



Take a break with a book!

Soon it will be the end-of-year holidays – time to relax and spend time with family and friends. And, of course, holidays give us more time to read and share stories. Here are some holiday ideas to keep you and your children stocked up on stories well into 2014!

- 1. Find stories to read together.** Borrow library books by authors that you have never read before, or borrow more books by your favourite authors. Read our stories on www.nalibali.org and on www.nalibali.mobi.
- 2. Make up stories.** Start telling your family a story that you have made up. Then add another instalment each day to continue your story. You can all take turns adding each day's instalment until the story ends.
- 3. Create a reading corner.** Encourage your children to find a place at home that they can make into a holiday reading corner. Let them use cushions and blankets to make it comfortable. Decorate it with their drawings and other pictures, like our special holiday poster on page 8!

- 4. Change chore time into story time.** Let a family member read aloud from their favourite book while others are preparing meals or cleaning up afterwards. Take turns being the person who reads aloud.
- 5. Create a menu.** Imagine the foods your favourite story characters would like and write a pretend menu for a supper you would invite them to.
- 6. Write a story.** Make books by stapling blank sheets of paper together and write stories with your children. Younger children can draw the pictures. Offer to write the words they tell you, but also encourage them to write for themselves. Let older children draw and write on their own. Read your books to each other – and to children who visit!

- 7. Theatre time.** Choose a well-loved story with exciting characters. With your children, write down what each character says and let them choose who they want to be! Provide props like pieces of fabric, hats, shoes or clothes and act out the story.
- 8. Reading places.** How many different places can you read or tell stories in during the holidays? How about in a car or bus, under a tree, or on the beach? Keep a list and at the end of the holidays, share your list by posting it on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA. Tell us the names of the stories you enjoyed too!

Have a fabulous story-filled holiday!

For more ideas on sharing stories with children, visit www.nalibali.org or www.nalibali.mobi.

We will be taking a break until the last week of January 2014. Join us then for more Nalibali reading magic!

Re tla kgefutsa ho fihlela bekeng ya ho qetela ya Pherekong 2014. Eba le rona hape nakong eo bakeng sa dimakatso tse ding tsa ho bala tsa Nalibali!

Kgefutsa ka ho bala buka!

Phomolo ya mafelo a selemo e se e atametse – nako ya ho iketla le ho ba le ba lelapa le metswalle. Mme, ehlike, matsatsi a phomolo a re fa nako e ngata ya ho bala le ho phetelana dipale. Mehopolo bakeng sa matsatsi a phomolo ke ena bakeng sa ho boloka wena le bana ba hao le ikatetse ka dipale ho ya kena ho 2014!

- 1. Fumanang dipale tseo le ka di balang mmoho.** Adimang dibuka laeboraring tsa bangodi bao le esong ho bale dibuka tsa bona, kapa le adime dibuka tse ding tse ngotsweng ke bangodi bao le ba ratang. Balang dipale tsa rona ho www.nalibali.org le www.nalibali.mobi.
- 2. Iqapele dipale.** Qala ho qaqela ba lelapa la hao pale eo o e qapileng. Jwale o ka eketsa karolo e latelang letsatsi le leng le le leng ho tswela pele ka pale ya hao. Bohle le ka tihentjhana ho eketsa ka karolo e ntjha letsatsi ka leng ho fihlela pale eo e fihla pheletsong.
- 3. Etsa huku ya ho bala.** Kgothaletsa bana ba hao ho iphumanela sebaka lapeng seo ba ka se etsang hore e be sekgutlwana sa ho bala. E re

ba sebedise mesangwana le dikobo ho etsa hore se dulehe hantle. Ba se kgabise ka ditshwantsho tseo ba di takileng le ditshwantsho tsa bona, jwaloka phousetara ya rona e ikgethang ya matsatsi a phomolo e leqepheng la 8!

- 4. Fetola nako ya mesebetsi ya lapeng hore e be nako ya dipale.** Ereng e mong wa setho sa lelapa a balle hodimo ho tswa bukeng eo a e ratang haholo ha ba bang ba ntse ba lokisa dijo kapa ba hlwekisa kamora dijo. Tjhentjhanang ka ho balla hodimo.
- 5. Bopa menyu.** Nahanang ka dijo tseo baphetwa bao le ba ratang ba neng ba ka di rata mme le ngole menyu wa nketsisane bakeng sa dijo tsa mantsiboya tseo le neng le tla ba memela ho tsona.
- 6. Ngola pale.** Etsa dibuka ka ho kopanya maqephe a sa ngollang ka diseteipolara mmoho mme le ngole dipale mmoho le bana ba hao. Bana ba banyenyane ba ka taka ditshwantsho. Ithaope ho ngola mantswe ao ba tlang ho o bolella ona, empa hape o ba kgothalletse ho ingolla ka bobona. E re bana ba baholwanyane ba take le ho ngola ka bobona. Ballanang dibuka tsa lona – le balle le bana ba tlleng ho eta!

