

NALIBALI

Indlela yokukhuthaza abantwana abangakuthandiko ukufunda

How to encourage reluctant readers

Abanye abantwana bayakghona ukuhlaliseka isikhathi eside balalele indatjana ngaphambi kobana bayokulala, ekubeni abanye abahlaliseki. Abanye bathanda incwadi msinya, abanye batlhoga ukukhuthazwa. Lokhu kujayelekile. Omunye nomunye umntwana uhlukile, nalokho abakuthabelako kuzokuhluka njengombana bakhula.

Some children are able to sit still for a long bedtime story, while others get restless. Some children take to books immediately, and others need more encouragement. This is entirely normal. Each child is different, and what they enjoy changes vastly as they grow older.

Kubayini bangafuni ukufunda?

Kesinye isikhathi abantu bacabanga bona abantwana "abangafuni ukufunda" ngaso soke isikhathi ngilabo "abangakghoni ukufunda" – okungasiliqiniso nakancani.

- Abantwana abangafuni ukufunda bahlakaniphile, begodu akhenge bahlangane neencwadi.
- Kungenzeka akhenge bakhule ngesiko lokufunda.
- Mhlamunye akhenge babe neencwadi zokufunda ezikhambelana nalokho abangikho.
- Namkha bezingekho iindatjana ngelimi labo.

Why don't they want to read?

People sometimes think that a "reluctant reader" is always a "less able reader" – which can't be further from the truth.

- Reluctant readers are often bright children who have never connected with books.
- Maybe they haven't grown up in a reading culture.
- Perhaps they never had reading materials that were meaningful to them.
- Or there were no stories available in their mother tongue.

Khuyini ongayenza bona bakuthabele ukufunda?

- Dzimelela kokuhle abakwenzako ingasi eemphosweni zabo**
Kabanye abantwana kusitijhijilo ukufunda, yeke angekhe bakhethe ukufundela ukuzithabisa. Okuhle khulu ongakwenza kulinga ukwenza ukufunda kuthabise! Batholele indatjana namkha ikhomiki abayithandako namkha uzenzele yakho. Ungakateleli abantwabakho bona bafunde iincwadi abangafuni ukuzifunda. Ukufunda kufuze kuthabise, kube mnandi begodu kubatjhaphulule abantwana!
- Bethule emazikweni weencwadi ezengeziweko**
Vakatiyhela ebulungelweni leencwadi namkha eentolo ezithengisa iincwadi, begodu uvumele abantwana bakhethe iincwadi abafuna ukuzifunda. Ukufunda okuthileko kungcono kunokungafundi litho, yeke ungatshwenyeki abantwana nabakhetha iincwadi eziludlana kuneminyakabo, namkha ezikhuluma ngezinto ezingakaqakatheki.
- Yenza ukufunda kukhambisane nalokho abangikho**
Batlolele abantwana bakho. Batjhiyele imittolo, iinkondlo, namkha iindatjana ezifitjhani ubafakele zona esikhafuthinini namkha esikhwameni sesikolo. Wathoma wenza ukufunda kwabakghwatha ekhaya, abantwana bazokuthanda khulu ukufunda.

How can you get them excited about reading?

- Focus on their strengths, not their weakness**
Some children find reading challenging, so it's less likely that they will choose to read for pleasure. The best thing is to try to bring back the enjoyment of reading. Find a story or comic that they like or make up a story for them! Do not force your children to read books that they don't want to read. Reading should be an interesting, relaxing and fun activity for children!
- Bigger exposure**
Visit the library or bookshops and let your children choose books that they want to read. Reading something is better than not reading at all, so don't worry if the books your children choose seem to be too easy for them, or deal with subjects that you think are not important.
- Make it personal**
Write to your children. Leave them little notes, poems or short stories in their lunch box or schoolbag. Once you start making reading and stories a personal activity at home, children will start developing a positive relationship with reading.

Ligotjwa lisesemanzu

Ngitjho nangaphambi kobana bakghone ukufunda, kuneendlela ongathoma ukuzisebenzisa bona wakhe ithando leendatjana eabantwaneni abanomnyaka kuya kemihlanu. Bafundele indatjana, ungaphelile lapho, lingisa indatjana ukhulume nabo ngabalingiswa! Ngalandlela, umntwanakho uzokuthola kumnandi ukucabanga ngendatjana, bese lokho kuthuthukise ingqondo nekghono lakhe lokucabanga.

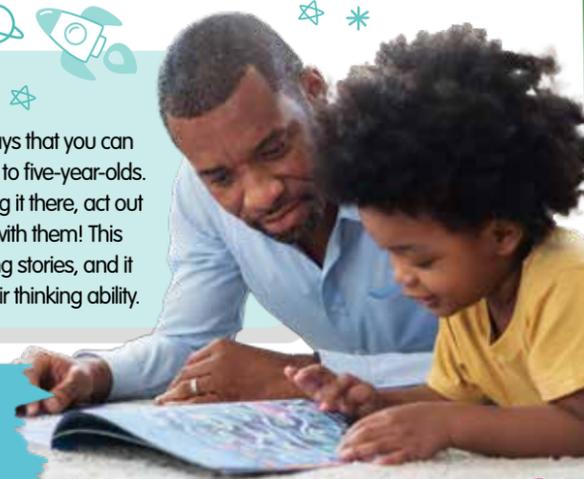
Start early

Even before they can read, there are ways that you can start developing a love of stories in one- to five-year-olds. Read them a story, and instead of ending it there, act out the story and talk about the characters with them! This way, your children can have fun exploring stories, and it develops both their imagination and their thinking ability.

Qala ikhasi 4 malungana nemibono yokwenza umndenakho uhlele ufunda!



See page 4 for some ideas to get your family reading regularly!



nalibali

IT STARTS WITH
A STORY.
ITHOMA
NGENDABA

Imbewu Yokufunda Nokutlola!

Ukwenza ubukhwari kukhulisa amandla wabantwana wokucabanga!

Literacy Seeds!

Creative activities help grow children's thinking power!

Babelethi abathandekako nani batlhogomeli babantwana abancani, irhubhululo lamva nje liveze bona ukudweba, ukupenda, ukubumba nezinye izinto ezenziwa ngezandla zingasiza abantwana bona bathuthukise amakghono wabo wokurarulula imiraro. Nabadwebako namkha nabenza ubukhwari, abantwana kufuze bacabange ngokutlola izinto, bacabange ngeendlela ezihlukahlukene zokurarulula imiraro, bathathe neenqunto ezisekelwe kilokho abakubonako nabakuzwisako endaweni abakiyo.

Abantwana kufuze bafunde amakghono wokuhlaziya emkhumbulweni nabazokusebenza kuhle bebazwisise ilwazi abahlangana nalo qobe lilanga. Kufuze basebenzise ikghono labo lukubona, ukuzwa, ukunukelela, ukuthinta nokunambitha bona bakghone ukuzwisisa nokuhlathulula loke ilwazeli.

Dear parents and caregivers of young children, recent studies have shown that drawing, painting, making models and other creative activities can help children to develop problem-solving skills. When doing art and crafts, children need to think creatively, think about different ways of solving problems, and make decisions based on what they see and understand in their environment.

Children need to develop critical thinking skills to work through and understand all the information that they come across every day. They have to use their different senses to understand and interpret all this information.

Ukudweba, ukupenda, nokubumba kusiza abantwana ekwakheni naka amakghono alandelako:

1. Ukusebenzisa imisipha yezandla.

Ukusebenzisa amakhrayoni, amabratjihi wokupenda nokubumba kudasiza basebenzise imisipha yezandla zabo. Lokho kudasiza nabatlolako, nabasebenzisa amathulusi kuhle neminye imisebenzi etlhoga ukutijhejisisa ezintweni ezincani.

2. Ukuthuthukisa ukucabanga.

Ubukhwari bungasiza abantwana babone bebakope ukubumbeka namaphethini wezinto. Godu bafunda bona nawenza okuthileko kuzokuba nomphumela othileko, ngokwesibonelo, ukhlanganisa ipende ebovu netjheli kuphuma ipende e-orentji. Bafunda ukhlehla nokusebenzisa izinto abanazo (ipende, ibumba, iphepha, amakhrayoni) ukwenza ubukhwari, bahlathulule nalokho abakubonako endaweni ebabhodileko nabadweba abantu, iinlwana nezinto.

3. Iimbalo.

Abantwana bangafunda, batlame bebakghone ukuzwisisa ukubumbeka nobukhulu bento. Bafunda ukubala, ukumadanisa izinto ezihlukahlukene, nokuthi izinto zingabonakala zizincani namkha zizikulu kuye ngokuthi zikude namkha ziseduze kangangani.

4. Ukukhuluma ilimi.

Abantwana nabakulalelako nawuveza umbono, ubuza namkha ukhuluma ngobukhwari nendlela ababenze ngayo bafunda ikghono lokukhuluma bakhulise nebuthelelo lamagama.

Drawing, painting and clay modelling helps children develop these skills:

1. Fine motor skills. Using crayons, paint brushes and moulding clay helps children develop their fine motor muscles. This will help them with writing, using tools correctly and other tasks where they need to use small, controlled movements.

2. Cognitive development. Art can help children see and copy shapes and patterns. They also learn that a particular action has a particular outcome each time, for example, mixing red and yellow paint makes orange paint. They learn to plan how they will use their resources (paint, clay, paper, crayons) to make their artwork, and to interpret what they see in their environment when they draw people, animals and other objects.

3. Math skills. Children can learn, create and begin to understand concepts like size and shape. They learn about counting, about comparing different things, and that things appear bigger or smaller depending on how near or far they are.

4. Language skills. As children listen to your comments and questions and talk about their artwork and how they made it, they develop language skills and increase their vocabulary.

Singakhuthaza abantwana esibathogomelako bona barage nokudweba, ukupenda nobukhwari.

- * Buza imibuzo enqophileko ngobukhwari ababenzileko njengokuthi, "Udwebeni (upendeni namkha wenzeni)?" namkha, "Kubayini ukhethe ukwenza lokhu?"
- * Balalelise njengombana bakhuluma ngabakutlamileko. Lokho kuzokwenza uzwisise okuqakathekileko nokuligugu ebantwaneni bakho. Begodu kulithuba elihle kwamambala lokutijhidelana nabo.
- * Beka ubukhwari babo endaweni ebonakala lula lapha bungekhe busilaphale namkha buphuke lula khona.

