



Nkarhi wa ku hlaya ni ku tsala swin we!

Loko u pfumela leswaku vana va wena va ta kota ku hlaya ni ku tsala kahle, ivi u va byela swona, na vona va ta pfumela leswaku va nga kota ku hlaya ni ku tsala kahle. Hi nkarhi lowu wa tiholideyi, tinyike nkarhi wa ku va hlamusela mintsheketo, u tlhela u hlaya ni ku tsala na vona, kutani va ta vona tindlela leti ku kota ku hlaya ni ku tsala swi nga enerisaka ni ku pfuna ha tona.



Time to read and write together!

If you believe that your children will become successful readers and writers, and you let them know this, they will also believe that they can be successful readers and writers. This holiday season, take the time to tell them stories and to read and write with them, and they will experience the ways in which literacy can be satisfying and useful.

Ku endla litheresi ku va xiphemu xa ndyangu wa wena

- ☉ **Endla mitolovelo.** Teka nkarhi siku rin'wana na rin'wana ku hlaya na/kumbe ku rungula mintsheketo.
- ☉ **Tsheketa ntsheketo.** Rungulela vana va wena ntsheketo, yimbelela na ku tsheketa ntsheketo lowu u wu tivaka u vuyelela. Leswi swi pfuna mianakanyo ya vona na ku hlukisa ririmi ra vona. Yingisela mintsheketo ya vona na wena, u nga rivali ku kombisa ku khensa.
- ☉ **Tirhisa ririmi ra manana.** Mintsheketo yo sungula yi fanele yi va hi ririmi ra manana. Ririmi ra manana i masungulo yo tiya ya nkoka eka ku humelela ka dyondzo – ku katsa ku dyondza ku hlaya na ku tsala – hikuva ku dyondza kahle, va fanele va twisisa kahle.
- ☉ **Vana xikombiso eka vana.** Vona leswaku vana va wena va ku vona u ri karhi u hlayela ku hungasa na ku kuma vuxokoxoko.

Making literacy part of your home

- ☉ **Create a story routine.** Set aside time every day to read and/or tell stories.
- ☉ **Tell stories.** Tell your children stories, sing songs and recite poems you know. This stimulates their imagination and develops their language. Listen to their stories too, and remember to show your appreciation.
- ☉ **Use your home language.** First stories should be in your children's home language. A strong foundation in their home language is the key to all successful learning – including learning to read and write – because to learn well, they need to understand well.
- ☉ **Be a role model.** Let your children see you reading for pleasure and to find information.

Hinkwenu mi nga hoxa xandla

- ☉ **Endla nkarhi wa ntsheketo laha ndyangu hinkwawo wu nga ta tiphina.** Kan'we hi vhiki, pfumelela xirho xin'wana na xin'wana xa ndyangu ku rungula ntsheketo hi nkarhi wo lalela.
- ☉ **Yanani elayiburari swin'we.** Nyika nkarhi wo ringana wo lava tibuku, naswona vulavula hi ku langa ka vona loko va nga si teka xiboho xo hetelela ku kuma buku leyi va lavaka ku yi lombela.
- ☉ **Hlulukisa ku titshemba ka n'wana.** Tekela enhlokweni ku ringeta ku hlaya ka vana va wena, ku fana na loko u tekela enhlokweni marito ya vona yo sungula! Tlhela u yingisela vana va wena na ku va ndhundhuzela loko va endla onge va hlaya – vana va fanele ku hanya tanihi vahlayi!



Everyone has a role to play

- ☉ **Create story times that the whole family can enjoy together.** Once a week, let a different family member tell a story during supper time.
- ☉ **Visit the library together.** Allow plenty of time to browse, then chat to your children about their choices before they make their final decision about which books to borrow.

- ☉ **Develop children's confidence.** Value your children's attempts to read on their own, just like you valued their first words! Also listen to and praise your younger children when they pretend to read – children need to behave like readers to become readers!

Endla leswaku vana va wena va tsala

- ☉ **Tiyisisa leswaku u na maphepha yo ringana, tikhirayoni, tipensele na switsalu ekaya.** Swi veke eka ndhawu leyi nga olova leswaku vana va wena va yi fikelela hi voxle leswaku va ta dirowa na ku tsala loko va swi lava.
- ☉ **Endla tibuku hi ku khomanisa maphepha lawa ya nga tsariwangiki nchumu na ku tirhisa ku tsala ntsheketo na vona.** Vana lavatsongo va nga dirowa swifaniso.

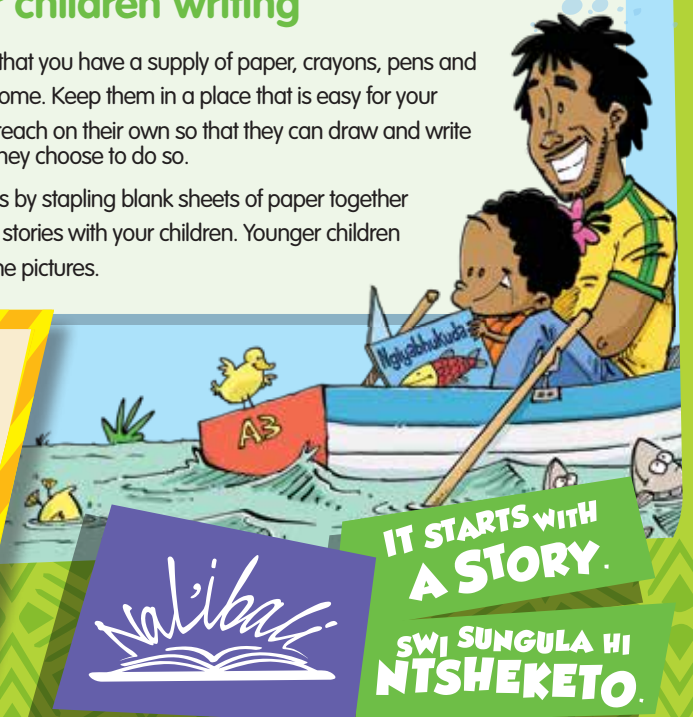


Get your children writing

- ☉ **Make sure that you have a supply of paper, crayons, pens and pencils at home.** Keep them in a place that is easy for your children to reach on their own so that they can draw and write whenever they choose to do so.
- ☉ **Make books by stapling blank sheets of paper together and writing stories with your children.** Younger children can draw the pictures.

Mi nga rivali leswaku hi ta va hi ye eku wiseni ku fikela hi **vhiki ro sungula ra February 2024**. Tiphineni hi tiholideyi kambe mi tlhela mi va na hina elembeni lerintshwa eka matsima ya Nalibali ya ku hlaya! Loko ku ri sweswi mi nga nghena eka www.nalibali.org kumbe mi WhatsAppa rito "stories" eka 0600 44 22 54 leswaku mi hambeta mi tihungasa hi ku hlaya!

Don't forget that we will be taking a break until the **first week of February 2024**. Enjoy the holidays and join us in the new year for more Nalibali reading magic! In the meantime, visit www.nalibali.org or WhatsApp "stories" to 0600 44 22 54 to keep reading for enjoyment!





Mbewu Ya Dyondzo!

Tiphineni ni vana va n'wina hi tiholideyi

Literacy Seeds!

Happy holidays with your young ones



N'wina vatswari ni vahlayisi va vana lavatsongo, mindyangu yo tala yi swi langutele hi mahlongati ku ya etindhawini to hambanahambana ta tiko va endzela mindyangu ni vanghana hi nkarhi wa tiholideyi ta December. Loko mo endla malunghiselelo yokarhi, n'wina na vana va n'wina mi ta tsakela riendzo ra n'wina ni nkarhi lowu mi nga ta va mi tihumese ha wona!



Dear parents and caregivers of young children, many families look forward to travelling to different parts of the country to visit family and friends over the December holiday period. With a bit of planning, you and your young children will enjoy the trip and the time away from home even more!

Switsundzuxo mayelana ni ku endza

- ☉ Kunguhatani ku famba mi yima mi tlhela mi va na swakudya swo khomisa. Vana lavatsongo a va koti ku tshama ndhawu yin'we nkarhi wo leha ku fana ni vatswatsi. Nakambe va lava swakudya swo khomisa leswi akaka miri, swo tanihi mihandzu, leswaku miri ya vona yi kula kahle.
- ☉ Loko mi yima mi chela mafurha kumbe mi ya eswihambukelweni, kumani ndhawu leyi nga riki na khombo leswaku vana va kota ku tsutsumatsutsuma, va tiolola.
- ☉ Pakela vana nkwama wa swilo leswi va nga ta swi tirhisa. Nghenisa na maphepha ya ku dirowela kumbe ku tsalela eka wona, ku katsa ni lama lavaka ku khalariswa, u tlhela u nghenisa na tipensele ta mihlovohlovo na swo tsala ha swona. Nakambe nghenisa buku ya swifaniso leyi va yi rhandzaka ngopfu. Nghena eka webusayiti ya hina ya www.nalibali.org leswaku u kuma matluka lama printekaka ni makhadi ya mintsheketo.



Travelling tips

- ☉ Plan for more stops and snacks. Young children cannot sit still for as long as adults. They also need healthy snacks like fruit to feed their growing bodies.
- ☉ When you stop for fuel and toilet breaks, find a safe place for the young ones to run around and get rid of pent-up energy.
- ☉ Pack a small activity bag for each child. Include some paper for drawing or writing, colouring-in pages, coloured pencils and pens. Also include a favourite picture book to read. Visit our website at www.nalibali.org for printable activity pages and story cards.

Tiyisekani leswaku vana va ta va va hlayisekile laha mi nga ta va mi tshama kona

- ★ Tiyisekani leswaku laha ku etlelaka n'wana lontsongo ku rhurile naswona ku nghena moya wo tenga. Xibedwana xakwe xi fanele xi sirheleriwile ematlhelo leswaku a nga vumbuluki a wela ehansi.
- ★ Loko ku ri na switepisi, kumani heke kumbe nchumu wun'wana lowu nga ta sivela n'wana ku ya eswitepisini swa kona.
- ★ Langutani loko ku nga ri na swilo leswi tlhavaka kumbe leswi fayekeke laha vana va tlangelaka kona.
- ★ Munhu lonkulu u fanele a tshama a veke vana tihlo loko va tlanga ekusuhi na mabakiti ya mati kumbe maqhivi. N'wana a nga nwela hambiloko mati ma nga entanga.
- ★ Endlani leswaku vana va va ekule na tindhawu to swekela kumbe ku oxela nyama eka tona.
- ★ Tivani ndlela ni ndhawu yo kuma mpfuno wa xihatla wa swa vutshunguri.

(Swi tsongoriwe eka Planning holidays with children; <https://raisingchildren.net.au>)



Make sure the place that you stay at is safe for children

- ★ Make sure your baby has a set place to sleep that is quiet and has fresh air. The bed or cot should have sides to stop your baby from rolling off the bed.
- ★ If there are stairs, find a gate or other barrier to keep your baby or toddler away from the steps.
- ★ Check that play areas do not have sharp or broken objects lying around.
- ★ An adult needs to watch children when they play near buckets of water or dams. A baby can drown in even a few centimetres of water.
- ★ Keep children at a safe distance from cooking and braai areas.
- ★ Know how and where to find medical help quickly.

(Adapted from Planning holidays with children; <https://raisingchildren.net.au>)



Swilo swo tsakisa leswi mi nga swi endlaka na vana

Tiholideyi ti mi pfumelela ku heta nkarhi wo tala mi ri na vana va n'wina. Tsundzukani leswaku hakanyingi nkarhi wihi ni wihi lowu mi pfulekelaka mi nga wu tirhisela ku hlamusela ntsheketo kumbe ku wu sweka! Nakambe ku tlanga swi lota vuswikoti bya n'wana byo vona swilo hi tihlo ra mianakanyo.

