





It starts with a story...


Playing with books


Helping young children to develop the ability to read and write is a serious business because being literate is extremely important in our daily lives. But we also need to remember that we don't have to actively teach or tell children *about* books and reading. Instead, we need to allow our children to learn *about* books by exploring them. One of the ways we can do this is by giving them opportunities to play with books. Being allowed to be playful with books helps children to become literate.

Here are some of the ways that children at different stages of development might "play" with books.

 Babies like to try out books by touching, patting, shaking and even chewing them! They are also great listeners and imitators. Often they make sounds and clap their hands to show how much they are enjoying us reading to them. Try giving babies board and cloth books when you want to allow them to handle books on their own, like during nappy changes. These kinds of books are tough and don't break easily.

 Older babies enjoy books with flaps, pop-ups and buttons that they can press to make sounds. They also like to point to things on the page or to try turning the page.

 Many toddlers like to pretend to read aloud and older children often like to pretend to be "the teacher" and read to the class. They can be found turning the pages of a storybook telling their own story as they go, or retelling a story they have heard often – sometimes even with the book upside down! They're practicing reading and showing you that they understand what books are about. Encourage them by making sure that there are always some books around for them to pick up and "read" when they want to.

 Young children often act out stories they know, or create their own, using familiar story characters. In these imaginary play times, children learn about symbols – when they use a stick as a fairy's magic wand or a box as a car, it means that they understand how one thing can "stand for" another. This is important for literacy learning. Encourage your children's imaginary play by reading lots of different kinds of stories to them.

Playing with books offers children opportunities to learn important literacy lessons and – best of all – it's what children do naturally when we read to them and have books to choose from in their environment.


Enjoy a special story from Africa in celebration of Africa Day on 25 May! You can find it on pages 3 to 8.


Yonwabela ibali elikhethekileyo elivela e-Afrika xa kubhiyozelwa uSuku lwe-Afrika ngomhla wama-25 kuCanzibe! Uza kulifumana kwiphepha lesi-3 ukuya kwelesi-8.


Ukudlala ngeencwadi


Ukunceda abantwana abancinane ukuba baphuhlise ukufunda nokubhala ngumsebenzi obalulekileyo kuba ukwazi ukubhala nokufunda kubaluleke kakhulu ebomini bethu bemihla ngemihla. Kodwa kufuneka kananjalo sikhumbule ukuba asinyanzelakanga ukuba sibafundise ngqo abantwana bethu *malunga* neencwadi nokufunda. Endaweni yoko, kufuneka sibavumele abantwana bethu bazifundele ngeencwadi ngokuziphicotha. Enye yeendlela esinokuyenza ngayo le nto kukubanika amathuba okudlala ngeencwadi. Ukubavumela abantwana badlale ngeencwadi kubanceda bakwazi ukubhala nokufunda.

Nazi ezinye iindlela abantwana abakumanqanaba ohlukileyo okukhula "abangadlala" ngazo ngeencwadi.

 Iintsana ziyakuthanda ukulinga ukudlala ngeencwadi ngokuthi zizibambe, zizibethe, zizishukumise okanye zizilume! Kananjalo zikwangabona baphulaphuli nabona balinganisi bagqwesileyo. Kumaxesha amaninzi zenza ingxolo ziqhwabe nezandla ukubonisa ukuba zikonwabele kangakanani ukufundelwa sithi. Zama ukunika iintsana iincwadi zekhadibhodi nezalaphu xa ufuna ukuzivumela ukuba ziziphathe ngokwazo iincwadi, mhlawumbi xa uzitshintsha amalweyile. Ezi ntlobo zeencwadi zomelele kwaye azikrazuki msinyane.

 Iintsana ezindadlanyana zonwabela iincwadi ezinamaphepha abhakuzelayo, amaphepha avela aziphakamele enze iimilo ezinomdla nezohlukileyo kunye namaqhosha abathi xa bewacofa enze izandi. Bayakuthanda ukolatha izinto ezisemaphepheni okanye batyhile amaphepha.

 Abantwana ababhadazayo abaninzi bayakuthanda ukwenza ngathi bafunda ngokuvakalayo baze abadalana bona bathande ukwenza ngathi "bangootitshala" kwaye bafundela iklasi. Ungabafumana betyhila amaphepha encwadi yamabali bebalisa elabo ibali abaziqambeleyo njengokuba betyhila-tyhila, okanye bebalisa ibali abahlala beliva libaliswa – ngamanye amaxesha naloo ncwadi ibe ijonge ezantsi! Ngako konke oku baziqhelisa ukufunda kwaye bayakubonisa ukuba bayaziqonda ukuba iincwadi zingantoni na. Bakhuthaze ngokuqinisekisa ukuba kusoloko kukho iincwadi ezibangqongileyo ukuze bazithathe "bafunde" xa befuna.

 Abantwana abancinane badla ngokwenza umdlalo weqonga ngamabali abawaziyo, okanye baziqambele awabo, besebenzisa abalinganiswa bamabali ababaqhelileyo. Kula maxesha okudlala okuzenzela imifanekiso-ntelekelelo, abantwana bafunda ngeempawu nemiqondiso – xa besebenzisa uluthi njengentongana yokwenza imilingo okanye ibhokisi njengemoto, oku kuthetha ukuba bayaziqonda indlela into "enokumela" enye into ngayo. Oku kubalulekile ngokubhekiselele ekufundeni ilitheresi. Khuthaza ukudlala kwabantwana bakho besebenzisa imifanekiso-ntelekelelo ngokubafundela amabali amaninzi ohlukileyo.