We can encourage children in our care to continue drawing, painting and doing crafts.

- * Ask specific questions about their artwork like, "What did you draw (or paint or make)?" or "Why did you choose to make that?"
- * Listen carefully as they talk about what they have created. This will help you to understand what is important and meaningful to your children. It is also a lovely opportunity to connect with them.
- * Display their work where it can easily be seen and won't get dirty or broken easily.



Iindlela zokwenza ubukghwari ezilula ebantwaneni abancani

- 1. Ukudweba ngamathunjana wokusela** Sebenzisa amathunjana wokusela utjhebe ngawo ependeni bese ufafaza ephepheni bese ufufuthela ngazo ipende khona izokuphadlhalala ephepheni.
- 2. Ukudweba ngomuno** Yenza ipende engabiziko, edlekako ngombana abantwaba abancani bayathanda ukufaka izinto ngemilonyenabo! Pheka iflawa namanzi emlilweni ongavuthi khulu. Rura koke lokho ukwenze into enamathelako. Ipholise bese uyinamathelisa emakomijhini amanengi owatlhogako. Bese uthole imibala edaya ukudla ukuze wenze amapende wemibala ehlukehlukeneko.
- 3. Umbuthelelo wemibala** Yenza umdwebo obuthelela imibala ngokusebenzisa umbala munye. Abantwana bakho bangathola umbala loyo emaphephandabeni amadala nakibomagazini. Bese basika namkha badabule iinquntwana zazo ezinombala ofanako bazinamathelise ephepheni linye.
- 4. Ukugadangisa ngezambana namkha ngesipontji** Sika amazambana phakathi bese usika amaphethini alula namkha usike iimbumbeko eemponjini ezidala. Bese abantwana bakho abatjhebe amazambana lawo namkha iimponjjezo ethreyini enepende bese bazigadangise ephepheni. Bangagadangisa ngamakari. Buthelela amakari abumbeke ngeendlela ezingafaniko. Abantwana abapende amakari la bese bayawaphendula bawagadangise ephepheni.
- 5. Isithombe sesibumbeko sezinto** Sika iimbumbeko ephepheni elinombala bese ubumba isithombe.

Vumela abantwabakho benze zabo iinthombe. Banikele amakhrayoni bona bafakelele izinto eembumbekweni zeenthombe zabo.



Easy art activities for young children

- 1. Straw painting** Use a drinking straw to pick up some paint, and splatter it onto a page or put a drop of paint onto the page and blow through the straw to make the paint spread out.
- 2. Finger painting** Make cheap, edible paint because young children love putting things in their mouths! Cook some flour and water over medium heat. Stir the mixture constantly until it turns into a paste. Let it cool, and scoop the paste into as many cups as you need. Mix food colouring into each cup to make paints of different colours.
- 3. Colour collage** Make a colour collage using only one colour. Your children can find their colour in old newspapers and magazines. They then cut or tear out the colour pieces and paste the bits of paper on a sheet of paper.
- 4. Potato or sponge printing** Cut potatoes in half and cut some simple patterns into them or cut shapes from old sponges. Your children can then dip the potatoes or sponges into a tray of paint and print them onto paper. They can also make leaf prints. Collect leaves of different shapes. The children paint the leaves on one side then turn them over and print them onto paper.
- 5. Shape picture** Cut different shapes out of coloured paper and then use the shapes to create a picture. Allow your children to create a picture on their own. Give them crayons so that they can add details to their shape pictures.

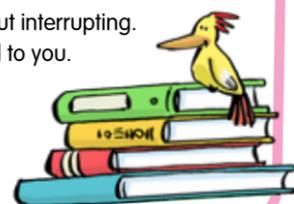


Iindlela ezihlukehlukeneko ongasebenzisa ngazo iindaba zethu

- 1. Cocela umntwanakho indaba.** Funda bewuphrakthise ukucoca indaba. Bese usebenzisa iphimbo lakho, ubuso nomzimba ukwenza indaba ibemnandi.
- 2. Fundela umntwana indaba.** Khuluma ngeenthombe. Mbuze, "Ucabanga ukuthi kwenzekani ngokulandelako?" namkha "Ucabanga ukuthi kubayini umlingiswa atjho lokhu namkha enza lokha?"
- 3. Funda indaba nomntwanakho.** Dlheganani ngokufunda indaba ndawonye. Ungalungisi imitjhapho abayenzako begodu basize kwaphela nange babawa isizo.
- 4. Lalela umntwanakho nakafundako.** Lalela ngaphandle kokuthikazisa. Yitjho bona uyakuthabela ukubezwa bakufundela ngokuzwakalako.
- 5. Yenza izinto ekufuze nizenze engcenyeni ethi Yenza indaba le ibemnandi!** Lokhu kufuze kubemnandi kuwe nemntwanenakho.

How to use our stories in different ways

- 1. Tell the story to your child.** Read and practise telling the story. Then use your voice, face and body to bring the story to life.
- 2. Read the story to your child.** Talk about the pictures. Ask, "What do you think happens next?" or "Why do you think the character said or did that?"
- 3. Read the story with your child.** Take turns to read the story together. Don't correct their mistakes, and only help if they ask for it.
- 4. Listen to your child read.** Listen without interrupting. Say that you enjoy hearing them read aloud to you.
- 5. Do the Get story active! activities.** This should be fun for you and your child.



Inyanga kaMrhayili yiNyanga yokuBanjwa uFunda

May is Get-Caught-Reading Month!



Ngenyanga kaMrhayili sinamalanga ama-31 wokukhumbuza abantu babo boke ubudala bona kumnandi kangangani ukufunda! Naka amanye amano wendlela ongangenwa mumoya weNyanga yokuBanjwa uFunda urhatjhe ummoya lo wobumnandi ekhaya.

In May, we have 31 days to remind people of all ages just how much fun it is to read! Here are some ideas on how you can get into the spirit of **Get-Caught-Reading Month** and start spreading the joy of reading at home.



1. Fundani iincwadi zamakhomiki ninoke

Iincwadi zamakhomiki ziyindlela ehle khulu yokukhuthaza ngitjho nomuntu ongakuthandiko ukufunda bona afunde. Kumnandi ukufundela phezulu iincwadezi namanoveli aneenthombe nindawonye, khulukhulu nanidlhegana nisebenzise amaphimbo ahlukileko kubalingiswa abahlukileko.

2. Yenza ihlelo leencwadi, abomagazini, iindatjana neenhloko eningazifunda

Yenzani irhelo njengomndenani lalokho ngamunye wenu angathanda ukufunda ngoMrhayili. Yeke, buthelelani zoke iincwadi eningazifunda ekhaya. Ngaleyondlela, ilunga ngalinye lomndenani lingathola lokho elifuna ukufunda msinya nabulula.

3. Lisani koke nifunde

Bekelani isikhathi eqadi qobe lilanga lapho woke amalunga womndenani azokulisa akwenzako, athathe incwadi namkha indatjana, afunde! Bandakanyani nabantwana abancani ngokubafundela phezulu khona bazokukhula bathanda ukufunda.

4. Khulumani ngepumelwenu!

Lingani ngakho koke ukutjheja nokugidanga ukufunda kwenu ekhaya. Athokoze amalunga womndenani – amancani namadala – ngokufunda qobe lilanga. Tjhudani iinthombe nizifake ku-WhatsApp. Nizithumele nemathungelelwaneni wethu wezokuthintana wakwa-Nal'ibali.



1. Read comic books together

Comic books are a great way to persuade even the most reluctant of readers to read. Comic books and graphic novels are fun to read aloud together, especially when you take turns and use different voices for different characters.

2. Make a list of books, magazines, stories and articles to read

As a family, make a list of what each one would like to read during May. Then gather all the reading material into one place in your home. That way, each family member can find something that they want to read quickly and easily.

3. Drop everything and read

Set aside a time every day when all family members will stop what they are doing, grab a book or story, and read! Include your young ones by reading aloud to them so that they can grow up with a love of reading.

4. Share your success!

Make a special effort to recognise and celebrate reading in your home. Compliment your family members – young and old – on reading every day. Take photos and post them on your WhatsApp status. And share them with us on any of Nal'ibali's social media sites.



Khulisa ibulungelo lakho leencwadi. Sika iingcenyane EZIMBILI wenze iincwadi

1. Sika amakhasi **5** kuya ku-**12** wesengezelelo.
2. Iphepha elinamakhasi **5**, **6**, **11** no-**12** enza incwadi yinye. Iphepha elinamakhasi **7**, **8**, **9** no-**10** enza enye incwadi.
3. Sebenzisa amaphepha la ukwenza incwadi. Landela iinqophiso ezingenzasi ukwenza incwadi ngayinye.
 - a) Bhinca iphepha libe siquntu emudeni wamaqatjhaza anzima.
 - b) Libhince libe siquntu godu emudeni wamaqatjhaza ahlaza satjani.
 - c) Sika emideni yamaqatjhaza abomvu.



Grow your own library. Create TWO cut-out-and-keep books

1. Take out pages **5** to **12** of this supplement.
2. The sheet with pages **5**, **6**, **11** and **12** on it makes up one book. The sheet with pages **7**, **8**, **9** and **10** on it makes up the other book.
3. Use each of the sheets to make a book. Follow the instructions below to make each book.
 - a) Fold the sheet in half along the black dotted line.
 - b) Fold it in half again along the green dotted line.
 - c) Cut along the red dotted lines.

Muzi has a new idea for building the best thing ever.
 Umuzi uneqhinga elityha lokwakha into ehle ukuzidlula zoke.



At the bus stop, Muzi is amazed.
 He sees red things and blue things.
 Small things and big things.
 New things and old things.

Estobhini seembhesi, uMuzi warareka.
 Wabona izinto ezibomvu nezihlaza komkajji.
 Izinto ezinkulu nezincane!
 Izinto ezitjha nezidala.



