

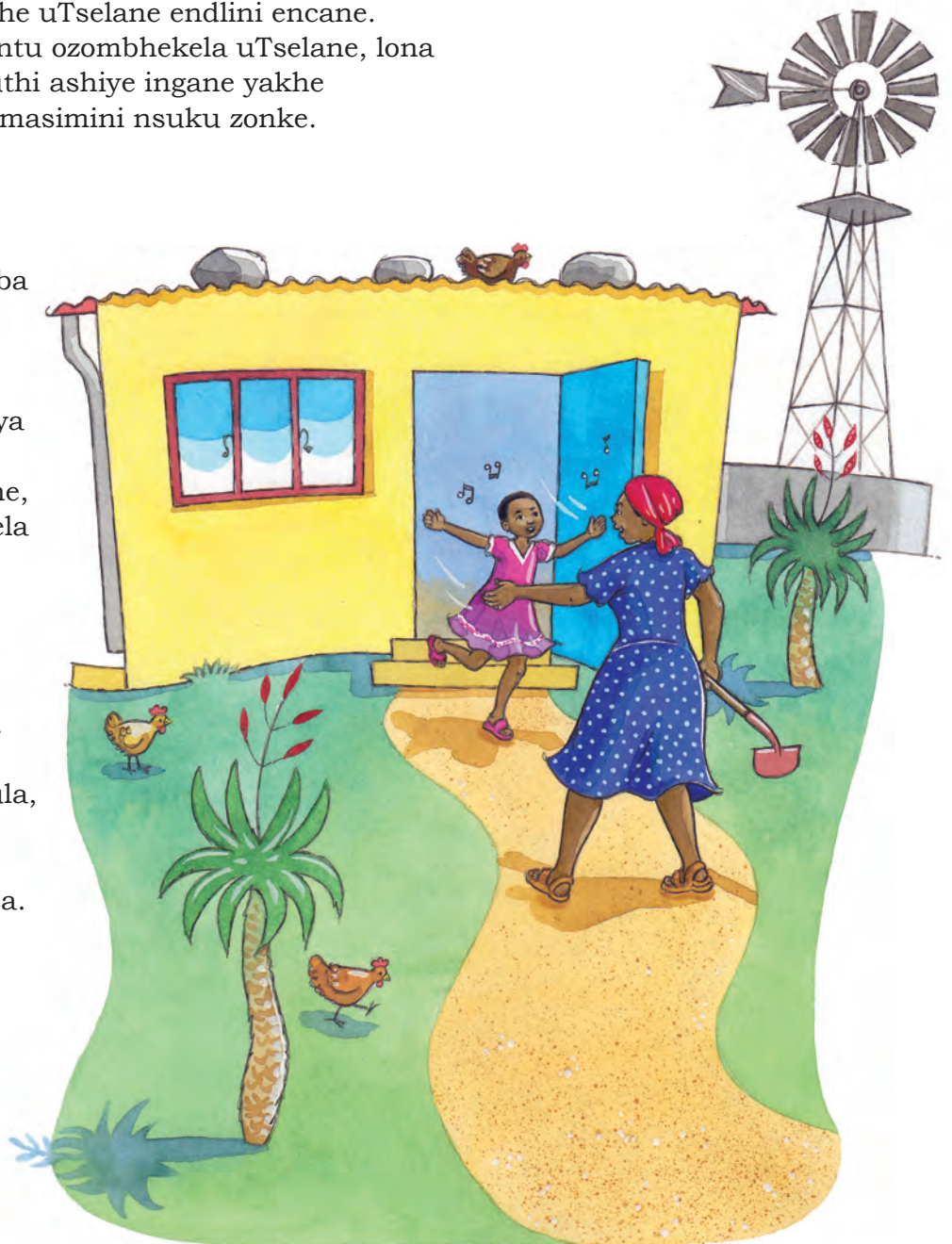
UTselane nezimuzimu

Endulo ngesikhathi amazimuzimu esazula emhlabeni, nezinkukhu zisakhuluma, kwakukhona owesifazane ompofu owayehlala nendodakazi yakhe uTselane endlini encane. Njengoba wayengenaye umuntu ozombhekela uTselane, lona wesifazane waphoqeleka ukuthi ashiye ingane yakhe yodwa ngesikhathi eyolima emasimini nsuku zonke.

Empeleni, unina kaTselane wayefuna umntanakhe aphephe, ngakho njalo ekuseni ngesikhathi esehamba ekhaya, wayekhumbuza uTselane ukuthi *angalinge* avulele *mntu* umnyango. Kanti njalo uma ebuya ekhaya wayemculela iculo elithi, “Tselane, ngane yami, Tselane, ngane yami, woza uzongivulela umnyango!”

Bese uTselane, owayelindele ukuzwa iphimbo likanina elimnandi, aphendule ngeyakhe ingoma emfishane. “Yebo, Mama, ngiyakuzwa! Yebo, Mama, sengifikile!” ecula, evula umnyango okhiyiwe, emamatheka kakhulu futhi enkonkoshela unina emqinisa.

