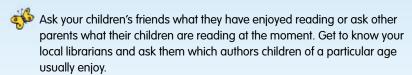
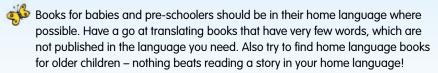


osing books for children

Which books get children begging for more? Younger readers often choose a book because they like the illustration on the front cover! More experienced readers might choose a book on their favourite subject or by familiar author. So, how do you choose books for children? Here are some ideas:







Wordless books are a great investment because you get the chance to tell a story in your own way to your children in any language you like. They then can create their own stories too.

Choose some books that reflect things that will be familiar to your children - for example, books in which the homes look like your children's. Choose other books that provide new experiences, such as folktales or stories set in different places and cultures.

For children who can already read, it's best to choose some books that they can read on their own; some books you can read together and some books (with more complex language and plots) that you can read to them.

Picture books and novels about difficult things in children's lives – like the arrival of a new sibling, illness, parents' divorce or friendship challenges – can help them process their feelings and face their fears.

Information books are not just for older children. Factual books stimulate curiosity and help children to learn about our world.

Find more information on choosing books for children at www.nalibali.org

zezingane Ukukhetha izincwadi

oluthandayo. Nezingane-ke zibe sezizenzela izindaba zazo.

Khetha izincwadi ezikhombisa izinto ezithile ezijwayelwe yizingane zakho – isibonelo, izincwadi ezinezindlu ezifana namakhaya azo. Khetha ezinye izincwadi ezihlinzeka ngezinto ezintsha ezifana nezinganekwane noma izindaba ezenzeka ezindaweni kanye nakumasiko ahlukile.

Ezinganeni esezikwazi ukufunda kuhle ukukhetha izincwadi ezithile ezingazifundela zona; izincwadi ezithile eningazifunda ndawonye kanye nezinye izincwadi (ezinolimi kanye nesimo sendaba okujulile) ongazifundela zona.

info@nalibali.org

Izincwadi ezinezithombe kanye namanoveli amayelana nezinto ezinzima ezimpilweni zezingane – ezifana nokuzalwa kwesinye sezelamani, isifo, ukudivosa kwabazali noma izinselele eziphathelene nobungani – kungazisiza ukuthi zibuke indlela ezizizwa ngayo kanye nokuthi zibhekane nalokho

ezikwesabayo. Izincwadi ezinikeza ulwazi akuyizo ezezingane ezindala kuphela. Izincwadi ezikhuluma ngokungamaqiniso zenza ukuthi izingane zifune ukwazi kabanzi futhi

zizisiza ukuthi zifunde ngomhlaba wethu.

Thola olunye ulwazi oluphathelene nokukhetha izincwadi zezingane ku-www.nalibali.org

Abafundi abasebancane bavame ukukhetha incwadi ngoba bethanda umdwebo osekhaveni engaphambili yencwadi!

Yiziphi izincwadi ezishiya izingane zisafuna ukufunda okunye?

Abafundi asebenesipiliyoni kungenzeka ukuthi bakhethe incwadi ekhuluma ngesihloko abasithandayo noma ebhalwe umbhali owaziwayo. Ngabe uzikhetha kanjani-ke izincwadi zezingane? Nanka amanye amasu:

ស Buza abangani bezingane zakho ukuthi yini abayithokozele ukuyifunda noma ubuze abanye abazali ukuthi izingane zabo zifundani njengamanje. Yazi abasebenzi bomtapowolwazi bese ubabuza ukuthi zijwayele ukuthokozela izincwadi zabaphi ababhali izingane ezineminyaka ethile.

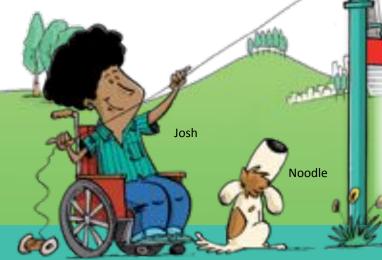
🕪 Izincwadi zabantwana abasaphathwa kanye nezingane esezilungele ukungena esikoleni kumele zibe ngolimi lwazo lwasekhaya uma lokho kungenzeka. Humusha izincwadi ezinamagama ambalwa ezingashicilelwanga ngolimi oludingayo. Zama futhi nokuthola izincwadi zolimi lwasekhaya zezingane esezikhulakhulile – ayikho into eyedlula ukufunda indaba ngolimi lwakho!

🕪 Izingane ezisaphathwa zithanda izithombe ezinemibala egqamile zezinto noma abantu ezinombhalo olula. Ziyathanda ukuzwa isigqi solimi kanye nokulalela ukuphindaphinda kwamagama nemvumelwano.

Zikahle nakakhulu izincwadi ezingenamagama ngoba uthola ithuba lokuxoxela izingane zakho indaba ngendlela yakho nganoma yiluphi ulimi

Stop!

If you aren't going to use this supplement, please give it to someone who will! Deliver it to a school, community centre, library or someone you know.



Uma ungeke usisebenzise lesi sithasiselo sicela usinikeze omunye umuntu ozosisebenzisa. Sihambise esikoleni, esikhungweni somphakathi, umtapowolwazi noma umuntu omaziyo.

Help your child be a somebody. Siza izingane zakho ukuthi zibe utho.



Story stars







Asemahle Ndadane (15), Dunyiswa Jack (15), Sonwabise Sifo (15), Xabisa Maswana (14), Nandipha Tokwe (15) and Phumza Gijane (15) are the founders of the Sakumlandela Teen Reading Club in Khayelitsha. Every Tuesday, the five of them meet in a school classroom with 30 of their fellow teens to debate, sing and tell stories.

Why do you think reading clubs are important for the future of South Africa?

They build confidence, improve reading and are a free and fun space for learning.

What's your advice to other young people thinking about starting their own reading club?

Before you start, visit an existing reading club. Also, be ready for challenges! Always make sure you have your reading club plan; be organised; give other participants the opportunity to facilitate sessions; and ensure participants enjoy the reading club by creating fun activities!

If you were President of South Africa, how would you get more young people reading?

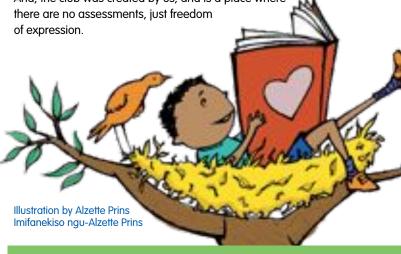
Firstly, you need to understand young people. You also need to tell them about your own reading experiences. We'd conduct motivational talks about reading and encourage young people to join reading clubs and become library members. We'd also encourage adults to read and tell stories to children. We would distribute storybooks and have mobile libraries and children-only libraries. There would be a system which allows for children to order or borrow books using their cell phones!

