

**UCHE'S TOKEN**  
**By Chika Ikogwe**

**CHARACTERS**

MUM

AMARA (ah-ma-ra)                      8-11 years old

UCHE (oo-che)                              8-11 years old

Though AMARA and UCHE are 8-11 years old, they, along with MUM, can be performed by anyone of any age or gender. Please feel free to change pronouns to suit the person playing the character.

*AMARA's bedroom.*

AMARA                    One more!

MUM                      I think that's enough for today.

AMARA                    Please please pleaseeeee?!

MUM                      No more stories tonight, Amara. We've been reading for an hour now. It's time for you to get some sleep.

*AMARA goes to the bookshelf and picks up another book.*

AMARA                    This one? Please, we haven't read this one before!

*MUM smiles.*

MUM                      Okay, alright!

*MUM takes a look at the new book.*

Huh. Haven't I seen this one before... Anyway, last one and then it's bedtime. Okay?

AMARA                    Okay!

MUM                      Once upon a time, in a faraway land, there lived a young warrior princess named Uche. Though Uche was the youngest warrior in her tribe, she was also the bravest. The king praised Uche for her bravery but often reminded her that the key to being a complete warrior was kindness. The closeness between the king and Uche made Uche's brothers very jealous. The king became tired of this squabbling, and one day decided to create a competition to settle once and for all, who was the best warrior. The warriors were ordered to hunt for a special token, and bring it back to the kingdom grounds before the-

*MUM's phone begins to ring in the other room.*

MUM                      Oh I think that's work.

AMARA                    Muuummmm.

MUM                      I know, I know. You stay here, and I'll be right back.

*MUM leaves the room and AMARA continues to flick through the pages of the book.*

*A moment later, there's a quiet rustling from AMARA's wardrobe. AMARA is suspicious, but decides to ignore it.*

*Another moment later, a loud knock comes from the wardrobe. AMARA slowly gets out of her bed, moves towards the wardrobe and when she opens it, UCHE, a young warrior, jumps out.*

AMARA                    Ah!

UCHE                     Ah!

AMARA                    Ah!

UCHE                     Ah!

AMARA                    Who are you?!

UCHE                     Who are you?!

AMARA                    Why are you copying me?!

UCHE                     Why are **you** copying **me**?!

AMARA                    Wait... you look like the girl in the book my mum and I were just reading.

UCHE                     Huh? What book?!

AMARA                    Hang on... How did you get here?

*UCHE begins to roam around the room, looking for the token as she speaks.*

UCHE                     As I was hunting in the forest, I suddenly heard the voice of a woman in the distance, and so I followed it. She must have been the one who opened the portal that lead me directly to your world. I want to win this competition, so when I saw the opening I jumped through.

AMARA                    Portal?

*Beat.*

AMARA                    Oh. Then you must be looking for-

UCHE                     The token? Yes, that's right. Stop stating the obvious.

*UCHE stops searching.*

*Beat.*

Where is it? You have to help me find it.

AMARA I'm not sure, we haven't gotten to that part of the book yet. But I can help you look for-

UCHE The book! Of course! The answer should be in the book.

*UCHE pushes past AMARA, picks up the book from the bed and flicks through the pages.*

UCHE What?!

AMARA What's wrong?

UCHE The pages are empty! There's not a word, or even a picture in here. All is lost!

AMARA How's that even possible?

*UCHE throws the book on the floor and AMARA picks it up, noticing the pages really are missing.*

UCHE All is lost! They're all going to laugh at me!

*UCHE sits on the bed.*

AMARA All isn't lost! And no one's going to laugh at you.

UCHE Oh how would you know? You're just a commoner.

AMARA Because I believe in you. The book said you're the bravest warrior in all the land. Even if you have no manners... at all!

UCHE Manners? What is that?

AMARA For some reason, it doesn't surprise me that you don't know what that is.

UCHE Oh, just get on with it already!

AMARA Okay, I know you're a warrior princess and everything, but when you ask someone for something, you can't just... demand it.

