

English, Afrikaans, Isixhosa, Isizulu, Sesotho

BASED ON THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM

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NORMAL RETAIL PRICE

R25

(R12.50 to vendor when sold on the street. R6.25 to Vendor Fund when sold in-store)

# little issue

young minds matter

# WHERE DO BOOKS SLEEP?

ANSWER ON PAGE 1

# 3



Superheroes save the day!

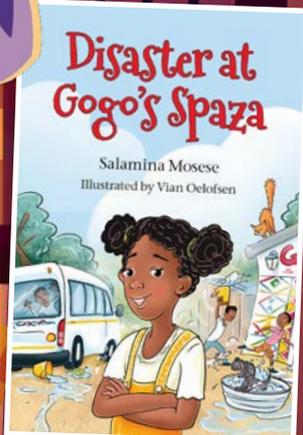
PAGE 22

Clever bird brain

PAGE 14

# + RONG

PAGE 4



GIVEAWAY!

NIKEZA!

PAGE 3

4 Multilingual stories

+ make your own book



Thank you to our awesome  
sponsors for helping us have  
fun while we learn



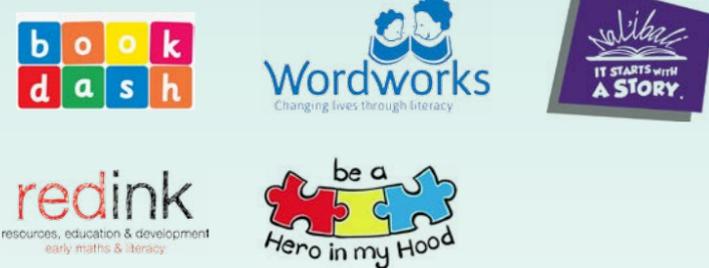
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ShineLiteracy, Help2Read and Wordworks

**Hello readers!**

There are four big stories in this issue. Try and read **A very tall man** by yourself. The second story is called **A garden in Congo**. Read it and then turn to page 10 and have fun writing a story and making your own book.

**How to be a superhero** and **What does an angel look like?** are good bedtime stories. Ask someone to read them to you. You can also enter the giveaway for your own copy of **Disaster at Gogo's Spaza**. Turn to page 3 to see how.

Our favourite giraffe, **Rong**, is working on his responsible behaviour. Well done Rong! Now grab your pencils and crayons, and get ready for some creative activities.

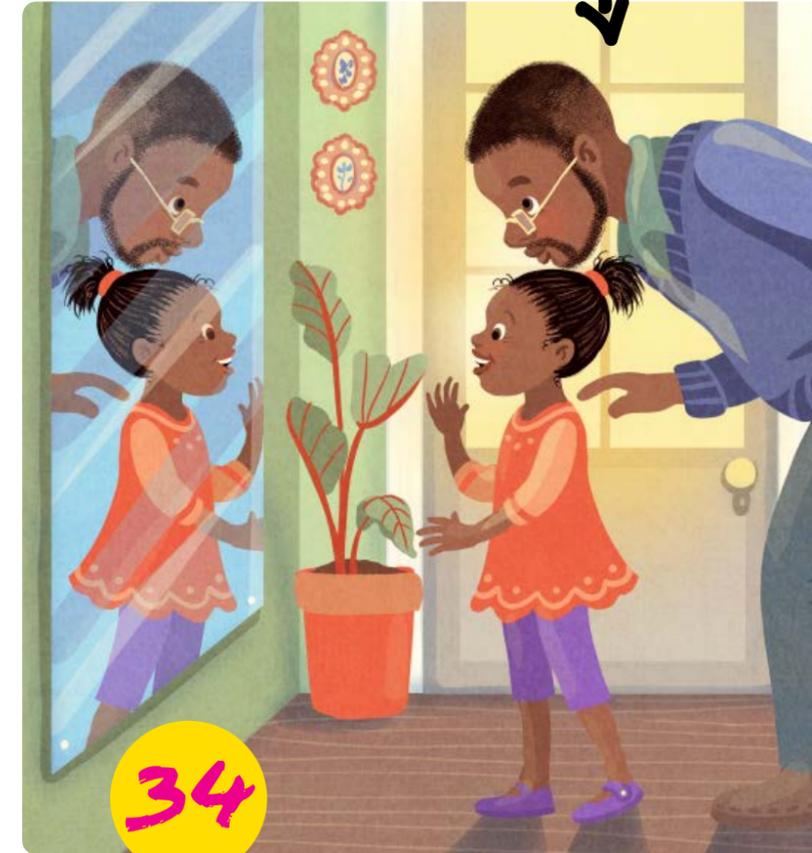
Have fun!

**Laura**

Editor and writer of the *little issue*



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**Help Rong!**

*Little issue's* favourite character, Rong, has lost a few of his things. Can you find them hidden in the pages of the magazine?

Find his:  
Slippers  
Soccer ball  
Water glass



ANSWERS: Slippers on page 38, ball on page 20, glass on page 31.

COVER ANSWER: Under their covers.

# young minds matter

## A message from our partner Shine Literacy

Creating a nation of readers

Shine Literacy sees the *little issue* as a valuable part of our @home literacy pack which goes out to 10 000 children per term nationwide. To date we have distributed 88 054 copies of the little issue to schools in Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal, Eastern Cape and the Western Cape. As part of our Creating a Culture of Reading campaign, we want children to own their own reading books and magazines. Teachers love the *little issue* and ask if they can first use it in the classroom as a reading resource before sending it home. It is a rich resource and is able to reach different ages too. The variety of content means there's something for everyone.

