

U-Oska ihagu engunogada



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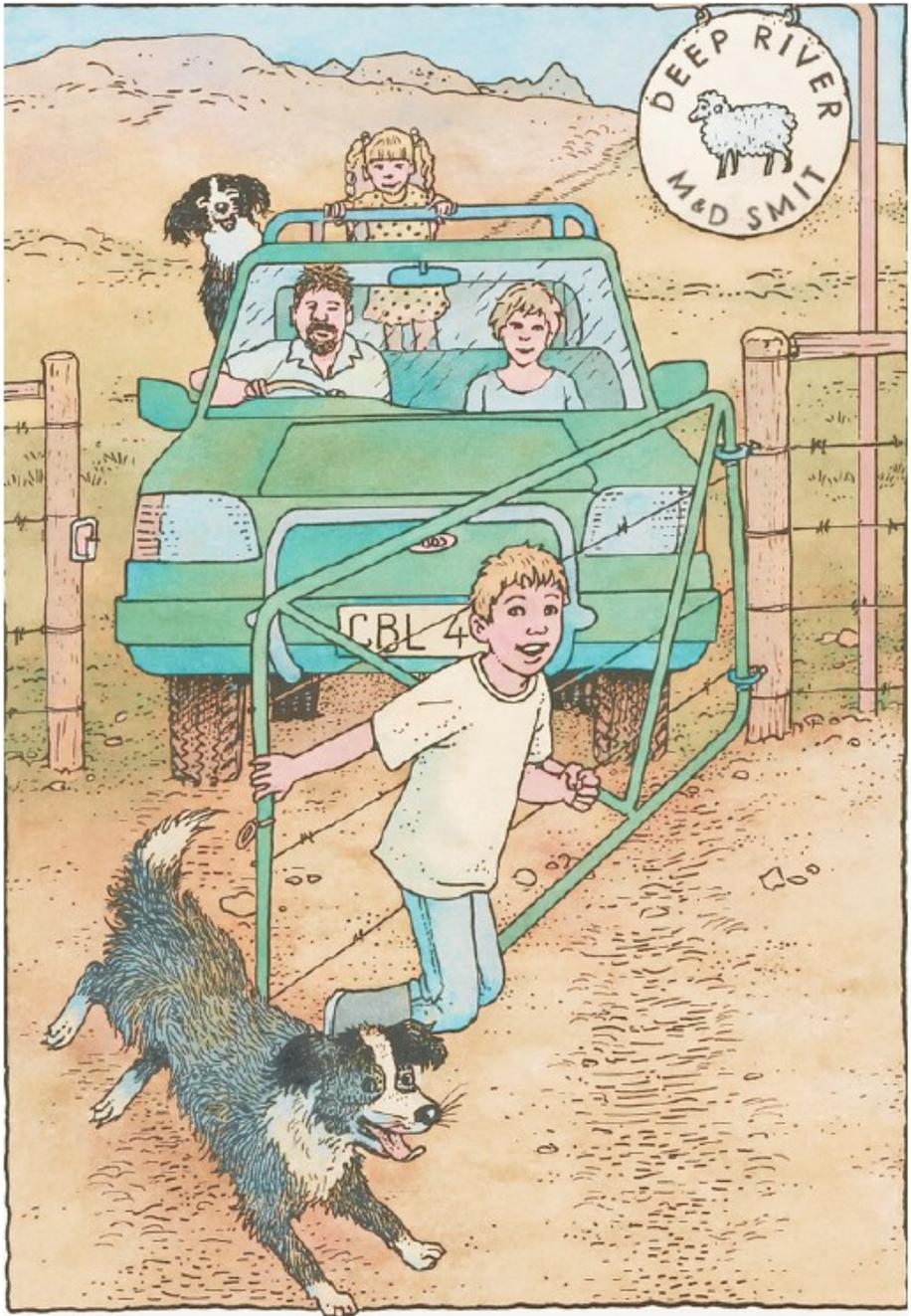
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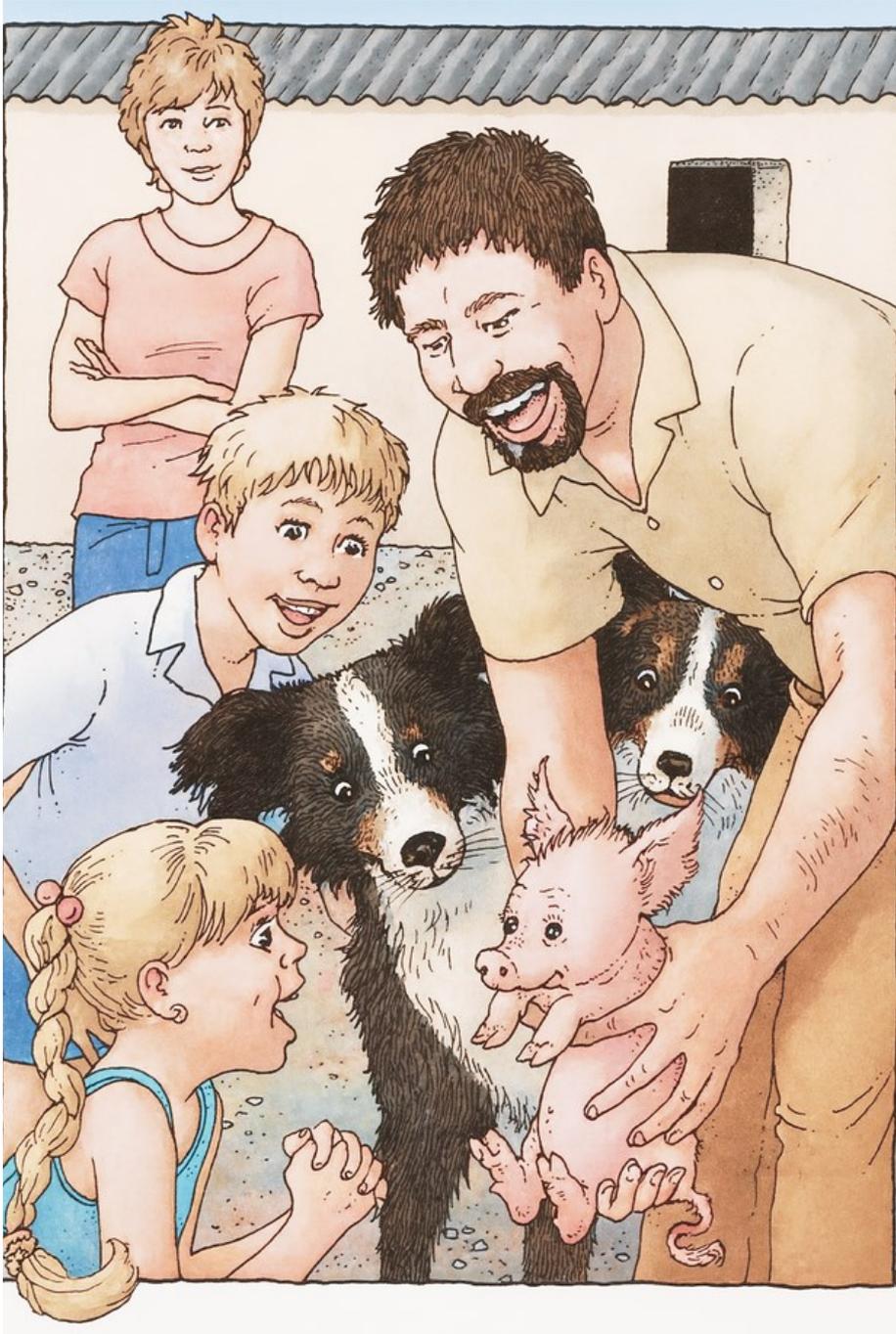
Ekupheleni kwendlela ende eqhumayo yegrabile, kude lee edolophini, kwakukho ifama eyayisaziwa ngokuba yi “Deep River”. Kulo fama kwakuhlala uVelem, abazali bakhe kunye nodade wabo omncinci.