- 1. Ntlango wa ku hundza ethaneleni hi ku kasa.** Tirhisa tikhuxini, swikhigelo, swichalana na timete u endla tiithanele leti vana lavatsongo kumbe tincece ti nga hundzaka eka tona hi ku kasa. Va nga rhandza ku "hundza" hi le mabokisini lama pfulekeke hala ni hala kumbe etithaneleni leti endlaweke hi swichalana leswi nga khubumeta switulu. Hundza ethaneleni hi ku kasa, u komba n'wana wa wena leswi a faneleke a swi endla.
- 2. Swekani swin'we.** Vana lavatsongo na tincece hakanyingi va ta lava ku ringeta swakudya leswintshwa loko va pfunetile ku swi lunghiselela. Loko va ku pfuna ku hakasa swakudya, ku swi phama ni ku swi tlakula, misiha ya vona yi ta tiyela naswona mavoko na mahlo ya vona swi ta fambisana ku antswa. Qambha xiphato, risimu kumbe ntsheketo hi swakudya loko u ri eku swekeni. Hi xikombiso, tiendle mpfuvu loko u pfula nomu swinene u dya swakudya swo khomisa.
- 3. Tiendleleni tiithoyi.** Tirhisani swilo leswi tolovelekeke swa le kaya, swo tanihi swilapana, wulu na tikunupu, mi tiendlela tiithoyi na mintlango. Hlamuselani ntsheketo hi ku tirhisa tiithoyi leti mi ti endleke.
- 4. Ku endla nkombiso wa ntlango.** Vana va rhandza ku tlanga hi ku tihundzula nchumu wokarhi! Ku endla nkombiso wa ntlango emahlweni ka swirho swa ndyangu na vanghana swi nyika vana xivangelo lexinene xa ku ambala hi ndlela ya kona, va tlhokovetsela swiphato ni ku yimbelela tinsimu leti va ti rhandzaka, va tlhela va cina. Naswona ku nga khathariseki malembe ya vona, vana va tsaka loko va vona ni ku twa swirho swa ndyangu swi va ndhundhuzela ni ku va bela mavoko.

Fun activities with young children

Holidays are wonderful opportunities to spend more time with our children. Remember that almost every activity is an opportunity to tell or make up a story! Play also builds the imaginations of young children.

- 1. An obstacle course.** Use cushions, pillows, soft blankets and mats to make an exciting obstacle course for your baby or toddler to move through. They will love going "through" boxes that open at each end or tunnels that are made with blankets draped over chairs. Crawl through the obstacle course to show your little one what to do.



- 2. Make a meal together.** Toddlers are more likely to try new foods if they have helped to prepare them. When they help you to mix, pour and handle ingredients, their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination will also be strengthened. Make up a rhyme, song or story about food while you make the meal. For example, pretend to be a hippopotamus when you open your mouth wide to eat a snack.

- 3. Make your own toys.** Use everyday items that can be found at home, like pieces of material, wool and buttons, to make your own toys and games. Use the toys that you make to tell a story.

- 4. Put on a show.** Children love playing make believe! Putting on a show for their family members and friends gives young children the perfect reason to dress up, say or sing their favourite rhymes and songs, and dance. And children of all ages love nothing more than to see and hear their loved ones cheering and clapping for them.

Swin'wana swo tsakisa leswi nga endlawaka!

- ★ Yanani epikinikini. Pakani lanjji mi ya tiphina ephakeni kumbe exirhapeni xa n'wina. Fambani na tiithoyi leti vana va ti rhandzaka epikinikini.
- ★ Yanani eku khempeni. Endlani tende hi minkumba na malakani. Tende i ndhawu ya kahle ngopfu yo hlaya mintsheketo ni ku hlamuselana yona!
- ★ Siyani ndhawu yokarhi exirhapeni. Siyani xindhawana exirhapeni laha vana va nga tiendlelaka xirhapa xo tlangela eka xona. Byalani swiluva, mintsembyana, xipinichi na swimilana swin'wana leswi hatlaka swi kula. Tekani malepula lama nga ha tirhiki mi ma veka exirhapeni leswaku ku ceriwa ha wona, mi veka na tikhonthena to byala eka tona, na tiithoyi ta plastiki ta swiharhi.

(Swi tsongoriwe eka Ideas on keeping your kids stimulated & entertained this holiday!; Things to do in Cape Town With Kids Magazine; <https://thingstodowithkids.co.za>)

More fun things to do!

- ★ Go on a picnic. Pack your lunch and enjoy it at the park or in your garden. Bring your children's favourite toys to the picnic.
- ★ Go camping. Build a tent with blankets and sheets. A tent is a great place to read and tell stories!
- ★ Make a garden patch. Mark out a small patch in the garden where your children can create an outdoor play garden. Plant flowers, herbs, spinach, or any other plant that grows quickly. Place old spoons for digging, containers for planting and plastic animal toys in the garden.

(Adapted from Ideas on keeping your kids stimulated & entertained this holiday!; Things to do in Cape Town With Kids Magazine; <https://thingstodowithkids.co.za>)

Endla vutumbuluxi!

Endla tithoyi ta switsotswana hi phepha ra xihambukelo

Get creative!

Make toilet roll bug puppets



U ta lava leswi landzelaka: machupu ya phepha ra xihambukelo, xikero, phepha ro basa kumbe ra muhlovo wun'wana, tikhoki, glu, swin'wetsin'wetsi, wulu, tikunupu kumbe vuhlalu

You will need: toilet roll tubes, scissors, plain or coloured paper, kokis, glue, glitter, wool, buttons or beads

1.



Goza 1. Hlawula thoyi ya xitsotswana lexi u lavaka ku endla xona.

Step 1. Choose which bug puppet you want to make.

2.



Goza 2. Penda chupu ra phepha ra xihambukelo hi muhlovo lowu u wu rhandzaka kumbe u ri phutsela hi phepha ra muhlovo wokarhi.

Step 2. Paint the toilet roll tube in the colour you want or wrap it with coloured paper.

5.



Goza 5. Tsema timpiku, u ti khalara ivi u ti nameketa eka tithoyi ta wena ta switsotswana.

- ★ Loko u endla swifufunhunu, tsema xirhendzevutana lexikulu hi le xikarhi.
 - ★ Loko u endla tinyoxi, tsemelela swirhendzevutana swa mpimo wa le xikarhi.
 - ★ Loko u endla maphaphatana, tsema maphapha ma huma tinhla tinharhu kambe ma govekile ematlhelo.
- Khavisa tithoyi ta wena hi swin'wetsin'wetsi, tikunupu, vuhlalu na wulu.

Step 5. Cut, colour and paste wings on your bug puppets.

- ★ For ladybirds, cut a big circle in half.
 - ★ For bees, cut medium-sized circles.
 - ★ For butterflies, cut triangles with curvy sides.
- Decorate your bugs with glitter, buttons, beads and wool.

3.



Goza 3. Tsema swirhendzevutana swimbirhi leswitsongo eka phepha ro basa ivi u dirowa mathonsi lamakulu ya mahlo, kumbe u tirhisa switihlwana swo xaviwa. Namaketa switihlwana enghoheni ya thoyi ya wena.

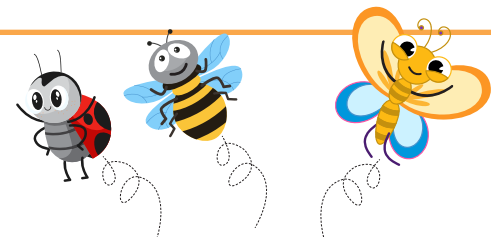
Step 3. Cut two small circles of white paper and draw big dots for eyes, or use googly eye stickers. Paste the eyes near the top of your puppet.

4.



Goza 4. Tsema swimhondzwana swimbirhi eka phepha ra ntima ivi u swi namaketa endzeni ka chupu ra phepha ra xihambukelo hi le henhla.

Step 4. Cut two antennae from black paper and paste them inside the top of the paper roll.



Tisungulele layiburari ya wena.

Endla tibuku **TIMBIRHI** hi ku tsema u ti hlayisa

1. Susa pheji 5 ku fika eka pheji 12 eka xitatisi.
2. Maphepha ya mapheji ya 5, 6, 11 na 12 ma endla buku yin'we. Maphepha ya pheji 7, 8, 9 na 10 ma endla buku yin'wana.
3. Tirhisa rin'wana na rin'wana ra maphepha lawa ku endla buku. Landzelela swileriso leswi nga laha hansi ku endla buku yin'wana na yin'wana.
 - a) Petsa phepha hi le xikarhi eka nkhwanti wa ntima lowu nga tsemekatsemeka.
 - b) Petsa nakambe hi le xikarhi eka nkhwanti wa rihladza.
 - c) Tsema hi le ka nkhwanti wo tshwuka.



Grow your own library.

Create **TWO** cut-out-and-keep books

1. Take out pages 5 to 12 of this supplement.
2. The sheet with pages 5, 6, 11 and 12 on it makes up one book. The sheet with pages 7, 8, 9 and 10 on it makes up the other book.
3. Use each of the sheets to make a book. Follow the instructions below to make each book.
 - a) Fold the sheet in half along the black dotted line.
 - b) Fold it in half again along the green dotted line.
 - c) Cut along the red dotted lines.



exihlobyeni ku endla mikhubi lowu.”

“Mina ndzi ta lulamisa mati yo tala yo tūmela yo huma ka xidziva, xikan’we na minti. na Ramošwe, “ndzi kumeleni tūmitsu ta jinja le makumu n’wina,” Mme Morubisi a vula, hi ku kombetela Mmuta ku swi chichela ehansi. Famba na Kgabo. Havumbihl ka lowukulu. Tshoswane, wena u na matimba ya ku kota emalembelenbeni ya marhavi ya nsinya wa swikwawava rhandzeka ku ya ndzi kumela swikwawava leswi nga “I ntvisi,” a hlamula. “Ndzi lava mfenhe leyo. “Kgabo!” havunharhu va swi vula nkarhi wun’we. mukhandziyi wo hatisa swinene,” a vula. “Phumba leri ri na nkoka swinene. U fanele u lava

going to need the fastest climber,” she said. “Kgabo!” the three said in unison. “Indeed,” she replied. “I need that lovable monkey to get me all the exotic lemons in the highest branches of the giant lemon tree. Tshoswane, you’re strong enough to carry them down. Go with Kgabo. The two of you,” Mme Morubisi said, pointing to Mmuta and Ramošwe, “get me all the ginger roots at the edges of the swamp, along with mint. And I’ll organise the gallons of cold spring water needed for the elixir.”

This story is an adapted version of *Christmas elixir* published by Cadbury in partnership with Nal’ibali as part of the Cadbury Dairy Milk #InOurOwnWords initiative. Each story is available in the eleven official South African languages. To find out more about the Cadbury Dairy Milk #InOurOwnWords initiative titles, go to <https://cadbury.one/library.html>.

Ntsheketo lowu i ntekelelo wa vhexini ya *Mikhubi wa Khisimusi* lowu hangalasiweke hi xinakulobye xa Nal’ibali na qhinga ra Cadbury Dairy Milk#InOurOwnWords. Ntsheketo wun’wana na wun’wana wa kumeka hi tindzimi ta khumen’we ta ximfumu ta Afrika-Dzonga. Ku kuma swo tala hi tinhlokomhaka ta qhinga ra Cadbury Dairy Milk #InOurOwnWords yana eka <https://cadbury.one/library.html>.

Get story active!

- ★ What special drink would you make on a hot day? Write your list of ingredients and your method. Give your special drink a name.
- ★ If you could make a magical potion, what would happen to someone who drank it? What would you use to make the potion?
- ★ Make toilet roll puppets of Ntate Pidipidi, Ntate Segwagwa and Ntate Hlogo (see page 4). With your friends and family, take turns to use the puppets to role play each character as you sing your favourite songs!

Endla ntsheketo wu nyanyula!

- ★ I swakunwa swa muxakamuni swo hlawuleka leswi a wu ta endla swona loko ku hisa? Tsala nxaxamelo wa leswi a wu ta swi tirhisa, na maendlelo ya kona. Nyika swakunwa swa wena swo hlawuleka vito.
- ★ A hi nge u endla swakunwa swa masalamusi, xana a ku ta endleka yini hi munhu loko a heta ku swi nwa? A wu ta tirhisa yini ku endla swakunwa swa kona?
- ★ Tirhisa chupu ra phepha ra xihambukelo u endla Ntate Pidipidi, Ntate Segwagwa na Ntate Hlogo (vona tluka 4). Wena na vanghana va wena na swirho swa ndyangu, cincanani mi tirhisa tipopayi ku encenyeta mutlangi hawun’we, mi ri karhi mi yimbelela tinsimu leti mi ti rhandzaka!