When it comes to reading, every minute counts and *little issue* is helping us create a nation of readers.

One of the most important things we can do to support our children's success is to read every day. Research tells us that students' daily reading practice of 20 minutes will continue to strengthen skills in all domains. Nagy & Herman (1987) have submitted that reading for 20 minutes every day will expose students to over a million words a year, and those students usually test in the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile. Learners who read five minutes a day are exposed to less than 300 000 words per year, and typically score in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Words Can Change Worlds

Maurita Weissenberg  
Executive Director  
Shine Literacy



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*little issue* IS PUBLISHED BY  
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[www.mikatekocomedia.co.za](http://www.mikatekocomedia.co.za)

Printer: Novus Print Cape Town

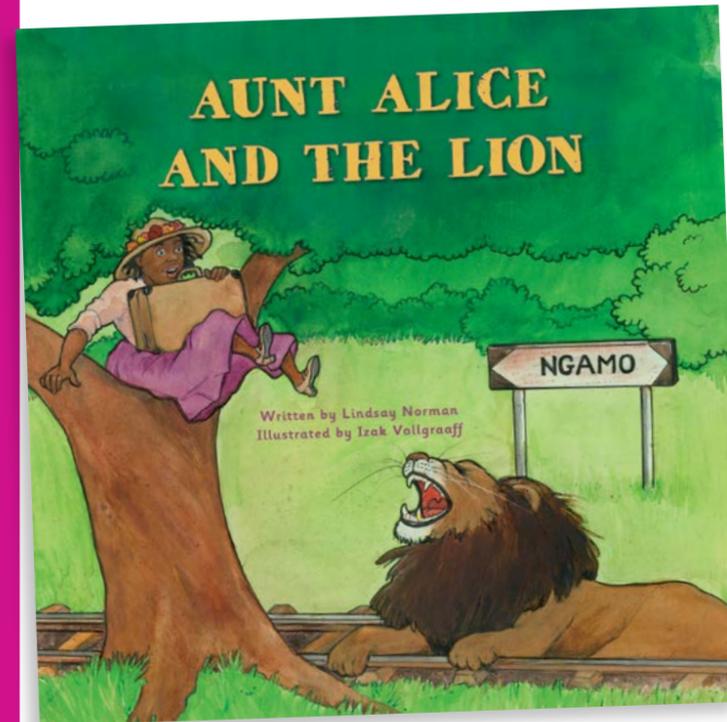
**FUNDERS**  
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# Want your own book?

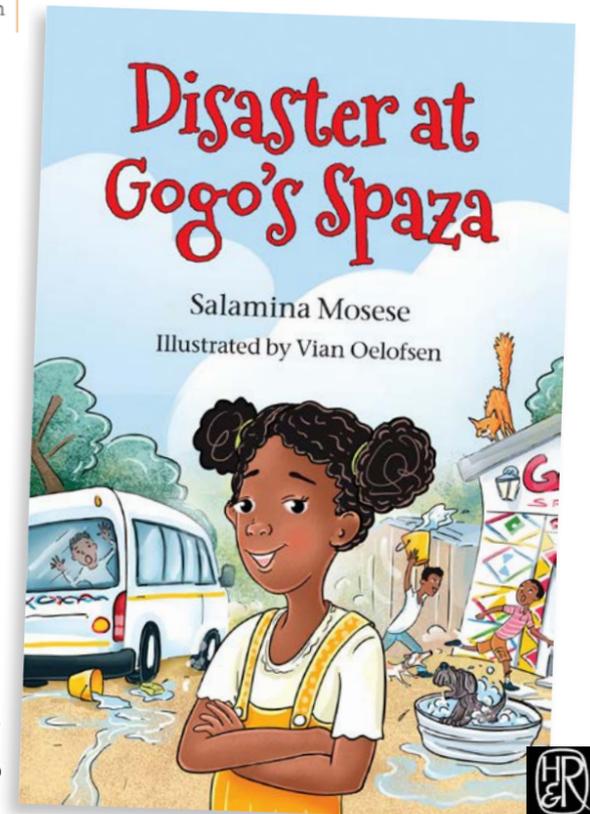


*Aunt Alice and the Lion* by Lindsay Norman, illustrated by Izak Vollgraaff

Themba and his brother and sister are excited. Aunt Alice is coming to visit them in the village! When they arrive at the station to meet her, the children find Aunt Alice in a tree.

She explains that a lion wants to eat her. But there is no sign of a lion. Her family thinks this is very funny. After a few days, Aunt Alice still believes that there is a lion waiting to pounce. Could she be right?

Penguin Random House



*Disaster at Gogo's Spaza* by Salamina Mosese, illustrated by Vian Oelofsen

Tumi visits her Gogo in Soweto for the holidays. She and her twin cousins often help Gogo in her spaza shop. It is the oldest spaza in all of Soweto. When Gogo leaves for a few days, Tumi has an idea. They will open the shop and run it themselves. They will earn lots of money. But without Gogo there things get a little bit crazy.

# EMAIL

Want a free copy of *Disaster at Gogo's Spaza*? We have one to give away. Email your name and number to [bradley.boult@mikatekocomedia.co.za](mailto:bradley.boult@mikatekocomedia.co.za) by 31 October 2022.

*Terms and conditions apply: competition closes on 31 October 2022. The winner will be randomly selected from email entries received before 11:59pm on the closing date. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The prize/s cannot be transferred or sold. The competition is not open to Mikateko Media, The Big Issue employees, little issue content partners, employees or their family members.*

# SHOULD I TOUCH THAT?

Colour in **green** the things that are good for children to touch.



