



It starts with a story...

## Playing with books

Helping young children to develop the ability to read and write is a serious business because being literate is extremely important in our daily lives. But we also need to remember that we don't have to actively teach or tell children *about* books and reading. Instead, we need to allow our children to learn about books by exploring them. One of the ways we can do this is by giving them opportunities to play with books. Being allowed to be playful with books helps children to become literate.

Here are some of the ways that children at different stages of development might "play" with books.

 Babies like to try out books by touching, patting, shaking and even chewing them! They are also great listeners and imitators. Often they make sounds and clap their hands to show how much they are enjoying us reading to them. Try giving babies board and cloth books when you want to allow them to handle books on their own, like during nappy changes. These kinds of books are tough and don't break easily.

 Older babies enjoy books with flaps, pop-ups and buttons that they can press to make sounds. They also like to point to things on the page or to try turning the page.

 Many toddlers like to pretend to read aloud and older children often like to pretend to be "the teacher" and read to the class. They can be found turning the pages of a storybook telling their own story as they go, or retelling a story they have heard often – sometimes even with the book upside down! They're practicing reading and showing you that they understand what books are about. Encourage them by making sure that there are always some books around for them to pick up and "read" when they want to.

 Young children often act out stories they know, or create their own, using familiar story characters. In these imaginary play times, children learn about symbols – when they use a stick as a fairy's magic wand or a box as a car, it means that they understand how one thing can "stand for" another. This is important for literacy learning. Encourage your children's imaginary play by reading lots of different kinds of stories to them.

Playing with books offers children opportunities to learn important literacy lessons and – best of all – it's what children do naturally when we read to them and have books to choose from in their environment.

Enjoy a special story from Africa in celebration of Africa Day on 25 May! You can find it on pages 3 to 8.

Thokozela indaba ekhethekile yase-Afrika ekugubheni Usuku Lwe-Afrika mhla zingama-25 kuNhlaba! Ungayithola ekhasini lesi-3 ukuya kwelesi-8.

## Ukudlala ngezincwadi

Ukusiza izingane ezincane ukuthi zithuthukise amakhono azo okwazi ukufunda nokubhala kuyinto esemqoka ngoba ukwazi ukufunda nokubhala kubaluleke kakhulu empilweni yethu yansuku zonke. Kodwa kumele sikhumbule ukuthi akudingeki ukuthi sisebenze ngamandla ukuze sifundise noma sixoxele izingane *ngezincwadi* nangokufunda. Kunalokho, sidinga ukuthi sivumele izingane zethu ukuba zifunde ngezincwadi ngokujula nazo. Enye yezindlela ongenza ngayo lokhu ukuzinikeza amathuba okudlala ngezincwadi. Ukuvunyelwa ukudlala ngezincwadi kuyasiza ekwazini ukufunda nokubhala.

Nazi ezinye zezindlela izingane ezisezigabeni ezahlukene okungenzeka "zidlale" ngazo ngezincwadi.

 Abantwana bayathanda ukuthola ukuthi zinjani izincwadi ngokuzithinta, ukuzimbambatha, ukuzinyakazisa nokuziluma imbala! Futhi izingane zingabalaleli nabalingisi abahle. Esikhathini esiningi zenza imisindo, zishaye nezandla ukuze zikhombise ukuthi zikuthokozela kanjani ukufundelwa yihi. Zama ukunikeza abantwana izincwadi ezivuwqembe kanye nezendwangu uma ubavumela ukuthi bathinte izincwadi bodwa, ngesikhathi esifana naleso sokubashintsha amanabukeni. Lolu hlobo lwezincwadi luqinile futhi aluhlephuki kalula.

 Abantwana abadadlana bathokozela izincwadi ezinokuphephezelayo, izinto ezithushuka ezincwadini kanye nezinkinobho abangazicindezela ukuze zenze imisindo. Futhi bayathanda ukukhomba izinto ekhasini noma bazame nokuphenya ikhasi.

 Abantwana abaningi abacathulayo bayathanda ukwenza sengathi bafunda kakhulu bese izingane ezindadlana zenza sengathi "zingothisha" bese zifundela ikhasi. Bangatholakala bephenya amakhasi encwadi yendaba bexoxa indaba ngendlela yabo ngesikhathi bephenya amakhasi, noma bephinda bexoxa kaningana lokho abakuzwile – ngesinye isikhathi benza lokhu beyibhekise phansi incwadi! Bazejwayeza ukufunda futhi bakhombisa wena ukuthi bayaqonda ukuthi zikhuluma ngani izincwadi. Bakhuthaze ngokuqinisekisa ukuthi kuhlale kukhona izincwadi eduze nabo abangazithatha "bazifunde" uma befuna.

 Esikhathini esiningi izingane ezincane zilingisa indaba noma zizakhele eyazo zisebenzisa abalingiswa bendaba abejwayelekile. Kulezi zikhathi zokudlala zokuzakhela izithombe zasemqondweni, izingane zifunda ngezimpawu – ngesikhathi zisebenzisa izinduku zomlingo zikatokolo (zeferi) omuhle noma zenza ibhokisi libe yimoto, lokhu kuchaza ukuthi ziyazi ukuthi into ethile "ingamela" enye into. Lokhu kubalulekile ekufundeni ukwazi ukufunda okubhaliwe nokubhala. Khuthaza ukudlala kwezingane ngokuzenzela izithombe zasemqondweni ngokuzifundela izinhlobo zezincwadi eziningi ezahlukene.

