

UThato, umphuphi

Libali likaPirai Mazungunye

Imifanekiso izotywe nguSimphiwe Mangole

Liguqulelwe esiXhoseni nguSindiswa Mbokodi

EDisteneng, umganyana nje oziikhilometha ezintlanu ukusuka ePolokwane, kwakuhlala intombazana egama linguThato. UThato wayehlala nomama wakhe, uMokgadi kwindlu eyayakihiwe ngezibonda nangamazinki – u-*mokhukhu*. Umama kaThato wayesithi kwasekuseni ahambe naye ukuya esikolweni sakhe sabaqalayo eLadanna.

Ngantsasa ithile xa babedlula kwityotyombe eliluhlaza ekoneni, abantu babehleli ngaphandle besela utywala.

“UTlou uhlala apha,” watsho uThato. “Akasayi esikolweni.”

“Uqinisekile?” wabuza uMokgadi.

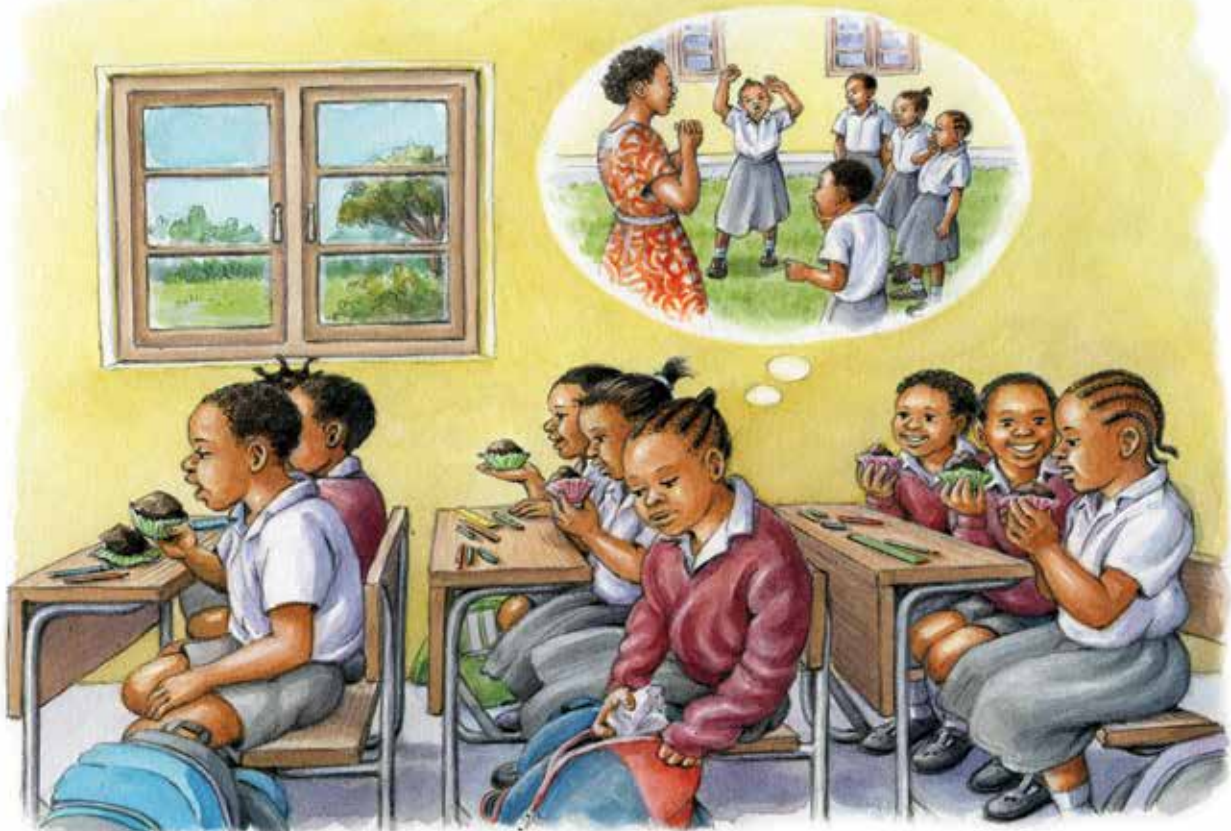
“Ewe. Wathi isikolo sesabantu abazizityebi, hayi abantu abangamahlwempu,” uThato waphendula elusizi.

“Ndiyamkhumbula kakhulu. Wayekuphela komntwana ophuma eDisteneng phaya esikolweni.”

