



It starts with a story...

## 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](http://www.nalibali.org) and on [www.nalibali.mobi](http://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](http://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](http://www.nalibali.org) or [www.nalibali.mobi](http://www.nalibali.mobi).

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

Sizoke sithathe ikhefu kuze kube isonto lokugcina kuJanuwari 2014. Sicela nihlanganyele nathi ngaleso sikhathi ukuze nithole eminye imilingo yokufunda yakwaNal'ibali!



## Hlaba ikhefu ngencwadi!

Maduze nje kuzoba amaholide okuphela konyaka – isikhathi sokuphumula bese uchitha isikhathi nomndeni nabangani. Futhi, phela, amaholide asinika isikhathi esiningi sokufunda nokwabelana ngezindaba. Nanka amanye amacebo amaholide okugcina wena nezingane zakho ninezindaba eziningi kuze kuyoshaya u-2014!

- 1. Thola izindaba enizozifunda ndawonye.** Bolekani izincwadi emtatsheni wezincwadi ezibhalwe ngababhali eningakaze nazifunda izincwadi zabo, noma niboleke ezinye izincwadi zombhali enimthandayo. Fundani izindaba zethu ku-[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org) naku-[www.nalibali.mobi](http://www.nalibali.mobi).
- 2. Yenza izindaba.** Qala ngokuxoxela umndeni wakho indaba oyiqambile. Bese wengeza ngokunye okutsha osukwini ngalunye ukuze uqhubeze indaba yakho. Ningashintshana nonke ngokufaka okuthile ize iphele indaba.
- 3. Yakha ikhona lokufunda.** Khuthaza izingane zakho ukuthi zithole indawo ekhaya ezingayenza ibe ikhona lokufunda

langamaholide. Zivumele ukuthi zisebenzise amakhushini nezingubo zokulala ukuze zinezitheke. Lihlobise ngezikhudwebile kanye nezinye izithombe, ezifana nephosta yethu ekhethekile yangesikhathi samaholide ekhasini lesi-8!

- 4. Shintsha isikhathi sokwenza imisebenzi sibe isikhathi sendaba.** Ilungu lomndeni malifunde kakhulu incwadi eliyithandayo ngesikhathi abanye belungisa ukudla noma behlanza endlini ngemva kwalokho. Shintshanani ekufundeni kakhulu kanje.
- 5. Yenzani imenyu.** Cabangani ngokudla abalingiswa enibathandayo endabeni abangakuthanda bese nenza ngathi nenza imenyu yesidlo sakusihlwa eningabamemela kuso.
- 6. Bhalani indaba.** Yakha izincwadi ngokuhlanganisa amakhasi nge-stapler bese nibhala izindaba nezingane zakho. Izingane ezincane zingadweba izithombe. Zinikele ukuthi uzobhala amagama ezikutshela wona kodwa zikhuthaze futhi ukuthi zizibhalele. Izingane ezindadlana zingadweba zizibhalele ngokwazo. Fundelanani incwadi – nifundele nezingane ezivakashile!

- 7. Isikhathi somdlalo weshashalazi.** Khetha indaba ethandwa kakhulu enabalingiswa abakhangayo. Wena nezingane zakho bhalani ukuthi umlingiswa ngamunye uthini bese uzidedela ukuthi zikhethe ukuthi zifuna ukuba ngobani! Hlinzeka ngezinsiza zomdlalo weshashalazi ezifana nendwangu, izigqoko, izicathulo noma izingubo bese nilingisa indaba.
- 8. Izindawo zokufunda.** Zingaki izindawo ezahlukene ongafunda noma uxoxele kuzo izindaba ngesikhathi samaholide? Kungaba njani kube isemotweni noma ebhasini, phansi kwesihlahla, noma ebhishi? Gcina uhlu lwakho lwezincwadi bese ekupheleni kwamaholide, wabelane ngohlu lwakho ngokulufaka kuFacebook: [www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA](http://www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA). Sitshele futhi namagama ezindaba ozithokozele! Sikufisela amaholide amnandi agcwele izindaba!

