UThato, umphikeleli onephupho

Ixoxwa nguPirai Mazungunye
Imidwebo nguSimphiwe Mangole
Ihunyushwe nguMalungi Mbhele

EDisteneng, emakhilomitheni amahlanu nje ukusuka ePolokwane, kwakuhlala intombazane eyayibizwa ngoThato. UThato wayehlala nonina, uMokgadi, endlini eyenziwe ngamapulangwe nothayela – u-*mokhukhu*. Ekuseni kakhulu, unina kaThato wayemphelezela aye naye esikoleni sakhe samabanga aphansi iLadanna.

Ngolunye usuku ekuseni ngenkathi bedlula umkhukhu oluhlaza ekhoneni, abantu babehlezi ngaphandle beziphuzela ubhiya.

"UTlou uhlala lapha," kusho uThato. "Akasayi esikoleni."

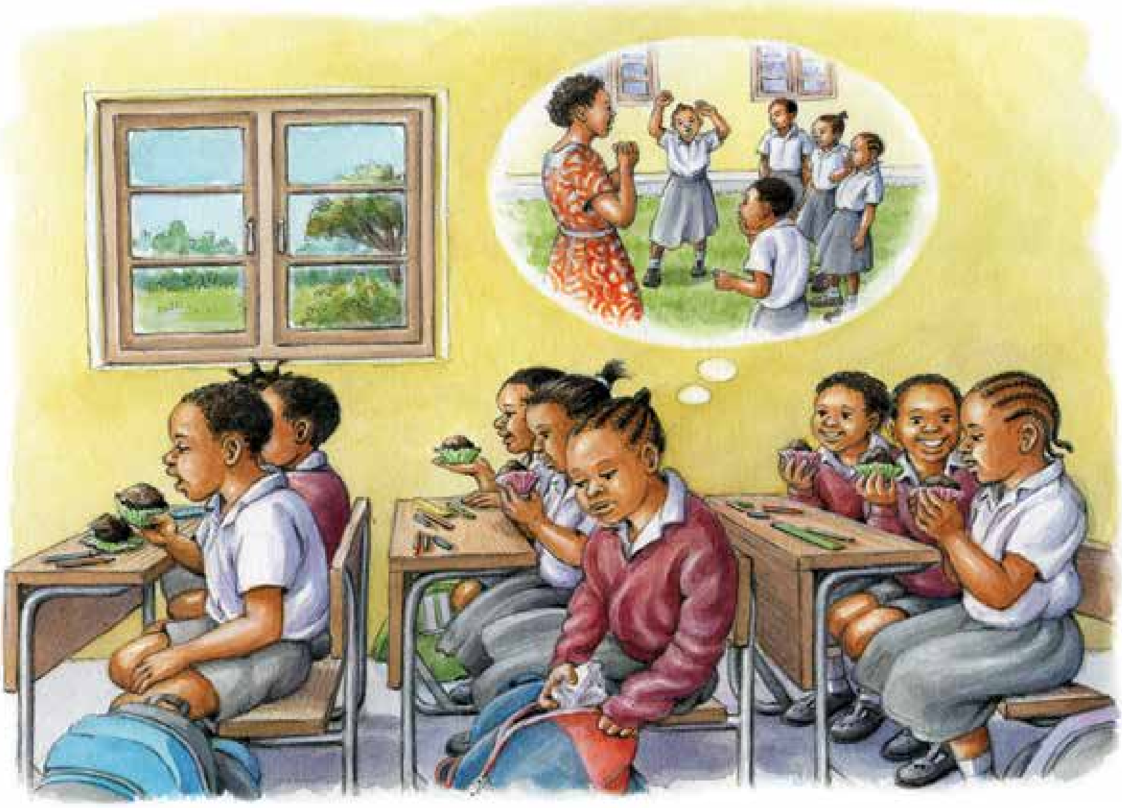
"Ngempela?" kubuza uMokgadi.