Ukudlala ngezincwadi kunika izingane amathuba okufunda izifundo ezibalulekile zokwazi ukufunda nokubhala kanti – okubaluleke nakakhulu – yilokho izingane ezikwenzayo ngesikhathi sizifundela, nokuba nezincwadi ezingakhethe kuzo endaweni ezikuyo.



Drive your  
imagination

Read to me. Book by book.  
Ngifundele. Incwadi nencwadi.





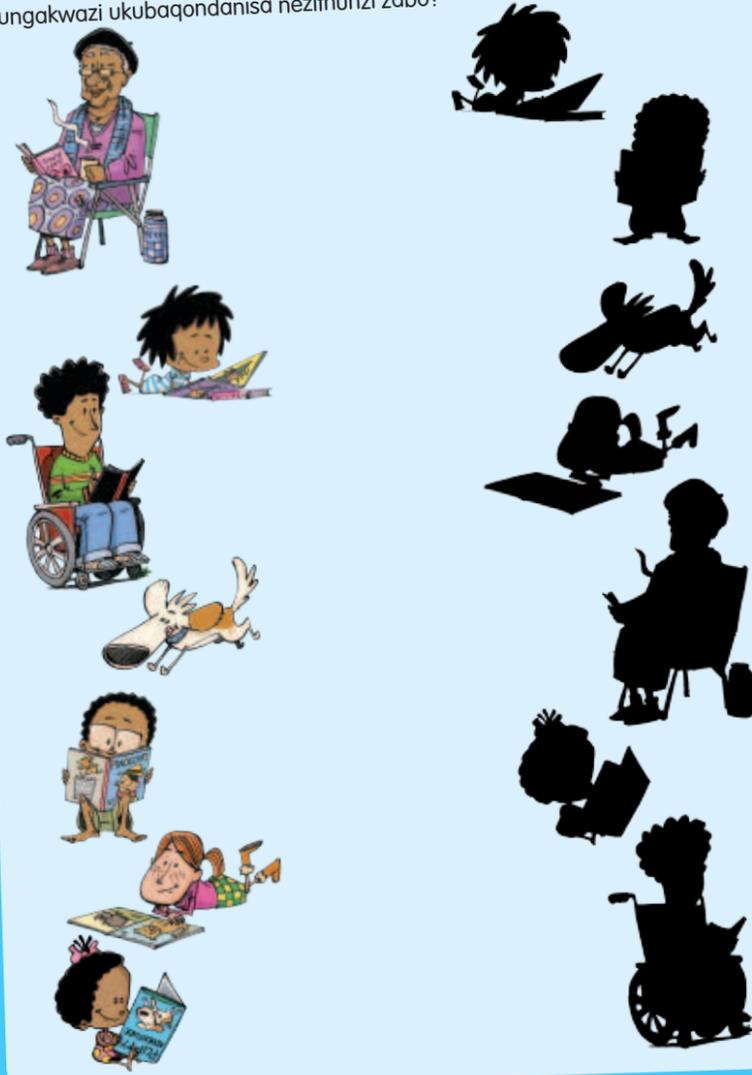
Drive your imagination

## Nal'ibali puzzle fun

Do you know the names of these Nal'ibali characters? Can you match them to their shadows?

## Iphazili yokuzithokozisa yakwaNal'ibali

Ngabe uyawazi amagama alaba balingiswa bakwaNal'ibali? Ngabe ungakwazi ukubaqondanisa nezithunzi zabo?



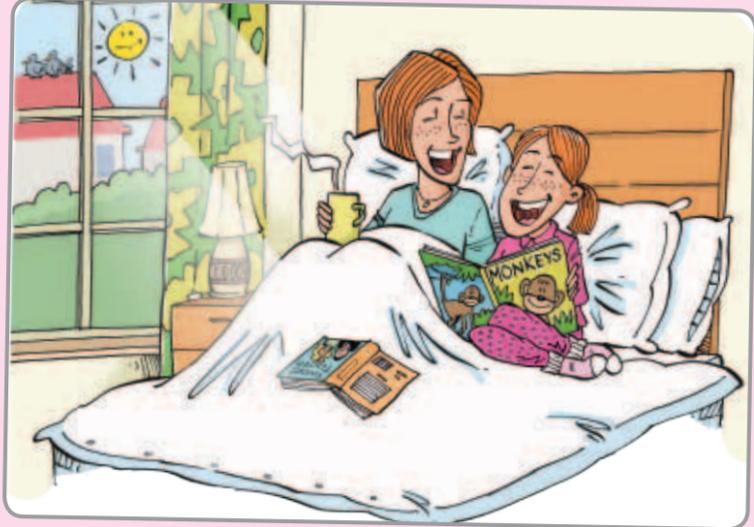
Answers/izimpendulo: Gogo, Bella, Josh, Noodle, Neo, Hope, Mballi

## Spot the difference!

Can you find 8 differences between these two pictures?

## Thola ukuthi ukuphi umehluko!

Ngabe ungakwazi ukuthola izinto eziyi-8 ezehlukile phakathi kwalezi zithombe ezimbili?



### Create your own cut-out-and-keep book

1. Take out pages 3 to 8 of this supplement. Keep the pages together.
2. Fold them in half along the black dotted line.
3. Fold them in half again.
4. Cut along the red dotted lines.

