

It starts with a story...

Is my child reading?



Learning to read is a journey of discovery. As you travel through the world of storybooks with your children, you'll uncover different treasures and pleasures along the way.

You may notice that your child who used to run off when you tried to read to him, now has a favourite picture book which he brings to you to read – over and over again! Or maybe you're surprised the first time that your older child sits down with her younger brother and pretends to read to him from a familiar picture book.

If you read with your children regularly, you will notice that their book habits change over time. Here are some of the "signposts" that point out a successful reading journey.

- ★ Babies may become quiet as you start to read a book to them, showing that they are listening, and sometimes they may clap or kick their legs to show their excitement. Some babies make sounds as you read to them. They are trying to imitate you.
- ★ As children start to try to "read" on their own, they often turn the pages of the book, looking at the pictures while they make up their own story. (Sometimes they tell a different story each time!) This shows that they have learnt that the pictures give clues to what the story is about.
- ★ Are there some storybooks that your children ask you to read again and again? You may find your children "reading" these books on their own by looking at the pictures and telling the story. They may use a mixture of their own words with some of the actual words from the

story. This is an important step in learning to read because it means that children realise that written words stay the same each time you read them.

- ★ As children begin to read aloud for themselves and come across an unfamiliar word, you may notice that they try to guess what the word is by using what has already happened in the story to help them. Or, they may use the accompanying picture to give them clues to what the unfamiliar word might be. These are clear signs that your children are well on their way to being independent readers. They know that reading is about making meaning.

When you go on a journey, you are not called a "traveller" only once you reach your destination. Learning to read is exactly the same. Your children are readers at each stage of their reading development journey.



Ingaba umntwana wam uyafunda?

Uqeqesho lokufunda luhambo lokufumanisa nokuqonda. Njengokuba nihamba kwihlabathi leencwadi zamabali kunye nabantwana bakho, niza kuhlngana nobutyebi kunye nobumnandi endleleni yenu.

Ungaqaphela ukuba umntwana wakho owayesoloko ebaleka xa uzama ukumfundela, ngoku uneyona ncwadi yemifanekiso ayithandayo nayizisa kuwe ukuba umfundele – uyiphinda-phinde! Okanye, mhlawumbi wothuka mhla ubona umntwana wakho omdalana ehlala phantsi kunye nomninawa wakhe, enze ngathi uyamfundela kwincwadi eqhelekileyo yemifanekiso.

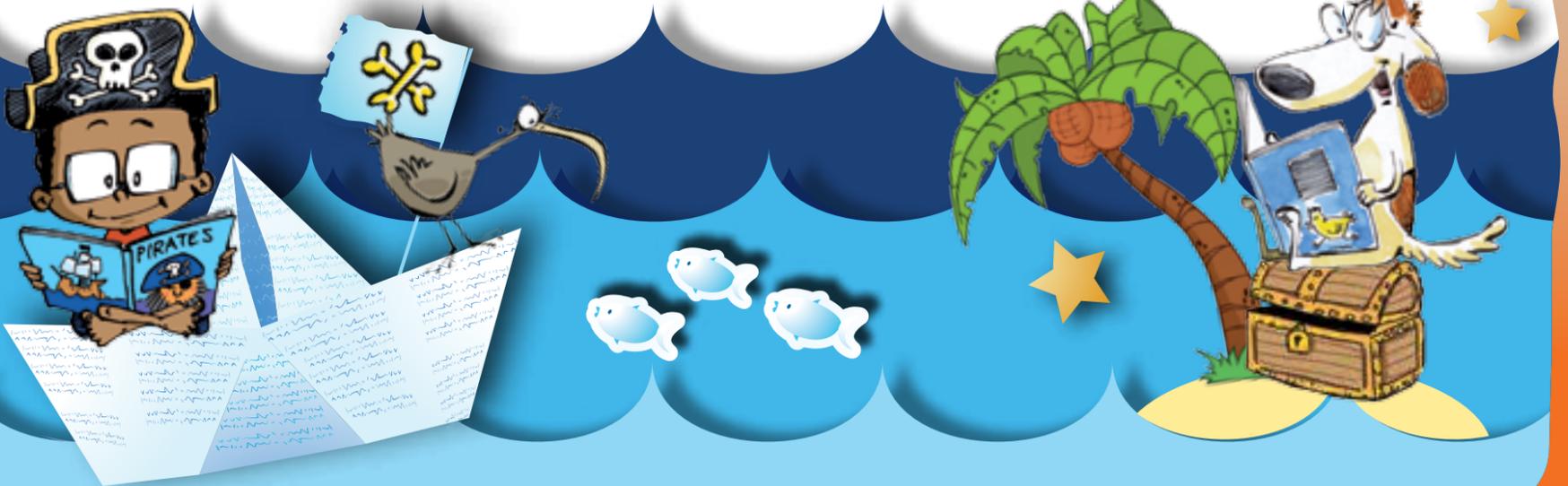
Ukuba ufunda rhoqo kunye nabantwana bakho, uza kuqaphela ukuba imikhwa yabo yeencwadi iyatshintsha ekuhambeni kwexesha. Nazi ezinye "iimpawu" ezibonakalisa ukuba uhambo lokufunda lwenu luyimpumelelo.

- ★ Iintsana ziya kuthula xa uqala ukuzifundela incwadi, zibonakalisa ukuba zimamele kwaye ngamanye amaxesha ziya kuqhwaba izandla okanye zikhabalaze ngemilenze yazo zibonakalisa ukuchulumanca. Ezinye iintsana zenza izandi njengokuba uzifundela. Zizama ukulinganisa wena.
- ★ Njengokuba abantwana beqala ukuzama "ukuzifundela", basoloko betyhila-tyhila amaphepha encwadi, bejonge imifanekiso lo gama beziqambela elabo ibali. (Ngamanye amaxesha babalisa ibali elahluke kwaphela kwixesha ngalinye befunda loo ncwadi!) Oku kubonisa ukuba bafunde ukuqonda ukuba imifanekiso inika umkhondo okanye oonobonisela neengcebiso malunga nokuba ibali lingantoni na.
- ★ Ingaba kukho iincwadi zamabali abantwana bakho abakucela ukuba uzifunde uziphinda-phinde? Ungafumanisa abantwana bakho "bezifundela" ezi ncwadi ngokujonga imifanekiso baze babalise ibali. Bangasebenzisa umxube wamagama abo kunye namagama aphuma ngqo apha ebalini.

Eli linqanaba elibalulekileyo ekufundeni ukufunda kuba lithetha ukuba abantwana bayaqonda ukuba amagama abhaliweyo akatshintshi kwixesha ngalinye uwafunda.

- ★ Njengokuba abantwana beqalisa ukuzifundela ngokuvakalayo ze bahlangane negama abangaliqhelanga, uyakuqaphela ukuba bazama ukuqashela ukuba igama elo lithini na ngokusebenzisa oko sele kwenzekile ebalini ukubanceda. Okanye, bangasebenzisa umfanekiso ohamba negama elo njengomkhondo ukuze bafumanise ukuba eli gama lingaqhelekanga lithetha ntoni na. Ezi zimpawu ezicacileyo ezibonisa ukuba abantwana bakho basemkhondweni oza kubenza abafundi abazimeleyo. Bayazi ukuba ukufunda kumalunga nokufumana intsingiselo.

Xa uthatha uhambo, akuthiwa "ungumhambi" kuphela xa uthe wafika apho uya khona. Ukufunda ukufunda kufana nqwa nokuba ngumhambi. Luhambo kwaye abantwana bakho ngabafundi kwinqanaba ngalinye lokuphuhla kokufunda kwabo.



Drive your imagination

Story Power.
Bring it home.
Wazise ekhaya amandla ebal.

Nalibali
It starts with a story...

Poem in Your Pocket Day



Every April, on Poem in Your Pocket Day, people around the world celebrate by selecting a poem, carrying it with them, and sharing it with others throughout the day at schools, shops, libraries and workplaces. This year Poem in Your Pocket Day is being celebrated on 28 April.

Poetry is best when it is shared. So, Poem in Your Pocket Day is the perfect time to surprise someone with the gift of poetry – either by giving them a poem you have written down, or by reading or saying a poem aloud for them. Here are some ideas for celebrating the day.

- ★ Start a Poem in Your Pocket giveaway at your school, reading club or workplace. Get everyone to write down a poem (or just a verse from a poem) that they enjoy on a piece of paper. Let them put these in their pockets and then find people at school or work on 28 April to give the poems to.
- ★ Turn your street or community into a “poem place”. Put a note in everyone’s letterbox asking them to write down a poem they enjoy and then deliver it to their neighbour on 28 April.
- ★ Write your own poems. Choose five words from a page of one of the stories in this supplement and make these into a poem. Or, choose four or five picture books or novels and then create a poem using the words in the titles of these books. Read your poems aloud to each other.
- ★ Read your favourite poem aloud to at least three other people.
- ★ Make bookmarks with your favourite lines of poetry on them and then give these away at your school, library or closest shopping centre.
- ★ Create a poetry wall in your classroom, reading club or library. Display the poems the children have copied out or created so that everyone can have fun reading them.

You can find lots of short poems on pocket cards to download here: [Pinterest.com/PomeloBooks](https://www.pinterest.com/PomeloBooks). Share them, read them aloud, use them to inspire you to write your own poems, or translate them into your home language.

Ungafumana imibongo onokuyikopa emininzi emifutshane ebhalwe kumakhadi angena epokothweni apha kule webhusayithi: [Pinterest.com/PomeloBooks](https://www.pinterest.com/PomeloBooks). Yabelanani ngayo, niyifunde ngokuvakalayo, niyisebenzise ekuzivuseleleni ukuze nani nibe nakho ukubhala eyenu imibongo, okanye niguqulele kulwimi lwenu lweenkobe leyo ibhalwe ngezinye iilwimi.



USuku loMbongo ePokothweni Yakho

KuTshazimpunzi ngamnye, ngoSuku loMbongo ePokothweni Yakho, abantu kwihlabathi jikelele babhiyoza ngokukhetha umbongo, bawuphathe baze babelane ngawo nabanye imini yonke ezikolweni, ezivenkileni, kumathala eencwadi kunye nasemisebenzini. Kulo nyaka uSuku loMbongo ePokothweni Yakho lubhiyozelwa ngomhla wama-28 kuTshazimpunzi.

Imibongo imnandi kakhulu xa kusabelwana ngayo. Ngoko ke, uSuku loMbongo ePokothweni Yakho lelona xesha lifanelekileyo lokwenzela omnye umntu angakulindelekanga ngokumpha isipho semibongo – mhlawumbi ngokumpha umbongo owubhalileyo, okanye ngokubafundela okanye ubacengecelezele umbongo ngokuvakalayo. Nazi ezinye zeengcebiso zokubhiyozela olu suku.