"Yebo. Wathi isikole esabantu abacebile, hhayi abantu abampofu," uThato ephendula ngokudabukisa. "Ngimkhumbula kakhulu. Kwakunguye kuphela esikoleni ingane esasihlala nayo la eDisteneng."

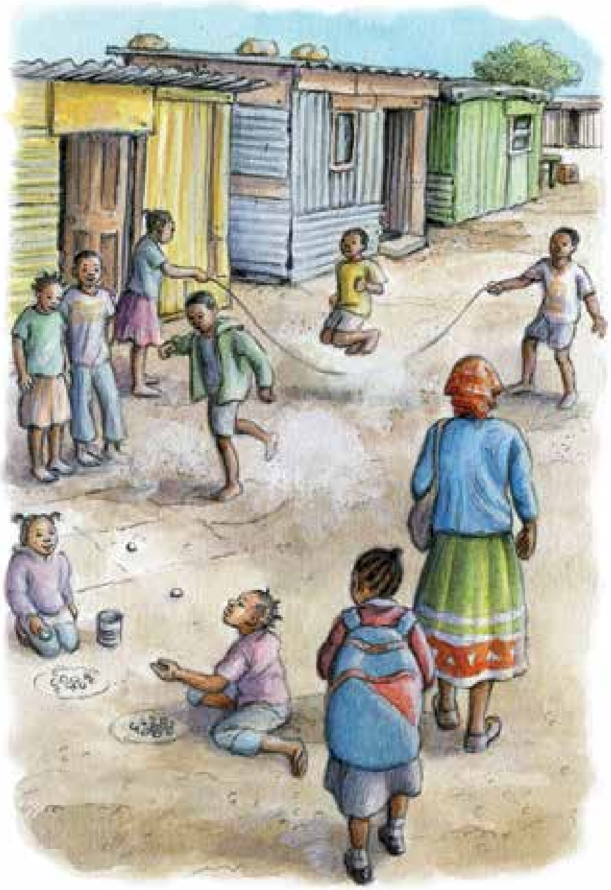
UThato wase egijima wamshiya unina. Phambili endleleni, njengoba babesondela eLadanna nje, wezwa umsindo wezinyoni. EDisteneng, ukuphela kwento ayeyizwa kwakuwumculo okhalela phezulu.

UThato wayesebenza kanzima esikoleni. Ngesikhathi sekhefu, wayehlala enza umsebenzi wesikole wasekhaya ngoba kwakunzima ukuwenza ekhaya. Kodwa namuhla kwakuwusuku lokuzalwa lukaGrace futhi wayefike nama-*cupcakes* ephathele wonke umuntu ekilasini. UNkk Sephuma wanikeza izingane ama-*cupcakes* ayeconsisa amathe ehlotshiswe kahle. Kancane, kancane wadla ucezu oluncane lwekhekhe lakhe. Laline-ayisingi kashokoledi ngaphezulu futhi lehla esiphundu lisashukela. Lenza uThato wacabanga ngosuku lwakhe lokuzalwa olwedlule. Wayengafikanga namakhekhe ekilasini, kodwa wayeculele ikilasi ingoma. Uthisha wayeyithokozele, kodwa hhayi izingane. Ezinye zazo zazivele zaphukula nje, kanti ezinye zathi, "Ntombazane yo-*mokhukhu!* Hheyi, we ntombazane yo-*mokhukhu* – lapho ugesi bewubukela le ngaphesheya komfula – liphi ikhekhe lethu?"

Njengoba ayesecabanga ngalokho nje, uThato wavele waphelelwa nawumdlandla wokudla i-*cupcake* leyo. Wasonga eyayisasele ngephepha wayifaka esikhwameni sakhe sezincwadi zesikole. Wabe esekhipha incwadi yakhe yokubhalela waqala ukwenza umsebenzi wesikole wasekhaya.