Ukudlala ngeencwadi kunika abantwana ithuba lokufunda izifundo ezibalulekileyo zelitheresi kwaye oko – okona kuhle nangakumbi – yinto ezenzekelayo ebantwaneni xa sibafundela kwaye beneencwadi ezibangqongileyo abanokukhetha kuzo.



Drive your
imagination

Read to me. Book by book.
Ndifundele. Incwadi nencwadi.





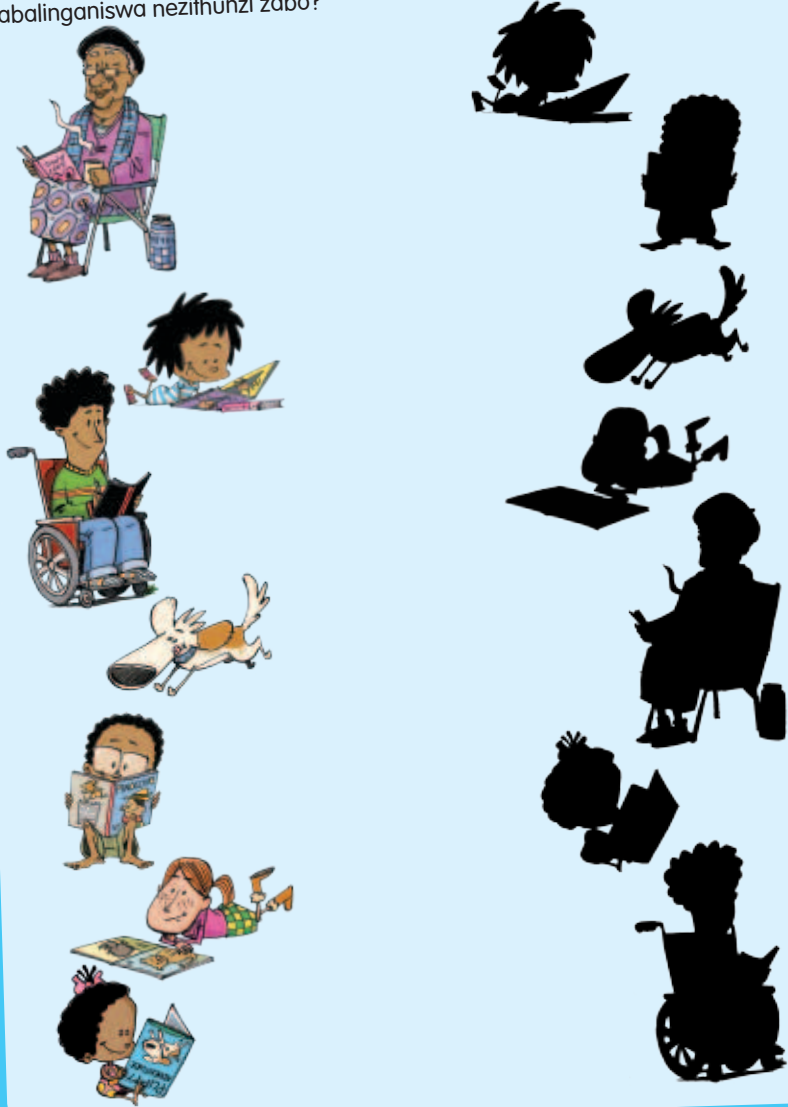
Drive your imagination

Nal'ibali puzzle fun

Do you know the names of these Nal'ibali characters? Can you match them to their shadows?

Iphazili yeNal'ibali eyonwabisayo

Ingaba uyawazi amagama ababalinganiswa beNal'ibali? Ungabatshatisa abalinganiswa nezithunzi zabo?



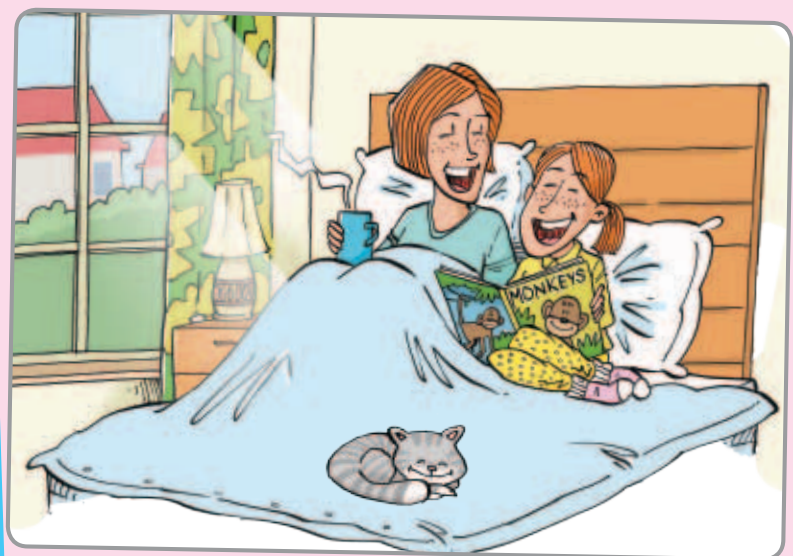
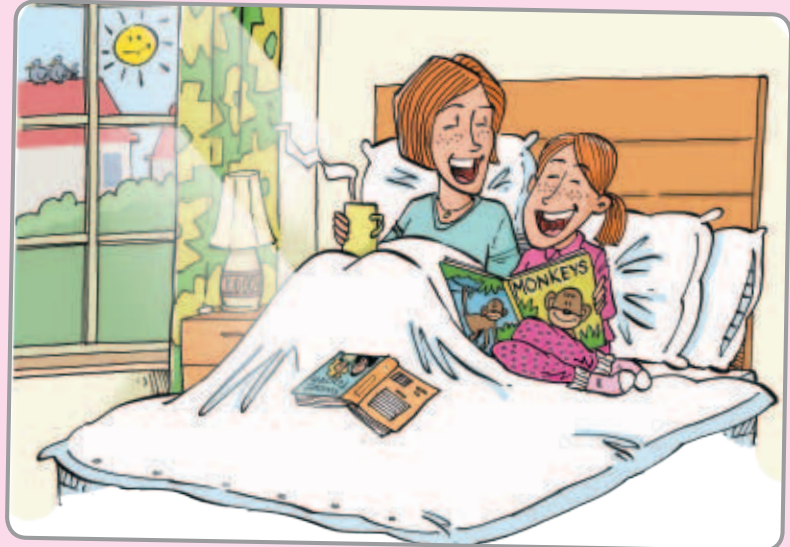
Answers/ Iimpendulo: Gogo, Bella, Josh, Noodle, Neo, Hope, Mbali