UCHE Why not?

AMARA Because it's not kind! How would you like it if I said 'give me that book right now, or else?'

UCHE Or else? A threat like that would make me consider feeding you to my pet, Obie.

AMARA Who's Obie-  
Actually, I don't even wanna know. And look, okay... I mean, I know who you are because it said so in the book, but you didn't even introduce yourself when you came into my room.

UCHE What's the need for an introduction? I'm looking for the token. I need to prove to those boys that I'm the best warrior the world has ever known!

AMARA What boys?

UCHE My brothers. Goodness, they're so mean, and always tell me that I'm too nice to be a great warrior!

AMARA You're trying to be like them?

UCHE Yes. If that's what I need to do to be the best, then so be it.

AMARA But your father already said you were the bravest warrior in all the land. You don't need to be tough, you just need to be kind-

UCHE Enough talking! You have to help me find the token.

AMARA Well if you ask me nicely, maybe I can help you look for it. A please won't hurt you know.

UCHE ...

*Silence.*

*UCHE reaches her hand out.*

UCHE I'm Uche.

AMARA Nice to meet you. I'm Amara.

UCHE Hello Amara. I'm sorry for not using my manners.

AMARA That's okay!

*UCHE takes a deep breath, as she's finding it really difficult to get this out.*

UCHE                      Would you be so kind as to help me look for the token?

AMARA                    Yes, of course I can.

*AMARA and UCHE search all over the room for the token. They look under the bed, inside the desk drawers and between the books on the bookshelf. This goes on for some time.*

AMARA                    Can you please pass me that torch on the table? I think there's something under the bed.

UCHE                      Of course I can!

*UCHE passes the torch.*

AMARA                    Thank you!

*AMARA searches under her bed. She pulls out a hairy sock.*

AMARA                    Nope, false alarm.

UCHE                      I think there's something over here, on top of your desk! May I take a closer look?

AMARA                    You may!

*UCHE takes a closer look at the item on the desk, and notices it's not the token, it's just a coin.*

UCHE                      What do you use this for?

AMARA                    It's money. We use it to buy things!

UCHE                      Can you buy manners?

*UCHE and AMARA burst into laughter.*

*After they've settled down*

UCHE                      Hey Amara, I'm really sorry for being so rude to you before.

AMARA                    That's okay.

UCHE                      Why are you being so nice to me after I was so awful to you?

AMARA                    Because kindness is about helping each other out. No matter how other people treat you-

UCHE                     -you should always be kind.

AMARA                    Exactly!

UCHE                     Oh. I understand!

*A sheet of paper falls from the sky. (Maybe a big person has dropped it while UCHE and AMARA weren't looking.)*

*UCHE picks it up and reads it.*

UCHE                     “Uche, by now you’ve discovered the last token lives in you. Being a great warrior isn’t just about being brave, it’s also about being kind. Now that you’ve completed your journey, it’s time for you to come home.”

*UCHE and AMARA look at each other, then hug in celebration.*

AMARA                    It was nice to meet you Uche.

UCHE                     It was nice to meet you too. Thank you very much Princess Amara. You have helped me a lot and I will never forget. Truly, thank you.

AMARA                    You’re welcome!

*UCHE goes back home through the wardrobe. A moment later, MUM enters.*

MUM                      Sorry about that darling. Had to sort out some work stuff.

AMARA                    That’s okay!

*AMARA picks up the book, quickly flicks through the remaining pages in the book.*

AMARA                    Yes, the pages are back!

MUM                      Huh?

AMARA                    Oh, nothing!

*AMARA crawls into bed and passes the book to her mum.*

Here you go!

MUM                      Why thank you. Okay, where were we?

AMARA                    The part where the king tells Uche that she has to hunt for the special token that really lived in her all along-

MUM                      Hey, no spoilers! I know I was gone for a few minutes, but can we please finish it together?

AMARA                    We sure can!

*As MUM reads the rest of the book, AMARA falls asleep. Mum tucks her in, turns the light off and exits the room.*

*End.*