Ngemva kwesikole, uThato wagoduka ehamba emva kukanina. Njengoba esondela ekhoneni lapho umkhukhu oluhlaza wawukhona nje, wabona ezinye izingane ezimthuqasi uthuli kusuka ekhanda kuya onyaweni. Zazidlala imidlalo – i-*kgati*, i-*tshere tshere* ne-*diketo* – eceleni komgwaqo.



"Nansi intombazane yesikole," kusho omunye wabo ekhomba uThato. Izingane zayeka ukudlala. Amantombazane ayedlala i-*diketo* ayeka ukucula. Babheka uThato egqoke umfaniswano wakhe wesikole owawumkhulu kakhulu kuye. UThato wayengenandaba nokubizwa ngentombazane yesikole. Kwakungcono kunamagama ayebizwa ngawo esikoleni.

"Isibuyile," bonke basho kanyekanye.

"Kufanele nibuyele esikoleni," kusho uThato. "Sizohambisana uma siya esikoleni."

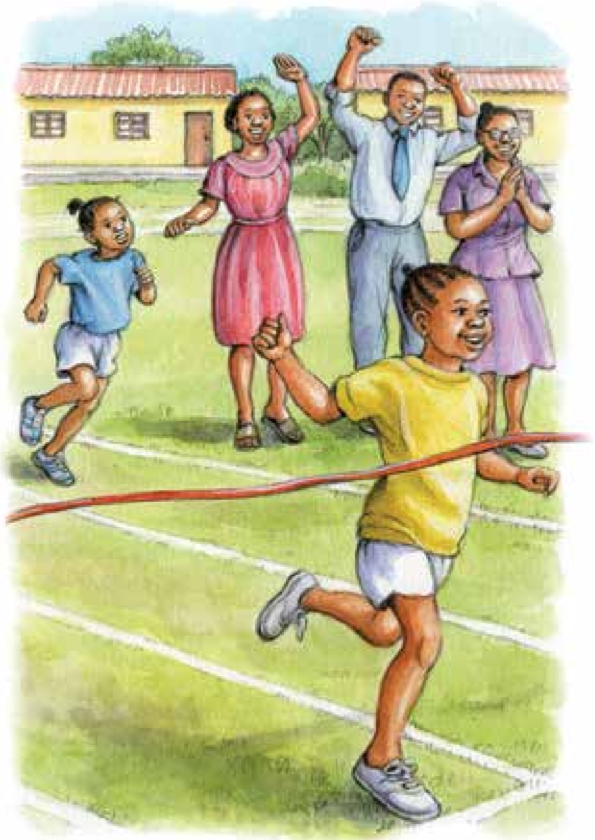
"Siye esikoleni?" Bahleka. "Khohlwa! Ayikho into ozoyizuza laphaya!"

Usuku nosuku kwakufana. Ngezinye izikhathi uThato wayecasuka akhale. Ngezinye izikhathi wayethukuthela aziphendulele ememeza ethi, "Igama lami akuyona intombazane yo-*mokhukhu*! NgiwuThato! Kujabula nina enazikhethela abazali! Uma ngangikwazi ukuzikhethela, ngabe ngiyindodakazi kaThishanhloko futhi ngihlala endlini enkulu!"

Ezinye izingane zahleka, kodwa ezinye zathi, "Uqinisile. Asizange sizikhethele ukuthi sizozalelwaphi. UThato uqinisile." Emva kwalokho zase zimbiza ngokuthi uThato kuphela.

"Pho kunani?" kusho izingane ezimbalwa ezikhohlakele. "Wasiculela ngosuku lwakhe lokuzalwa. Manje nathi sizomculela: uThato, intombazane yo-*mokhukhu*, umphuphi ongumphikeleli." Base bemlandela lapho eya khona isikole sonke belokhu becula iculo labo elibi. "UThato, intombazane yo-*mokhukhu*, umphuphi ongumphikeleli." Babephindelela.

