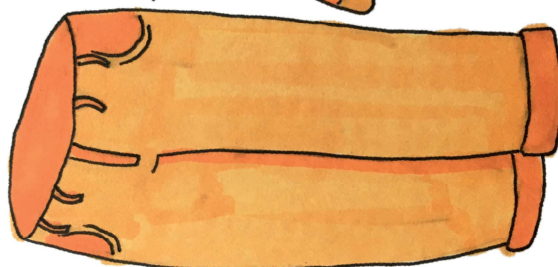
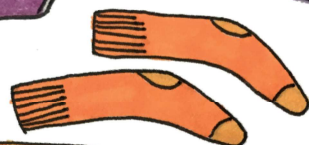


THE RAINBOW CHILDREN



Cut out each of these characters and paste them onto a toilet roll inner to help them stand upright.



There were one day three children called Bongi, Robert and Yolani. They were all 4 years old and were the best of friends.

Bongi was tall and thin and she loved blue. Whenever she got new shoes, she was always sure that no other colour would do, but blue. If she got a new jersey, why it had to be blue too of course.

One day her mother bought her new shoes and a lovely new warm jersey. There were no blue shoes in the shops or any blue jerseys to be had, and her mother bought her purple ones instead. Bongi's eyes filled up with tears. Bongi felt so sad. She sighed and said softly as the tears ran down her cheeks, *"Only blue will do, for my jerseys or my shoes"*. She didn't even mind not having new ones, as the old ones were blue!

Robert was short and strong and he loved red. Whenever he got new trousers, he made sure that they were red. If he got new socks, why they had to be red too of course. One day his daddy bought him a surprise, some new socks and a smart pair of trousers. But the shops did not have any more red socks and his daddy forgot to choose red trousers for him, he bought orange ones instead. Robert felt cross, he stamped his feet and shouted angrily, *"I've said and I've said, I ONLY like red"*. He preferred to make do with the old ones, a bit grumpily I have to say, because although they were not new, they were red!

Yolani was always on the move, dancing and skipping as happy as can be. She loved yellow. Whenever she got a new dress or a new t-shirt she always liked them to be yellow. One day her Gogo came back from the shop with a package for Yolani, inside was a new dress and a new T-shirt, but they were not yellow, they were green instead. Yolani skipped off without even trying them on. She flicked her long braids and said, *"Yellow, yellow yellow will only do for me, I am as happy as the yellow sun don't you see."* She danced off in her old yellow clothes, because they were yellow and left the new ones lying on the chair.

Bongi's mother, Robert's daddy and Yolani's Gogo, were very upset indeed. They decided to go to, Lumko, the old wise woman who lived around the corner, she would surely know what to do. They polished their shoes, they brushed their hair and

they made some bread as a present for Lumko.

Lumko invited them into her house. She thanked them for the bread. They all sat down and she heard how Bongi only liked blue and so did not even want to put on her new purple socks and jersey. She was crying and crying so sadly because they were not blue. They told Lumko how Robert was stamping and shouting so angrily because his new clothes were orange and not red. And they told her how Yolani had not even tried on her new green clothes but had gone skipping off because they were not yellow.

Lumko smiled and said that the three children should come to her house the very next day, as she had some special magic to show them. She assured Bongi's mother, Robert's daddy and Yolani's Gogo that the children would wear their new clothes after she had shown them the magic.

THE RAINBOW CHILDREN

by Kathy Abbott

The next day the three friends went to Lumko's house. Bongi was a little shy, Robert said that he was scared of no-one, and Yolani skipped happily along singing to herself. They were curious as to what Lumko's magic was.

They knocked at Lumko's door. She invited them in and gave Bongi a blue stone, she gave Robert a red one and a yellow one to Yolani. The children were happy to each have a stone in their favourite colours but wondered where the magic was. Lumko asked the children to crush the stones until they were powder and then bring the powder back to her. When the stones were well crushed the children brought them back to Lumko.

On her table Lumko had put 6 jars of clear, clean water. She asked the children to watch closely for the magic to begin. She put a little red powder in the first jar and a little more in the second jar, then she asked Yolani for her yellow powder she put a little yellow into another jar and a tiny bit into the jar of Robert's red stone powder. She stirred it and stirred it and suddenly... there was ORANGE!

Then Lumko mixed some of Yolani's yellow stone powder with some of Bongi's blue powder in the

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