Where do you get your books?

From the school library.

So, what makes reading and reading clubs cool?

Well, reading is fun! It is also a way for us to understand one another. And, the club was created by us, and is a place where



To read more about the Sakumlandela Teen Reading Club go to the Story Stars section on www.nalibali.org

If you know of a reading club, parent, caregiver or organisation working hard to root reading and writing into children's daily lives, tell us about them at www.nalibali.org/nominate-a-story-star and we could feature them here!

Abavelele ezindabeni

O-Asemahle Ndadane (15), Dunyiswa Jack (15), Sonwabise Sifo (15), Xabisa Maswana (14), Nandipha Tokwe (15) and Phumza Gijane (15) bangabasunguli be-Sakumlandela Teen Reading Club. Bayahlangana bobahlanu njalo ngoLwesibili egumbini lokufundela kanye nabanye ozakwabo abaneminyaka yobudala ephakathi kweyi-13 ukuya kweyi-19 ukuze babe nenkulumo-mpikiswano, bacule bese bexoxa nezindaba.

Kungani nicabanga ukuthi amathimba okufunda abalulekile esikhathini esizayo seNingizimu Afrika?

Akwenza uzithembe, enza ngcono indlela ofunda ngayo futhi ayindawo ekhululekile nethokozisayo yokufunda.

Ningabacebisa nithini abanye abantu abasha abacabanga ukuqala elabo ithimba lokufunda?

Ngaphambi kokuba niqale vakashelani ithimba lokufunda eselivele likhona. Zilungiseleleni futhi nokubhekana nezinselele! Qinisekani ngaso sonke

> isikhathi ukuthi ninohlelo lwenu lwethimba lokufunda; kumele nihleleke; nikezani abanye ababambe ighaza ithuba lokuhlelela lokhu kuhlangana; bese niqinisekisa ukuthi ababambe iqhaza bayalithokozela ithimba lokufunda ngokuthi nenze izinto ezithokozisayo!

Uma ubungaba uMongameli waseNingizimu Afrika ubungenza kanjani ukuthi zibe ziningi izingane ezifundayo?

Okokuqala, udinga ukuziqonda izingane. Kumele uzitshele futhi ngokwenzeke empilweni yakho okuphathelene nokufunda. Singenza izinkulumo zokukhuthaza ukufunda bese sigqugquzela nezingane ukuthi zingene kumathimba okufunda, zibuye zibe amalungu omtapowolwazi. Singakhuthaza nabantu abadala futhi ukuthi

bafundele futhi baxoxele izingane izindaba. Singasabalalisa izincwadi zezindaba futhi sibe nemitapoyolwazi engomahambanendlwana, kanye nemitapoyolwazi okungeyezingane kuphela. Kungaba nohlelo oluvumela izingane ukuthi zifake izicelo zezincwadi noma ziboleke izincwadi zisebenzisa omakhalekhukhwini bazo!

Nizotholaphi izincwadi zenu?

Kumtapowolwazi wesikole.

The Sakumlandela Teen Reading Club

Ngabe yini eyenza ukufunda kanye namathimba okufunda abe yinto enhle?

Empeleni kumnandi ukufunda! Futhi kuyindlela yokuthi sikwazi ukuqondana kahle. Ithimba lasungulwa yithina, futhi liyindawo lapho kungekho khona ukuhlolwa, kunenkululeko yokwenza lokho okuzwayo.

Ukuze ufunde kabanzi nge-Sakumlandela Teen Reading Club yiya esigabeni sama-Story Stars ku-www.nalibali.org

Uma wazi ngethimba lokufunda, umzali, onakekela izingane noma inhlangano esebenza kanzima ukuze igxilise ukufunda nokubhala ezimpilweni zansuku zonke zezingane, sitshele ngabo ku- www.nalibali.org/nominate-a-story-star kungenzeka sibaveze lapha!

Create your own mini-book

- 1. Take out pages 3 to 6 of this supplement.
- 2. Fold it in half along the black dotted line.
- 3. Fold it in half again.
- 4. Cut along the red dotted lines.

Zenzele eyakho incwajana

- 1. Khipha ikhasi 3 ukuya ku 6 kulolu shicilelo.
- 2. Lisonge libe nguhhafu lapho kunomugqa (ulayini) wamachashaza amnyama khona.
- 3. Lisonge libe nguhhafu futhi.
- 4. Sika lapho kunomugga wamachashaza abomvu khona.



Get story active!

After you and your children have read *Little and big* on page 8, try out some of these ideas.

If you have 10 minutes...



Look at the pictures closely with your children. Can they find the little and big things in each picture?



Look at the pictures again. With your child, tell the story that is depicted in the pictures. Encourage your child to give names to the characters. Talk about what the goats are doing in each scene. Ask "What would you do if some goats came along and disturbed you? What would you say to them?"

If you have 30 minutes...



Staple a few blank pages together and let your children create their own books about the concepts 'little' and 'big'. Let the children draw their own pictures. Help younger children finish their books by writing the words they tell you for each picture. Let older children write what they want to.

Encourage them to read their books to each other and you!



Say this poem with your children and create your own actions to go with the words:

Flowers grow like this, Trees grow like this;

I grow

Just like that!



Illustrated by Vian Oelofsen
Imifanekiso ngu-Vian Oelofsen

Yenza indaba ihlabe umxhwele!

Ngemuva kokuba wena kanye nezingane zakho senifunde *Qkuncane nokukhulu* lesi-8, zamani eminye yale miqondo.

Uma ninemizuzu eyi-10...



Bhekani izithombe nijule nezingane zakho. Ngabe ziyakwazi ukuthola izinto ezincane kanye nezinkulu esithombeni ngasinye?

 Bhekani izithombe futhi. Xoxa nengane yakho indaba echazwa ezithombeni. Gqugquzela izingane zakho ukuthi zinikeze abalingiswa amagama. Khulumani ngokuthi zenzani izimbuzi esiqephini ngasinye. Buza ukuthi "Bewuzokwenzenjani uma kukhona ezinye izimbuzi ezifike zazokuphazamisa? Ubungathini kuzona?"

Uma ninemizuzu engama-30...