- 7. Nako ya papadi ya kalaneng.** Kgetha pale e ratwang haholo e nang le baphetwa ba thabisang. Mmoho le bana ba hao, ngolang seo mophetwa ka mong a se buang mme o re ba kgethe mophetwa eo ba batlang ho ba yena! Fana ka disebediswa tsa papadi ya kalaneng tse kang dikgetjhana tsa masela, dikatiba, dieta kapa diaparo mme le bapale pale eo.
- 8. Dibaka tsa ho bala.** Ke dibaka tse kae tse fapaneng tseo o ka ballang kapa wa phetela dipale ho tsona matsatsing a phomolo? Ho ka ba jwang ka koloing kapa beseng, ka tlasa sefate, kapa lebopong la lewatle? Boloka lenane mme qetellong ya matsatsi a phomolo, arolelana lenane leo le batho ka ho le posa ho Facebook: www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA. Re bolelle mabitsa a dipale tseo le wena di o natefetseng!

Eba le matsatsi a phomolo a monate a tlatseng dipale!

Bakeng sa mehopolo e meng mabapi le ho arolelana dipale mmoho le bana ba hao, etela ho www.nalibali.org kapa www.nalibali.mobi.



Drive your imagination

Read to me. Explore a story.

Mpalle. Sibolla pale.





Get story active!

With your children, enjoy reading the story, *Zebra and Crocodile* on page 4. It's best to read the story in your children's mother tongue/s before reading it in the other language provided. Here are some ideas for you to try out before, during and after reading the story.

Before

- Let your children tell you what they know about zebras and crocodiles. Then take a quick look at the pictures and guess what the story is about.
- Ask older children to think about what kind of character a zebra and a crocodile might be in a story. For example, do they think a crocodile would be sly and mean, or shy and kind? Why?

During

- As you read, help develop children's prediction skills by asking, "What do you think will happen next?" after you have read frame 4 of the story.
- Ask your children to find the smaller animals in some of the pictures and comment on what they are doing.
- If your children can already read, let them read the words of Zebra and/or Crocodile if they want to.

After

- Talk about the story with your children. Do they think the zebra or the crocodile was the cleverest, and why? What do you think Crocodile might have said after Zebra got away at the end of the story?
- Let your children have fun retelling the story or telling their own story using the Zebra and Crocodile puppets on this page.

Eba mahlahlaha bakeng sa pale!

Mmoho le bana ba hao, natefelwang ke ho bala pale ena, Qwaha le Kwena leqepheng la 4. Ho molemo ho bala pale ka puo ya lapeng ya bana ba hao pele o e bala ka puo e nngwe eo e ngotsweng ka yona. Mehopollo e meng ke ena eo o ka e lekang pele le bala, nakong eo le balang le kamora ho bala pale.

Pele le bala

- E re bana ba hao ba o bolelle seo ba se tsebang ka diqwaha le dikwena. Mme ba shebe ditshwantsho ka potlako mme ba lepe hore na pale eo e bua ka eng.
- Kopa bana ba baholwanyane hore ba nahane ka mefuta ya baphetwa eo qwaha le kwena ba ka e bapalang paleng. Ho etsa mohlala, na ba nahana hore kwena e ka ba masene le ho ba kgopo, kapa ekaba dihlong le ho ba mosa? Hobaneng?

Ha le ntse le bala

- Ha le ntse le bala, thusa ho bopa bokgoni ba bana ba ho lepa ka ho botsa, "Le nahana hore ho tla etsahala eng kamora moo?" ha o se o badile foreime ya 4 ya pale.
- Kopa bana ba hao ho fumana diphoofofswana tse nyane ditshwantshong tse ding le ho bolela hore di etsa eng.
- Haeba bana ba hao ba se ba tseba ho bala, e re ba bale mantswa a Qwaha le/kapa Kwena.