- ★ Qalisa iphulo lokuphisa ngoMbongo ePokothweni Yakho esikolweni sakho, kwiklabhu yokufunda, okanye emsebenzini. Mema wonke ubani ukuba abhale umbongo (okanye ivesi nje evela embongweni) awuthandayo kwisiqwengana sephepha. Mabayifake ezipokothweni zabo baze bafumane abantu esikolweni okanye emsebenzini ngomhla wama-28 kuTshazimpunzi abaza kubapha loo mibongo.
- ★ Guqula isitalato okanye indawo ohlala kuyo ibe “yindawo yemibongo”. Faka isaziso kwibhokisi yeposi yomntu ngamnye ubacele ukuba babhale phantsi imibongo abayonwabelayo baze bayise kubamelwane babo ngomhla wama-28 kuTshazimpunzi.
- ★ Bhala eyakho imibongo. Khetha amagama amahlanu aphuma kwiphepha elineline lamabali akolu hlelo uze wenze ngawo umbongo. Okanye, ungakhetha iincwadi zemifanekiso ezine okanye ezintlanu okanye iinovelu uze ubhale umbongo usebenzisa amagama akwizihloko zezi ncwadi. Emva koko ke fundelanani imibongo yenu ngokuvakalayo.
- ★ Fundela ngokuvakalayo abantu abathathu ubuncinane owona mbongo wakho uwuthandayo.
- ★ Yenza iibhukmaki ze ubhale eyona miqolo yombongo uyithandayo kuzo uze ke emva koko uphise ngazo esikolweni, kwiithala leencwadi okanye kwiivenkile ezikufutshane kuwe.
- ★ Yenza udonga lwemibongo eklasini yakho, kwiklabhu yokufunda okanye kwiithala leencwadi. Xhoma imibongo abantwana abayikopileyo okanye abayibhalileyo ukuze wonke umntu onwabele ukuyifunda.



NAL'IBALI ON RADIO!

Tune in to your favourite SABC radio station and enjoy listening to children's stories! To find out the days and times that Nal'ibali is on the radio, go to www.nalibali.org/audio-downloads/.



UNAL'IBALI KUNOMATHOTHOLO!

Phulaphula esona sikhululo sikanomathotholo usithandayo kwijelo losasazo lakwa-SABC uze wonwabele ukumamela amabali abantwana! Ukuze ufumane iintsuku kunye namaxesha uNal'ibali akunomathotholo ngawo, yiya ku-www.nalibali.org/audio-downloads/.

Your story

Here are some poems sent to Nal'ibali by our readers. Enjoy reading them aloud. You too can send us your poems, stories and drawings! You stand a chance of having them published in the Nal'ibali supplement, or on the Nal'ibali Facebook page. Remember: it has to be all your own work!

Send your writing and pictures to: info@nalibali.org, or PRAESA, Suite 17-201, Building 17, Waverley Business Park, Wycroft Road, Mowbray, 7700.

Ibali lakho

Nantsi eminye yemibongo ethunyelwe kwaNal'ibali ngabafundi bethu. Yonwabela ukuyifunda ngokuvakalayo. Nawe ungasithumelela eyakho imibongo, amabali kunye nemizobo yakho! Ungasethubeni lokupapashelwa yona kuhlelo lweNal'ibali, okanye kwikhasi leFacebook likaNal'ibali. Khumbula: lo kufuneka ibe ngumsebenzi wakho ncakasana!

Thumela okubhalileyo nemifanekiso ku-info@nalibali.org, okanye ku-PRAESA, Suite 17-201, Building 17, Waverley Business Park, Wycroft Road, Mowbray, 7700.

Popcorn

Mealies, mealies in the pot
Make it very, very hot.
Sizzle, sizzle
Pop! Pop! Pop!
Popcorn's ready now!
Yum!

Lesedi Shamal, 10 years old

Iqhashu

Mbona, mbona embizeni
Yenza shushu, shushu kakhulu.

Hliii, Hliii
Qhasu! Qashu! Qashu!
Iqhashu livuthiwe ngoku!
Masitye yami, yami!

NguLesedi Shamal, ominyaka
ili-10 ubudala

(Lo mbongo waqala wabhalwa
ngesiNgesi. Waguqulelwa
esiXhoseni nguNobuntu Stengile.)

Fruit time

It is fruit time
And it is Spring time
And the lemons are sour
Because they are expensive
The pears are pretty
And the apples are red.

Jovian

(This poem was originally
written in Afrikaans. Translation
by Ilse von Zeuner.)

Ixesha leziqhamo

Lixesha leziqhamo
Kwaye lixesha leNtwasahlobo
Kwaye neelamuni zimuncu
Kuba zixabisa kakhulu
Amapere mahle
Nama-apile abomvu.

NguJovian

(Lo mbongo waqala wabhalwa
nge-Afrikaans. Waguqulelwa
esiXhoseni nguNobuntu Stengile.)

Poem

A worker who lives in Koffiefontein,
Met two beautiful little girls.
He said with a sigh,
While painting behind his back,
"You've just been glued to the bench you are sitting on!"

Renise Cupido

(This poem was originally written in Afrikaans. Translation by
Ilse von Zeuner.)

Umbongo

Umsebenzi ohlala eKoffiefontein,
Wadibana namantombazanyana amabini amahle.
Ethetha ngesingqala wathi,
Lo gama apeyinta umva wesitulo,
"Nincamathele kwesi situlo nihleli kuso!"

NguRenise Cupido

(Lo mbongo waqala wabhalwa
nge-Afrikaans. Waguqulelwa
esiXhoseni nguNobuntu Stengile.)

Science class

In the dark laboratory
works old Professor Astorium.
We call him Prof. As.
He always wears a white coat.

He pours gruesome green goo into tubes
and lets the fat white mice run about.
Everything shudders, shakes and wobbles
and makes the girls squeal.

He does strange experiments.
All this for a few extra cents.
He looks at weird stuff under microscopes
and leaves us with the mess and dirt.

Manwill Meyers, Grade 6

(This poem was originally written
in Afrikaans. Translation by
Ilse von Zeuner.)

Eklasini yezeNzululwazi

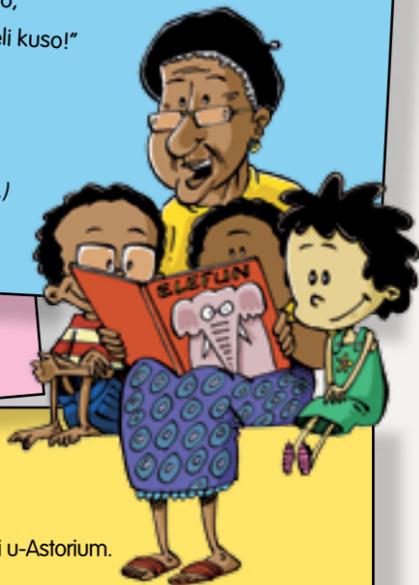
Kwilebhu emnyama thsu
Kusebenza ixhego leNjingalwazi u-Astorium.
Simbiza ngoProf. As.
Usoloko enxibe idyasi emhlophe.

Ugalela okoyikekayo okuluhlaza kwiityhubhu
aze akhuphe iimpuku ezimhlophe ezityebileyo zizibalekele
zijikeleza evilini.
Yonke nje into iyangangcazela, igungqo, ishukushukume
ze kwenze oko amantombazana atswine.

UProf. As wenza imifuniso engaqhelekanga.
Konke oku ukweza ukuze afumane uchatha weesentana emvuzweni.
Ujonga izinto ezingaqhelekanga ngeemikroskopu
aze asishiye naloo ntsila, simdaka.

NguManwill Meyers, weBanga le-6

(Lo mbongo waqala wabhalwa nge-Afrikaans. Waguqulelwa
esiXhoseni nguNobuntu Stengile.)





Get story active!

Here are some ideas for using the two cut-out-and-keep books, *The magic mokoro*, (pages 5, 6, 11 and 12) and *Whose button is it?* (pages 7, 8, 9 and 10) as well as the Story Corner story, *Tortoise takes a taxi* (pages 13 and 15). Choose the ideas that best suit your children's ages and interests.

The magic mokoro

In this story a kind and wise old woman with magical powers helps the people of a nearby village while she teaches their chief a life lesson. Children aged 4 and older are more likely to enjoy this story. With younger children, you may want to show them the pictures as you retell the story more simply in your own words.

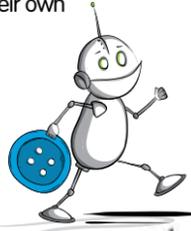


- ★ After you have read the story aloud, discuss some of these questions with older children.
 - ★ In what ways do you think the woman was kind and wise in the story?
 - ★ Why do you think the people from the village liked her?
 - ★ What do you think of the way that the proud and greedy chief treated the woman? How do you think she felt?
 - ★ What advice would you have given this chief?
 - ★ What lesson do you think the woman wanted the chief to learn? Do you think he learnt it?

- ★ Suggest that your children use cardboard boxes (like cereal and biscuit boxes, and egg cartons), coloured paper, glue, glitter and paint to make the fish and mokoro in the story. Then let them use clay, playdough or Plasticine to make the story characters. Encourage them to retell the story in their own way using their story props.

Whose button is this?

In this story, Tinny Tim sets out to return a lost button. Along the way he goes exploring, has a miraculous escape, and makes new friends. You can share this story with children of all ages.



- ★ As you read the story together, do some of these things.
 - ★ **Page 3:** Ask: "Where could the button have come from?" Then say, "Let's read on to find out."
 - ★ **Page 5:** Point to the shoelace and say: "Look! He's getting away by swinging on the shoelace."
 - ★ **Page 8:** Point to the part of the dog shown in the picture and ask: "What do you think this is?"
- ★ Give your children sheets of newspaper, old buttons and socks, pieces of fabric, some wool, and glue and suggest that they make the doll from the story.
- ★ Encourage older children to try writing and illustrating a story of their own using the framework of this one to guide them. They could use a different "lost" object and different characters, but keep the rest of the story the same, or they could change other details of the plot too. Let them read their stories to other children and/or family members.

Tortoise takes a taxi

This story is about Nkululeko, a tortoise who is keen to go on an adventure. A taxi driver takes him to the city, the beach and the mountain and he has a fantastic time, but he learns that home is where he most likes to be. This is a good story for reading aloud or retelling.



- ★ Let your children use egg cartons, cardboard, paint and glue to make the tortoises in the story. They can use other scrap materials (like bottle tops and cereal or biscuit boxes) to make the taxi. Encourage them to use the story props they made to retell the story in their own way.
- ★ Suggest that your children draw a map to show the places Nkululeko went to on his adventure and the order in which he visited them.

Yenza ibali linike umdla!

Nazi ezinye zeengcebiso zokusebenzisa iincwadi ezimbini onokuzisikaze-uzigcine; enesihloko esithi, *Imokoro yemilingo*, (kwiphepha le-5, ele-6, ele-11 nele-12) kunye nenesihloko esithi, *Lelikabani eli qhoshha?* (kwiphepha le-7, ele-8, ele-9 nele-10) kwakunye nebali leNdawo yamaBali, elisihloko sithi, *Ufudo lukhwela iteksi* (kwiphepha le-14 nele-15). Khetha iingcinga ezilungele ubudala nomdla wabantwana bakho.