- Hlanganisa amakhasi angabhalwe lutho ambalwa bese uvumela izingane zakho ukuthi zenze ezazo izincwadi ngokuphathelene nemiqondo 'yokuncane' kanye 'nokukhulu'. Izingane mazidwebe izithombe zazo. Siza izingane ezisencane ukuthi ziqedele izincwadi zazo ngokubhala amagama ezikutshela wona esithombe ngasinye. Izingane esezikhulakhulile mazibhale ngalokho ezifuna ukubhala ngakho. Zikhuthaze ukuthi zifundelane bese zifundela nawe izincwadi zazo!
- Yisho lo mlolozelo nezingane zakho bese nizenzela eyenu iminyakazo ezohambisana namagama:

Izimbali zikhula kanje, Izihlahla zikhula kanje, Ngiyakhula Kanjalo nje!

Meet the Nal'ibali characters

Neo

Neo is 8 years old. He lives with his mom, dad, gogo and little sister, Mbali. His best friend is Bella. He speaks isiZulu and isiXhosa and some English too. Neo likes to explore and to try out

new things. He also loves playing soccer and reading books. His favourite books are adventure stories, especially ones about pirates! In fact, just last night he dreamt he was a pirate from one of his favourite adventure stories – and he was eating his favourite snack too: ice cream!

Sinethulela abalingiswa bakwa-Nal'ibali

Neo

UNeo uneminyaka eyisishiyagalombili. Uhlala nomama, ubaba, ugogo kanye nodadewabo omncane uMbali. UBella ungumngani wakhe omkhulu. Ukhuluma isiZulu, isiXhosa kanye nesiNgisi kancane futhi. UNeo uthanda ukufuna kanye nokuzama izinto ezintsha. Uyakuthanda

futhi ukudlala ibhola lezinyawo kanye nokufunda izincwadi. Uthanda izincwadi ezikhuluma ngezigemegeme ezithile, ikakhulukazi lezo ezimayelana nezigcwelegcwele zasolwandle! Empeleni zolo lokhu uphuphe eyisigcwelegcwele sasolwandle sakwenye yezincwadi ezikhuluma ngezigemegeme ezithile azithandayo – ubedla nakuthandayo futhi: u-ice cream!



In your next Nal'ibali supplement:

- Tips on how to tell a story
- Ideas for how to use your Nal'ibali supplements at your reading dub
- Mini-book, Father Snail
- Part 1 of the story, The Truth Tree

Which is your favourite part of the supplement? Tell us on Twitter using the hashtag #nalibali

lyiphi ingxenye
oyithanda kakhulu kulesi
sithasiselo? Sitshele ku-Twitter ngokusebenzisa
u-hashtag #nalibali

Have you joined the Nal'ibali network yet?

Sign up with the Nal'ibali network to show your support for using the power of stories to inspire children to want to read and write. Simply go to www.nalibali.org and register with us – it's that easy.

Esithasiselweni sakho esilandelayo sakwaNal'ibali:

- Amathiphu okuthi ungayixoxa kanjani indaba
- Imiqondo yokuthi ungazisebenzisa kanjani izithasiselo zakwaNal'ibali ethimbeni lakho lokufunda
- Incwadi encane, Ubaba umnenke
- Ingxenye yoku-1 yendaba, Isihlahla Samaqiniso

Ngabe sewubhalisile yini ohlelweni lwakwaNal'ibali?

Bhalisa ohlelweni lweNal'ibali ukuze ukhombise ukuxhasa kwakho ukusetshenziswa kwamandla ezindaba ukuze kugqugquzelwe izingane ukuthi zifune ukufunda kanye nokubhala. Vele uye ku-www.nalibali.org bese ubhalisa kithina – kulula kanjalo nje.

Supplement produced by The Project for the Study of Alternative Education in South Africa (PRAESA) and Avusa Education. Character illustrations by Rico. Translations by Xolisa Tshongolo.









Carole Bloch & Vian Oelofsen

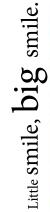
Isigqoko esincane, isigqoko

esikhulu.

Okuncane noku



Little and big





Ukumamatheka okuncane, ukumamatheka

okukhulu

2

Little hat, big hat.

Little book, big book.





Imbuzi encane, imbuzi enkulu.

Incwadi encane, incwadi enkulu,



Little goat, big goat.

Little hands, big hands.



Izandla ezincane, izandla ezinkulu.



Read the original novel, *Mom's Taxi* published by New Africa Books and available in bookstores. New Africa Books publishes books for young readers in all eleven official South African languages. To find out more about New Africa Books titles email info@newafricabooks.co.za

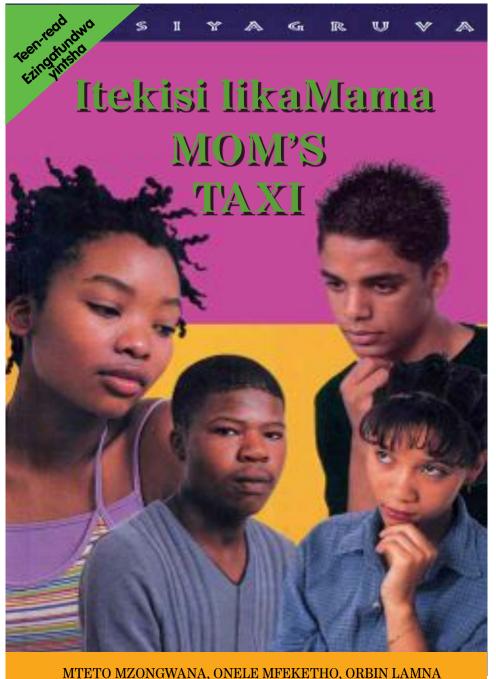
Funda inoveliyoqobo ethi, *Itekisi likaMama* eshicilelwe yi-New Africa Books futhi iyatholakala nasezitolo zezincwadi. I-New Africa Books ingabashicileli bezincwadi zabafundi abasebasha ngazo zonke izilimi zaseNingizimu Afrika. Ukuze uthole kabanzi ngamagama ezincwadi zase-New Africa Books vakashela e: info@newafricabooks.co.za

Nal'ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment initiative to get people in South Africa – children and adults – passionate about telling and reading stories.

For more information, visit www.nalibali.org.



Nal'ibali umkhankaso kazwelonke wokujabulela ukufunda ukwenza ukuthi abantu baseNingizimu Afrika – izingane nabantu abadala – babenogqozi lokuxoxa kanye nokufunda izindaba. Ukuthola ulwazi olunabile, vakashela e: www.nalibali.org.