Kwalapha kwakukho u-Anamariya nezinja ezingoomalusi beegusha ezimbini, uSakhi noPopi. Utata kaVelem wayengumfama ofuye iigusha zoboya neenkukhu zamaqanda. Emasimini wayelime imifuno neentlobo-ntlobo zemithi yeziqhamo ezinje ngee-apilekose, amapere namafiya.

Kwakufuywe nenkomo yobisi egama linguSarityi. Eli thokazi lalisehlisa kakhulu linobisi olunocwambu olumnandi. Ubisi lwalo lwaluzalisa i-emele batsho nabantwana basele. Oomama babeluphehla benze ibhotolo neyogathi.

UVelem no-Anamariya babethanda kakhulu ukuhlala apha efama, kuba kaloku kwakukho amasimi, amabala aphantangaleleyo kunye nomlambo. Kwakukuhle ukubona uSakhi noPopi besalusa iigusha. Ixesha lokuvuna yayiba lelona limnandi enyakeni.

Ngaminazana ithile utata wafika ephethe intshontsho lehagu alifumene kummelwane.



Le hagwana yayiselula kakhulu inombala ophantse ukubabomvu nempumlwana engathi yirabha namehlo aqaqambileyo. Yayinentsuku ezimbini kuphela izelwe. “Siphiwe elintshontsho ukuze silikhulise,” watsho utata. U-Anamariya walithiya igama elingu-Oska.

Wamsongela ngengubo u-Oska emncancisa ubisi ngebhobile. Ebesithi akuhlutha ambeke emagxeni ambhodlise kanye oku kosana.

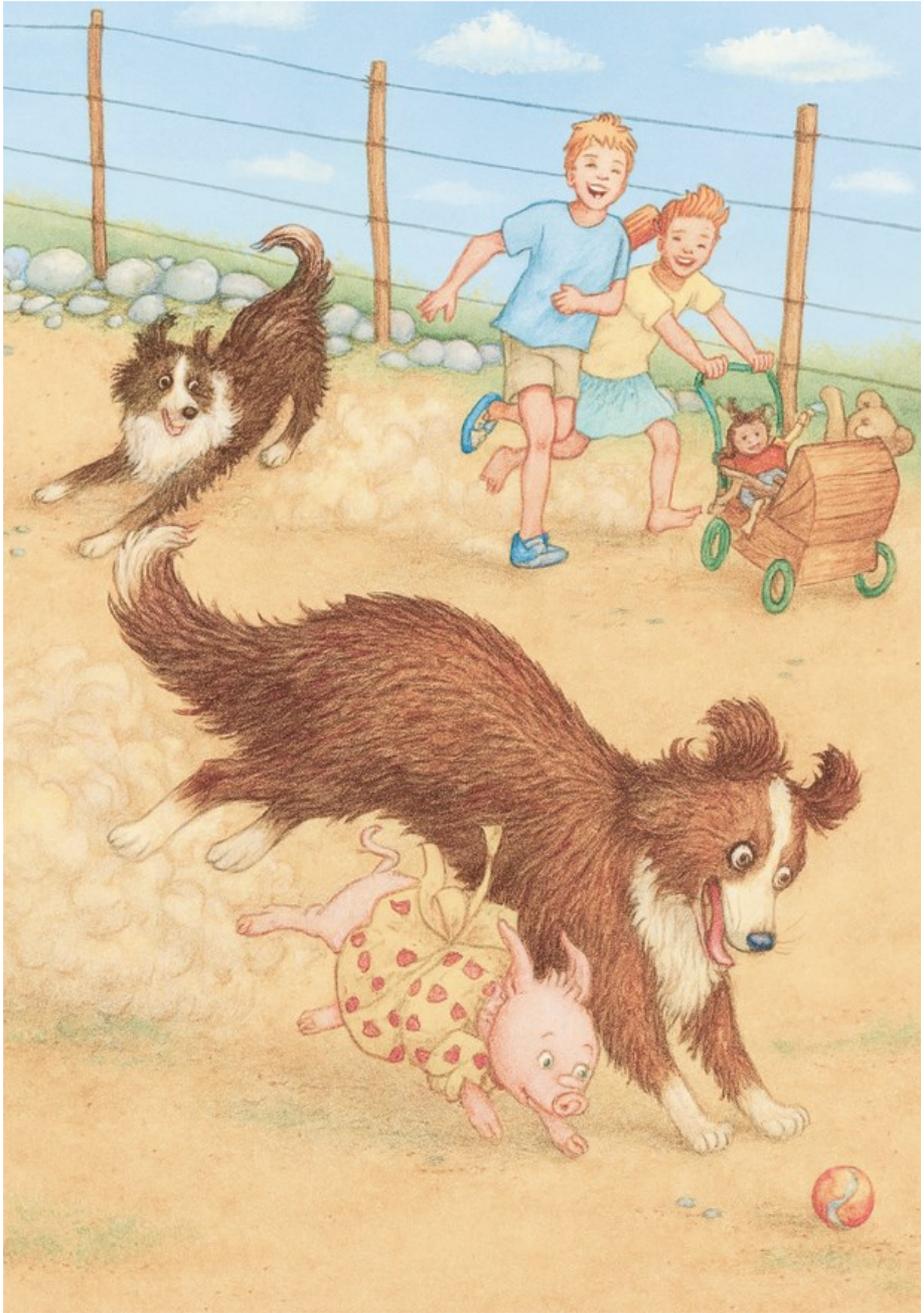
Ebusuku ebemsongela ngengutyana amfake ebhokisini amlalise ecaleni kwebhedi yakhe. Abantwana babethanda ukumbukela efuthuza ngaloo milenzana yakhe emifutshane neendlebe zakhe eziphaxazayo. Ebesithi akuzibona esele yedwa akhale kakhulu, hayi ke abantwana ukugilana besiza kumthatha bamfunqule.

