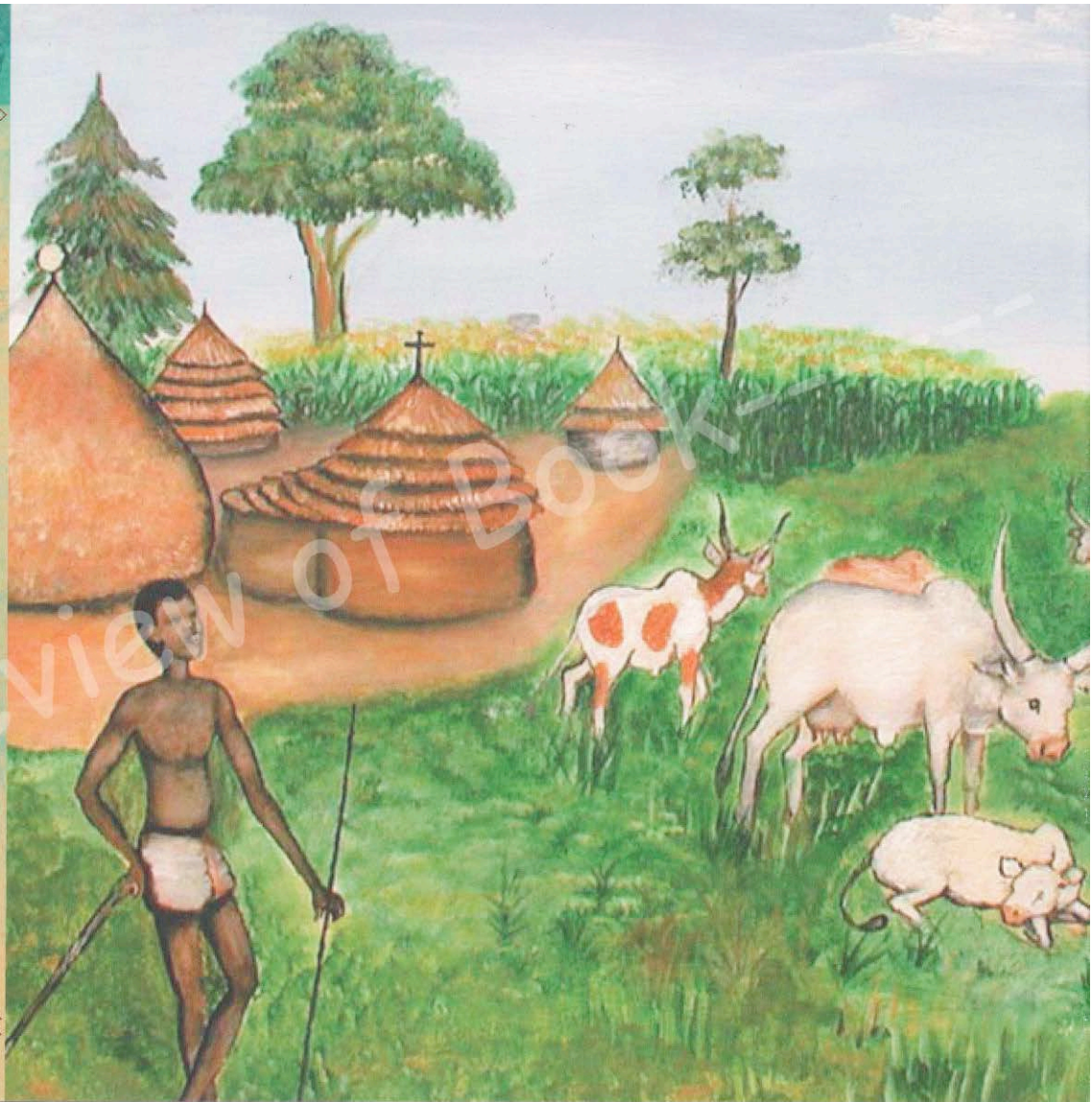
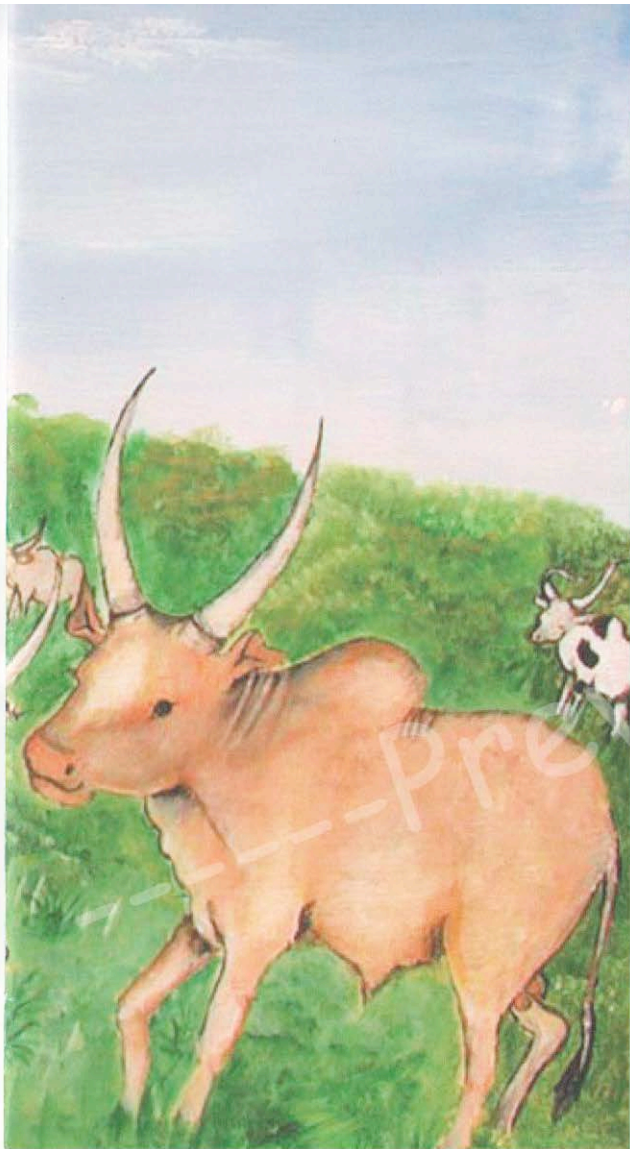