Kamora ho bala

- Buisana le bana ba hao ka pale. Na ba nahana hore qwaha kapa kwena e ne e hlalefile ho feta, hobaneng? O nahana hore Kwena e ka be e ile ya reng ha Qwaha e tihopola qetellong ya pale?
- Etsa hore bana ba hao ba natefelwe ke ho pheta pale hape kapa ho pheta pale eo e leng ya bona ba sebedisa diphapete tsa Qwaha le Kwena leqepheng lena.

How to make the puppets

1. Cut along the black lines and use glue to paste the pictures onto a sheet of paper or thin cardboard.
2. Cut carefully along the red dotted lines.
3. Tape the story characters to thin sticks or drinking straws to make puppets.

Mokgwa wa ho etsa diphapete

1. Seha meleng e metsho mme o sebedise sekgomaretsi ho manamisa ditshwantsho hodima leqephe kapa khateboto e tshesane.
2. Seha ka hloko meleng e mefubedu ya matheba.
3. Manamisa ka theipi baphetwa ba pale dithupeng tse tshesane kapa ho mahlakana a ho nwa bakeng sa ho etsa diphapete.



Nal'ibali on radio!

Enjoy listening to stories in Sesotho and in English on Nal'ibali's radio show:

Lesedi FM on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.45 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.

SAfm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1.50 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.



Nal'ibali radiyong!

Natefelwa ke ho mamela dipale ka Sesotho le Senyesemane lenaneong la radiyo la Nal'ibali:

Lesedi FM ka Mantaha, Laboraro le Labohlano ho tloha ka 9.45 a.m. ho fihlela ka 10.00 a.m.

SAfm ka Mantaha, Laboraro le Labohlano ho tloha ka 1.50 p.m. ho fihlela ka 2.00 p.m.

Thank you!

A big, Nal'ibali thank you to **Wimpy** for sponsoring our **Story Stars** feature in 2013! Wimpy provided meal vouchers to individuals and organisations selected as Story Stars between May and November 2013 in appreciation of what they are doing to make reading and writing part of children's daily lives.



Re a leboha!

Teboho e kgolo e tswang ho ba ha Nal'ibali e yang ho **Wimpy** ka tshetso ya ditjhelete bakeng sa **Dinaledi tsa Dipale** tsa rona tse hlalisitsweng ka 2013! Wimpy e ile ya fana ka divautjhara tsa dijo ho batho le mekgatlo ba kgethilweng jwaloka Dinaledi tsa Dipale pakeng tsa Motsheanong le Pudukwana 2013 bakeng sa ho leboha le ho thoholetsa tseo ba di etsang ho etsa hore ho bala le ho ngola e be karolo ya kamehla maphelong a bana.



Story stars

Making a Na'ibali difference

Every day, in six provinces around South Africa, Na'ibali's Cluster Mentors inspire and support others to run reading clubs in which children can experience the joy of reading for pleasure. Here's your chance to meet them!

Dinaledi tsa Dipale

Ho etsa phapang ya Na'ibali

Kamehla, diprovenseng tse tshelatseng ho potoloha Afrika Borwa, sehlopha sa Na'ibali sa Batataisi ba Tlasetara ba kgothaletsa le ho tshheheta ba bang ho tsamaisa ditelapo tsa ho bala moo bana ba ka iphumanelang monyaka wa ho balla boithabiso. Ona ke monyetla wa ho kopana le bona!

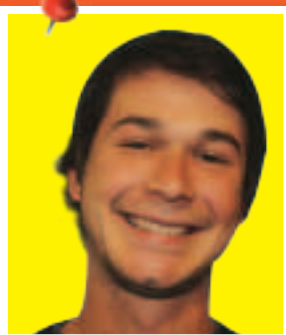
Gcinumuzi Radebe (KZN)

Number of clubs: 12
Favourite reading place: the library or any quiet place
Reading is ... life!



Gcinumuzi Radebe (KZN)

Lenane la ditelapo: 12
Sebaka seo a se ratang sa ho bala: laeborari kapa sebaka sefe kapa sefe se kgutsitseng
Ho bala ke ... bophelo!



David Jeffery (Western Cape)

Number of clubs: 24
Favourite childhood book: *The Enormous Crocodile* by Roald Dahl
Reading is ... an adventure.

David Jeffery (Western Cape)

Lenane la ditelapo: 24
Buka ya bongwaneng eo a neng a e rata: *The Enormous Crocodile* ka Roald Dahl
Ho bala ke ... tshibollo.



