



# Nalibali

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!

Siza kuthi nqumama, khe sithathe ikhefu kude kube yiveki yokugqibela kweyoMqungu kowama-2014. Sijoyine ngelo xesha ukuze ufumane obunye ubunewunewu beNal'ibali!



## Thatha ikhefu ngencwadi!

Kufutshane nje kuza kuqala iiholide zokuphela konyaka – ixesha lokuphumla nokuchiitha ixesha nosapho kunye nabahlobo. Ewe kakade, iiholide zisinika ixesha elithe chatha lokufunda nokwabelana ngamabali. Nazi ezinye iingcebiso zeholide zokukugcina wena nabantwana bakho ninamabali oneleyo kude kube phakathi kowama-2014!

- 1. Khangela amabali eninokuwafunda kunye.** Boleka iincwadi kwithala leencwadi ezibhalwe ngababhali ongazange wakufunda abakubhalileyo, okanye uboleke iincwadi eziliqela ezibhalwe ngabona babhali ubathandayo. Funda amabali ethu ku-[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org) naku-[www.nalibali.mobi](http://www.nalibali.mobi).
- 2. Qamba amabali.** Qalisa ukubalisela usapho lwakho ibali oliqambileyo. Emva koko, yongeza kwelo bali iziqendwana esitsha mihla le ukuze liqhubeke phambili. Ninganikana amathuba xa ninonke, ingulowo esongeza isiqendwana lide liphele ibali elo.
- 3. Yilani ikona yokufunda.** Khuthaza abantwana bakho bafumane indawo abanokuyenza ikona yokufunda yeeholide ekhaya. Bavumele ukuba

basebenzise imiqamelo neengubo ukuyenza ibe ntofontofo ikona leyo. Yihombise ngemizobo yabo kunye neminye imifanekiso, ngokufanayo nepowusta yeholide yethu ekhethekileyo ekwiphepha lesi-8!

- 4. Tshintsha ixesha lemisebenzi yasekhaya libe lixesha lokubalisa amabali.** Cela ilungu losapho ukuba lifunde ngokuvakalayo kweyona ncwadi liyithandayo lo gama abanye belungisa izidlo okanye beqoshelisa emva kwesidlo. Nikanani amathuba okufunda ngokuvakalayo.
- 5. Yilani imenyu.** Yiba nomfanekiso-ngqondweni wokutya abona balinganiswa obathandayo abanokukuthanda, nize nibhale imenyu yamaxoki-xoki yesidlo sangokuhlwa eninokubamemela kuso.
- 6. Bhala ibali.** Yenza iincwadi ngokudibanisa ngesiteyipla amaphepha angabhalwanga nto, uze ubhale amabali nabantwana bakho. Abantwana abancinane bangazoba imifanekiso. Babhalele loo magama bakuxelela wona, kodwa bakhuthaze ukuba bazibhalele ngokwabo. Vumela abantwana abadlalana ukuba bazizobele baze bazibhalele ngokwabo bona. Fundelanani iincwadi zenu – nizifundele nabantwana abanindwendweleyo!

- 7. Ixesha lemidlalo yeqonga.** Khetha ibali elithandwa kakhulu nelinabalinganiswa abanomdla. Ukunye nabantwana bakho, bhalani phantsi okuthethwa ngumlinganiswa ngamnye, uze ubayeke bazikhethele ukuba bafuna ukuba ngoobani na kwaba balinganiswa! Banike izinto zokuhombisa eqongeni ezifana namalaphu, iminqwazi, izihlangu okanye iimpahla, nize ke nidlale elo bali eqongeni.

- 8. Iindawo zokufunda.** Zingaphi iindawo ezohlukileyo onokufunda okanye ubalise amabali kuzo ngexesha leeholide? Kunjani ukwenze oko emotweni okanye ebhasini, phantsi komthi, okanye ngaselwandle? Gcina uluhlu uze ekupheleni kweeholide, wabelane nathi ngalo ngokulubhala kuFacebook: [www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA](http://www.facebook.com/nalibaliSA). Kananjalo sixelele nezihloko zamabali oye wawonwabela!