## What is Rong SMELLING?

Draw a circle around the part of my body that you use to smell good and bad things.

Look at the things below. Put a cross through those that smell bad.

# Choose your behaviour

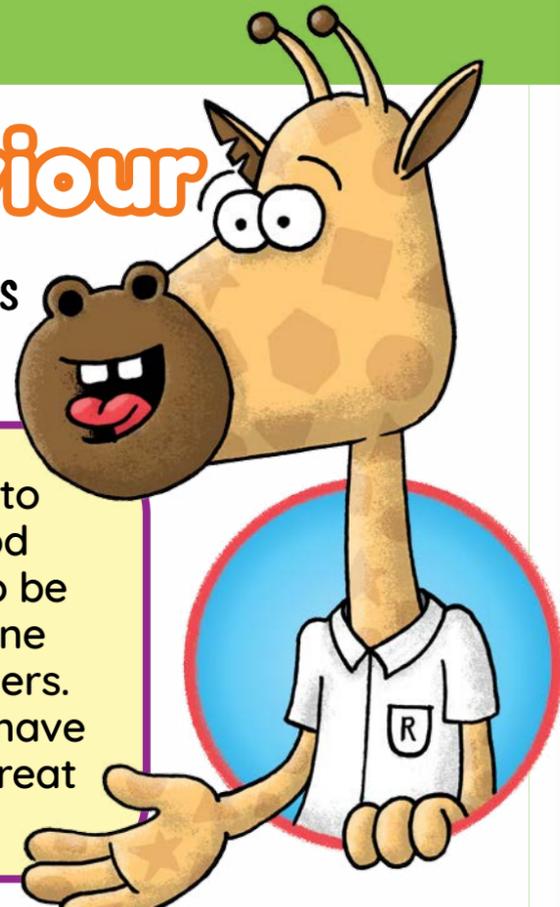
Are these good or bad manners?  
Talk about each picture and decide.

RONG SAYS



**GREET PEOPLE YOU KNOW**  
Good morning, Ma'am!

People like talking to someone with good manners. It is nice to be friends with someone who has good manners. We expect others to have good manners and treat us well too.