MTETO MZONGWANA, ONELE MFEKETHO, ORBIN LAMNA PAMELLA MASEKO

Chapter 1

Brunette crosses the footbridge at Mowbray station, having been dropped by a taxi. She joins all the people going home from work. She walks along the pavement, window shopping, on this busy Friday afternoon on the Main Road. Suddenly a police van stops in the driveway of the Mowbray police station. Two police officers jump out, go to the back of the van and open up. Two teenage girls climb out of the back of the van. These girls look wild and no more than 12 or 13 years old.

One of the girls sees Brunette. She recognizes her. She screams at Brunette, 'Hey, you coconut! Go and tell them *ekasie* I am arrested for shoplifting.'

The policeman says, 'Never mind that! In you go!' and he takes her arm.

'Hayi suka wena!' says the girl as she shrugs his hands off. The policeman opens the door, shaking his head, and they go into the charge office.

Brunette thinks to herself, 'How can this kid call me "coconut" when she needs my help? If I don't tell them, how will her people in the township know what's happened to her?'

She is still thinking this when she sees Shelley waving at her out of her mom's car. She picks up her togbag, greets Shelley and her mother, hops into the backseat, and slumps into silence.

Shelley wonders about Brunette. She usually starts all the conversations in the car, but today is different. She's not saying a word and is as quiet as a mouse there in the back.

Shelley's mother has also noticed that there's something wrong, there's tension in the car. Brunette is definitely not her usual self. Shelley's mother looks in the rearview mirror. She decides to ask her.

'What's the problem, Brunette? What's happened? Is something bothering you?'

'Ja, you're making me nervous, Brunette, I can feel it. Is there something on the go?' Shelley asks.

Brunette decides to tell Shelley and Shelley's mother what's on her mind. It's hard for her to explain what happened, but she tries.

'You know what I'm worried about? Young township girls. They think that because they go to township schools, they've got no future. They call those

of us who go to schools in the suburbs "coconuts" or "Oreos".'

Shelley looks completely bewildered.

'I don't understand,' she eventually says.

'Honest, Shelley,' says Brunette, irritated, 'sometimes I wonder which planet you're on. It means *black* on the outside and *white* on the inside. You know, like, coconuts...Oreos...?'

Shelley jumps to the wrong conclusion.

'But what's that got to do with us? Why take it out on us? You haven't said a word since Mowbray. Sitting there with your lips glued with Bostik.'

Shelley's mother interrupts her.

'Shelley, that's not fair.'

'No, I know, I'm sorry,' says Brunette, 'I am still just... I don't know... blown away by it. I can't explain. It happened so quickly. Everything was fine, and then suddenly this hits me in the face. The thing is, the problem's been there for a long time. Maybe I've just been ignoring it. But, Shelley, you mustn't jump to conclusions. You're being insensitive.'

'You two are always ganging up against me,' Shelley complains. 'That's not fair.'

'But, Shelley darling, you mustn't put words in other people's mouths. You must listen to what they're saying.'

'But Brunette's my friend, Ma. She can't just sit there and not tell me what's bugging her. I'm her sister,' Shelley explains tearfully.

'Okay, girls. We're here. Let's stop it. We'll talk about this at home over the weekend. You're coming for the weekend, aren't you Brunette?'

'Yes, thanks, Mrs Gordon.'

The car turns into Ralph Road, off the Main Road in Claremont. They swing into the old OK Bazaars parking space. Shelley kisses her mother on the cheek automatically and the two girls get out of the car. They walk across to Stadium on Main, neither saying anything to the other until they reach the entrance.

Chapter 2

The studio feels very vibey, everyone's in a good mood. The girls are all beautiful in their leotards and bodysuits. Same with the guys in their tight slacks

and sleeveless vests. When they say hello to Shelley, the others manage to use both of her nicknames.

'Hi, Percy! What's the news?'

'Come on, Bisshy, tell all,' says Samantha, who always likes to tease Shelley as a *mamghobozi a mgosi* who gossips about everything. Everyone laughs.

'What's so funny? Am I some kind of a joke or something?' Shelley asks, confused.

'Oh no, Percy, there's nothing funny... except...your happy mood! As soon as you and Brunette came in, we could see you two weren't on speaks.'

'Okay, girls, tell us what happened. You never come into this studi with that kind of expression on your faces, 'Zadie says.

'Exactly! So, giver with the gossip,' Samantha repeats.

'I am *not* a gossip. Must I tell you something I don't know?' Shelley complains. For a second she thinks she'll also complain about the nicknames she got when someone discovered there was an English poet called Percy Bysshe Shelley. But she decides this is not the right moment.

Just then Raymondo comes in from the dressing room and calls everyone to the centre of the studio.

'Today,' he says, 'I'm going to go on with ethnic dance, so that we can prepare for a new season of Dancesport.'

Thabiso is already busy practising some traditional rhythms on the bongo drums. They form two rows, everyone drops straight into a dancing mood, the sound of the drums gets louder.

They're now moving together, sometimes changing places, Raymondo clapping hands to Thabiso's drumbeat. They move to the right, to the left, to the centre, forwards and backwards.

Thabs is rolling out a really nice beat, with some great touches. Raymondo joins the dancing.

'Come on, Thabiso, keep it moving!' he calls.

Thabiso plays the drums like a maestro. For two solid hours the music and dancing keep the group happy and busy. Eventually the day's session comes to an end. There's a lot of talk.

'Eish! Did you see Raymondo moving, hey?' laughs Regan. *'Swaai lat dit waai*!'

'He was remembering the days of this youth, that's what it was,' says Zadie.

'What's the bet he used to go from nightclub to nightclub, hey?' suggests Rashaad, as he towels down, 'All for the love of dancing.'

Then the talk drifts away from Raymondo and back to the topic of conversation before the practice started.

'Come on, Brunette, you were going to tell us what's on the go between you and Shelley,' Regan says, demanding an explanation.

So Brunette tells them the story of the two girls at the police station. They decide then and there to hold a short discussion. Mncedisi calls Raymondo from the dressing room. The group sits on the carpet on the floor. Rashaad is the first to speak.

'You know what, my friends? I think we've got a huge task in front of us. I think we shouldn't look at the problem of township teenagers as if they're the only ones with negative attitudes. Both sides have the same problems.'

People nod agreement as Rashaad continues talking.

'The model C types also behave differently. They went to the white schools because their parents could afford it. In a way they're also the lost generation – the ones from the middle class. They smoke, they take drugs, and they pretend they're so cool, because they are spoilt little brats.'

Regan agrees with Rashaad.