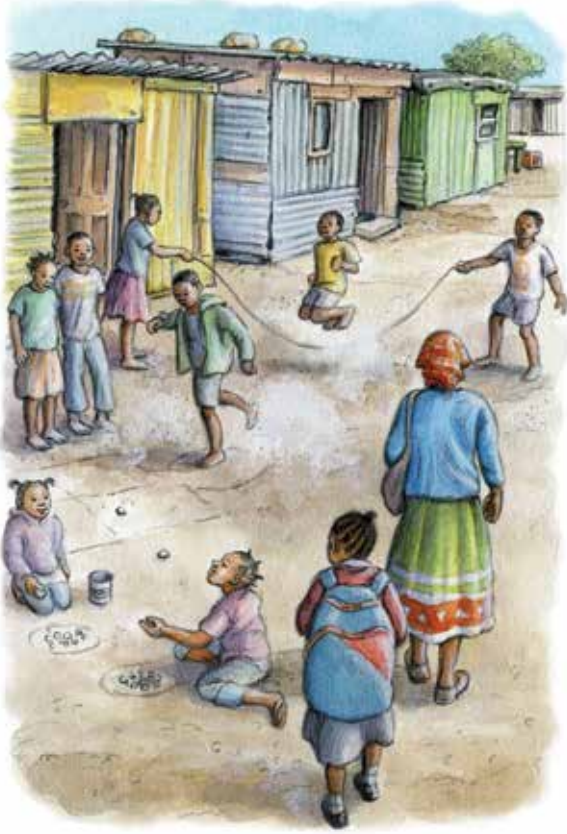
Waza ke uThato wabaleka ngaphambili kukamama wakhe. Ekubeni behlele ngasezantsi endleleni, njengoko babesiya besondela eLadanna, weva intsholo yeentaka. EDisteneng, wayesiva umculo otsholo phezulu.

UThato wayesebenza ngokuzimisela esikolweni. Ngexesha lekhefu, wayesithi qho enze umsebenzi abawunikelwe ukuba bawenze ekhaya kuba kwakunzima ukuwenza ekhaya. Kodwa ke namhlanje yaye ingumhla wokuzalwa kukaGrace kwaye wayethengele wonke umntu eklasini ikeyikana ezincinanana. UNkoskz Sephuma wabanika abantwana ezo keyiki zintle zincinanana. UThato watya iqhekezana lekeyiki yakhe ngokuthe chu. Yayiqatywe ngetshokholethi yaye ivakala switi. Loo nto yamenza uThato wacinga ngomhla wakhe wokuzalwa owawusel’udlulile. Wayengazanga nazikeyiki, kodwa wayeyiculele ingoma iklasi. Utitshala wayeyithandile ingoma, kodwa hayi abantwana. Abanye babo babequmbile, abanye besithi “Ntombazana yo-*Mokhukhu!* Heyi Ntombazana yo-*Mokhukhu* – wena uwubona umbane ngaphesheya komlambo – iphi ikeyiki yethu?”

Wathi uThato xa eyicinga le nto, waziva engasenamdlawokuyitya ikeyiki yakhe. Wayisongela leyo yayisele ephapheni waza wayifaka kubhaka wakhe weencwadi. Wandula wathabatha incwadi yakhe yokubhala, wenza umsebenzi wakhe wesikolo owenzelwa ekhaya.



Ukuphuma kwesikolo, uThato wahamba emva kukamama wakhe ukugoduka. Wathi xa esondela kulaa kona kwakukho kuyo ityotyombe eliluhlaza, wabona abantwana ababemhlophe luthuli ukusukela ezintloko ukuya ezinyaweni. Babedlala imidlalo – *i-kgati*, *i-tshere tshere ne-diketo* – ecaleni kwendlela.



“Nantso isiza intombazana yesikolo,” watsho omnye wabo ekhomba uThato. Abantwana bayeka ukudlala. Amantombazana awayedlala *i-diketo* ayeka ukucula. Bajonga uThato enxibe iyunifom eyayinkulu kakhulu kuye. UThato wayengakunanzanga ukubizwa ngokuba uyintombazana yesikolo. Oku kwakubhetele kunamagama awayebizwa ngawo esikolweni.

“Ubuyile,” batsho bonke ngaxesha linye.

“Kufuneka nibuyele esikolweni,” watsho uThato. “Singahamba sonke ukuya esikolweni.”

“Siye esikolweni?” bahleka. “Soze! Akukho nto unokuyifumana apho!”