Ukuze uthole amanye amacebo okwabelana nezingane ngezindaba, vakashela ku-[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org) noma ku-[www.nalibali.mobi](http://www.nalibali.mobi).



Drive your imagination

Read to me. Explore a story.  
Ngifundele. Asijule nendaba.





## 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.

## Yenza indaba ihlabe umxhwele!

Thokozela nezingane zakho ukufunda indaba ethi, UDube noNgwenya ekhasini lesi-4. Kungcono ukufunda indaba ngolimi olukhulunywa, noma ngezilimi ezikhulunywa izingane zakho kuqala ngaphambi ngokuyifunda ngolunye ulimi oluhlizekiwe. Nanka amanye amacebo ongawazama ngaphambi kokufunda, ngesikhathi ufunda nangemva kokufunda indaba.

### Ngaphambi kokufunda

- Izingane mazikutshela lokho ezikwaziyo ngamadube nezingwenya. Bese nibuka izithombe ngokushesha ukuze niqagele ukuthi ingani indaba.
- Cela izingane ezindadlana ukuthi zicabange ukuthi ngabe idube nengwenya zingaba abalingiswa abanjani endabeni. Isibonelo, ngabe zicabanga ukuthi ingwenya izoba nobugebengu noma nobuqili, noma izoba namahloni nomusa? Ngobani?

### Ngesikhathi ufunda

- Ngesikhathi ufunda, siza ukuthuthukisa amakhono ezingane okuqagela ngokubuza ukuthi, "Ngabe nicabanga ukuthi yini elandelayo ezokwenzeka?" ngemva kokufunda ifremu yesi-4 yendaba.
- Cela izingane zakho ukuthi zithole izilwane ezincane kwezinye zezithombe bese ziphawula ngokuthi zenzani.
- Uma sezikwazi ukufunda izingane zakho, ziyeke zifunde amazwi ashiwo yiDube kanye/ noma neNgwenya.

### Ngemva kokufunda

- Khulumani ngendaba nezingane zakho. Ngabe zicabanga ukuthi yidube noma yingwenya ebihlakaniphe kakhulu? Ngani? Ngabe nicabanga ukuthi yayithini iNgwenya ngemva kokuba iDube liphunyukile ekupheleni kwendaba?
- Dedela izingane zakho zizithokozise ngokuphinde zixoxe indaba ngokwazo zisebenzisa amaphaphethi eDube neNgwenya akuleli khasi.

### 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.

### Indlela yokwenza amaphaphethi

1. Sika ulandele amachashazi amnyama bese usebenzisa iglu ukunamathisela izithombe ephepheni noma ekhalibhothini eliwucwecwana.
2. Sika ngokucophelela ulandele amachashazi abomvu.
3. Namathisela abalingiswa bendaba ezintini noma iminxumo yokuphuza ukuze wakhe amaphaphethi.



## Nal'ibali on radio!

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

Ukhozi FM on Monday to Wednesday from 9.20 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.

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



## UNal'ibali usemsakazweni!

Thokozelani ukulalela izindaba ngesiZulu nesiNgisi ohlelweni lomsakazo lukaNal'ibali:

Ku-Ukhozi FM ngoMsombuluko ukuya kuLwesithathu kusukela ngo-9.20 ekuseni ukuya ku-9.30 ekuseni.

Ku-SAfm ngoMsombuluko, ngoLwesithathu nangoLwesihlanu kusukela ngo-1.50 emini ukuya ku-2.00 emini.

## 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.



## Siyabonga!

Sibonga kakhulu singuNal'ibali ku**Wimpy** ngokuxhasa **Abavelele Ezindabeni** baka-2013! UWimpy uhlinzeke ngamavawusha kubantu abangabodwana nezinhlango ezikhethwe Njengabavelele Ezindabeni phakathi kukaMeyi noNovemba wezi-2013 ekwaziseni okuhle abakwenzayo ekwenzeni ukufunda nokubhala kube yingxenye yempilo yezingane yansuku zonke.