The best thing ever



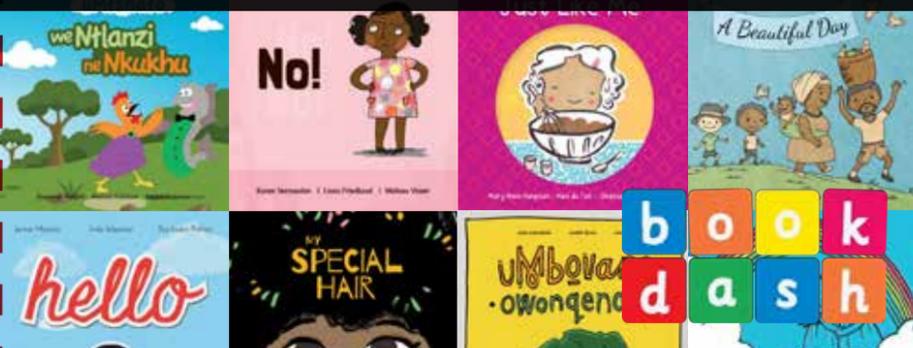
Into ehle ukuzidlula zoke

*Melissa Fagan • Lauren Nel
 Stefania Origgi*

Ideas to talk about: What is your "best thing ever"? Is it something that you will share with others? Look at the cover of this booklet. What do you think the story is about?

Eningacoca ngakho: Khuyini okuyinto yakho "ehle ukuzidlula zoke"? Inga-gghani yinto ongathanda ukwabelana ngayo nabanye? Qala isigubuzeso sencwajana le. Ucabanga ukuthi indaba le imalungana nani?

Lots more free books at bookdash.org



Get story active!

- ★ Draw a picture of something that you would like to build out of throwaway things. Under your drawing, write one or two sentences about what you have made and who you would give it to.
- ★ What are some of the things that Muzi used to build a toy house for uGogo?
- ★ Gather old buttons, beads, recyclable materials, clay or play dough and build your own little house.

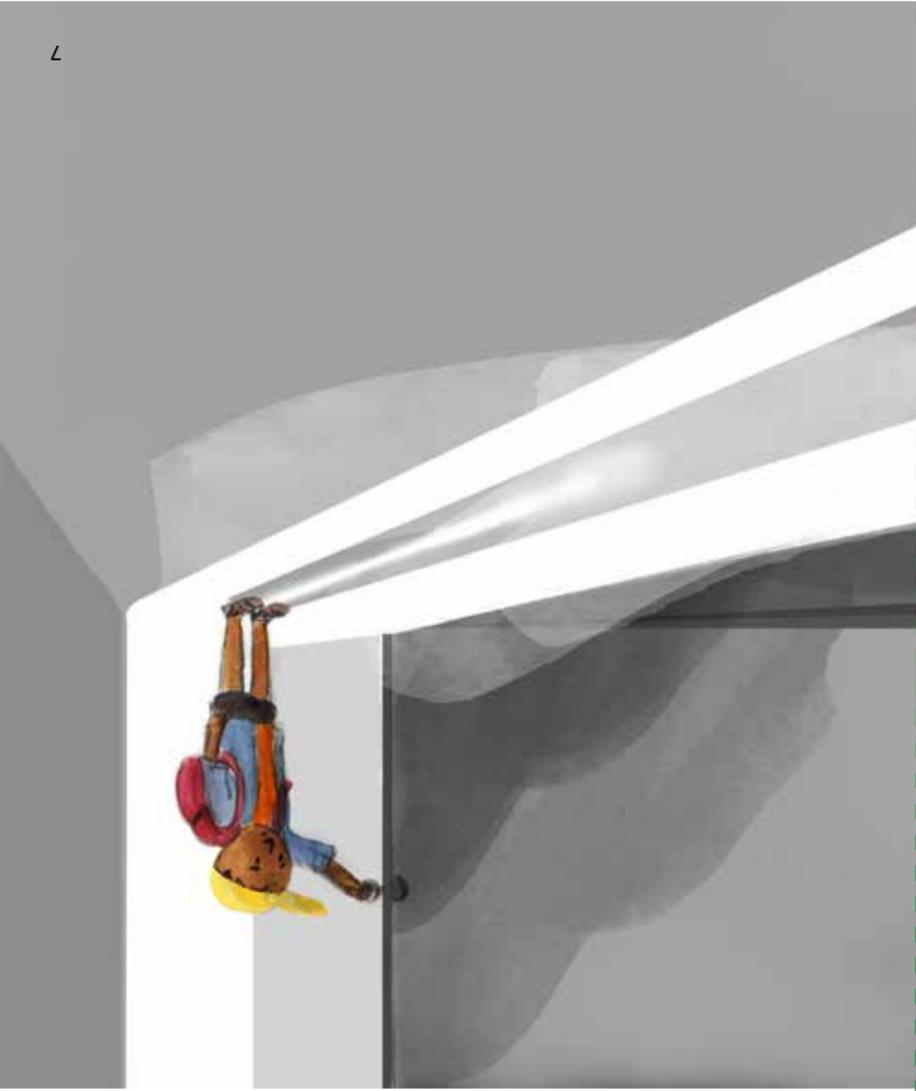
Yenza indatjana ibemnandi!

- ★ Dweba isithombe sento ongathanda ukuyakha ngezinto ezilahliweko. Ngenzasi komdwebo, tlola umutjho munye namkha emibili ngalokho okwakhileko naloyo ozomupha khona.
- ★ Ngiziphi ezinye zezinto uMuzi azisebenzisileko bona akhe indlu eyithoyi kaGogo?
- ★ Buthelela iinkunubhe ezidala, imincamo, izinto ezibuye zisebenziseke, ibumba lamambala namkha lokudlala bona wakhe indlwanakho.

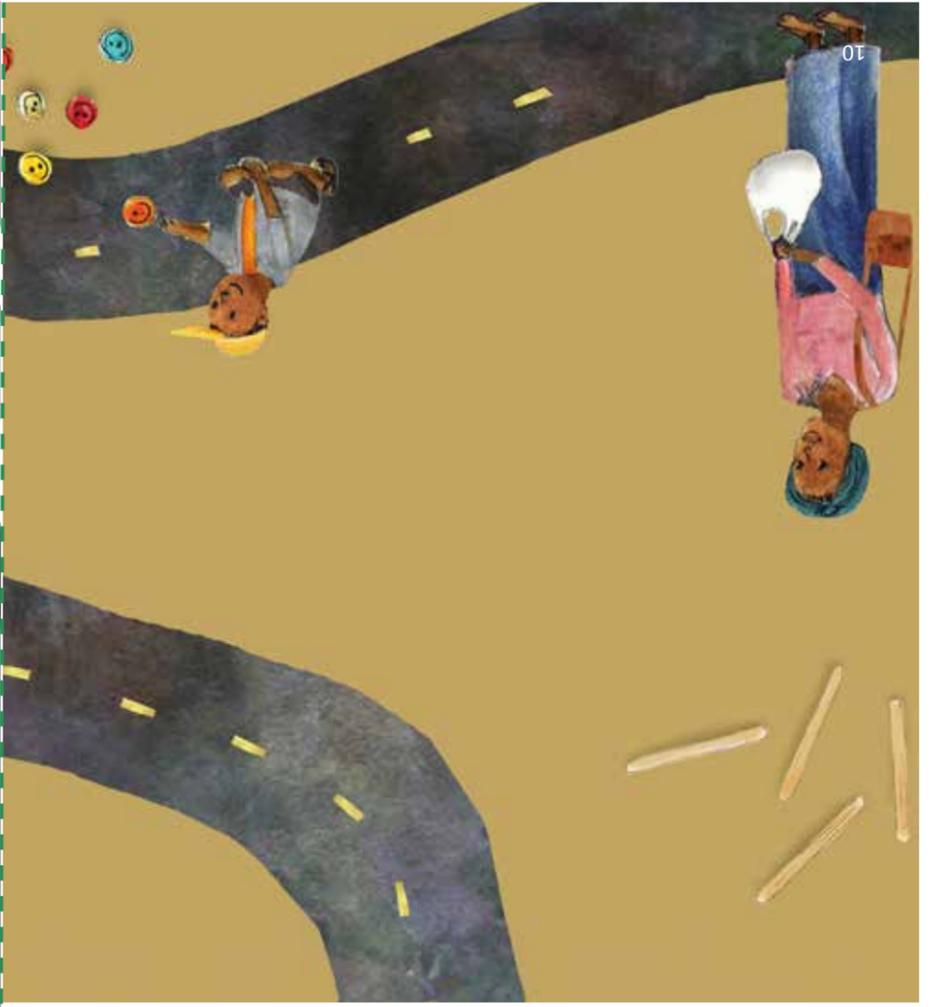
Nal'ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark and embed a culture of reading across South Africa. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org.



INal'ibali lijima lephasi mazombe lokuzithabisa ngokufunda elenzelwe bona livuselele belidzimelelise isiko lokufunda kiyo yoke iSewula Afrika. Bona ufumane imininingwana eyengeziweko, vakatjhela ku-www.nalibali.org.



He is sad. Without his toys, how can he build the best thing ever?
 Udanile. Ngaphandle kwamathoyi wakhe, angayakha njani into ehle ukuzidlula zoke?