Nal’ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark and embed a culture of reading across South Africa. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org

Nal’ibali i pfhumba ra rixaka ro hlayela ku tiphina ku tlhonthla ni ku simeka ntlovelo wo hlava eAfrika Dzonga hinkwaro. Ku kuma vuxokoxoko hi xitalo, endzela www.nalibali.org



“Oh,” said Mme Morubisi. “Performing to a packed crowd in this heat is going to be a disaster indeed! I’m making a powerful elixir that will quench the thirst ...” But before she could finish, Mmuta interrupted: “Yes, a magic potion that will numb the audience’s senses to the terrible singing! Genius.” That’s not at all what Mme Morubisi intended. However, the heat ensured that the three weren’t in any mood to listen. Still, she was determined to help. “Ooo,” ku vula Mme Morubisi. “Ku yimbelela eka ntshungu wo tala eka ku hisa loku ku tava khombo ntvisi! Ndzi endla mikhubi wa matimba lowu wu nga ta tima torha ...” Loko a nga si heta, Mmuta a kavanyeta: “Ina, mikhubi wa masingita lowu nga ta dlaya switwi swa vayingiseri hi vuyimbeleri bya matimba! Ntlhari.” Leswi a hi swona ntsena leswi Mme Morubisi a lava ku swi endla. Hambiswiriramo, ku hisa ku tvisisile leswaku lavanharhu a va nga tvisiselanga ku yingisela nchumu. Nasweswi, a ha tvisiserile ku pfuna.

Christmas elixir

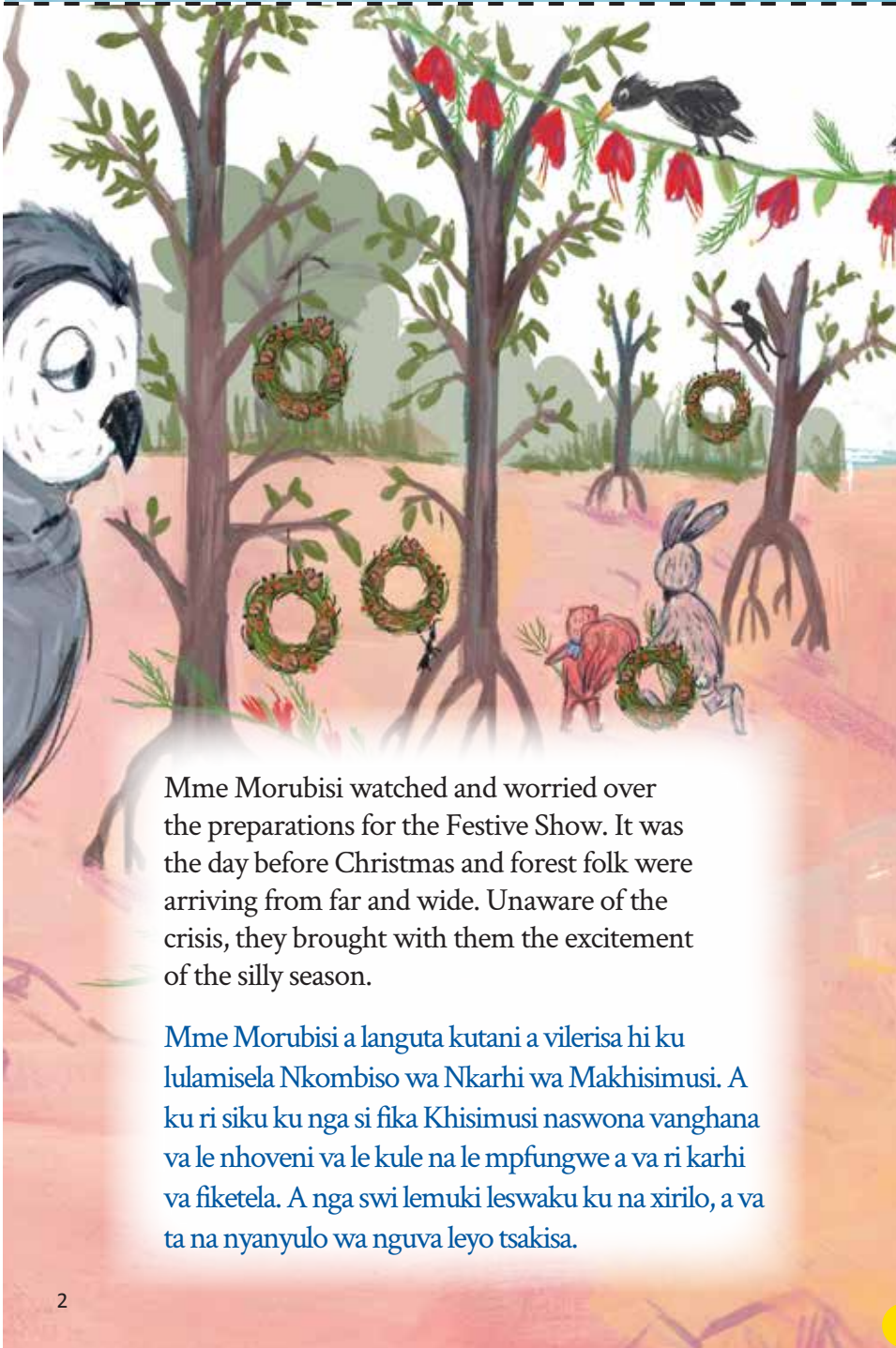
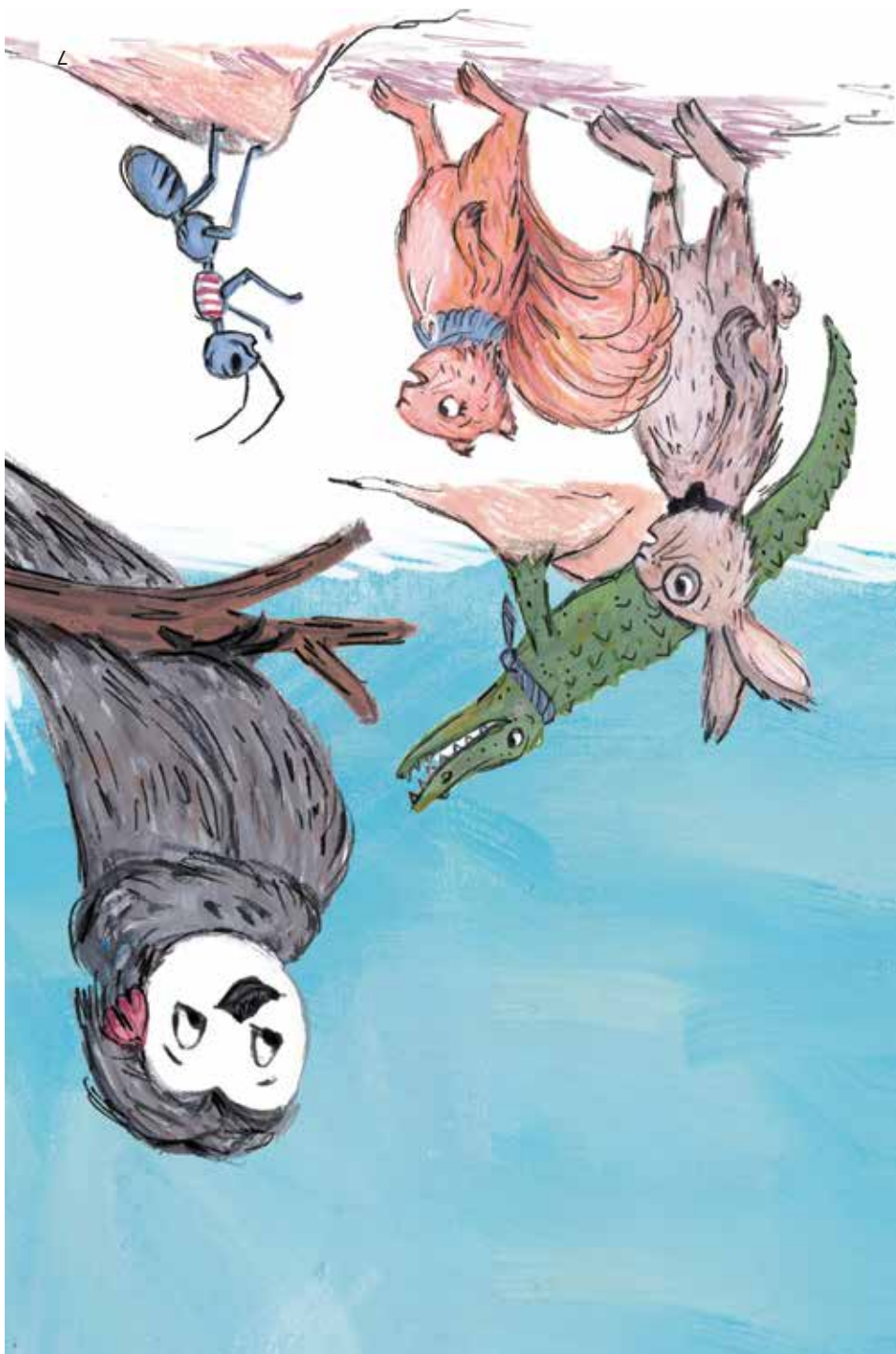


Mikhubi wa Khisimusi

Bandile Sikwane • Elizabeth Sparg

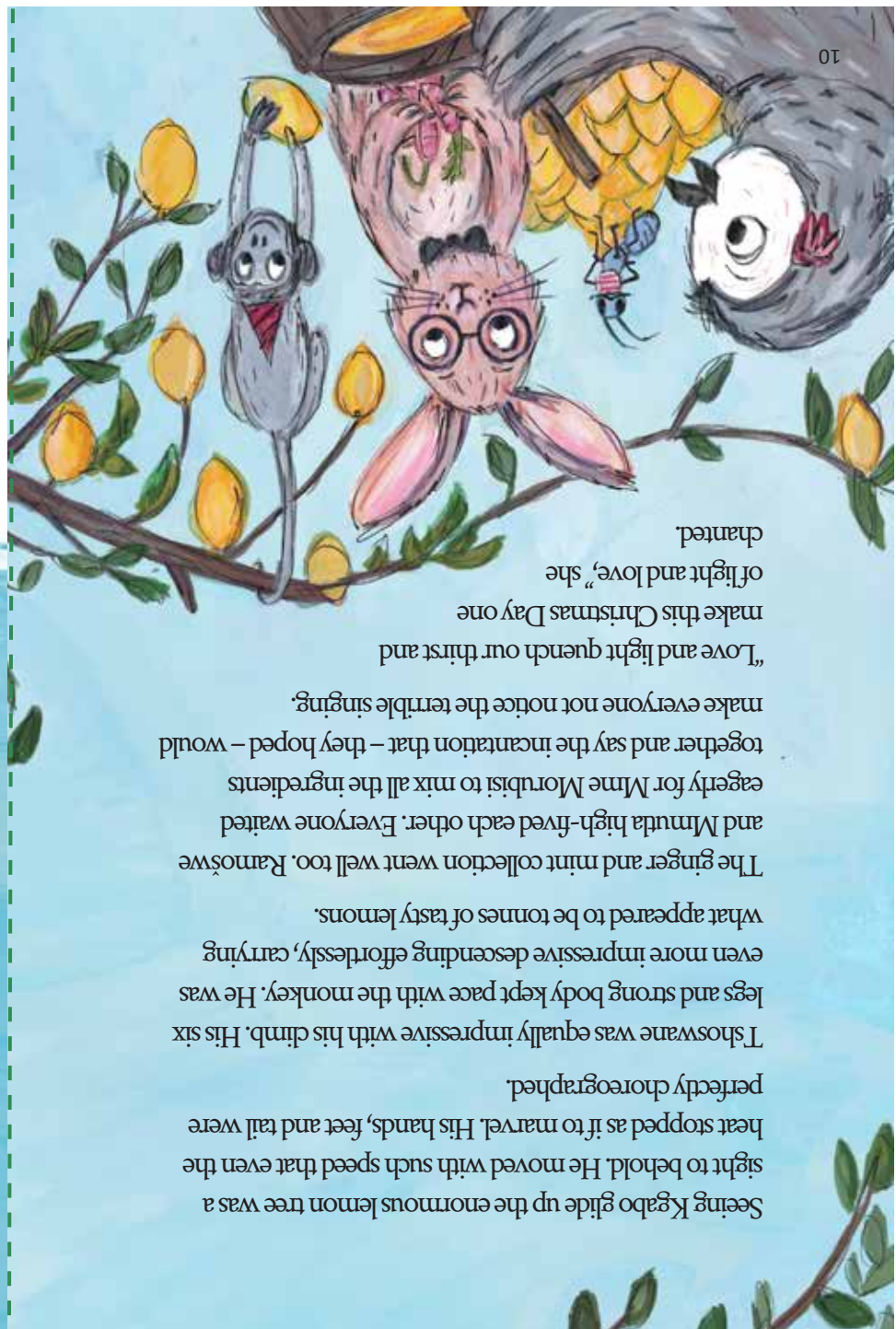
Ideas to talk about: A special drink can make people feel better. In this story the special drink is supposed to be magical. Do you think that a drink can be magical? If you could make a magical drink, what would it do?