Ngelinye ilanga, izimuzimu elikhohlakele, eliyigovu, elalihlala eduze nabo lezwa laba ababili beculelana. “Mmmm,” lasho, kuconsa amathe likhotha nezindebe zalo, “leyo ngane izwakala sengathi iyisidlo esimnandi, esithambile!”





Emva kwezinsuku ezimbalwa, lapho izimuzimu selilambe kakhulu, lahamba laya kubo kaTselane. Seliphambi komnyango ladonsa umoya kakhulu, lavula umlomo walo lacula, “Tselane, ngane yami, Tselane, ngane yami, woza uzongivulela umnyango!”

Kodwa uTselane wavele wahleka nje. “Hamba la!” kusho yena. “Izwi lakho elibhodlayo, elibi alisondeli nokusondela ezwini likamama wami elihle!”

Izimuzimu lazizwa lithukuthele kakhulu.

Lanquma ukuya esangomeni ukuze liyothola usizo. “Yidla lokhu,” kusho isangoma, silinikeza insimbi eshisayo. “Kuzoshintsha indlela okuzwakala ngayo izwi lakho.”

Ngosuku olulandelayo, ngesikhathi izimuzimu liculela uTselane, izwi lalo lalizwakala limnandi futhi lilihle. Icabanga ukuthi unina ubuyile, intombazanyana yacula yavula umnyango ithokozile. Ngokushesha njengonyazi, izimuzimu elikhulu layigxavula layifaka emgodleni walo. Lase liphonsa umgodla onokukhushuzayo emahlombe alo laphuma lishayela phezulu. Lalithokoza kakhulu kangangoba lapho lidlula edilini elenziwe endlini yakwamakhelwane, lanquma ukuhlaba ikhefu ukuze ligubhe ngelikutholile.

“Ake ningiphe utshwala!” limemeza umnini wedili, libeka umgodla walo eduze kwalo ngokucophelela.

“Kulungile,” kusho yena, kodwa ngesikhathi izimu ligoxa utshwala, wezwa izwi elipholile, elidangele eliphuma emgodleni. “Kukhona umuntu ola phakathi!” ekhuluma yedwa umnini wedili. “Kumele simsize!”

Waphendukela ezimuzimini, wathi, “Ngicela uyongikhela amanzi emthonjeni. Ngizokunika ibhakede eligcwele utshwala ngalokho.”

“Ho ho!” kusho izimuzimu eliyigovu, ligxavula ukhamba alunika lona. Lalizokwazi ngani ukuthi lwalunembobo encane? Emthonjeni, lalilokhu lizama ukulugcwalisa ngamanzi – kodwa ngeshwa, aluzange lugcwale.

Emuva endlini, owesifazane nendoda yakhe basiza uTselane ngokumkhipha esakeni ngokushesha, base bemcashisa endlini yabo. Base begcwalisa umgodla ngezinyoka, izinyosi, izintulo, imivi, izinyendle kanye namaxoxo.



Ngemva kwesikhathi eside, izimuzimu labuya namanzi amancane. Lajikijela ukhamba oluvuzayo phansi, lagqolozela owesifazane, lagxavula utshwala kanye nomgodla walo laphuma ligqishazela futhi, ligwavuma. Selifike ekhaya, labeka phansi isaka lase lingena ngaphakathi.

“Ngenisa umgodla wami!”
likhonkotha indodana yalo,
kodwa ngesikhathi umfana
ethatha umgodla, kwandiza
umuvi wantinyela ekhaleni.
“WAAAA!” wakhala,
wagijima wangena endlini.
“WAAAA! WAAAA!”



“UPHI UMGODLA WAMI?” kuthetha izimuzimu. “Awushayeke la njengamanje!”

Kulokhu-ke kwaphuma unkosikazi walo egijima, kodwa kwaphuma inyoka yamluma isandla. “YAAAA!” ekhala kakhulu, egijima engena endlinni. “YAAAA!”

Izimuzimu lase liqhuma ukuthukuthela ngalesi sikhathi. “Phumani!” lisho lithethisa umndeni walo. Lasukuma, lagxavula umgodla walo lase likhiya umnyango.

“Ake ngikubone!” kugwavuma lona ngesikhathi lilunguza emgodleni. Kodwa uyazi ukuthini? Kwaphuma zonke izilwane ezimbi zase ziqala ukulitinyela nokuliluma kanyekanye!
Labhonga izimuzimu, lagxuma lagijima liqonde emnyango, kodwa wawukhiyiwe.

Ekugcineni ngesikhathi selikwazile ukuwuvula, lagijima likhala liya emfuleni, lase liphosa ikhanda lalo odakeni olusosebeni lomfula. Labhajwa lapho, lase liphenduka isihlahla.

Ubobheka isihlahla esinezingodo ezimbili osebeni lomfula – sisekhona nanamhlanje. Kanti uTselane yena, waphinde wabuyela ekhaya kunina ephophile.

