**L470S12.T05 Text 05**

**The Tale of the Tree**

1. Once in Africa, a drought hit the land,
2. and the animals searched far and wide for food.
3. They came upon a magnificent tree they had never before seen,
4. teeming with fruit. After learning that the tree belonged to a chief who lived by the sea, the animals decided to ask permission to eat the fruit.
5. "We'll send the hare," the animals decided. "He's very fast."
6. So the hare sped his way to the sea.  
    "Excuse me, chief," said the hare, "please let us eat your tree's fruit."
7. The chief replied, "Certainly, however, you must state the tree's name, which is Uwungelema, before you can eat the fruit."
8. The hare then thanked the chief.   
    He raced back home.
9. "It is ours!" the hare cried.
10. "All we must do is say the name of the tree, which is..."
11. The hare looked puzzled for a moment.
12. He shook his head,
13. and the other animals gathered close.
14. "What's the name?" they cried.
15. The hare kept trying to say the tree's name,
16. but he could not remember it.
17. "We must send someone else!" the elephant roared.
18. "Let us send the springbok.
19. This time let us send two so they can remind each other of the name."
20. Unfortunately, the springboks were also unable to remember the name of the tree.
21. "Oh no," the animals cried. "What will we do?"
22. Suddenly a little voice called, "I will go."
23. Everyone turned to look down at the tortoise.
24. They began to laugh.
25. "You're far too slow," they chided him.
26. "I'll go anyway," said the tortoise.
27. Walking slowly but steadily, eventually he reached the chief.
28. "Thank you," the tortoise said to the chief after he learned the name of the tree.
29. Then he remembered a lesson learned from his mother.
30. To remember something, you must repeat it to yourself.
31. So, as the tortoise trudged home, he said out loud, "Uwungelema, Uwungelema, Uwungelema."
32. Finally he reached the tree.
33. "What is the name?" the animals cried.
34. They were faint from hunger.
35. The tortoise said, "Uwungelema,"
36. and the fruit fell from the tree.
37. All the animals cheered,
38. and never again did they tease the tortoise for being slow.

http://www.fairy-tale.info/index.php/action\_show\_id\_NTJ8PDwmPj58NTJ8PDwmPj58.html