### Zakheleni eyenu incwadi enizoyisika niyikhiphe bese niyigcina

1. Khipha ikhasi lesi-3 ukuya kwele-8 kulesi sithasiselo. Gcina amakhasi endawonye.
2. Wasonge abe nguhhafu lapho kunomugqa (ulayini) wamachashaza amnyama khona.
3. Wasonge abe nguhhafu futhi.
4. Sika lapho kunomugqa wamachashaza abomvu khona.



## In your next Nal'ibali supplement:

- How playing helps children's literacy development
- Your story: our readers' own writing
- A cut-out-and-keep book, *Touch*
- To celebrate the storyteller Aesop's birthday, a new Story Corner story, *The boy and the jackal*

Looking for activities for your children? Visit the "Resource" section at [www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org) for printables such as bookmarks, cards and postcards.



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Sithole ku-Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA](http://www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA)

## Esithasiselweni sakho esilandelayo sakwaNal'ibali:

- Ukuthi ukudlala kukuthuthukisa kanjani ukwazi ukufunda nokubhala kwezingane.
- Indaba yakho: okubhalwe umfundi wethu
- Incwadi enizoyisika niyikhiphe bese niyigcine, *Thinta*
- Ukuze ugubhe usuku lokuzalwa lomxoxi wezindaba ongu-Aesop, kunendaba entsha yekhona Lezindaba ethi, *Umfana nempungushe*

Ngabe ufuna imisebenzi engenziwa izingane zakho? Vakashela esigabeni esithi "Resource" ku-[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org) ukuze uthole ongakugaya okufana nokokukhomba ikhasi ogcine ukufunda kulo, amakhadi namaposikhadi.

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Daily Dispatch

The Herald

Sunday Times

Sunday World



Wagalaza ngapha nangapha, kwammanangaza ukubona izinhlobo  
ezehlukene zezilwane zasemfuleni. (Kwakukhona noNgomfi.)  
Zazimlalele ngesikhathi ecula. UNwabu wamoyizela esenamahloni,  
engasazi nokuthi uzothini.  
Zamezeza zathi, "Ungayeki! Yicule futhi bo! Siyayithanda ingoma  
yakhoh!"  
Zaze zagunuka kamnandi izinto. Izilwane ezazihlale zimgxeka,  
zazimbuka zimamatheka.  
UNwabu wathatha imfijoli wagala ukudlala futhi:  
"Bathi mina ngimubi  
Bavumelana bonke ngalokhu  
Kepha uma ngicula ingoma yami,  
Ngiyayishaya ingoma - He, he!"  
Wacula isikhathi eside ezithokozisa. Kwakungokokugala ngqa  
ezizwa sengathi umabangani. Wazizwa eseyingxenye yomphakathi.



He looked around and was  
surprised to see all the different  
creatures of the river community.  
(Lark was there too.) They had  
been listening to him singing.  
Chameleon smiled shyly, not  
knowing what to say.  
They shouted, "Don't stop! Sing it  
again! We love your song!"  
What a wonderful change. The  
same creatures that used to  
criticise him, were smiling at him.  
Chameleon picked up his  
instrument and began again:  
"They say that I am ugly  
Everyone agrees with this  
But when I sing my song,  
I can do this thing called music -  
Heh, heh!"  
On and on he sang, enjoying  
himself. For the first time ever, he  
felt as if he had friends. He felt he  
belonged somewhere.



Fold

The singing chameleon is from the SONGOLOLO list – a range of books celebrating both the common and diverse interests and experiences in childhood, featuring stories from Africa and beyond.

Shuter & Shooter Publishers acquired the award-winning children's picture book imprint, SONGOLOLO in 2008. SONGOLOLO is a quality list, featuring books by some of South Africa's foremost authors and illustrators, including Niki Daly, Gcina Mhlophe, Joan Rankin and Jude Daly. The list features several bestsellers, including Niki Daly's *Mama, Papa and Baby Joe*, and Joan Rankin's *Wow! It's Great Being a Duck* and other numerous award-winning titles.

For further information, visit [www.shuters.com](http://www.shuters.com)



# The singing chameleon

A traditional story from Malawi

## Unwabu oluculayo

Indaba yendabuko yaseMalawi



Gcina Mhlophe  
Kalle Becker

Nal'ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children's potential through storytelling and reading. For more information, visit [www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org) or [www.nalibali.mobi](http://www.nalibali.mobi)



UNal'ibali umkhankaso wokufundela ukuzithokozisa kazwelonke wokokhela lokho okungenziwa yizingane ngokuxoxa nangokufunda izindaba. Ukuze uthole eminye imininingwane, vakashela ku-[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org) noma ku-[www.nalibali.mobi](http://www.nalibali.mobi)



Fold



For days and days, Chameleon tried to make music. Finally he began to sing a song he had made up:

*"They say that I am ugly  
Everyone agrees with this  
But when I sing my song,  
I can do this thing called music -  
Heh, heh!"*

Excitedly he sang this song over and over again. He couldn't believe that he could compose a song! Louder and louder he sang. When he finally stopped to take a break, he heard the sound of clapping.

Kwaphela izinsuku uNwabu ezilonga evuma ingoma. Ekugcineni kwezakala esekwazi ukucula ingoma ayeziqambile:

*"Bathi mina ngimubi  
Bavumelana bonke ngalokhu  
Kepha uma ngicula ingoma yami,  
Ngiyayishaya ingoma - He, he!"*

Wacula ingoma yakhe ngenkulu injabulo ephindelela. Wayengaqamba ingoma! Izwi laya ngokuphakama ngenkathi ecula. Wathi ngesikhathi lapho ehlaba khona ikhefu wezwa umsindo wokushaywa kwehlombe.