Mianakanyo yo bula hayona: Swakunwa swo hlawuleka swi nga pfuna munhu ku hlakarhela. Eka ntsheketo lowu swakunwa swo hlawuleka ku anakanyiwa leswaku i swa masalamusi. Xana u anakanya leswaku xakunwa xi nga endla masalamusi? Loko a wu kota ku endla swakunwa swa masalamusi, xana a xi ta endla yini?



Mme Morubisi watched and worried over the preparations for the Festive Show. It was the day before Christmas and forest folk were arriving from far and wide. Unaware of the crisis, they brought with them the excitement of the silly season.

Mme Morubisi a languta kutani a vilerisa hi ku lulamisela Nkombiso wa Nkarhi wa Makhisimusi. A ku ri siku ku nga si fika Khisimusi naswona vanghana va le nhoveni va le kule na le mpfungwe a va ri karhi va fiketela. A nga swi lemuki leswaku ku na xirilo, a va ta na nyanyulo wa nguva leyo tsakisa.



Seeing Kgabo glide up the enormous lemon tree was a sight to behold. He moved with such speed that even the heat stopped as if to marvel. His hands, feet and tail were perfectly choreographed.

Tshoswane was equally impressive with his climb. His six legs and strong body kept pace with the monkey. He was even more impressive descending effortlessly, carrying what appeared to be tonnes of tasty lemons.

The ginger and mint collection went well too. Ramošwe and Mmutla high-fived each other. Everyone waited eagerly for Mme Morubisi to mix all the ingredients together and say the incantation that – they hoped – would make everyone not notice the terrible singing.

“Love and light quench our thirst and make this Christmas Day one of light and love,” she chanted.

“This is the best Festive Show, and the best Christmas Day, ever. Season’s greetings and congratulations to you,” Kwena told Mme Morubisi.

Ramošwe, Mmutla, Tshoswane and Kgabo turned and stared at Mme Morubisi. “You planned the show?”

“Yes, but not the weather, dears. Not the weather. But do enjoy the elixir, and season’s greetings to you too, Ntate Kwena,” she said with a relieved smile.

“Lowu i Nkombiso wa Khisimusi wa kahle swinene, na Siku ra Khisimusi ra kahle swinene, kutlurisa. Khisimusi lerinene na ku mi khensisa hinkwenu,” Kwena a byela Mme Morubisi.



Ramošwe, Mmutla, Tshoswane na Kgabo va hundzuluka va honokela Mme Morubisi. “Xana u kunguhatile nkombiso lowu?”

“Ina, kambe kunga ri maxelo, varhandziwa. Kunga ri maxelo. Kambe tiphineni hi swonwa hi mikhubi, na khisimusi lerinene na le ka wena, Ntate Kwena,” a swi vula hi n'wayitelo wo komba ku ntshuxeka.

Mama Smuts u tlhandleke tisoseji letiya to bumbula ta pinki endyelweni yakwe yo xonga, a ti veke ekhabodweni. A a swi tiva kahle leswi a ta swi endla ha tona. A a ta endla Chakalaka yo xawula, ivi eku heteleleni a tsemelela tisoseji letiya a ti chela endzeni ka yona, a swi hakasa. Kutani a va ta sala va tiluma na tintiho.



Mama Smuts laid out the plump, pink sausages on her prettiest plate and put them in the cupboard. She knew exactly what she would make with them. It was to be her best-ever chakalaka and then, at the last minute, she would cut up the sausages and stir them in. That way, they would seem to go further.

Papa Smuts catches a big juicy fish for supper, but then swaps it for some plump sausages. The whole family can't wait to eat the delicious sausages for supper! But what has Mama Smuts done with them?

This story was specially created for Nal'ibali – a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark children's potential through storytelling and reading.



Papa Smuts u phase nhlampfi leyikulu leswaku va ta lalela ha yona, kambe u yi cincise hi tisoseji to bumbula ta pinki. Ndyangu hinkwawo a wu phoma marha wu langutele ku lalela hi tisoseji to xawula! Kambe Mama Smuts u endle yini ha tona?

Ntsheketo lowu wu endleriwe Nal'ibali – ku nga tsuma ro byala moya wa ku tihungasa hi ku hlaya etikweni hinkwaro, hi xikongomelo xo pfuna vana va humesa vuswikoti bya vona hi ku hlamuselana mintsheketo ni ku hlaya.

Get story active!

- ★ What would you prefer eating, fish or sausages? Why?
- ★ Imagine that you are going to prepare a feast for your family. Make a list of the food you would make.
- ★ Now draw a picture of a festive table.

Endla ntsheketo wu nyanyula!

- ★ Wena a wu ta tsakela ku dya yini exikarhi ka nhlampfi na tisoseji? Ha yini?
- ★ A hi nge u swekela ndyangu wa ka n'wina nkhuvo wa swakudya. Endla nxaxamelo wa swakudya leswi a wu ta swi sweka.
- ★ Kutani dirowa xifaniso xa tafula ra nkhuvo wa swakudya.

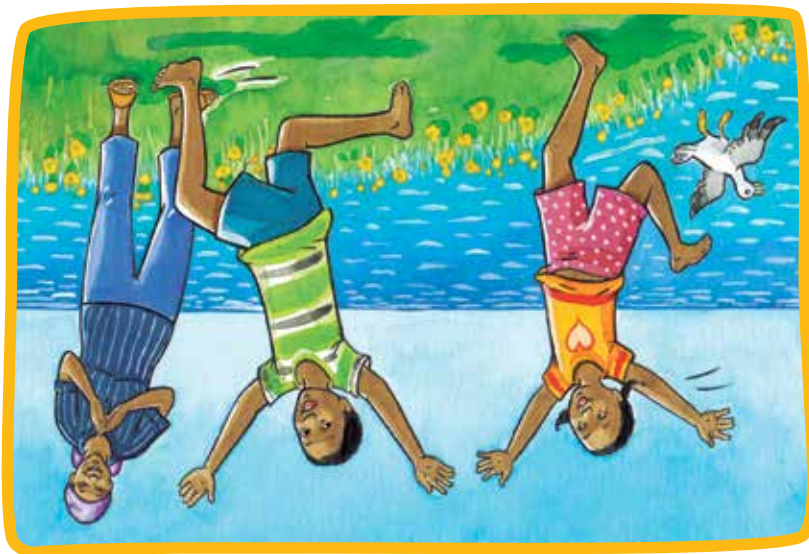
Nal'ibali is a national reading-for-enjoyment campaign to spark and embed a culture of reading across South Africa. For more information, visit www.nalibali.org



Nal'ibali i pfhumba ra rixaka ro hlayela ku tiphina ku tlhonthla ni ku simeka ntlovelo wo hlaya eAfrika Dzonga hinkwaro. Ku kuma vuxokoxoko hi xitalo, endzela www.nalibali.org

There was such excitement when Papa Smuts told Mama Smuts, Sannie and Frikkie about his lucky day. It was as if he had brought home treasure and, in a way, he had.

Loko Papa Smuts a hlamusela Mama Smuts, Sannie na Frikkie nkateko lowu a veke na wona siku rero, va tsake na swikunwana. A swi fana niloko a vuye na ndzalamu, ina, kahlekakale a ku ri ndzalamu.



The feast



Nkhuvo wa swakudya

Jude Daly • Jiggs Snaddon-Wood

Ideas to talk about: Have you ever had a feast at home or at someone else's house? What did you eat? Does there have to be lots of expensive food for a meal to be a feast? What do you think?

Mianakanyo yo bula hayona: Xana mi tshame mi va na nkhuvo wa swakudya ekaya ka n'wina kumbe ka un'wana? A ku dyiwa yini? Xana nkhuvo wa swakudya hi loko ku ri na swakudya swo tala swo durha ntsema? U swi vonisa ku yini?

“Swi nga va njhani,” ku vutisa Maria, “loko wo famba na swin’wana ekaya, swo fana na tisoseji leti? Xana a va nge swi tsakeli?”

Papa Smuts u anakanye swa xinkarhana, ina, swa xinkarhana hikuva tisoseji ta kona a ti naverai!

Hiloko Maria na Papa Smuts va cincisana, kutani Papa Smuts a ganyula kunene a ya ekaya.

only for a moment because the sausages did look good! So Maria and Papa Smuts did a swap and Papa Smuts hurried on home.



“What if,” asked Maria, “you took something different home, something like these sausages? Now wouldn’t that be a real treat?”

Papa Smuts thought for a moment, but

Papa Smuts was a fisherman. But, fish were not as plentiful as they used to be and some days he came home empty-handed. Then poor Papa Smuts would feel really downhearted.

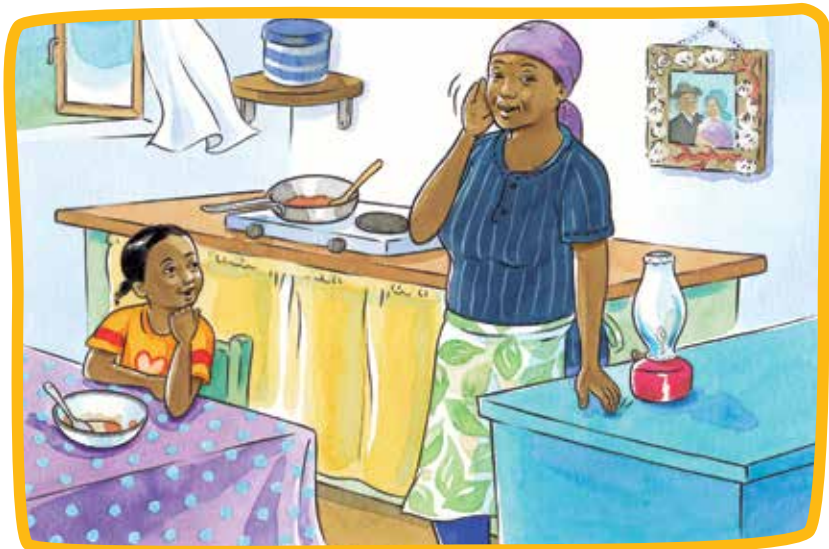
Papa Smuts a a ri muphasi wa tinhlampfi. Kambe tinhlampfi a ti nga talanga ku fana na khale, naswona masiku man’wana a a vuya a nga phasanga nchumu. Kutani Papa Smuts wa vanhu a a va na gome lerikulu.

Mama Smuts u tsemelele matsavu hi ku hambana ka wona, a swi lunga, a pfuniwa hi Sannie na Frikkie.