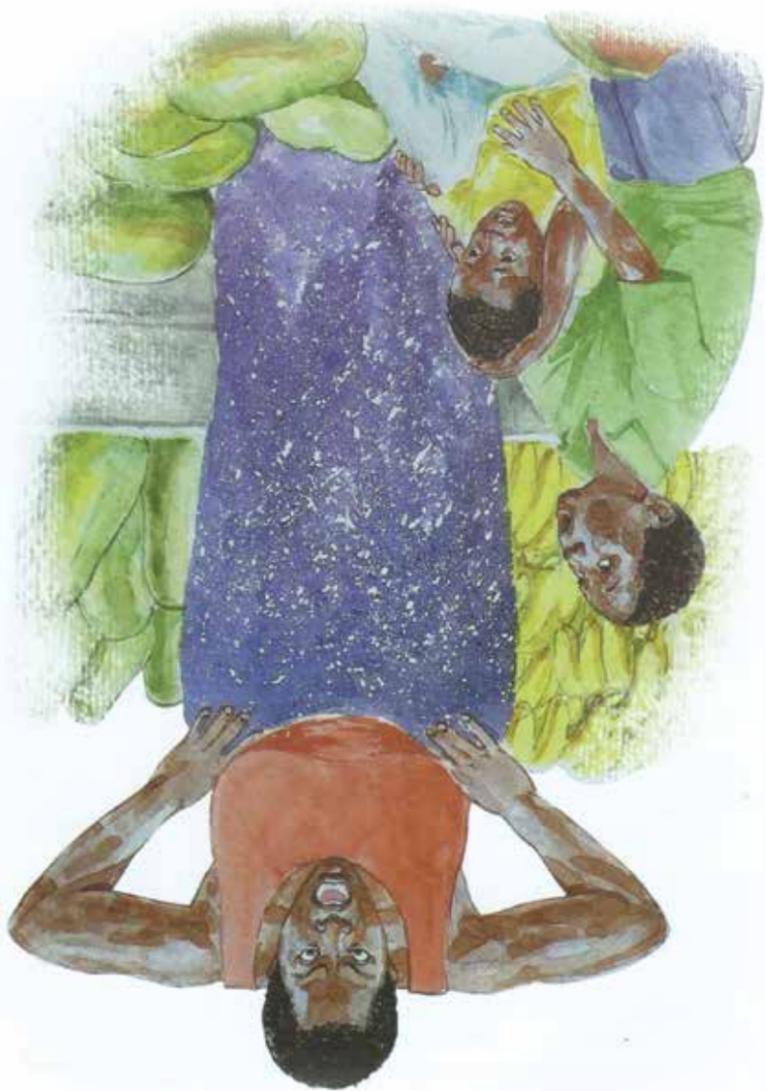
On the road to uGogo's, Muzi finds many things. Long things and short things. Round things and square things.
 Endleleni eya kwaGogo, uMuzi wathola izinto ezinengi: izinto ezide nezifitjhani. Izinto ezirondo nesisikwere.

Muzi loves to build things. He dreams of building the best thing ever.



UMuzi uyakuthanda ukwakha izinto. Uhlala abhudanga ngokwakha into ehle ukuzidlula zoke.





Sezwa kunomuntu osisunduzako ngemva. Sakopaka sayokwela phezu kwamapopo. Amanye wawo apitjika. Bengtshwenyekiile bona uPwai ulimele, kodwana ngathaba nangimbona ahleka. Bekakhotha ipopo esesandleni sakhe. Uma obekasendaweni okuthengischa kiyona amapopo wadlomelela wathethisa uPwai, "Uyazi bona amapopo lawo ayimalini? Nje sewuphize amapopo amabili. Ngifuna imalami nje."

There is a sudden push from behind. We stagger and land on some pawpaws. Now some of them are squashed. I am worried that Pwai might have been hurt, but I am happy to see him laugh. He licks the pawpaw off his hand. The woman at the pawpaw stall suddenly leans over and shouts at Pwai, "Do you know how much money a pawpaw costs? You have squashed two pawpaws. I want my money now."

HEARTLINES
The Centre for Values Promotion



For more information, please email info@heartlines.org.za or phone (011) 771 2540.

Bona ufumane imininingwana eyengeziweko, sibawa usithinte ku-info@heartlines.org.za namkha dosela ku-(011) 771 2540.

Get story active!

- ★ What do you think of the way that the pawpaw seller behaved towards Pasi and Piwai? What else could she have said and/or done when she found that the boys had accidentally squashed the pawpaws?
- ★ Draw a picture of what you think the market looks like.
- ★ Act out what you think might have happened after the story ended. When Pasi and Piwai got home, what do you think their mother said and did?

Yenza indatjana ibemnandi!

- ★ Ucabangani ngendlela umthengisi wamapopo apha the ngayo uPasi noPwai? Bekufuze athini/enzeni nakathola bona abasana bapitjize amapopo wakhe ngephoso?
- ★ Dweba isithombe sendlela ocabanga bona imakethe iqaleka ngayo.
- ★ Lingisa lokho ocabanga bona kwenzekile ngemva kokuphela kwendatjana. Lokha uPasi noPwai nabaya ekhaya, ucabanga bona unina wenzeni begodu utheni?

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The market Superman



USuperman wemakethe

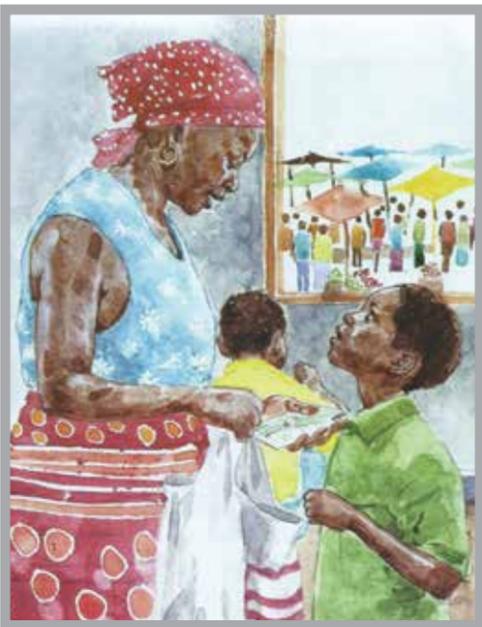
Ignatius Mabasa • Joseph Mugisha

Ideas to talk about: If you could have superpowers, what would you like them to be? Would you use it to benefit people in need or yourself only? What would you do with your superpowers?

Eningacoca ngakho: Nawungaba namandla angaphezu kwawemvelo, ungathanda abe nganjani? Ungawasebenzisa ukusiza abantu abatlhogako namkha ungawasebenzisela wena wedwa? Ungenzani ngamandla lawo?

Sadula indawo ezinengi zokuthengisa newobhu yamagwava, anukako avuthwe tapa. Sabona amathanga, amaphinatsi ajayelekileko narondo. Sabona ama-orenji. Enye indawo yokuthengisa beyinentaba yamakhabithi. Abanye abantu debathengisa imbhontsi ezhlaza neenhulumaya ezhlaza. Kunebhrokholi nebhloomukolo efyila. UMa uhanda ibhloomukolo nayimhlopho kwehamba. Kunabathengisi abathengisa ibibili elibakho. UPwai uyalazi ibibili elibakho ngombana uBaba wakhe wamnikela elinczana bona alinambithe, wakhohlela walila bekwaba kulapho uMa amnikela ibisi. Asikghoni ukukhambisa emakethe. Sisolo sithayisana nabantu. Abanye bayasisunduzwa, abanye babukhali. UPwai mncani, abanye abantu abamboni nokumbona, yeka kufuze ngimvikele. Ngifisa ngathana uMa uzile wazozithengela umgade yena ngokwakhe. Sesiyokufika lapha kuthengiselwa khona imgade. Sengiyayibona intaba ekulu yemigade.

Pwai doesn't understand what is going on. I see tears welling up in his eyes because the woman's angry face is scaring him. I force words out of my dry mouth and say, "I am very sorry, Mama, we got pushed from behind. We did not mean to upset you." "Upset me? No, you did not upset me, you upset my pawpaws. That is what you did!" she shouts. I am scared, but I don't know what else to say. I am not used to such angry adult talk. The woman is red in the face and she is still shouting at Pwai. Pwai is very upset and is sobbing loudly. I have to get away from this angry woman. "I am very sorry, Madam, it was an accident," I say. "Also, will you talk to me and not my brother, he can't hear you because he is deaf." "What next?" she shouts, stamping her foot. "Then she sees the money I am holding, "Boy, is that money in your hand?" She snorts and sniffs like an angry rhino.

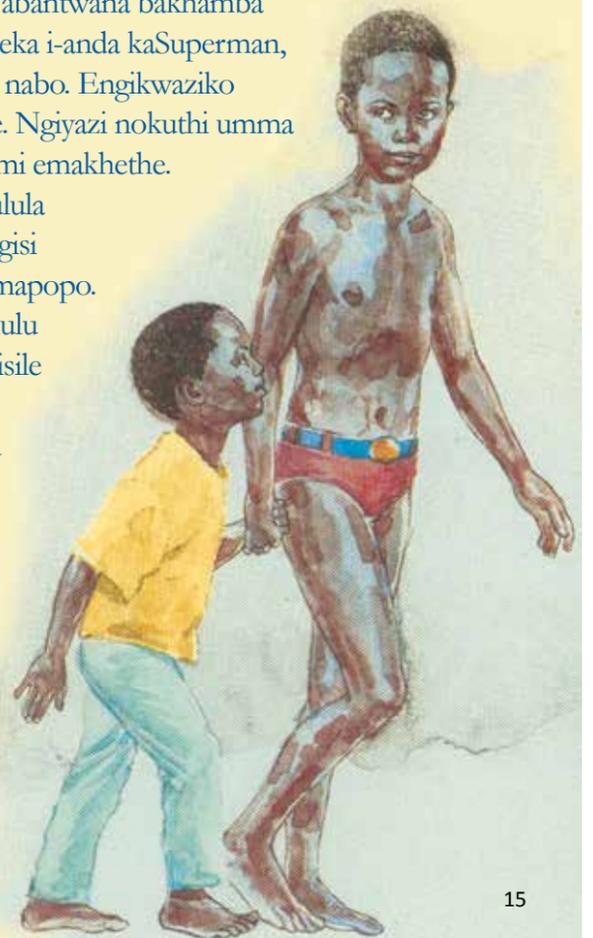


My name is Pasi. I am ten years old and live in Mbare in Zimbabwe. Our house is near the famous big vegetable market. Today we are having visitors and Mother is busy in the kitchen. I can smell the food from where I am playing with Piwai.

"Pasi, my boy, come here," Mother's voice calls from the kitchen. I go to her and she says, "I want you to go to the market and buy me a pumpkin. I want you back in five minutes."

I nod as Mother hands me a bag and some money. I go to fetch my shoes. Piwai follows me and also starts putting on his shoes. Piwai is my brother. He is three years old. Piwai is deaf.

Ngingakacabangi, ngahlubula irhembe msinya, amanyathelo nebhrugu ngamnikela. Wazithatha, nanguya akhambela phezulu. Ngatjinga ekhaya ngibambe uPwai ngesandla. Okusemzimbenami yi-anda kaSuperman ebomvu nokuhlaza komkayi. Abanye abantwana bakhamba hlanu kwami bahleka i-anda kaSuperman, benginganandaba nabo. Engikwaziko kukuthi ngithabile. Ngiyazi nokuthi umma uzokukhamba nami emakethe. Sisoke sizowurarulula umraro womthengisi osilingekileko wamapopo. Okuqakatheke khulu kukuthi ngimsindisile umfowethu. NginguSuperman wemakethe!