Just then the river otter came up to Chameleon and said, "Oh, you're just the one I've been looking for. I desperately need your help. There's a village nearby which is being tortured by Python. This snake has been eating young calves and goats, and torturing the children. The villagers can't work in their fields. They don't know what to do so they have locked themselves in their homes. Even the chief is powerless. Please come and help!"

Chameleon looked puzzled and asked, "Me? Help with a python? How could I do anything like that?"

"Of course you can help," said Otter.

"Please understand," said Chameleon. "I have just learned to play a song. That's all."

But Otter insisted, "There is a lot you can do with your music! Let me take you to the village where you can sing for the people. It'll help them to forget how terrible life is right now."

"Alright, I'll try," said Chameleon, remembering his promise to the old man.

Fold

A very long time ago there was a big river in which there lived a great many animals. There were crocodiles, hippopotami, water buck, ducks, crabs, birds, fish of all kinds and frogs of all sizes. The animals were happy and most of them were really good friends. But there was one animal they all criticised.

The animals were always saying to the chameleon, "Chameleon, you are so ugly!"

The proud hippo said, "Because of you, this river is no longer beautiful."



Endulo kwakukhona umfula omkhulu okwakhulala kuwo izilwane eziningi ezinkulu. Kwakukhona izingwenya, izimvubu, izimbabala, amadada, izinkalankala, izinyoni, izinhlanzi ezinhlobonhlobo namaselesele angubukhulu obehlukene. Izilwane zazithokozile futhi iningi lazo lalingabangani abakhulu. Zazihlale zigxeka isilwane esisodwa zonke.

Zonke izilwane zathi kuNwabu, "Nwabu, awuve umubi!"

Imvubu ezigabisayo yathi, "Lo mfula awusemuhle njengenjwayelo ngenxa yakho."

At last Chameleon felt beautiful and special. He had found a home where the animals and people loved and appreciated him. He lived happily in the village by the waterfall and his music brought joy to all those who heard him sing.



Ekugcineni uNwabu wayezizwa ebalulekile futhi ekhethekile. Wayethole ikhaya lapho izilwane kanye nabantu babemthanda futhi bemazisa kakhulu khona. Wahlala kamnandi kule ndawo eseduze kwempophoma futhi umculo wakhe waletha injabulo kubo bonke abantu ababemuzwa ecula.

Fold

Kodwa wabelesela uMthini wathi, “Kuningi kabi ongakwenza ngalo mculo wakho! Mangikuthathe nye emzini lapho uzoculela khona abantu. Kuyobasiza bakhohliwe usizi olubakhungethe njengamanje.” “Kulungile-ke, ngizozama,” kusho uNwabu, ekhumbula isethembiso sakhe asenza ekhehleni.



Ngaleso sikhathi kwasondelela uMthini eduze kukaNwabu wathi, “Ngimthohle-ke manje ebengimfuna. Ngiludinga kakuhlu usizo lwakho. Kukhona umuzi oseduze nala ohlushwa kabi yiNhlwathi. Le nyoka isidle amathole nezimbuzi, seyethuse nezingane imbala. Abantu basemzini abasakwazi ukusebenza emasimini abo. Abasazi ukuthi benzenjani, sebhale bezikhanye emzini yabo. NeNkosi yesigodi ayisenamandla. Ngicela uzobasiza!”  
 UNwabu waphenduka edidekile wabuza wathi, “Mina? Ngiyosiza lapho kuhlasela khona inhlwathi? Ngingakwenza kanjani lokho?”  
 “Impela ungabasiza,” kusho uMthini.  
 “Ngicela ungonde lokhu,” kusho uNwabu. “Ngisanda kufunda ukudlala ingoma. Akukho okunye.”

Fold

UNwabu wabonga ikhehla wethembisa ukuthi uyokwenza konke okusemandleni. Waphinda walugala kanecane ngoba wayelwile *imbenge* – uNwabu wabuyela emfuleni. Esendaweni ayecashe kuyo, wathatha imfjoli yakhe wayesede eyidlala engenzi msindo omkhulu.



Chameleon thanked the old man and promised to do his best. Again, slowly – but now even more slowly because he was carrying the *imbenge* – Chameleon made his way back to the river. In his hiding place, he took out his instrument and quietly tried to play it over and over again.  
 The river was busy. The frogs croaked loudly, the birds fluttered about and the hippopotami yawned loudly. Nobody heard the chameleon. They didn't even think to look for him.