'Ja, the way they talk, mos, you think they're white, and, like, educated, but it's just that they are ... what's the word?.. assimilated, nè? They've become part of the white set-up. But, sometimes, hey, it's really funny when they mess up and suddenly forget their cool American accents.'

After some more discussion Thabiso makes a suggestion.

'Okay, guys, we can't run away from this problem. It affects us all. So, what about us tackling it through some kind of community programme?'

'What do you mean, Thabs?'

'Well, we can go out to different communities, and do some dance with them. We can act as a bridge for crossover culture and dance.'

Everybody in the Siyagruva group likes that idea, and they come up with a whole lot of ideas.

'We could get the kids in the area to come along to the community hall,' says Mncedisi.

'And don't forget the Cape Flats – the problem's the same there,' Regan reminds them.

'We need transport to take us around,' Zaide suggests.

They decide they'll think about it, and then come to a second meeting on Monday at five o'clock sharp. The discussion ends on a high note. It's now half past five. The day has come to an end as the Siyagruva dancers start disappearing into the sunset.

Mncedisi has only a minute's walk to get home to the tiny servant'squarters room where he stays with his mother,

Rashaad will take a taxi to Harfield Village where he stays with his aunt and uncle.

Thabiso and Raymondo are the last to leave, because Raymondo gives Thabiso a lift home to Khayelitsha. Mncedisi always waits to help get Thabiso into Raymondo's car and to fold the wheelchair into the boot.

Zaide and Regan walk to Claremont station.

Sam, Shelley and Brunette are due to be picked by Shelley's mom. She'll drop Samantha off at her father's office, and then head for home in Gardens, where Brunette will be spending the weekend with Shelley.

The taxi rank, the Kentucky Fried Chicken and the Station Café are all full on a Friday afternoon. While the three girls watch the evening buzz, Shelley's mother arrives and the girls jump into the car. They disappear into the jampacked traffic.

Chapter 3

There's someone missing at the Siyagruva Scene today. Samantha hasn't arrived. Why isn't she here? Has something happened to her? Everyone in the group is wondering, but nobody knows. She didn't phone to tell them she wouldn't be coming. They all know they must phone and say if they're not coming or if they'll be late.

Like her white counterpart Shelley, Samantha always makes sure her cellphone is right next to her ear. She spends her life on the phone, saying something to someone, somewhere – except, of course, while lessons are actually going on at school, and during dance classes.

So, why hasn't she phoned? Where is she?

Just at that moment, who rushes into the studio? Samantha, full of apologies about being late.

As the group sees her, they babble away with relief, and give her a hug. Now they're happy again. Sam has arrived.

'Where've you been?'

'What happened to you?'

'Are you okay?'

The questions come thick and fast. Everyone wants to know the news.

'Come on, calm down, guys,' Brunette pleads.

'I'm fine. Just relax, guys,' Samantha say, smiling pleasantly. 'I'm okay. I haven't been hurt, except by something that happened at home. And, hey, sorry I didn't phone.'

'So what's happened at home? What's the matter?'

'It's all got to do with my little brother Ntobeko. He told us...'

I came back from school, hungry as usual. Mama's car wasn't in the driveway, so I didn't bother knocking. I walked around the house for a while, because I didn't know what to do. I was jumping up and down, to try to see inside, and then I noticed the bathroom window was open. I first threw my bag in, and then I got the dustbin to help me climb over *iz'labs* to get inside. They were a bit high up, so I was struggling to get up. My one leg was over when I heard cars screeching. Two Pinewatch men came rushing towards me. I panicked, I just stayed there, one leg in and the other out. One guy took out his gun and pointed at me. The other one jumped to pull my stiff body away from the wall. He put me on the ground facedown, and put his knee on my back. He searched me all over. After he finished, he put my hands together and put *amahanbooi* one. He picked me up roughly, and my pants felt warm. I knew what had happened.

'Hei, jy, wat maak jy? Is jy nou besig om te steel? Jy's 'n klein skelm, nè!'

I just looked at them, and the tears came. They were pulling me to the car. The one still had his gun on me.

'Nou sal die poppe dans!' one of the men said.

Two more Pinewatch cars came screeching to a stop. Four more guys jumped out. I thought they were going to beat me. I was relieved when the

6

neighbours came, but then I didn't understand when they yelled, 'He's the one! That's him, the little scoundrel! I saw him trying to steal something!'

'But I didn't do anything! I was just hungry, and I wanted to get in the house,' I tried to explain.

Before I could say any more, I heard another vice shouting. Really loud.

'What are you doing to my son? *Nimenzani umntwan'am*?' It was Mama. Then I thought to myself, '*Nóú sal die poppe dans*!'

'He's 12 years old, for heaven's sake! What is he doing in handcuffs? How dare you? And why the hell are you pointing your gun at him?'

'Is this your boy, ma'am?'

'Are you deaf or something? Let him go this minute! Or I'll sue you! And *you* – what are you people looking at? Why are you just standing there? Why aren't you helping him? I thought we were supposed to be neighbours.'

By now one of the men had taken off *amahanbooi*, and so I ran to Mama and she kissed my wrists better.

The Siyagruva dancers listen to Samantha as she tells them what happened. Their eyes widen, as thy listen intently.

Shelley is furious.

'Does this kind of thing still happen? I can't believe it! Who do these people think they are? What happened to the new South Africa? What's the point of being free if you can't live where you want to?'

Now everyone has to try to calm Shelley down, as well as Samantha.

'If you're black and living in a so-called white suburb like Pinelands,' explains Samantha, 'you're always going to be treated with suspicion.'

'I know what you mean, Sam,' says Rashaad, 'but it's not like that everywhere – some places, people get on with one another just fine.'

'Well, I don't know so much about that,' says Regan.

Before things get too heated, Raymondo suggests that they call it a day.

Isahluko sokuqala

UBrunette wehlika etekisini bese enqamula ujantshi wesitimela ngebhuloho labantu abahamba ngezinyawo elisesiteshini saseMowbray. Uhamba nabo bonke abantu abavela emsebenzini abaya emakhaya. Uhamba onqenqemeni oluseceleni komgwaqo, ahambe ebuka okuthengiswayo emafasiteleni asezitolo. UseMain Road emini ngoLwesihlanu oluphithizela kakhulu. Kusenjalo kuma iveni yamaphoyisa endledlaneni engenela esiteshini samaphoyisa saseMowbray. Kwehla amaphoyisa amabili aye ngemuva kweveni bese eyayivula. Kuphuma amantombazane amabili asemancane ngemuva evenini. Lawa mantombazane abukeka eyizixhwanguxhwangu nje, futhi awedlulanga eminyakeni yobudala eyi-12 noma eyi-13.