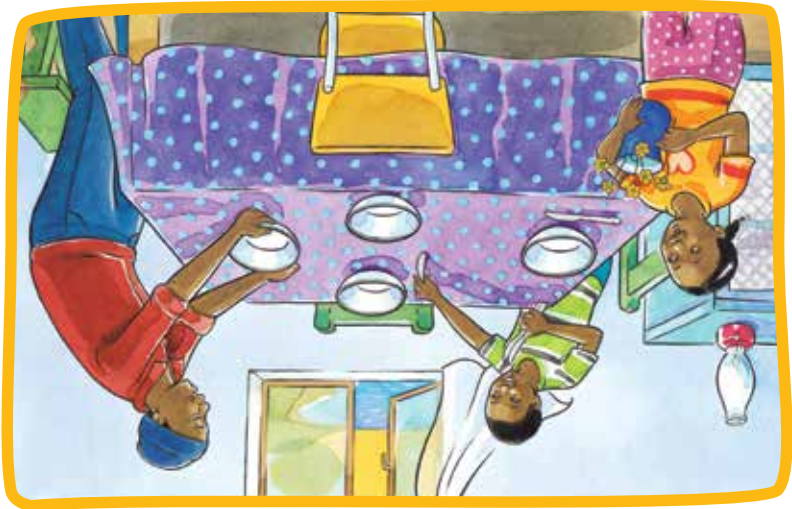
Mama Smuts chopped and sliced, diced and spiced, with the help of Sannie and Frikkie.

But then she thought, “Sausages for breakfast. What a treat!”



Hiloko a ehleketa, “Tisoseji hi ta fihlula ha tona. Hi ta tiphina phela!”

Kutani loko Mama Smuts a ha hlanganisa
leswi na leswiya, Sannie na Frikkie va pfune
Papa Smuts ku deka tafula, va kha na swiluva
swa nhova swo khavisa ha swona.



Then, while Mama Smuts added a little bit of
this and quite a lot of that, Sannie and Frikkie
helped Papa Smuts set the table and pick a
bunch of wild flowers to go on it.



Mama Smuts went quietly over to the
kitchen cupboard. She covered up the
plump, pink sausages and wondered how
she could possibly have forgotten them.

Mama Smuts u nyandlamele a ya
ekhabodweni ekhixini. U funungete tisoseji
letiya to bumbula ta pinki, a tivutisa
leswaku u ti rivarise ku yini.

Loko Papa Smuts a hundza
ximaketana xa Maria, Maria,
u n'wi vutisile, "I mali
muni nhlamph yoleyo?"
"Askhisi, Maria," ku vula
Papa Smuts, "leyi hi ya
lalela hi yona."



As Papa Smuts passed Maria's farm stall, she called
out, "How much for the fish?"
"Sorry, Maria," said Papa Smuts, "but this one is for
our dinner."

ha yona.
leyi nga sala a famba na yona ekaya, va ta lalala
tinhlamphi. U xavise mune ivi



One lucky day, Papa
Smuts caught five fish.
He sold four and kept
one to take home for
dinner.

Siku rin'wana Papa
Smuts u ve ni nkatoko
a phasa ntlhanu wa



That's when Mama Smuts would give him
a big hug and say, "We'll make ends meet."
And Sannie and Frikkie would add, "We
always do, Papa." And somehow they always
did because ...

Lokoswiritano, Mama Smuts a a n'wi
angarha ivi a ku, "Hi ta huma na pulani."
Naswona Sannie na Frikkie a va engetela
va ku, "Pulani yi tshama yi ri kona, Papa."
Naswona minkarhi hinkwayo a swi va tano
hikuva ...

Kasi a nga ri kona loyi a kota ku sweka swakudya swo xawula hi matamatisi, tiphepha, tikheroti na khavichi ku fana na Mama Smuts, a pfuniwa hi Sannie na Frikkie!



And no one, absolutely no one, could turn the reddest tomatoes, the greenest peppers, the crunchiest carrots and the crispiest cabbage into a more scrumptious meal than Mama Smuts, with the help of Sannie and Frikkie!



... no one could grow redder tomatoes, greener peppers, crunchier carrots and crispier cabbage than Papa Smuts, with the help of Sannie and Frikkie.

... Papa Smuts a a ri na voko ra matamatisi, tiphepha, tikheroti na khavichi, naswona a a pfuniwa hi Sannie na Frikkie.

Naswona, "Mmm . . .
mmm!" ku vula Papa
Smuts. "A ndzi nga
swi langutelanga, wa
tiva, Chakalaka leyi
a ndzi si dya yo fana
na yona. Tisoseji!
leti hi tona ti yi
nandzihisaka ngopfu!"



And, "My, oh my . . . oh my!" said Papa Smuts. "I did not think it was possible, but this chakalaka is better than your best. Those sausages made all the difference!"

"Mmm, mmm!" ku vula Frikkie.
"Mmm!" ku vula Sannie.



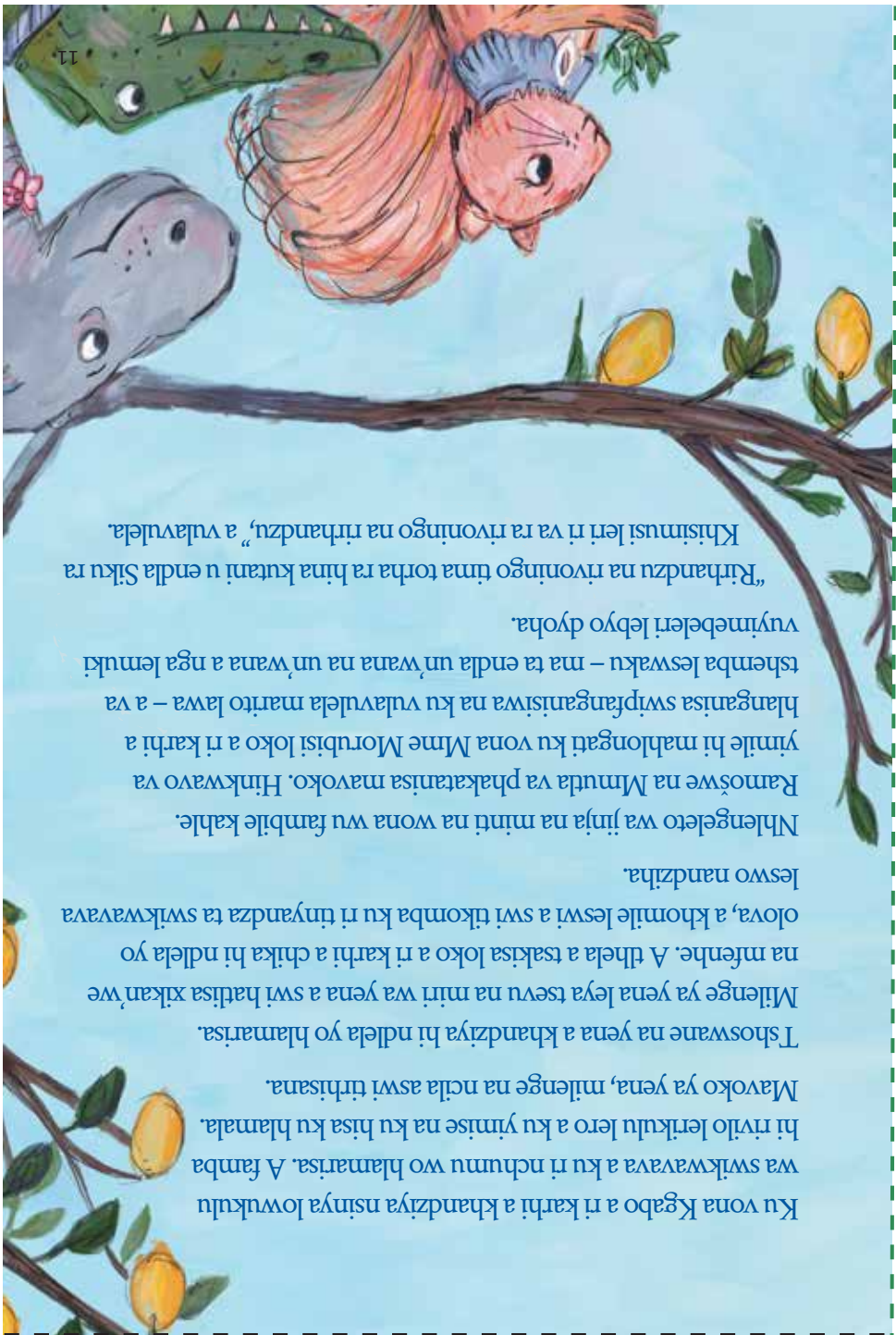
And then, at last, it was
dinnertime. And what
a dinner!
"Mmm!" said Sannie.
"Mmm, mmm!"
said Frikkie.

Hiloko ku fika nkarhi wo
dya. Swakudya swa kona!

Mama Smuts said nothing. But, if Papa Smuts, Sannie and Frikkie had not been so busy tucking into seconds, they might have heard her let out a little gasp.

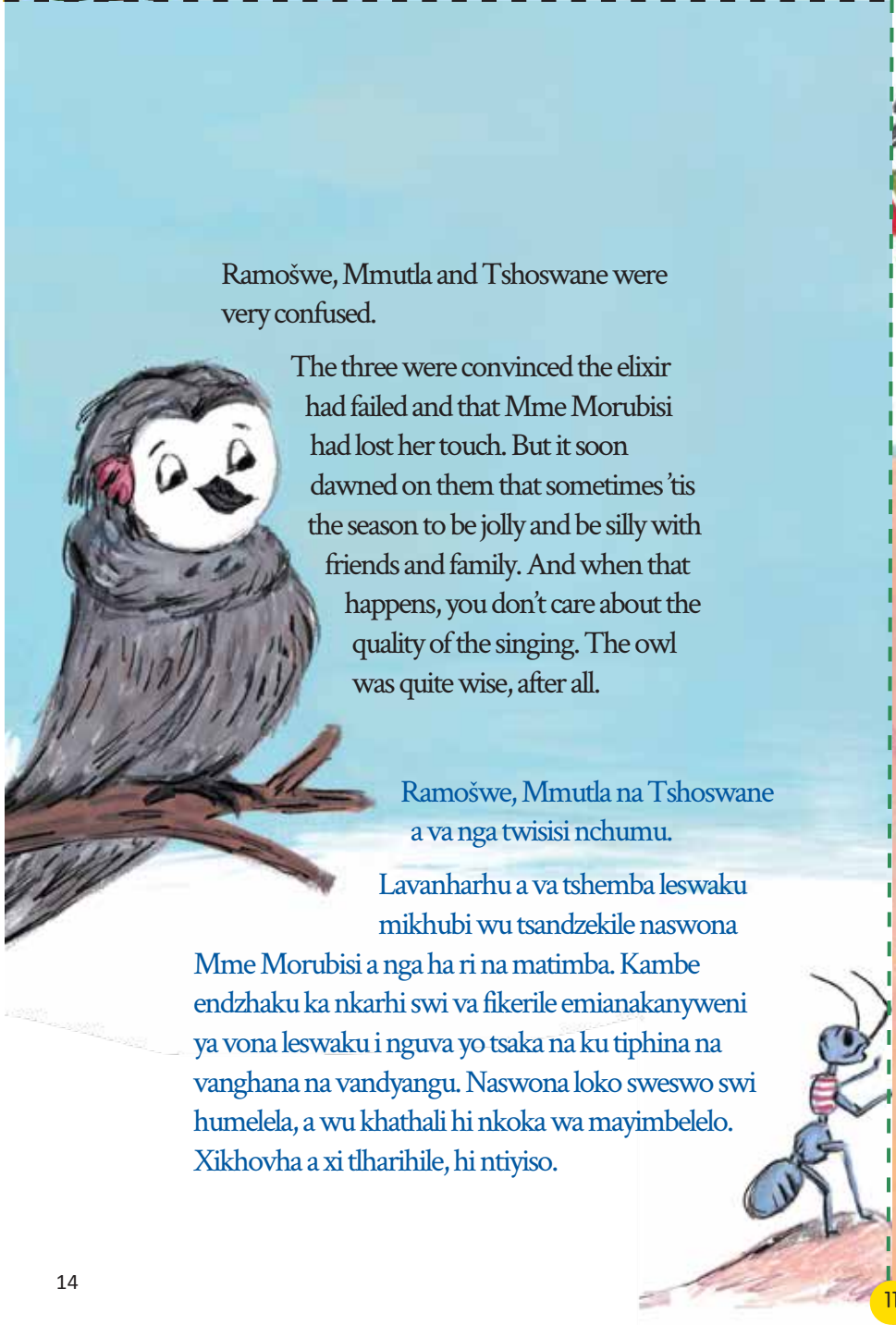
Mama Smuts u lo timiyelela. Kambe loko Papa Smuts, Sannie na Frikkie a va nga endli vunhabyanhabya bya ku phindha swakudya, ingi va n'wi twile loko a hlamala.