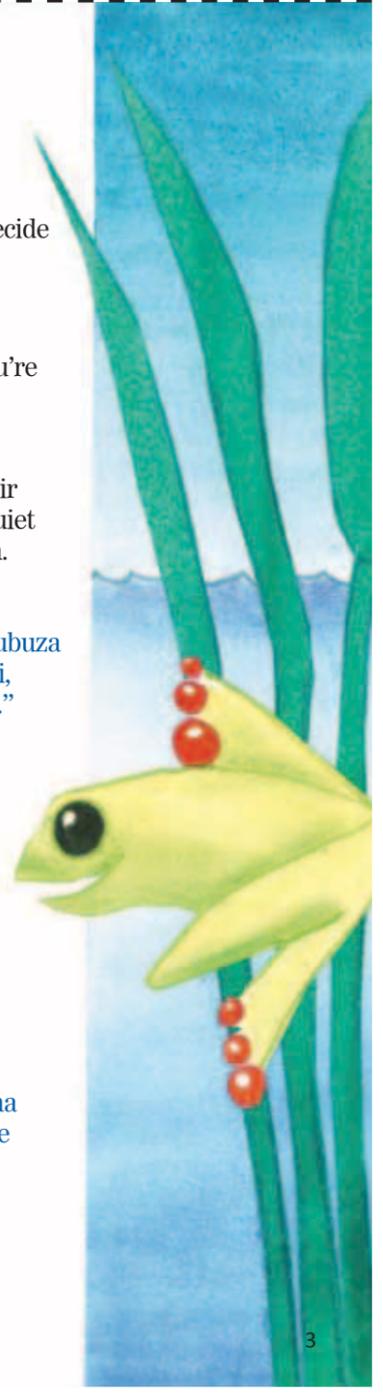
The chief was so impressed by this brave little creature that he made the chameleon a special symbol of good luck and good fortune in his village. He asked a well-respected sculptor to make him a walking stick with the head of a chameleon carved at the top and, at the entrance to his home, he had chameleons carved on the tops of the gate posts. For many years after that the villagers honoured chameleons as a sign of good luck. They believed that you would attract good fortune if you had something carved in the shape of a chameleon in your home.

INkosi yesigodi yahlabeka umxhwele ngalesi senzo sobuqhawe salesi silwane esincane kangaka yaze yaqoka ukuthi uNwabu abe wuphawu lwenhlanhla nomnotho esigodini sayo. Yacela umbazi owaziwayo ukuthi ayenzele induku yokudondolozela enekhanda lonwabu, kanti emasangweni esigodlo sayo, kwakunezinwabu ezibaziwe eziphezu kwesango. Abantu basemzini bahlonipha izinwabu njengophawu lwenhlanhla iminyaka eminingi. Babekhohlelwa ekutheni uzozithola unomnotho uma kukhona onakho okubazwe kwama njengonwabu ekhaya lakho.



“What’s wrong with your eyes, anyway?” questioned Bull Frog. “They’re always looking forwards, looking backwards, looking everywhere.”  
 And Crocodile criticised, “Why can’t you decide what you want to look like? Precisely *what* colour are you? Are you green or brown or yellow? Which is it?”  
 Together they shouted, “You’re so ugly! You’re a disgrace to the river community!”  
 How very unkind they were.  
 Eventually Chameleon began to believe their cruel words. He tried to hide and to be as quiet as he could so that no one would notice him.

“Kodwa yini inkinga ngala mehlo akho?” kubuza uSelesele weDuna. “Alokhu ebuka phambili, abuke emuva, abuye aqalaze yonke indawo.”  
 Ingwenya yase iqhubeka nokugxeka yathi, “Kungani unganqumi ukuthi ufuna ukubukeka kanjani? Ake usho ukuthi empeleni *ungumbala muni*? Ngabe uluhlaza okotshani noma unsundu noma uphuzi? Yikuphi okuyikhona”  
 Zamemeza kanyekanye, “Awuve umubi! Uyihlazo kulo mndeni wasemfuleni!”  
 Zazingenalo nakancane uzwelo.  
 Ekugcineni uNwabu waqala ukuwakholwa wonke amazwi anonya ezaziwashi. Wazama ukucasha kanye nokuhlala yedwa azithulele ukuze angabonwa muntu.



Fold

“Inye kuphela indlela ongangikhokhela ngayo, ukuthi udlale kahle.”  
 Kuphendula ikhehla. “Uma udlala kahle, kwazi bani, ngeinye ilanga  
 ungabona sengitika ngizokulalela udlala laphaya emfuleni. Umculo  
 ungaletha injabulo ezinhliziyweni eziningi. Kungangithokozisa uma  
 ungenza njalo.”

“Ngabe ngiyokukhokhela ngani?” kubuza uNwabu.

Ikhehla lalimomusa nesineke. “Khululeka!” kusho lona. “Uzozibona  
 usushaya ingoma emnandi kungensuku zatshwala.”

Ionwabu – uNwabu wazama ukudlala. Wayelokhu ezama.  
 Njengoba sazi-ke ukuthi uyanwabuluka – washayaya ngonyawu  
 Lanikeza uNwabu *imbengwe* lalukhombisa ukuthi idlala kanjani.  
 Njengoba sazi-ke ukuthi uyanwabuluka – washayaya ngonyawu  
 kakhulu. Ngiyacabanga ukuthi ingakulungela wena.”

Ikhehla lahleka lathi, “He, he, he. Ngabe ufuna ngikwenzele imfijoi?  
 Kulungile-ke, kukhona engake ngayenzela ingane, kodwa yayincane  
 kakhulu. Ngiyacabanga ukuthi ingakulungela wena.”

“The only way to repay me is by playing well,” answered the old  
 man. “If you play well, who knows, one day I might come and listen  
 to you playing at the river. Music can bring joy to many hearts. I’d  
 feel good if you did that.”

“How will I ever repay you?” asked Chameleon.

The old man was kind and patient. “Relax!” he said. “You’ll be  
 making great music in no time.”

– as was his way – Chameleon tried to play. Again and again he tried.



The old man laughed. “Heh, heh,  
 heh. So you want me to make you  
 an instrument? Well, I made one  
 for a child once, but it was too  
 small. I think it might be just the  
 right size for you.”

He gave the *imbengwe* to  
 Chameleon and showed him how  
 to hold it and play it. Ever so slowly  
 – as was his way – Chameleon tried to play. Again and again he tried.