Tsepiso Nzayo (Eastern Cape)

Number of clubs: 10
Favourite children's book: *Umanendaba* by Gcina Mhlophe
Favourite reading place: my bedroom

Tsepiso Nzayo (Eastern Cape)

Lenane la ditelapo: 10
Buka ya bana eo a e ratang: *Umanendaba* ka Gcina Mhlophe
Sebaka sa ho bala seo a se ratang: phaposing ya ka ya ho robala



Rinae Sikhwari (Limpopo)

Number of clubs: 22
Favourite reading place: school library
Reading is ... amazing and adventurous!



Rinae Sikhwari (Limpopo)

Lenane la ditelapo: 22
Sebaka sa ho bala seo a se ratang: laeborari ya sekolo
Ho bala ke ... dimakatso le tshibollo!

Bongani Godide (Gauteng)

Number of clubs: 30
Favourite childhood story: *Tselane*, a Sesotho tale from long ago
Favourite reading places: reading club and at home



Bongani Godide (Gauteng)

Lenane la ditelapo: 30
Pale ya bongwaneng eo a e ratang: *Tselane*, tshomo ya kgalekgale ya Sesotho
Sebaka sa ho bala seo a se ratang: tlalaping ya ho bala le lapeng

Sithembiso Nhlapo (Free State)

Number of clubs: 14
Favourite children's story: *Three friends in a taxi* by Maryanne and Shayle Bester
Reading is ... a key to understanding your world.

USithembiso Nhlapo (Free State)

Lenane la ditelapo: 14
Pale ya bana eo a e ratang: *Three friends in a taxi* ka Maryanne le Shayle Bester
Ho bala ke ... senotlolo sa ho utlwisisa lefatsho.



Malusi Puwe (Eastern Cape)

Number of clubs: 22
Favourite reading place: outside
Reading is ... essential.

Malusi Puwe (Eastern Cape)

Lenane la ditelapo: 22
Sebaka sa ho bala seo a se ratang: ka ntle
Ho bala ke ... ntho e hlokehang.





Zebra and Crocodile

Qwaha le Kwena

Joshua S. Madumulla
Arnold Birungi

1.



Zebra and Crocodile were great friends. Crocodile lived in the caves of Ruaha River.

Qwaha le Kwena e ne e le metswalle e mehoho. Kwena e ne e dula mahaheng a Noka ya Ruaha.

2.



Zebra lived among the bushes and the tender, sweet grass.

Qwaha yona e ne e dula hara dihlahla, hara jwang bo bonolo, bo monate.

3.



Zebra often went down to the river to visit her friend Crocodile and to drink the fresh river water.

Qwaha hangata e ne e ya nokeng ho ya etela metswalle wa yona Kwena le ho ya nwa metsi a foreshe a nokeng.

4.



After some time, Crocodile noticed that Zebra looked fat and juicy. Suddenly, he felt rather hungry.

Ka mora nako e itseng, Kwena ya bona hore Qwaha iwale e se e nonne hape e ka latsweha ha monate. Hanghang, ya ikutlwa e lapile.

5.



When Zebra next visited Crocodile, her friend was nowhere to be seen. "Help, help! I am drowning!" came a cry from the river.

Ha Qwaha e boela e etela Kwena, metswalle wa yona o ne a le siyo moo. "Thusang, thusang! Ke a ngangwa!" ke selo se tswang moo nokeng.

7.



"Oh no you are not, bad friend!" shouted Zebra as she kicked Crocodile hard on his long jaw.

"Tjhe o ke ke wa etsa iwalo, metswalle ya mobei!" ho hoeleisa Qwaha, iwalo ka ha a raha Kwena haholo mohlahareng wa hae o motelele.

6.



Zebra threw herself into the river to rescue her poor dying friend. "Hahahahaha! Yum! Now I am going to eat you!" laughed Crocodile.

Qwaha ya itahlela ka nokeng ho pholosa metswalle wa yona ya shwang. "Hahahahaha! Wa bona he! Jwale ke tllilo o jai!" ho tseha Kwena.

8.



"Phew, that was a narrow escape!" panted Zebra, trotting away.

"Kgele, ka tla ka pholoha ka soba la nale!" ho rialo Qwaha, a ntse a itsamaela.



It starts with a story.



Nal'ibali fun! Monate wa Nal'ibali!

Can you find six differences between these two pictures?