Imokoro yemilingo

Kweli bali ixhegokazi elalinobubele, ubulumko nemilingo linceda abantu belali ekufutshane lo gama lifundisa inkosi yabo isifundo. Abantwana ababudala buyiminyaka e-4 ukwenyuka ngabona bamele ukulonwabela eli bali. Xa ulisebenzisa nabantwana abancinane, mhlawumbi ungathanda ukubabonisa imifanekiso lo gama ubalisa kwakhona ibali ngokulula, usebenzisa amazwi akho.

Emva kokuba ulifundile ibali ngokuvakalayo, xoxa ngeminye yale mibuzo nabantwana abadlanyana.

- ★ Zeziphi iindlela ocinga ukuba eli xhegokazi lalibonisa ngazo ububele nobulumko apha ebalini?
- ★ Ucinga ukuba kwakutheni ukuze abantu belali balithande?
- ★ Ucinga ntoni ngendlela inkosi enekratshi nenomona eyaliphatha ngalo eli xhegokazi? Ucinga ukuba laliziva njani?
- ★ Lithini icebo ongowawulinike le nkosi?
- ★ Sithini isifundo ocinga ukuba eli xhegokazi lalifuna le nkosi isifunde? Ucinga ukuba yasifunda ngokwenene eso sifundo?

- ★ Cebisa abantwana bakho ukuba basebenzise iibhokisi zekhadibhodi (ezifana nezesisiriyeli neebhokisi kunye nezokufaka amaqanda), iphepha elinombala, iglu, ubumenyemerye kunye nepeyinti ukuze benze iintlanzi kunye neemokoro ezisebalini. Emva koko ke bavumele basebenzise udongwe, intlama yokudlala okanye ne-Plasticine ukuze benze abalinganiswa abasebalini. Bakhuthaze ukuba babalise kwakhona ibali elo ngeyabo indlela, basebenzisa izinto abazenzileyo ezixhasa ibali.

Lelikabani eli qhoshha?

Kweli bali, uTinny Tim uzimisele ukubuyisela iqhoshha elilahlekileyo kumninilo. Endleleni apho wayehamba ehlola, esinda cebetshu, efumana nabahlobo abatsha. Ungabelana ngeli bali nabantwana ababudala bahlukileyo.

Njengokuba nifunda ibali nonke, yenzani ezinye zezi zinto.

- ★ **Iphepha le-3:** Buza: "Inokuba lalivela phi na iqhoshha elo?" Emva koko yiithi, "Masiqhubeka sifunde ukuze sive."
- ★ **Iphepha le-5:** Yolatha umtya wesihlangu uze uthi: "Jongani! Uzisindisa ngokujinga kumtya wesihlangu."
- ★ **Iphepha le-8:** Yolatha apho kubonisweinja emfanekisweni uze ubuze uthi: "Ucinga ukuba yintoni le?"

- ★ Nika abantwana bakho amaxwebhu amaphepha, amaqhoshha amadala kunye neekawusi, iziqwengana zamalaphu, iwulu, kunye neglu uze ucebise ukuba benze unodoli osebalini. Khuthaza abantwana abadlana ukuba bazame ukubhala baze bazobe imifanekiso yeyabo amabali basebenzisa isakhelo seli bali ukubakhokela. Bangasebenzisa enye into "elahlekileyo" kunye nabalinganiswa abahlukileyo, kodwa lonke ibali eli balishiye lisafana neliya lokuqala, okanye bangasitshintsha nesakhiwo seballi. Bavumele bafunde amabali abo bewafundela abanye abantwana kuye/okanye namalungu eentsapho zabo.

Ufudo lukhwela iteksi

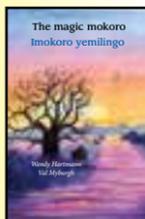
Eli bali limalunga noNkululeko, ufudo olwalunqwenela ukuthatha uhambo lwamahlandinyuka olungaqhelekanga noluchulumancisayo. Umqhubi weteksi wamsa esixekweni, elwandle nasentabeni kwaye wonwaba kakhulu apho, kodwa wafunda ukuba ikhaya yindawo akhetha ukuba kuyo ngalo lonke ixesha. Eli libali likulungele ukufundwa ngokuvakalayo okanye libaliswe kwakhona.

Vumela abantwana bakho basebenzise iikhadibhodi zokufaka amaqanda, iibhokisi, ipeyinti kunye neglu ukuze benze iimfudo ezisebalini. Bangasebenzisa ezinye izinto ezilahlwayo (ezifana neziciko zeebhokisi kunye neebhokisi zesiriyeli okanye zeebhokisi) ukuze benze iteksi. Bakhuthaze ukuba basebenzise izinto abazenzileyo ezixhasa ibali ukuze babalise ibali ngezabo iindlela.

Cebisa abantwana ukuba bazobe imephu ebonisa iindawo awaya kuzo uNkululeko kuhambo lwakhe lwamahlandinyuka olungaqhelekanga noluchulumancisayo ze babonise nendlela awazilandelelanisa ngayo kolo hambo ezo ndawo.

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.



Zenzele iincwadana EZIMBINI onokuzisikaze-uzigcine

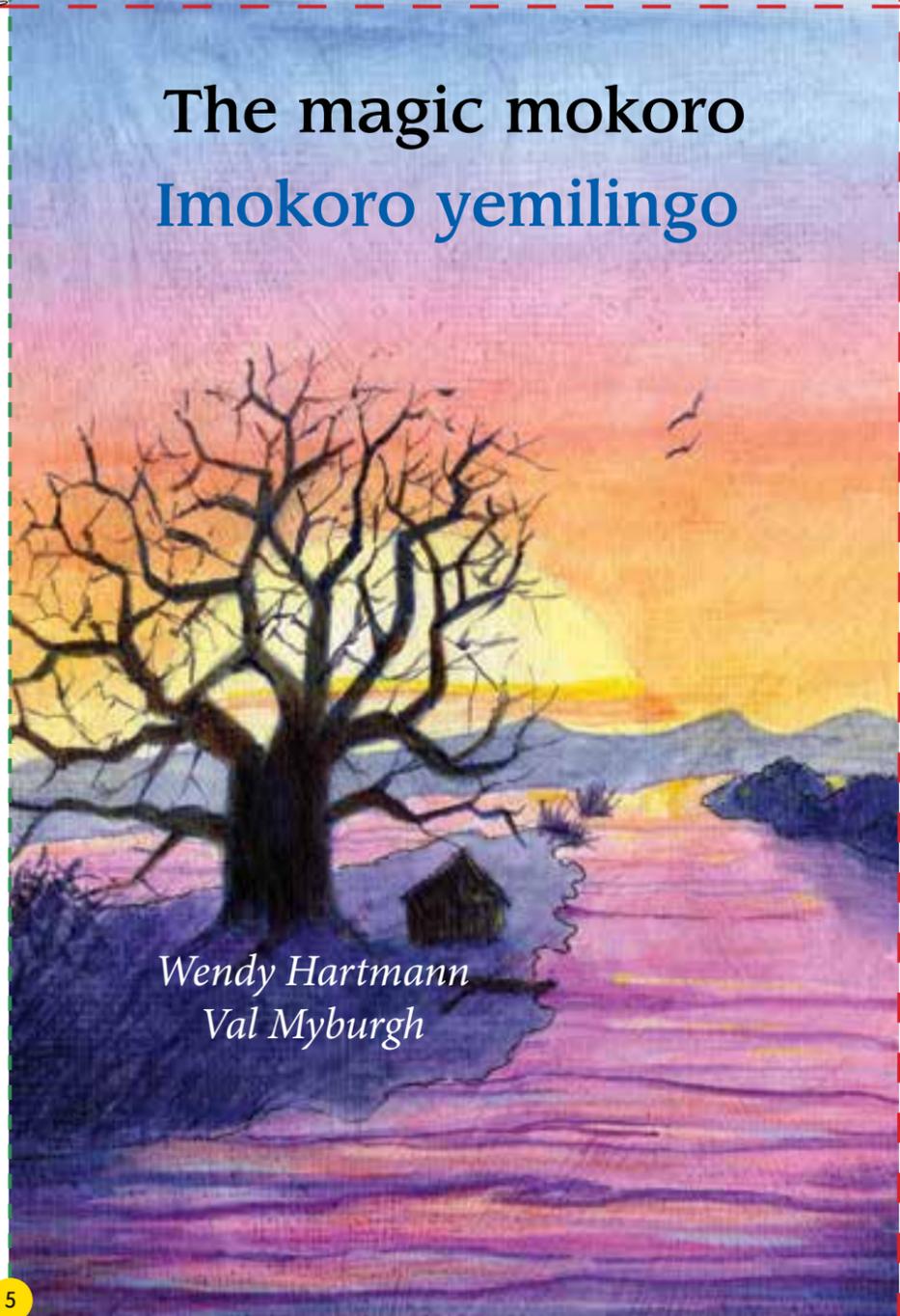
1. Khupha iphepha le-5 ukuya kwele-12 kolu hlelo.
2. Uxwebhu olunamaphepha aqala kwele-5, ele-6, ele-11 nele-12 lwenza incwadi yokuqala. Uxwebhu olunamaphepha aqala kwele-7, ele-8, ele-9 nele-10 lwenza eyesibini incwadi.
3. Sebenzisa uxwebhu ngalunye kula mabini ukwenza iincwadana. Landela imiyalelo engezantsi ukwenza incwadi nganye.
 - a) Songa iphepha phakathi kumgca wamachaphaza amnyama.
 - b) Phinda ulisonge phakathi kwakhona ulandela umgca wamachaphaza aluhlaza.
 - c) Sika ke ngoku ulandela imigca yamachaphaza abomvu.



Mokoro, mokoro, nanku umqwano nam.
 Dada utboe umlambo lo nye kenindamo ekufumaneke
 kuyo intlanzi?
 ethethwa lixhegwazana,
 kwimokoro ze yaphinda amazwi eweve
 yaqubha inqumla umlambo, yakhwela ngaphakathi
 ixhegwazana ukuba libe kwelinye icala lesigithi. Iye
 "hayi ela xhegwazana lishwabengyo." Inkosi iye yalindela
 "La mokoro leya kufuneka ibe yeyam," itshilo inkosi,
 yaziqhuba ukuya apho esigithini.
 esitubeni, laza lathoba indoko libulela. Imokoro iye
 laqhamba izandla, laza lazibeka phezu kwentliziyo yalo,
 zingena kwimokoro. Emva koko ixhegwazana lye
 Ngephanyazo nje, intlanzi zaxhuma ukuphuma emanzi

In a flash of silver, the fish jumped out of the water into
 the mokoro. Then the old woman clapped her hands, held
 them to her heart and bowed her head in thanks. The
 mokoro sailed itself back to the island.
 "That mokoro should belong to me," said the chief, "not
 to that old woman." He waited until the old woman was
 at the far end of the island. He swam across the river,
 stepped into the mokoro and repeated the words he had
 heard her say.
 Mokoro, mokoro, here is my wish.
 Sail down the river to where there are fish.