Omunye wala mantombazane ubona uBrunette. Uyamazi. Umemeza uBrunette, 'Hheyi, *coconut* ndini! Hamba uyobatshela *ekasi* ukuthi ngiboshelwe ukuntshontsha esitolo.'

Iphoyisa lithi, 'Ungazihluphi ngalokho! Ngena wena!' bese liyimbamba ngengalo.

'Hhayi suka wena!' kusho intombazane ichiliza isandla salo. Iphoyisa livula umnyango, linikine ikhanda bese bengena lapho kubhaliswa khona amacala.

UBrunette uyazibuza ukuthi 'Angangibiza kanjani nge-coconut kodwa abe efuna ngimsize? Uma ngingabatsheli bazokwazi kanjani abantu bakubo elokishini ukuthi wehlelwe yini?'

Usacabanga ngalokhu ngesikhathi ebona uShelley emthathazela esemotweni kamama wakhe. Uthatha isikhwama sakhe, abingelele uShelley nomama wakhe, agibele esihlalweni esingemuva bese ethula ethi du.

UShelley uyamangala ngalesi senzo sikaBrunette. Uyena ojwayele ukuqala ingxoxo emotweni, kodwa izinto zishintshile namhlanje. Akathi vu, kuthule kuthe nya esihlalweni esingemuva.

Nomama kaShelley naye ukuqaphele ukuthi kukhona okungahambi kahle, wonke umuntu osemotweni uzibambile. Akayena uBrunette abamaziyo. Umama kaShelley ubheka esibukweni esibonisa okungemuva. Unquma ukumbuza.

'Ngabe kukhona okungahambi kahle Brunette? Kwenzekeni? Ngabe ikhona into engakuphethe kahle?'

'Yebo, uyangethusa Brunette. Kanti kwenzekeni kuwena?' kubuza uShelley.

UBrunette unquma ukutshela uShelley kanye nomama wakhe ukuthi ukhathazwa yini. Kunzima ukuthi achaze ngokwenzekile, kodwa uyazama.

'Niyazi ukuthi yini engikhathazayo? Amantombazane aselokishini asemancane. Acabanga ukuthi awanakusasa ngoba nje efunda ezikoleni

zaselokishini. Thina esifunda ezikoleni ezisemadolobheni asibiza ngokuthi singama-coconut noma ama-Oreo.'

UShelley ubukeka edideke kakhulu kunakuqala.

'Angiyiqondi le nto oyishoyo,' uphetha ngokusho kanjalo.

'Ngempela Shelley,' kusho uBrunette ecasukile, 'ngesinye isikhathi ngiye ngizibuze ukuthi wena uvelaphi komuphi umhlaba. Kuchaza ukuthi labo ngabantu abamnyama ngaphandle abamhlophe ngaphakathi. Njengama-coconut...ama-Oreo... uyangithola-ke manje?'

UShelley ucabanga ngenye into engahlangene nalokho abakhuluma ngakho.

'Ngabe kuhlanganaphi nathi lokho? Kungani ukhiphela kithina intukuthelo yakho? Awukathi vu silokhu sisuke eMowbray. Uhleli lapho umlomo wakho unanyathiselwe nge-Bostik.'

Kungenelela umama kaShelley.

'Ayiyinhle le nto oyishoyo Shelley.'

'Cha, ngiyaxolisa,' kusho uBrunette, 'Nami angazi... ngisakhungathekile. Angikwazi ukuyichaza. Le nto yenzeke ngokushesha. Konke bekuhamba kahle ngase ngishaywa yile mbibizane. Empeleni kudala ikhona le nkinga. Mhlawumbe bengingayinaki. Kodwa Shelley akumele ucabange ngento engahlangene nalokhu. Ungethande nawe ukuthi lokhu kwenzeke kuwe.'

'Yini nilokho ningihlanganyela nobabili,' kukhononda uShelley. '*Ayimnandi* leyo nto.'

'Kodwa Shelley sithandwa sami, kumele uyeke ukukhulumela abanye abantu. Kumele ubalalele ukuthi bathini.'

'Kodwa uBrunette ungumngani wami Mama. Akakwazi ukuvele ahlale athule nje angangitsheli ukuthi ukhathazwa yini. Ngingudadewabo,' kuchaza uShelley echiphiza.

'Hhayi-ke mantombazane. Sesifikile. Asiyekeni manje. Sizokhuluma ngalokhu ekhaya ngempelasonto. Angithi uzosivakashela ngempelasonto Brunette?'

'Yebo, ngiyabonga Nkk. Gordon.'

Imoto iyajika ku-Main Road wase-Claremont ingene ku-Ralph Road. Bajika bapake endaweni yokupaka izimoto elapho kwakukwa-OK Bazaars khona. UShelley uqabula umama wakhe esihlathini njengokujwayelekile bese ephuma womabili emotweni amantombazane. Bawelela e-Stadium on Main kungekho okhulumisa omunye baze bafike ekungeneni.

Isahluko sesi-2

Ziyaduma ehholo, kweneme wonke umuntu. Amantombazane abukeka emahle kuma-*leotard* nama-*bodysuit* awo. Bahle ngendlela efanayo nabafana ezikhindini zabo ezithe ne namavesti angenamikhono.

Ngesikhathi bebingelela uShelley abanye bazibiza zozimbili izidlaliso zakhe.

'Ya, Percy! Zikhiphani?'

'Awukahle Bisshy, uthini umgosi,' kusho uSamantha, othanda ukugcona uShelley ngokuthi unguMaMgobhozi womgosi owazi wonke umgosi. Kuhleka wonke umuntu.

'Yini ehlekisayo? Ngabe ngiyinto yokuhlekisa mina?' kubuza uShelley edidekile.

'Cha Percy ayikho into ehlekisayo... ngaphandle...kwendlela eneneme ngayo! Sinibone ningena nje noBrunette ukuthi anikhulumisani.'

'Kulungile-ke mantombazane, ake nisitshele ukuthi kwenzekeni. Anikaze ningene ehholo nibukeka ngendlela enibukeka ngayo, 'kusho uZadie.

'Impela! Asizwe umgosi,' kuphinda uSamantha.