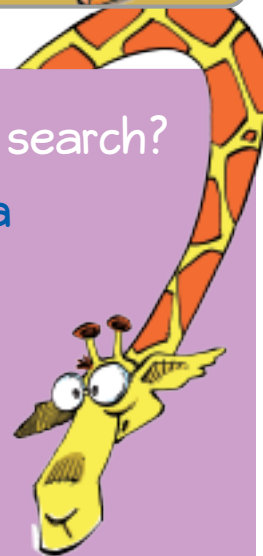
Na o ka fumana diphapang tse tsheletseng pakeng tsa ditshwantsho tse pedi tsee?



Can you find the names of the Nal'ibali characters in this word search?

Na o ka fumana mabitso a baphetwa ba Nal'ibali patlong ee ya mantswe?

C	G	O	G	O	M	X	H	I	M	B
A	D	E	O	O	B	L	D	O	S	O
A	F	R	I	K	A	M	I	N	H	L
J	N	O	O	D	L	E	N	A	O	L
O	K	N	P	Q	I	R	T	S	P	A
S	T	B	E	L	L	A	L	U	E	R
H	W	M	Y	Z	A	N	E	O	I	P
M	M	E	W	A	A	F	R	I	K	A



NEO



NOODLE



GOGO



AFRIKA



MME WA AFRIKA



BELLA



MBALI



HOPE



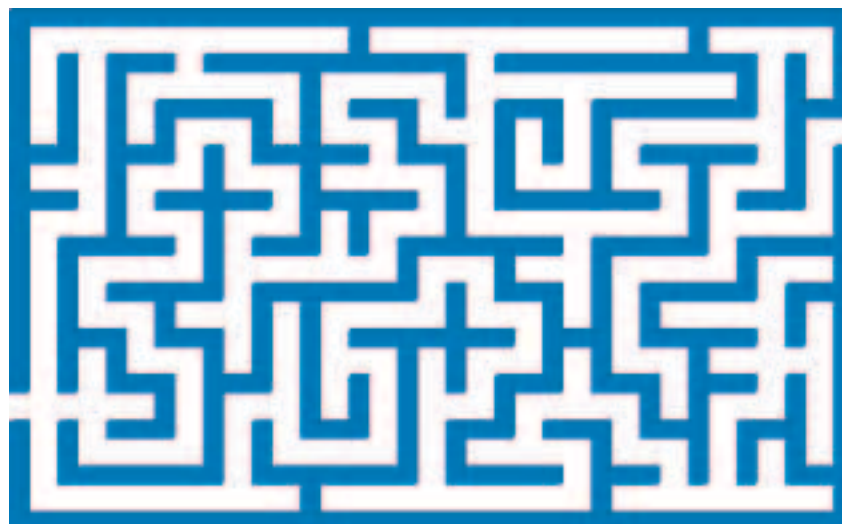
DINTLE



JOSH

Help Noodle find his way to Bella!

Thusa Noodle ho fumana tsela ya ho ya ho Bella!



The amazing tale of floating Zimkhitha

Story by Helen Brain
Illustrations by Magriet Brink

There was once a girl named Zimkhitha who never stopped laughing. She made her dad mad. One day he was driving her home from school. When he reached the beginning of their road, he'd had enough! He stopped the car.

"Are you going to stop laughing or are you going to walk home?" he asked. But Zimkhitha just laughed louder.

"Right," he said, "you can walk home." He made her get out of the car and he drove home.

"Where's Zimkhitha?" asked her mom when her dad walked in the front door. "I'm cooking her favourite dinner."

"Oh dear," her dad said. "I made her walk home from the corner because she wouldn't stop laughing."

"My precious baby?" cried Zimkhitha's mom. "You made my precious baby walk home? All alone? We'd better go and find her." They looked and looked, but there was no sign of Zimkhitha.

"Where did you leave her?" asked Mom. "Where is she, Ron?"

"Oh dear," muttered Zimkhitha's dad, checking under every bush and up every tree.

"Zimkhitha," called her mom. "Where are you?"

A woman stopped her car. "Can I help you?" she asked.

"We've lost our little girl," said Zimkhitha's mom. "Have you seen her?"

The woman drove round the block and came back to report, "I saw a black cat, and a yellow dog, and a man selling bananas. But I didn't see a little girl anywhere."

Zimkhitha's dad looked up, and there Zimkhitha was, floating high, high in the sky above them, like a big pink balloon.