Chameleon would sit sadly in his hiding place  
 waiting for flies and other flying insects to  
 come past. Even though he moved slowly, when  
 he wanted to grab an insect, his tongue was like  
 lightning, striking out – TACK!

Watching him, Frog said, “That makes you  
 even more disgusting!”

“You should talk!” thought Chameleon. “You  
 also like flies and mosquitoes.”

For a long time Chameleon lived like this. He  
 was so sad. Most days he just wished he could  
 travel far away from the river.

Then, one day, as Chameleon was sitting close  
 to the water’s edge looking at his reflection, he  
 saw a bird.

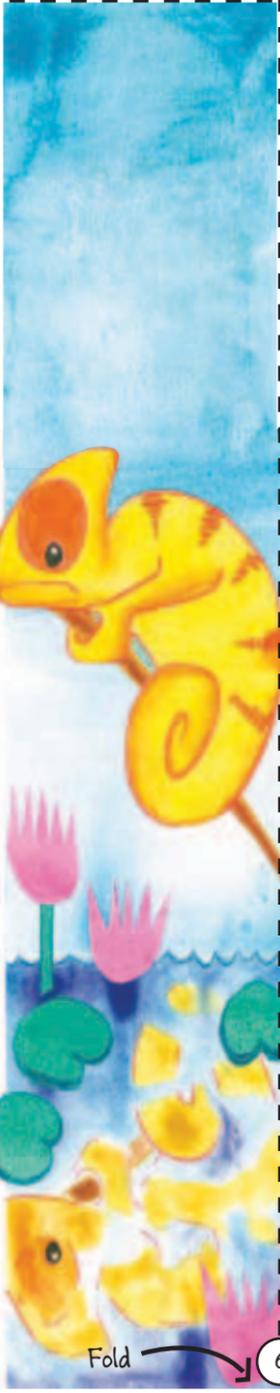
UNwabu wayehlala kalusizi endaweni  
 ayecashe kuyo elinde izimpukane nezinye  
 izinambuzane ezindizayo ezazizodlula lapho.  
 Noma wayengasheshi uma ehamba, kodwa  
 uma efuna ukubamba isinambuzane, ulimi  
 lwakhe lwalufana nonyazi, lwaluphuma –  
 NQAKIYANE!

USelesele owayembuka wathi, “Yilokhu  
 okusenza sikwenyanye kangaka!”

“Waze wazenza ngcono bo!” kucabanga  
 uNwabu. “Nawe uyazithanda izimpukane  
 nomiyane.”

UNwabu waphila kanje isikhathi eside.  
 Wayelusizi kakhulu. Cishe nsuku zonke  
 wayefisa ukuthatha uhambo aye kude kakhulu  
 nalo mfula.

Ngelinye ilanga, ngesikhathi uNwabu ehleli  
 yedwa ngasosebeni lomfula ezibuka emanzini,  
 wase ebona inyoni.



UNwabu wawuma, “Kade ngicula selokhu kusile. Ngidinga  
 okwamanje. Ngilambile.”

“Ungakhathazeki!” kusho uMthini. “Liqine ngokwanelo.  
 Abantu bawela la zikhathi zonke. Kodwa asike sikhabe ikhefu  
 nezintambo ezizimile, lalibezelela.  
 ezinkulu, kanti nebhuloho elalakhawe ngezintandela zemithi  
 emzini. Impophoma yayinamandla kakhulu ngenwa kwezimvula  
 empophomeni edumayo okwakumele bawele kuyo ukuze balike  
 ne oboveni bakhe. Bahamba isikhathi eside. Ekugcineni balika  
 uMthini wahamba washesha kakhulu ngesikhathi uNwabu etho  
 Ndlela nhle!”

UNwabu wabaletha kuMthini ngesikhathi ezinye iziwanje  
 zimemeza ngenjabulo zithi, “Okuhle kodwa, Nwabu oluculayo!

Chameleon agreed, “I’ve been singing all morning. I need  
 something to eat.”

“Don’t worry!” said Otter. “It’s strong enough. Human beings cross  
 here all the time. But let’s have a break now. I’m hungry.”

was made of long creepers and thick ropes, was wobbly.  
 The waterfall was wild after the big rains, and the bridge, which  
 thundering waterfall that they had to cross to get to the village.



Chameleon climbed onto  
 Otter’s back while the  
 other animals shouted  
 merrily, “Good luck,  
 singing Chameleon!  
 Go well!”

Other walked as fast  
 as he could while  
 Chameleon held on  
 tightly to his fur. They  
 travelled for some time.  
 Finally they got to a

People slowly came out of their  
 homes. They looked at each  
 other wondering whether they  
 had heard correctly.

“What are you talking about?”  
 demanded the chief.

“I am telling you the truth,”  
 said Otter. “Python is dead.  
 He has been killed by my good  
 friend here, Chameleon!”



The chief couldn’t believe it. Nobody could. So Otter said, “Come  
 with us. We’ll show you!”

The friends took the villagers to the waterfall and they told them  
 the whole story exactly as it had happened. The villagers were so  
 happy! They wanted to hear the song that had crept into Python’s  
 heart and led him to his death. Everyone sat at the waterfall  
 listening to Chameleon sing his lovely song, and when he had  
 finished, they cheered.

Abantu baphuma emizini yabo benyonyoba. Babukana  
 bemangele ukuthi ngabe bezwe kahle yini.

“Nikhuluma ngani?” kubuza iNkosi yesigodi ngokucasuka.