Kodwa, izinto azihlali zifana ngaso sonke isikhathi. Ngesikhathi uThato eba neminyaka eyisishiyagalolunye, wayesengakwazi ukuhlanganyela kwezemidlalo zesikole. Ngesikhathi othisha bakhe beqala ukumbona egijima, bavele babona nje ukuthi wayezoba ngumpetha!



"Kumele uzilolonge zonke izinsuku ukuphuma kwesikolo, Thato," kusho uNkk Sephuma.

Zonke izinsuku, uNkk Sephuma wayenikeza uThato isamentshisi nesithelo esithile lapho ezinye izingane zingekho. Futhi zonke izinsuku, uThato wayezilolonga.

Ngosuku lwezemidlalo esikoleni, uThato waphuma phambili kuyo yonke imincintiswano ayeyingenele. "Manje kufanele ugijimele isikole! Kumele usisize ukuba sinqobe umncintiswano wezemidlalo kulo nyaka," kusho uthishanhloko ngenkathi enikeza uThato iphasela elikhulu.

UThato akalivulanga iphasela lelo waze wafika ekhaya, kodwa uthe nje lapho unina evala umnyango, uThato waphuthuma walivula. Ngaphakathi kwakunamateki okugijima, isikhindi sokugijima nesikibha. UThato wayesegijima ngesivinini esikhulu ngokwedlulele uma esegqoke amateki akhe okugijima.

Akuphelanga sikhathi esingakanani lezi zingane ezazimbiza ngentombazane yo-*mokhukhu* zaqala ukumbiza ngonyazi lwentombazane.

"Nalo unyazi lwentombazane!" babeye bamemeze kanjalo uma esegijima edlula eduze kwabo enkundleni yezemidlalo. Futhi kuyo yonke imincintiswano babemkhuthaza, bembongela bethi, "Gijima, Thato, umphuphi ongumphikeleli, gijima. Gijima, nyazi lwentombazane!"

Emuva kweminyaka emibili yokuzilolonga zonke izinsuku nokudla ayekuphathelwa nguNkk Sephuma esikoleni, uThato waba omunye wabagijimi abanesivinini esikhulu eLimpopo.

Ngelinye ilanga wabonakala egijimela unina njengoba ayemlinde esangweni lesikole. "Mama, mama!" ememeza. "Ngingenile eqenjini laseLimpopo! Ngihamba neqembu siya eKapa!"

Uthishanhloko wanikeza uThato amanye futhi amaphasela amaningi. Kwakukhona elinye elalinamateki okugijima nezingubo zokugijima. Izikibha zonke zazinophawu lwaseLimpopo. Kwakukhona futhi nephasela elalinekapisi, ibhulukwe likadangara nejakhethi. Kwakukhona futhi nephaselana elincanyana elalinekhadi lasebhange elalinemali ayezoyisebenzisa kulolu hambo lwaseKapa.

Lapho sekufika isikhathi sokuba ithimba laseLimpopo liye eKapa, kwafika ibhasi elikhulu elinezihlalo ezintofontofo namafasitela amnyama lizolanda uThato esikoleni sakhe. Wagona uMokgadi emvalelisa wabe esenyuka egibela ezitebhisini zebhasi. Ngenkathi ephenduka ukuze abavayizele, wabona uTlou emi eceleni kukanina. Emva kwakhe, kumi abangani bakhe baseDisteneng abamthuqasi.

Wakhumbula ukuthi babevame ukumbiza kanjani ngentombazane yesikole. Wamamatheka. "Kufanele nibuyele esikoleni," kusho yena.