UPiwai akazwisisi bona kwenzekani. Ngibona inyenbazi zehla emehlwenakhe ngebanga lokuthi umma lo usilingekile, yake ubuso bakhe buyamthusa. Ngakhupha amezwi emlonyenami owomileko ngathi, “Ungilibalele Mama, sisunduzwe ngenwa. Besingakahlosi ukukusilinga.”

“Ukungisilinga? Anikangisilingi nisilinge amapopo wami. Ngilokho emikwenzileko?” Atho arhuwela.

Ngiyasaba, kodwana angazi bona ngithini. Angikakujayeli ukukhulunyiswa muumuntu omdala osilingekileko. Umma lo ubuso bakhe budomvu, begodu usathethisa uPiwai. UPiwai naye usilingekile sekathoma ukulila khulu. Kufuze ngisuke kumma osilingekileko lo.

“Ungilibalele mama, kube yiphoso,” kutjho mina. “Godu, ngibawa ukhulume nami ingasi umfowethu lo, akakuzwa ngombana akezwa eendlebeni.”

“Khuyini okhunye?” atho angithethisa, abetha nenyawo phasi. Nakathi mehlo suka wabona imali engiyiphetheko. “Masana ndina, akusiyimali leyo oyiphethe ngesandla?” Atho aphctumulela phezu njengobhejani osilingekileko.

We walk past many stalls and heaps of smelly, overripe guavas. We see butternuts, peanuts and round-nuts. We see oranges. Another stall has a mountain of cabbages. Some people are selling green beans and green peas. There is broccoli and dirty cauliflower. Mother only likes cauliflower if it is snow-white.

There are also vendors selling red hot chilli. Piwai knows hot chilli because Father once gave him a little to taste and he coughed and cried until mother gave him some milk.

We can't walk fast in the market. We keep bumping into people. Some people push us and some are rude. Piwai is small and some people don't even see him, so I must act as his shield. I wish Mother had come to buy the pumpkin herself. We are almost at the pumpkin stall. I can already see the huge mound of pumpkins.



Without thinking, I quickly remove my shirt, shoes and trousers and hand them to her. She grabs them and stomps off. I walk home still holding Piwai's hand. All I have on are my blue and red Superman underpants.

Some children walk by and laugh at my Superman underpants, but I don't even care. All I know is that I am happy. I know my mother will go back to the market with me. Together we will sort out the mess with the angry pawpaw seller. But the most important thing is that I have saved my little brother.

I am the market Superman!

Ibizo lami nginguPasi. Ngineminyaka elitjhumi begodu ngihlala eMbare eZimbabwe. Indlwethu ihlanu kwemakethe ekulu edumileko yemirorho. Namhlanjesi, sineemvakatjhi, begodu umma umajadu ngekhwitjhini. Ngikghona ukuzwa umnuko wokudla lapha ngidlala khona noPiwai.

“Pasi, msanami, iza la,” kutjho ilizwi likaMma ngekhwitjhini. Ngitjinge kuye, bese athi kimi, “Ngibawa ungiyele emakethe uyongithengela umgade. Ngibawa ubuye kungakapheli imizuzu emihlanu.”

Ngivume ngehloko njengombana uMma anginikela isikhwama nemali. Ngiyokuthatha amanyathelo. UPiwai angilande, naye afake amanyathelo. UPiwai mfowethu. Uneminyaka emithathu. UPiwai akezwa eendlebeni.

“UPiwai ufuna ukukhamba nami,” ngirhuwelela uMma.

“Pasi, angifuni uPiwai akhambe nawe. Ngifuna uze nomgade njenganje.”

Ngimtjhiye uPiwai. Yena usalinga ukufaka elinye inyathelo njengombana ngiphuma ngebelo endlini.



“Pasi, Pasi,” uMama uyangibiza godu. Ngiyike ngimbone ajame emyanggo noPiwai. Imithathi yehla inyembenzi. “Kungcono umthathe uPiwai. Yenza msinya.” Bekumajadu emakethe. Kunabantu abanengi abathuwelelako nabakhulumako, abanye bayathenga abanye bayathengisa, abanye bathwele abanye bayasunduzisa. UPiwai uhleka indoda ethengisa ama-orenji. Idlalisisa ama-orenji amathathu emoyeni. Yathuwelela yathi nanyana ngubani ongawadlalisisa njengayo emoyeni uzokwehliselwa intengo. Ngabamba uPiwai ngesandla ngasigqinisa, njengombana siphendla phakathi kwesiqubuthu sabantu.



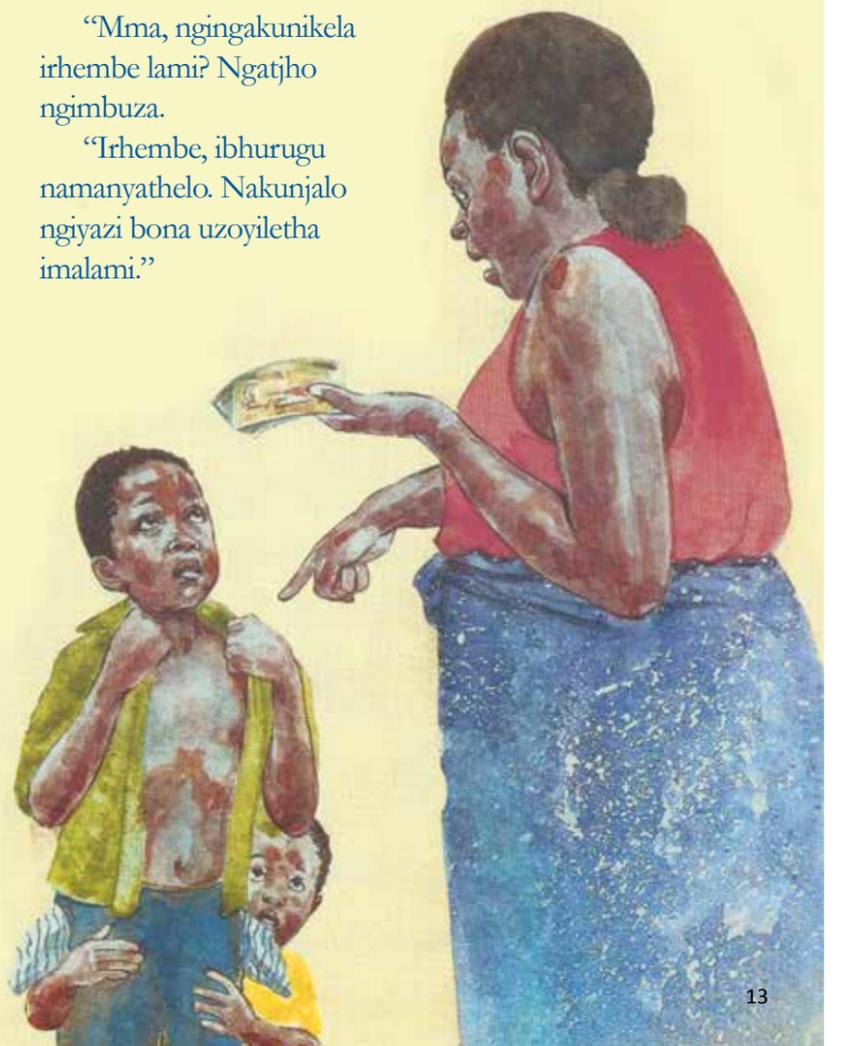
“Pasi, Pasi,” Mother calls again. I turn around and see her standing at the door with Piwai. His cheeks are wet with tears. “You had better take Piwai. Please hurry.” It is busy at the market. There are many people shouting and talking, buying and selling, lifting, carrying and pushing. Piwai laughs at the man selling oranges. He is juggling three oranges in the air. He shouts that anybody who can do the same can get a discount. I hold Piwai’s hand firmly as we weave through the forest of people.

Ngavuma ngehloko. Abanye abantu emakethe bebangakaleni bona umama lo wenzani kithi. Ngizwa ngimncani ngiqalene nomama omkhulu osilingekileko. Umama lo wangithathela imali nesikhwama. Wabala imali wathi ingabhadela ipopo linye. Bese wathi, “Ngizokuthatha imali le nomfowenu lo bekube kulapho ulethe imali yelinye ipopo. Ngabhangahlanganana. Angekhe ngikhone ukuthiya uPiwai la. Umama lo akasibangeleli, begodu uPiwai mncani. Kufuze ngimvikele. Angekhe ngimthye ngenwa. Ngazizwa ngifuthelwa nehliziywami ibethela phezu.”

I nod. The other people in the market seem not to notice this woman and what she is doing to us. I feel so small against this big, angry woman. The woman snatches my bag and money. She counts the money and says it can only pay for one pawpaw. Then she says, “I will take this money and your brother until you bring money for the other pawpaw.” I panic. I can’t leave Piwai behind. This woman is mean and Piwai is so small. I have to protect him. I won’t leave him behind. I feel hot and my heart pounds.