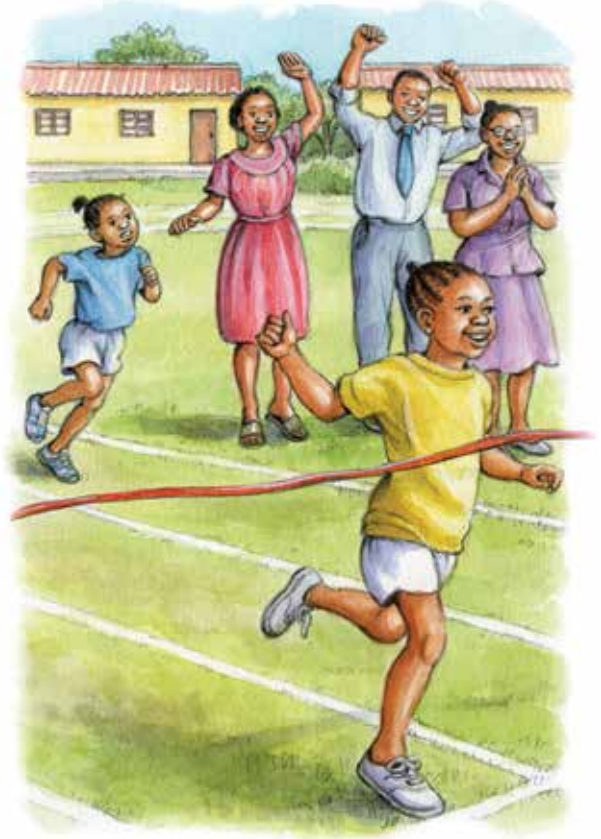
Oku kwakuqhubeka iintsuku ngeentsuku. Ngamanye amaxesha uThato wayekhathazeka ade alile. Ngamanye amaxesha wayecaphuka aze abaphendule ekhwaza.

“Igama lam asingoNtombazana *yo-mokhukhu!* NdinguThato! Ninethamsanqa nina, enazikhethelayo abazali benu! Ukuba ndandiceliwe ukuba ndikhethe, ngendiyintombi yenqununu kwaye ndihlala endlwini enkulu!”

Abanye abantwana babehleka, kodwa abanye bathi, “Unyanisile. Zange sizikhethele apho sazalelwa khona. UThato unyanisile.” Emva koko bambiza kuphela njengoThato.

“Kunceda ntoni?” latsho iqedlana labantwana abanolunya. “Wasiculela ngemini yokuzalwa kwakhe. Ngoku ke siza kucula ingoma nathi: uThato, intombazana *yo-mokhukhu*, umphuphi.” Emva koko bamlandela bejikeleza iyadi yesikolo becula ingoma yabo enolunya. “UThato. intombazana *yo-mokhukhu*, umphuphi.” Beyiphinda-phinda.

Kodwa ke izinto azihlali zinjalo ngonaphakade. Wathi uThato akufikelela kubudala obuminyaka ilithoba, waba nako ukuthatha inxaxheba kwimidlalo yesikolo. Bathi beqala nje ootitshala bakhe ukumbona ebaleka, baqonda ukuba uya kuba yintshatsheli!



“Kufuneka uziqhelise qho ukuphuma kwesikolo, Thato,” watsho uNkosz Sephuma.

Ntsuku zonke, uNkosz Sephuma wayempha uThato isonka esihlohlweyo kunye neziqhamo ngexesha bengekho abanye abantwana. Ntsuku zonke, uThato wayeziqhelisa.

Ngeentsuku zemidlalo yesikolo, uThato wayephuma phambili kulo lonke ugqatso. “Ngoku kufuneka ubalakele isikolo! Kufuneka usincede siphumelele ukhuphiswano lwemidlalo kulo nyaka,” yatsho inqununu, inika uThato ingxowana enkulu.



UThato azange ayivule ingxowana leyo de wayokufika ekhaya, kodwa wathi umama wakhe akuba eluvalile ucango, uThato wayivula ingxowana. Ngaphakathi kwakukho izihlangu zokubaleka, izikhindi zokubaleka nesikhipha. UThato wabaleka nangaphezulu ngezihlangu zakhe zokubaleka.



Zange kube kudala baze bathi aba bantwaana babembiza ngokuba yintombazana yo-mokhukhu baqalisa ukuthi yintombazana eyimbumbulu.

“Nantso intombazana eyimbumbulu!” Babekholisa ukukhwaza xa wayedlula kubo ngesantya kwibala lemidlalo. Baza basoloko bemkhuthaza qho elugqatsweni besithi, “Baleka, Thato, mphuphi, baleka. Baleka, ntombazana eyimbumbulu!”

Emva kweminyaka emibini yokuziqhelisa ntsuku zonke nokutya ukutya okongeziweyo awayekuphathelwa esikolweni nguNkoskz Sephuma, uThato waba yenye yezona mbaleki zinesantya esiphezulu eLimpopo.

Ngenye imini uThato wabaleka waya kumama wakhe owayelinde esangweni lesikolo. “Mama, Mama!” wakhwaza. “Ndikwiqela laseLimpopo! Ndiya eKapa neli qela!”

