

# NAL'IBALI

## Ndlela yo khutaza vana lava nga rhandziki ku hlaya

## How to encourage reluctant readers

Vana van'wana va kota ku tshamiseka va yingisela ntsheketo wo leha hi nkarhi wa ku etlela, kasi van'wana a va tshamiseki. Vana van'wana va hatla va tsakela ku hlaya tibuku, kasi van'wana va lava ku khutaziwa. Sweswo a swi hlamarisi. Vana a va fani, naswona leswi va swi rhandzaka swi tshamela ku cinca loko va ri karhi va kula.

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.

### Ha yini va nga rhandzi ku hlaya?

Mikarhi yin'wana vanhu va ehleketa leswaku "n'wana la nga rhandziki ku hlaya" hi loyi "a nga swi kotiki kahle ku hlaya" – kambe a swi tano.

- ☉ Hakanyingi vana lava nga rhandziki ku hlaya va tlarihile, kambe vo ka va nga rhandzi tibuku.
- ☉ Swi nga endleka va kulele endyangwini lowu nga rhandziki ku hlaya.
- ☉ Kumbexana a va si tshama va va na tibuku leti va khumbaka.
- ☉ Kumbexana mitsheketo a yi nga kumeki hi ririmi leri va ri mameke.

### 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.

## U nga va pfuna njhani leswaku va rhandza ku hlaya?

### 1. Dzika ngopfu eka leswi va swi endlaka kahle, hayi eka leswi va tsandzaka

Van'wana swa va tikela ku hlaya, kutani hakanyingi a va nge hungasi hi ku hlaya. Swa antswa ku ringeta ku va pfuna leswaku va tlhela va tsakela ku hlaya. Kuma xitori kumbe buku ya mafenya leyi va yi rhandzaka, kumbe u va endlela ntsheketo! U nga sindzisi vana va wena ku hlaya tibuku leti va nga laviki ku ti hlaya. Vana va fanele va teka ku hlaya ku ri nchumu wo tsakisa ni wo tihungasa ha wona!

### 2. Ku komba vana tibuku leti engetelekeke

Yanani elayiburari kumbe eswitolo swa tibuku, mi tshika vana va tihlawulela tibuku leti va tsakelaka ku hlaya tona. Ku hlaya swokarhi swa antswa ku ri ni ku ka u nga hlai nchumu, kutani u nga vileli loko tibuku leti vana va ti hlawulaka ti vonaka ti olova ngopfu, kumbe ti vulavula hi swilo leswi wena u vonaka swi nga ri swa nkoka.

### 3. Va tsalele swokarhi

Tsalela vana va wena mhaka yokarhi. Va tsalele rungula rokarhi, swiphato kumbe mitsheketo yo koma u swi veka eka xikhafuthina xa vana kumbe enkwameni wa tibuku. Loko u endla leswaku ku hlaya ni mitsheketo ku va mukhuva ekaya, vana va ta sungula ku rhandza ku hlaya.

### Yi be ya ha ri na mahika

Ku na tindlela leti u nga ti tirhisaka ku pfuna vana va lembe rin'we ku ya eka nilhanu va sungula ku rhandza mitsheketo, niloko va nga si kota ku hlaya. Va hlalele ntsheketo, u tlanga ntsheketo na vana, mi tlhela mi vulavula hi vatlangi va wona! Sweswo swi ta endla leswaku n'wana wa wena a tsakela ku dyondza mitsheketo yin'wana, a tlhela a lota vusvikoti byo vana swilo hi tihlo ra mianakanyo ni ku ndlandlamuxa miehleketo yakwe.

### 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.

## How can you get them excited about reading?

### 1. 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!

### 2. 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.

### 3. 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.

Vona tluka 4 leswaku u kuma swiringanyeto swo byala ntolovelo wa ku hlaya endyangwini wa wena!



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



Nal'ibali

IT STARTS WITH  
A STORY.  
SWI SUNGULA HI  
NTSHEKETO.





# Mbewu Ya Dyondzo!

Swintirhwana swa vutshila swi lota vuswikoti bya n'wana byo ehleketa!

## Literacy Seeds!

Creative activities help grow children's thinking power!



Eka vatswari na vahlayisi va vana lavatsongo, vulavisisi lebya ha ku endliwaka byi kombise leswaku ku dirowa, ku penda, ku endla switlangiso, ni swintirhwana swin'wana swa vutshila, swi nga pfuna vana ku lota vuswikoti byo tlhantlha swiphiso. Loko vana va endla swilo swa vutshila, va ehleketa hi ku endla swilo, tindlela to hambana to tlhantlha swiphiso, ni ku endla swiboho leswi sekeriweke eka swilo leswi va swi vonaka va tlhela va swi twisisa endhawini ya ka vona.

Vana va fanele va hlakulela vutshila lebyi lavekaka bya ku ehleketa leswaku va dzikisa mianakanyo va thela va twisisa rungula rihi na rihi leri va hlanganaka na rona siku na siku. Va boheka ku tirhisa switwi swa vona hi ku hambana ka swona leswaku va twisisa va tlhela kota ku hlamusela rungula rero hinkwaro.

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.

### Ku dirowa, ku penda ni ku endla switlangiso swa vumba swi pfuna vana ku lota vutshila lebyi landzelaka:

- 1. Vuswikoti byo tirhisa misiha ya mavoko.** Ku tirhisa tikhrayoni, tiburaxi ta ku penda ha tona ni ku vumba swilo hi vumba, swi pfuna vana ku tirhisa misiha. Sweswo swi ta va pfuna va kota ku tsala, ku tirhisa tithulusi kahle, ni ku endla mitirho yin'wana leyi lavaka leswaku va tirhisa misiha leyitsongo.
- 2. Ku kula emiehleketweni.** Vutshila byi nga pfuna vana va vona swilo swa swivumbeko swa mixakaxaka ivi va swi kopela. Nakambe va dyondza leswaku xiendlo xokarhi xi va ni vuyelo byokarhi mikarhi hinkwayo, hi xikombiso, ku hlanganisa pende yo tshwuka ni ya xitshopani swi humesa pende ya orenji. Va dyondza ku kunguhata ndlela leyi va nga ta tirhisa swilo swa vona (pende, vumba, phepha, tikhrayoni) ku endla nchumu wokarhi, ni ku kombisa leswi va swi vonaka endhawini ya ka vona loko va dirowa vanhu, swiharhi na swilo swin'wana.
- 3. Vuswikoti bya tinhlayo.** Vana va nga dyondza, va endla, ni ku sungula ku twisisa swilo swo tanihi vukulu bya swilo na swivumbeko swa swona. Va dyondza ku hlalela, ku ringanisa swilo swo hambana, ni leswaku swilo swi vonaka swi ri swikulu kumbe swi ri switsongo, swi titshege hi vukule bya swona.
- 4. Vutshila bya ririmi.** Loko vana va yingisela tinhlamuselo na swivutiso swa n'wina, va tlhela va vulavula hi leswi va swi endleke ni ndlela leyi va swi endleke hayona, va lota vutshila bya vona bya ririmi ni ku tiva marito lama engetelekeke.



### 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.

### Hi nga khutaza vana lava hi va khathalelaka leswaku va ya emahlweni va dirowa, va penda, ni ku endla swilo swa vutshila.

- \* Vutisa swivutiso leswi kongomeke malunghana na nchumu lowu va wu endleke, swo tanihi, "U dirowe yini (kumbe u pende yini kumbe u endle yini la)?" kumbe "Ha yini u hlalule ku endla sweswo?"
- \* Yingiserisisa loko vulavula hi leswi va swi endleke. Leswi swi ta ku pfuna ku twisisa leswaku i yini leswi nga swa nkoka eka vana va wena. Nakambe swi ta mi nyika nkarhi wa kahle wa ku tijisa vuxaka.
- \* Veka leswi va swi endleke laha swi vonakaka, kambe laha swi nga ta ka swi nga tali thyaka kumbe ku fayeka hi ku olova.

### 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.





## Swintirhwana swo olova swa vutshila swa vana lavatsongo

**1. Ku penda hi xo tswonga swakunwa** Teka xo tswonga swakunwa u ka pende ivi u yi n'watseka ephepheni kumbe u veka thonsi ra yona ephepheni ivi u yi fufutela hi xo tswonga swakunwa leswaku yi hangalaka ephepheni.

**2. Ku penda hi tintiho** Endla pende yo chipa leyi dyiwaka, tanihleswi vana lavatsongo va rhandzaka ku nghenisa swilo enon'wini!

Sweka fulawuri hi mati endzilweni lowu nga pfurhiki ngopfu. Swi hakase ku fikela swi va mbila yo olova. Yi tshike yi hola ivi u yi chela eka tikhapu ta nhlayo leyi u yi lavaka. Chela swo cinca muvala wa swakudya eka khapu hayin'we u endla tipende ta mivala yo hambana.

**3. Nhlengeleto wa swiphephana swa muvala wakarhi** Endla nhlengeleto wa swiphephana swa muvala wun'we ntsena. Vana va wena va nga kuma muvala wa kona eka tinyusiphepha na timagazini ta khale. Kutani va nga tsemelela kumbe ku susa swiphephana swa muvala wa kona va swi namaketa ephepheni lerikulu.