# 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!

# Abavelele ezindabeni

## Ukwenza umehluko ngeNa'ibali

Nsuku zonke, ezifundazweni eziyisithupha zaseNingizimu Afrika, Abeluleka Amathimba bakwaNa'ibali bakhuthaza futhi baxhase abanye ukuthi baqhube amathimba okufunda lapho izingane ezingathola khona injabulo yokufundela ukuzithokozisa. Nanti ithuba lakho lokubazi!

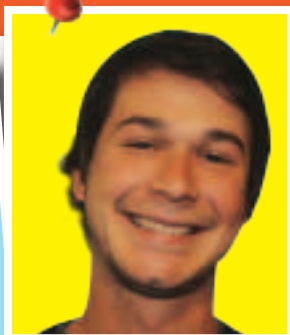
### Gcinumuzi Radebe (KZN)

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



### UGcinumuzi Radebe (KZN)

**Inani lamathimba:** 12  
**Indawo athanda ukufundela kuyo:** emtatsheni wezincwadi nanoma ikuyiphi indawo ethule  
**Ukufunda ...** kuyimpilo!



### David Jeffery (Western Cape)

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

### UDavid Jeffery (Ntshonalanga Kapa)

**Inani lamathimba:** 24  
**Incwadi ayithandayo yangesikhathi sobungane:** i-*The Enormous Crocodile* ngokubhalwe kaRoald Dahl  
**Ukufunda ...** kuyisigaba.

### Tsepiso Nzayo (Eastern Cape)

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

### UTsepiso Nzayo (Mpumalanga Kapa)

**Inani lamathimba:** 10  
**Incwadi yezingane ayithandayo:** *Umazanendaba kaGcina Mhlophe*  
**Indawo athanda ukufundela kuyo:** ekameleni lami



### Rinae Sikhwari (Limpopo)

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



### URinae Sikhwari (Limpopo)

**Inani lamathimba:** 22  
**Indawo athanda ukufundela kuyo:** emtatsheni wezincwadi wasesikoleni  
**Ukufunda ...** kumnandi futhi kuyisigaba!

### 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



### UBongani Godide (Gauteng)

**Inani lamathimba:** 30  
**Indaba ayithandayo yangesikhathi sobungane:** u-*Tselane*, inganekwane yakudala yeSesotho  
**Izindawo athanda ukufundela kuzo:** ethimbeni lokufunda nasekhaya



### 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.

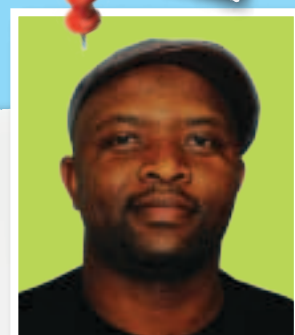
### USithembiso Nhlapo (Freyistata)

**Inani lamathimba:** 14  
**Indaba yezingane ayithandayo:** i-*Three friends in a taxi* kaMaryanne noShayle Bester  
**Ukufunda ...** kuwukhiye wokuqonda umhlaba wakho.



### Malusi Puwe (Eastern Cape)

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



### UMalusi Puwe (Mpumalanga Kapa)

**Inani lamathimba:** 22  
**Indawo athanda ukufundela kuyo:** phandle  
**Ukufunda ...** kusemqoka.



# Zebra and Crocodile uDube noNgwenya

Joshua S. Madumulla  
Arnold Birungi



1.

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

UDube noNgwenya kwakungabangani  
abakhulu. UNgwenya wayehlala  
emigedeni yoMfula iRuaha.



2.

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

UDube wayehlala phakathi  
kwezihlahlana nasotshanini  
obuthambile, obumnandi.



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

UDube  
wayevame  
ukwehlela  
ngasemfuleni  
ukuyovakashela  
umngane wakhe  
uNgwenya futhi  
eyophuza amanzi  
ahlanzekile omfula.



4.

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

Ngemumva kwesikhashana, uNgwenya  
wabona ukuthi uDube wayebonakala  
enonile futhi econisa amathe.  
Dukuduku, wazizwa elambile.



5.

