

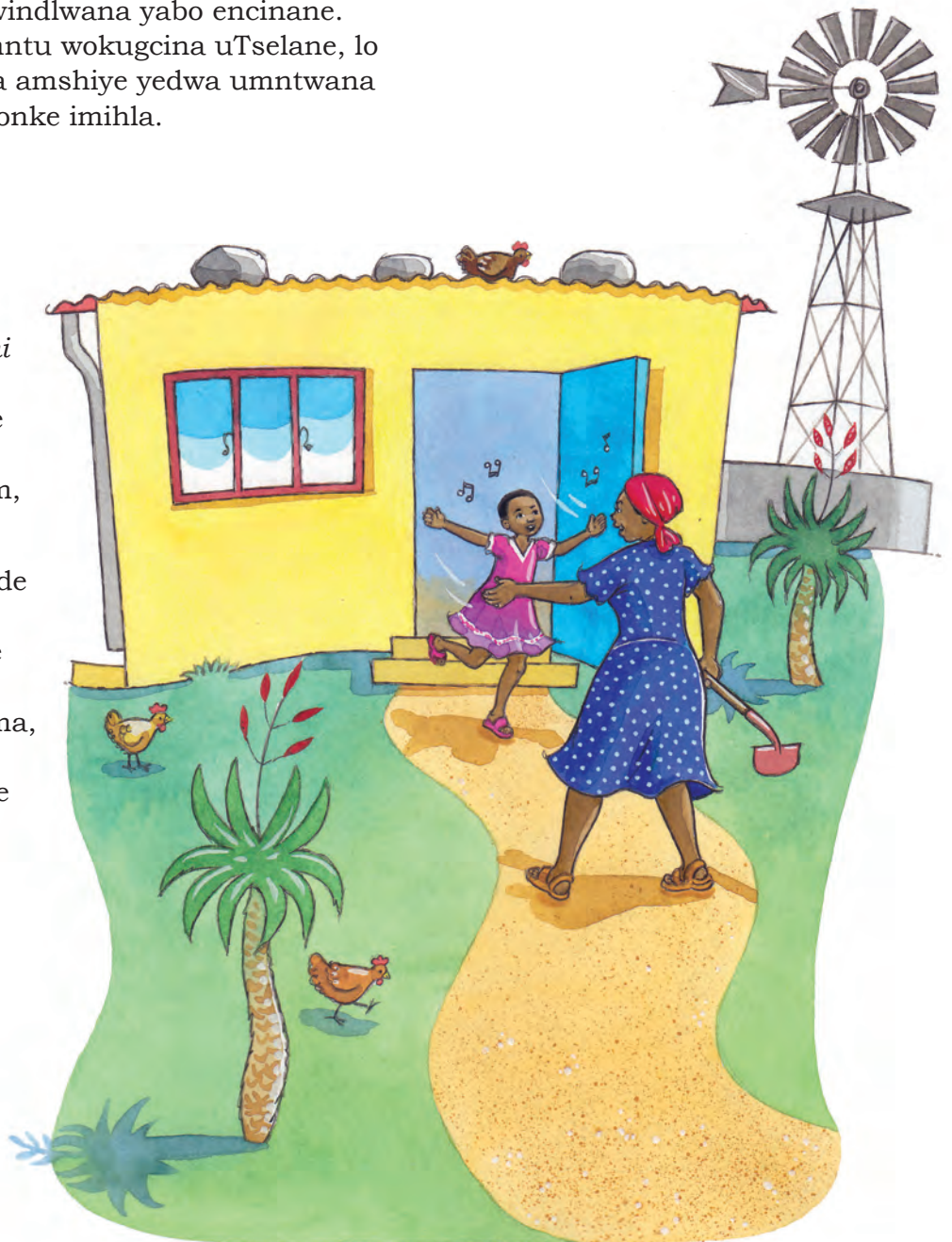
uTselane kunye nesigebenga

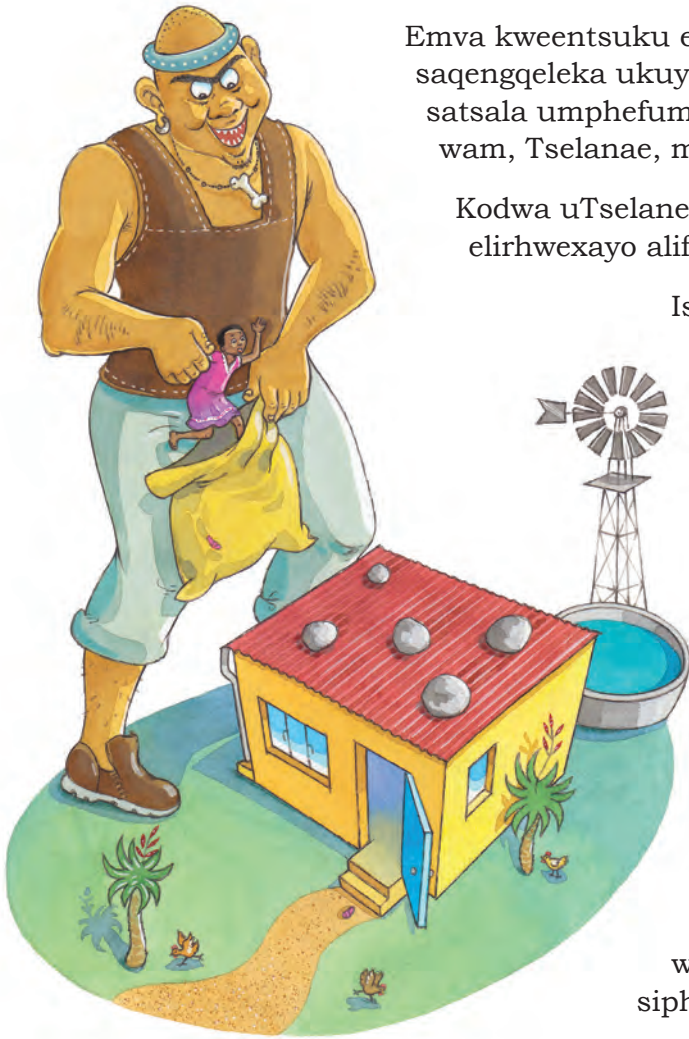
Kudala-dala, ngethuba izigebenga zazizula-zula neenkukhu zikwazi ukuthetha, kwakukho umfazi ohluphekayo owayehlala nentombi yakhe uTselane kwindlwana yabo encinane. Njengokuba kwakungekho mntu wokugcina uTselane, lo mfazi wayenyanzeleka ukuba amshiye yedwa umntwana xa esiya kulima emasimini yonke imihla.

Ngokuqinisekileyo, umama wakhe wayefuna ukuba uTselane akhuseleke, ngoko ke xa esimka ekhaya, wayemkhumbuza uTselane ukuba *angaze* avulele *nabani* na emnyango. Kwaye qho xa efika ekhaya, wayemculela le ngoma, “Tselane, mntwana wam, Tselane, mntwana wam, yiza undivulele umnyango!”

Aze yena uTselane, owayelinde ukuva ilizwi likamama wakhe elimnandi, aphendule ngeyakhe ingoma. “Ewe, mama, ndiyakuva! Ewe, Mama, ndiyakuva!” wayecula atsho, evula umnyango sele encume kade aze amange umama wakhe ngovuyo.

Ngenye imini, isigebenga esikhohlakeleyo nesibawayo esasihlala kufutshane sabeva beculelana aba babini. “Mmmm,” satsho sivuza izinkcwe sizikhotha umlomo, “laa mntwana uvakala ngathi kukutya okunencasa nokuthambe kamnandi!”





Emva kweentsuku ezimbalwa, sathi sakuziva silambile isigebenga, saqengqeleka ukuya kuloTselane. Kumnyango wangaphambili satsala umphefumlo, savula umlomo sacula, “Tselane, mntwana wam, Tselanae, mntwana wam, yiza undivulele umnyango!”

Kodwa uTselane wasuka wahleka. “Hamba!” watsho. “Ilizwi lakho elirhwexayo alifani kwaphela nelizwi elimnandi likamama wam!”