Spot the difference!

Can you find 8 differences between these two pictures?

Bhaqa umahluko!

Ungakwazi ukufumana izinto ezi-8 eyohluka ngazo le mifanekiso mibini?



Create your own cut-out-and-keep book

1. Take out pages 3 to 8 of this supplement. Keep the pages together.
2. Fold them in half along the black dotted line.
3. Fold them in half again.
4. Cut along the red dotted lines.

Zenzele eyakho incwadana onokuyisika-ze-uyigcine

1. Thatha iphepha lesi-3 ukuya kwelesi-8 kolu hlelo. Gcina amaphepha edibene.
2. Wasonge phakathi kumgca wamachaphaza amnyama.
3. Phinda uwasonge phakathini.
4. Sika kwimigca yamachaphaza abomvu.



In your next Nal'ibali supplement:

- How playing helps children's literacy development
- Your story: our readers' own writing
- A cut-out-and-keep book, *Touch*
- To celebrate the storyteller Aesop's birthday, a new Story Corner story, *The boy and the jackal*

Looking for activities for your children? Visit the "Resource" section at www.nalibali.org for printables such as bookmarks, cards and postcards.



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Kuhlelo lwakho olulandelayo lweNal'ibali:

- Indlela ukudlala ekubanceda ngayo abantwana ekuphuhliseni iitheresi yabo
- Iballi lakho: okubhalwe ngabafundi bethu
- Incwadana onokuyisika-ze-uyigcine esihloko sithi, *Phatha-phatha*
- Ukubhiyozela usuku lokuzalwa lombalisi wamabali u-Aesop, ibali elitsha leNdawo yamaBali elisihloko sithi, *Inkwenkwana nodyalashe*

Ingaba ukhangelela abantwana bakho imisetyenzana nemidlalwana? Ndwendwela icandelo lethu elithi, "Resources" ku-www.nalibali.org ufumane izinto eziprintwayo ezifana nezalathisi ezibonisa apho uphele khona xa ufunda, amakhadi kunye neeposi-khadi.

Supplement produced by The Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa (PRAESA) and Times Media Education. Translated by Nobuntu Stengile. Nal'ibali character illustrations by Rico.

Daily Dispatch

The Herald

Sunday Times

Sunday World



Walagaza waza wamangaliswa kukubona zonke iindidi zezilwanyana ezihlala apho emlantjeni zimngqongile. (Neswangqa elihle nalo lilapho.) Bonke bademamele kuye ecula. Ulovane wancuma kodwa efile zintloni, engazi ukuba makathini na kubo. Bonke bakhwaza, "Musa ukuyeka! Qhubeka ucule kwakhona! Siyayithanda ingoma yakho!" Yaba lutshintsho olumangalisayo olu. Ezi zidalwa zazisoloko zimgxeka, ngoku zazimncumele. Ulovane wathatha isixhobo sakhe somculo wagalisa kwakhona: "Bathi ndimbi ma Bayawumelana bonke Kodwa xa ndiculi' ingoma yam, Ndiyayibethi' ingoma - He-e, he-e!" Waphindelela ecula, naye ebonakala ekonwabele oku. Okokuqala ebomini bakhe, waziva ngathi unabahlobo. Waziva esekhaya.

Fold



He looked around and was surprised to see all the different creatures of the river community. (Lark was there too.) They had been listening to him singing. Chameleon smiled shyly, not knowing what to say. They shouted, "Don't stop! Sing it again! We love your song!" What a wonderful change. The same creatures that used to criticise him, were smiling at him. Chameleon picked up his instrument and began again: "They say that I am ugly. Everyone agrees with this. But when I sing my song, I can do this thing called music - Heh, heh!" On and on he sang, enjoying himself. For the first time ever, he felt as if he had friends. He felt he belonged somewhere.



The singing chameleon is from the SONGOLOLO list – a range of books celebrating both the common and diverse interests and experiences in childhood, featuring stories from Africa and beyond.