**4. Ku gandlisa zambala kumbe xiponci ephepheni** Tsema zambala hi le xikarhi ivi u endla minkenyo yo olova eka wona kumbe u tsemelela swiponci swa khale swi endla swivumbeko swa swilo swokarhi. Kutani kombela vana va wena va peta mazambala kumbe swiponci ethireyini ya pende ivi va swi gandlisa ehenhla ka phepha.

Nakambe va nga gandlisa matluka. Hlengelela matluka ya swivumbeko swo hambana. Vana va nga penda matluka eka tlhelo rin'we ivi va ma hundzuluxa va ma gandlisa ehenhla ka phepha.

**5. Xifaniso lexi endlweke hi swiphephana swa swivumbeko swo hambanahambana** Tsemelela swiphephana swa swivumbeko swo hambanahambana eka phepha ra muhlovo wakarhi ivi u endla xifaniso hi swiphephana swa kona. Pfumelela vana va wena ku endla xifaniso hi voxo. Va nyike tikhrayoni leswaku va engetela vuxokoxoko byin'wana eka swifaniso swa vona.

## 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.



## Ku tirhisa mintsheketo ya hina hi tindlela to hambanahambana

- 1. Hlamusela n'wana wa wena ntsheketo.** Hlaya ntsheketo kutani u praktisa ku wu hlamusela. Tirhisa rito, xikandza ni miri, u endla leswaku ntsheketo wu hanyana.
- 2. Hlayela n'wana wa wena ntsheketo.** Vulavulani hi swifaniso. Vutisa, "U ehleketa leswaku ku ta landzela yini sweswi?" kumbe "U vona onge hikwalahokayini mutlangi a vule leswi a swi vuleke kumbe ku endla leswi a swi endleke?"
- 3. Hlaya ntsheketo ni n'wana wa wena.** Hlayani ntsheketo hi ku siyerisana. U nga n'wi lulamisilulamisi loko a nga hlayanga kahle, naswona n'wi pfune loko a kombela mpfuno ntsena.
- 4. Yingisela n'wana wa wena a hlaya.** N'wi yingisele handle ko n'wi kavanyeta. N'wi byele leswaku swa ku tsakisa ku n'wi twa a ri eku hlayeni.
- 5. Endlani leswi lavekaka eka Endla ntsheketo wu nyanyula.** Leswi swi ta mi tsakisa hinkwenu.

## 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.





# May i N'hweti yo Kumeka u ri Karhi u Hlaya!

## May is Get-Caught-Reading Month!



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.

Hi May, hi na masiku ya 31 yo tsundzuxa vanhu lavakulu ni lavatsongo ndlela leyi ku hlaya swi tsakisaka hayona! Hi leswi swiringanyeto swo dzaha moya wa ku **Kumeka u ri Karhi u Hlaya** ivi u sungula ku byela van'wana ndlela leyi swi tsakisaka hayona ku hlaya u ri eka n'wina.



### 1. Hlayani swin'we tibuku ta mafenya

Tibuku ta mafenya ti kota ku dikida ni vana lava nga swi rhandziki hi ku helela ku hlaya leswaku va sungula ku hlaya. Tibuku ta mafenya ni ta swifaniso ta tsakisa loko mi ti hlaya swin'we, ngopfungopfu loko mi hlaya hi ku siyerisana mi tlhela mi cincacinsa marito laha ku vulavulaka vatlangi vo hambanahambana.

### 2. Endla nxaxamelo wa tibuku, timagazini, mitsheketo na swihlokwana leswi mi nga ta swi hlaya

Tanihi ndyangu, endlani nxaxamelo wa leswi hawun'we wa n'wina a nga ta rhandza ku swi hlaya hi May. Kutani hlengeletani swilo swa kona endhawini yin'we ekaya. Hi ndlela yoleyo, xirho haxin'we xa ndyangu swi ta xi olovela ku hatla xi kuma leswi xi lavaka ku hlaya swona.

### 3. Tshikani hinkwaswo mi sungula ku hlaya

Siku na siku vekani nkarhi wo va swirho hinkwaswo swa ndyangu swi tshika leswi swi swi endlaka, swi teka buku kumbe ntsheketo, swi sungula ku hlaya! Katsani na vana hi ku va hlayela kunene leswaku va kula va rhandza ku hlaya.

### 4. Byela van'wana leswi mi koteke ku swi endla!

Tikarhateleni ku xixima ni ku tlangela ku hlaya ekaya. Bumabumelani swirho swa ndyangu – lavatsongo ni lavakulu – hileswi va hlayaka siku na siku. Tekani swifaniso mi swi phosta eka xitetasi xa n'wina xa WhatsApp. Nakambe hi rhumeleni swona eka xiyyenge xa mabulo xihhi na xihhi xa 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

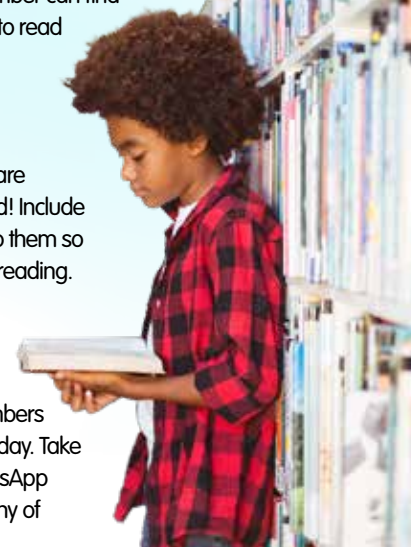
As a family, make a list of what each one would like to read during May. Then gather all the reading material into one place in your home. That way, each family member can find something that they want to read quickly and easily.

### 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!

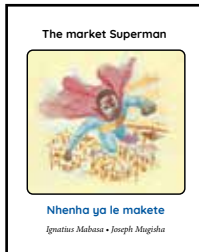
Make a special effort to recognise and celebrate reading in your home. Compliment your family members – young and old – on reading every day. Take photos and post them on your WhatsApp status. And share them with us on any of Nal'ibali's social media sites.



## Tiendlele layiburari ya wena.

Endla tibuku **TIMBIRHI** hi ku tsema u ti hlayisa

- Susa pheji **5** ku fika eka pheji **12** eka xitatisi.
- Maphepha ya mapheji ya **5**, **6**, **11** na **12** ma endla buku yin'we. Maphepha ya pheji **7**, **8**, **9** na **10** ma endla buku yin'wana.
- Tirhisa rin'wana na rin'wana ra maphepha lawa ku endla buku. Landzelela swileriso leswi nga laha hansi ku endla buku yin'wana na yin'wana.
  - Petsa phepha hi le xikarhi eka nkhwanti wa ntima lowu nga tsemekatsemeka.
  - Petsa nakambe hi le xikarhi eka nkhwanti wa rihladza.
  - Tsema hi le ka nkhwanti wo tshwuka.



## Grow your own library.

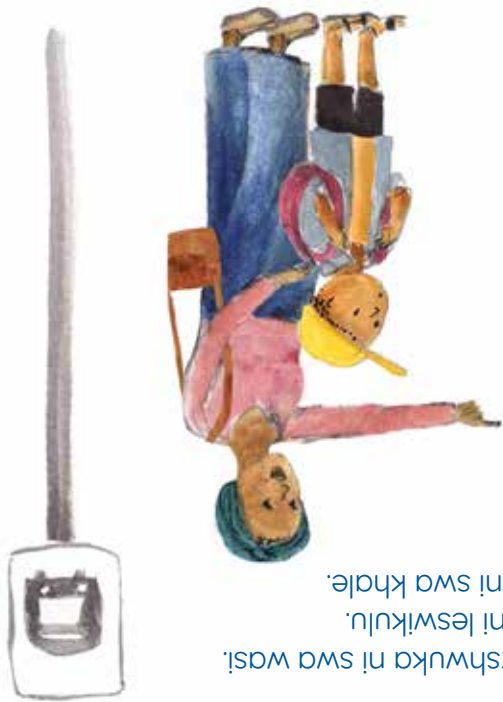
Create **TWO** cut-out-and-keep books

- Take out pages **5** to **12** of this supplement.
- 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.
- Use each of the sheets to make a book. Follow the instructions below to make each book.
  - Fold the sheet in half along the black dotted line.
  - Fold it in half again along the green dotted line.
  - Cut along the red dotted lines.



Sweswo swi nyike Muzi miehleketo yo oka nchumu wo saseka ngopfu.

Muzi has a new idea for building the best thing ever.

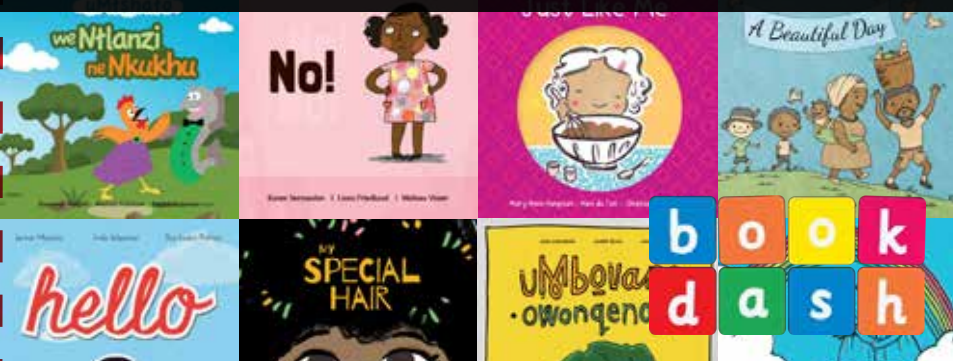


Loko a fika exitichini xa bazi, Muzi u sale a hlamele. U vone swilo swo tshwuka ni swa wasi. Swilo leswitsongo ni leswikulu. Swilo leswintshwa ni swa khale.