**SHOW KINDNESS**  
Here is some cake. I saved it for you from the party.



**BE HONEST**  
I broke the cup. I'm sorry!



**RESPECT WHAT BELONGS TO OTHER PEOPLE**  
I won't jump on granny's new couch.



**SHARE**  
If you don't have a pencil you can borrow one of mine.

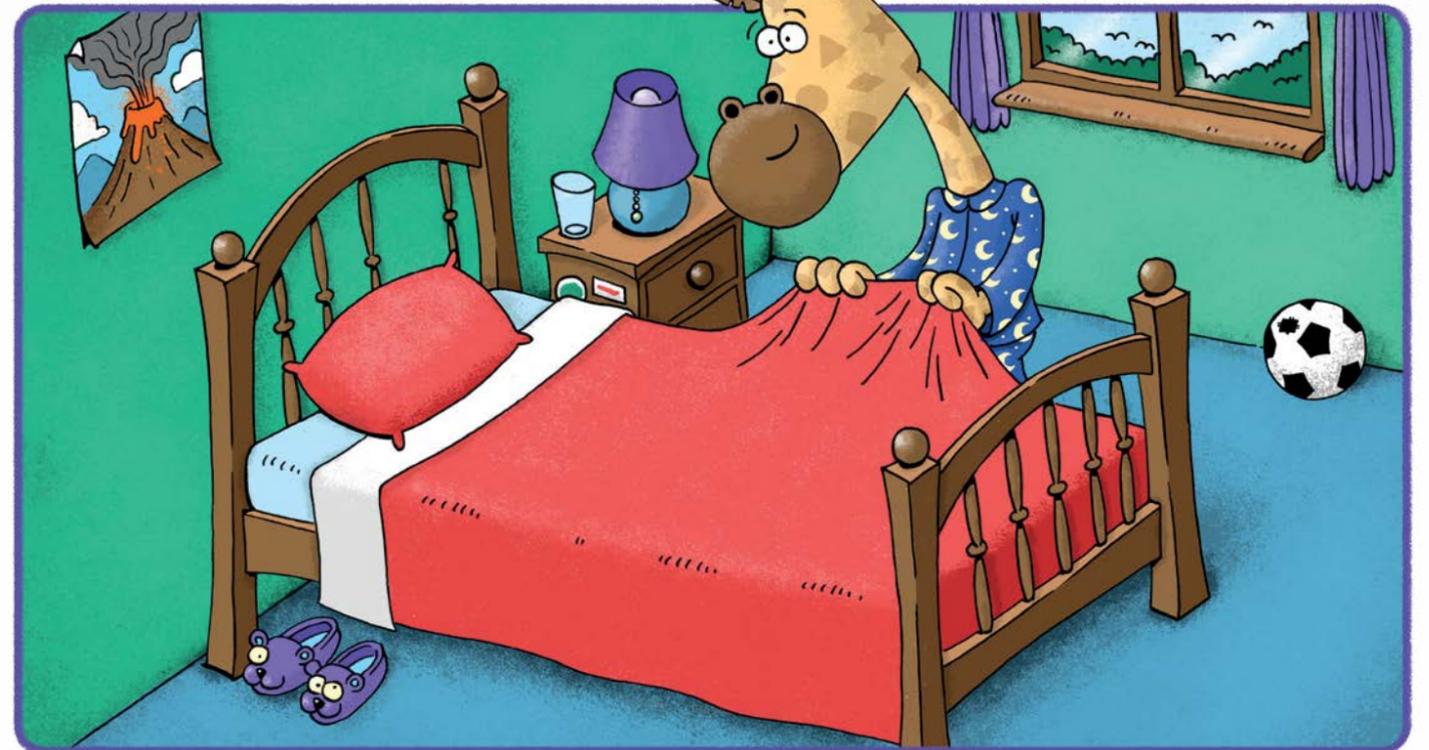
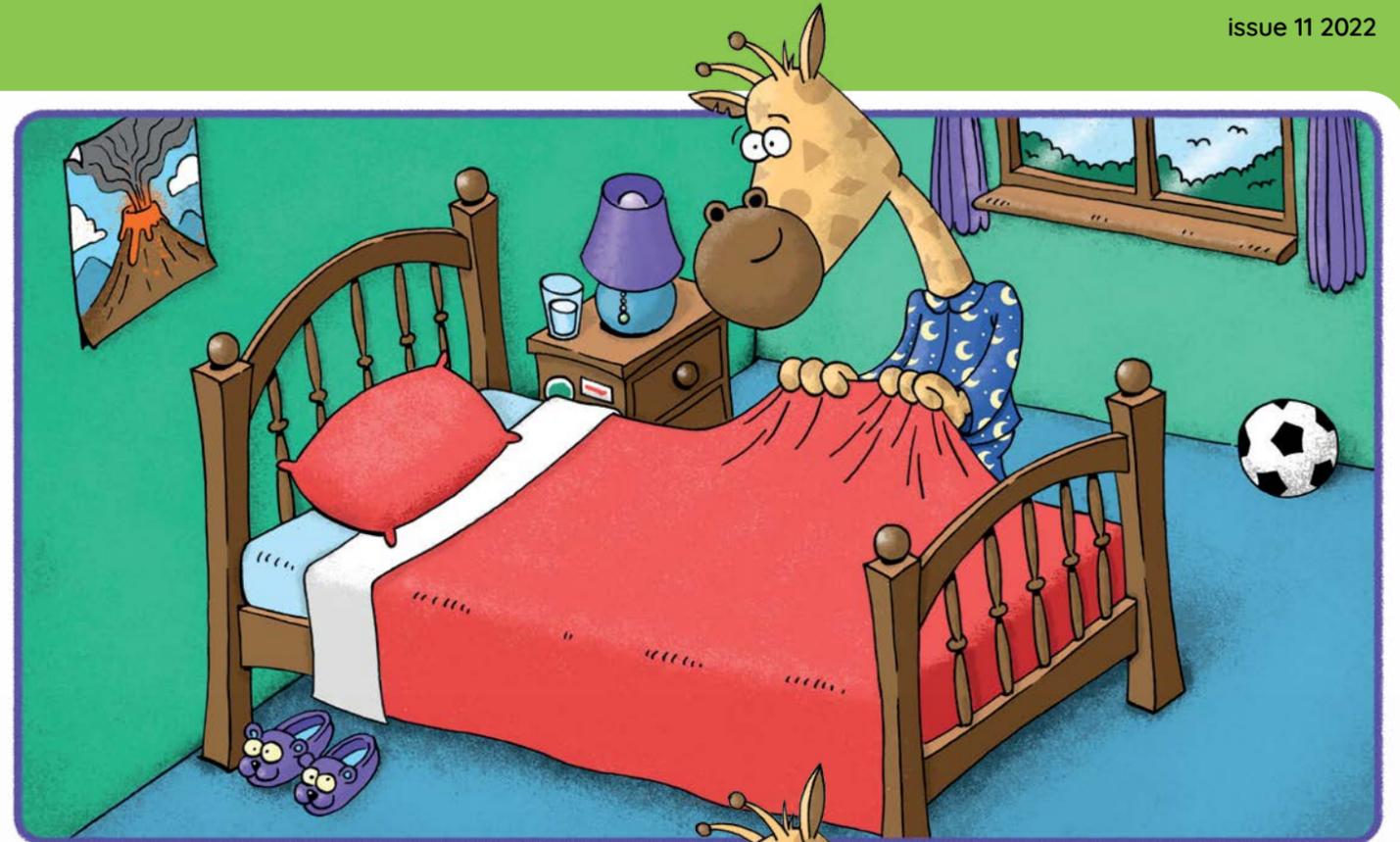