Shuter & Shooter Publishers acquired the award-winning children's picture book imprint, SONGOLOLO in 2008. SONGOLOLO is a quality list, featuring books by some of South Africa's foremost authors and illustrators, including Niki Daly, Gcina Mhlophe, Joan Rankin and Jude Daly. The list features several bestsellers, including Niki Daly's *Mama, Papa and Baby Joe*, and Joan Rankin's *Wow! It's Great Being a Duck* and other numerous award-winning titles. For further information, visit www.shuters.com



The singing chameleon

A traditional story from Malawi

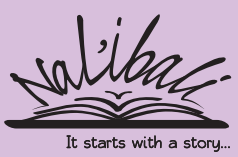
Ulovane oluculayo

Ibali lemveli eliphuma eMalawi



Gcina Mhlophe
Kalle Becker

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



INal'ibali liphulo likazwelonke lokufundela ukozonwabisa nokuvuselela umdla ebantwaneni ngokubalisa amabali nokufunda. Ngeenkukacha ezithe vetshe, ndwendwela ku-www.nalibali.org okanye ku-www.nalibali.mobi



Fold 3



For days and days, Chameleon tried to make music. Finally he began to sing a song he had made up:

*"They say that I am ugly
Everyone agrees with this
But when I sing my song,
I can do this thing called music –
Heh, heh!"*

Excitedly he sang this song over and over again. He couldn't believe that he could compose a song! Louder and louder he sang. When he finally stopped to take a break, he heard the sound of clapping.

Lintsku ngenzantsuku, uLovane wazama ukwenza umculo. Ekugqibeleni wagala ukucula ingoma awayeziqambele yona:

"Bathi ndimbi ma Bayavumelana bonke Kodwa xa ndicula ingoma yam, Ndiyayibeth' ingoma – He-e, he-e!"

Echulumance kakhulu, wayicula le ngoma emana eyiphinda-phinda. Wayengakholelwa ukuba nguye lo ukwaziyo ukugamba ingoma! Waye ekhwaza ngokukhwaza xa ecula. Wathi ngethuba ethatha ikhefu lokuphuma, weva intswahla yabantu abaqhwabayo.



Just then the river otter came up to Chameleon and said, "Oh, you're just the one I've been looking for. I desperately need your help. There's a village nearby which is being tortured by Python. This snake has been eating young calves and goats, and torturing the children. The villagers can't work in their fields. They don't know what to do so they have locked themselves in their homes. Even the chief is powerless. Please come and help!"

Chameleon looked puzzled and asked, "Me? Help with a python? How could I do anything like that?"

"Of course you can help," said Otter.

"Please understand," said Chameleon. "I have just learned to play a song. That's all."

But Otter insisted, "There is a lot you can do with your music! Let me take you to the village where you can sing for the people. It'll help them to forget how terrible life is right now."

"Alright, I'll try," said Chameleon, remembering his promise to the old man.

Fold

A very long time ago there was a big river in which there lived a great many animals. There were crocodiles, hippopotami, water buck, ducks, crabs, birds, fish of all kinds and frogs of all sizes. The animals were happy and most of them were really good friends. But there was one animal they all criticised.

The animals were always saying to the chameleon, "Chameleon, you are so ugly!"

The proud hippo said, "Because of you, this river is no longer beautiful."



Kudala-dala kwakukho umlambo omkhulu owawuhlala izilwanyana ezikhulu ezininzi. Kwakukho iingwenya, iimvubu, iimbabala, amadada, oononkala, iintaka, iintlobo ngeentlobo zeentlanzi namasele abungakanani bawo bohlukeyo. Izilwanyana zazonwabile kwaye uninzi lwazo lwaluhlobene. Kodwa kwakukho isilwanyana esinye ezazithanda zonke ukusigxeka.

Izilwanyana zazisoloko zisithi kulovane, "Lovane, umbi kakhulu!"

Imvubu ezidlayo yathi, "Ngenxa yakho, lo mlambo awusemhlanga kwaphela."

At last Chameleon felt beautiful and special. He had found a home where the animals and people loved and appreciated him. He lived happily in the village by the waterfall and his music brought joy to all those who heard him sing.



Ekugqibeleni uLovane waziva emhle, kwaye engumntu okhethekileyo nobalulekileyo. Wayefumene ikhaya, izilwanyana nabantu abamthandayo, nabakunqwelayo ukuhlala naye. Wahlala ngokonwaba elalini ngasengxangxasini kwaye umculo wakhe wawusizisa ulonwabo kubo bonke abo babemamela umculo wakhe.

Fold

“Nceda uqonde le nto,” watsho uLovane. “Ndisafunde ukudlala ingoma enye nje. Kuphelele apho.” Kodwa uNtini wagononondisa esithi, “Kuminyaka ngakwenzayo ngomculo wakho! Yiza ndikuthathe ndikuse elalini apho ukuculela khona abantu. Loo nto iya kubanceda ukuba bayilibale intlalo ebulungu abayihleliyo ebomini ngalo mzuzu.” “Kulumgile ke, ndiza kuzama,” watsho uLovane, ekhumbula isithembiso sakhe kwixhego.