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



Lots more free books at [bookdash.org](http://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.

Endla ntsheketo wu nyanyula!

- ★ Dirowa xifaniso xa nchumu lowu u nga rhandzaka ku wu endla hi ku tirhisa swilo leswi lahliweke. Ehansi ka xifaniso xa wena, tsala xivulwa xin'we kumbe swimbirhi mayelana na nchumu lowu u wu endleke, nilswaku u lava ku wu nyika mani.
- ★ Hi swihi swilo swin'wana leswi Muzi a swi tirhiseke ku akela Gogo thoyi ya yindlu?
- ★ Hlengelela tikunupu ta khale, vuhlalu, swilo leswi lahliweke leswi nga tlhelaka swi tirhisiwa, vumba bya vana kumbe vumba byinene, kutani u tiakela xiyindlwana.

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](http://www.nalibali.org).



Nal'ibali i pthumba ra rixaka ro hlayela ku tiphina ku tlhontlha ni ku simeka ntolovelo wo hlaya eAfrika Dzonga hinkwaro. Ku kuma vuxokoxoko hi xitalo, endzela [www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org).

The best thing ever



Nchumu wo saseka ngopfu

Melissa Fagan • Lauren Nel  
Stefania Origi

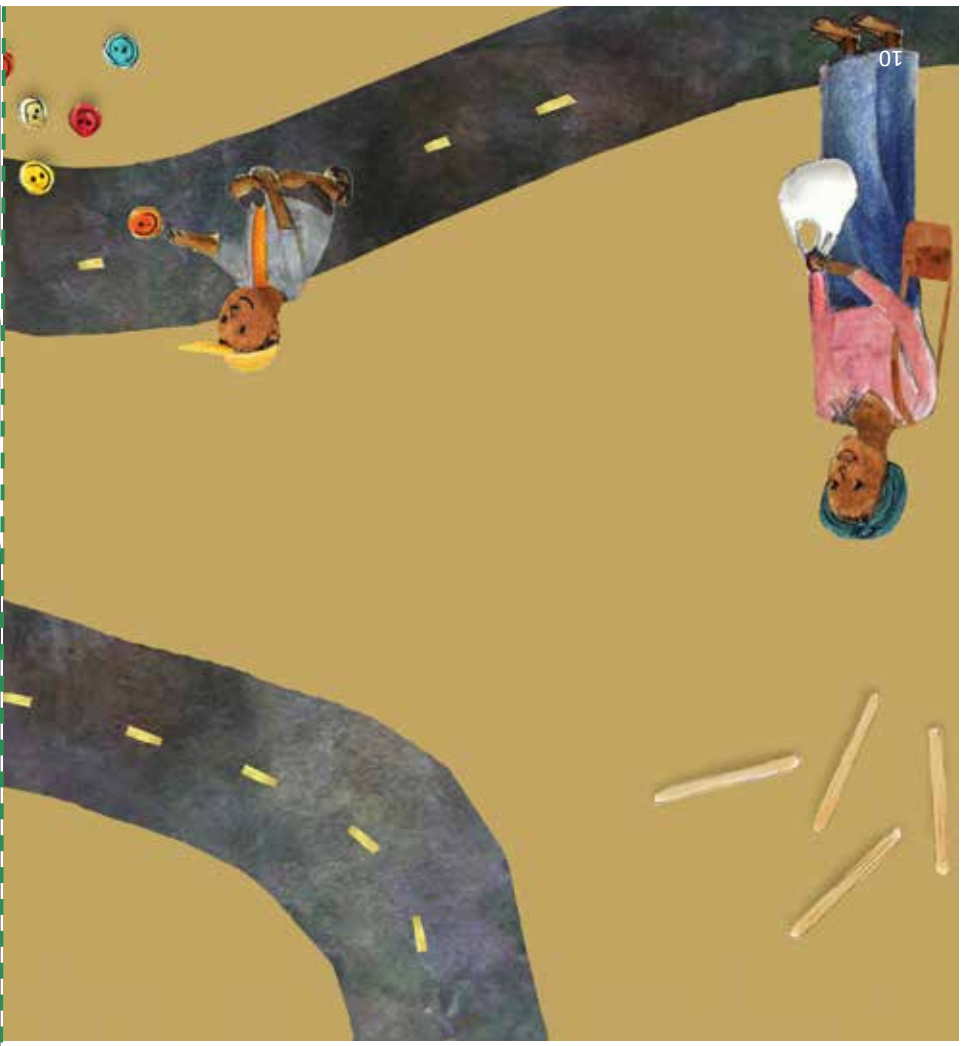
**Ideas to talk about:** What is your "best thing ever"? Is it something that you will share with others? Look at the cover of this booklet. What do you think the story is about?

**Mianakanyo yo bula hayona:** Hi wihi "nchumu wo saseka ngopfu" eka wena? Xana i nchumu lowu u nga wu avelaka van'wana? Languta xifunengeto xa xibukwana lexi. U ehleketa leswaku ntsheketo lowu wu vulavula hi yini?





He is sad. Without his toys, how can he build the best thing ever?  
 U ni gome. U ta swi kotisa ku gini ku aka nchumu wo saseka ngopfu a nga ri na tithoyi takwe?



On the road to uGogo's, Muzi finds many things. Long things and short things. Round things and square things.  
 Egondzweni loko a ri karhi a ya eka Gogo, Muzi u kume swilo swo tala.  
 Swilo swo leha ni swo koma. Swa xirhendzevutana ni swa mathelo ya mune.

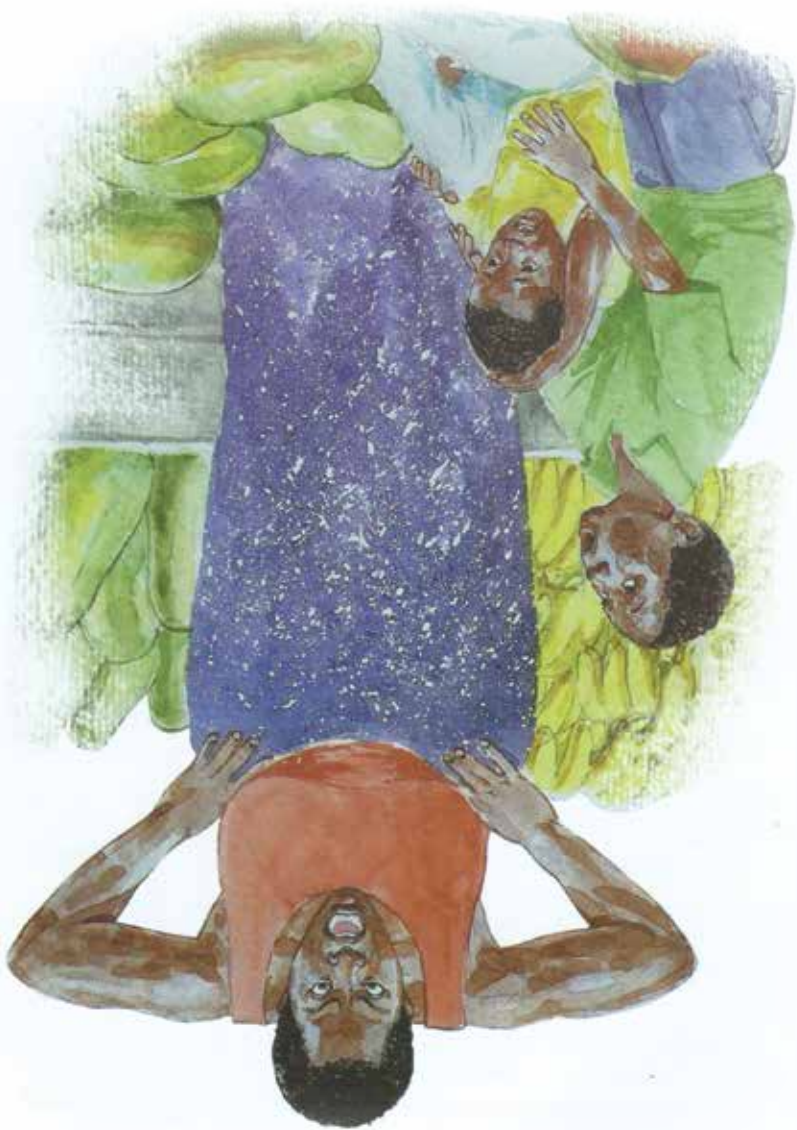
Muzi loves to build things.  
 He dreams of building the best thing ever.



Muzi u rhandza ku aka swilo.  
 U anakanya hi ku aka nchumu wo saseka ngopfu.