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

Ngesikhathi esilandelayo lapho uDube  
eyovakashela uNgwenya, umngane wakhe  
wayengabonakali nangokhalo. "Ngilekeleleni,  
ngilekeleleni bo! Ngiyaminzai!" kwezwakala  
ukumemeza okwakughamuka emfuleni.



7.

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

"Cha angeke! Mngane omubi!" kwamemeza  
uDube, esho ekhahlela uNgwenya  
ngamandla emhlatshini wakhe omude.



6.

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

UDube waziphonsela phakathi emfuleni  
ukusindisa umngane wakhe owayefa  
bandla. "Haha-haha-aa-a! Awuzwa-ke!  
Manje ngizokudla!" kwahleka uNgwenya.



8.

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

"Wewu, ngaze ngasinda  
ngokulambisa!" kukhefuzela uDube,  
esho ehamba etelebhela.



It starts with a story.



# Nal'ibali fun!

Okokuzithokozisa kwakwaNal'ibali!

Can you find six differences between these two pictures?

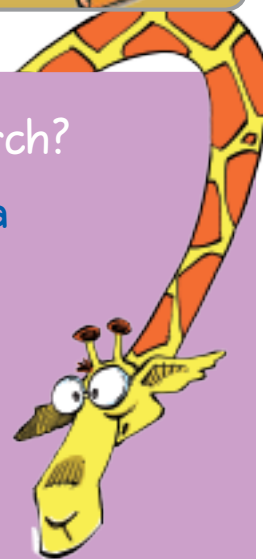
Ngabe ungazithola izinto eziyisithupha ezehlukile phakathi kwalezi zithombe ezimbili?



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

Ngabe ungawathola amagama abalingiswa bakwaNal'ibali kule nsiza yokucinga amagama?

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



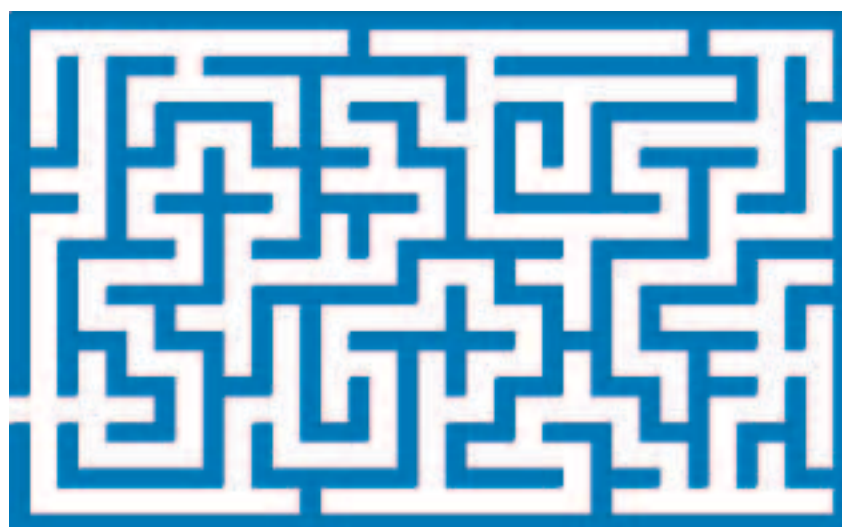
DINTLE



JOSH

Help Noodle find his way to Bella!

Siza uNoodle ukuthi athole indlela eya kuBella!



# 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."

"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.



# Indaba emangazayo kaZimkhitha owayentanta emoyeni

Indaba nguHelen Brain  
Imidwebo yenziwe nguMagriet Brink

**K**wakukhona intombazane eyayibizwa ngoZimkhitha eyayingazange yayeke ukuhleka. Wayecasula ubaba wakhe. Ngelinye itanga wayemhambisa ekhaya besuka esikoleni. Ngesikhathi efika ekugalemi komgwawo wabo, wayengasakwazi ukumelana nalokho! Wamisa imoto.



“Ngabe uzoyeka ukhuleka noma uzoya ekhaya ngezinyawo?” kubuza yena. Kodwa uZimkhitha wahleka kakhulu kunakuqala.