“Ewe nje, unganceda,” watsho uNtini. ULovane waziva edidekile wabuzwa, “Utshe mna? Ndingcede ngenamba? Ndingayenza njani into enjalo?” Kubanceda! abo. Kungoku nje nenkosi iphelele ngamacebo. Nceda uye ukuba bangenza ntoni na, kangangokuba bazitshixele kumakhaya Abahlali bale lali abasakwazi ukuya kusebenza emasimini abo. Abazi Le nyoka itya amathole nebhokhwe, kwaye yoyikisa nabantwana. Iwakhona. Kukho ilali ekude kufuphi apha, ephelthwe kakubi yiNamba. ungye kanye lo mntu ndimfunayo. Ndiifuna kakulu uncedo kanye ngele thuba, intini yasemlanjeni yeza kuye yathi, “Owu, uNtini!”

Fold

ULovane wabulalela ixhego, wathembisa ukuba uza kwenza kangangoko anako. Kwakhona, ngokucoltha – sele ecoltha nangaphelile ngoku kubwa wayelthwele *imbengwe* – uLovane wathi chu-u ukuya ngasemlanjeni. Kwindawo yakhe yokuzimela, wasikhupha isixhobo sakhe somculo wazama ukusibetha ngokusebezayo ephinda-phinda. Umlambo wawuxakekile. Amasele ayexokozela, intaka ziphaphazela kwalapho, neemvubu zizama ngokuvakalayo. Akukho mntu wakha wamva uLovane. Abazange bakucinge nokukucinga ukuba bamkhangele.



Chameleon thanked the old man and promised to do his best. Again, slowly – but now even more slowly because he was carrying the *imbengwe* – Chameleon made his way back to the river. In his hiding place, he took out his instrument and quietly tried to play it over and over again. The river was busy. The frogs croaked loudly, the birds fluttered about and the hippopotami yawned loudly. Nobody heard the chameleon. They didn't even think to look for him.

The chief was so impressed by this brave little creature that he made the chameleon a special symbol of good luck and good fortune in his village. He asked a well-respected sculptor to make him a walking stick with the head of a chameleon carved at the top and, at the entrance to his home, he had chameleons carved on the tops of the gate posts. For many years after that the villagers honoured chameleons as a sign of good luck. They believed that you would attract good fortune if you had something carved in the shape of a chameleon in your home.

Inkosi yonwatyiswa kakhulu sesi silwanyana siligorha, kangangokuba yalwenza uLovane lwaluphawu olukhethekileyo lwethamsanqa nobutyebi kwilali yakhe. Inkosi yacela omnye wabachweli abaziwayo nowayehlonitshiwe ukuba amenzele umsimelelo onentloko eqoqwe yenziwa ngokwentloko yolovane kwigqudu layo, ngokunjalo nakwisango lomzi wayo, yayinolovane oluqoqwe kwipali zesango lokungena. Iminyaka emininzi emva koko abahlali baselalini bawahlonipha amalovane njengophawu lwethamsanqa. Babekhohlelwa ukuba umntu angazibizela ithamsanqa ukuba angaba nento eqoqwe ngokomfanekiso wolovane ekhayeni lakhe.



Fold 5

“What’s wrong with your eyes, anyway?” questioned Bull Frog. “They’re always looking forwards, looking backwards, looking everywhere.”

And Crocodile criticised, “Why can’t you decide what you want to look like? Precisely *what* colour are you? Are you green or brown or yellow? Which is it?”

Together they shouted, “You’re so ugly! You’re a disgrace to the river community!”

How very unkind they were.

Eventually Chameleon began to believe their cruel words. He tried to hide and to be as quiet as he could so that no one would notice him.

“Kakade, yintoni kanye le ingalunganga kula mehlo akho?” wabuzwa watsho uNdubule. “Lonke ixesha soloko egungquza, ejonga phambili, aphinde ajonge ngasemva, ajonge indawo nje yonke.”

Naye uNwenya wagxeka, “Kutheni ungade uthathe isigqibo esinye sokuba ufuna ukujongeka njani? Kanye-kanye *linjani* ibala lakho? Uluhlaza okanye umdaka okanye umthubi? Yiyiphi kanye-kanye?”

Bonke bamwawa, “Umbi kakhulu! Ulihlazo kubahlali balo mlambo!”

Indlela le zazingenabubele ngayo, ayithetheki.

Ekugqibeleni uLovane naye waqalisa ukuzikhohlelwa ezi ntetho zabo zikhohlakeleyo. Wazama ukuzimela nokuthi cwaka kangangoko ukuze kungabikho mntu umqaphelayo.



“Ndiya kuzi ndikubhatale njani bethu?” wabuza watshe uLovane. “Kungekudala uza kubesele udlala umculo omandi kakhulu.” Ixhego lalibubele kwaye linomonde. “Thob’uvale!” latshe. Ixhego layinikezela *imbengwe* kuLovane, laze lambonisa indlela yokuyibamba nokuyidlala. Ngokucotha okukhulu – njengoko iyindlela yalo ukucotha – uLovane wazama ukudlala. Waphindelela, ephindelela ezama.

“The only way to repay me is by playing well,” answered the old man. “If you play well, who knows, one day I might come and listen to you playing at the river. Music can bring joy to many hearts. It’d feel good if you did that.”

“How will I ever repay you?” asked Chameleon.

The old man was kind and patient. “Relax!” he said. “You’ll be making great music in no time.”

– as was his way – Chameleon tried to play. Again and again he tried.



“The old man laughed. ‘Heh, heh, heh. So you want me to make you an instrument? Well, I made one for a child once, but it was too small. I think it might be just the right size for you.’”

