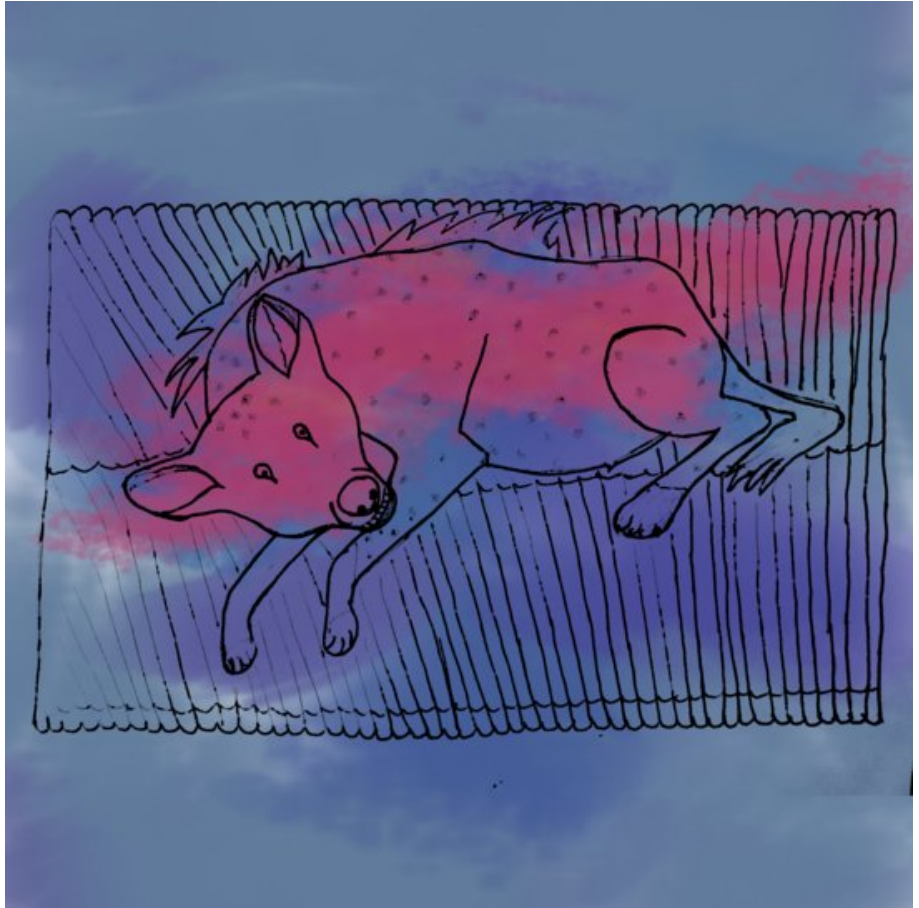
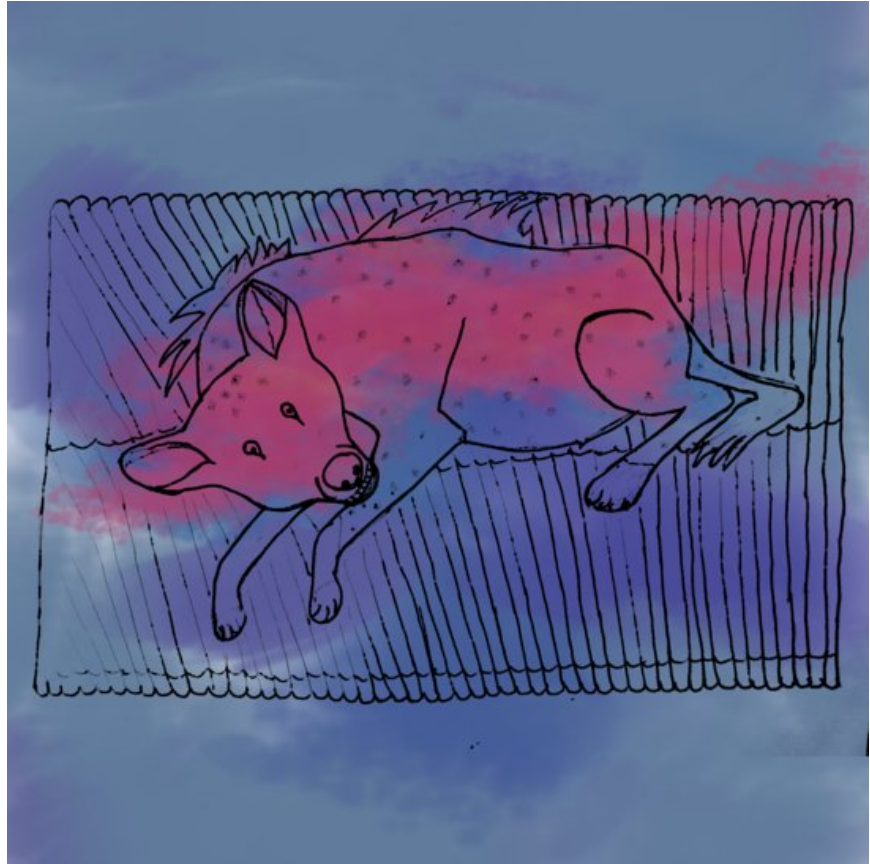


The sick hyena

Mozambican folktale
English



Once upon a time, a long time ago, there was a time of great hunger. A very smart hyena pretended he was so sick he couldn't even go out.



Lots of animals went to visit him in his home to comfort him. But none of them ever came out!



One beautiful afternoon, the rabbit arrived. He thought he would like to visit the hyena too.



He almost went into the hyena's cave. But suddenly he stopped, and saw there were only tracks of animals going in, and none coming out.



So he stayed outside and shouted into it, "How are you? Are you healthy, my best friend? Are you getting better?"



The hyena answered, "Don't worry, my friend. Come in and give me some lovely company!"



“Oh, I'm not sure if I should come in. Really, I don't have time right now, and you have so many visitors . . .”

“No, no, rabbit, everything is alright. There's nobody in here. It's no good for me to stay here all sick and alone.”

"You are lying! I can see the
footprints of animals that have gone
in but haven't come out . . . "



The hyena went quiet and the rabbit said, "Good-bye, my friend, I think I will visit you another day."



And the rabbit ran far away from that place!

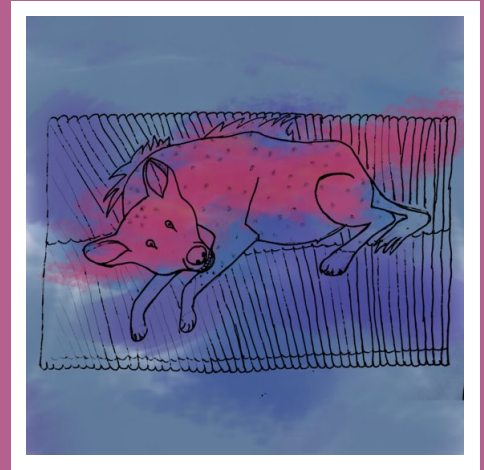


The sick hyena

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Language: English



This story was written down in 2013 by students at Universidade Pedagógica-Maxixe, Mozambique, from their memory of what was told at home, and edited by their English teacher, Ingrid Schechter.

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