The magic mokoro Imokoro yemilingo



Wendy Hartmann
 Val Myburgh

The magic mokoro is one of ten stories specially written and illustrated for the new Sunday Times Storytime book which was created for South African children.

The first Sunday Times storybook was launched five years ago to allow children to experience the magic of stories, especially in their own languages. The Sunday Times distributed two million copies of the first book in all 11 languages free of charge to schools, libraries and reading clubs across the country.

The new Sunday Times storybook is available in English, Afrikaans, Sesotho, IsiXhosa and IsiZulu.

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 or www.nalibali.mobi



UNal'ibali liphulo likazwelonke lokufundela ukuzonwabisa nokuvuselela umdla ebantwaneni ngokubalisa amabali nokufunda. Ukuze ufumane iinkcukacha ezithe vetshe, ndwendwela ku-www.nalibali.org okanye ku-www.nalibali.mobi





Long ago, there was a wise and kind old woman. She lived on an island in the middle of the great Zambezi River.



When the people in the nearby village were hungry, she took them fish. They were thankful and invited her to stay and eat with them. But she did not.



The mokoro took him to exactly the same spot. Then he said the rest of the words,
Mokoro, mokoro, here is my wish.
Fill yourself up with just enough fish.
 There was a splash of silver and the fish jumped into the mokoro. More and more jumped in. Fish covered the chief's feet and he could not move.
 What he had not done was give his thanks. So, no matter how he shouted to make them stop, the fish kept jumping in. Soon the mokoro was full.

Kweli tyeli lithe ixhegwazana xa libuyela elalini, labe lingaphethe nto. Imokoro yemilingo yayingekho. Ubabalisele konke okwenziwe nokwenzeke enkosini. Emva koko ke, ngenxa yokuba wayenobubele kakhulu, uye wabafundisa indlela yokwenza iminatha yokuzilobela ezabo iintlanzi. Abantu bambulela kakhulu ngokubenzela oko.

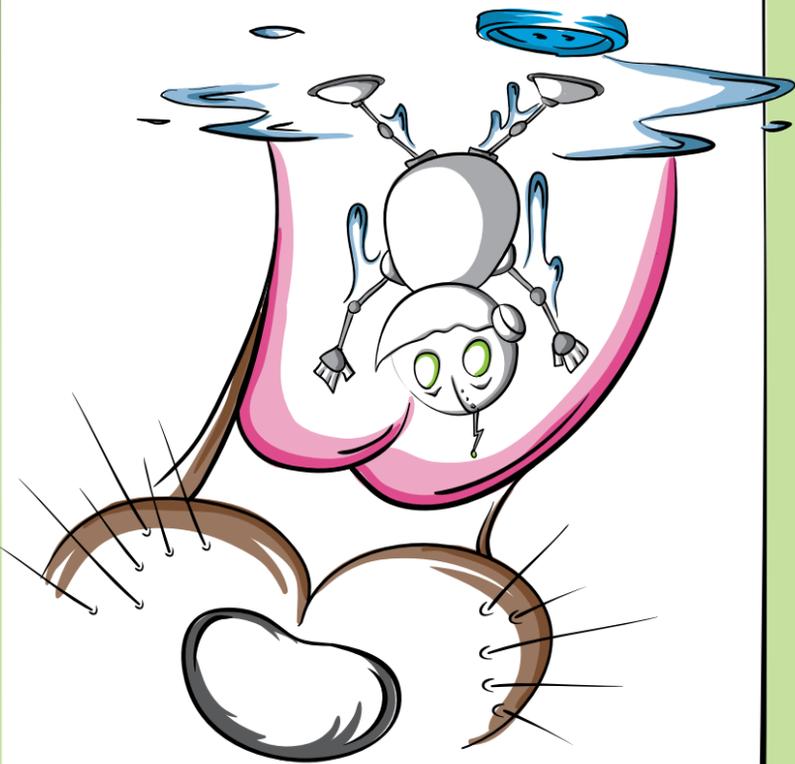
Ukuza kuthi ga namhlanje, abemi bale lali baziphilela ngokonwaba okukhulu. Ngoku sele bephethwe yinkosi enobubele nesisilumko. Ngoku bayakwazi ukuzilobela iintlanzi zabo ze bazikhangelele nokutya ngokwabo. Abakaze balobe ngokugqithisileyo kwaye basoloko besabelana ngokutya abanako kunye nabo bangenanto bona.

Ukuza kuthi ga namhlanje, inkondekazi esisilumko ayizange iphinde ibonwe. Ngokokwazi kwabantu balapho, imokoro yomlingo isahleli apho ngaphantsi kwamanzi omlambo lowo.

Kwaye ukuza kuthi ga namhlanje, ikhehle elo lenkosi lisatya ezo ntlanzi lalizilobile. Loo ngqumba yalo isenkulu nangoku kwaye isahleli kweso siqithi siphakathi kumlambo iZambezi.

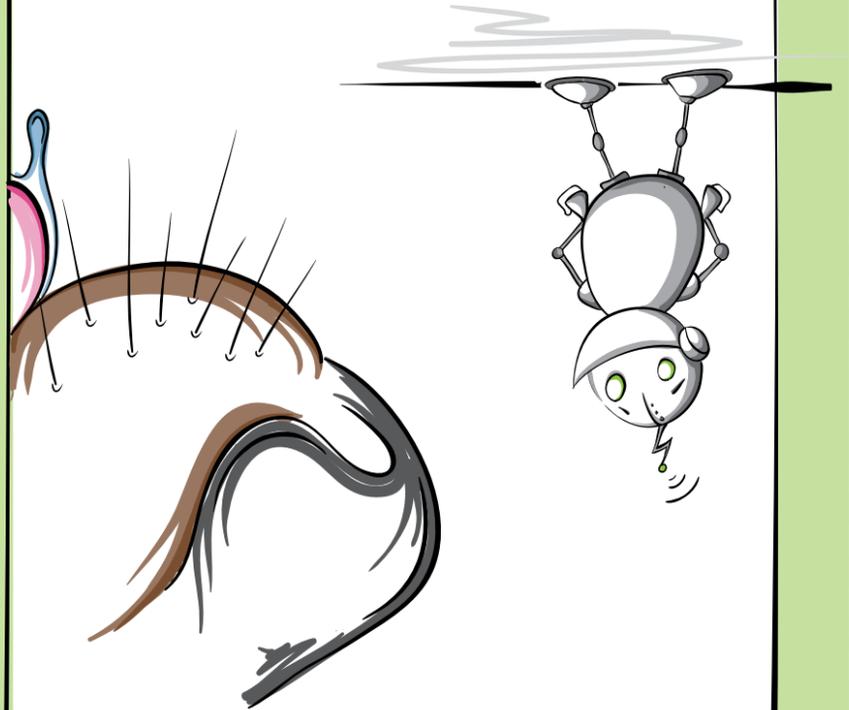


“Noko lo ukhangeleka enobubele,”
wacinga njalo uTinny Tim.



“At least he’s friendly,” thought
Tinny Tim.

“Hayi-bo, yima!”
ekhangelela umni-ghosha elo.
Utinny Tim waqhubekela



“Whoa!”
Tinny Tim carried on looking for
the owner of the button.

We believe every child
should own a hundred books
by the age of five.

Become a book-sponsor and
help change the world.

Get involved at
bookdash.org



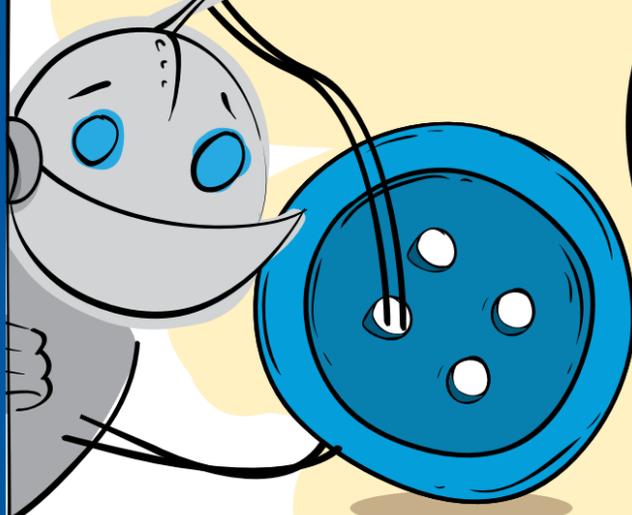
Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment
campaign to spark children’s potential through
storytelling and reading. For more information,
visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi



UNal’ibali liphulo likazwelonke lokufundela
ukuzonwabisa nokuvuselela umdla
ebantwaneni ngokubalisa amabali nokufunda.
Ukuze ufumane iinkcukacha ezithe vetshe,
ndwendwela ku-www.nalibali.org okanye
ku-www.nalibali.mobi

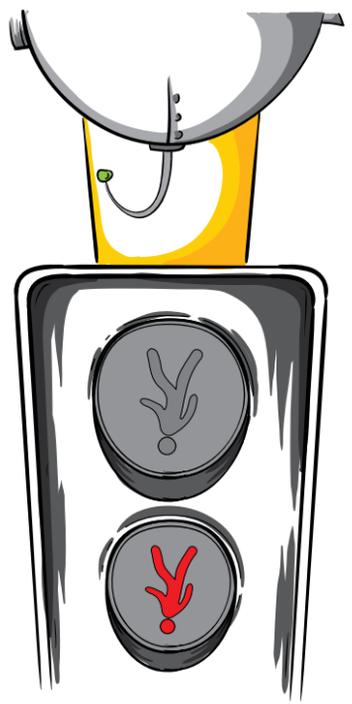


Whose
button is this?
Lelikabani eli
qhosha?



Paul Kennedy
James Woolley
Louise Gale

Yasuka nje yaika yabomvu.
"Umntu okwada kangaka,"
wazicingela njalo uTinny Tim.

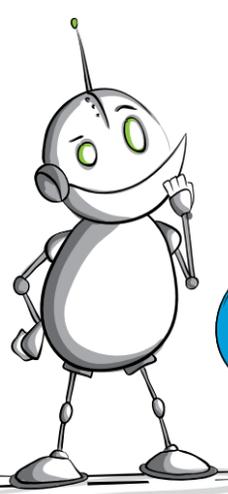


He just turned red.
"What a rude person," thought
Tinny Tim.