Ku vona Kgabo a ri karhi a khandziya nsinya lowukulu wa swikwawava a ku ri nchumu wo hlamarisa. A famba hi rivilo lerikulu lero a ku yimise na ku hisa ku hlamala. Mavoko ya yena, milenge na ncila aswi tirhisana. Tshoswane na yena a khandziya hi ndlela yo hlamarisa. Milenge ya yena leya tsevu na miri wa yena a chatlisa xikan'we na mfenhe. A tlhele a tsakisa loko a ri karhi a chika hi ndlela yo olova, a khomile leswi a swi tlkomba ku ri tinyandza ta swikwawava leswo nandzila. Nhlengeleto wa jinja na minti na wona wu fambile kahle. Ramošwe na Mmutla va phakataniisa mavoko. Hinkwavo va yimile hi mahlongati ku vona Mme Morubisi loko a ri karhi a hlanganisa swifanganiisa na ku vulavulela marito lawa – a va tshemba leswaku – ma ta endla un'wana na un'wana a nga lemuki vuyimbeleni lebyo dyoha.

“Rirhandzu na rivoningo tima torha ra hina kutani u endla Siku ra Khisimusi leri ri va ra rivoningo na rirhandzu,” a vulavulela.



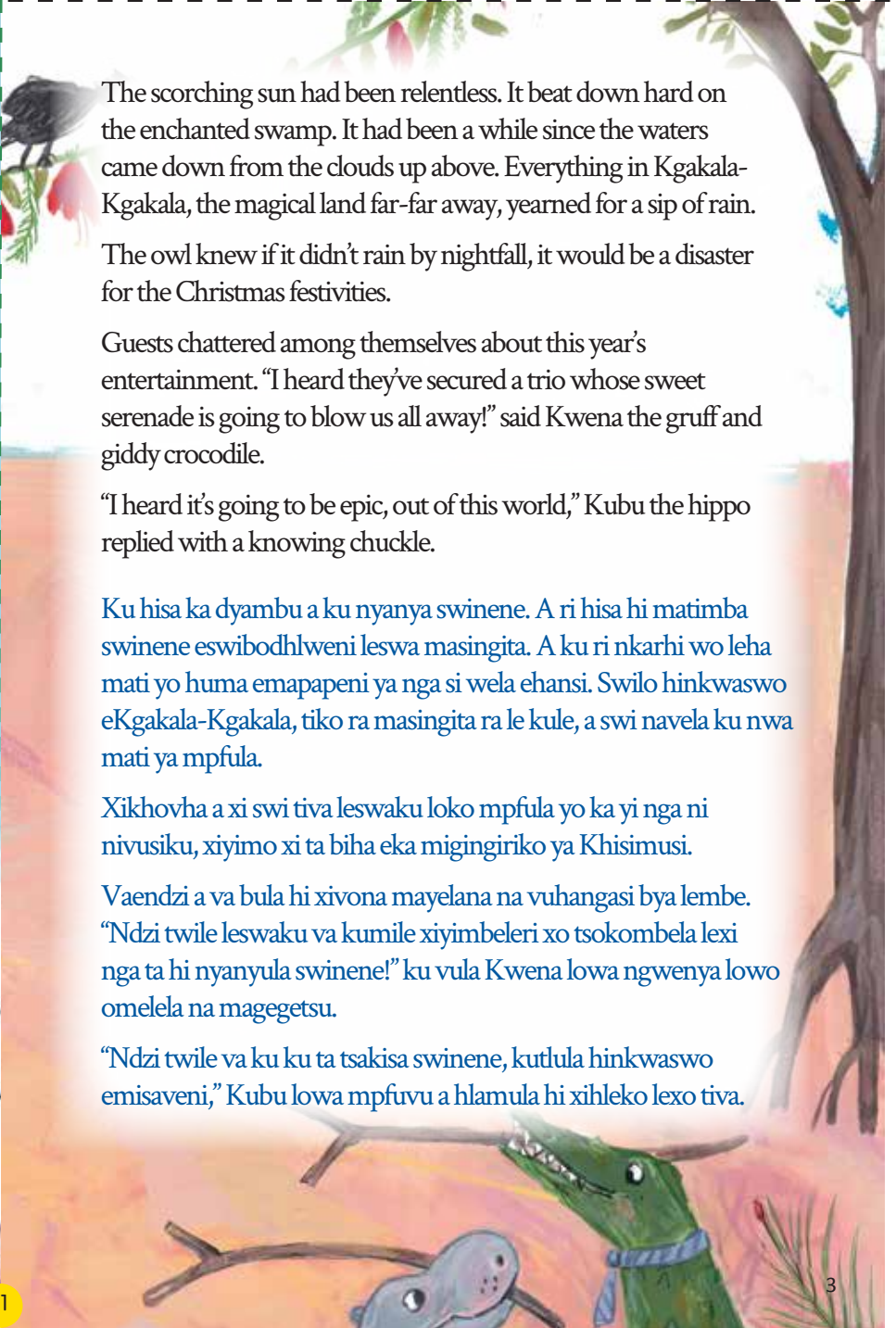
Ramošwe, Mmutla and Tshoswane were very confused.

The three were convinced the elixir had failed and that Mme Morubisi had lost her touch. But it soon dawned on them that sometimes 'tis the season to be jolly and be silly with friends and family. And when that happens, you don't care about the quality of the singing. The owl was quite wise, after all.

Ramošwe, Mmutla na Tshoswane a va nga twisisi nchumu.

Lavanharhu a va tshemba leswaku mikhubi wu tsandzekile naswona

Mme Morubisi a nga ha ri na matimba. Kambe endzhaku ka nkarhi swi va fikerile emianakanyweni ya vona leswaku i nguva yo tsaka na ku tiphina na vanghana na vandyangu. Naswona loko sweswo swi humelela, a wu khathali hi nkoka wa mayimbelelo. Xikhovha a xi tlharihile, hi ntiyiso.



The scorching sun had been relentless. It beat down hard on the enchanted swamp. It had been a while since the waters came down from the clouds up above. Everything in Kgakala-Kgakala, the magical land far-far away, yearned for a sip of rain.

The owl knew if it didn't rain by nightfall, it would be a disaster for the Christmas festivities.

Guests chattered among themselves about this year's entertainment. "I heard they've secured a trio whose sweet serenade is going to blow us all away!" said Kwena the gruff and giddy crocodile.

"I heard it's going to be epic, out of this world," Kubu the hippo replied with a knowing chuckle.

Ku hisa ka dyambu a ku nyanya swinene. A ri hisa hi matimba swinene eswibodhlweni leswa masingita. A ku ri nkarhi wo leha mati yo huma emapapeni ya nga si wela ehansi. Swilo hinkwaswo eKgakala-Kgakala, tiko ra masingita ra le kule, a swi navela ku nwa mati ya mpfula.

Xikhovha a xi swi tiva leswaku loko mpfula yo ka yi nga ni nivusiku, xiyimo xi ta biha eka migingiriko ya Khisimusi.

Vaendzi a va bula hi xivona mayelana na vuhangasi bya lembe. "Ndzi twile leswaku va kumile xiyimbeleri xo tsokombela lexi nga ta hi nyanyula swinene!" ku vula Kwena lowa ngwenya lowo omelela na magegetsu.

"Ndzi twile va ku ku ta tsakisa swinene, kutlula hinkwaswo emisaveni," Kubu lowa mpfuvu a hlamula hi xihleko lexo tiva.

"Hello, you three, what's the hurry?" Mme Morubisi asked in her cheeky but gentle way.

"Christmas will be completely ruined!" blurted out Tshoswane, hunched over and panting from his run.

"Oh dear," said the seemingly all-knowing Mme Morubisi, not concerned at all.

"Nate Pidipidi, Segwagwa and Hlogo have formed a trio called Killing Them Softly and they're going to perform at tomorrow's Festive Show," explained Ramošwe. "We don't know who organised this thing, what they were thinking, or if they were thinking at all, when they booked these three. Think of the audience's ears! It must be stopped."

"Ahee, n'wina vanharhu, mi hatlisa kwihi?" Mme Morubisi a vutisa hi rito ro karhi kambe hi ndlela ya kahle.

"Khisimusi ri ta onhiwa swa ntiyiso!" ku buluka Tshoswane, a tlakuse ncila na ku hemfemuteka hikwalaho ka ku tsutsuma ka yena.

"Yoo murhandziwa," ku vula Mme Morubisi loyi a languteka a tiva hinkwaswo, a nga vileli nakatsongo.

"Nate Pidipidi, Segwagwa na Hlogo va endlile ntlawa wa vanharhu lowu vurivwaka Killing Them Softly naswona va ya eku yimbeleleni munda ku eka Nkombo wa Khisimusi," ku hlamusela Ramošwe. "A hi tiva leswaku i mani a nga hlamisa swilo leswi, a va ehleketi yini, kumbe a va ehleketi yini loko va buka lavanharhu. Ehleketilelani tindlele ta vayingiseri! Swi fanele ku yimisiwa."



ri ta onhiwal!
 "Ndza plumela," ku vula Ramošwe. "Va
 languti hinkwavo ka vona. Va tsakile. A va
 swi tvi leswaku va ta dyoheniwa ku filka
 kwihl."
 "Ndzi ehleketa leswaku hi ya eka Mme
 Morubisi. Yena u ta tiva leswaku u ta
 endla yini," ku ringanyeta Tshoswane.

"Hi fanele hi herisa swilo leswi. Sweswisweswi!" ku boxa Tshoswane, risokoti ra matimba swinene. "Khisisimusi

Saseka xa ncila wo tlhuma swinene.

“Hi ntšyiso ndzi ehleketa leswaku va lava ku dlaya vanhu hi ku olova
hi ku yimbelalanganya ka vona,” ku hlamula Ramošwe, maxinjani xo
wa xmony.

“Xana a wu anakany! eswaku vito leri ni ringeta ku hi byela
swin'wana?” Mmuta, mpmundla lowo tharha, a vutisa hi n'wayitelo

suggested I should write,

"I say we run to Mme Morubisi. She'll know what to do,"

"Agreed," said Ramos. "Look at all of them. They are so excited. They have no idea what a terrible thing they are about to hear."

"We need to put an end to this. Immediately!" declared Tshoswane, the immensely strong ant. "Christmas will be ruined!"

"I really think they intend on killing people softly with their so-called singing," retorted Ramoswe, a pretty squirrel with an enormous bushy tail.

a clever rabbit, asked with a wry smile.

"Don't you think the name is trying to tell us something?" Minutda,

Last year, Mme Thaha had sung so beautifully, everyone decided the Festive Show should be held every year. But this year the heatwave gave her heatstroke, and she had to pull out at the last minute.

Ntate Pidipidi and Ntate Segwagwa pounced at the opportunity to fill in as replacements.

It's just that Ntate Pidipidi's singing was truly terribly atrocious in every way. It was matched only by that of Ntate Segwagwa. Together they were the worst singing duo in the entire universe. However, for this year's soiree, they had outdone themselves. They found an *even worse* singer, Ntate Hlogo – a gigantic shoebill. Together they formed a trio aptly called Killing Them Softly.

N'waxemu Mme Thaha u yimbelerile ku saseka, un'wana na un'wana u tekile xiboho xa leswaku Nkombiso wa Makhisimusi wu fanele ku khomiwa lembe na lembe.

Kambe ku hisa ka lembe leri ku n'wi omisile swirho, naswona u tihumesile ku sale nkarhi wutsongo.

Ntate Pidipidi na Ntate Segwagwa va kumile nkarhi wa ku ngenela tanihi vasivaxivandla lexi nga kona.