Nibe neeholide ezimiyoli ezizele ngamabali!

Ukuze ufumane iinkcukacha ezithe vetshe ngokwabelana ngamabali nabantwana, ndwendwela ku-[www.nalibali.org](http://www.nalibali.org) okanye ku-[www.nalibali.mobi](http://www.nalibali.mobi).



Drive your imagination

Read to me. Explore a story.  
Ndifundele. Masichubelane ngebali.





## 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 ibali linike umdla!

Wena nabantwana bakho, yonwabelani ukufunda ibali elithi, *UQwarhashe kunye noNgwenya* kwiphepha lesi-4. Kungcono ukulifunda ibali ngolwimi lwasekhaya lomntwana phambi kokulifunda ngolunye ulwimi elibhalwe ngalo. Nazi ezinye iingcebiso onokuzizama phambi kokufunda, ngexesha ulifunda nasemva kokuba ulifundile ibali.

### Phambi kokuba ufunde

- Vumela abantwana bakho bakuxelele abakwaziyo ngamaqwarhashe neengwenya. Emva koko jongani emifanekisweni nize niqashele ukuba lingantoni na ibali.
- Buza abantwana abadalana ukuba bacinga ukuba iqwarhashe nengwenya zizakuba ngabalinganiswa abanjani ebalini. Umzekelo, ingaba bacinga ukuba ingwenya izakuba namaqhinga nenkohlakalo, okanye izakuba neentloni nobubele? Ngoba kutheni?

### Xa ufunda

- Lo gama kufundwayo, nceda ekuphuhliseni izakhono zabantwana bakho zokuxela kwangex' engaphambili ngokubabuza wenjenje, "Nicinga ukuba kuza kwenzeka ntoni emva koku?" emva kokuba ufunde isakhelo sesi-4 ebalini.
- Cela abantwana bakho ukuba bafune izilwanyana ezincinane kweminye yemifanekiso baze benze amagqabantshintshi ngoko zikwenzayo.
- Ukuba abantwana bakho sele bekwazi ukufunda, bavumele bafunde amazwi kaQwarhashe kunye/okanye nakaNgwenya.

### Emva kokufunda

- Ncokola ngebali kunye nabantwana bakho. Ingaba bacinga ukuba yeyiphi eyona ibonakalise ubukrelekrele phakathi kukaQwarhashe noNgwenya, kutheni becinga njalo? Bacinga ukuba uNgwenya ushiyeke esithini, emva kokuba uQwarhashe ephuncukile ekupheleni kwebali?
- Vumela abantwana bakho bazonwabise ngokubalisa kwakhona ibali okanye babalise awabo amabali besebenzisa ipapethi kaQwarhashe nekaNgwenya ezikweli phepha.

### How to make the puppets

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

### Indlela yokwenza iipapethi

- Sika ulandela imigca emnyama uze usebenzise iglu ukuncamathisela imifanekiso kuxwebhu lwephepha okanye kwikhadibhodi ebhityileyo.
- Sika ngobunono ulandela imigca engamachaphaza abomvu.
- Ncamathisela ngeteyiphu abalinganiswa kwizinti ezibhityileyo okanye kwimfunxa zokusela ukuze wenze iipapethi.



## Nal'ibali on radio!

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

Umhlobo Wenene FM on Monday to Wednesday from 9.30 a.m. to 9.40 a.m.

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



## UNal'ibali kunomathotholo!

Yonwabela ukuphulaphula amabali ngesiXhosa nangesiNgesi kwinkqubo kanomathotholo yeNal'ibali:

Umhlobo Wenene FM ngoMvulo ukuya kuLwesithathu kusasa, ukususela ngo-9.30 ukuya ngo-9.40.

SAfm ngoMvulo, ngoLwesithathu nangoLwesihlanu emini, ukususela ngo-1.50 ukuya ngo-2.00.