"Oh my word!" exclaimed Mom. "How in the world did she get up there?"

The kind woman stared up into the sky, watching Zimkhitha bobbing about in the clouds. "Is she ... laughing?" she asked.

"Zimkhitha always laughs," said her mom and dad together.

"We can't stop her. Listen." From high, high up in the sky Zimkhitha's laugh came tinkling down like a little bell.

"Oh no!" cried her mom, wringing her hands. "She might fall into the sea."

"Or, onto a rose bush," groaned her dad.

"I am a scientist," said the kind woman, "and one of the first things we learn is that air floats. She must have swallowed so much air from laughing that she has floated up like a balloon."

"Oh, oh, oh," cried Zimkhitha's parents.

"There's only one way to get her down," said the kind woman. "We'll have to make her cry."

"Oh dear," said her mother. "That's not easy. She's such a giggling child."

"We'll have to shout something horrible to her," said Zimkhitha's dad, sobbing into his handkerchief.

"We need lots and lots of people to all shout at once," said the woman. "She'll never hear just the three of us." So they rang all the doorbells, and asked the people to come outside. Zimkhitha's dad stopped the traffic and asked everyone to come and help. Soon a big crowd had gathered, and they were pointing and waving and filming Zimkhitha on their cellphones.

Zimkhitha laughed and laughed. It was the funniest thing she had ever seen.

"What are we going to say to make her cry?" asked the kind woman.

"I know!" said Zimkhitha's dad, and he told them what to say.

"One, two, three, altogether now..." ordered the kind woman.

And with that, the crowd pointed into the sky and roared, "Hey, Zimkhitha! We can see up your dress!" Far up in the clouds Zimkhitha heard them. She looked down and saw five hundred people pointing at her dress, and she stopped laughing.

Down she floated. But as she came down the clouds tickled her, and she thought how funny it was to be so far up while everyone else was down there. And she began to laugh again.

"Oh dear," said her dad. "That didn't work."

"I know!" said her mom. "Tell her we can see her spotted panties!"

So the crowd took a deep breath and shouted at the top of their lungs, "Hey, Zimkhitha! We can see your spotty panties!"

And Zimkhitha stopped laughing and floated down fifty metres. But as she looked at the huge traffic jam and the TV crew and the thousands of people watching her, she started to laugh again. And up she went again.

The kind woman shook her head. "We're going to have to be a little bit meaner," she said firmly. "Any minute now the wind will catch her, and she will float away forever. What is the worst thing you can think of to say to her?"

They all put their heads together and thought and thought and thought. Finally they had it.

"Altogether now," called Zimkhitha's dad, standing on the roof of a Mercedes Benz. "Everybody shout as loudly as you can, all at once."

And the whole crowd of four thousand people, and the yellow dog, and the black cat, and the man selling bananas all shouted at once, "HEY ZIMKHITHA!

WE CAN SEE YOUR PANTIES, AND THERE'S A HOLE IN THEM!"

And Zimkhitha stopped laughing.

Down she came. Down, down, down. Even further down, and further down, and further down, until finally she was almost on the ground.

"My precious baby!" cried her mom, grabbing her legs and pulling her back to Earth. "Thank goodness you're safe!"

Zimkhitha looked at the crowd of people all cheering and laughing and clapping their hands. She was so embarrassed that she covered her face and ran home.

"Oh dear," said her dad. "We've hurt her feelings. She's very upset."

So the people put their heads together again and thought of the right thing to say to cheer her up.

"Altogether now," called her mom.

And they shouted, "HEY, ZIMKHITHA! WE WERE ONLY JOKING!"

Zimkhitha stopped running.

"WE PROMISE YOU!" they all shouted. "WE COULDN'T REALLY SEE YOUR PANTIES, BECAUSE YOU'RE WEARING PINK TROUSERS!"

And Zimkhitha started to laugh.

"Oops, grab her quickly," shouted her mom.

And they did. Just in time.



Pale e makatsang ya Zimkhitha ya fofang

Pale ka Helen Brain
Ditshwantsho ka Magriet Brink

Ho kile ha eba le ngwananyana e mong ya neng a bitswa Zimkhitha ya neng a sa tlohele ho tshela. O ne a halefisa ntatae. Ka letsatsi le leng o ne a tswa mo lata sekolong ka koloi ho leba lapeng. Ba sa ntsame ba gala ho kena tseleng ya bona feela, o ne a se a tenehlile ho fetel! O ile a emisa koloi:

“Na o tla tlohela ho tshela kapa o tla tsamaya ka maoto ho ya lapeng?” a botsa. Empa Zimkhitha o ile a tshela hodimo le ho fea.