**RESPECT OTHERS**  
You were first in the queue. Please go before me.



**DO NOT TAKE WHAT DOES NOT BELONG TO YOU**  
This is not mine. I am giving it back to my friend.

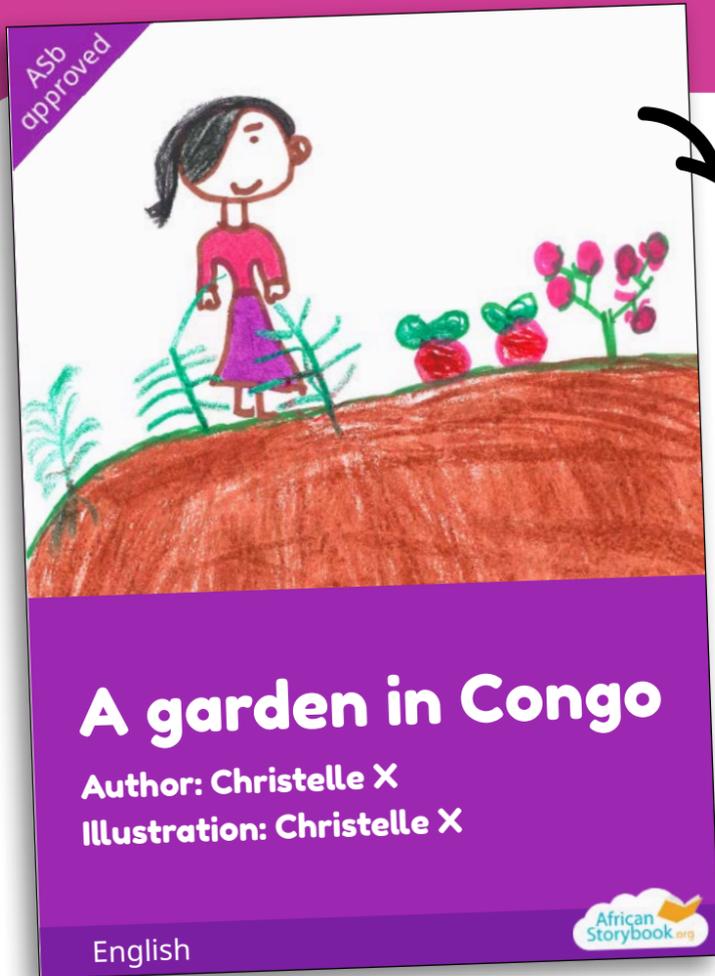
Illustrations: Justin Botes



## Spot the difference

Rong has chosen to be responsible. He is making his own bed without being told to do so. See if you can find six differences between the pictures of Rong.

1. Rong's finger is missing 2. An eyeball on the slippers is missing 3. Glass of water is missing 4. There are four birds in the sky 5. There's an extra pole on the soccer ball 6. There's one less wooden pole on the headboard.



1

We have no garden here in South Africa.

4

I would take tomatoes to my mother.

She would say, "Thank you."

5

We had a garden.

I was planting my own garden.

2

This house is in Congo.

I like this house.

3

We had our own bathroom.

We had our own toilet.

We left that house in Congo.

6

My mother told me, "My mother taught me to plant. Now I am teaching you."

7

I planted tomatoes and spinach.

I did it alone.

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**5 The middle**

Start writing the middle here.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**6 The end**

Draw a picture here.

Start writing the end here.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**7 The end**

Draw a picture here.

Finish writing the end here.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**8 Back cover**

Draw a picture of yourself.

Write your name here.

.....

**Draw the characters from your story here**



**WINGS**

Ostriches don't fly. They use their wings to guide them when they run. They also use them to defend against predators.

**HEAD AND NECK**

Ostriches don't bury their heads in the sand. They press their long necks onto the sand to hide when frightened.

**LEGS**

The ostrich can run as fast as 70km an hour. That's about as fast as a taxi zooming down the road.

**STOMACH**

They have 3 stomachs!

**FEET**

There are 2 toes on each foot. A strong forward kick can kill a lion.

**EGGS**

One ostrich egg weighs as much as 24 chicken eggs - like the ones you eat for breakfast.



# CLEVER BIRD BRAIN!

**Where do ostriches live?**

Africa, in grasslands and the desert.

**How big are they?**

They weigh around 155kg. That's about five 5-year-olds put together. They are also very tall.

**What do they eat?**

Plants, fruit, insects, small animals, grains, salts.

**What do they drink?**

Water. They love bathing in it. They can do without drinking water for about 2 weeks. They can survive on the liquid and food stored inside their bodies.

**Are they endangered?**

Yes. Few are left in the wild because they have been hunted and killed by humans. You can see ostriches in zoos, nature reserves, and ostrich farms. They are farmed for their feathers, eggs, meat and skin.

Source: www.onekindplanet.org



## STRONG BEAK

Ostriches don't have teeth. They swallow small stones which grind the food up in their stomachs.

## HUGE EYES

The ostrich brain is smaller than one of its big eyeballs. They can spot predators, like lions, from very far away.

## LONG, THICK EYELASHES

Why? To protect them from sand, especially when the wind blows up a storm.

# LET'S PLAY!

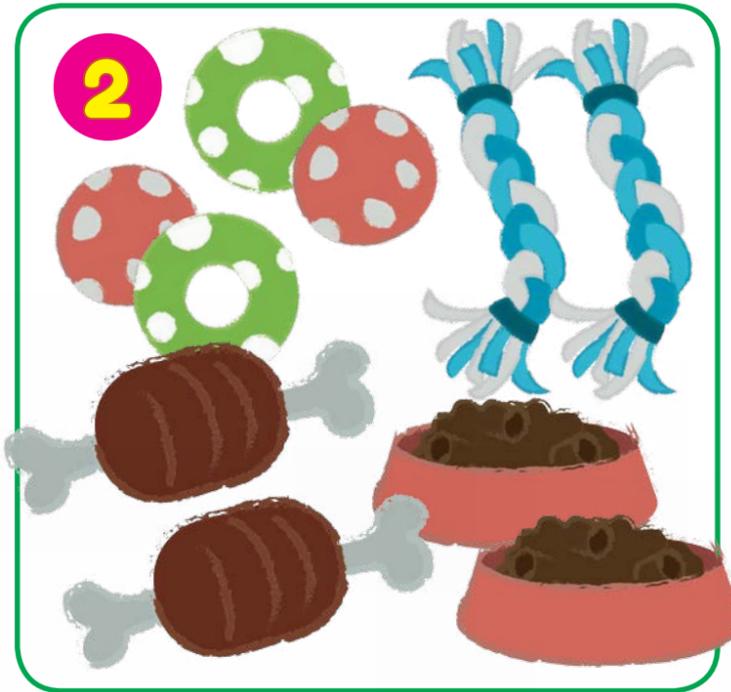
## FIND AND COUNT

1. What is happening with the child in the wheelchair and the child on the swing?
2. Can you find the white cat?
3. What kind of story do you think the teacher is reading to the children?
4. How many pairs of shoes are lying on the picnic blanket?
5. How many pairs of socks can you see in the picture?
6. Count all the apples you can see.
7. How many balls can you count?
8. How many children are running on the race track?
9. What colours are the children on the race track wearing?
10. What kinds of foods are the children eating?

