

Malusi and the Bath Monster

Story by Leo Daly

Illustrations by Magriet Brink



Every word that follows is true.
Cross my heart that I won't lie,
and if I do I'll eat a fly!

My older sister, Zandi, and I like
to play in the garden. We stamp
around in the mud and dig deep
holes.

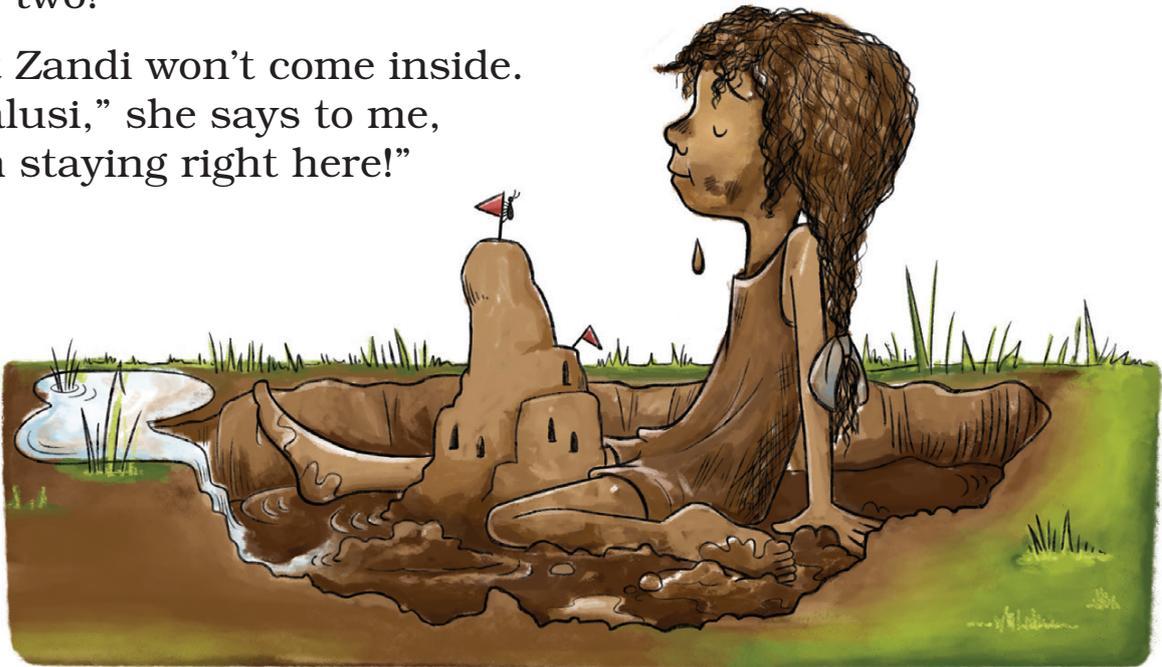
Zandi is worse than me. I just get
my hands and feet dirty. Zandi
gets everything dirty. She gets
her hair and arms dirty. She
even gets her nose dirty.





Mama says, "It's bath time you two!"

But Zandi won't come inside. "Malusi," she says to me, "I'm staying right here!"



But I love all the soapy bubbles. I scrub the dirt off my feet. I scrub and scrub. That feels so good.

Then Zandi walks in. "Malusi," she says, "aren't you scared of the Bath Monster?"

"There's no such thing as a Bath Monster," I laugh.

“Oh yes, there is,” says Zandi. “It comes up through the plug hole and has three arms and four eyes. And there’s nothing the Bath Monster likes more than to eat *clean* children.”

Now I’m just a little bit scared. Maybe there really is a Bath Monster.

Zandi gives me a big smile, “Okay, Malusi. Enjoy your bath!” She walks out of the bathroom and goes straight to bed.

“Don’t be scared, Malusi,” I say to myself. “There’s no such thing as a Bath Monster.”





And then it happens! At first there's a soft gurgling sound. Then there is a squeaking and a squelching and a whoosh. And finally something shoots right up out of the plug hole: THE BATH MONSTER!

Before I can do anything, the Bath Monster blinks its four big eyes and says in a deep, watery voice, "You're not the dirty one. That's your sister, isn't it?"

She always says nasty things about me – and they're not true. None of the Bath Monsters like to eat children."

"You don't?" I say, feeling very relieved.

"Not at all," laughs the Bath Monster. "And the Toilet Monster and Shower Monster only like to eat dirty ones, who go straight to bed without taking a bath!"

Oh, no! What about Zandi!



“There’s no time to waste,” says the Bath Monster. “Scoop up a glass of water and run as fast as you can to Zandi’s room.”

I get there just in time – the Bed Monster is just about to swallow Zandi.

“Go away, monster!” I shout. Then I throw the water all over my sister.



That’s right. I saved Zandi from the Bed Monster! And this is exactly what I tell Mama when she asks me why I threw a glass of water on my sister. I don’t know if she believes me. But every word of it is true. Cross my heart that I won’t lie, and if I do I’ll eat a fly!

GET CREATIVE!

- Draw a picture of Zandi looking very dirty and frightened. Draw a scary monster standing next to her. Draw a speech bubble for the monster and write what you think the monster said to Zandi in it.



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Visual

Draw a picture of what you would have looked like if you had played in the mud with Zandi and Malusi.



Reading

Think about what happened in the story and answer the questions. Look for details in the story to help you.

- ★ Do you think Zandi believes in the Bath Monster?
- ★ What do you think she said to Malusi when he threw the glass of water on her?
- ★ Do you think Malusi's mother believed him when he explained why he threw the water on her?



Writing

Create an identikit for the Bed Monster. Draw a picture of what it looks like and then describe what it looks like, what sounds it makes and where it lives, so that if anyone sees it, they will recognise it immediately!



Craft

What do you think the Toilet Monster and Shower Monster look like? Use recycled materials like egg boxes, bottle tops, cardboard boxes, toilet rolls, paper-towel rolls together with glue, paint and paper to make a Toilet Monster and a Shower Monster.



Performance

Tell a funny story about slippery soap and washing.