Ko va ku ku yimbelela ka Ntate Pidipidi ntiyiso a ku bihile swinene. A ku fana ntsena na ka Ntate Segwagwa. Havambirhi a ku ri vayimbeleri vo dyoha emisaveni hinkwayo. Hambiswiritano, eka ntlangu wa madyambu ya namuntlha, va swi nyanyisile swinene. Va kumile xiyimbeleri xo dyoha *kutlula na xona*, Ntate Hlogo – nkorho leyikulu. Hinkwavo va endlile ntlawa wa vanharhu lowu vuriwaka *Killing Them Softly*.



bowing, enjoying the applause.

Ntate Pidipidi, Segwagwa and Hlogo were still

hearing. They even laughed and cheered.

They stayed enthralled by the monstrosity they were

at the most horrible singing they'd ever heard.

started rolling in. They gently let go of their water, cooling the crowds below, who were busy marvelling

But by the start of the show, the clouds suddenly

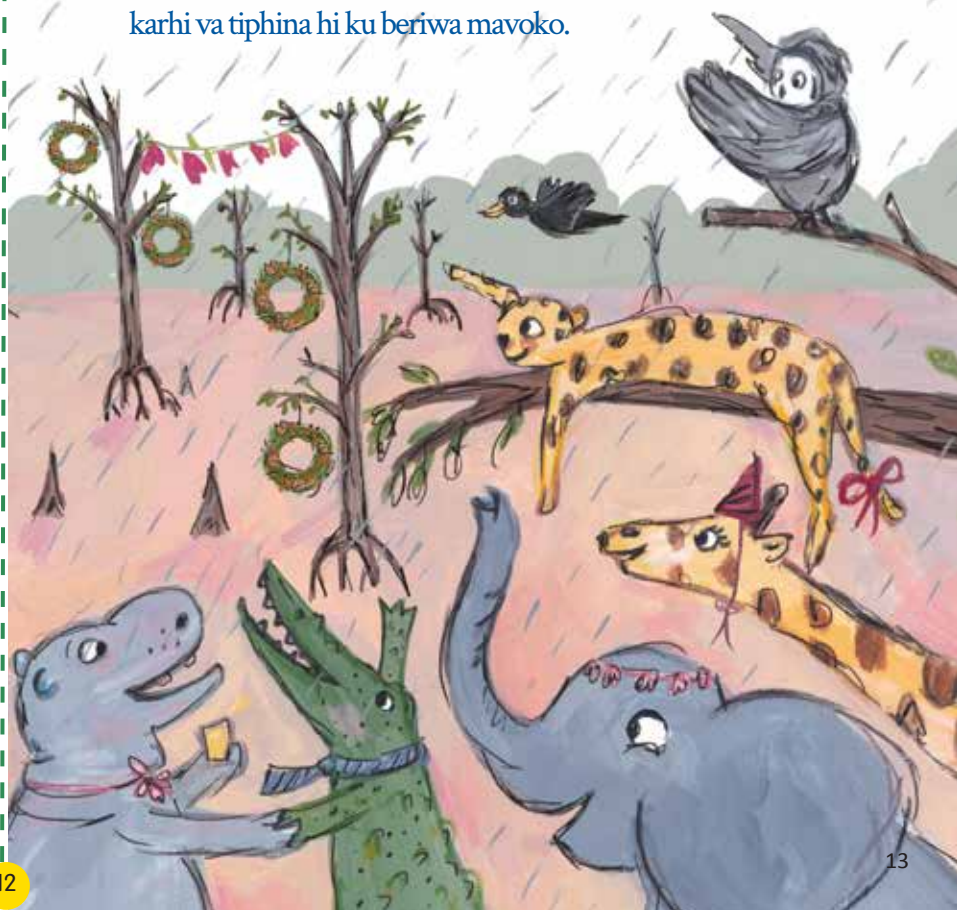
Morbidity's refreshing elixir.

When Christmas Day arrived, it brought with it unbearable heat. The parched crowds drank Mimi

Loko Siku ra Khisimusi ri fika, ri tile na ku hisa loku a ku nga tiyiseleki. Ntshungu lowu a wu lo n'walala wu nwile mikhubi wa Mme Morubisi.

Kambe hi nkarhi wa ku sungula ka nkombiso, mapapa ya sungula ku hlangana. Ya sungurile ku nisa mpfula, ya ri karhi ya timula ntshungu ehansi, lowu a wu ri karhi wu hlamala vuyimbeleri byo dyoha lebyi a va nga si tshama va byi twa. A va tsakisa hi ku dyoha loku a va ku twa. A va hleka na ku va themendhela.

Ntate Pidipidi, Segwagwa, na Hlogo a va ha korhamile, va ri karhi va tiphina hi ku beriwa mavoko.





Nobukhwebezane, hosana ya xisati ya mati



Hi Luyanda Sikhakhane ■ Swifaniso hi Natalie na Tamsin Hinrichsen

Lembe na lembe hi December, a ku ri nkarhi wa nkhuvo wa Kwanzaa – nkarhi wa ku va mindyangu yi hlangana swin'we eswakudiyeni yi tlhela yi nyikana tinyiko. Naswona lembe na lembe, loko byi nga si va vurhonga, Khwezi, Lubo na Malaika a va pfuka va rhelela enambyweni. A va famba va ri karhi va yimbelela tinsimu to nandziha, va ri karhi va rhelela tirhobeyila.

Vanhwanyana lava vanharhu a va tsake ni swikunwana, hikuva hi siku rero, a va ta kuma hosana ya xisati ya mati, Nobukhwebezane, a va rindzile enambyeni. Loko va tshinela, va n'wi twe a yimbelela hi rito ro xonga a ku:

"Ma-Afrika pfukani ... Kwanzaa u fikile!"

A hi nyikaneni tinyiko to saseka ... hi kombana rirhandzu!

Tisani mihandzu, nyama na mahewu.

A hi dyeni, hi tsaka swin'we ... hi kombana rirhandzu!"



Vanhwanyana a va tshama eribuweni ra nambu va yingisela risimu. Kutani loko dyambu ri huma, Nobukhwebezane a a va nyika swirhundzu leswi nga tala hi matsavu na mihandzu leswaku va muka na swona ekaya.

"Sala kahle, Hosana ya Xisati ya Mati!" va vula va ri karhi va tsutsumela ekaya.

leswaku vanhu va muganga va ta lunghiselela swakudya swa nkhuvo wa Kwanzaa.

Kambe ku na leswi minkarhi hinkwayo a swi karhata Nobukhwebezane. "Ndza tivutisa leswaku ha yini vanhwanyana lava va famba na swirhundzu swa mihandzu na matsavu ni ku nkhenza va nga nkhenzi?" a tivutisa a tshame a ri yexe.

Loko va fika ekaya, vanhu va muganga a va ta hlangana emutini wa hosi, va ambale swiambalo swa mihlovo yo koka mahlo. Handle ka mihandzu na matsavu yo huma eka hosana ya xisati ya mati, vanhu va muganga a va ta na ntshovelo na nyama, va sweka swin'we loko vana va ri eku tlangeni.

Loko vanhu va muganga va hefile ku dya, a va nyikana tinyiko, va yimbelela va ri karhi va cina. Lava misisi yo basa a va siyerisana va hlamusela mintsheketo leyi va yi rhandzaka.

Hi lembe rin'wana loko ku fika siku ra Kwanzaa, Khwezi, Lubo na Malaika va pfuke va tsutsumela enambyeni ku fana na man'wana masiku, va ri karhi va yimbelela, va famba va rhelela tirhobeyila. Loko va tshinela enambyeni, va kume swilo swi nga ri hi ndlela leyi va yi toloveleke. A va nga tvi ku yimbelela ka Nobukhwebezane.

"Xana swi nga endleka Nobukhwebezane a ha etlele?" ku vutisa Malaika.

"Kumbexana a nga titwi kahle," ku vula Khwezi.

"Kumbexana u rivele leswaku nkhuvo wa Kwanzaa wu sungula namuntlha," ku vula Lubo.

Loko va fika enambyeni, Nobukhwebezane a a nga ri kona.

Xikan'wekan'we ku te rihati leri nga va tlunya mahlo. Hiloko ku twala rito leri pfallaka tindleve ri tlhela ri chavisa ri ku, "Loko munhu a nyikiwa xokarhi u fanele a nkhenza! Sweswo i vumunhu!" Hiloko rihati ri nyamalala, ku sala ntsena ku vonaka dyambu la ko taniya, ri huma eswintshabyanini. Vanhwanyana lava va sale va karhatekile loko va lemuka leswaku ku na swilo leswi nga rivala ku swi endla.

"A hi si tshama hi nkhenza Nobukhwebezane loko a hi nyika tinyiko! Minkarhi hinkwayo ho namba hi suka hi famba," ku vula Lubo hi mbilu leyi tshovekeke.

Va sungule ku tlhelela ekaya hi ku koka milenge va tshoveke timbilu.

"Hi ta ku yini loko hi fika ekaya hi nga khomanga nchumu?" ku vutisa Malaika.

Khwezi u langute vanghana vakwe a ku, "N'wino, ... hi fanele hi tlhela hi ya kombela hosana ya xisati ya mati yi hi rivala."

"Kambe Nobukhwebezane a nga ha lavi no twa hi hina. A nga lavi ni ku vona nkondzo wa hina!" ku vula Lubo a hele matimba.

"Ndzi pfumelelana na Khwezi," ku vula Malaika. "A hi tlheleni hi ya tisola. Hambiloko ho kuma Nobukhwebezane a nga ri kona, hi nga n'wi siyela meseji eka nhlampfi."

"I miehleketo ya kahle," ku vula Lubo, a sungula ku kuma matimba. "Loko hi ri karhi hi tlhelela enambyeni, hi nga famba hi rhelela tirhobeyila hi ya nyika Nobukhwebezane."

Vanhwanyana lavanharhu va tate nkrama hi tirhobeyila leti va nga ti rhelela. Tinghohe ta vona a ti n'wayitela loko va tlhelela enambyeni hi ku tsutsuma kunene. Loko va ri ekusuhi, va tve risimu ro xonga leri a va ri toloverile:

"Ma-Afrika pfukani ... Kwanzaa u fikile!"

A hi nyikaneni tinyiko to saseka ... hi kombana rirhandzu!"

Tisani mihandzu, nyama na mahewu.

A hi dyeni, hi tsaka swin'we ... hi kombana rirhandzu!"

"Nobukhwebezane u vuyile! Hosana ya xisati ya mati yi vuyile!" va huwelela va ri karhi va tsutsumela eribuweni ra nambu.

Nobukhwebezane a a tshame eribyeni ekusuhi na ribuwa ra nambu, a ri karhi a nwayitela.

"Hosana ya xisati, ha tisola swinene hileswi hi nga tsandzeka ku ku nkhenza mayelana na tinyiko ta mihandzu na matsavu!" ku vula Malaika.

"Ina, Nobukhwebezane, hi khomele. Hi kombela u hi rivala," ku xavelela Khwezi.

"Kwanzaa i nkarhi wa ku nyikana tinyiko. Namuntlha hi ku khomele nyiko!" ku vula Lubo, a ri karhi a nyika Nobukhwebezane nkrama lowu nga tala hi tirhobeyila.

Nobukhwebezane u langute endzeni ka nkrama ivi a n'wayitela. "Tirhobeyila leti ti vonaka ti nandziha. Ndza nkhenza, vanghana va mina!"

"Na hina ha ku nkhenza, Hosana ya Xisati, hikwalaho ka tinyiko leti u hi nyikeke tona malembe lawa hinkwawo hi nkarhi wa Kwanzaa. Inkomu," ku vula Malaika a khomiwe hi tingana.

"Vanghana, ... Kwanzaa i nkarhi wa ku nyika, ntsako, ku rhula na ku kombana rirhandzu! Tshinelani, ndzi lava ku mi dyondzisa risimu lerintshwa!" Hiloko Nobukhwebezane a yimbelela a ku:

"Nkhenza minkarhi hinkwayo, kombisa rirhandzu minkarhi hinkwayo, kutani na wena u ta kombiwa rona!"

Nkhenza minkarhi yinkwayo, kombisa rirhandzu minkarhi hinkwayo, kutani na wena u ta kombiwa rona!"