He gave the *imbengwe* to Chameleon and showed him how to hold it and play it. Ever so slowly

Chameleon would sit sadly in his hiding place waiting for flies and other flying insects to come past. Even though he moved slowly, when he wanted to grab an insect, his tongue was like lightning, striking out – TACK!

Watching him, Frog said, “That makes you even more disgusting!”

“You should talk!” thought Chameleon. “You also like flies and mosquitoes.”

For a long time Chameleon lived like this. He was so sad. Most days he just wished he could travel far away from the river.

Then, one day, as Chameleon was sitting close to the water’s edge looking at his reflection, he saw a bird.

ULovane wayedla ngokuhlala kalusizi endaweni yakhe yokuzimela alinde iimpukane nezinye izinambuzane ezibhabhayo ukuba zidlule ngakuye. Nangona wayecotha, wayesithi xa afuna ukubamba isinambuzane, ulwimi lwakhe luletsheze okombane, lube lugqajolo ngaphandle – LUYITHI NQAKU!

Umjonge, wamjonga uSele-sele wathi, “Loo nto uyenzayo ikwenza wonyanyeke nangakumbi!”

“Uyakwazi ukuthetha na lo!” wazicingela njalo uLovane. “Naye uyazithanda iimpukane neengcongconi.”

Ixesha elide wahlala ngolo hlobo uLovane. Wayelusizi kakhulu. Imihla emininzi wayekhe anqwenele ukuba akhe ahambe aye kude awushiye umlambo.

Kwathi ngenye imini uLovane esazihlalele ngasemlanjeni, ezibuka emanzini, wabona intakazana entle.



Fold 6

ULovane naye wawuma, “Bendicula intsasa yonke. Ngoku ndiziva ndiyifuma into ekyiwayo.”

“Ungabi naxhala!” watshe uNtini. “Noko yomelele. Abantu abaninzi bawela apha ngalo lonke ixesha. Kodwa masike siphumle ngoku, ezinde kunye neentambo ezomeleleyo yayisele ihexa-hexa. kweemvula ezinkulu, kwaye nebhulorho eyayenzizwe ngeengcongconi elalini. Ingxangxasi yayisitshe ngamandla kakhulu emva egqumayo nekwakufuneka banqumle kuyo ukuzi baye kufluka bahamba ixesha elide. Ekugqibeleni bafika kwingxangxasi uLovane wayebambelele ntsihliliti kuBoya bakhe. Bahamba uNtini wahamba ngokukhahlwileza kangango kwayenako lo gama Lovane oluculayo! Hamba kakubhe!”

ULovane wabelekeka emgolo kuNtini, ngeli lixa ezinye izilwanyana zikhwaza ngokonwaba okukhulu, “Sikumqwenela ithamsanqa, Lovane oluculayo! Hamba kakubhe!”

Chameleon agreed, “I’ve been singing all morning. I need something here all the time. But let’s have a break now. I’m hungry.”

“Don’t worry!” said Otter. “It’s strong enough. Human beings cross made of long creepers and thick ropes, was wobbly. thundering waterfall that they had to cross to get to the village. The waterfall was wild after the big rains, and the bridge, which was made of long creepers and thick ropes, was wobbly.”



Chameleon climbed onto Otter’s back while the other animals shouted merrily, “Good luck, singing Chameleon! Go well!”

Other walked as fast as he could while Chameleon held on tightly to his fur. They travelled for some time. Finally they got to a thundering waterfall that they had to cross to get to the village. The waterfall was wild after the big rains, and the bridge, which was made of long creepers and thick ropes, was wobbly.

People slowly came out of their homes. They looked at each other wondering whether they had heard correctly.

“What are you talking about?” demanded the chief.

“I am telling you the truth,” said Otter. “Python is dead. He has been killed by my good friend here, Chameleon!”



The chief couldn’t believe it. Nobody could. So Otter said, “Come with us. We’ll show you!”

The friends took the villagers to the waterfall and they told them the whole story exactly as it had happened. The villagers were so happy! They wanted to hear the song that had crept into Python’s heart and led him to his death. Everyone sat at the waterfall listening to Chameleon sing his lovely song, and when he had finished, they cheered.

Abantu bathi chu kancinci baphuma kumakhaya abo. Bajongana omnye nomnye bengakholelwa ukuba beve kakuhle kusini na.

“Nithini na kanye?” yabuza yatsho inkosi.

“Ndikuxelela inyaniso,” watshe uNtini. “INamba ifile. Ibulewe ngumhlobo wam lo, uLovane!”

Inkosi zange iyikholelwe le nto. Futhi kwakungekho namnye umntu owayenokuyikholelwa.

Ngoko ke uNtini wathi: “Yizani nihambe nathi. Siza kunibonisa!”

Abahlobo ababini babathatha abantu belali babasa engxangxasini, baze bababalisele abahlali yonke into eyenzekileyo. Bonke abahlali belali babonwabe kakhulu! Bafuna ukukhe bayive nabo le ngoma kwakuthethwa ngayo, eyanyibilikisa intliziyo yeNamba ngokokude igaxeleke ekufeni ingaqondanga. Wonke umntu wahlala apho phezu kwengxangxasi emamele uLovane ecula ingoma yakhe emnandi, waza wathi akugqiba ukucula, bonke baqhwaba bekhwaza bemkhuthaza.