“Ho lokile,” a rialo, “o ka mna tsamaya ka maoto ho ya hae.” Yaba o mo theola kololing ya hae mme a e kgama ho leba hae.

“Zimkhitha o kae?” mmae a botsa jwalo ha ntatae a kena monyako o ka pele. “Ke mo phehela dijo tseo a di ratang.”

“Oho,” ntatae a araba. “Ke tise a tsamaye ka maoto ho tloha hukung yane hobane o ne a sa batle ho tlohela ho tshela.”

“Moradinyana wa ka?” ho botsa mme wa Zimkhitha. “O entsa hore moradinyana wa ka a tsamaye ka maoto ho tla hae? A le mong? Re tla lokela ho ya mmala.” Ba ile ba mmala ba mmala, empa ho ne ho se le tshwaryana feela la moo Zimkhitha a leng teng.

“O mo sille kae?” Mmae a botsa. “Ngwanaka o kae, Ron?”

“Ao banna,” ho honotha nata Zimkhitha, a shebisisa ka tlasa sehlahla se seng le se seng le hodimo setleng se seng le se seng.

“Zimkhitha,” ho hoeletsa mmae. “Zimkhitha, o hokae?”

Mosadi e mong a emisa koloi ya hae. “Na nka le thusa?” a botsa.

“Re lahleletse ke moradinyana wa rona,” ho araba mme wa Zimkhitha. “Na ho na le moo o mmoneng?”

Mosadi eo a kgama ho potoloha sebaka seo mme a kgutla ho tla ba tlalehela, “Ke bone katse e ntshe, le nja e tshela, le monna ya rekisang dipanana. Empa ha ho moo ke boneng ngwananyana e monyane teng.”



Nata Zimkhitha a sheba hodimo, mme a bona Zimkhitha a le mame, a phaphalletse hodimo, hodimo sepakapakeng ka hodima bona, jwaloka balunu e kgolo e pinki.

“Jowe,” ha kgotsa Mme. “Ekaba ho tlele jwang hore a filhe hodimo mola?”

Mosadi ya mosa a sheba hodimo sepakapakeng, a shebetse Zimkhitha a nse a foia hodimo marung. “Na ebe o a . . . tshela?” a botsa.

“Zimkhitha o duta a tshela,” ha rialo mmae le ntatae mmoho. “Ha re kgone ho mo thibela. Mame! ” Ho tswa hodimodimo marung, ditshelo tsa Zimkhitha di ne di utwahala di thehelela tase jwaloka tshepe e nyane.

“Tjhe bo!” ho hoeletsa mmae, a soka matsoho. “O tla wela ka hara lewale.”

“Kapa ka hara meutlwa ya dipalesa,” ho honotha ntatae.

“Nna ke rasanse,” ho rialo mosadi ya mosa, “mme e mgwe ya dintho tsa pele tseo re ihutang isona ke hore moya o a phaphalla. Mohlomong o ile a kwenya moya o mongata haboho ha a nse a tshela hoo a fofetseng hodimo jwaloka balunu.”

“Jo, jo, jonna we,” ho makala batswadi ba Zimkhitha

“Re na le tsele e le mgwe feela ya ho etsa hore a thehelele fatshe,” ho rialo mosadi ya mosa. “Re tla tlameha ho mo lisa.”

“Ao basadi,” ho rialo mmae. “Hoo ho ke ke ha eba bonolo. Ke ngwana ya dulang a keketeha feela.”

“Re tla tlameha ho hoeletsa ho hong ho tshosang ho yena,” ho rialo nata Zimkhitha, a lla ka hara sakatuku sa hae.

“Re hloka batho ba bangata haboho, hore ba tlo hoeletsa ka nako e le mgwe,” ho rialo mosadi eo. “A keke a re utlwa ha re le bararo feela.” Yaba ba tsamaya ba kokota menyako ena kaofela, mme ba kopa batho hore ba tswelle ka ntle. Nata Zimkhitha a emisa sephethephe mme a kopa batho bohle hore ba tlo thusa. Kapete ke ha ho se ho bokane letshwete le leholo, mme batho ba ne ba supa le ho dumedisisa ka matsoho ba bile ba nka filimi ya Zimkhitha ka diselefono tsa bona. Zimkhitha a tshela a ba a tshela. O ne a gala ho bona ntho e qabolang jwalo.