Nkhenza minkarhi hinkwayo, kombisa rirhandzu minkarhi hinkwayo! Sweswo i swinene minkarhi hinkwayo!"

"Kutani, hatlisani mi muka," ku vula yena. "Nkarhi wa mi siya! Hi leswi swirhundzu swa mihandzu na matsavu. Va yime hi n'wina."

"Ha nkhenza, Hosana ya Xisati ya Mati. Inkomu, Nobukhwebezane!" ku vula vanhwanyana.

"Fambani kahle! Mi tiphina hi Kwanzaa!" ku vula Nobukhwebezane.

"A swi ve tano ni le ka wena, Hosana ya Xisati! Inkomu!" ku vula vanhwanyana.

Loko vanhwanyana va fika ekaya, va kume vanhu va muganga va va rindzile. "Inkomu, n'we vanhwana. Swi tikomba mihandzu ni matsavu leswi mi nga ta na swona swi tele ku tlula swa malembe man'wana. Inkomu!" ku vula hosi ya muganga.

Loko vanhwanyana va twa sweswo, va langutanile ... ivi va n'wayitela. Va swi tivile leswaku Nobukhwebezane u va rivalerile. "Inkomu, Hosana ya Xisati," va vula hi ku hlevetela kunene.



Endla ntsheketo wu nyanyula!

★ Xana ndyangu kumbe muganga wa ka n'wina wu hlanganyela eka nkhuvo wokarhi lowu endlwaka eAfrika kumbe eAfrika Dzonga ntsena? Wu vuriwa yini naswona ku tlangeriwa yini?

★ I mihandzu ni matsavu ya njhani lawa mi talaka ku va na wona eminkhubenyi ya n'wina? Dirowa yin'wana ya mihandzu na matsavu ya kona.

★ Qambha risimu ro nkhenza swilo leswinene leswi u swi kumaka siku na siku.



Nobukhwebezane, the water princess

By Luyanda Sikhakhane ■ Illustrations by Natalie and Tamsin Hinrichsen



Every year, in December, it was time for the Kwanzaa festival – a time when families met and shared food and gifts. And every year, before dawn, Khwezi, Lubo and Malaika would get up and go down to the river. On their way, they would sing beautiful songs and pick blackberries.

The three girls were always very excited, because on this day, they would find the water princess, Nobukhwebezane, waiting for them at the river. As they got closer, they could hear her beautiful voice singing:

"Africans arise ... Kwanzaa has come!

We give each other beautiful gifts ... we show each other love!

Bring fruit, meat and amahewu.

Let's eat, celebrate together ... show each other love!"



The girls would sit on the riverbank and listen to the song. Then, at sunrise, Nobukhwebezane would give them baskets full of vegetables and fruits to take home to their village.

"Stay well, Water Princess!" they would

call as they ran home so that the villagers could prepare a feast for the Kwanzaa celebrations.

But something always troubled Nobukhwebezane. "I wonder why those girls don't thank me when they take the baskets of fruits and vegetables?" she asked herself as she sat alone.

Back at the village, everyone would gather at the chief's home, wearing bright, colourful clothes. Besides the fruits and vegetables from the water princess, the villagers would bring grain and meat, and they would cook together while the children played.

After the villagers had feasted, they exchanged gifts, and sang and danced. The older people took turns telling their favourite folktales.

One year, when Kwanzaa arrived, Khwezi, Lubo and Malaika woke up and rushed to the river as usual, singing and picking blackberries along the way. As they neared the river, they realised that something was wrong. They couldn't hear Nobukhwebezane singing.

"Could Nobukhwebezane still be asleep?" wondered Malaika.

"Maybe she's not well," suggested Khwezi.

"Perhaps she forgot that today is the start of Kwanzaa," said Lubo.

When they reached the river, Nobukhwebezane was nowhere to be seen.

Suddenly, a bright light blinded their eyes. Then, a loud and frightening voice said, "Whoever is given something must say thank you! That is good manners!" Then the light disappeared, and only the rising sun behind the hills in the distance remained. The girls felt terrible when they realised what they had forgotten to do.

"We never thank Nobukhwebezane for the Kwanzaa gifts! We always leave in a hurry," said Lubo sadly.

With heavy hearts, they slowly started walking back home.

"What are we going to say when we arrive back at the village empty-handed?" asked Malaika.

Khwezi turned to her friends and said, "Friends, ... we must go back and apologise to the water princess."

"But Nobukhwebezane doesn't want anything to do with us. She doesn't want to see us!" said Lubo, feeling hopeless.

"I agree with Khwezi," said Malaika. "We have to go back and apologise. Even if we don't find Nobukhwebezane there, we can leave a message for her with the fish."

"Good idea," said Lubo, starting to feel better. "I know, on our way back to the river, we can pick blackberries as a gift for Nobukhwebezane."

The three girls picked a bag full of blackberries. Their faces were smiling again as they ran back down to the river. As they got closer, they heard the sweet song they knew so well:

"Africans arise ... Kwanzaa has come!

We give each other beautiful gifts ... we show each other love!

Bring fruit, meat and amahewu.

Let's eat, celebrate together ... show each other love!"

"Nobukhwebezane is back! The water princess is back!" they shouted, running to the edge of the river.

Nobukhwebezane was sitting on a rock close to the riverbank, smiling.

"Princess, we are really sorry for never saying thank you for your gifts of fruits and vegetables!" said Malaika.

"Yes, Nobukhwebezane, we apologise. Please forgive us," begged Khwezi.

"Kwanzaa is a time for giving gifts. Today we have a gift for you!" said Lubo, reaching out to give Nobukhwebezane the bag full of blackberries.

Nobukhwebezane looked inside the bag and smiled. "These blackberries look delicious. Thank you, friends!"

"We are also thankful to you, Princess, for the gifts that you have given us year after year at Kwanzaa. Thank you," Malaika said shyly.

"My friends, ... Kwanzaa is a time of giving, joy, peace and love! Come close, I want to teach you a new song!" Then Nobukhwebezane sang:

"Always be thankful, always love and you will receive in return!

Always be thankful, always love and you will receive in return!

Always be thankful, always love! These are always good!"

"Now, hurry home," she said. "It's getting late! Here are the baskets of fruits and vegetables. They are waiting for you."

"Thank you, Water Princess. Thank you, Nobukhwebezane!" said the girls.

"Go well! Happy Kwanzaa!" shouted Nobukhwebezane.

"To you too, Princess! Thank you!" shouted the girls.

When the girls arrived home, the villagers were already waiting for them. "Thank you, girls. It looks like you brought more fruit and vegetables than ever before. Thank you!" said the chief of the village.

When the girls heard this, they looked at each other ... and smiled. They knew that Nobukhwebezane had forgiven them. "Thank you, Princess," they whispered.



Get story active!

- ★ Does your family or community take part in a celebration that is specifically African or South African? What is it called and what is celebrated?
- ★ What kinds of fruits and vegetables do you often have at your celebrations? Draw some of these fruits and vegetables.

- ★ Make up your own song in which you say thank you for the good things that you receive each day.

Swo tsakisa hi Nal'ibali

Nal'ibali fun

1.

☉ Kuma khodi!

Xana Neo na vanghana va yena va ta tirhisa nkarhi wa vona wo wisa hi ku endla yini? Tirhisa tafula ra xitshova-khodi ya wasi ku ku pfuna ku swi tiva.

1. Neo u ya eka riendzo ra (2, 15, 12, 15) _____ eka vhiki ro sungula ra nkarhi wo wisa.
2. Mbali wa tihumesa ku ya eka (16, 21, 18, 1, 19, 9) _____ na vana van'wani va xikolo xa tindzumulo xa Kokwani.
3. Bella u ya ku ya (8, 12, 1, 25, 1) _____ ka Noodle ku n'wi humesa va ya tlanga na timbyana tin'wana eka (16, 8, 1, 11, 1) _____.
4. Hope u ya nghenelela mphikizano wa (11, 1, 18, 1 20, 9) _____.
5. Afrika na Dintle va ya pfuna mana wa vona ku (2, 1, 11, 1) _____ makokisi na makhekhe eka xitolo xa yena xa nkombiso wa xixika.
6. Priya u famba na sesi wa yena va ya eka vuleteri bya ntsheketo e (12, 1, 25, 9, 2, 21, 18, 1, 18, 9) _____.
7. Josh u pfuna ku fambisa (16, 8, 21, 18, 15, 7, 9, 18, 5, 13, 5) (25, 1) (14, 11, 1, 18, 8, 9) (23, 15) (23, 9, 19, 1) _____ eka vana lavatsongo exikolweni xa yena.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Y	Z						
25	26						

☉ Crack the code!

What are Neo and his friends going to spend time doing during the holidays? Use the blue code-breaker table to help you find out.

1. Neo is going on a (19, 15, 3, 3, 5, 18) _____ tour for the first week of the holidays.
2. Mbali is going on an outing to a (6, 1, 18, 13) _____ with the other children at Gogo's educare centre.
3. Bella is going to (18, 5, 1, 4) _____ to Noodle and take him to play with the other dogs at the (16, 1, 18, 11) _____.
4. Hope is taking part in a (11, 1, 18, 1, 20, 5) _____ competition.
5. Afrika and Dintle are going to help their mother to (2, 1, 11, 5) _____ cakes and biscuits for her stall at the winter fair.
6. Priya is going with her sister to a story workshop at the (12, 9, 2, 18, 1, 18, 25) _____.
7. Josh is helping to run a (8, 15, 12, 9, 4, 1, 25) (16, 18, 15, 7, 18, 1, 13, 13, 5) _____ for the younger children at his school.



2.

Hetisa ntsheketo hi ku ya hi leswi wena u swi ehleketaka. Wu hlamusele munghana kumbe mutswari wa wena.

Vanhu hinkwavo a va ehleketa leswaku Mama Esther i noyi. A a titshamela yexe exiyindlwani xa yena, naswona loko o tshuka a ya edorobeni, a a ya xava swakudya leswi a swi nga koteki ku swi byala exirhapani. A ku nga ri na loyi a vulavulaka na yena, kasi na yena a a nga vulavuli na munhu.

Kutani loko lwangu ra Mama Esther ri hahluriwa hi moya, a ku tanga munhu a ta n'wi pfuna. Loko va hundza hi ndlela, vaaki va muti a va ceceleta kunene leswaku va nga voni yindlu yakwe leyi hahlukeke.

Kambe a ku ri na jaha rin'wana leri vuriwaka George leri nga vona swi fanerile ku endla swokarhi hi Mama Esther ...



Use your imagination to complete the story. Tell a friend or parent your story.

Everyone thought Mama Esther was a witch. She lived alone in a small house and only went to town to buy food she could not grow in her garden. No one spoke to her, and she spoke to no one.

So when Mama Esther's roof blew off during a storm, no one came to help her. The townspeople pulled their coat collars up high and their hats down low so they would not have to look at her broken little house when they walked by. But there was one young man named George who thought it was time to do something about Mama Esther ...



Answers: 1. bolo 2. purasi 3. hlava, phaka 4. karati 5. baka 6. library 7. holiday programme
Tihlanganiso: 1. bolo 2. purasi 3. hlava, phaka 4. karati 5. baka 6. layiburari 7. phurogireme ya nkarhi wo wisa

Mi nga rivali leswaku hi ta va hi ye eku wiseni ku fikela hi **vhiki ro sungula ra February 2024**. Tiphineni hi tiholideyi kambe mi tlhela mi va na hina elembeni lerintshwa eka matsima ya Nal'ibali ya ku hlava! Loko ku ri sweswi mi nga nghena eka www.nalibali.org kumbe mi WhatsAppa rito "stories" eka 0600 44 22 54 leswaku mi hambeta mi tihungasa hi ku hlava!

Don't forget that we will be taking a break until the **first week of February 2024**. Enjoy the holidays and join us in the new year for more Nal'ibali reading magic! In the meantime, visit www.nalibali.org or WhatsApp "stories" to 0600 44 22 54 to keep reading for enjoyment!

Nal'ibali yi kona ku ku hlohotela na ku ku seketela. **Tihlanganisi na hina** hi yin'wani ya tindlela leti:
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