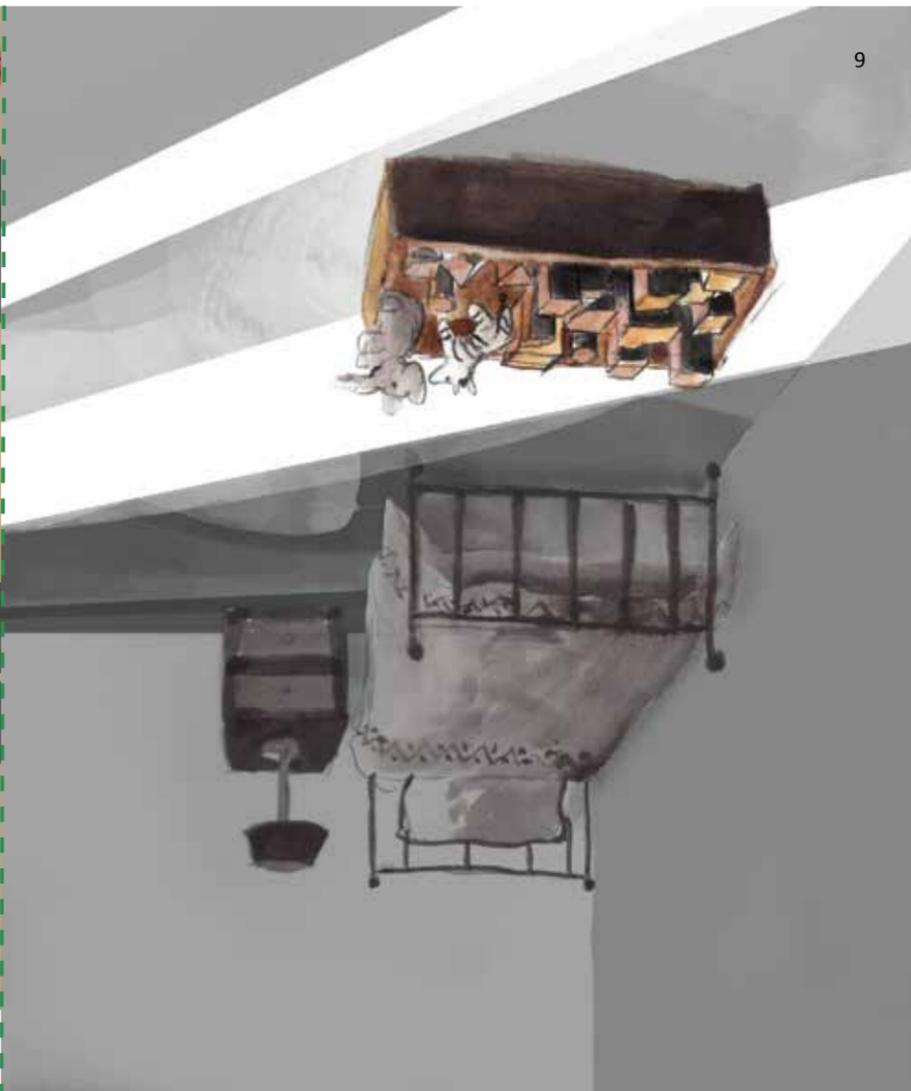
“Madam, can I give you my shirt and shoes instead?” I manage to ask.
 “Your shirt, shoes and trousers will do. That way I know you will bring my money.”

“Mma, ngingakunikela irhembe lami? Ngatjho ngimbuza.
 “Irhembe, ibhurugu namanyathelo. Nakunjalo ngiyazi bona uzoyiletha imalami.”





By the riverside, Muzi finds more things.
Soft things and pointy things. Green things
and brown things.
Eduze komlambo, uMuzi wathola ezinye izinto.
Izinto ezithambileko nezihlabako. Izinto ezililhaza
satjani nezizotho.



Today Muzi is going to
visit uGogo.
Namhlanjesi, uMuzi
uyokuvakatihela uGogo.



“Oh, Muzi,” laughs Gogo. “A new house for me. This is the best thing ever!”

“Awu, Muzi,” kuhleka uGogo.
“Yindlwami etja. Le yinto ehle ukuzidlula zoke ongenzele zona!”

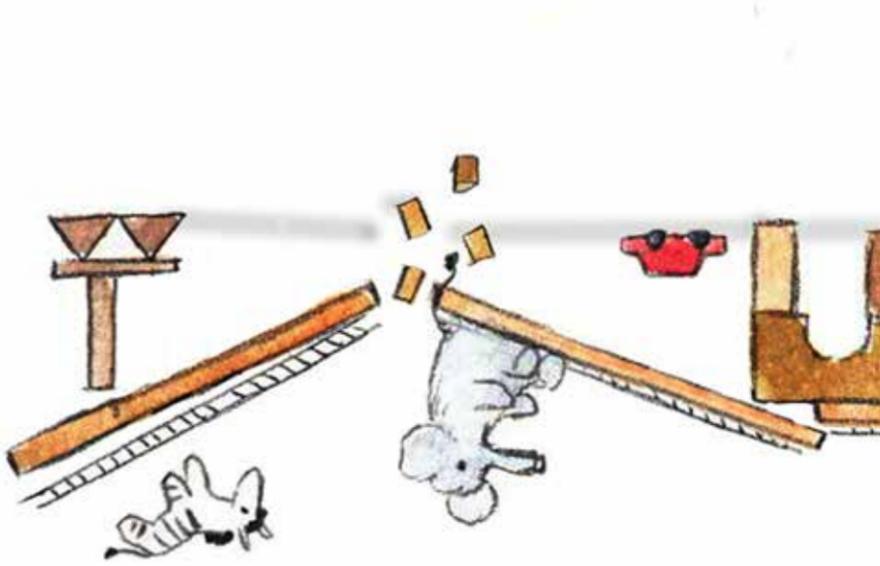


Once he built a shelter for his toys.

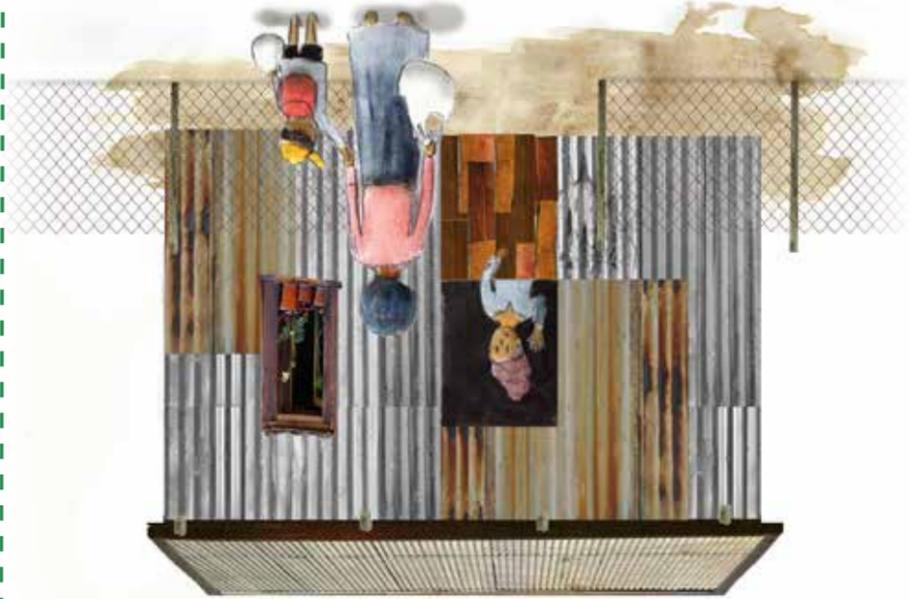
Ngesinye isikhathi, wakhe wakha indawo yokubeka amathoyi wakhe.

But it wasn't the best thing ever.

Kodwana bekungasi yinto ehle ukuzidlula zoke.



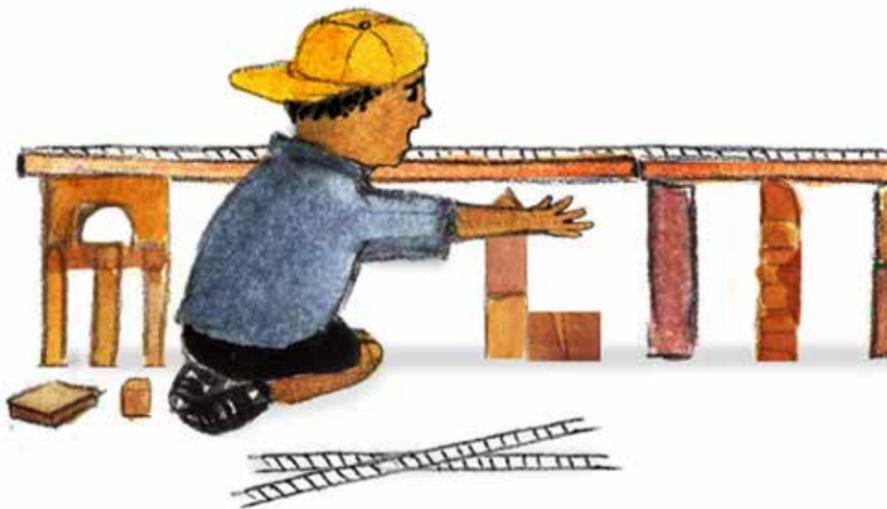
It was a good thing,
 But not the best...
 Bekuyinto ehle, Kodwana
 beyingazidluli zoke...



Look, Muzi! We are here.
 Qala, Muzi! Sesfikile.

Yesterday he built a bridge
 for his animals.

Izolo, wakhe ibhrorho
 yeenlwana zakhe.



While uGogo bakes for
 the hungry travellers ...
 Muzi builds.

Njengombana uGogo
 abhagela iintekeli
 ezilambileko ...
 UMuzi uyakha.

"Gogo, Gogo!" says
 Muzi. "The world is full
 of toys. Look what I
 can build."

"Gogo, Gogo!"
 kutjho uMuzi.
 "Iphasi lizele
 ngamathoyi.
 Qala bona
 ngakheni."



**Amaflarha
ama-54
we-Afrika!**

**54 flags
for Africa!**

Sebenzisa irhara neempelede
umadanise iflarha nenarhalo.

Use some thin wool and pins to
match each flag to its country.