Xikan'wekan'we hi twe hi dliidimbetwa hi le ndzhaku. Hi dedelekile hi ya wela echenhla ka mapapawa. Hiloko man'wana ma phyanleka. A ndzi karhatekile ndzi ehleketa leswaku Pwai u vavisekile, kambe swi ndzi tsaksile ku n'wi vona a hlekelela. U tinantswe mapapawa evokweni.

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."

## The market Superman



## Nhenha ya le makete

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?

**Mianakanyo yo bula hayona:** Loko a wu ri na matimba lamakulu, a wu ta lava leswaku ma va ya njhani? Xana a wu ta ma tirhisela ku pfuna vanhu lava pfumalaka kumbe ku pfuna wena ntsena? Xana a wu ta endla yini hi matimba ya wena lamakulu?

**HEARTLINES**  
The Centre for Values Promotion



For more information please email [info@heartlines.org.za](mailto:info@heartlines.org.za) or phone (011) 771 2540.

Leswaku u kuma leswi engeteleke, rhumela email eka [info@heartlines.org.za](mailto:info@heartlines.org.za) kumbe u fonela eka (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?

### Endla ntsheketo wu nyanyula!

- ★ U anakanya yini hi leswi muxavisi wa mapapawa a swi endleke eka Pasi na Piwai? I yini swin'wana leswi a a fanele a swi vurile ni/kumbe ku swi endla loko a kuma leswaku swifanyetana leswi a swi nga phyanlasanga mapapawa hi vomu?
- ★ Dirowa xifaniso xa muxaka wa makete lowu taka emiehleketweni ya wena.
- ★ Encenyeta leswi u ehleketaka leswaku swi endlekile endzhaku ka ntsheketo. Loko Pasi na Piwai va fika ekaya, u ehleketa leswaku mhani wa vona va te yini naswona va endle yini?

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](http://www.nalibali.org).



Nal'ibali i pfhumba ra rixaka ro hlayela ku tiphina ku tlhontha ni ku simeka ntolovelo wo hlava eAfrika Dzonga hinkwaro. Ku kuma vuxokoxoko hi xitalo, endzela [www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org).



Hi hundze swiyindlwana swo tala swa vuxaviselo emakete na tnhulu ta makijawa yo nuntwela, lama nga vupla ngopfu. Hi vone tbatshanati, timanga na tnyawa. Hi vone malamula. Xiyindlwana xir'wana a xi ri na nhulu ya tikhavichi. Van'wana a va xavisa tboncisi ta tihlaza na tnyawa ta tihlaza. Ku na brokholi na khohfawa yo thyaka. Mhani va lava khohfawa yo basa paa, ntscna.

Nakambe ku na lava xavisaka vitiviri to tshwuka ro bava. Pwai u tiva vitiviri to bava hikwa siku tin'wana Tatana u n'wi tsongolele tona leswaku a ri tinga, hiloko a khohlole a tihela a rila kukondza Mhani va n'wi nyika tivisi.

A swi koteki ku famba hi ku hatisa emakete. Hi tshamelela ku tumbana na vanhu. Van'wana va hi dlidlimbete, van'wana na vumunhu a va na byona. Pwai u ntsongo, kutani van'wana ni ku n'wi vona a va n'wi voni, hikwalaho ndzi fanele ndzi n'wi sirhelela. A swi ta antswa loko Mhani a va lo ta hi voxo va ta xava kwembe. Se a hi ri kusuhi na xiyindlwana xa makwembe. A ndzi kota ku vona nhulu ya wona la ko taniya.



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.

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 Piwai. Piwai is very upset and is sobbing loudly. I have to get away from this angry woman.

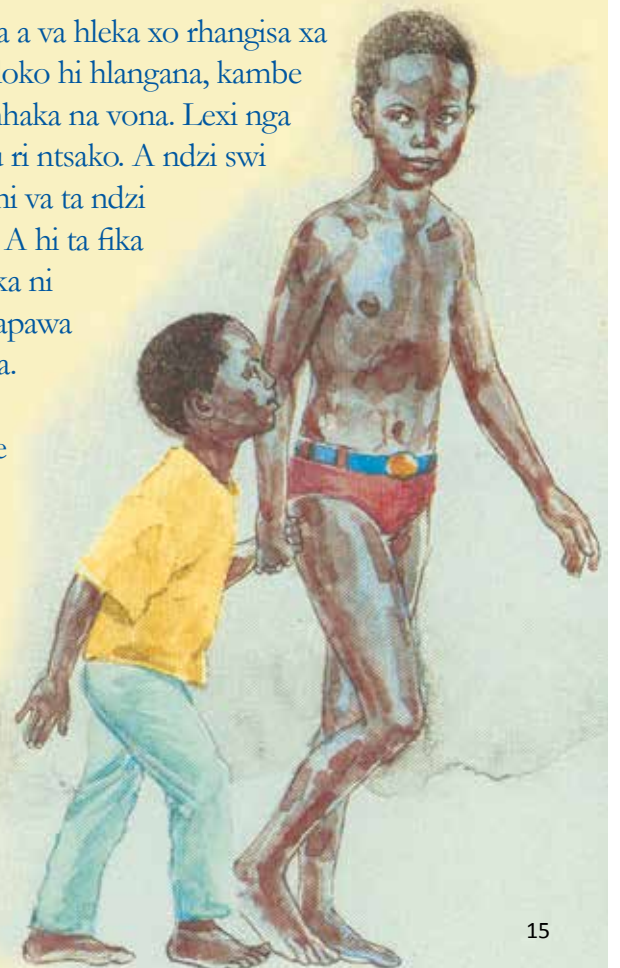
“I am very sorry, Madam, it was an accident,” I say. “Also, will you talk to me and not my brother, he can't hear you because he is deaf.”

“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.”

Ni ku ehleketa ndzi nga ehleketanga, ndzi hatlise ndzi hluvula hembe, tintangu na buruku ndzi n'wi nyika swona. U swi vutle kunene a famba a nyangatsekile. Ndzi ye ekaya ndzi khome Piwai hi voko. A ndzi sale hi xo rhangisa ntsena xa muhlovo wa wasi ni wo tshwuka, xi ri na xifaniso xa Nhenha.

Vana van'wana a va hleka xo rhangisa xa mina xa Nhenha loko hi hlangana, kambe a ndzi nga ri na mhaka na vona. Lexi nga sala eka mina a ku ri ntsako. A ndzi swi tiva leswaku Mhani va ta ndzi heleketa emakete. A hi ta fika hi lunghisa timhaka ni muxavisi wa mapapawa loyi a a dye makala. Kambe nchumu wa nkoaka swinene hileswaku ndzi ponise ndzisana ya mina.

Ndzi Nhenha ya le makete!





Piwai a nga swi twisisi nilewaku ku endleka yini. U sungule ku xiritika mihloti hi ku chaviswa hi xikandza xa wansati loyi a bava a khakhasa.

Ndzi boheke ku pfula nomu ndzi vulavula, “Ndzi khomle Manana, ku na loyi a nga hi didlimbete hi le ndzaku. A hi endlanga hi vomu, a hi ngo ku pfuka.”

“Ku ndzi pfuka? Doo, a mi pfukanga mina, mi pfuka mapapawa lava ya mina. Hi leswi mi endleke swona?” a vulavula hi ku holova.

Sweswo swi ndzi chavisile, a ndzi nga ha tvi ta mina. A ndzi nga tolovelanga ku vona munhu lonkulu a vulavula a hlundzuke hi ndlela leyi. Wansati loyi a nga ha languteki exikandzeni, naswona u ye emahlweni a holovela Piwai. Piwai a tva mbilu ku vava naswona a mpfukula hi ndlela yo hlomula mbilu. A ndzi lava ndlela yo hambana na wansati loyi a dye makala.

“Ndzi khomle, Manana, a hi endlanga hi vomu,” ku vula mina. “Nakambc, ndzi kombela u vulavula na mina ntsena, hikwa n’wana loyi wa ka hina u fe tindleve, a nga ku twi.”

“Se ke?” a huwela, a ba ehansi hi nenge. Hloko a vona mali leyi ndzi yi khomle. “He m’fana, i mali leyi u nga yi khoma kwalaho?” A hefemulela ehenla bya mhelembe leyi nga hlundzukiswa hi swin’wana.

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 chili. Piwai knows hot chili 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!

“Piwai wants to come with me,” I shout to Mother. “Pasi, I don’t want Piwai going with you. I want that pumpkin now.”

I leave Piwai behind. He is struggling to put on his other shoe as I dash out of the house.

Hi mina Pasi. Ndzi ni malembe ya khume naswona ndzi tshama eMbare eZimbabwe. Yindlu ya ka hina yi le kusuhi na makete lowukulu ni lowu dumeke wa matsavu. Namuntlha hi na vapfhumba, naswona mhani va khomekile ekhixini. Loko ndzi ri karhi ndzi tlanga na Piwai ndzi tva ku fika nun’hwelo wa swakudya laha hi nga kona.

“Pasi, n’wananga, tshinela haleno,” ku huwela Mhani va ri ekhixini. Ndzi ye eka vona ivi va ku, “Yana emaketeke u ya ndzi xavela kwembe. Ku nga heli ntilhanu wa timinete u nga si vuya.”