“Jwale re tla reng ho etsa hore a lle?” ha botsa mosadi ya lokleng.

“Ke a tseba!” ho rialo nata Zimkhitha, mme a ba bollela hore ba reng.

“Nngwe, pedi, tharo, ha re yeng mmoho . . .” ha laela mosadi ya mosa.

Mme ha a tjo jwalo, letshwete la supa hodimo marung mme la hoeletsa, “Hela, Zimkhitha! Re kgona ho bona ka tlasa mose wa hao!” Hodimodimo marung kwana Zimkhitha a ba utlwa. A sheba fatshe mme a bona batho ba makgolo a mahlano ba supile mose wa hae, mme a kgotsa ho tshela.

Yaba o fofolela tase. Empa yare ha a nse a thehelela tase maru a mo tsikinyetse, mme a nahana kamoo ho qabolang ka teng ho ba hodimodimo kwana mme batho ba bang kaofela ba le tase mame, yaba o gala ho tshela hape.

“Ao banna,” ntatae a rialo. “Ha e a sebetse.”

“Ke a tseba!” ha bua mmae. “Mmolleleng hore re kgona ho bona penti ya hae e matheba.”

Yaba letshwete le hula moya haboho mme ba hoeletsa haboho, “Hela, Zimkhitha! Re kgona ho bona penti ya hao e matheba!”

Yaba Zimkhitha o emisa ho tshela mme a fofolela tase ka dimitara tse mashome a mahlano. Empa yare ha a sheba dikoloi tse petetsaneng mmileng le boradikhemera ba TV le diketeketse tsa batho ba mo shebelletse, a gala ho tshela hape. Mme a leba hodimo hape.

Mosadi ya mosa a tsitsinya hlooho. “Re tla tlameha ho ba kgoponyana jwale,” a rialo a tisisise. “Neng kapa neng ho tloha jwale moya o tla mo fumana, mme o tla fofolela hole ka ho sa feleng. Ke eng e mpe ka ho fetisisa eo re ka mmolellang yona?” Yaba bohle ba kopanya dihlooho mme ba nahana ba nahana ba nahana. Qetellong ba e fumana.

“Bohle jwale,” ha hoeletsa nata Zimkhitha, a eme hodima koloi ya Mercedes Benz. “Motho e mong le e mong a hoeletse haboho kamoo a ka kgonang, bohle ka nako e le mgwe.”

Mme letshwete lohle la batho ba dikete tse mme, le nja e tshela, le katse e ntshe le monna ya rekisang dipanana bohle ba hoeletsa ka nako e le mgwe, “HELA ZIMKHITHA! RE BONA PENTI YA HAO MME E NA LE LESOBA!”



Yaba Zimkhitha o tlohela ho tshela.

A thehelela tase. Tase, tase, tase. A tswela pele ho ya tase haboho, tase haboho, ho filhela a batla a filha fatshe.

“Oho, moradinyana wa ka!” ho rialo mmae, a mo tshwara ka maoto mme a mo hulela tase Letsheng. “Re leboha Modimo ha o bolokelile!”

Zimkhitha a sheba letshwete la batho bohle ba neng ba mo etsesisa ditlase ba tshela ba bile ba opa matsoho. O ne a swabille haboho hoo a lieng a ikwabela sehlahleho mme a mathela habo.

“Ao bathong,” ho rialo ntatae. “Re mo utlwisise bohloko. O kgenne ka mme!”

Yaba kahoo batho ba boela ba kopanya mehopollo mme ba nahana ka ntho e ntle eo ba ka e buang ho mo thabisisa.

“Ha re yeng bohle jwale,” ha hoeletsa mmae.

Yaba ba a hoeletsa, “HELA, ZIMKHITHA! RE NE RE MPA RE BAPALA HLE!”

Zimkhitha a tlohela ho matha.

“RE A O TSHEPISA!” kaofela ba hoeletsa. “RE NE RE SA BONE PENTI YA HAO HLE, HOBANE O TENNE BORRKGWE BO PINKI!”

Mme Zimkhitha a gala ho tshela.

“Jowe, mo tshwareng kapete hle,” ha hoeletsa mmae.

Mme ba etsa jwalo. Kapete a eso fofole hape.

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Kgefutsa ka buka!