“Kulungile,” kusho yena. “ungaya ekhaya ngezinyawo.” Wamhambisa emotweni wahlamba ngenmoto waya ekhaya.

“Uphi uZimkhitha?” kubuza umama wakhe ngesikhathi ubaba wakhe engena ngenomyango ongaphambili. “Ngimphikelela isidlo sakushiswa asihandayo.”

“Mamo,” kusho ubaba wakhe. “Ngimenze weza ekhaya ngezinyawo esuka ekhoneni ngoba ubengayeki ukhuleka”

“Awu Nkosi yami. ngabe kwenzekeni kumntanami?” kukhala umama kaZimkhitha. “Wenze umntanami weza ekhaya ngezinyawo? Yedwa nje? Kuzomele siyomfuna simthole.” Bafuna, bafuna, kodwa uZimkhitha wayengabonakali nangalukhalo.

“Umshiyе kuphi kani?” kubuza uMama. “Ukuphi, Ron?”

“Mamo,” kungundaza ubaba kaZimkhitha, ebheka ngaphansi kwesikhotha ngsinye naphezu kwesihlahla ngsinye.

Zimkhitha, “kumemeza umama wakhe. “Zimkhitha, ukuphi?”

“Owesifazane wamisa imoto yakhe. “Ngabe nginganisiza?” kubuza yena”

“Sihlahlekelewe intombazanyana yethu,” kusho umama kaZimkhitha. “Ngabe uke wayibona?”

Owesifazane wayobheka ngenmoto endaweni eseduze nalapho wase ebuya ezobika. “Ngibone ikati elimnyama, nenja ephuzi, nendoda

edayisa ubhanana. Kodwa angizange ngiyibone ndawo intombazanyana.”

Ubaba kaZimkhitha wahleka phezu, nanguya uZimkhitha, wayentanta eya phezu, phezu esibhakabhakeni phezu kwabo, njengebhulunde eliphinki.

“Maye,” kubabaza uMama. “Kazi ufike kanjani phezu laphaya?”

Owesifazane onomusa wahleka esibhakabhakeni, ebuka uZimkhitha egwijisa emafini. “Ngabe ... uyahleka?” kubuza yena.

“UZimkhitha uhlele ehleka,” kusho umama nobaba wakhe kanyekanye. “Asikwazi ukumyekisa. Lalelani.” Kuvela phezu, phezu esibhakabhakeni ukhuleka kuZimkhitha kwelha kukhala njengensinbi encane.

“Maye!” kukhala umama wakhe, esonta izandla zakhe. “Kungenzeka awele olwandle”

“Noma, esihlahleni samarozzi,” kugquma ubaba wakhe.

“Ngingusosoyensi,” kusho owesifazane onomusa, “futhi into yokugala esiyifundayo ukuthi umoya uyaphakama. Kungenzeka ukuthi ugwinye umoya omaningi ekhulekeni kwakhe waze wandizele phezu njengebhulunde.”

“O, o, o,” kukhala abazali bakaZimkhitha.

“Inye kuphela indlela yokumehlisi,” kusho owesifazane onomusa. “Kumele sonke simkhalise.”

“Maye,” kusho umama wakhe. “Akulula lokho. Uyingane ehanda ukhuleka kakhulu.”

“Kumele simemeze sishe into engemnandi kuye,” kusho ubaba kaZimkhitha, ekhalela edukwini lakhe.

“Sidinga abantu abaningi kakhulu ukuze banemeze bonke kanyekanye,” kusho owesifazane. “Angeke asizwe thina sobathathu nje.” Ngakho basihaya zonke izinsinbi zaseminyango, bacela abantu ukuthi baphumele phandle. Ubaba kaZimkhitha wamisa izimoto wase cecela wonke umuntu ukuthi azosiza. Kungekudala kwase kukhona isixuku esikhulu, futhi babekhomba, bethathaza futhi, bethatha uZimkhitha nezithombe zevidiyo ngomakhalakukhwinini babo.

UZimkhitha wahleka, wahleka. Kwakuyimto ehlekisa kakhulu ayeseke wayibona.