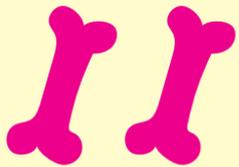
Answers: 1-both need help to move, 2-in the box, 4-Three, 5-Four, 6-Seven (excluding the apple on the book), 7-Six, 8-Five, 9-pink, red, yellow, blue, green, 10-lollipop, sandwiches, apples, bananas.

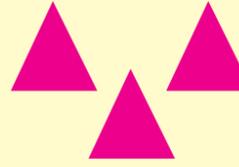
# Disappearing dog treats!

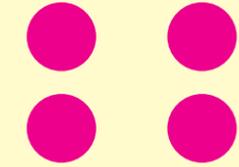
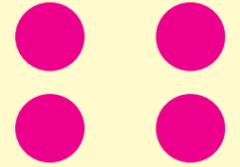
Look at the first and second pictures. What happened here?



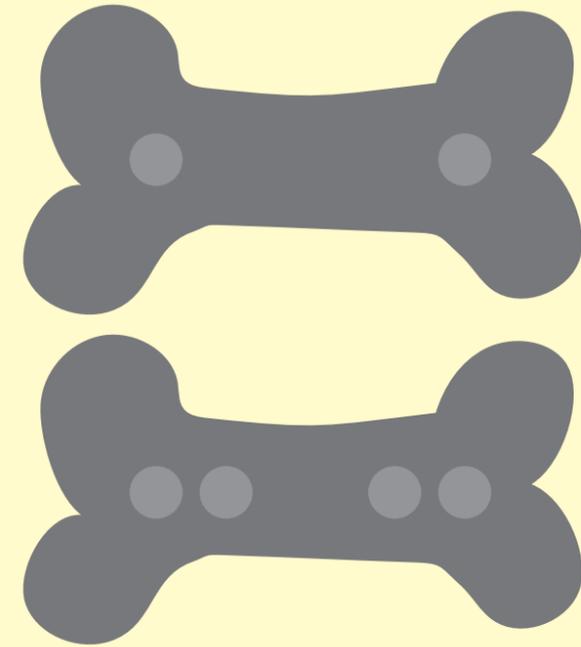
Add the shapes and write a sum for each one.

   +  =

   +  =

   +  =

Count the holes and do the sum.



1 +  1 =

2 +  2 =

Find the matching pairs of ball toys. Mark them with a cross as you go.

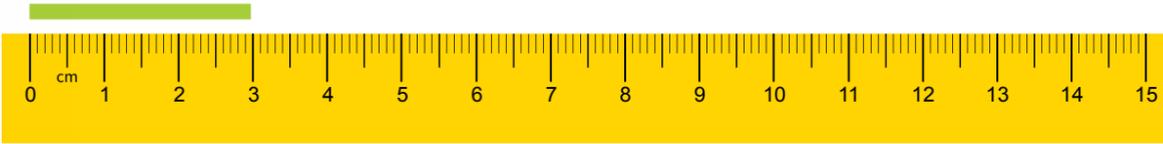
							
							
							

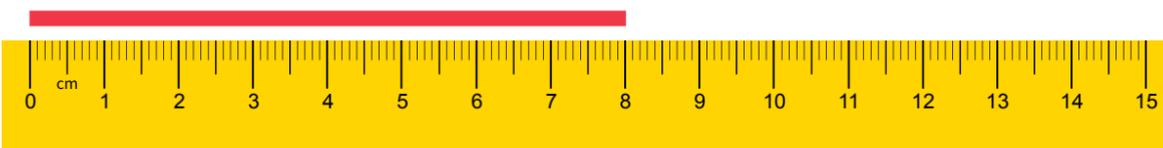
Source: Department of Basic Education

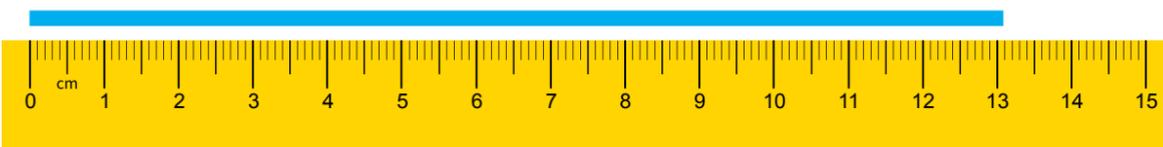
# CAN YOU MEASURE THESE?



How long are the coloured lines?  
Write your answers in the boxes underneath the rulers.





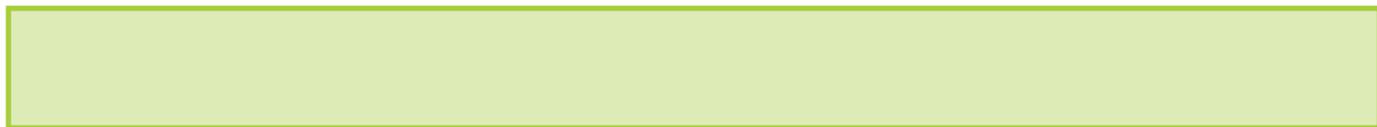



Draw lines in the boxes using your ruler to measure them.

Draw a 7cm line



Draw a 2cm line



Draw a 15cm line



The word we use to write **centimetres** can be shortened to **cm**  
The word we use to write **metres** can be shortened to **m**

First estimate the length of the objects before you measure them with your ruler.