ETJINGALANGA SAHARA
WESTERN SAHARA



EMAURITANIA
MAURITANIA



EBURKINA FASO
BURKINA FASO



EMALI
MALI



EMOROCCO
MOROCCO



E-ALGERIA
ALGERIA



ETUNISIA
TUNISIA



ENIGER
NIGER



ELIBYA
LIBYA



ECHAD
CHAD



ECENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC
CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC



EGIBHIDE
EGYPT



ECAPE VERDE
CAPE VERDE



ESENEGAL
SENEGAL



EGAMBIA
GAMBIA



EGUINEA-BISSAU
GUINEA-BISSAU



EGUINEA
GUINEA



ESIERRA LEONE
SIERRA LEONE



ELIBERIA
LIBERIA



ECOTE D'IVOIRE
COTE D'IVOIRE



EGHANA
GHANA



ETOGO
TOGO



EBENIN
BENIN



ENIGERIA
NIGERIA



ECAMEROON
CAMEROON



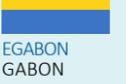
E-EQUATORIAL GUINEA
EQUATORIAL GUINEA



ESAO TOME AND PRINCIPE
SÃO TOMÉ AND PRINCIPE



ECONGO
CONGO



EGABON
GABON



EDEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF CONGO
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF CONGO



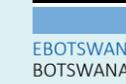
E-ANGOLA
ANGOLA



EZAMBHIYA
ZAMBIA



ENAMIBHIYA
NAMIBIA



EBOTSWANA
BOTSWANA



ESEWULA AFRIKA
SOUTH AFRICA



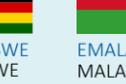
ELESOTHO
LESOTHO



ESWATINI
ESWATINI



EZIMBABWE
ZIMBABWE



EMALAWI
MALAWI



EMOZAMBIQUE
MOZAMBIQUE



ESUDAN
SUDAN



E-ERITREA
ERITREA



EDJIBOUTI
DJIBOUTI



ESOMALIA
SOMALIA



ETOPIYA
ETHIOPIA



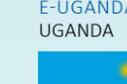
ESEWULA SUDAN
SOUTH SUDAN



EKENYA
KENYA



E-UGANDA
UGANDA



ERWANDA
RWANDA



ETANZANIA
TANZANIA



EBURUNDI
BURUNDI



ECOMOROS
COMOROS



EMAURITIUS
MAURITIUS



EMADAGASCAR
MADAGASCAR



ESEYCHELLES
SEYCHELLES



EMALAWI
MALAWI



EMOZAMBIQUE
MOZAMBIQUE



UNombhongwe onetalente

NguVianne Venter ■ linthombe nguHeidel Dedekind



Ekugcineni lafika ilanga lomnyanya wabonongwana beengogwana! Zoke iingogwana bezithukiwe. Ngubani obekazokuthumba unongorwana wamandla namkha womgijimi ophuma phambili? Ngubani okuzokuthiwa muhle namkha uhlakaniphe ukubadlula boke? Koke lapha uqala khona, iingogwana beziphasi phezulu, zihlikhla iindlebe zazo, zilola amakghonwazo. Zoke ngaphandle kukaNombhongwe.

"Lotjhani, lotjhani! Awukatshukwa na Nombhongwe?" Kubuza iPhela njengombana lirhabile.

"Ubani, *mina*" kuphendula uNombhongwe. "Akunanto engithusako mina. Anginabelo njengawe Phela. Akakho onebelo njengawe."

"Utjho njalo? Uyazi, unobuntu Nombhongwe," kutjho iPhela limomotheka. "Ah, nangu uNombhongwe asiza ... angiphela endaweni. Ngizakubona." Nanguya agijima.



"Heyi," kutjho iViyaviyani, liphaphisa amaphikwalo elangeni. "Ungakhulumi *nesigebengweso*, Nombhongwe."

"Oh, iPhela alisiyogogwana embi nokho. Kuhlekuhle liyogogwana ehle ... nawungagijima nalo," watjho ahleka uNombhongwe.

"Afeke, isitayelezi seehluthu!" kutjho iViyaviyani, lizitshwenya ngeehluthu. "Ngizazibuzisa bona bobani abazokuthumba abonongorwana namhlanjisi."

"*Mina* angizokuthumba litho, ngiyazi," kuhleka uNombhongwe. "Angisimuhle njengawe, Viyaviyani. Akekho omuhle njengawe."

"Eish, Nombhongwe, amezwakho athinta ihliziyo," kutjho iViyaviyani limomotheka kamnandi. "Ah, nangu uMahlakaniphana eza!" araga nokuhleba uViyaviyani, "Akasiyogogwana nokuba yingogwana." Uthe angatjho njalo waphapha wayoziqala bona uziphate kuhle na.

IsiSwebu seza sirhabile kuNombhongwe, sikhuluma sodwa, "... *two plus two is four, four plus four is eight, eight plus eight is sixteen, sixteen ... Heita*, Nombhongwe! Ayi, iviyaviyanela liyazitjela! Kodwana alazi na bona lifana nerhorho?"

"Aww, Siswebu," kuhleka uNombhongwe. "Uzithandela nje ukuqaleka nokuba muhle."

"Uyazi, akuyi ngokuthi uqaleka njani! Kuya ngokuthi ingqondwakho injani!" kutjho isiSwebu sibetha ihlokwaso. "Bengisolo ngifunda. Ngifuna ukuthumba unongorwana wokuba yingogwana ehlanipheleko. Wena?"

"Oh, namhlanjisi angizokuthumba abonongorwana. Angikahlakaniphi njengawe siSwebu. Wena uyingogwana ehlaniphe ukuzidlula zoke!"

"Aww! Ngizathokoza ngokutjho njalo! Unomusa ... Ah, naku kuza uTjhontjhani. Mina anginasikhathi nabosonqwababa. Ngizakhamba ngisayokufunda okungeziweko." Kwatjho isiSwebu, sikhambisa.

UTjhontjhani weza amatjha athwele ilitje elikhulu elibuyelelwe kane kunaye. UNombhongwe wathukwa njengombana aliphosa phasi ehlabathini *ngeljhada* elikhulu. "Yini engingakayizwa, utheni umma umahlakaniphana ngaye ngokwakhe?"

"Ayi wena Tjhontjhani, lisa ukungabi nomusa!" kutjho uNombhongwe. "IsiSwebu siyazithanda iincwadi zaso. Angekhe saba namandla soke njengawe."

UTjhontjhani wabhambada uNombhongwe emhlana, wahleka. "Nginamandla angitjho, kghani nginamandla? Wena uthumba unongorwana wani-ke namhlanjisi?"

"Wena Tjhontjhani, abe akunanto ekhethekileko ngami," kwatjho uNombhongwe adanile. "Anginabelo, angisimuhle, angikahlakaniphi begodu anginamandla. Ngizogogwana nje ngizihlalele."

"Mina-ke ngicabanga bona uyingogwana *elungileko* ejayelekileko," kutjho uTjhontjhani. "Kungenzeka ulunge ukusidlula soke ... Awa, sekusikhathi somnyanya wabonongorwana. Uyeza?" Watjho amatjha uTjhontjhani atjha edwaleni lapha zoke iingogwana ezibuthene khona emnyanyeni wabonongorwana, noNombhongwe watjho amlandela.

Zoke iingogwana bezithulile. UMakapazembe waphakamisa imendlela yokuthoma. "Imendlela yomnyaka lo *yomgijimi* obadlula boke iya ku ... Phela!" Atjho amemezela. Zoke iingogwana zabetha izandla, kodwana uNombhongwe wabethela izandla phezulu.

"Imendlela yesibili iya engogwaneni *ehle* ukuzidlula zoke ...," kutjho uMakapazembe, "... iya ku ... Viyaviyani!" Zoke iingogwana zakwakwazela. Kodwana uNombhongwe wakwakwazela phezulu.

"Imendlela eya engogwaneni *ehlakaniphe* ukuzidlula zoke ...," kuraga uMakapazembe "... iya ku ... Siswebu!" Kumemezela uMakapazembe. Isiqubuthu sarhuwelela. Kodwana uNombhongwe warhuwelela khulu.

Bekusele imendlela yinye. "Imendlela eya engogwaneni *enamandla* ukuzidlula zoke iya ku ... Tjhontjhani! Watjho ahleka uMakapazembe. Zoke iingogwana zarhuwelela zabetha imilozi zagidisa iinyawo zazo ehlabathini. UNombhongwe wahleka kwavela lomhlathi. Bekabathabele abangani bakhe!

Kwathi lokha iingogwana zoke sele zithulile, uMakapazembe wathi, "Ekugcineni, umnyaka lo sinemendlela *ekhethekileko* ... unongorwana omkhulu kunabo boke, njengombana noke niwuvowudele nje. Lonongorwana uhlonitjha kunabo boke, begodu muhle kunabo boke ..." watjho aqalaqala. Bese amehlakhe ahlala phezu kwakangogwana murye. Ingogwana nje evamileko, engakadumi, okungananto ekhethekileko ngayo. "Unongorwana ohloniphekako lo, unongorwana omuhle nemendlela ekulu le iya ku ... Nombhongwe!"

UNombhongwe waphenze watsirimezeka. "Mi-mina?" watjho angunguza. "Kodwana mina akunanto engidlula abanye ngayo. Angikakhetheki nangananyana ngiyiphi indlela." UNombhongwe bekangazwisi. Bayaphosisa, atjho acabanga. Kodwana boke abangani bakhe bebamomotheka kuye, ngasuthi kunento abayaziko yena angayaziko.

"Nombhongwe othandekako," kuhleka uMakapazembe. "Mina nezinye iingogwana sifuna ukukunikela nasi imendlela yegolide ... yokuba yingogwana enomusa ukuzidlula zoke phakathi kwethu.

"Ulungu ukusidlula soke!" kutjho iPhela.

"Awusiyogogwana nje evamileko," kutjho iViyaviyani, limomotheka.

"Ukhethekile!" kutjho isiSwebu.

"Akunangogwana efana nawe, Nombhongwe! Akekho onjengawe! Italente lakho kukuba *nomusa*," kuhlabathula uTjhontjhani.

"Kodwana nanyana ngubani angaba nomusa," kwatjho uNombhongwe, ararekile.

"Uyibethe khona, Nombhongwe," kutjho uMakapazembe. "Nanyana ngubani angaba nomusa, kodwana nguwe kwaphela okhethe ukuba nomusa soke isikhathi.

Yeke, abangani bakaNombhongwe bamphakamisa, bamkwakwazela njengombana bamthwele ngehla kweenhloko zabo, bagcina bambeke esithorini sedwala.



UNombhongwe uyathoma ukuzizwa akhetheke ngalendlela, namkha athabe ngalendlela epilwenakhe yoke. Watjho akhulumela phasi wathi, "Qalani bona noke ninomusa kangangani!"

Yenza indatjana ibemnandi!

- ★ Kesinye isikhathi italente lethu alisingilokho esikhona ukukwenza, kodwana yindlela esenza abantu bazizwe ngayo. Lakho italente liyini?
- ★ Ungakhumbula na bona ingogwana ngayinye beyikhona ukwenzani? Tlola irhelo lengogwana ngayinye endatjaneni. Eduze kwebizo lengogwana ngayinye, tlola lokho ekhona ukukwenza kuhle.

- ★ Nje-ke, tlola irhelo lawo woke umuntu ekhenu, bese utlola nalokho ngamunye akhona ukukwenza kuhle, kuhlanganise nawe!



Beetle's talent

By Vianne Venter ■ Illustrations by Heidel Dedekind



It was finally the day of the bugs' awards ceremony! All the bugs were feeling very nervous. Who would win the medal for strength or for being the best runner? Who would be named the prettiest or the cleverest? Everywhere you looked, little bugs were hurrying up and down, combing their feelers and practicing their skills, showing off and getting grumpy with each other. That is, all except Beetle.