### 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.



### Maz' enethole!

AbakwaNal'ibali benza umbulelo ongazenzisiyo kwabakwa**Wimpy** ngokuxhasa inqaku lethu eliphambili lee**Mbalasane zamaBali** ngowama-2013! AbakwaWimpy babonelele ngeevawutsha zokutya kubantu nemibutho ekhethwe njenge**Mbalasane zamaBali** phakathi kweka**Canzibe neyeNkanga** kowama-2013, ukubabulela ngabakwenzayo ukwenza ukufunda nokubhala kube yinxalenye yobomi bemihla ngemihla babantwana.



# 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!

# Iimbilasane zamabali

## Ukwenza umahluko ngeNa'ibali

Yonke imihla, kumaphondo amathandathu aseMzantsi Afrika, abaNal'ibali bamaQela eNa'ibali bavuselela kwaye baxhase abanye ukuba baqhuba iiklabhu zokufunda, apho abantwana bafumana amava obuncwane bokufundela ukuzonwabisa. Eli lithuba lakho lokuhlangana nabo!

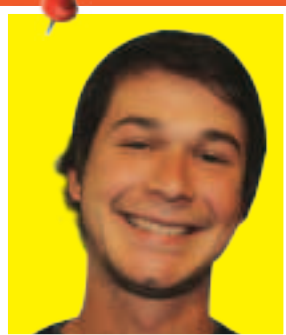
### Gcinumuzi Radebe (KZN)

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



### UGcinumuzi Radebe (waseKZN)

**Inani leeklabhu:** li-12  
**Eyona ndawo ayithandayo yokufunda:** lithala leencwadi okanye nakuyiphi na indawo ezolileyo  
**Ukufunda ...** bubomi!



### David Jeffery (Western Cape)

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

### UDavid Jeffery (waseNtshona Koloni)

**Inani leeklabhu:** ngama-24  
**Eyona ncwadi yabantwana ayithandayo:** ngu-*The Enormous Crocodile* ngokubhalwe nguRoald Dahl  
**Ukufunda ...** kukuba lidelakufa nokuzungeza.

### Tsepiso Nzayo (Eastern Cape)

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

### UTsepiso Nzayo (waseMpuma Koloni)

**Inani leeklabhu:** li-10  
**Eyona ncwadi yabantwana ayithandayo:** ngu-*Umazanendaba* ngokubhalwe nguGcina Mhlophe  
**Eyona ndawo ayithandayo yokufunda:** ligumbi lam lokulala



### Rinae Sikhwari (Limpopo)

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



### URinae Sikhwari (waseLimpopo)

**Inani leeklabhu:** ngama-22  
**Eyona ndawo yokufunda ayithandayo:** lithala leencwadi lasesikolweni  
**Ukufunda ...** kuyamangalisa kwaye ludelokufa nozungezo!

### 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 (waseGauteng)

**Inani leeklabhu:** ngama-30  
**Elona bali alithandayo lasebuntwaneni bakhe:** ngu-*Tselane*, ibali leSesotho lakudaladala  
**Ezona ndawo azithandayo zokufunda:** yiklabhu yokufunda 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 (waseFreyistata)

**Inani leeklabhu:** li-14  
**Elona bali labantwana alithandayo:** ngu-*Three friends in a taxi* ngokubhalwe nguMaryanne noShayle Bester  
**Ukufunda ...** sisitshixo sokuqonda ihlabathi lakho.



### Malusi Puwe (Eastern Cape)

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



### UMalusi Puwe (waseMpuma Koloni)

**Inani leeklabhu:** ngama-22  
**Eyona ndawo ayithandayo yokufunda:** kuphandle  
**Ukufunda ...** ngundoqo.



# Zebra and Crocodile uQwarhashe kunye noNgwenya

Joshua S. Madumulla  
Arnold Birungi



1.

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

uQwarhashe kunye noNgwenya  
babengabahlolo abakhulu. uNgwenya  
wayehlala kwimiqolomba epezu  
komlambo iRuaha.



2.

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

uQwarhashe wayehlala kumatyholo  
anengca eswiti nethambileyo.



3.