Uthe ke uLovane wathatha
imbengwe yakhe waqalisa
 ukucula:
 “*Bathi ndimbi mna*
Bayavumelana bonke
Kodwa xa ndiculi ingoma yam,
Ndiyayibeth’ ingoma –
He-e, he-e!”
 Wathi akufika ekupheleni
 kwengoma waqwaya
 wafonga phezulu. Wabona
 isilwanyana esinamethlo
 amakhulu noncunom olugoso
 simjonge ntsho-o.



Yayindawo emlungele kakhulu uLovane le. Kaloku apho
 zazizininzi izinambuzane awayenokuzitya. Ezi zihlobo zibini
 zaty, zaphuma. ULovane wayesagala ukozela ngethuba kwasuka
 kwathi gatha kuye ingcinga yenamba.
 “Mhlawumbi kufuneka ndilale umculo wam. Andinakukwazi
 ukulala. Kungathini ukuba ingathi gqi apha le namba?”

It was a perfect chameleon spot. There were so many insects for
 Chameleon to eat. The two friends ate and rested. Chameleon was
 just dozing off when he thought about the python.
 “Maybe I should play my music. I can’t fall asleep. What if the
 python shows up?”
 So Chameleon took his *imbengwe* and began to sing:
 “They say that I am ugly
 Everyone agrees with this
 But when I sing my song,
 I can do this thing called music – Heh, heh!”
 When he reached the end of the song, he looked up. A creature
 with big eyes and a broad smile was staring at him.

And Python? Python had eaten a whole calf that morning and so his stomach was very full. Down into the water he fell – CRASH! Rocks fell on him and Python eventually drowned in the deep pool at the bottom of the waterfall.

Chameleon and Otter cheered, “Yebo! Everybody come out! We have good news! Chameleon has killed the python!”



UNamba yena? UNamba wayetye ithole lonke ngaloo ntsasa, ngoko ke isisu sayo sasibhukuxile kukuhlutha. Yawela ezantsi emanzini – DYUMPU! Amatye awela phezu kwayo, yaze iNamba yarhaxwa esizibeni esisemazantsi engxangxasi.

ULovane noNtini bakhwaza besithi: “Yebo! Wonk’umntu makaphume! Sineendaba ezimnandi! ULovane uyibulele inamba!”

ULovane wathi, “Ndicela uxolo
 ngokukuphazamisa. Ndiyazi
 ukuba wenza umsebenzi omhle
 kakhulu, kwaye uxakekile,
 kodwa ndiyaludinga uncedo
 lwakho.”
 Ixhego lancuma
 ngobude,
 “Awundiphazamisi.
 Ndingakwenzela ntoni?”
 “Ungandinceda undenzele
 isixhobo somculo?”
 wabuza watsho uLovane.
 “Mhlawumbi *imbengwe?*
 Ndingathanda ukufunda
 ukuyidlala. Mhlawumbi
 ungandifundisa.”



When he reached the old man’s house, he pushed the door
 open quietly and crept inside. The old man turned around as if
 he sensed someone was there.
 Chameleon said, “I’m sorry to disturb you. I know you do very
 good work and you’re busy but I need your help.”
 The old man smiled kindly, “You’re not disturbing me. What
 can I do for you?”
 “Please could you make me a musical instrument?” asked
 Chameleon. “Perhaps an *imbengwe?* I’d like to learn to play.
 Maybe you could teach me.”
 Akufika endlini yeli xhego, wathuthala kancinci ucano
 lwawuleka, wangena ngaphakathi. Eli xhego labhekka
 ngokungathi libonile ukuba kukho umntu ongenileyo.

Lark came flying down and landed on the rock right next to him. He drank some water and started singing a lovely song. He hadn’t even noticed Chameleon who had camouflaged himself so well.

Chameleon surprised Lark, “Ah, you’re so lucky to be able to fly wherever you want and to be able to sing so beautifully. Look at me. Everyone says I’m ugly. Nobody likes me.”

Lark looked at Chameleon and then he said, “Who told you that? You are not at all ugly!”



Eli gwangqa lehla phezulu libhabha laza kuthi ngcu phezu kwelityana elalisceleni kwakhe. Lasela amanzi, emva koko laqalisa ukucula ingoma emnandi. Zange limqaphele nokumqaphela uLovane owayesele eziguqule wanjengaloo nto wayehleli kuyo ecaleni kwakhe.

ULovane walothusa igwangqa wathi, “Owu, unethamsanqa ukuba ukwazi ukubhabha uye naphi na apho ufuna ukuya khona, kwanokucula kamnandi kangaka. Khawundijonge mna. Wonke umntu uthi ndimbi. Akukho namnye umntu ondithandayo.”

Igwangqa lajonga kuLovane lathi, “Ngubani obekuxelela loo nto? Akumbanga konke-konke!”



“Sonke isilwanyana esilapha kulo mlambo sthi ndimbi,” waphendula watsho uLovane.

“Uyazi yintoni? Ukuba ukholelwa ukuba umbi, yenza into eza kwenza abanye abantu bakubone ngolunye uhlobo. Kutheni ungabochusi nje ufunde ukucula?” lacebisa latsho igwangqa, phambi kokuba liphinde lintoni phezu esibhakabhakeni, licula kamandi.

“Mhlawumbi ndingakufunda ukucula,” wacinga njalo uLovane. “Mhm-mhm, andikhumbi ukuba ndakha ndeva ngolovane oluculayo ngaphambili.”

