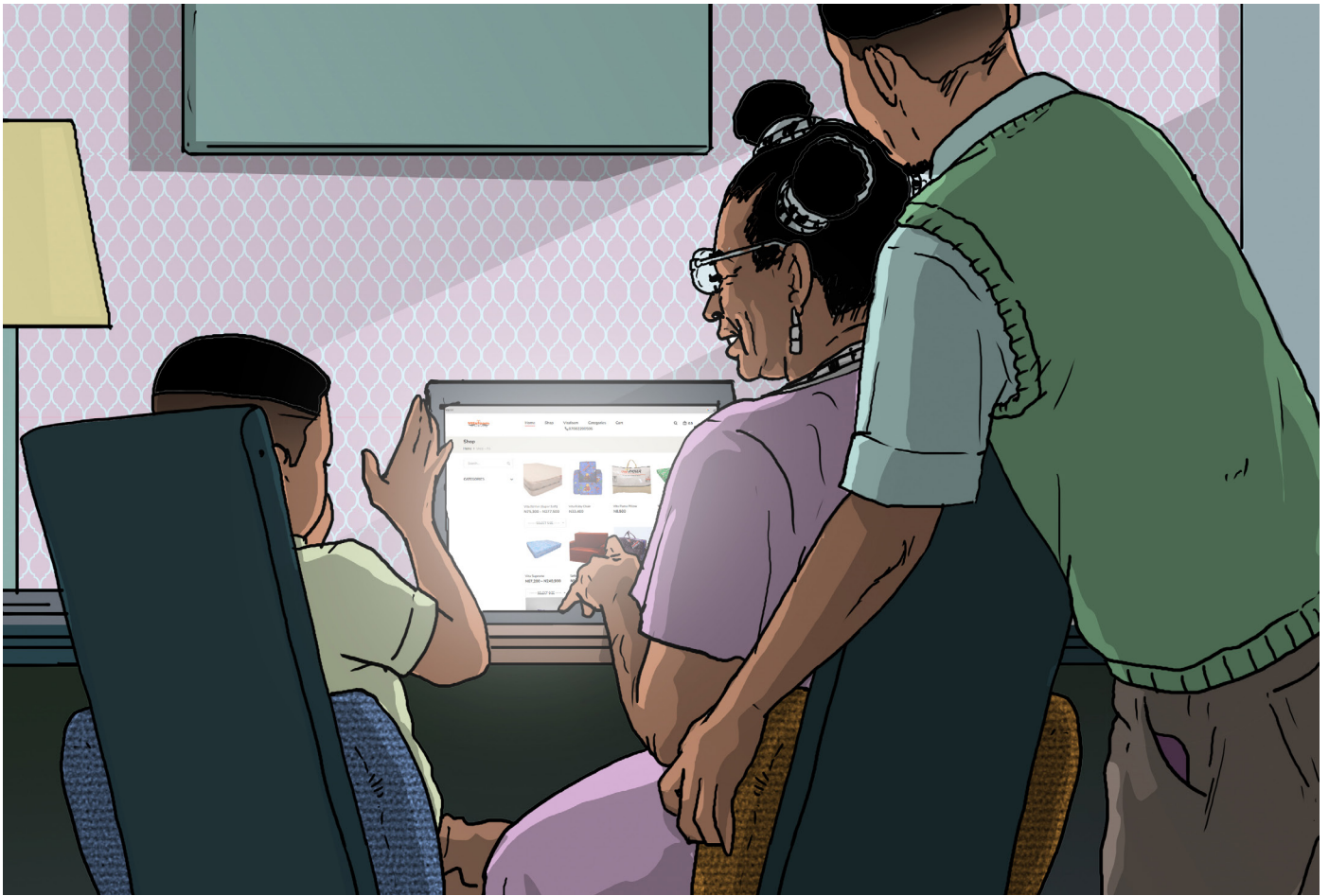
Soaking in grandma's wealth of wisdom, Terdo smiled at the fact that she actually used the game of football in driving home her point.

By watching numerous football matches with daddy and Terdo, she had learnt a whole lot about the game and even had a favorite club.

With Terdo's improved attitude in place, his parents were able to plan important aspects of the big move with him.

Terdo was excited that he and his family would be living in a duplex. He had always wanted to live in one.

He was also excited about the new furniture for the new house. Daddy had said his family deserved the best. Hence, all furniture were to be purchased from Vitafoam Nigeria Plc.



Terdo had fun browsing through the Vitafoam website and making selections. He did this in the company of grandma, whom he was giving a long overdue crash course in technology usage.

Seeing how long the pair were spending at the table, daddy insisted they used their Vitafoam Backseat Support to help their sitting posture.