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

uQwarhashe  
wayethanda  
ukuhambela  
umhlobo wakhe  
emlanjeni asele  
amanzi amyoli  
omlambo iRuaha.



4.

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

Ekuhambeni kwexesha, uNgwenya  
waqwalasela ukuba uQwarhashe  
wayetyebe ngendlela evuzisa amathe.  
Ngokukhawuleza waziva ebulamba.



5.

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

Wathi xa ephinda uQwarhashe etyelela  
uNgwenya, wabe engafumaneki ndawo  
umhlobo wakhe. "Ncedani, ncedani!  
Ndiyarhaxwa!" satsho isikhalo sivelela  
emlanjeni.



7.

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

"Owu! Hayi khona, awusokuze mhlobondini  
ongalunganga!" wakhwaza uQwarhashe  
njengoko ekhaba uNgwenya kabuhlungu  
ezintafunweni.



6.

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

uQwarhashe wazijula emlanjeni ukuya  
kuhlangule usizana lomhlobo wakhe  
owayesifa. "Hahahahaha! Mmmmm!  
Mnandi! Ngoku ndiza kukutya!"  
wahleka uNgwenya.



8.

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

"Yhu! Ndisinde cebetshu," wakhefuzela  
uQwarhashe, eqhugha esimka.



It starts with a story.



# Nal'ibali fun! Ebumnandini kwaNal'ibali!

Can you find six differences between these two pictures?

Ingaba ungazifumana izinto ezintandathu eyohluka ngazo le mifanekiso mibini?



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

Ungakwazi ukufumana amagama abalinganiswa beNal'ibali ngokuwakhangela kule phazili yamagama?

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



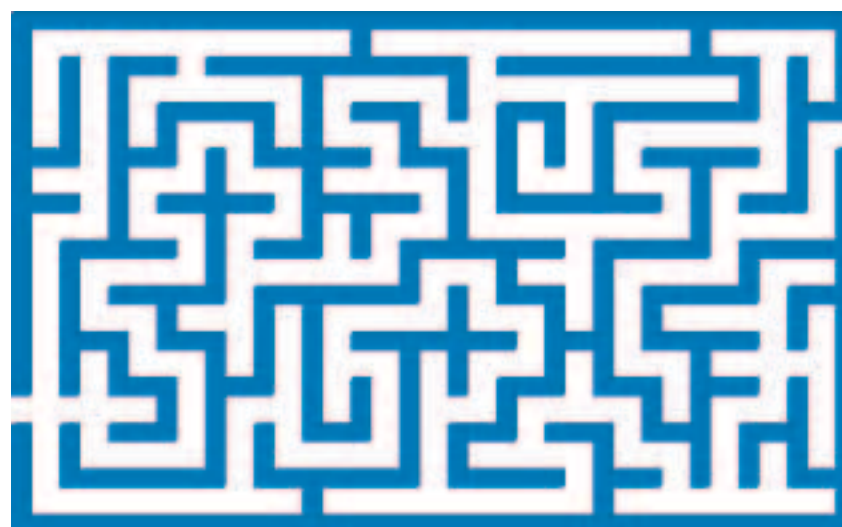
DINTLE



JOSH

Help Noodle find his way to Bella!

Nceda uNoodle ukuba afumane 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."

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, 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.



It starts with a story...

# Ibali qimangalisayo IkaZimkhitha owayebhabha

Ibali nguHelen Brain  
Imifanekiso nguMagriet Brink

Kwaye kukho intombazana egama linguZimkhitha eyayikuthanda kakhulu ukuhleka. Kwakuncaphukisa kakhulu utata wakhe oku kuhleka. Ngenye imini wayengodusa ngenoto, bevela esikolweni. Bathi xa befika ekuqaleni kwesitalato sabo, wabe sele edikwe nyhani! Wemisa imoto.

“Uza kude uyeke ukuhleka okanye uza kugoduka ngeenyawo?” wabuza. Kodwa uZimkhitha wanga uyaqinisa ukuhleka.