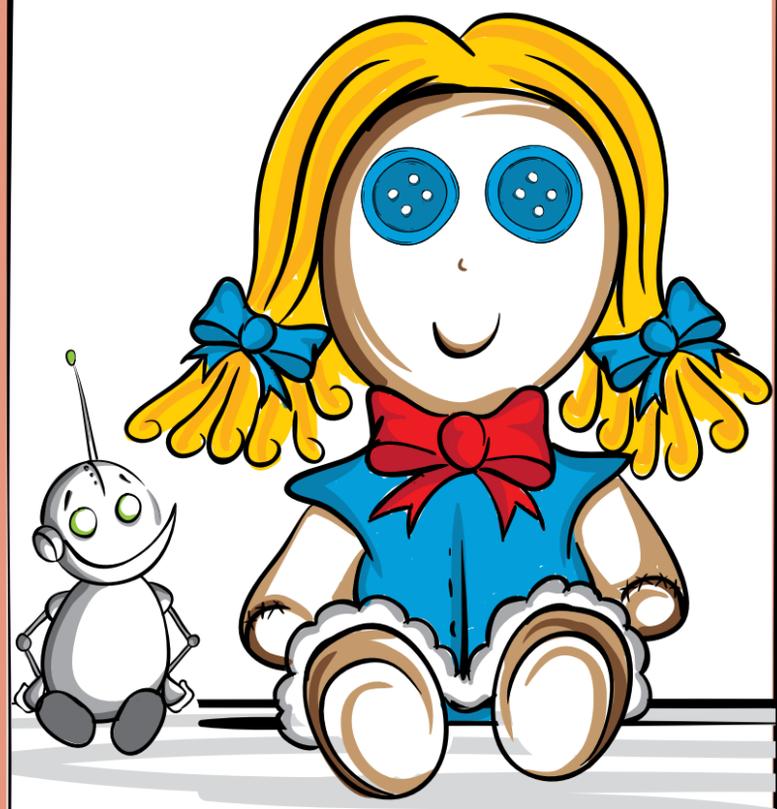
"Kufuneka ndiwelele kwelinye icala
lendlela. Ndiqinisekile eli qhoshha
lisuka kweliya cala."
TSHWII
"Phantse ndenzakala," watsho
uTinny Tim. Walinda imoto ukuba
zidlule phambi kokuba aqhubeke.

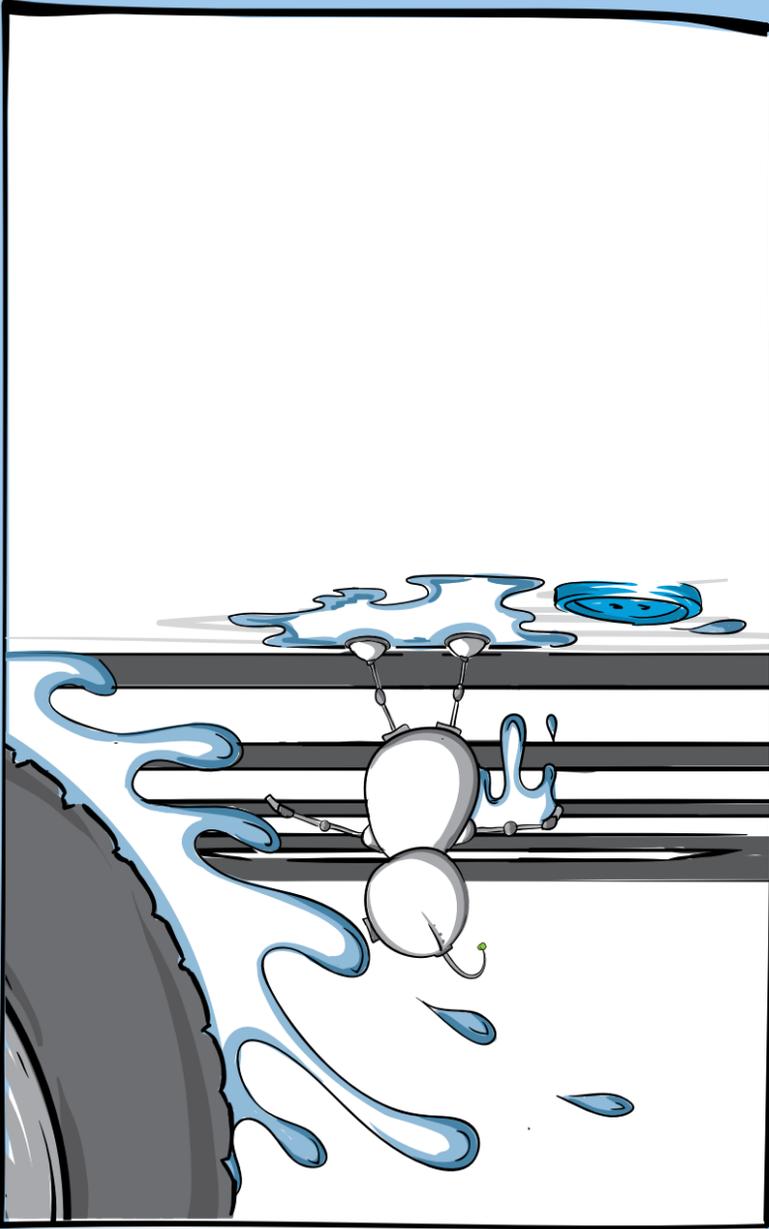
"I've got to get to the other side of
the road. I'm sure that's where this
button comes from."
SPLASH!
"That was close," said Tinny Tim.
He waited for the cars to pass
before he carried on.

Tinny Tim was standing on the
side of the road when a button
bounced his way.

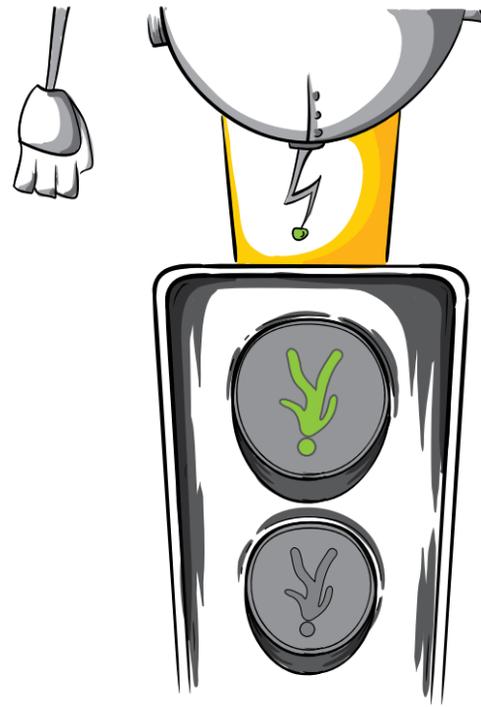


UTinny Tim wayemi ecaleni
kwendlela ngethuba iqhoshha
litaka lisiza ngakuye.





“Molo apno, ingaba liqhosha lakho
eli?” wabuza uTiny Tim.
Indoda eluhlaza ayizange imphendule.

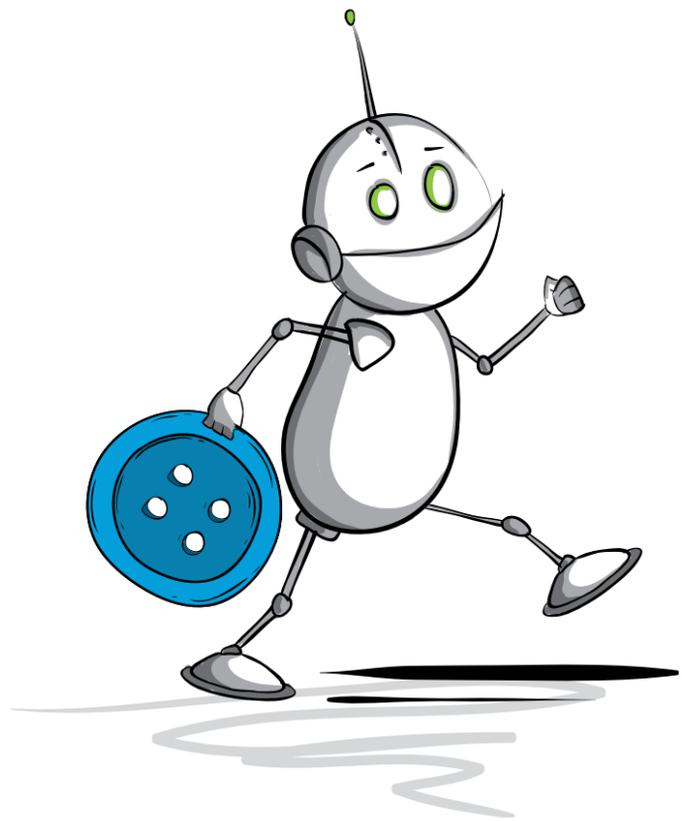


“Hey there, is this your button?”
asked Tiny Tim.
The green man said nothing.

“Thank you, little robot.
Can we be friends?”

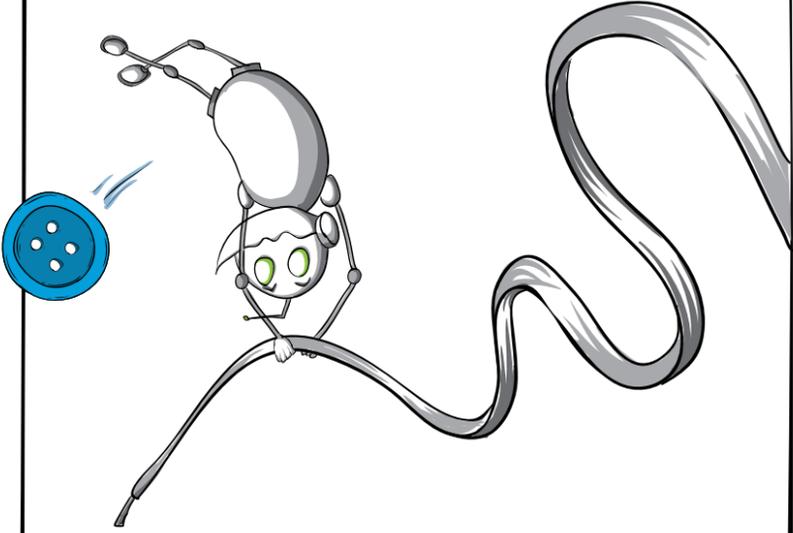
“Enkosi, robhothi
encinane. Unganguye
umhlobo wam?”

“I wonder where this comes from,”
he said. He wanted to find out.



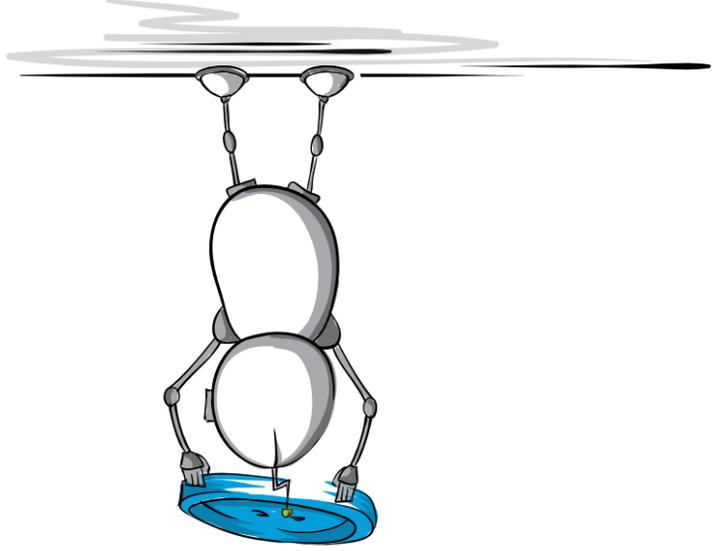
“Kazi ukuba lisuka phi na,”
watshe ebhidekile. Wayefuna
ukuqonda ugenene.