Upon getting to Lagos, Terdo was delighted to see that all the Vitafoam furniture matched exactly what he had ordered on their website.

He particularly loved the bedroom he was going to share with his older brother, who was away in boarding school. His favorite furniture was the Vitafoam Wooden Storage Bed. He was excited about the fact the bunk bed came with storage compartments.

Terdo also loved his bedroom walls. It was exactly as he had dreamed it will be. Equally exciting was the fact that his father had stuck to the MTN broadband service they had used in Benue. With MTN, Terdo was sure that staying connected with grandma and all his friends would be seamless.



However, despite everything looking so good, Terdo could not help wishing his grandma was there to see everything. A video call would not quite do justice in relaying how perfect everything looked.

He would have also loved for grandma to have been a part of the road trip from Benue to Lagos. Travelling over 700km was no joke but still, he enjoyed the long ride from North Central Nigeria to South Western Nigeria. The super long ride that took them over 11 hours!

They passed different towns along the way and with every town passed, came an intriguing story. Yes, his parents were amazing tour guides and they opened him up to the fact that there are so many beautiful parts to Nigeria he is yet to discover.

Indeed, Terdo was really glad that his first ever cross country trip was made in the company of his parents.



Terdo was also glad that his parents had had the insight to stock his bag with his favorite road snack-pre-packaged sausage roll. Being so yummy and filling, it proved to be the perfect snack for the road trip.

When Terdo was about biting into his last sausage roll, his parents introduced him to the different native delicacies that were hawked at major stops along the way.

Upon trying them at a later hour, Terdo concluded that his favorite native delicacy by a mile was the dodo ikire.

Putting aside his thoughts, Terdo went on to unpack his box. After all, he had so much to do.

Right at the top of the box was the brand new An'ger cloth which his grandmother had given him as a gift when leaving.

An'ger is the black/white striped native attire of the Benue natives and Terdo planned on wearing it to school during the October 1st celebration, a nation-wide celebration of Nigeria's independence from colonial rule.

Yes, the celebration was just around the corner and Terdo was excited to share his culture with his new classmates, through his dressing amongst other things.



Holding the striped cloth, Terdo's eyes travelled to his Noreos biscuit on his study table.

The Noreos chocolate sandwich biscuit was a family favorite which Terdo also planned on sharing with his schoolmates during the independence day celebration.

Even though Terdo's favorite flavor is Vanilla, he had told his mom he would want to go with the orange and strawberry flavors as well because he wasn't sure which would turn out to be his classmates' favorites.



Breaking into Terdo's thoughts was a hurried barge of daddy into room. Handing over the phone to Terdo, he said, 'Grandma's on the phone, son'

Excited, Terdo grabbed the phone and said 'U pande iyange-vee', which means good evening in Tiv language.

Before Terdo could get in another word, grandma told him to look out his window.

'No questions, Terdo. Just do as I say, NOW', she added firmly.

With no time to try and make sense of grandma's strange instructions, Terdo rushed to the window and to his amazement, he saw grandma coming out of a car with a wide smile on her face.

Terdo immediately flung the phone on the bed and ran downstairs to give her the longest hug of her life.

What Terdo had not known was that grandma had been so concerned about how the big move will affect him that she had offered to spend some weeks in Lagos, helping him settle in. Pulling away from the super long embrace, Terdo laughed, 'How come I didn't know you were coming?'

'It was meant to be a surprise', beamed grandma.

'Well, this is an awesome surprise but I wouldn't have wanted you to put yourself through such a long trip,' Terdo said with a tinge of concern in voice.

He had earlier overheard daddy express some concerns over grandma's health. Hence, his own concern.

'I came by air and so my trip was no where as long as yours', replied grandma. 'Besides, see, I travelled with my Vita Travel Neck Pillow and I must say, it made my plane ride super comfortable', grandma added as she playfully put the pillow round Terdo's neck.

Terdo smiled.

Grandma never compromised when it came to comfort.



Taking Terdo's hand, grandma said, 'Come on Terdo, why don't you lead me in so that I can tell you all about my trip after you tell me all about yours'.

So, that was how Terdo spent the next hour and a half exchanging travel notes with grandma while he sipped his favorite beverage and snacked on his Noreos biscuit.

Grandma, on the other hand, enjoyed a glass of milk.



The softest thing in the world is a child's *smile*



Children bring so much joy and laughter into our lives and we would do anything to protect them. At Vitafoam, we understand the importance of creating safe products for children to play and explore with, that's why we use only soft, durable, and non-toxic foam in our products, so you can be sure that your children are safe. So next time you're looking for a way to create a safe and fun space for your children, be sure to check out Vitafoam. We'll help you make memories that will last a lifetime.



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