Wakhawuleza wafunda ukuba makaye phandle xa afuna ukuzithuma njengoSakhi noPopi.

“Ukrele-krele,” watsho, uVelem. “Singamfundisa izinto ezininzi.”

“Ningamthandi kakhulu u-Oska kuba ngenye imini kuzakufuneka exheliwe kwenziwe ngaye isoseji nebheyikhoni,” watsho utata ebukhathazeka.

“Intoni?” bakhuya ooVelem no-Amariya. “Sitye u-Oska?” Singayenza njani into embi ngolohlobo, kaloku u-Oska ngumhlobo wethu.



“Kaloku sihlala efama, ke izinto esizikhulisayo senzela ukuba zibe kukutya ngenye imini,” watsho utata.

“Iihagu nazo azahlukanga, zikhuliselwa ukuba sifumane kuzo inyama.”

“Unotshe! Andivumi ngo Oska,” watsho uVelem enikina intloko. “Ukuba kunjalo ndiyafunga, ukususela namhlanje ndiya yeka ukutya inyama. Ndizakuphila ngemifuno qha.”

“Usemcinci awukabinako ukukwazi ukuthatha isigqibo esinjalo. Khulula ibhutsi ezi zigcwele udaka uvulele amanzi uzihlambe ungazikhathazi ngale yenyama into,” watsho utata.

Bakhathazeka kakhulu abantwana noxa kuthethiwe nabo.

Emva kwenyanga ezimbalwa wakhula u-Oska wamdala watyeba kakhulu. Ufele lwakhe lwaguda izidlele zaphihlika ngokungathi uncumile.

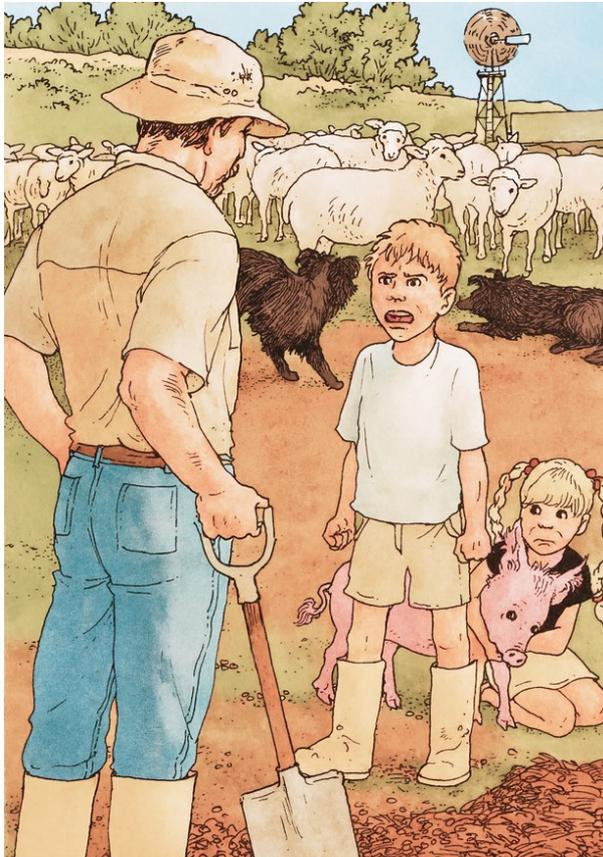
Ebesithi akubabona abantwana bebuya esikolweni ayekubakhawulela njengoSakhi noPopi.