Inqununu yazongeza iingxowana zikaThato. Yabakho ehamba nezihlangu zokubaleka nenye ehamba nempahla yokubaleka. Izikhipha zonke zazinombhalo weLimpopo. Kwakukho nengxowa enekepusi, iijini nebhatyi. Kwakukwakho nengxowana enekhadi lebhanki leplastiki elalinemali awayeza kuyisebenzisa kolu hambo luya eKapa.

Lakufika ixesha lokuba iqela laseLimpopo linduluke ukuya eKapa, kwafika ibhasi enezitulo ezitofotofo neneefestile ezenziwe mnyama izokubathatha kwisikolo sakhe. Wamwola uMokgadi esithi asale kakuhle waza wonyuka ngezitephusi zebhasi. Wathi xa ejika ephakamisa isandla ukuthi ndlela-ntle, wabona uTlou emi ngakunina. Emva kwakhe kwakumi abahlobo bakhe abanothuli baseDisteneng.

Wakhumbula elaa xesha babefudula besithi yintombazana yesikolo. Wancuma. “Kufuneka nibuyele esikolweni nina,” watsho.

UThato wayengoyena ugqwesileyo kugqatso lweemitha ezilikhulu kubantwana abalingana naye. Babhala ngaye kwiphephandaba lasekuhlaleni baza bathetha ngaye kunomathotholo. Babembiza ngokuba yintombi yegolide esakhulayo. Esikolweni uThato wawongwa ngembasa ngexesha lendibano yesikolo yakusasa. Bonke abantwana nootitshala bamqhwabela izandla. Baza bamvumela ingoma beyiphindaphinda, “UThato, intombi yegolide, umphuphi.”



Yenza ibali linike umdla!

Nazi iingcebiso onokuzisebenzisa kwibali elikwiphepha loku-1 kuye kwele-3 nabantwana eklasini yakho na-/okanye kwiklabhu yokufunda. Khetha iingcebiso ezilungelana neminyaka nemidla yabantwana.

- ★ Phambi kokuba ulifunde ibali, buza abantwana ngezinto abanqwenela ukuba zizo xa sebekhulile. Uze ulitshayebele ibali ngokuthi uza kwabelana nabo ngebali elingomntwana owayengumphuphi.
- ★ Emva kokuba ulifundile ibali, xoxani ngomba wokuphathwa kakubi kwabantwana ngabanye abantwana. Nantsi imibuzo onokuyibuza:
 - Ucinga ukuba kutheni abantwana uThato bembiza ngamagama afana nentombazana yo-*mokhukhu*?
 - Ngewawenze ntoni ukuba wawunguThato?
 - Ngewawenze ntoni ukuba wawukhona xa babembiza amagama uThato?
 - Ucinga ukuba umntu umphatha kakubi omnye umntu ukuba umbiza amagama?

- ★ Phuma nabantwana phandle uze ubohlule babe ngamaqela. Cela iqela ngalinye ukuba lithathe isigqibo ngomdlalwana abangathanda ukuwudlala uze uvumele onke amaqela adlale imidalo yawo. Emva kwemizuzu emalunga neshumi, cela umntu abe mnye kwiqela ngalinye ukuba adlulele kwelinye iqela elitsha ukuze alifundise umdlalo weqela avela kulo. Qhuba ngolu hlobo ade abe onke amaqela ayidlalile yonke imidlalo.
- ★ Cebisa abantwana ukuba bazobe eyona ndawo bayithandayo apha ebalini baze bakopele isihloko sebali phantsi komzobo. Bangongeza kubuhle bemizobo yabo ngokuncamathisela iziqwengana zamalaphu, iphepha eliyimibalabala elisikwe kwimagazini, ikhadibhodi, intlama ebengezelayo okanye intlathi.
- ★ Cebisa abantwana ukuba babhale inqaku lephephandaba ngoThato. Bangazibhalela bona ngokunokwabo okanye ningalibhala nonke ngokusebenzisana.

Malunga neprojekthi yeStory Powered Schools

UNal'ibali liphulo likazwelonke lokufundela ukuzonwabisa nokuvuselela oko abantwana banokukwazi ukukwenza ngokubalisa amabali nokufunda.

IStory Powered Schools liphulo eliyimvelatanci lenkqubo ezisa indlela yokuphuhlisa ilitheresi yephulo likaNal'ibali lokufundela ukuzonwabisa kwizikolo zasemaphandleni ezikwiphondo laseMpuma Koloni nelaKwaZulu-Natala. Eli phulo liqinisekiswa liSebe lezeMfundo, yaze inkxaso-mali yokulixuma yanikezelwa yiUnited States Agency for International Development (iUSAID).

Izikolo ezithatha inxaxhela kwiprojekthi yeStory Powered Schools zizimisele ukuvuselela oko abafundi banokukwazi ukukwenza ngokubalisa amabali nokufunda. Zisebenzisa amandla amabali ukukhuthaza abafundi ukuba bafune ukufunda nokubhala.