'Angisiye uMaMgobhozi mina. Kumele nginitshele into engingazi lutho ngayo?' kukhononda uShelley. Ucabanga ukukhononda ngezidlaliso azinikezwa ngemuva kokuba kube khona umuntu owathola ukuthi kunembongi yeNgisi ebizwa ngoPercy Bysshe Shelley. Kodwa unquma ukuthi lesi akusona isikhathi esikahle.

Kusenjalo kungena uRaymondo oqhamuka egumbini abagqokela kulona bese ecela wonke umuntu ukuthi abe sendaweni emaphakathi nehholo.

'Namhlanje sizoqhubeka nomdanso womdabu ukuze sikwazi ukulungiselela isigaba esisha soMdanso,' kusho yena.

UThabiso usevele uzijwayeza isigqi somdabu esishayelwa izigubu amabhongo. Benza imigqa emibili, wonke umuntu uzibiza emdansweni, uya ngokukhula umsindo wezigubhu.

Banyakaza bonke manje, ngesinye isikhathi bashintsha izindawo, uRaymondo ushaya ihlombe ehambisana nesigqi sesigubhu esishaywa uThabiso. Baya kwesokudla, baye kwesokunxele, baye phakathi nendawo, phambili kanye nasemuva.

UThabs ungungoti wesigqi. URaymondo naye ungena ekudanseni.

'Qhubeka kanjalo Thabiso ungayeki,' esho ememeza emkhuthaza!'

UThabiso udlala izigubhu njengongcweti. Kuphela amahora amabili agcwele umculo kanye nomdanso kugcine iqembu lithokozile futhi limatasatasa. Ekugcineni kuze kufike esiphethweni somsebenzi wosuku

'Hheyi, nimbonile uRaymondo ukuthi ujika kanjani?' kuhleka uRegan. 'Hhayi, ziyabuya!'

'Ubekhumbula izinsuku zakhe zobusha, beningakuboni yini lokho?' kusho uZadie.

'Umbona ngendlela ebejika ngayo ukuthi wayehamba ama-*nightclub*, nithini nina?' kusho uRashaad, ehleka, 'Konke lokhu ukwenza ngenxa yokuthanda umdanso nje.'

Ingxoxo ibuye isuke kuRaymondo ibuyele kobekukhulunywa ngakho ngaphambi kokuqala kokuzilolongela umdanso.

'Phela Brunette, ubuzositshela ukuthi kwenzakalani phakathi kwakho noShelley,' kusho uRegan, efuna ukuchazelwa ngalokhu.

UBrunette ube esebaxoxela indaba yamantombazane amabili asesiteshini samaphoyisa. Banquma ngaleso sikhathi ukudingida lokhu kafushane. UMncedisi ubiza uRaymondo egumbini abagqokela kulona. Iqembu lihlala kukhaphethi. URashaad ukhuluma kuqala.

'Niyazi ukuthini bangani bami? Ngicabanga ukuthi usemningi umsebenzi okumele siwenze. Sengathi akumele sithathe le nkinga njengenkinga eyenzeka kumantombazane asemancane aselokishini kuphela. Izinhlangothi zombili zinezinkinga ezifanayo.'

Bavuma ngamakhanda ngesikhathi uRashaad eqhubeka nokukhuluma.

'Nama-model C nawo aziphatha ngenye indlela. Aye ezikoleni zabelungu ngenxa yokuthi abazali bawo benemali yokukhokha imali efunwa khona. Nabo ngingathi "bayisizukulwane esilahlekile" ngisho bona impela labo abanabazali abanezinto. Bayabhema, basebenzisa izidakamizwa, benza sengathi bangcono kunabo bonke abantu ngenxa yokuphathiswa okwamaqanda.'

URegan uvumelana noRashaad.

'Ya, indlela abakhuluma ngayo, mos, bacabanga ukuthi bamhlophe, nokuthi bafunde kakhulu, kanti futhi e ... lithini konje leli gama?.. ba-assimilated, nè? Benza yonke imikhutshana eyenziwa abelungu. Kodwa ngesinye isikhathi kuyahlekisa uma benza iphutha bese bekhohlwa ukukhuluma njengamaMerikana.'

Ngemuva kwengxoxo uThabiso wenza isiphakamiso.

'Kulungile bafowethu, asikwazi ukuyibalekela le nkinga. Isithinta sonke. Kunjani ukuthi siyixazulule ngohlelo lwasemphakathini oluthile?'

'Usho ukuthini Thabs?'

'Singaya emiphakathini eyahlukene sifundise umdanso khona. Singaba ikhongco phakathi kwalezi zinto ezimbili okungamasiko kanye nomdanso.'

Lo mqondo uthandwa yiwo wonke umuntu eqenjini leSiyagruva, baqhamuka nokuningi okungenziwa.

'Singenza ukuthi izingane zaleyo ndawo zize ehholo lomphakathi,' kusho

uMncedisi.

'Singakhohlwa i-Cape Flats – kunezinkinga ezifanayo nalaphaya,' kusho uRegan ebakhumbuza.

'Sidinga imoto ezosihambisa ezindaweni,' kusho uZaide.

Banquma ukuthi bazocabanga ngalokhu bese beba nomhlangano wesibili ngoMsombuluko ngehora lesihlanu nqo ezimpondweni. Uphela kamnandi umhlangano. Isikhathi manje sithi ligamenxe ihora lesi-5 ntambama. Uphelile umsebenzi wosuku, abadansi beSiyagruva bayagoduka.

Kusele umzuzu owodwa nje ukuthi uMncedisi afike ekhaya ekamelwaneni lendlu yalo osebenza lapha ekhaya lapho ehlala khona nomama wakhe.

URashaad uzothatha itekisi eliya eHarfield Village lapho ehlala khona noanti kanye nomalume wakhe.

UThabiso noRaymondo bangabokugcina ukuhamba ngoba uRaymondo uhambisa uThabiso kubo eKhayelitsha. UMncedisi uye asale naye ukuze asize uThabiso ukuthi angene emotweni kaRaymondo, kanti futhi ufaka isihlalo esihamba ngamasondo ebhuthini.

UZaide noRegan baya ngezinyawo esiteshini sesitimela saseClaremont.

USam, uShelley noBrunette balinde ukulandwa umama kaShelley. Uzobeka uSamantha ehhovisi likababa wakhe, bese eya eGardens lapho uBrunette ezochitha khona impelasonto noShelley.

Irenke yamatekisi, i-Kentucky Fried Chicken, i-Station Café zonke lezi zindawo zigcwele ngoLwesihlanu ntambama. Ngesikhathi amantombazane amathathu esabuka lesi siphithiphithi sakusihlwa kufika umama kaShelley bese begibela emotweni. Banyamala esiminyaminyeni sezimoto ezisemgwaqweni.