Ukukhula nokutyeba kuka Oska kwamxhalabisa uVelem. Ngenye imini izinja ezingoomalusi bazibona zihamba zodwa engekho u-Oska.

U-Oska ulahlekile

“Uphi u-Oska ? babuza abantwana. Utata wanikina intloko. Khanime ngemibuzo emininzi hambani niyokwenza umsebenzi wesikolo,” watsho utata. U-Oska wayevalelwe eshedini. Kwakufike ixesha lokuba axhelwe enziwe isoseji nebheyikhoni.

“Ngoba, ngoba? Anikwazi ukuyenza into enjalo ku-Oska”. Balila abantwana.



“Kunyanzelekile ukuba sifumane inyama. Niyazithanda kakhulu iisoseji. Singaqhubekela njani nefama singazityi ezinye zezizilwanyana?” wabuza umama. Ndiyakuca-phukela ukuhlala apha efama. “Akwaba besihlala edolophini sithenga ukutya ezivenkileni.” Walila watsho uVelem.

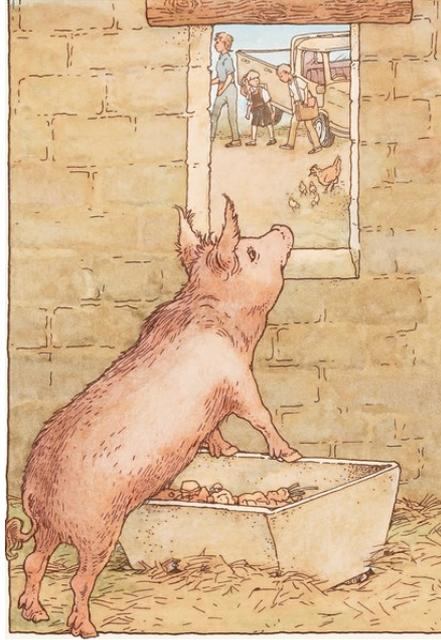
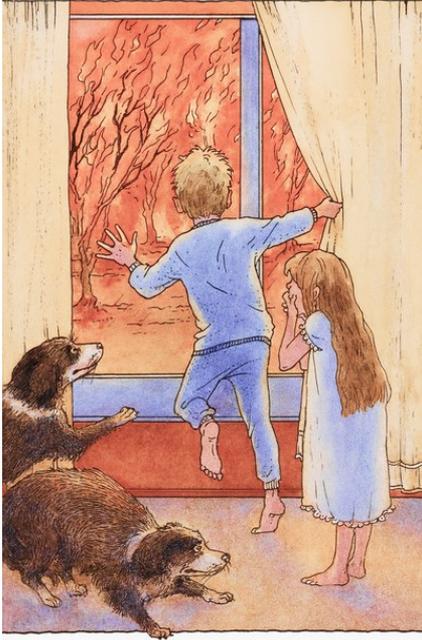
“Xa kunjalo ke ucinga ukuba iivenkile ezo ziyifumanaphi inyama?” Wabuza utata.

“Yahlukana no-Oska,” watsho ngomsindo uVelem. Balala belila ngaloo mini abantwana.

“Andiqondi ukuba le ndaba besiyiphethe ngokufaneleki-leyo.” Uvelem wamva utata xa evala ucango legumbi lokulala.

Ifama iyatsha

Ezinzulwini zobusuku uVelem wothuswa sisikhalo esikrakra. Wayekho undonakele. USakhi noPopi babebaleka bejikeleza imisila beyikhwencele. Kwakubonakala amadangatye efestileni kanye apha ngaphandle kwegumbi elilala abantwana. Uvelem wawavula ngokukhawuleza amakhetinsi. Wabona umbono ombi. Amadangatye ayephinyela phakathi kwemithi ye-apilekose. Izithungu zazisitsha kutaka iintlantsi. Esibhakabhakeni ibingathi libubu leenyosi elinomsindo. Uqhaqhaqha wengxolo owawusenziwa yingxolo yepali ezitshiswa ngumlilo wawunganyamezeleki.