Ndzi pfumele hi nhloko loko Mhani va ndzi nyika nkwama na mali. Ndzi ye ndzi ya ambala tintangu. Piwai u ndzi sale endzhaku ivi na yena a ambala tintangu ta yena. Piwai i ndzisana ya mina. U na malembe manharhu. Piwai u fe tindleve.

“Piwai wa ndzi landza,” ndzi byela Mhani.

“Pasi, u nga fambi na Piwai. U fanele u hatla u vuya na kwembe leri ndzi nga ku rhuma rona.”

Ndzi fambe ndzi siya Piwai. A a ha lwa na ku ambala ntangu leyin’wana loko ndzi huma endlwini hi rivilo.





“Pasi, Pasi,” ku huwela Mhanyi nakamde . Ndzi hundzulukile ivi ndzi vona va yime . Ndzi antswa u famba na Pwai. Hatiani!”  
 Emakete i mphesampheisa. Ku tale vanhu naswona vanwana va huwela kasi vanwana va vulavutisana, vanwana va xava, vanwana va xavisa, vanwana va tlakula swilo, vanwana va swi thwala, vanwana va swi susumeta. Pwai u hlakiswe hi wanuna loyi a xavisa malamula. A a ri karhi a danga hi ku hoxahoxa malamula manharhu emoyeni. U vule leswaku loyi a nga kotaka ku endla sweswo u ta chipisetswa. Ndzi khome Pwai swi tya hi voko loko hi timanyukuta exikarhi ka ntlimbano wa vanhu.

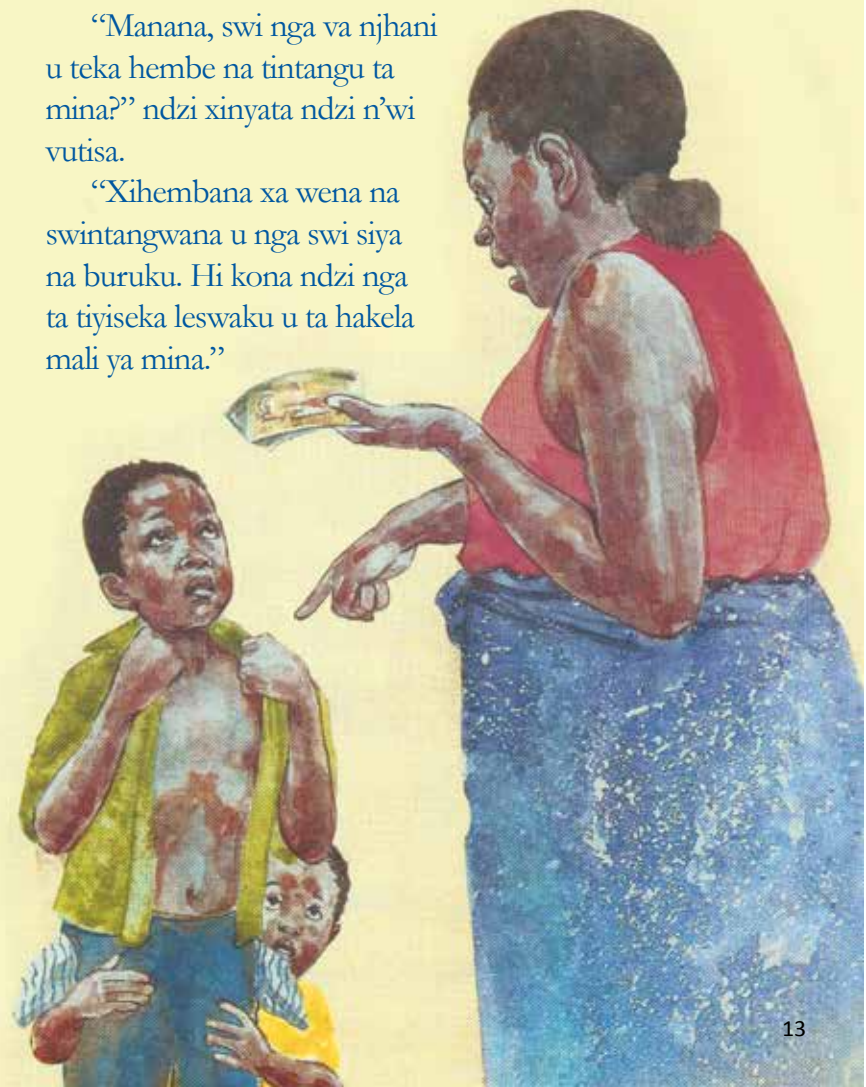
I nod. The other people in the market seem not to notice this woman and what she is doing to us. I feel so small against this big, angry woman.  
 The woman snatches my bag and money. She counts the money and says it can only pay for one papaw. Then she says, “I will take this money and your brother until you bring money for the other papaw.”  
 I panic. I can’t leave Pwai behind. This woman is mean and Pwai is so small. I have to protect him. I won’t leave him behind. I feel hot and my heart pounds.  
 Ndzi pfumlele hi nhloko. Swi tikomba ku nga ri na munhu emakete loyi a vona wansati loyi ni leswi a hi endlaka swona. Ndzi tiwe ndzi nga ri nchumu eka wansati loyi wa mihl, loyi a a bava a khalahasa.  
 U vule nkwanana na mali leyi a ndzi yi khomile. U hlalele mali a vula leswaku yi tingana papawa tinwe ntsema. Hloko a ku, “Ndzi ta teka mali leyi na makwenu kukondza u hakela papawa leinwana.”  
 Ndzi sungule ku chuha. A ndzi nga ta famba ndzi siya Pwai. Wansati loyi u na nsele wa noyi, naswona Pwai wa ha ri ntsongo. A ndzi fanele ndzi n’wi sithela. A ndzi nga ta famba ndzi n’wi siya. Ndzi sungule ku twa mihl wu hisa na mbilu yi bela echenhla.



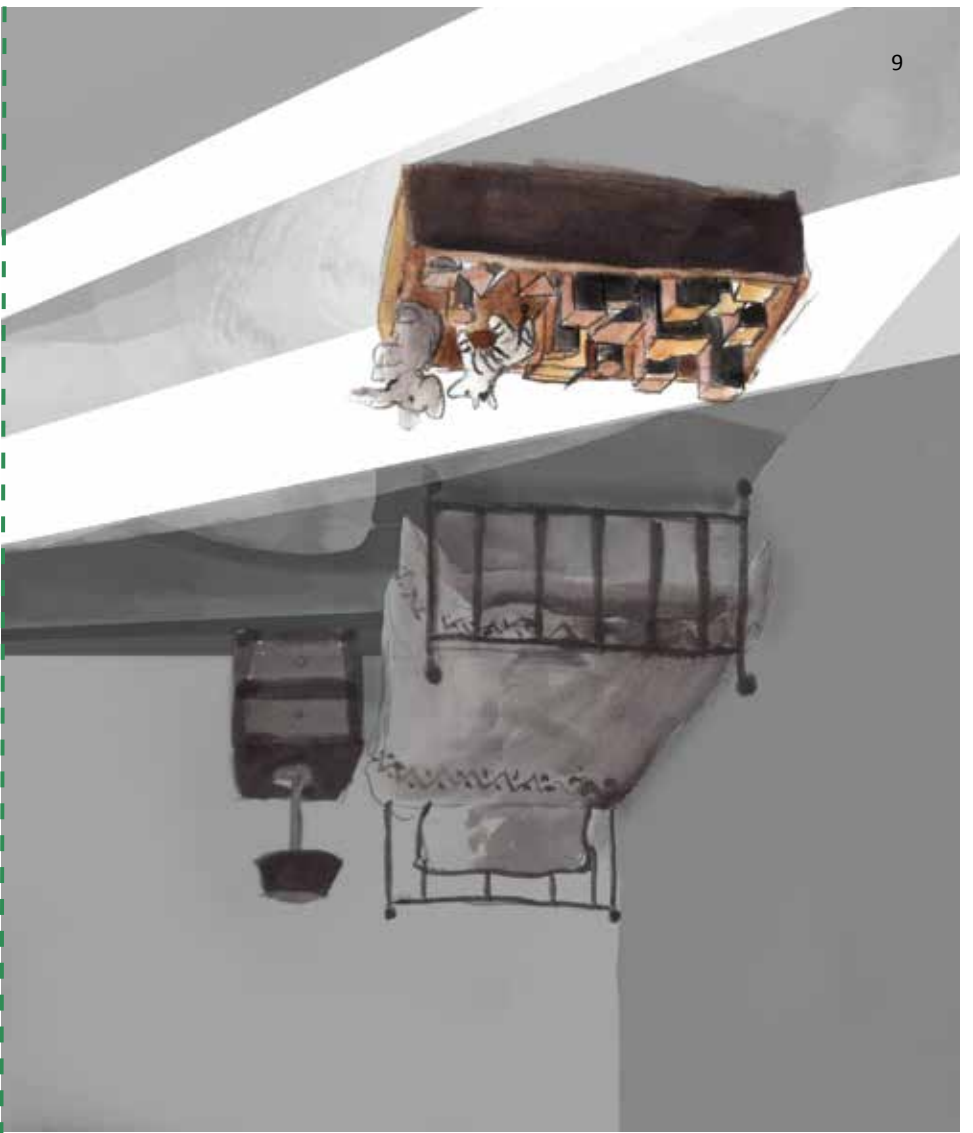
“Pasi, Pasi,” Mother calls again. I turn around and see her standing at the door with Pwai. His cheeks are wet with tears. “You had better take Pwai. Please hurry.”  
 It is busy at the market. There are many people shouting and talking, buying and selling, lifting, carrying and pushing. Pwai laughs 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 Pwai’s hand firmly as we weave through the forest of people.