Isahluko sesithathu

Kukhona umuntu ongakafiki eSiyagruva Scene namhlanje. Akakafiki uSamantha. Kungani engakafiki? Ngabe kukhona yini okumehlele? Bayazibuza bonke lapha eqenjini kodwa akekho owaziyo. Akazange abashayele ucingo abatshele ukuthi akezi. Bayazi bonke ukuthi kufanele bashaye ucingo basho uma bengezi noma uma bezofika ngemuva kwesikhathi.

Njengomngani wakhe omhlophe uShelley, uSamantha uhlale enze isiqiniseko sokuthi umakhalekhukhwini wakhe uhlale ulapho ezowuzwa khona. Uhlale esocingweni, esho okuthile kumuntu othile, okwenye indawo – ngaphandle uma kufundwa esikoleni kanye nangesikhathi sokufundwa komdanso.

Kungani-ke engakashayi ucingo? Ukuphi?

Kungena bani egijima e-studio ngaleso sikhathi? USamantha exolisa

ngokufika ngemuva kwesikhathi.

Kwehla uvalo ngesikhathi iqembu limbona, abantu bajabuliswa ukumbona. Bajabule futhi manje. USam usefikile.

'Ubukuphi?'

'Wehlelwe yini?'

"Ngabe konke kuhamba kahle?

Imibuzo ingena ilandelana. Wonke umuntu ufuna ukwazi izindaba.

'Anikahleni bakwethu,' kucela uBrunette.

'Akukho nkinga. Yehlisani umoya bakwethu,' kusho uSamantha, esho ngokumamatheka okuhle. 'Ngempela akukho lutho. Angilimalanga, kunento nje eyenzeke ekhaya. Ngiyaxolisa bakwethu ngokuthi ngingashayi ucingo ngisho.'

'Kwenzekeni kini? Kwenzenjani?'

'Inkinga ibikumfowethu omncane uNtobeko. Usitshele ukuthi...'

Ngibuye esikoleni ngilambile njengasemihleni. . Imoto kaMama ibingekho endledlaneni yemoto esebaleni ngakho angizange ngizihluphe ngokungqongqoza. Ngizungeze indlu isikhathi eside ngoba bengingazi ukuthi ngingenzenjani. Bengigxumagxuma ngizama ukubona ngaphakathi, kanti sengizobona ukuthi ifasitela lasekamelweni lokugezela livuliwe. Ngiqale ngaphosa ngaphakathi isikhwama sami ngase ngithatha umqqomo ukuze ngigibele ngikwazi ukweqa ukuze ngingene ngaphakathi. Bekuphakeme, ngakho kube nzima ukugibela. Umlenze wami owodwa ubusungaphezulu ngesikhathi ngizwa umsindo wezimoto ezima ngokushesha. Beza kimi begijima onogada ababili bakwa-Pinewatch. Ngishaywe uvalo, azange ngehle – umlenze owodwa ungaphakathi omunye ungaphandle. Unogada oyedwa ukhiphe isibhamu sakhe wangikhomba ngaso. Omunye wagxuma ukuze angehlise odongeni. Ungilalise phansi wangicindezela ngedolo emhlane. Wangisesha. Uma eseqedile wangibelethisa izandla wangigaxa ozankosi. Wangigxavuna, ngezwa ukushisa ebhulukweni lami. Bengazi kahle ukuthi kwenziwa yini.

'Wenzani? Uzama ukuntshontsha? Lesi sigebengwana esincane!'

Ngivele ngababheka nje kwathi qathaqatha izinyembezi. Bebengihudula beya nami emotweni. Lona omunye ubesabeke isibhamu ekhanda lami.

'Nou sal die poppe dans!' ("Sekuzobonakala-ke manje!") kusho omunye wabo.

Kwafika ezinye ezimbili futhi izimoto zakwa-Pinewatch. Kwaphuma amanye futhi amadoda amane. Bengicabanga ukuthi bazongishaya. Kwathi gidi uvalo ngesikhathi ngibona omakhelwane beza, kodwa bengingezwa kahle ukuthi bamemeza bathini, 'Uye! Uye lesi sigebengwana lesi! Ngimbonile ezama ukuntshontsha!'

'Angenzanga lutho! Bengilambile, bengifuna ukungena endlini,' ngizama ukuchaza.

Ngingakaqhubeki ngezwa elinye izwi elimemezayo. Limemeza kakhulu.

'Niyenzani indodana yami? Nimenzani umntanami?'

BekunguMama. Nami ngazicabangela nje ukuthi 'Sekuzokonakala-ke manje.'

'Uneminyaka eyi-12 kuphela bakwethu! Ugaxelweni ozankosi? Nike nimthinte nje? Futhi nimkhombeleni ngesibhamu?'

'Ngabe umfana wakho lona?'

'Awuzwa ezindlebeni? Mdedeleni njengamanje! Kungenjalo ngizonibophisa! Nina-ke – nibukani? Yini nibukele nje ningenzi lutho ngalokhu? Animsizi ngani kodwa? Bengicabanga ukuthi singomakhelwane.'

Ngalesi sikhathi base bekhishiwe ozankosi, ngase ngigijima ngiya kuMama oqabule isihlakala sami ukuze ngizizwe ngingcono.

Abadansi beSiyagruva balalele uSamantha ngesikhathi echaza ukuthi kwenzekeni. Bahlahle amehlo ngesikhathi belalele kahle.

UShelley uthukuthele.

'Ngabe zisenzeka izinto ezifana nalezi? Angikholwa! Laba bantu bacabanga ukuthi bangobani nje nempela? Kwenzekeni eNingizimu Afrika entsha? Kusizani ukuthi ukhululeke uma ungeke ukwazi ukuhlala lapho ufuna ukuhlala khona?'

Wonke umuntu uzama ukwehlisa ukuphakama kwemimoya kaShelley noSamantsha.

'Uma umnyama uhlala endaweni esedolebheni okuthiwa eyabamhlophe efana ne-Pinelands, uhlale usolwa ngokuthile,' kuchaza uSamantha.

'Ngiyayazi le nto oyishoyo Sam,' kusho uRashaad, 'kodwa lokhu akwenzeki yonke indawo – abantu baphilisana kahle kwezinye izindawo.'

'Angazi kangako ngalokhu,' kusho uRegan.

Ngaphambi kokuba kushube isimo uRaymondo ucebisa ngokuthi baqedele abakwenzayo bagoduke.