

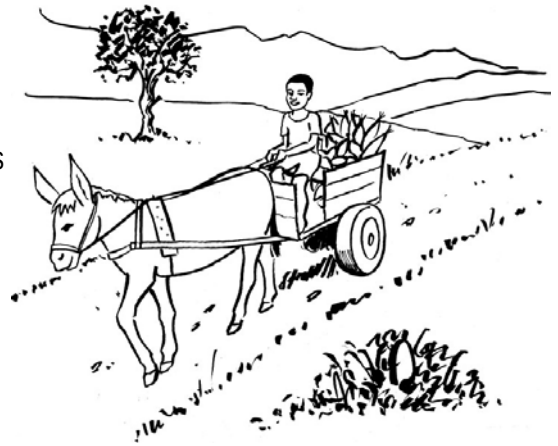
Comprehension

Based on the story *Vuyo and Unam*

Read the first 6 paragraphs of the story about Vuyo and Unam. Make sure that you understand all the words used then answer the questions using full sentences for all your answers.

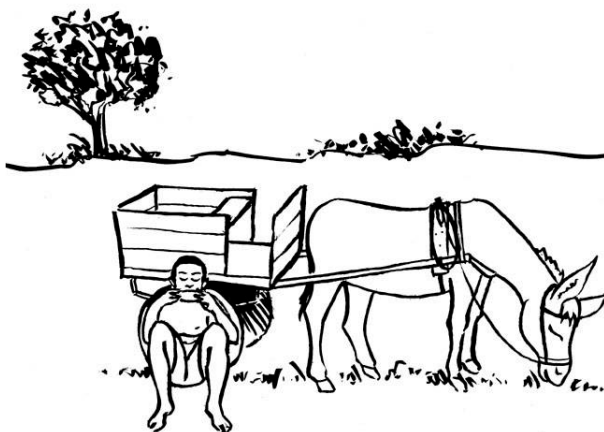
Vuyo and his family of two elder brothers and one younger sister lived in the Eastern Cape at the foothills of the mighty Drakensberg Mountains. Their village was surrounded by rolling grasslands and soaring mountains, but it was hard to travel. A regular car would struggle on the rough roads and a 4x4, or even a bakkie, was beyond the family's means. But they thought they had the best transport one could wish for, because they were blessed with a donkey called Unam. This means 'He is with me' in Xhosa.

Unam was a small, grey donkey. He was faithful as only donkeys can be. He was also strong and pulled the cart with which the whole family did their business. This included working the land, shopping, building a wall and taking produce to the market down in the valley. They used Unam and his cart for everything.



Vuyo had turned fourteen the previous week, so he was allowed (for the first time) to go by himself with Unam and the cart to market. Up until then he always went with his brother Thembisa, but now Thembisa could stay at home and study.

Vuyo felt excited as he set off under a crisp, blue sky with Unam. The cart was laden with maize, sorghum and vegetables. It was a smooth journey down to the valley and Unam seemed happy. Vuyo sold everything at the market and after off-loading they stopped to rest and eat before taking the road back up. He nibbled on some roasted corn whilst Unam grazed on the short tufts of green grass beside the path.



Vuyo felt peaceful. The only sounds were a slight wind in the trees and Unam snorting to clear dust from his nostrils.

Pulling the cart up into the hills was always more difficult. Sometimes the road was steep, with loose rocks and a sheer drop on one side. 'But,' thought Vuyo, 'with an empty cart, it should be fine.' He was more worried about the gathering grey clouds that chilled the air. Although the weather had been clear and sunny lately, afternoon thunder showers were not unusual.

Questions

1. In which province did Vuyo live and near which mountains?
2. What was the name of the family's donkey? What does the name mean?
3. Write a sentence that tells us more about who was in Vuyo's family.
4. The family used the donkey cart for several things. Name two.
5. Why do you think Vuyo was excited as he set off for the market?
6. What were Vuyo and Unam taking to the market?
7. When did Vuyo and Unam stop to rest and eat?
8. Why would the journey home be harder for Unam?
9. What worried Vuyo a little?

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