“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.”

“Manana, swi nga va njhani u teka hembe na tintangu ta mina?” ndzi xinyata ndzi n’wi vutisa.  
 “Xihembana xa wena na swintangwana u nga swi siya na buruku. Hi kona ndzi nga ta tiyiseka leswaku u ta hakela mali ya mina.”







Today Muzi is going to  
visit uGogo.  
Namuntha Muzi u ta  
endzela Gogo.

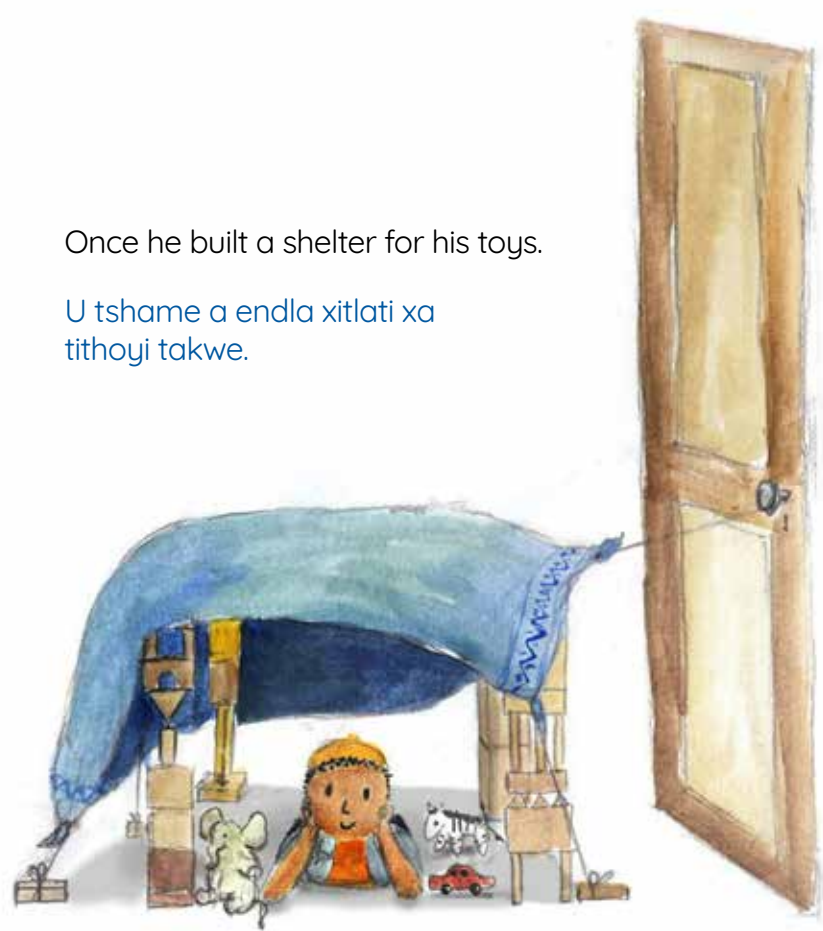


By the riverside, Muzi finds more things.  
Soft things and pointy things. Green things  
and brown things.  
Etlhelo ka nambu, Muzi u kume swin'wana.  
Swo olova ni swo tontswa. Swa rihlaza ni  
swa buraweni.



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

“Haa, Muzi,” ku hleka Gogo. “U ndzi akele yindlu yintshwa. A hi ku saseka ka yona!”



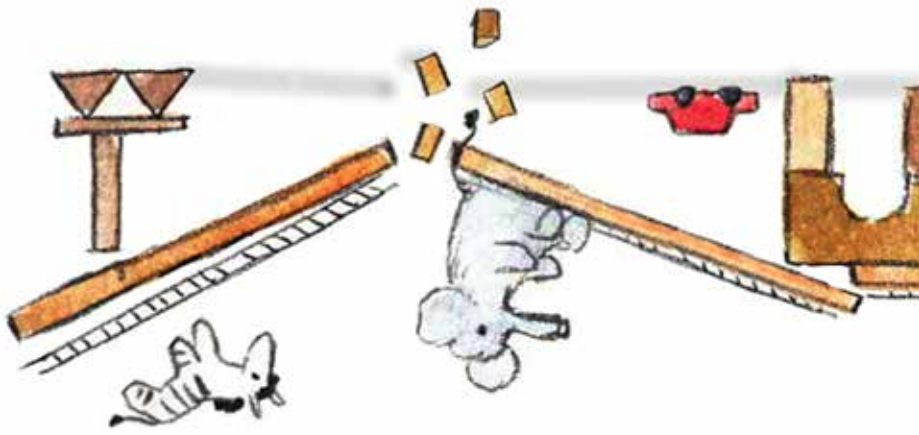
Once he built a shelter for his toys.

U tshame a endla xitlati xa  
tithoyi takwe.

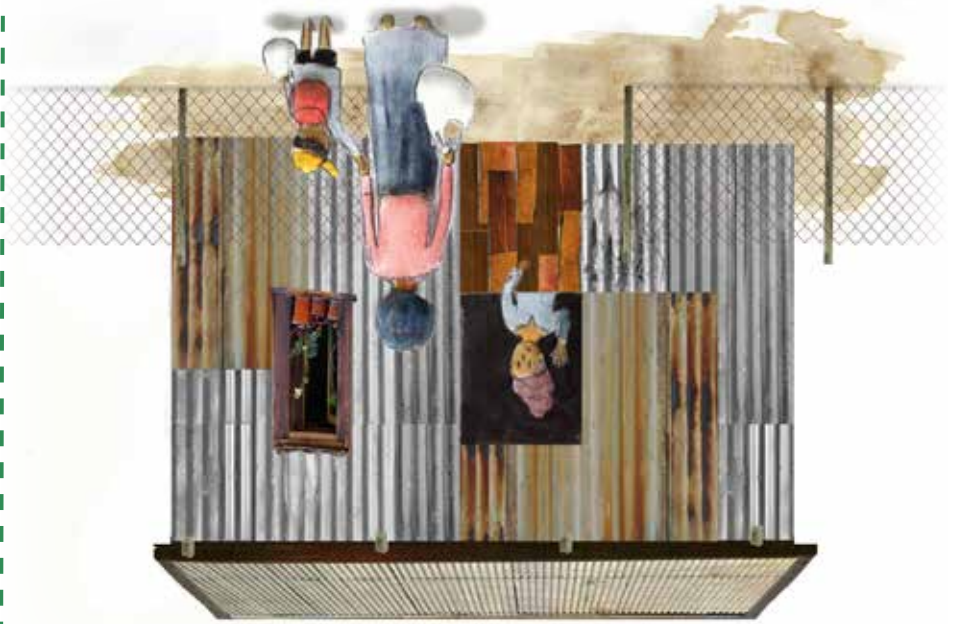
But it wasn't the best thing ever.

Kambe a xi nga ri nchumu wo  
saseka ngopfu.





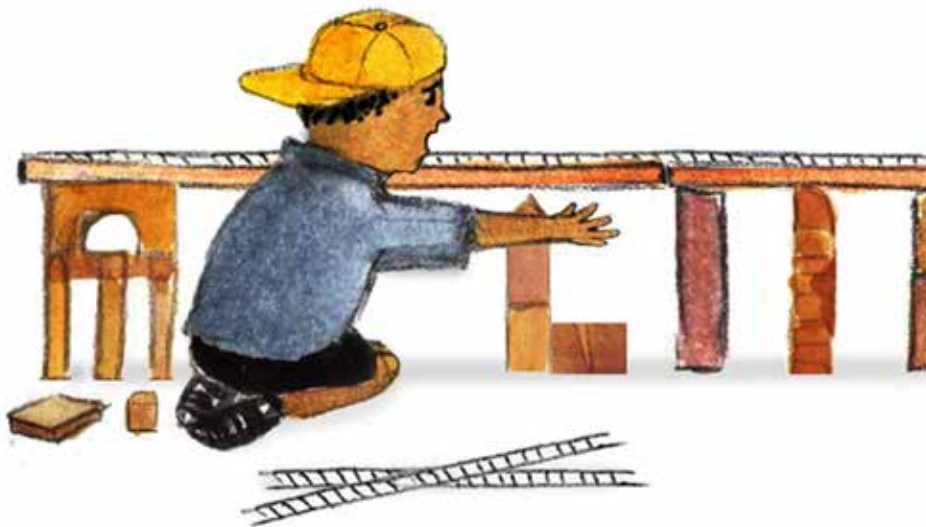
It was a good thing,  
 But not the best...  
 Rona a ri sasekile, Kambe  
 a ri nga sasekanga  
 ngoptu ...



Look, Muzi! We are here.  
 Vona, Muzi! Hi se hi fikile.

Yesterday he built a bridge  
 for his animals.

Tolo kunene u ake buloho ra  
 swifuwo swakwe.



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

Loko Gogo a ri karhi  
 a bakela vapfhumba  
 lava kenyiweke hi  
 ndlala ...  
 Muzi a a ri eku akeni.