U Lovane wacinga ngale nto iyure ezininzi waza ngequbuliso wancuma wathi, “Mhlawumbi, ndingafunda ukudlala esinye sezixhobo zomculo.”

Wathi esenale nginga, warhululuzisa kanjinci esiya kwindlu yexhego elalingumenzi wezixhobo zomculo. Eli xhego lalisenza zonke izixhobo zomculo, kodwa lalidume kakhulu ngesixhobo esibizwa ngokuba *Yimbengwe*, isixhobo esimcaba esenziwa ngomthi nesineengcingo ezinde ezibotshelelwa zaqiniswa phezu entanyeni yaso.

“Every single animal here at the river says I’m ugly,” answered Chameleon.

“You know what? If you believe you’re ugly, then do something that will make others see you differently. Why don’t you surprise them and learn to sing?” suggested Lark before he swooped off into the sky, singing merrily.

“Maybe I *could* learn to sing,” thought Chameleon. “Hmm, I don’t think I’ve ever heard of a singing chameleon before.”

He thought about this for many hours and then suddenly smiled to himself and said, “Maybe I could learn to play a musical instrument.”

With this in mind, he crawled slowly to the house of an old man who was an instrument maker. He made all kinds of musical instruments but he was particularly famous for the *imbengwe*, an instrument made of flat wood with long strings tied at the top of its neck.



It was the python! He seemed hypnotised by Chameleon’s song.

“Oh, please don’t stop!” pleaded Python. “That was amazing. Your beautiful voice makes my heart swell with joy. What a song!”

Chameleon wasn’t sure what to do, but he thought, “If I don’t sing, he’ll eat me up!”

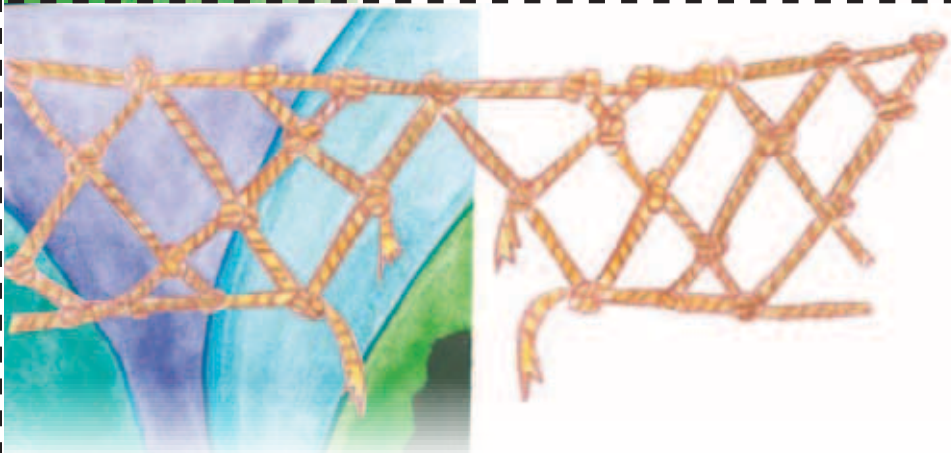
Quickly and with shaking hands, he took his instrument out and began to sing again. On and on he sang until he had an idea.

Yayiyimamba! Yayibonakala ngathi idonyiwe yingoma kaLovane

“Owu, nceda musa ukuyeka!” yacenga yatsho iNamba. “Kuyamangalisa oku! Ilizwi lakho elimandi lenza intliziyo yam iphuphume lilonwabo. Imandi kakhulu le ngoma!”

U Lovane zange aqimiseke ukuba makenze ntoni na, kodwa wacinga, “Ukuba andiculi, iza kunditya le namba!”

Ngokukhawuleza nezanidla zakhe zingcangazela, waphakamisa *imbengwe* yakhe waqalisa ukucula kwakhona. Waphinda-phinda ecula kwade kwathi gathha icebo.



Still singing and playing, Chameleon began to walk backwards towards the bridge as if to cross it. Python followed him, his eyes rolling and shining just as if he was in love. He swayed from side to side, moving to the beat of the song. Chameleon kept singing and walking backwards very slowly. Python kept following him with his smiling lovey-dovey eyes, getting closer and closer all the time.

Chameleon had almost reached the other side of the bridge when suddenly he felt it beginning to snap. He realised he was in danger.

Out of nowhere, Otter grabbed Chameleon and pulled his friend to safety.

Esahamba ecula, edlala imbengwe enjalo, uLovane waqalisa ukuhlehla umva esiya ebhulorhweni ngelinga uza kunqumla. INamba yamlandela, amehlo ayo egungquza ekhazimla ngokungathi ngumntu oseluthandweni. Yayigungqa, iswaya-swaya amacala, ishuku-shukuma ngokwesingqi sengoma. U Lovane waqhubeka ecula ehlehla umva njalo, ecotha kakhulu. INamba yaqhubeka ilandela itsho ngaloo mehlo abonakalisa uncumo olugoso, isiya isondela ngokusondela ngalo lonke elo xesha.

U Lovane wayesele ekude kufuphi ekubeni afike kwelinye icala lebhulorho xa kwathi ngequbuliso wayiva iqalisa ukuvova ibhulorho. Waqonda kwangoko ukuba usengozini.

Gqi ngequbuliso uNtini, wamxhiphula uLovane wamtsala umhlobo wakhe emsindisa.