"Howzit, howzit! Aren't you nervous, Beetle?" Cockroach asked as he rushed up.

"Who, me?" replied Beetle. "There's nothing for *me* to be nervous about. I'm not fast, like you, Cockroach. No one's as fast as you."

"Really? That's very nice of you, Beetle," Cockroach smiled. "Uh oh, here comes Miss Beauty Pageant ... I'm off. See you later." And off he ran.



"Hey," said Butterfly, moving her wings up and down in the sunlight. "You shouldn't talk to that skebenga, Beetle."

"Oh, Cockroach is not so bad. He's actually quite a nice guy ... if you can keep up with him," laughed Beetle.

"*Hayibo*, this hairstyle!" said Butterfly, fussing with her hair. "I wonder who's going to win the prizes today."

"I won't be winning anything, that's for sure," Beetle laughed. "I'm no beauty, like you, Butterfly. No one's as beautiful as you."

"Eish, Beetle, you are too sweet," said Butterfly flashing her prettiest smile. "Uh oh, here comes Smarty Pants!" Then she added in a whisper, "She's not even an insect, you know." And with that, Butterfly fluttered off to check her make-up.

Spider scuttled up to Beetle, muttering to herself, "... two plus two is four, four plus four is eight, eight plus eight is sixteen, sixteen ... *Heita*, Beetle! *Sjoe*, but that butterfly has got an attitude! Doesn't she know she's just a *gogga*?"

"Oh, Spider," laughed Beetle. "She just likes to look good."

"It's not about looks, you know! It's about what you have up here!" said Spider, tapping her head. "I've been studying and studying. I really want to win the medal for being the cleverest bug. And you?"

"Oh, I won't be taking home any medals today. I'm not as clever as you, Spider. You're the cleverest bug of all!"

"Wow! Thanks for saying so! You're very kind ... Uh oh! Here comes Ant. I haven't got time for his muscle manoeuvres now. I'm off to study some more," said Spider, scuttling off.

Ant marched over, carrying a stone four times his size! Beetle got a fright as Ant dropped it on the ground with a loud *thunk*! "So, what did Miss I-think-I'm-so-clever have to say for herself?"

"Oh, Ant, don't be unkind!" said Beetle. "Spider just loves her books. We can't all be superstrong like you."

Ant clapped Beetle on the back, laughing. "I am really strong, aren't I? So, what special prize are you going to win today?"

"There's nothing really special about me, Ant," said Beetle sadly. "I'm not fast, or pretty, or clever, or strong. I'm just an ordinary bug."

"Well, I think you are a *good* ordinary bug," said Ant. "Maybe even the best ... Hey, it's almost time for the awards ceremony. Are you coming?" Ant marched off towards the rock where all the bugs had gathered for the awards ceremony, and Beetle scurried along beside him.

Everyone was quiet. Mantis held up the first medal. "This year's medal for the *fastest* runner, goes to ... Cockroach!" she announced. All the bugs clapped. Beetle clapped the loudest.

"The medal for the *prettiest* bug ...," continued Mantis, "... goes to ... Butterfly!" Everyone cheered. Beetle cheered the loudest.

"The medal for the *cleverest* bug goes to ... Spider!" announced Mantis. The crowd whooped. Beetle whooped even louder.

There was only one medal left. "The medal for the *strongest* bug goes to ... Ant!" Mantis smiled. All the bugs yelled and whistled and drummed their feet on the ground. Beetle grinned from ear to ear. She was so happy for her friends!

When everyone had quietened down, Mantis said, "Finally, this year we have a special medal ... the top prize, as voted for by all of you. This is the highest honour, the best award ...". She looked around. Then her large eyes settled on one particular bug. One completely ordinary, unremarkable, nothing-special-about-her bug. "The highest honour, the best award and the biggest medal goes to ... Beetle."

Beetle almost fell over in surprise. "M-m-me?" she stammered. "But ... but I'm not the best at anything. I'm not special in any way." Beetle didn't understand. It must be a mistake, she thought. But all her friends were smiling at her, as if they knew something that she didn't.

"Dear Beetle," Mantis smiled. "The other bugs and I would like to award you this gold medal ... for being the *kindest* bug amongst us."

"You're the best!" shouted Cockroach.

"You're not ordinary at all," said Butterfly, smiling.

"You *are* special!" said Spider.

"You are one of a kind, Beetle! The only one like you! Your talent is kindness," explained Ant.

"But ... but *anyone* can be kind," said Beetle, confused.

"Exactly, Beetle," said Mantis. "Anyone can be kind, but only you choose to be kind all the time."

Then Beetle's friends picked her up, cheering as they carried her over their heads, all the way up to the top of the rock.



Beetle had never felt so special, or so happy, in all her life. And all she could whisper was, "How *kind* all my friends are!"

Get story active!

- ★ Sometimes our gift is not about what we can do, but how we make others feel. What is your special talent?
- ★ Can you remember what each insect was good at? Make a list of each insect in the story. Next to each insect's name, write down what they were good at.

- ★ Now make a list of all the people in your home, and write down what each one is good at, including you!

Kokuzithabisa kwabakwaNal'ibali

Nal'ibali fun



1.

Ungasebenzisa amaledere la bona wakhe amagama wemirorho neenthelo uPasi noPiwai abazibone emakethe endatjaneni ethi, "USuperman wemakethe"?

Can you unscramble the letters to make the names of the vegetables and fruit Pasi and Piwai saw at the market in the story *The market Superman*?



vagamawa _____
 imhlobuloko _____
 bhijihakit _____
 imjoraneta _____
 biokihlor _____
 umaged _____

sausgv _____
 fauleliocrw _____
 acebabg _____
 ragosen _____
 cliorocb _____
 mkinupp _____

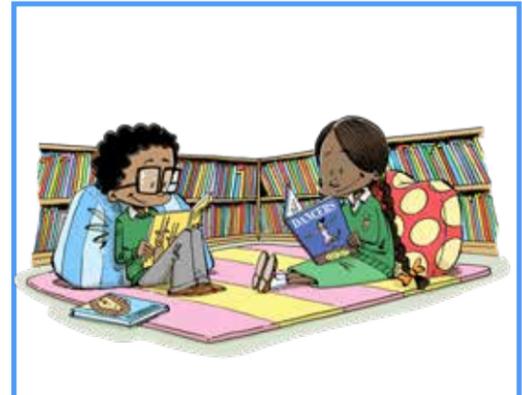


2.

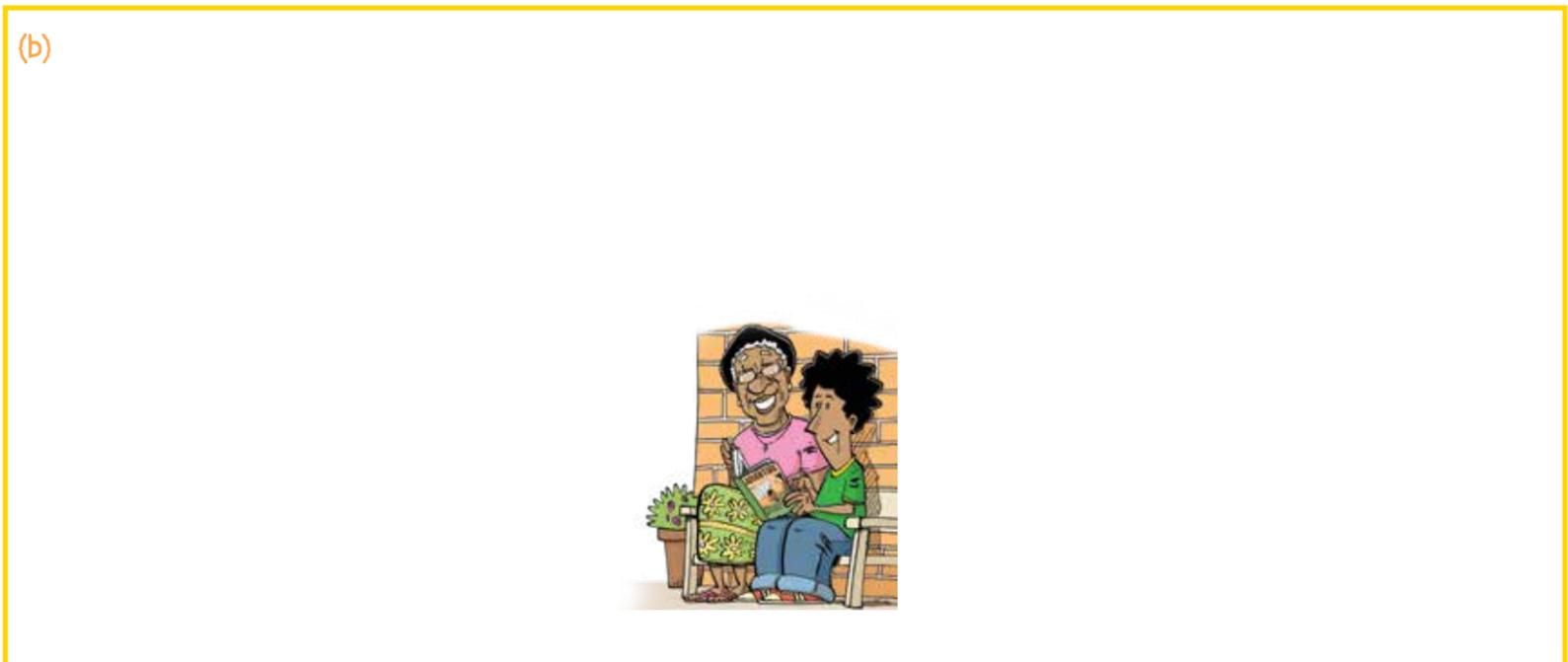
a) Ucabanga bona abantwaba babanjwe bafundela kuphi?
 b) Nje-ke, dweba indawo ocabanga bona uGogo noJosh bafundela kiyo!

a) Where do you think these people were caught reading?
 b) Now draw the place where you think Gogo and Josh are reading!

(a)



(b)



Nal'ibali ikhona bona ikukhuthaze beyikusekele. Sithinta ngananyana ngiyiphi indlela elandelako:

Nal'ibali is here to motivate and support you. Contact us in any of these ways:

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