EVERYONE

in my village belongs to the Dinka tribe, one of the largest tribes in Sudan. We have very dark skin and we are usually tall and thin.

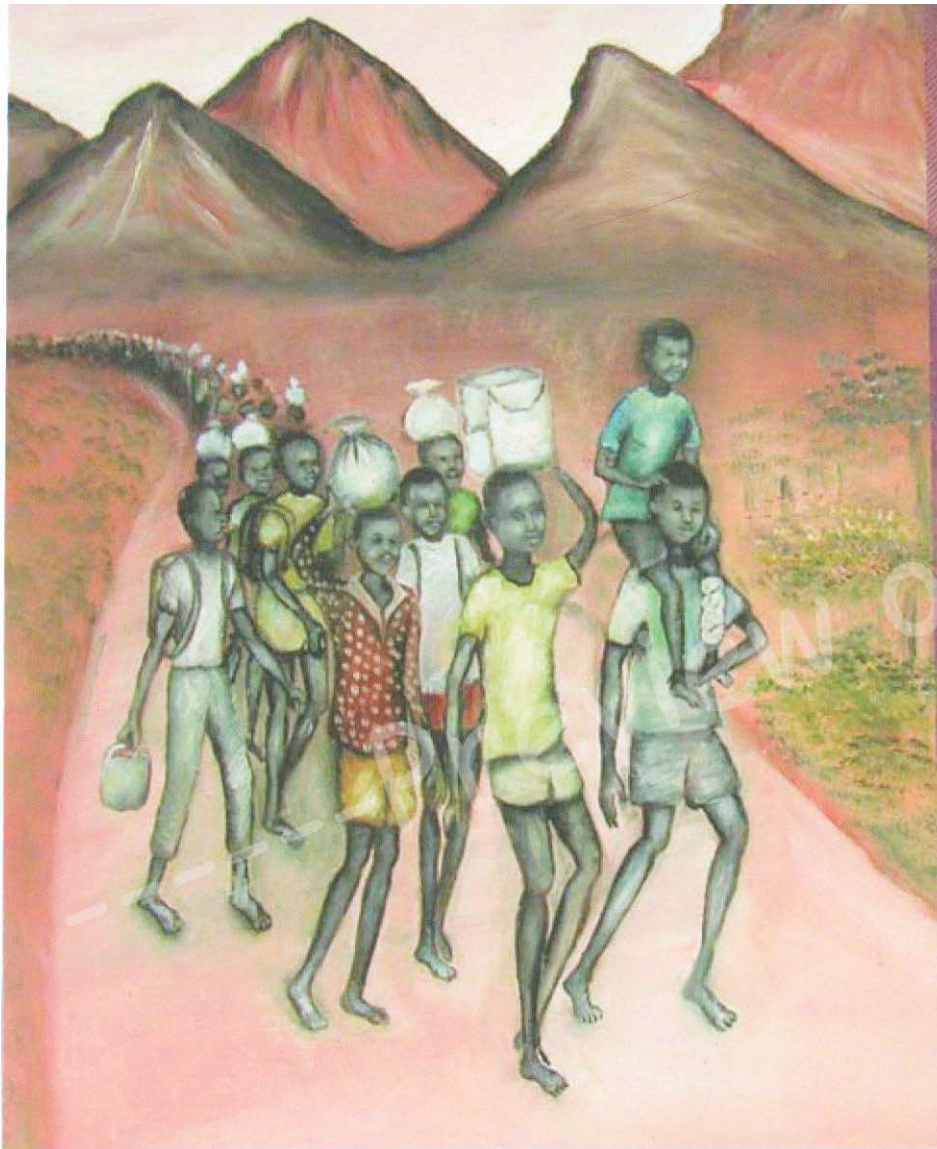
We are peaceful people, but we are also skillful hunters. When I was six, my father taught me how to hunt deer and antelope using a spear. If I was successful, I brought the animal home to my mother. She cooked the meat over the fire and served it for dinner.





