

Not today, Sekhametsi!

Written by Mabel Mnensa

Illustrated by Chantelle and Burgen Thorne

Sekhametsi can feel that today is going to be a very special day.

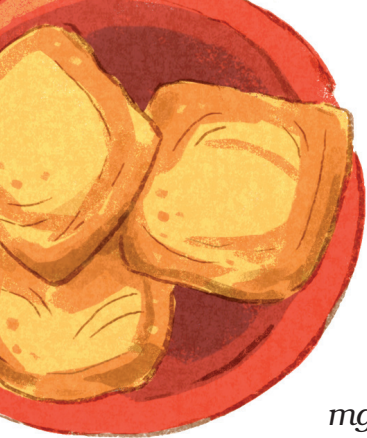
She looks for her takkies and socks under her bed. She looks for her shorts behind the door. “An adventure to the roof of our flat would be perfect. Maybe I can find some treasures.”

“Nope. Not today, Sekhametsi,” says Mama.

“You cannot get dirty. Go bath,” adds Papa.

Sekhametsi sulks. “If Auntie Sindi were here she would have gone up to the roof with me and shown me treasures and gold.”





After eating her breakfast, Sekhametsi sees her friends playing downstairs. Maybe it will be a special day after all.

She looks at Mama and Papa and smiles. "It's the perfect day to play *mgusha*. Can I go play?"

Mama shakes her head. "Nope. Not today, Sekhametsi. You cannot get dirty. Stay close to me."

Sekhametsi sulks. "If Auntie Sindi were here she would have let me play with my friends. I thought today was going to be special."

The smell of delicious cooking leads Sekhametsi to the kitchen. There is a plate of steaming vetkoek on the counter. Carrots, lettuce and tomatoes are being chopped for a salad. And is that a cake in the oven? Maybe today is special after all! She creeps in and tries to taste just one vetkoek.

Mama slaps her hand away, "Nope. Not today, Sekhametsi. I'm saving this for later."

Sekhametsi folds her hands. "If Auntie Sindi were here she would have let me taste everything, even the dough."



Sekhametsi is in her blanket, sulking. "Today is not special after all. It is so boring."

Papa takes the blanket off her head, "Nope. Not today, Sekhametsi. Come, I need you to come with us to the station."

Sekhametsi gets up crossly. "If Auntie Sindi was here she would have let me stay in bed and told me a story, or two."



Mama, Papa and Sekhametsi walk to Park Station. Sekhametsi is sulking so she does not see the rainbow in the distance or hear the group singing her favourite song at the corner. She would rather be home, on the roof or with her friends.

“This is the worst day ever,” she says.

“Nope. Not today, Sekhametsi. Look!” Mama and Papa both say. “Surprise!”

Sekhametsi looks up to see a super special person walking towards them.

“Auntie Sindi!” she shouts, running towards her favourite auntie.

Auntie Sindi scoops Sekhametsi up into her arms.

“I can’t wait to go on the roof with you to ride rainbows. Or go skipping. Or maybe we’ll eat vetkoek and tell stories?”

“Yes! Happy birthday, Auntie Sindi! I knew that today was a special day.”

“Nope. Not today, Sekhametsi.”

Sekhametsi crosses her arms and scowls at her parents.

“Today is a super duper special day!” Mama and Papa laugh.



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Ideas to talk about

What would make a day "super-duper special" for you?

What exciting moments or adventures have you had recently. What made those moments special?



Visual

Draw a picture of you and the "super special person" in your life.



Reading

Be a word detective! Look closely at the story. Can you find:

- ★ seven things you can eat
- ★ three things you can wear
- ★ the name of a game
- ★ something that you might see on a rainy day



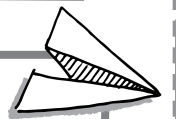
Writing

Write a message to a super special person in your life telling them why they are so special to you.



Craft

Make a frame for the picture you drew. Glue your picture onto a sheet of cardboard larger than the picture. Draw a line around the edge of your picture. Decorate the frame.



Performance

Act out all the things that Sekhametsi imagines doing with her aunt while you or someone else reads those parts of the story aloud.