Item	Estimation	Measured length

# THE GENETICS

Dany, Nuno and Ada: the 3 super-heroes who save the day!



## Twin mystery

Kate and Claire are twins and look so similar! Are Kate and Claire the same person?



Kate

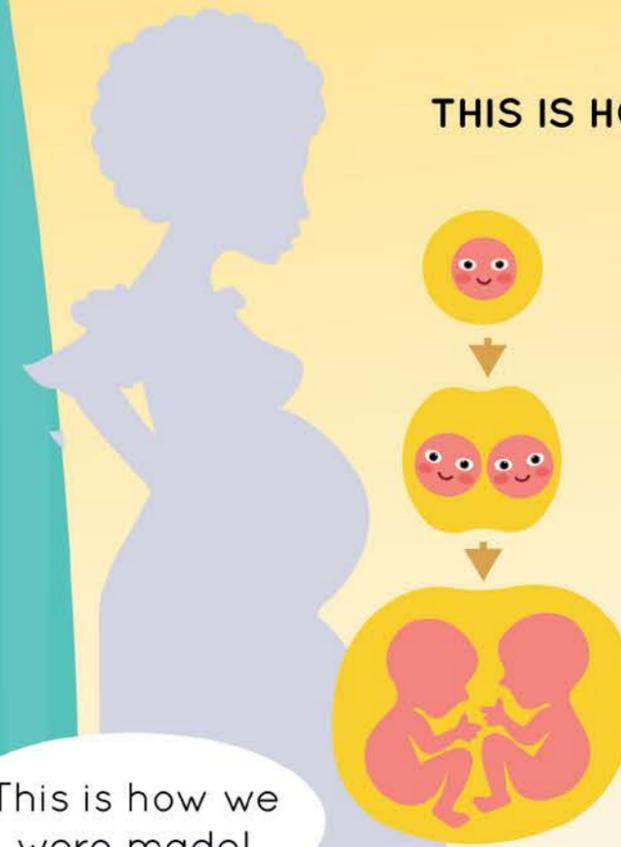
Claire

## WHAT IS A GENETIC CODE?

Every person on earth has a different genetic code. No two codes are the same. EXCEPT FOR TWINS! Twins have the same genetic code.



## THIS IS HOW TWINS ARE BORN:



1. A **genetic code** is found in each of the cells in our bodies. A new baby starts off as one cell with a genetic code.
2. One cell grows and splits into two. This is how we get **twins**.
3. The twin cells grow into two babies. These babies have exactly the same genetic code. They **look similar**.

This is how we were made!



Cool!

Look, now both babies have the same genetic code!



One of the twins, Kate, is very good at painting flowers.

I'm Kate and I love to paint!



**TWINS ARE TWO DIFFERENT PEOPLE!**  
They look similar and their genetic code is the same, but they have different personalities. They like different things!

I'm Claire. I want to be an architect and design buildings.

The other twin, Claire, has built a nice castle.



## CAN YOU HELP THE TWINS TO BUILD AND PAINT?

What does Kate need to help her paint?  
What does Claire need to build a castle?  
Draw a line from each object to the girls.



TEXT & ILLUSTRATIONS: Dr Olga Markova, Dr Marine Stefanutti.



AFRIKAANS AND ENGLISH

# 'n Baie Lang Man A Very Tall Man

Author: Cornelius Gulere

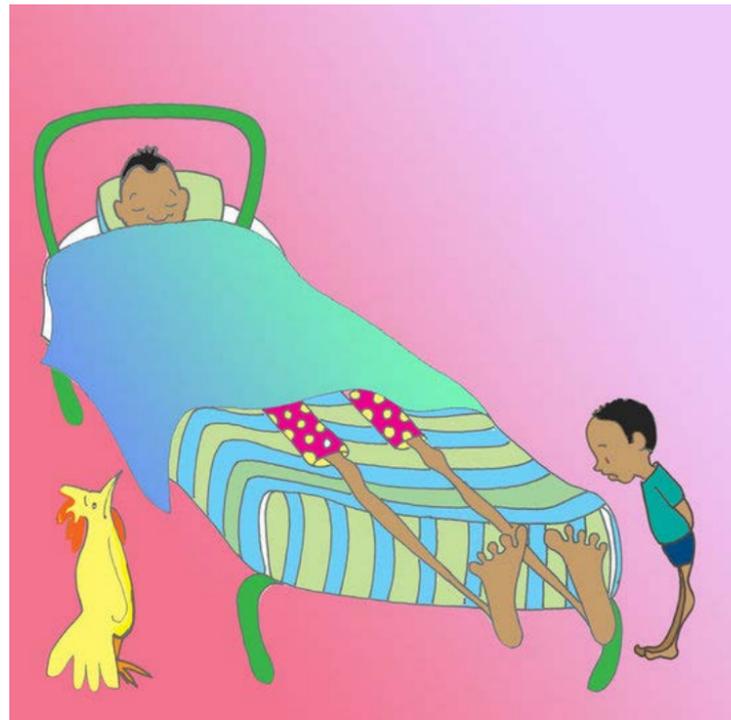
Translation: Came le Roux

Illustrator: Catherine Groenewald



Sy deur was te laag.

His doorway was too low.