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

“Gogo, Gogo!”  
 ku vula Muzi.  
 “Misava yi tele  
 tithoyi. Vona  
 leswaku ndzi  
 ake yini.”





Mijeko ya  
54 ya Afrika!

54 flags  
for Africa!

Tirhisa wulu yo lala na tiphini u  
tlhoma mujeko hawun'we etikweni  
ra wona.

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



MAURITANIA  
MAURITANIA



SAHARA  
VUPELADYAMBU  
WESTERN SAHARA



BURKINA FASO  
BURKINA FASO



MALI  
MALI



MOROCCO  
MOROCCO



ALGERIA  
ALGERIA



TUNISIA  
TUNISIA



NIGER  
NIGER



LIBIYA  
LIBYA



CHAD  
CHAD



RIPHABLIKI RA  
AFRIKA XIKARHI  
CENTRAL  
AFRICAN  
REPUBLIC



EGIPTA  
EGYPT



CAPE VERDE  
CAPE VERDE



SENEGAL  
SENEGAL



GAMBIA  
GAMBIA



GUINEE-BISSAU  
GUINEA-BISSAU



GUINEA  
GUINEA



SIERRA LEONE  
SIERRA LEONE



LIBERIA  
LIBERIA



COTE D'IVOIRE  
COTE D'IVOIRE



GHANA  
GHANA



TOGO  
TOGO



BENIN  
BENIN



NIGERIA  
NIGERIA



CAMEROON  
CAMEROON



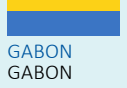
EQUATORIAL GUINEA  
EQUATORIAL GUINEA



SÃO TOMÉ NA PRINCIPE  
SÃO TOMÉ AND PRINCIPE



CONGO  
CONGO



RIPHABLIKI RA  
XIDEMOKRATI RA CONGO  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF CONGO



GABON  
GABON



RIPHABLIKI RA  
XIDEMOKRATI RA CONGO  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF CONGO



ANGOLA  
ANGOLA



ZAMBIA  
ZAMBIA



NAMIBIA  
NAMIBIA



BOTSWANA  
BOTSWANA



AFRIKA DZONGA  
SOUTH AFRICA



LESOTHO  
LESOTHO



ESWATINI  
ESWATINI



ZIMBABWE  
ZIMBABWE



MALAWI  
MALAWI



MOZAMBIKI  
MOZAMBIQUE





# Talenta ya N'waxifufunhunu

Hi Vianne Venter ■ Swifaniso hi Heidel Dedekind



Siku ra nkhuvo wa ku nyikiwa ka switsotswana masagwadi ri hetelele ri fikile! Switsotswana hinkwaswo a swi khome timbilu. I mani loyi a a ta wina sagwadi ro va ni matimba ngopfu kumbe ro va xitsutsumi lexikulu? I mani loyi a a ta wina sagwadi ra ku va n'wamburhi kumbe ntlhari? Hinkwako lomu a wu languta kona a ku ri vunhabyanhabya ntsena bya switsotswana, swi tikamakama swimhondzwana ni ku praktisa vutshila bya swona, swi bombiselana ni ku tshwukiselana mahlo. Hinkwaswo a swi endla tano, handle ka N'waxifufunhunu.

"Howzit, howzit! Xana a wu chuhanga N'waxifufunhunu?" N'wawehele a vutisa a jahile.

"Mani, mina?" ku hlamula N'waxifufunhunu. "A ku na lexi nga ndzi chuhisaka *mina*. A ndzi na rivilo ku fana na wena N'wawehele. A nga kona la nga phikizana na wena."

"Hakunene? Ndza nkhenza, N'waxifufunhunu," N'wawehele a vula hi ku n'wayitela. "Mhh, hi loyi N'wamburhi a taka ... Mina ndzi fambile. Ndzi ta ku vona endzhaku." Hiloko a tsutsuma a famba.



"He N'waxifufunhunu," ku vula N'waphaphatani, a ri karhi a kavatela timpapa takwe a ri edyamyini. "U nga vulavuli na xigevenga lexiya."

"Doo, N'wawehele a nga bihanga ngopfu. Kahlekahle u na mbilu ya kahle ... loko u kota ku fambisana na yena," ku vula N'waxifufunhunu hi ku hleka.

"Hayi, misisi leyi na yona!" ku vula N'waphaphatani, a karhatekile hi misisi yakwe. "Ndza tivutisa leswaku i vamani va nga ta wina masagwadi namuntlha."

"Lexi ndzi xi tivaka hileswaku *mina* a ndzi nge wini nchumu," ku vula N'waxifufunhunu a ri karhi a hlekelela. "A ndzi sasekanga ku fana na wena N'waphaphatani. Kahlekahle u hi tlula hinkwerhu hi ku saseka."

"Wena N'waxifufunhunu u na mbilu ya kahle," ku vula N'waphaphatani hi ku n'wayitela lokukulu. "Vona, hi lexi N'wantlhadyana!" Ivi a ya emahlweni hi ku hlevetela a ku, "Phela ni ku va xitsotswana a hi xitsotswana." Hiloko N'waphaphatani a tihahela a ya tinyanga ku vona loko a tiphoxonge kahle.

N'wapume u ye eka N'waxifufunhunu a ri karhi a vulavula a ri yexe, "... mbirhi na mbirhi i mune, mune na mune i nhungu, nhungu na nhungu i khumetsevu, khumetsevu ...

*Heita*, N'waxifufunhunu! *Xuu*, phaphatani leriya ra tivona! Xana a ri swi tivi leswaku ro va *gogga* ntsena?"

"Doo, N'wapume," ku vula N'waxifufunhunu hi ku hlekelela. "Ri rhandza ku languteka ntsena."

"Ku languteka a swi vuli nchumu! Mhaka yikulu hileswaku u na yini la!" ku vula N'wapume hi ku tidlivaliva nhloko. "Ndzi hete nkarhi wo leha ndzi ri eku hlayeni. Ndzi swi lava hi mbilu hinkwayo ku wina sagwadi ra ku va xitsotswana xo tlhariha ku tlula hinkwaswo. Wena ke?"

"Mina a ku na sagwadi ndzi nga ta ri wina. A ndzi tlharihanga ku fana na wena N'wapume. Hi wena xitsotswana xo tlhariha ku tlula hinkwerhu!"

"Hawu! Ndza nkhenza ku twa sweswo! U na mbilu ya kahle ... Eeh! Hi loyi N'warisokoti a taka. A ndzi na nkarhi wo n'wi vona a tlangatlanga hi timayisele. Ndza ha ya eku hlayeni," ku vula N'wapume, ivi a tsema a ri vona.

N'warisokoti u fike a rhwale ribye ro tlula mpimo wakwe ka mune! N'waxifufunhunu u sale a chuhile loko N'warisokoti a ri lahlela ehansi ivi ri hima hi mpfumawulo lowukulu! "Se Manana N'wawutlhari u ri yini loko a tibusuma?"

"E-e, N'warisokoti, tshika vuntswaka!" ku vula N'waxifufunhunu. "N'wapume o rhandza tibuku. A nga kona eka *hina* la nga na matimba ku fana na wena."

N'warisokoti u bambatele N'waxifufunhunu ehlaneni a ri karhi a hlekelela. "Ndzi na matimba hakunene? Kutani *wena* u ya wina sagwadi rihhi namuntlha?"

"A ku na nchumu xo hlawuleka hi mina, N'warisokoti," ku vula N'waxifufunhunu hi ku riputa. "A ndzi na rivilo, a ndzi sasekanga, a ndzi tlharihanga, naswona a ndzi na matimba. Ndzo va xitsotswana ntsena."

"Kambe ndzi ehleketa leswaku u xitsotswana *lexinene*," ku vula N'warisokoti. "Kumbexana wa hi tlula hinkwerhu ... Hey, nkarhi wa nkhuvo wo ava masagwadi se wu tshinele. Wa ta?" Hiloko N'warisokoti a tsutsumela eribyeni laha switsotswana hinkwaswo a swi hlengeletane kona swi rindzele nkhuvo wo ava masagwadi, hiloko N'waxifufunhunu a famba na yena.

A ku lo whii. N'wadzwewulani u tlakuse sagwadi ro sungula. "Nan'waka sagwadi ra *xitsutsumi* lexikulu ri ya eka ... N'wawehele!" ku tivisa yena. Switsotswana hinkwaswo swi be mavoko. N'waxifufunhunu hi yena a nga ba mavoko swi nyawula.

"Sagwadi ra xitsotswana xo *saseka* eka hinkwaswo ...," N'wadzwewulani a ya emahlweni, "... ri ya eka ... N'waphaphatani!" Ku biwe mikulungwani. N'waxifufunhunu hi yena a nga ba nkulungwani swi twala.

"Sagwadi ra xitsotswana xo *tlhariha* ku tlula hinkwaswo ri ya eka ... N'wapume!" ku tivisa N'wadzwewulani. Ntshungu wu be swivuvutani. Xivuvutani xa N'waxifufunhunu a xi twala ku tlula swa lavan'wana.