UThato wayengumsubathi onesivinini esiphezulu ukudlula bonke abasubathi abangontanga yakhe. Babhala ngaye ephephandabeni lendawo futhi bakhuluma nangaye emsakazweni. Bambiza ngesihlabani sakusasa. Esikoleni uThato wanikezwa indondo emhlanganweni wabafundi wasekuseni. Bonke abafundi nothishela bamshayela izandla. Futhi bahlabelela ingoma bephindelela, "UThato, isihlabani sakusasa, umphuphi ongumphikeleli."

Qhubeka nokufunda! Uma uyithokozele le ndaba, ungakhohlwa ukuvakashela iwebhusayithi yethu (www.nalibali.org) wandise iqoqo lakho lezindaba zabantwana MAHHALA.

Yenza indaba ihlabe umxhwele!

Nanka amanye amacebo ongawasebenzisa kule ndaba emakhasini loku-1 kuya kwelesi-3 nabantwana basekilasini lakho kanye/noma ithimba lakho lokufunda. Khetha imibono ehambisana kahle neminyaka kanye nokuthandwa yizingane.

- Ngaphambi kokuba ufunde indaba, buza izingane ukuthi zifisa ukuba zenzeni lapho sezikhulile. Bese wethula indaba ngokuthi uzozixoxela indaba yengane eyayinephupho.
- Emva kokuba usuyifundile indaba, xoxani ngendaba yokuqinelwa kwezingane ngezinye izingane. Nansi eminye yemibuzo ongayibuza.
  - Ucabanga ukuthi kungani izingane zazibiza uThato ngamagama afana nokuthi intombazane yo-*mokhukhu*?
  - Wena wawuyokwenzenjani ukube wawunguThato?
  - Wawuyokwenzani ukube wawukhona ngenkathi bebiza uThato ngamagama lawo?
  - Ucabanga ukuthi umuntu uyamqinela omunye uma ebiza omunye umuntu ngamagama acasulayo?
- Phumela ngaphandle nezingane bese uzihlukanisa ngamaqembu. Tshela iqembu ngalinye ukuthi likhethe umdlalo omfushane elizowudlala bese ubayeka badlale imidlalo yabo. Emva kwemizuzu cishe eyishumi, cela umuntu oyedwa eqenjini angene kwelinye iqembu bese efundisa iqembu lakhe elisha umdlalo abebewudlala eqenjini elidala. Qhubeka wenze lokhu amaqembu aze adlale yonke imidlalo.
- Phakamisa ukuthi izingane zidwebe isithombe sengxenye yendaba eyintandokazi yazo bese zibhala umbhalo ngaphansi kwesithombe leso. Zingafaka noma yini ethintwayo ezithombeni zazo ngokunamathisela izindwangu, amaphepha amibalabala avela kumaphephabhuku, amakhalibhothi, uqhakaza noma isihlabathi.
- Phakamisa ukuthi izingane zibhale umbiko wephephandaba ngoThato. Zingabhala lokhu ngazodwana noma ningakwenza njengombhalo ohlanganyelwe.

Mayelana nephrojekthi ye-*Story Powered Schools*

UNal'ibali (igama lesiXhosa elichaza ukuthi "nans' indaba") umkhankaso kazwelonke wokufundela ukuzithokozisa wokokhela inhlansi yalokho izingane ezingaba yikho ngokuxoxa izindaba nokufunda.

I-*Story Powered Schools* yiphrojekthi esahlolwayo eletha umkhankaso kaNal'ibali wokufundela ukuzithokozisa eyicebo eliqinisekisiwe lokuthuthukisa ukufunda nokubhala ezikoleni ezisemakhaya ezifundazweni zaseMpumalanga Koloni naKwaZulu-Natali. Igunyazwe ngaboMnyango WezeMfundo, ifezekiswe ngabe-United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Izikole eziyingxenye yephrojekthi ye-*Story Powered Schools* zizibophezele ekokheleni inhlansi yalokho izingane ezingaba yikho ngokuxoxa izindaba nokufunda. Zisebenzisa amandla ezindaba ukukhuthaza abafundi ukuba bafune ukufunda nokubhala.

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