“Tata, mama, kuyatsha!” wakhwaza watsho uVelem esoyika. Baxhuma ebhedini abazali bakhe baphumela ngaphandle berhuqa iidyasi neebhutsi bebaleka.

Wasitsho isikhalo esibuhlungu u-Oska evalelekile eshedini. Kwaba sisiphithi-phithi kwafika namanye amafama angabamelwane besiza nezicimamlilo. Abantu babekhala bekwaza.

Izibane zeemoto nazo zazitshawuza apha naphaya. Amanzi ayefunxwa emadamini nasemilanjeni.

Umsi otsarhayo wayigquma yonke indlu apha efama. USakhi noPopi baziqhuba ngobukrothi iigusha bazisa emadlelweni.



Uphi u-Oska

Uvelem no-Anamariya babalekiselwa kwifama ekufuphi ukuze bakhuseleke. Lathi lakuphuma ilanga utata wabo weza kubaphuthuma. Wayemnyama tshu ebusweni ihempe yakhe inemigxunya amehlo ebomvu krwe eb-onakala ukuba udiniwe, kodwa enoncumo.

“Ifama isindile,” watsho utata. “Sifumene uncedo olungathethekiyo.”

“Naye usindile” watsho utata. “Ndiyacinga ukuba uyihagu engunogada olungileyo. Singakhe simyeke sinyamezele singabinayo ibheyikhoni.”

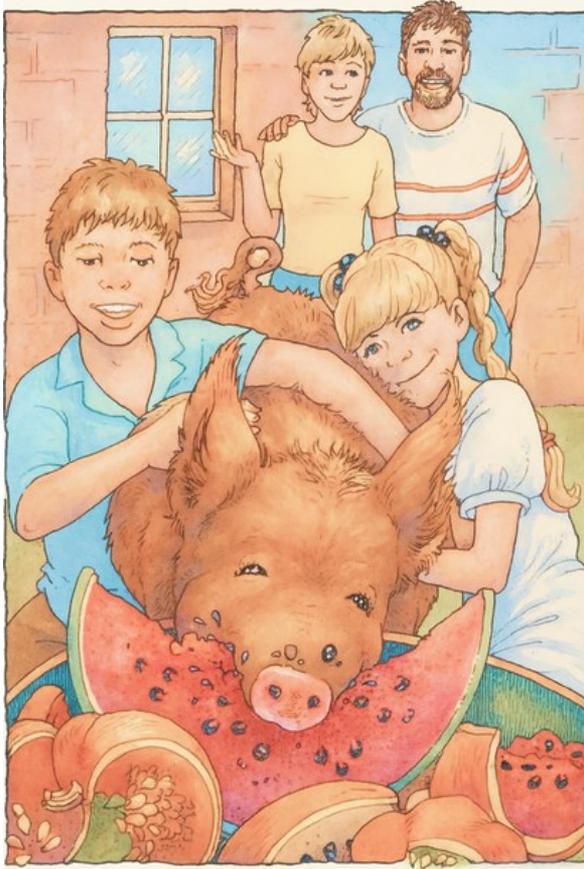
Uvelem no-Anamariya baziphosa kwezongalo zimdaka zikayise benemincili “U-Oska usindile, u-Oska usindile.”



Lixesha lokubhiyoza

Emva kokuba ifama icociwe benza itheko elikhulu ngosuku olulandelayo.

Yayininzi into ekwakufuneka ibulelwe. U-Oska waphiwa i-emele ezele ngamathanga nevatala ayithanda kakhulu. Eli bali lilo elabangela ukuba kulefama yase Deep River kubekho ihagu engunogada.



*Le ncwadi iphuhlisa uthando, ubulungisa nentlonipho ebomioni
ngokusebenzisa ukuFunda, ukuThetha nokuBhala kulungiselelwa
abafundi bamaBanga aPhantsi.*



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