A ku sale sagwadi rin'we ntsena. "Sagwadi ra xitsotswana xa *matimba* ku tlula hinkwaswo ri ya eka ... N'warisokoti!" N'wadzwewulani u vule hi ku n'wayitela. Switsotswana hinkwaswo swi huwelerile, swi ba makhwela na mindzhumba swi ri karhi swi cina swi tiphina. N'waxifufunhunu a a n'wayitela swi nga heli. A a tsake ngopfu hileswi vanghana vakwe va wineke!

Loko se ku te whii, N'wadzwewulani u te, "Xo hetelela, nan'waka hi na sagwadi ro *hlawuleka* ... sagwadi lerikulu, leri vhoteriweke hi n'wina hinkwenu. Lexi i xifundzho xa le henhla ku tlula hinkwaswo, sagwadi lerikulu ku tlula hinkwawo ... u langutelangute hinkwako. Hiloko mahlo yakwe lamakulu ma honolela xitsotswana xin'wana. A ku ri xitsotswana ntsena, a xi nga hlawulekanga nikatsongo. "Xifundzho xa le henhla ku tlula hinkwaswo, sagwadi lerikulu ri ya eka ... N'waxifufunhunu."

N'waxifufunhunu u lave ku wela ehansi hi ku hlalala. "Mi-mi-mina?" a vulavula hi ku nghanhamela. "Kambe ... kambe mina a ndzi koti nchumu. A ndzi hlawulekanga eka nchumu." N'waxifufunhunu a a nga swi twisisi. U ehlekete leswaku ku fanele ku endleke xihoxo. Kambe vanghana vakwe hinkwawo a va n'wayitela, onge a va tiva swin'wana leswi yena a a nga swi tivi.

"N'waxifufunhunu la Rhandzekaka," ku vula N'wadzwewulani hi ku n'wayitela. "Mina na switsotswana leswin'wana hi lava ku ku nyika sagwadi leri ra nsuku ... hi ku va xitsotswana xa *musa* ku tlula hinkwerhu ka hina."

"A nga kona wo fana na wena!" ku vula N'wawehele hi rito ra le henhla.

"A wo va xitsotswana ntsena," ku vula N'waphaphatani hi ku n'wayitela.

"U hlawulekile!" ku vula N'wapume.

"A nga kona wo fana na wena, N'waxifufunhunu! Hi wena ntsena u nga so! Talenta ya wena i musa," ku hlalusa N'warisokoti.

"Kambe ... kambe *hinkwerhu* hi nga swi kota ku va na musa," ku vula N'waxifufunhunu, a pfilunganyekile.

"Mhaka yi kwalaho, N'waxifufunhunu," ku vula N'wadzwewulani. "Hinkwerhu hi nga swi kota ku va na musa, kambe hi wena ntsena u hlawulaka ku va na musa nkarhi hinkwawo."

Vanghana va N'waxifufunhunu va n'wi tlakurile, va ba makhwela va n'wi rhwale hi tinhloko, va n'wi yisa enhlohlorhini ya ribye.



A ku ri ro sungula evuton'wini N'waxifufunhunu a titwa a hlawulekile ni ku tsaka hi ndlela leyi. Kutani a hlevetela hi ku phindhaphindha a ku, "Vanghana va mina hinkwawo va ni *musa* swonghasi!"

## Endla ntsheketo wu nyanyula!

- ★ Mikarhi yin'wana nyiko leyi hi nga na yona a hi leswi hi kotaka ku swi endla, kambe i ndlela leyi hi endlaka van'wana va titwa hayona. Hi yihi talenta ya wena yo hlawuleka?

- ★ Xana wa yi tsundzuka talenta leyi xitsotswana haxin'we a xi ri na yona? Xaxameta switsotswana hinkwaswo leswi nga eka ntsheketo lowu. Etihelo ka vito ra xitsotswana haxin'we, tsala talenta ya xona.
- ★ Kutani endla nxaxamelo wa swirho swa ndyangu wa ka n'wina, kutani u tsala talenta leyi un'wana na un'wana a nga na yona, ku katsa na wena!





# 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!

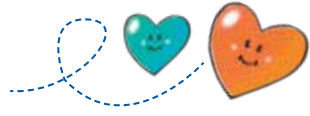
- ★ Sometimes our gift is not about what we can do, but how we make others feel. What is your special talent?
- ★ Can you remember what each insect was good at? Make a list of each insect in the story. Next to each insect's name, write down what they were good at.

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



# Swo tsakisa hi Nal'ibali

## Nal'ibali fun



1.

Xana u nga tsala maletere kahle u humesa mavito ya matsavu na mihandzu leyi Pasi na Piwai va yi voneke emakete eka ntsheketo lowu nge, *Nhenha ya le makete?*

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?*



aawkimja

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akoliaflhw

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kvciihha

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ualmmlaa

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lborhoki

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mwebek

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saausgv

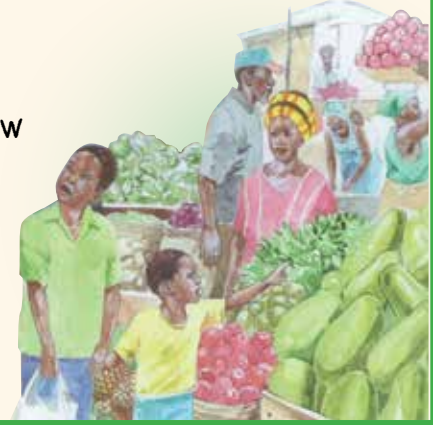
fauleliocrw

acebabg

ragosen

cliorocb

mkinupp



2.

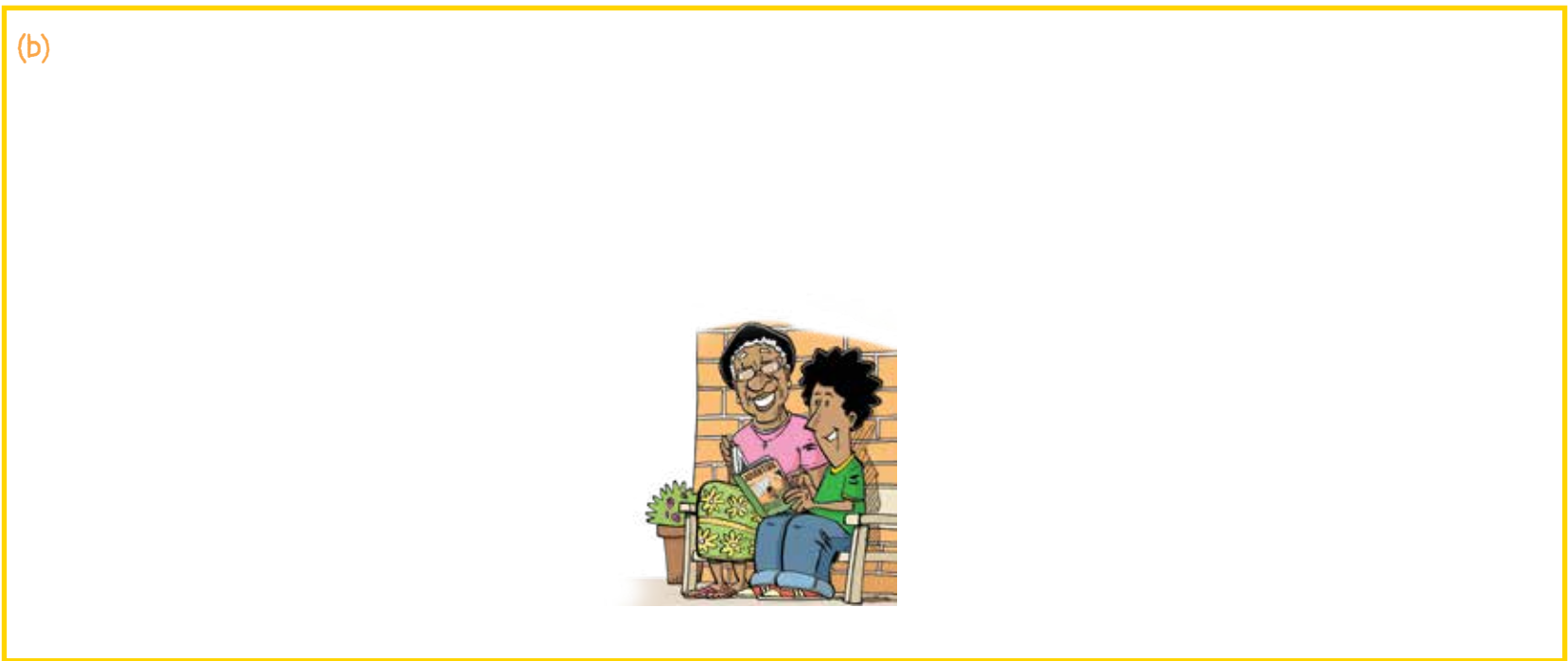
- a) U ehleketa leswaku vanhu lava va kumeke kwihi va ri eku hlayeni?  
 b) Kutani dirowa ndhawu leyi u ehleketaka leswaku Gogo na Josh va hlayela eka yona!

- 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 yi kona ku ku hlohotela na ku ku seketela. **Tihlanganisi na hina** hi yin'wani ya tindlela leti:

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



Produced by The Nal'ibali Trust. Translation by Mosekola Solutions. Nal'ibali character illustrations by Rico.

UMLAZI  
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