Isigebenga saba nomsindo. Sagqiba kwelokuba siye egqirheni sifune uncedo. “Ginya oku.” latsho igqirha, limnika intsinjana encinane ebomvu krwe kukutshisa. “Le ntsinjana iza kuyitshintsha indlela ilizwi lakho elivakala ngayo.”

Ngosuku olulandelayo, xa isigebenga siculela uTselane, ilizwi laso lalivakala licula kamnandi. Icinga ukuba umama wayo ubuyile, le ntombazana yaphendula ngeyayo ingoma yavula umnyango ivuya. Ngokukhawuleza kombane, isigebenga esikhohlakeleyo samthi nqaku samphosa engxoweni yaso. Sayityatha egxeni loo ngxowa ikhabalazayo sahamba. Sasoneliseke kakhulu ngumsebenzi waso kangangokuba sathi xa sidlula umzi wommelwane onetheko, sagqiba kwelokuba sikhe siphumle sibhiyoze nabantu naso.

“Khawundiphe umqombothi!” satsho ngelizwi laso elikhulu kusotheko, sabeka ingxowa yaso kakuhle ecaleni kwaso.

“Kulungile,” watsho usotheko, kodwa lo gama isigebenga sisagongqoza sisela, kwevakala ilizwi liphuma engxoweni. “Kukho umntu kulaa ngxowa!” watsho usotheko ezithethela. “Kufuneka simncede!”

Waguquka wajonga isigebenga, waze wathi, “Nceda uye kundikhelela amanzi emfuleni. Ukubuya kwakho ndiza kukupha ibhekile yonke yomqombothi.”

“Ho ho!” satsho isigebenga esibawayo, silithi hlasi iselwa awasinika lona. Sasingazi njani ukuba elo selwa lalinomngxuma omncinane? Emfuleni, wazama, wazama, wazama ukulizalisa ngamanzi – kodwa lalingakwazi ukuzala iselwa.

Emva ekhaya, lo mfazi nomyeni wakhe bakhawuleza banceda uTselane bamkhupha engxoweni, baze bamfihla endlwini yabo. Bazalisa iingxowa ngeenyoka, iinyosi, amacikilishe, oonomeva, iinyenzane namasele.



Emva kwexesha elide, isigebenga sabuya nentwana yamanzi. Safika salijula iselwa, sajonga umfazi, sathi hlasi ibhekile yomqombothi nengxowa yaso saphuma ngomsindo, simbombozela, sidumzela. Endlwini yaso safika sabeka phantsi ingxowa sangena ngaphakathi.

“Ngenisa ingxowa yam!” satsho ngelizwi elikhulu kunyana waso, kodwa xa inkwenkwe iphakamisa ingxowa, unomeva wabhabha waphuma wayiluma empumleni. “WAAAA!” yakhala, ibaleka ingena ngaphakathi endlwini. “WAAAA! WAAAA!”



“IPHI INGXOWA YAM?” sakhwaza isigebenga. “Yizise ngokukhawuleza!”

Ngoku, yaba ngumfazi wakhe owakhawuleza waphuma phandle, kodwa inyoka yathi phinyi iphuma engxoweni yamluma esandleni. “YAAAA!” wakhwaza ekhala, ebaleka engena endlwini. “YAAAA!”

Ngeli xesha isigebenga sasisele sinomsindo. “Phumani!” sakhwaza singxolisa usapho lwaso. Saphakama sathi hlasi ingxowa saze satshixa ucango.

“Mandikubone ke wena!” sambombozela, isigebenga sakroba engxoweni. Kodwa, qashela? Zonke izilwanyana zaphuma zaqalisa ukusiluma zonke ngaxeshanye. Sigquma, isigebenga satsiba saya emnyango, kodwa umnyango wawutshixiwe. Ekugqibeleni sada sawuvula, sagqotsa ukuya emlanjeni, saziphosa ngentloko emanzini anodaka omlambo. Saye saxinga apho, sajika sangumthi.

Khangela umthi oneziqu ezimbini ngathi yimilenze yomntu ecaleni komlambo – uselapho nanamhlanje. Yena ke uTselane, kungekudala wabuyela kumama wakhe ekhaya ekhuselekile.