In my homeland, there is no money or gold. Instead, a man measures his wealth by the number of cattle that his family owns. My father owned about 100 cows and, as a young boy, I took care of them. It was a great responsibility and I was proud to watch over them. During the spring, we kept our cows in a "luak" (barn) outside the village. Each day I checked on them to make sure that they were safe.

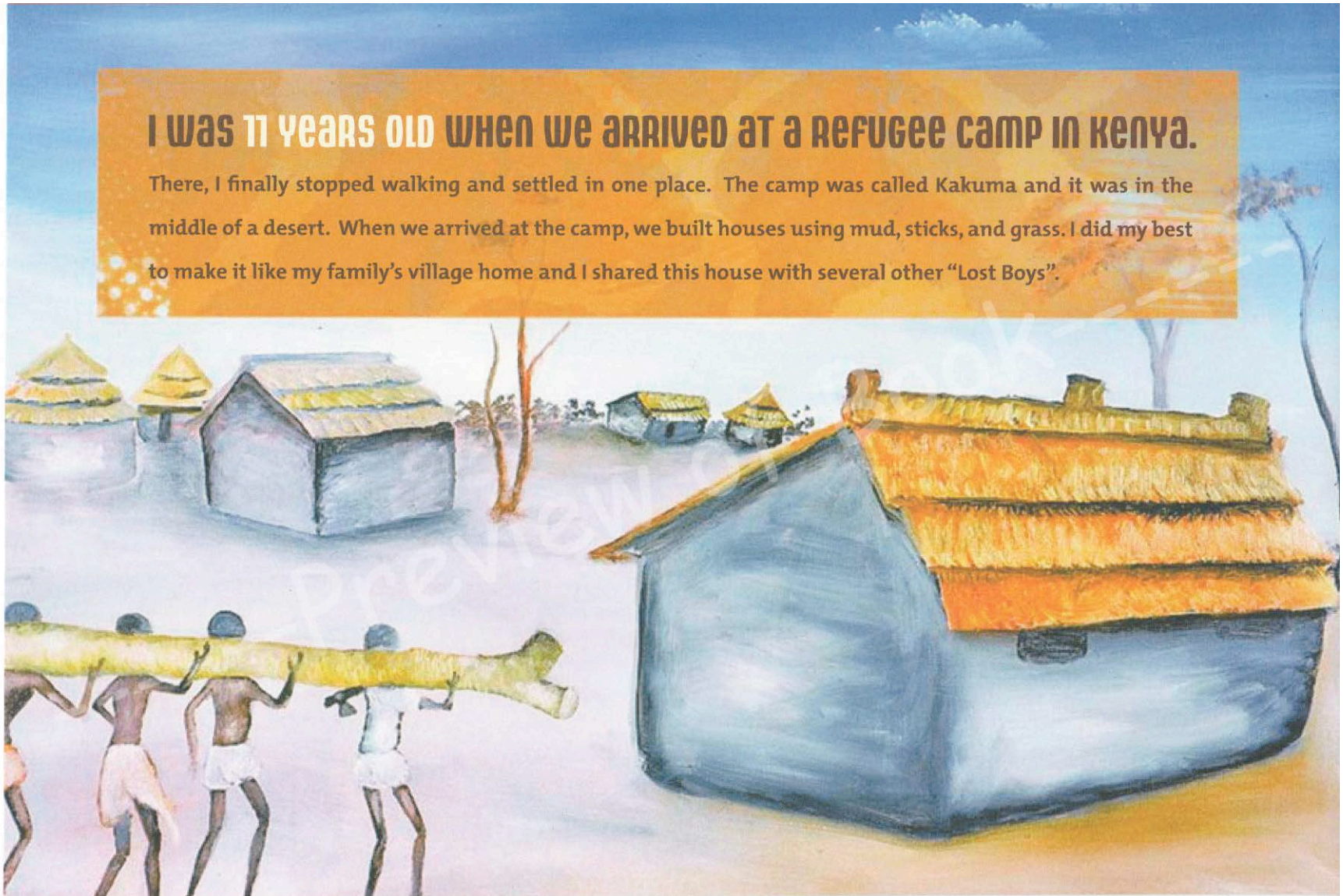
When our village grass died during the dry season, I moved my family's cows closer to the river where there was green grass for grazing. My parents remained in the village to care for their crops and their other children.