“Kulungile ke,” utshilo, “hamba ngeenyawo ugoduke.” Wamkuhupa emotweni waza waqhuba yena wagoduka, emshiya apho.



“Uphi uZimkhitha?” wabuza umama wakhe ukungena kukatata wakhe. “Ndipheka okona kutya akuthandayo.”

“E-e, S’thandwa,” watsho utata wakhe. “Ndithe makahambe ngeenyawo ukusuka phaya ekoneni kuba ephengayeki ukuhleka.”

“Usana lwan?” wakhala wenjenjalo umama kaZimkhitha. “Ujhe usana lwan malugoduke ngeenyawo? Lodwa? Masive kumkhangela.” Bakhangela, bakhangela, kodwa wayengabonakali ndawo uZimkhitha.

“Unshiyе phi?” wabuza uMama. “Uphi Ron umntwan’am?”

“Owu madoda,” wambombozela ngesingqala njalo utata kaZimkhitha, ekhangela ezicithini nasemithini.

“Zimkhitha,” wakhwaza umama wakhe. “Zimkhitha, uphi?”

Mfazi utshile wemisa imoto yakhe. “Ndinganiceda?” wabuza.

“Sihlekelwe yintombi yethu encinane,” watsho umama kaZimkhitha. “Ujhe wayibona?”

Lo mfazi wajikeleza isitalato ngenoto wabuya wazisa ingxelo, “Nditbone ikati emnyama, inji eyiheli nendoda elhengisa ibhanana. Kodwa andibonanga ntonbazana naphi na.”

Utata kaZimkhitha waphakamisa amehlo wambona, nankuya uZimkhitha, ebhabha phezu, phezu esibhakabhakeni, njengebhaloni epinki.

“Owu bantu bakuthi,” kukhuzwa uMama. “Ufikelele njani phaya phezu?”

Umfazi onobubele wajonga phezu esibhakabhakeni, ebukele uZimkhitha ebhabha emafini. “Ingaba ... u-u-u-yahleka?” wabuza.

“Uzimkhitha wasoloko ehleka,” basibo bobabini umama notata wakhe. “Asikwazi ukumenza angahleki. Mama!..” Iphuma phezu esibhakabhakeni mntsi IkaZimkhitha, yayiyakala ngathi yimisimbi ekhenkeceyayo.

“Owu hayini!” ukhale watsho umama wakhe, ethwele izandla entloko. “Mhlawumbi uzakuwela elwandle!”

“Okanye kwimithana enameva,” kuncwina utata wakhe.

“Ndingusonzululwazi,” watsho umfazi onobubele, “enye yezinto zokugqala esizifundileyo yeyokuba umoya uyabhabha. Inoba uginye umoya omninzi ngesesha ebheleka watsho wabhabha njengebhaloni.”

“Yho, yho, yho,” bakhala njalo abazali bakaZimkhitha.

“Inye kuphela indlela esingamthoba ngayo,” watsho umfazi onobubele. “Kufuneka simenze alile.”

“Owu Nkosi,” kusho umama wakhe. “Oko akulula. Yintombazana ehala igqithaka leya.”

“Kufuneka sikhwaze, sinazise ngento embi,” watsho utata kaZimkhitha, elilela kwishefu yakhe.

“Kufuneka sifumane abantu abaninzi, size sikhwaze sonke ngaxeshanye,” utshilo umfazi onobubele. “Akasoze asive thina sobathathu.” Ngoko ke bankqonkqoza kuzo zonke izindlu ezikufutshane, baceba abantu ukuba baphume phandle. Utata kaZimkhitha wamisa zonke imoto, wacela wonke umntu ukuba aze kunceda. Ngehutshana nje elingephi kwakuzele kunyakazela ngabantu ababesolatha, bewangawangisa, befota uZimkhitha ngeselula zabo.

Uzimkhitha wahleka, wahleka. Le, yayiyeyona nto ihlekisayo wakhe wayibona.

“Siza kuthini ukuze simenze alile?” kubuza umfazi onobubele.

“Ndiyazi!” watsho utata kaZimkhitha, waza wabaxelela ukuba bathini.