“Ngikutshela iqiniso,” kusho uMthini. . “Ufile uNhlwathi.  
 Ubulewe yilo mngani wami omkhulu, uNwabu!”

INkosi ayizange ikukholwe lokhu. Akekho umuntu  
 owayekukholwa. Ngakho uMthini wathi, “Wozani  
 sizonitshengisa. Sizonikhombisa!”

Abangani bahamba baya empophomeni base bekwazi ukuyixoxa  
 yonke indaba ukusuka nokuhlala. Abantu basemzini babejabule  
 kakhulu! Babelangazelele le ngoma engene enhliziyweni  
 kaNhlwathi yaholela ekufeni kwakhe. Bonke abantu bahlala  
 phansi eduze kwempophoma balalela uNwabu ecula ingoma  
 yakhe emnandi, wathi uma eseqedile, bamshayela ihlombe.

Ngakho uNwabu wathatha  
*imbengwe* yakhe wagala  
 ukucula:  
 “Bathi mina ngimubi  
 Bavumelana bonke ngalokhu  
 Kepha uma ngicula  
 Ingoma yami,  
 Ngyayishaya ingoma –  
 He, he!”  
 Uthe lapho eyiqeda khona  
 ingoma yakhe, waphakamisa  
 amehlo. Kwakunesilwane  
 esinamehlo amakhulu  
 esasimngqolozele simamathleka.



Kwakuyindawo eyayilungile uNwabu. Kwakukhona izimambuzane eziningi uNwabu ayengazidla. Laba bangani abadili badla base bephumula. UNwabu wayefikelelwa yisithongwana ngesikhathi kufika inhlwathi emqondweni wakhe.

“Mhlawumbe kumele ngidlale umculo. Angeke ngikwazi ukulala. Ngingayini uma kungaqhamuka inhlwathi?”  
 “Maybe I should play my music. I can't fall asleep. What if the python shows up?”  
 So Chameleon took his *imbengwe* and began to sing:  
 “They say that I am ugly  
 Everyone agrees with this  
 But when I sing my song,  
 I can do this thing called music – Heh, heh!”  
 When he reached the end of the song, he looked up. A creature with big eyes and a broad smile was staring at him.

And Python? Python had eaten a whole calf that morning and so his stomach was very full. Down into the water he fell – CRASH! Rocks fell on him and Python eventually drowned in the deep pool at the bottom of the waterfall.

Chameleon and Otter cheered, “Yebo! Everybody come out! We have good news! Chameleon has killed the python!”



UNhlwathi yena? UNhlwathi yena wayeginge inkonyane yonke ngalelo langa ekuseni, ngakho wayesuthi kakhulu. Wawa wathi – BHALAKAXA emanzini! Wawelwa ngamatshe wase eminza emanzini ajulile phansi kwempophoma.

UNwabu noMthini bamemeza kakhulu ngenjabulo bathi, “Yebo!” Kwaphuma wonke umuntu! “Siniphathele izindaba ezimnandi! UNwabu ubulele uNhlwathi!”

UNwabu wathi, “Ngyaxolisa  
 ukukuphazamisa. Ngyazi  
 ukuthi wenza umsebenzi  
 omuhle kakhulu futhi  
 umatatasasa, kodwa  
 ngdinga usizo lwakho.”  
 Ikhehla lamamathleka  
 ngomusa,  
 “Awungiphazamisi.  
 Ngingakusiza ngani?”  
 “Ngicela ukubuza ukuthi  
 ungangakhehela yini  
 imfijoli?” kubuza uNwabu.  
 “Mhlawumbe *imbengwe*?  
 Ngingathanda ukutunda  
 ukuyidlala. Mhlawumbe  
 ungangtundisa.”



Wathi uma efika emzini wekhehla, wadudula kancane isicabha wanwabuzela wangena. Ikhehla laphenduka ngoba lizwa sengathi ukhona umuntu owayekhona endlini.

When he reached the old man's house, he pushed the door open quietly and crept inside. The old man turned around as if he sensed someone was there.  
 Chameleon said, “I'm sorry to disturb you. I know you do very good work and you're busy but I need your help.”  
 The old man smiled kindly, “You're not disturbing me. What can I do for you?”  
 “Please could you make me a musical instrument?” asked Chameleon. “Perhaps an *imbengwe*? I'd like to learn to play. Maybe you could teach me.”

Lark came flying down and landed on the rock right next to him. He drank some water and started singing a lovely song. He hadn't even noticed Chameleon who had camouflaged himself so well.

Chameleon surprised Lark, “Ah, you're so lucky to be able to fly wherever you want and to be able to sing so beautifully. Look at me. Everyone says I'm ugly. Nobody likes me.”

Lark looked at Chameleon and then he said, “Who told you that? You are not at all ugly!”



UNqomfi wandiza wehlela phansi wayesehlela edwaleni eduze naye. Waziphuzela amanzi wase eqala ukucula ingoma emnandi. Wayengamboni nokumbona uNwabu owayesezifihle kahle.

UNwabu wethusa uNqomfi, “Awuve unenhlanhla dade yokwazi ukundiza uye lapho uthanda ukuya khona nokwazi ukucula kamnandi kangaka. Ake ungibuke. Wonke umuntu uthi ngimubi. Akekho ongithandayo.”

UNqomfi wabuka uNwabu wase ethi, “Ubani okutshela lokho? Awumubi neze!”