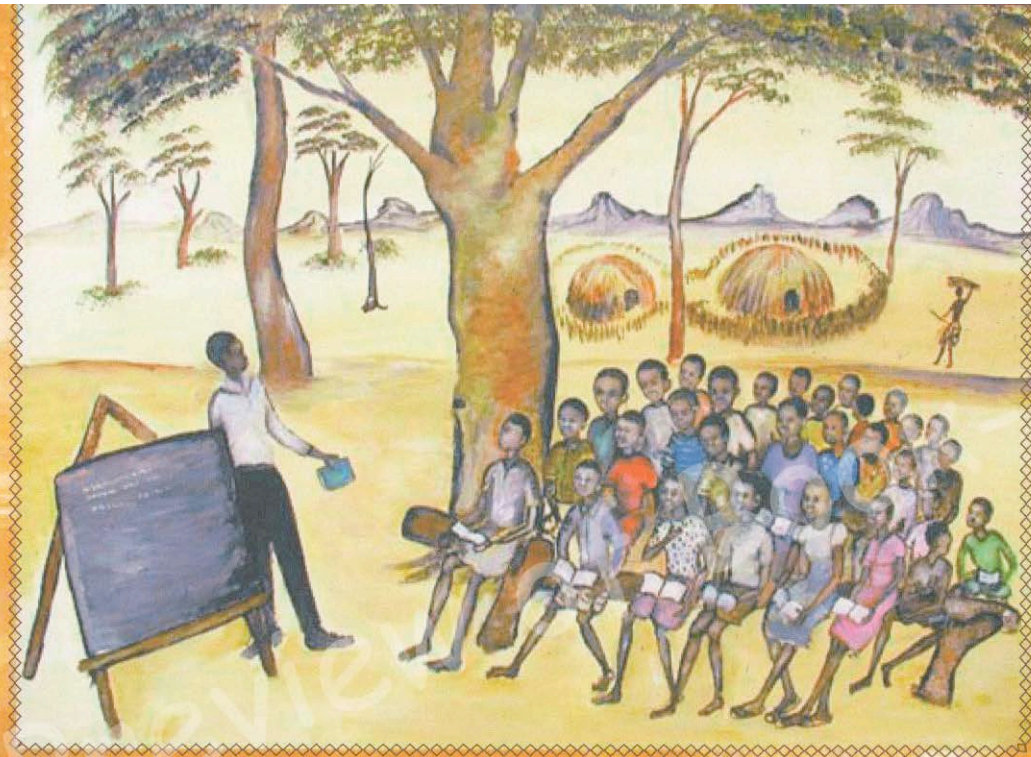


IN THE MORNING,
a leader from my village
gathered together all the
boys that were hiding in the
grass. **ENEMY SOLDIERS HAD**
TAKEN CONTROL OF OUR area,
and it was not safe to return
to my home and family.

I WAS 11 YEARS OLD WHEN WE ARRIVED AT A REFUGEE CAMP IN KENYA.

There, I finally stopped walking and settled in one place. The camp was called Kakuma and it was in the middle of a desert. When we arrived at the camp, we built houses using mud, sticks, and grass. I did my best to make it like my family's village home and I shared this house with several other "Lost Boys".





While at the camp, I attended school and learned to speak and read English. Although the camp was safe from enemies and wild animals, we had other problems. There was not enough food to feed the 70,000 African refugees living there. Each month, my food ration of corn and beans got smaller and there were many days when I ate nothing. Worse than that, I missed my family and familiar way of life terribly.