“Inye, zimibini, zintathu, masisho sonke sithi ...” kuyalela umfazi onobubele.

Ngalo myalelo, isihlewe solatha esibhakabhakeni saza saduma, “We Zimkhitha! Siyabona ngaphantsi kwelokhwe yakho!” Phezulu emafini uZimkhitha wabeva. Wajonga ezantsi, wabona abantu abangamakhulu amahlanu bolathe iiokhwe yakhe, waze wayeka ukuhleka.

Wehlela ngezantsi. Kodwa njengokuba esitha nje, amafu amnyumbaza, waza wacinga ukuba kuyahlekisa ukuba phezu kangako. lo gama wonke umntu esezantsi. Waze waqalisa ukuhleka kwakhona.

“Owu Nkosi yam,” watsho utata wakhe. “Le nto ayisebenzanga.”

“Ndiyazi!” watsho umama wakhe. “Masinxcelele ukuba siyayibona ipenti yakhe enamachokoza.”

Ngoko ke isihlewe saphefumla kakhulu saza sakhwaza kangangoko sinakho sathi, “We Zimkhitha! Siyayibona ipenti yakho enamachokoza!”



Uzimkhitha wayeka ukuhleka, waza wehlela ezantsi kangangeemitha ezingamashumi amahlanu. Kodwa uhe xa eJonga umngecelele weemoto neentatheli zikamabonwakude namawakawaka abantu abambukeleayo, waqalisa ukuhleka kwakhona. Wasuka wanyuka kwakhona.

Umfazi onobubele wahlunguzela intloko. “Kuzo kufuneka sibe ngathi sihetha kakuthi ukodlula oku,” watsho, egximinisa. “Ngawo nawuphi na umzuzu umoya ungavuka aze abhabhe emke umphelelo. Yeyiphi eyona nto imbi eminycingayo esinokuyithetha kuye?”

Bahlanganisa iintloko bacinga, bacinga, bacinga. Ekuqibeleni bayifumana.

“Sisonke ke ngoku,” wakhwaza utata kaZimkhitha, ekhwele phezu kwMercedes Benz. “Wonke umntu makakhwaze kangangoko anakho, ngaxeshanye.”

Sonke eso sihlewe samawaka amane abantu nenja emthubi, ikati emnyama kunye nendoda ethengisa ibhanana sakhwaza ngaxeshanye. “WE ZIMKHITHA! SIYAYIBONA IPENTI YAKHO, KWAVE INOMGOOBHO!”

Uzimkhitha wayeka kwa oko ukuhleka.

Namko esitha. Wehla, wehla, wehla. Wehla ngakumbi nangakumbi wada ekuqibeleni wasondela kakhulu emhlabeni.

“Umntwana wam endimthandayo!” wakhala umama wakhe, emthi ngaku ngenienze entsalela eMhlabeni. “Nditulela ukuba ungenzakalanga!”

Uzimkhitha wajonga elo gquba labantu lalivyizela lihleka limhwebela izandla. Wayencentloni kangangokuba wazigquma, ubuso wabalaka wagoduka.



“Owu Nkosi yam,” watsho utata wakhe. “Simkhathazile. Ngoko uqumbile.”

Ngoko ke abantu baphinda badibanisa iintloko bacinga into efanekileyo abanokuyithetha, ukumenza angaqumbi.

“Masisho sonke ngoku,” wakhwaza umama wakhe.

Bonke baduma bessithi, “WE ZIMKHITHA! BESIKUQHULA!”

Uzimkhitha wema, wayeka ukubaleka.

“SINYANISILE!” bakhwaza bonke. “BESINGENAKUYIBONI IPENTI YAKHO, KUBA UNXIBE IBHULUKHWE EPINKI!”

Waza ke uZimkhitha waqala ukuhleka.

“Yho, mbambe kamsinyane,” wakhwaza umama wakhe.

Bamthi ngaku bambamba. Kanye ngesesha elifanekileyo.

# Take a break with a book!

## Thatha ikhefu ngencwadi!