“Zonke izilwane zakulo mfula zithi ngimubi,” kuphendula uNwabu. “Uyazi ukuthini? Uma ukhohwa ukuthi umubi, kuzomele wenze okuthile okuzokwenza abanye bakubone ngenhlela ehluke. Kungani ungabamangazi ngokufunda ukucula?” Kuphakamisa uNgomfi ngaphambi kokundizele esibhakabhakeni, ecula ngenkulu injabulo. “Mhlawumbé *ngingafunda* ukucula,” kucabanga uNwabu. “Hm, noma-ke ngingakaze ngizwe ngonwabu oluculayo.” Wazindla ngalokhu amahora amaningi, wabonakala esemamathleka yintokozo wathi, “Mhlawumbé ngingafunda ukudlala imfijoli ethile yomculo.” Wayenalokhu emqondweni, wahamba kancane eqonde emzini wekhetha elalenza izimfijoli zomculo. Lalenza zonke izimfijoli zezimfijoli, kodwa lalaziwa kakhulu ngokwenza *imbengwe*, imfijoli eyayakhiwa ngokhuni oluyisicaba bese eziboshelwa emqaleni wayo.

“Every single animal here at the river says I’m ugly,” answered Chameleon.

“You know what? If you believe you’re ugly, then do something that will make others see you differently. Why don’t you surprise them and learn to sing?” suggested Lark before he swooped off into the sky, singing merrily.

“Maybe I *could* learn to sing,” thought Chameleon. “Hmm, I don’t think I’ve ever heard of a singing chameleon before.”

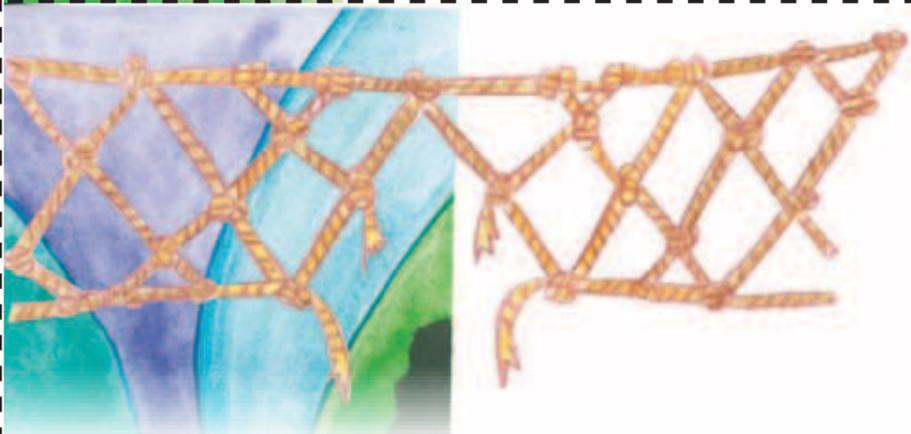
He thought about this for many hours and then suddenly smiled to himself and said, “Maybe I could learn to play a musical instrument.”

With this in mind, he crawled slowly to the house of an old man who was an instrument maker. He made all kinds of musical instruments but he was particularly famous for the *imbengwe*, an instrument made of flat wood with long strings tied at the top of its neck.



It was the python! He seemed hypnotised by Chameleon’s song. “Oh, please don’t stop!” pleaded Python. “That was amazing. Your beautiful voice makes my heart swell with joy. What a song!” Chameleon wasn’t sure what to do, but he thought, “If I don’t sing, he’ll eat me up!” Quickly and with shaking hands, he took his instrument out and began to sing again. On and on he sang until he had an idea.

Kwakuyimhlati! Yayibonakala ithatheke kakhulu yingoma kaNwabu. “O, siza bo ungayeki!” kuncenga uNhlwathi. “Kuyisimangaliso lokhu. Iphimbo lakho elimnandi lenza inhliziyoyami igcwele intokozo. Yaze UNwabu wayengazi ukuthi enzeni, kodwa wacabanga ukuthi, “Uma ngingamculeli, uzongisobozela!” Ngokukhulu ukushesha izandla zakhe zithuthumela, wathatha imfijoli yakhe yomculo wagala ukucula futhi. Wacula waphinde wacula futhi, waze waba nesu elithile.



Still singing and playing, Chameleon began to walk backwards towards the bridge as if to cross it. Python followed him, his eyes rolling and shining just as if he was in love. He swayed from side to side, moving to the beat of the song. Chameleon kept singing and walking backwards very slowly. Python kept following him with his smiling lovey-dovey eyes, getting closer and closer all the time.

Chameleon had almost reached the other side of the bridge when suddenly he felt it beginning to snap. He realised he was in danger.

Out of nowhere, Otter grabbed Chameleon and pulled his friend to safety.

Waqhubeka nokucula nokudlala, uNwabu, waqala ukuhamba ehlehla nyovana eqonde ngasebhulohweni enza sengathi uyowela kulo. UNhlwathi wayelokhu emlandele ngamehlo akhe ayecwebezela sengathi usothandweni. Wayehuhuluza eya ngapha nangapha, ehambisana nesigqi somculo. UNwabu waqhubeka nokucula ehlehla nyovana kancane. UNhlwathi waqhubeka nokumlandela amehlo akhe egcwele uthando, elokhu esondela kancane, kancane.

UNwabu wayesezofika ngakolunye uhlangothi lwebhuloho ngesikhathi elizwa liqala ukuhlephuka. Waqonda ukuthi usengozini enkulu.

Kusenjalo kwaqhamuka uMthini, wathatha uNwabu wamdonsela endaweni ephophile.