Wasinda cebetshu.
"Kuyoyikeka phandle
apha," watsho.



He made a lucky escape.
"It's scary out here," he said.

Emva koko ke uTinny Tim wabona
umntu esiza ngakuye. Mhlawumbi lo
ngulo mntu wayemkhangele.
"Molo, ungbani igama
lakho?" wabuza.



Then Tinny Tim saw someone
coming. Maybe this was who he
was looking for.
"Hello, who are you?" he asked.

It was busy on the side of the road.
"Woah!"
Tinny Tim nearly got squashed!



Kwakuphithizela kakhulu
endleleni apho.
"Hayi-bo, yima!"
UTinny Tim waphantse
wanyathelwa watyumka.

"I'm Ruby Rags," said the someone.
"I think this is yours," said Tinny Tim as
he gave her the button.

"NdinguRuby Rags," watsho lo mntu.
"Ndicinga ukuba eli liqhosha lakho,"
watsho uTinny Tim lo gama
amnika iqhosha.





Imokoro iyithathe inkosi leyo yayisa ngqo kulaa ndawo incedlanzi. Ithe ke inkosi le yathetha amazwi okugqibela cxhegwazana. *Mokoro, mokoro, nanku umngweno wam. Zizalise ngeentlanzi nje ezonleyo.* Kwathi gqi ubumcinyemeyo obusabusilivere zaza iintlanzi zatsibela kwimokoro. Ziyе zanzizi nangakumbi ngoku ezitsibela ngaphakathi. Iintlanzi ziyе zogquma inyawo zenkosi yaza ayakwazi nokushukuma. Into athe akayenza kukwenza umbulolo ngakufumengyo. Ngoku ke uthe naxa sele engxola kakhulu efuna ukuba iintlanzi ziphezе, ziyеke ukuxhumela kwimokoro, zaqhubeke zingena. Ithe ke nemokoro yasindakala.

The next day, she stepped into her mokoro and said, *Mokoro, mokoro, here is my wish. Sail down the river to where there are fish. The mokoro moved itself into the water and sailed down the river. The chief followed. The mokoro stopped at a spot where the water was calm. Then the old woman spoke again. Mokoro, mokoro, here is my wish. Fill yourself up with just enough fish.* Ngosuku olulandelayo le nkondekazi yakhwela kwimokoro yayo yaza yathi, *Mokoro, mokoro, nanku umngweno wam. Dada nithobe umlambo lo nje kwindawo ekujfumaneka kuyo iintlanzi.* Imokoro yaziqhuba ngokwayo emanzini, yadada ischla ngomlambo. Nayо ke le nkosi yalandela. Imokoro iye yemisa kwindawo apho kwakukho khona amanzi azohlileyo. Laza ke eli xhegwazana lathetha kwakhona. *Mokoro, mokoro, nanku umngweno wam. Zizalise ngeentlanzi nje ezonleyo.*

This time, when the old woman returned to the village, she had nothing with her. The magic mokoro was gone. She told the people what had happened to their chief. Then, because she was kind, she showed them how to weave nets and catch their own fish. The people were very grateful.

To this day, the villagers live happily. They now have a kind and wise chief who rules them. They are able to catch fish and feed themselves. They never take too much and always share their food with others who do not have enough.

To this day, the wise old woman has never been seen again. As far as anyone knows, the magic mokoro is still there, at the bottom of the river.

And to this day, the old chief is eating the fish he caught. The pile never gets smaller and he is still on that island in the middle of the Zambezi River.

Kudaladala, kwaye kukho ixhegwazana elisisilumko nelinobubele kakhulu. Lalihlala kwisiqithi esasiphakathi kumlambokazi iZambezi.



Xa abantu belali ekufutshane nendawo elihlala kuyo belamba, belibaphathela iintlanzi. Bebelibulela kakhulu baze balimeme ukuba lize kutya nabo. Kodwa lona belisala.



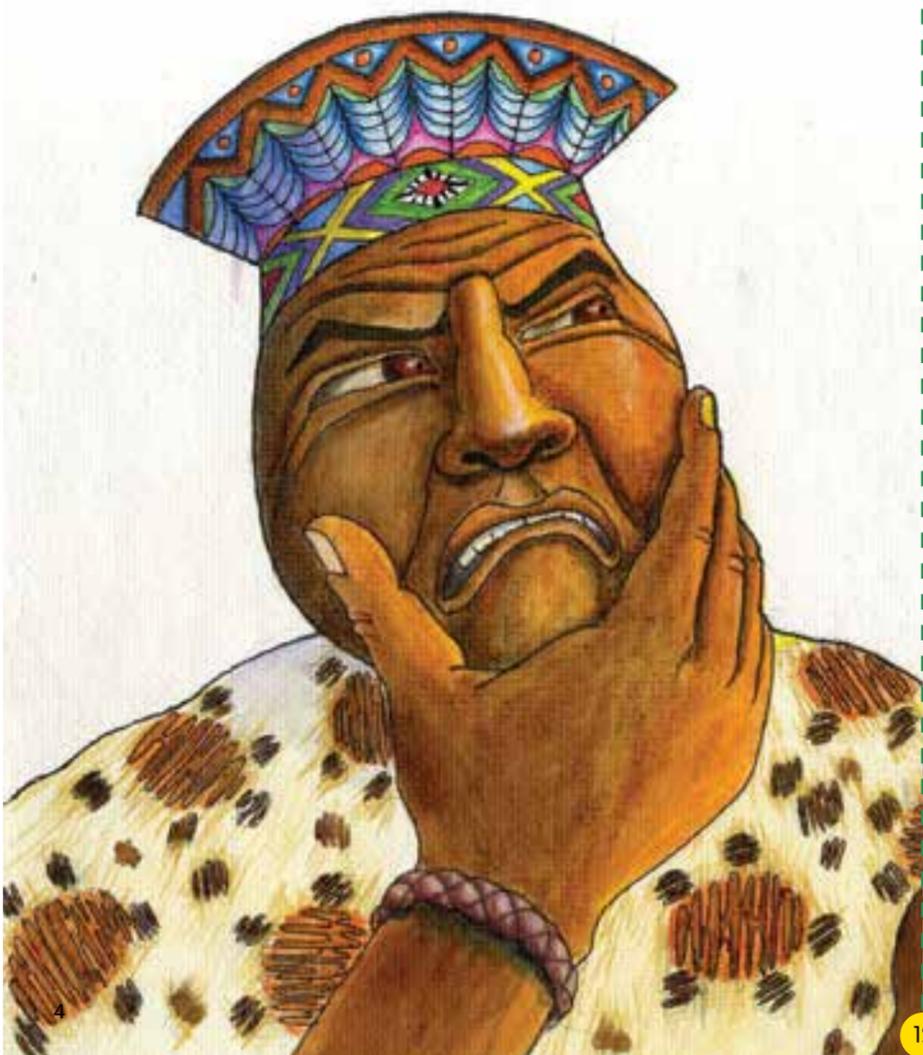
Inkosi yelali leyo yayinomona kwaye izidla. “Ungubani ke wena?” imkqansise yatsho. “Usuka phi na khona? Kwaye kutheni le nto mna ndingaphakelwanga kuqala?”

Ixhegwazana eli belisuke nje lizincumle, lize likhwela kwimokoro yalo lize lingene phakathi lihambe ngomlambo lowo.

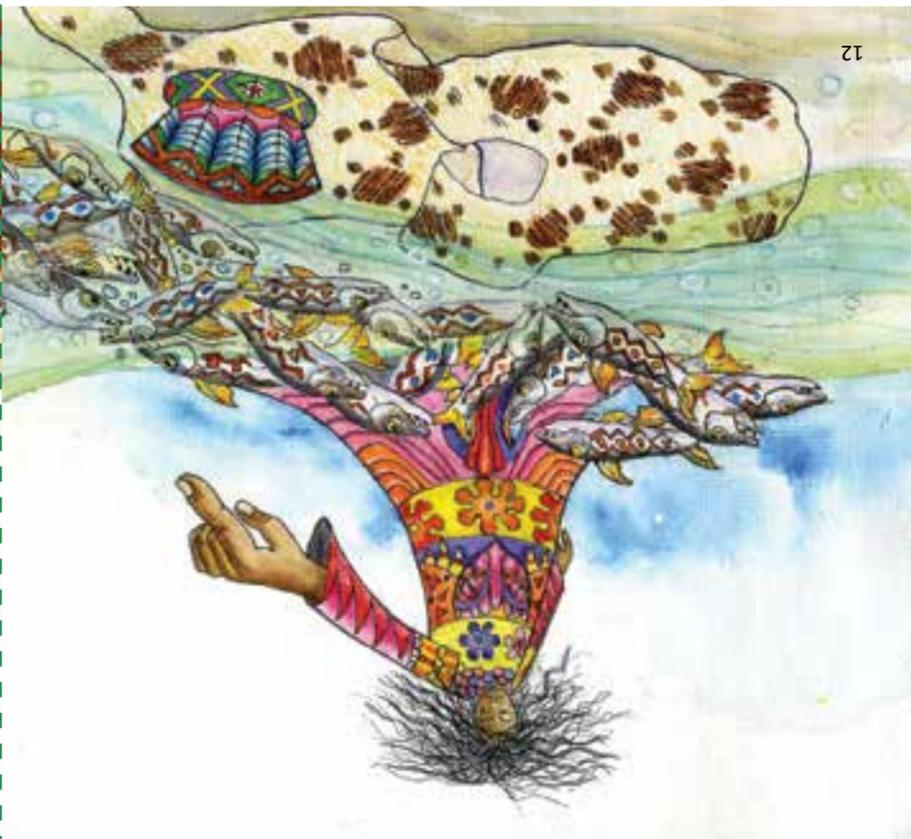
Le nto yayicaphukisa kakhulu inkosi, ngoko ke yaya yayilandela le nkondekazi. Inkosi ihambe iyure ezininzi yaza ekugqibeleni yasibona isiqithi esiphakathi emlanjeni. Nantso le nkondekazi isehla kwimokoro yayo, yaza yangena ngaphakathi endlwini. Inkosi iye yalalisela apho igade eli xhegwazana.

The old woman just smiled, got into her mokoro and sailed back up the river.

This made the chief angry, so he followed her. He walked for many hours and eventually saw an island in the middle of the river. There, the old woman climbed out of the mokoro and went into her hut. He camped nearby to watch her.



The chief of the village was a proud and greedy man. “Who are you?” he demanded. “Where do you come from? And why was I not served first?”



It was about to sink when the old woman appeared. She clapped her hands twice, held them to her heart and bowed her head in thanks.

The mokoro sailed back to the island and emptied the fish and the chief on the bank. Then it turned, moved to the middle of the river and slowly sank to the bottom.

“You!” said the old woman angrily. “You will remain on this island and eat all the fish you have caught. You will not leave here until the pile is gone.”