“Sizothni okuzomenza ukuthi akhale?” kusho owesifazane onomusa.

“Ngiyazi ukuthi singathini!” kusho ubaba kaZimkhitha, wase ebathshela ukuthi bathini.

“Kunye, kubili, kuthathu, asishoni sonke ...” kuyalela owesifazane onomusa.

Ngakho-ke, isixuku sakhomba esibhakabhakeni samemeza, “We, Zimkhitha! Sibona ngaphansi kwengubo yakho!”

UZimkhitha wabevwa ephezu emafini. Wabuka phansi wabona abantu abangamakhulu amahlanu bekhomba ingubo yakhe, wayeka ukhuleka.

Wehla. Kodwa ngesikhathi ehlela phansi wakitazwa amafu, wase ecabanga ukuthi kuhlekisa kanjani lokho kuba phezu kangaka ngesikhathi wonke ununtu elaphaya ezansi. Wase eqala ukhuleka futhi.

“Maye,” kusho ubaba wakhe. “Akusebenzanga lokho.”

“Ngiyazi ukuthi singathini,” kusho umama wakhe. “Mshelani ukuthi siyahlona ipheni lakhe elimagqabhagqaba.”

Ngakho isixuku sadonsa umoya samemeza kakhulu, “We, Zimkhitha! Siyahlona ipheni lakho elimagqabhagqaba!”



UZimkhitha wase eyeka ukhuleka wehlela phansi itanga elingamamitha angamashumi amahlanu. Kodwa ngesikhathi ebuka isiminyaminyana sezimoto nethimba likamabonakude nezinkulungwane zabantu ababembuka, waqala ukhuleka futhi. Wase ekhuphuka futhi.

Owesifazane onomusa wanikina ikhanda lakhe. “Kumele sizame ukusho okuthile okuyichilo kunalokhu,” washo ngezwi eliqinile. “Noma inini kusukela manje uzobanjwa umoya, bese endiza umompheka. Yini embi kunazo zonke eniyicabangayo esingayishe kuye?”

Bahlanganisa amakhanda bacabanga, bacabanga, bacabanga. Bayithola ekugcineni.

“Manje sonke kanyekanye,” kumemeza ubaba kaZimkhitha, eme phezu kweMercedes Benz. Wonke umuntu mkamemeze kakhulu ngendlela angakwazi ukwenza ngayo, sonke ngesikhathi esisodwa.”

Isixuku sabantu abayizinkulungwane ezine, nenja ephuzi, ikati elimnyama, nendoda edayisa ubhanana kwamemyezwa, “WE ZIMKHITHA! SIYALIBONA IPHENTI LAKHO, FUTHI LLENEMBOBO!”

UZimkhitha wayeka ukhuleka.

Wehlela phansi.

Wehla, wehla, wehla. Wehla futhi, wehla futhi, wehla futhi, waze wacishe wahlina phansi.

“Mntanami omhle!” kukhala umama wakhe, ebamba imilenze yakhe emehisela eMlabeni. “Ngibonga ukuthi uphephile!”



UZimkhitha wabuka isixulu sabantu ababemhlatshela, behleka futhi beshaya izandla zabo. Wayeshywa amahloni kangangokuba wamboza ubuso bakhe wagijima waya ekhaya.

“Maye,” kusho ubaba wakhe. “Sinzwise ubuhlungu. Uphatheke kabii kakhulu.”

Ngakho abantu bahlanganisa amakhanda futhi bacabanga into ehle engamenza azizwe ekahle.

“Kanyekanye manje,” kumemeza umama wakhe.

Base bememeza, “WE, ZIMKHITHA! BESINCOKOLA NIE!”

UZimkhitha wayeka ukugijima.

“SIKWATHEMBISA!” bamemeza bonke. “EMPELENI BESINGALIBONI IPHENTI LAKHO, NGOBA UFAKE IBHULUKWE ELIPHINKI!”

UZikhitha wase eqala ukhuleka.

“O hhe, mbambeni ngokushesha,” kumemeza umama wakhe.

Benza kangalo. Ngesikhathi.



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