

# Bimwili and the Zimwi

## About the story

This story is similar to many stories in which the main character is trapped (usually inside a sack). In this story the girl is trapped inside a drum and made to sing – until she recognises her own family and is released.

## Getting to know the story well

After sharing the story, use the following activities to embed the story in the children's minds.

### Drama

- Invite the children to role-play the opening scene of the story.

### Art

- Illustrate the story with close observational drawings and paintings of shells.

### Music

- Set the songs to a simple percussive pattern, using drum beats and singing.

### Research

- Find Zanzibar on a map.

### Discuss

- Should the girls have gone back with Bimwili? What message lies behind the story?

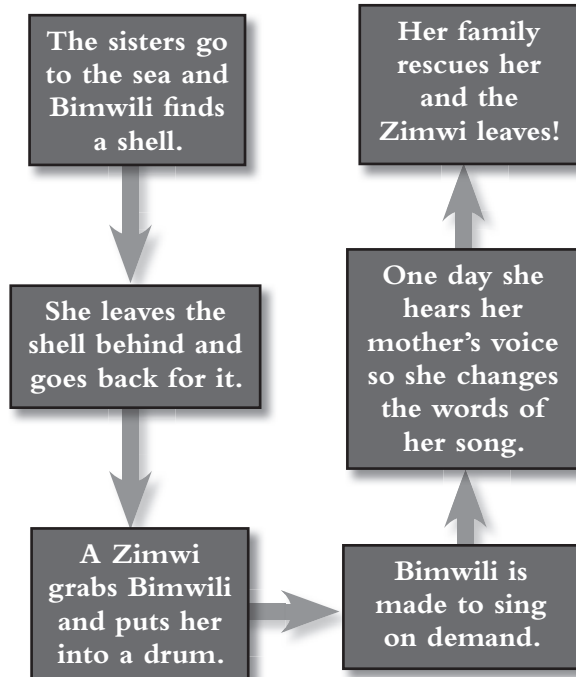
## Retelling the story aloud

- This story is in two parts. The children will need plenty of rehearsal, focusing on the two parts in turn, in order to get their oral retelling fluent.



### Watch it

Watch the video of Jane Grell telling *Bimwili and the Zimwi* on the CD-Rom.



## From telling to writing

- Encourage the children to write down their own version of the story. If they wish, they could change some of the details, such as exchanging the drum for a sack.
- Confident writers could rewrite the story, but set it in a modern circus where someone is made to perform tricks even though they do not want to – ending the story with the main character being reunited with long-lost parents!