Yayisele iza kuzika imokoro ukuthi gqi kwenkondekazi leyo. Liye laqhweba izandla zalo kabini ixhegwazana, laza lazibeka phezu kwentliziyo yalo, esifubeni, laza lathoba intloko libulela.

Imokoro iye yadada yabuyela kwasesiqithini ze yethula iintlanzi ezo kwanenkosi leyo elunxwemeni. Ithe ke emva koko yaguquka ibuyela ngaphakathi emlanjeni, yaza yazika kancinane de yaya kutshona ezantsi.

“Wena!” itshilo inkondekazi ngomsindo. “Wena uza kuhlala kwesi siqithi ze uzitye zonke ezo ntlanzi uzibambisileyo. Awusayi kumka apha de ube uyigqibe yonke loo ngqumba yentlanzi.”



Tortoise takes a taxi

By Kai Tuomi ✨ Illustrations by Jiggs Snaddon-Wood



Nkululeko and his mama and papa are tortoises. They live together at the bottom of a garden.

Now, tortoises don't need houses like we do because they live in their shells. And the other thing you may know about tortoises, is that they are very, very slow.



Every night, Nkululeko and his mama and papa go to bed very slowly by pulling their legs and heads inside their shells. And every morning, they wake up very slowly too. It is usually about ten o'clock when they finally pop out of their shells and have a delicious breakfast of flowers and leaves.

One morning Papa leaned over to Mama and said, "Isn't it a lovely day to do nothing? It's just a pity about Nkululeko, he's always rushing about."

Nkululeko was very fast for a tortoise. On this morning, he was exploring the bushes on the far side of the garden. His parents shook their heads, but Nkululeko was too busy playing in a big pile of crunchy leaves to notice.

Nkululeko saw something shiny in the leaf pile. It was a big gold coin. "It's money!" he said with a smile. "I'm going to use it to go on an adventure."

And so Nkululeko began to walk. He walked through the garden and across the lawn, until he came to the old gate that led onto the street. He crept underneath it.

The street was busy. He walked along the pavement and tried not to get trampled by all the people rushing about. He stopped at the corner and caught his breath. It was then that Nkululeko saw something wonderful.

In a small parking lot, big taxis were picking people up and driving off to what sounded like the most marvellous places – the city, the beach, the mountain. Nkululeko walked across the street to the parking lot.

He went up to the first big taxi and said in his quiet voice, "Hello, I'd like to see the city, or the beach, or even the mountain. Could you help me?"

The taxi driver was young and tall. He leaned down and looked at the little tortoise who was holding out a big gold coin. The driver laughed. "This tortoise wants a taxi. How silly!" he said. "Whoever heard of such a thing?"

Nkululeko dropped his head sadly and started to walk away. Just then, somebody spoke. "I'll take you," said the voice.

Nkululeko looked up and saw an old man standing in front of his taxi.

"Climb aboard, young tortoise," said the old man, smiling, "and I'll show you everything."

Nkululeko smiled broadly and walked up to the taxi. The old man picked him up and put him on the seat.

Nkululeko strained his head to look out of the taxi's window, but it was too high up for him. "Let's just get you some cushions out of the boot so that you can sit up higher and see better," said the old man.

And then they were off, driving through streets filled with hooting cars and people rushing about. The old man talked as he drove. He told Nkululeko that his name Bra Will, and that he had been driving taxis for fifty years.

"My papa is already eighty years old, Bra Will. Tortoises live a very long time, you know," explained Nkululeko.

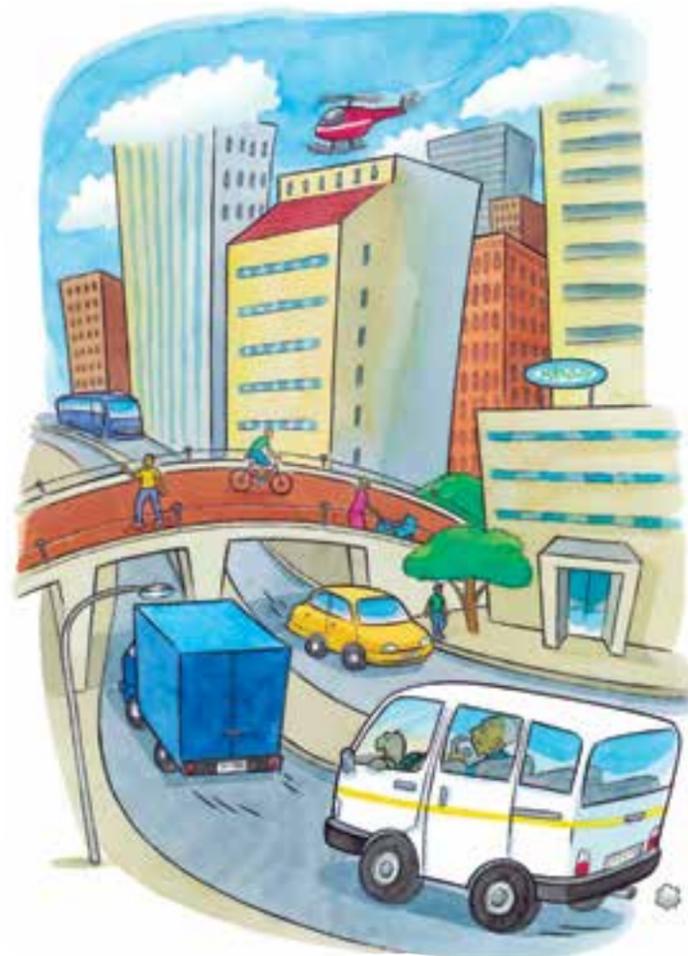
Bra Will nodded. Outside, the houses were getting bigger. Bra Will said that they would soon be in the city.

"Why do you want to see all these places?" Bra Will asked.

"Well," said Nkululeko, "tortoises move very slowly and sometimes I get bored just walking around the garden. I want adventure!"

There was a twinkle in Bra Will's eye. "I understand," he said.

The city was big and noisy. Skyscrapers climbed up into the clouds. There were people and cars everywhere and there seemed to be so much noise!



"This is amazing," said Nkululeko.

"This is nothing," said Bra Will, "wait until you see the beach. This city is too loud for me, but the beach, now that's amazing."

And so they left the city.

"Open the window," said Bra Will, "then you will smell the sea."

Nkululeko rolled the window down very slowly. "It smells all salty," he said, smiling.

As they came around a corner something large and blue stretched before them. "What is that?" asked Nkululeko with his mouth hanging open.

"That's the sea," said Bra Will, laughing.

"It's amazing," said Nkululeko.

✨ Continued on page 15.

UNkululeko nomama kunye notata wakhe yayiziimfudo. Babehlala bonke emazantsi esitiya.

Kaloku iimfudo azidingi zindlu njengathi bantu kuba zihlala kumaqokobhe azo. Kwaye ke enye into onokuba uyayazi ngeemfudo, yeyokuba zicotha kakhulu.



Rhoqo ngokuhlwa, uNkululeko kunye nomama notata wakhe babesiya kulala ngokufaka ngokucothayo imilenze kunye neentloko zabo kumaqokobhe abo. Kwaye qho kusasa, babevuka bekwacothozisa kwakanjalo. Kwakuba sekumalunga nentsimbi yeshumi xa bathi ekugqibeleni baphume kumaqokobhe abo baze bafumane isidlo sakusasa esimnandi seentyatyambo kunye namagqabi.

Ngenye intsasa uTata wangqiyama kuMama waze wathi, “Ingaba asiyo kusini na imini emnandi yokungenzi nto le? Ndiluzisi nje nguNkululeko, usoloko ejikeleza engxamile.”

UNkululeko wayekhawuleza kakhulu ngathi akalofudo. Ngale ntsasa, wayetyhutyha ematyolweni kwelinye icala elikude lesitiya. Abazali bakhe bahlunguzela iintloko zabo, kodwa yena uNkululeko wayexakeke kakhulu edlala kwinqumba yamagqabi arhwashazayo engabaqapheli nokubaqaphela.

UNkululeko wabona into emenezelayo kuloo nqumba yamagqabi. Yayiyinqekembe enkulu yegolide. “Yimali!” watsho ngoncumo. “Ndiza kuyisebenzisa ukuze ndibe nohambo lwamahlandinyuka olungaqhelekanga noluchulumancisayo.”

Ngoko ke uNkululeko waqalisa nolo hambo lwakhe. Wahamba kweso sitiya, enqumla kuloo ngca intle iluhlaza nechetywe kakuhle, de wafika kwisango elidala elalikhokelela esitalatweni. Wathubeleza phantsi kwalo.

Kwakuphithizela kakhulu apho esitalatweni. Wahamba ngendledana esecaleni, ezama ukuba anganyathelwa ngabo bantu bonke baxakekileyo nababengxamile, besiya ngapha nangapha. Wema ekoneni wakhe waphumla. Kwakungelo xesha kanye awathi ngalo uNkululeko wabona into emangalisayo.

Kwindawo encinane yokumisa iimoto, kwakukho iiteksi ezinkulu ezazikhwelisa abantu zize zihambe zisiya kwiindawo ngeendawo ezazivakala ngathi zezona ndawo zimnandi kakhulu – esixekweni, elwandle, nasezintabeni. UNkululeko wawela isitalato eso waya kuloo ndawo kumisa kuyo iimoto.

Waya kwiteksi yokuqala enkulu waze wathi ngelo lizwi lakhe liphantsi, “Molo, ndingathanda ukubona isixeko, okanye ulwandle, okanye nokuba yintaba ke. Ungandinceda?”

Umqhubi weteksi wayemncinane kwaye emde. Wagoba wajonga ufudo oluncinane olwaluphethe ingqekembe enkulu yegolide. Umqhubi wahleka kakhulu. “Olu fudo lufuna ukukhwela iteksi. Alisandicubhulanga nje ngentsini!” watsho. “Ngubani umntu owakha wayiva into enjalo?”

UNkululeko wathokombisa intloko yakhe elusizi waze waqalisa ukuhamba esimka apho. Kanye ngelo xesha, kwabakho umntu othethayo. “Ndiza kukusa,” latsho elo lizwi.

UNkululeko waphakamisa intloko waze wabona ixhego limi phambi kweteksi yalo.

“Khwela fudwazana,” latsho ixhego, lincumile, “kwaye ndiza kukubonisa yonke into.”

UNkululeko watsho ngolubanzi uncumo waze wasondela etekisini. Ixhego lamfunqula lambeka esihlalweni.

UNkululeko watsala intamo yakhe efuna ukujonga ngefestile yeteksi, kodwa yayiphakame kakhulu, engenakubona. “Masikuphathele imiqamelo ephaya ebhutini ukuze uhlalele phezulwana khon’ ukuze ubone ngcono,” latsho ixhego.

Emva koko bemka, behamba ezitalatweni ezizele ziimoto ezikhalisa amaxilongo azo kunye nabantu abakhawulezayo besiya ngapha nangapha. Ixhego lalincokola njengokuba liqhuba nje. Laxelela uNkululeko ukuba igama lalo nguBra Will, kwaye sekuyiminyaka engamashumi amahlanu eqhuba iteksi.

“UTata wam sele eneminyaka engamashumi asibhozo ubudala, Bra Will. Iimfudo ziphila ixesha elide kakhulu, uyazi,” wacacisa njalo uNkululeko.

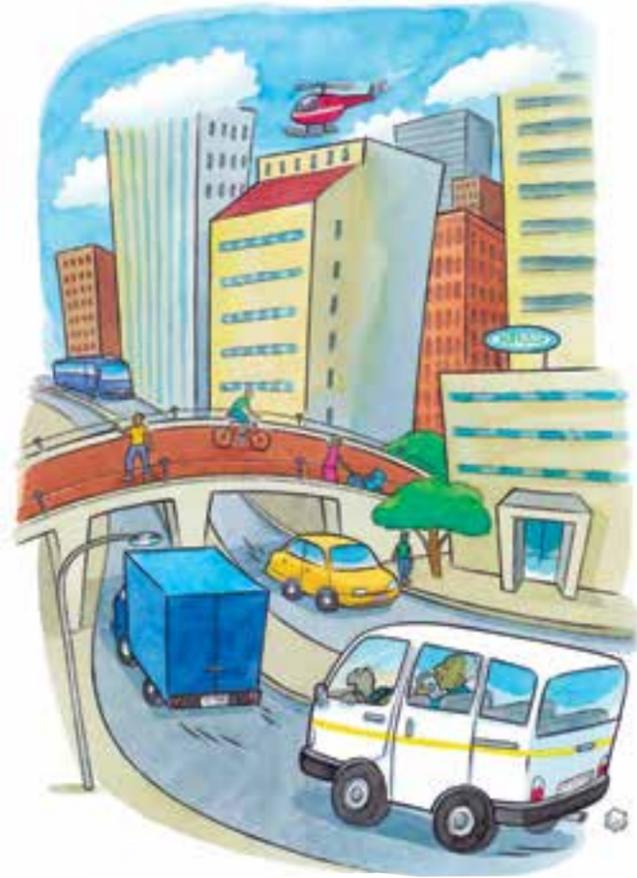
UBra Will wanqwala. Ngaphandle, izindlu zazisiya zisiba nkulu ngokuba nkulu. UBra Will wathi sebeza kufika esixekweni.

“Kutheni ufuna ukubona zonke ezi ndawo nje?” wabuza uBra Will.

“Kaloku,” watsho uNkululeko, “iimfudo zicotha kakhulu kwaye ngamanye amaxesha ndiyadikwa kukuhamba-hamba ndijikeleza esitiyeni. Ndifuna ukwenza izinto ezingamahlandinyuka, nezingaqhelekanga kwanezichulumancisayo!”

Kwabakho inkazimlo kwiliso likaBra Will. “Ndiyayiqonda loo nto,” watsho.

Isixeko sasisikhulu kwaye sinexolo eninzi. Izakhiwo eziphakamileyo zazinyuka zisingisele emafini. Kwakukho abantu kunye neemoto kuyo yonke indawo kwaye kwakuvakala kukho ingxolo kakhulu!



“Oku kuyamangalisa,” watsho uNkululeko.

“Awukaboni nto wena,” watsho uBra Will, “linda ude ubone ulwandle. Isixeko sinexolo kakhulu kum, kodwa ulwandle luzolile, oko ke kum kuyamangalisa.”

Ngoko ke basishiya isixeko bemka.

“Vula ifestile,” watsho uBra Will, “ukuze usezele ivumba lolwandle.”

UNkululeko wehlisa ifestile yakhe kancinane. “Lunuka ityuwa,” watsho, encumile.

Xa bejika ikona babona isithabazi sento enkulu ezuba nenabileyo phambi kwabo. “Yintoni leyaa?” wabuza uNkululeko umlomo wakhe uthe ng’ a.

“Lulwandle oluyaa,” watsho uBra Will, ehleka.

“Luyamangalisa ngenene,” watsho uNkululeko.

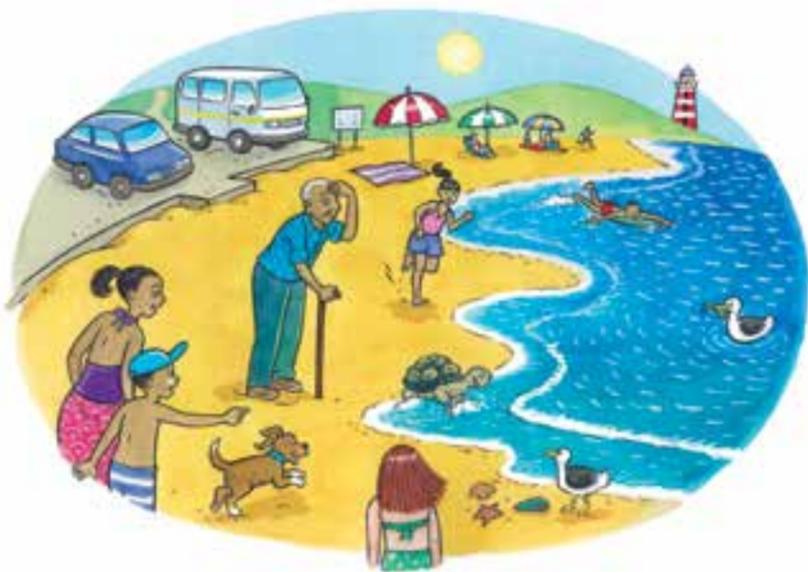
★ Lisaqhubeka nakwiphepha le-15.

From page 13. ★

The taxi pulled into a small parking lot next to a long stretch of white sand that ran down to the sea.

“And this is the beach,” said Bra Will. “Why don’t we stop here for a moment and walk on the soft sand.”

Bra Will helped Nkululeko onto the beach. Around him people were playing or lying in the sun. It was very hot. Nkululeko crawled around slowly, waded in the shallow water, and looked at all the pretty shells on the beach.



Next, it was time to go to the mountain. Nkululeko had seen the mountain from his garden, but he’d never ACTUALLY been to the mountain. It was a steep drive up from the beach. It was very windy on the mountain. Nkululeko even saw a man lose his hat to the wind!

When the taxi finally stopped, Nkululeko climbed out and gasped. He could see the whole city from up here. He could see the sea and the beach and even his little home in the garden. He thought about his mama and papa.

“This is the most beautiful place, Bra Will,” said the tortoise, “and it has been such an adventure driving around with you, but I think it’s time I went home to my mama and papa.”

Bra Will winked and drove them back to the taxi rank. Nkululeko thanked him and pulled out the gold coin from his shell.

Bra Will shook his head and said, “You keep your money, Nkululeko. It was a pleasure to drive you around. Your happiness was payment enough for me.”

Nkululeko waved goodbye and started the slow walk home. On the way, he passed a fruit seller and used the gold coin to buy a box of ripe strawberries, which he carried home on his back. It was getting dark when he found his way into the garden. His mama and papa were waiting for him.

“Where have you been?” asked Papa. “We were worried sick.”

Nkululeko gave them each a big hug. They shared the strawberries and he told his parents all about his adventure in the taxi.

“That sounds fantastic,” said Mama, “but I’m very happy that you’re home, Nkululeko.”

“Me too,” he said. “You know I’ve been all over now – north, south, east and west, but out of all the places ... home is best.”

With that he tucked his head and legs into his shell and fell fast asleep.

Liqhubeka, lisuka kwiphepha le-14. ★

Iteksi yamisa kwindawo encinane yokumisa iimoto nesecaleni kwentlabathi emhlophe ehamba iye kungena elwandle.

“Olu ke lunxweme lolwandle,” watsho uBra Will. “Kutheni singakhe sime apha umzuzwana sihamba-hambe kwintlabathi ethambileyo.”

UBra Will wanceda uNkululeko wambeka elunxwemeni lolwandle. Wayengqongwe ngabantu abadlalayo okanye abaleleyo begcakamele ilanga. Kwakushushu kakhulu. UNkululeko wacothoza erhubuluzo kancinane, wangena emanzini angenzulu kuyaphi, waze wabuka bonke oonokrwece abahle abaselunxwemeni.



Into elandelayo, yayilixesha lokuya ezintabeni. UNkululeko wayeyibona intaba xa esesitiyeni sakhe, kodwa wayengazange asondele okanye aye KANYE-KANYE entabeni. Indlela yayithambekile ukunyuka xa kusukwa elunxwemeni apho elwandle. Kwakuvuthuza umoya kakhulu apho ezintabeni. UNkululeko wade wabona umnqwazi wenye indoda uphaphatheka nomoya!

Yathi yakumisa iteksi ekugqibeleni, uNkululeko wehlika waze watsala umphefumlo. Wayesibona sonke isixeko phezulu apho. Wayelubona ulwandle kunye nonxweme, ebona nditsho nekhaya lakhe elincinane elisesitiyeni. Wacinga ngomama notata wakhe.

“Le yeyona ndawo intle, Bra Will,” lwatsho ufudo, “kwaye ibiluhambo lwamahlandinyuka olungaqhelekanga noluchulumancisayo ukuhamba nawe undiqhubela, kodwa ndicinga ukuba lixesha lokuba ndigoduke ndiye kumama notata ngoku.”

UBra Will wamqobela iliso waze waqhuba, babuyela erenkini yeeteksi. UNkululeko wambulela waze wakhupha ingqekembe yegolide kwiqokobhe lakhe.

UBra Will wahlunguzela intloko wathi, “Yigcine imali yakho, Nkululeko. Bekumnandi kakhulu ukujikeleza nawe ndikuqhubela. Ukonwaba kwakho kube yintlawulo ngokoneleyo kum.”

UNkululeko wawangangisa esithi asale kakuhle waze waqalisa ukuhamba ecothoza ukugoduka. Endleleni, wagqitha kumthengisi weziqhamo waze ngengqekembe leyo wathenga ibhokisi yamaqunube avuthiweyo, nawathi wayibeleka wagoduka nayo. Kwakuqalisa ukuba mnyama ukungena kwakhe esitiyeni. Umama notata wakhe babemlindle.

“Uvela phi?” wabuza utata. “Besikhathazeke kakhulu kukungabuyi kwakho.”

UNkululeko wabawola ngothando bobabini. Babelana ngamaqunube waze wababalise abazali bakhe ngalo lonke uhambo lwakhe lwamahlandinyuka olungaqhelekanga noluchulumancisayo ngeteksi.

“Oko kuvakala kumangalisa,” watsho uMama, “kodwa ndivuya kakhulu ubuyele ekhaya, Nkululeko.”

“Nam ngokwam,” watsho. “Uyazi ukuba akukho apho ndingayanga khona ngoku – emantla, emazantsi, empuma, nasentshona, kodwa kuzo zonke ezi ndawo ... ayikho egqitha ikhaya.”

Ngaloo mazwi watsho etshonisa intloko nemilenze yakhe kwiqokobhe lakhe waze walala yoyi.