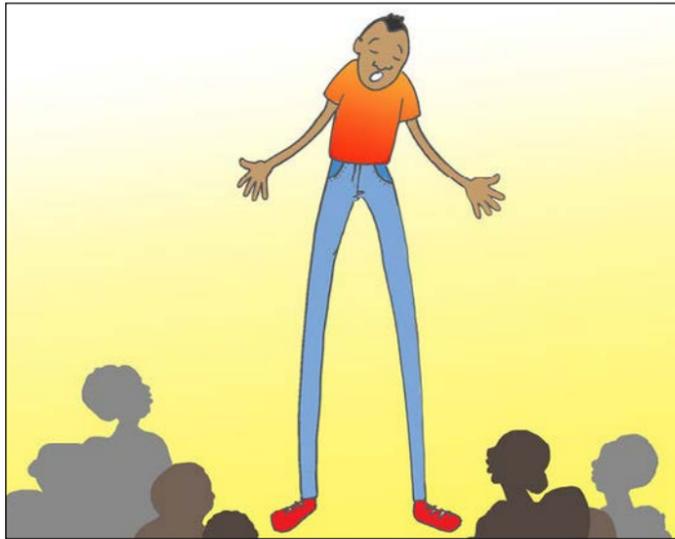
Sy bed was te kort.

His bed was too short.



Sy fiets was te klein.

His bicycle was too small.



Hierdie man was te lank!

This man was too tall!



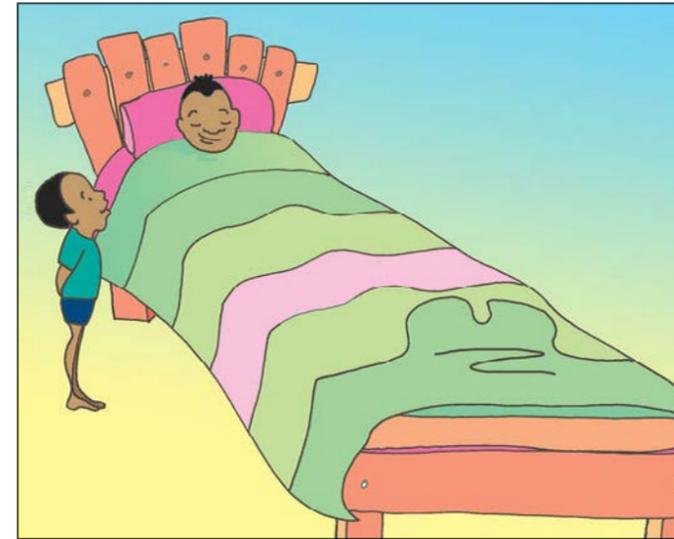
Hy het 'n baie lang handvatsel vir sy skoffel gemaak.

He made a hoe with a very long handle.



Hy het 'n baie lang deurraam gemaak.

He made a very tall door frame.



Hy het 'n baie lang bed gemaak.

He made a very long bed.



Hy het sy huis verlaat en in 'n groot woud gaan woon. Hy het nog lank en gelukkig gewoon.

He left his house and went to live in a big forest. He lived happily ever after.

© Text: Ugandan Community Libraries Association. Illustration: African Storybook Initiative 2014. Creative Commons attribution 4.0.

# SEARCH AND FIND

## isiXHOSA

Ubona ntoni kulo mfanekiso?

- Bangaphi abantu? .....
- Zingaphi izilwanyana? .....
- Ingaba lusuku olushushu okanye olubandayo? .....
- dZingaphi iincwadi? .....
- Bangaphi abantu abanxibe iiglasizamehlo? .....
- Bangaphi abantu abathwele iminqwazi? .....
- Ingaba uGogo noNeo bafunda ngantoni? .....
- Ingaba uMbali notata wakhe bafunda ngantoni? .....

## ENGLISH

What can you see in this picture?

- How many people? .....
- How many animals? .....
- Is it a hot or a cold day? .....
- How many books? .....
- How many people are wearing glasses? .....
- How many people have hats on? .....
- What are Gogo and Neo reading about? .....
- What are Mbali and her dad reading about? .....



**Faka umbala emfanekisweni.**  
**Colour in the picture.**

lmpendulo: 1, 5, 2, 13, 3, olushushu, 4, 3, 5, 3, ngeentlanzi / baselwandle, 8, 6, 2, 7, ngabaphangi  
Answers: 1, 5, 2, 13, 3, hot, 4, 3, 5, 3, 6, 2, 7, pirates, 8, fish

# WHAT IS BODY SAFETY?

- 1** You are the boss of your body. You do not have to hug or touch anyone if you do not want to.
- 2** Nobody has the right to play games with or touch your body. Especially the area that is covered by your bathing costume.
- 3** Private parts are private! We do not look at, touch or play games with anyone else's private parts.
- 4** We use the right words for private parts. They are not weird or funny. Everybody has them.
- 5** No secrets! No grown-up should ever ask you to keep a secret, especially one that involves your body or theirs.
- 6** No touching private parts. It is not okay for someone to touch their private parts in front of you or show you photos or videos of people without their clothes on.
- 7** NO pictures. It is not okay for a grown-up, another child or a family member to take pictures of you without your clothes on.



**I SAID NO!**  
I do NOT have to be polite if someone makes me feel scared or uncomfortable. It is okay to say NO to any bigger, older person, especially someone close to you in your family.

**TELL ON!**  
Tell someone you trust like a teacher, your granny or your mom.

## YOU CAN ALSO CALL CHILDLINE ON 116

Is somebody or something making you keep a secret or hurting you? Speak out. Call the Childline anytime. If you feel alone, threatened or scared, call us for help.

- The number is free to call from all cellphone networks
- You don't have to say who you are
- A counsellor will be there to listen and help
- You can also chat to someone online at [www.childlinesa.org.za](http://www.childlinesa.org.za)



**childline**  
South Africa

**ENGLISH**

# What does an angel look like?

Author: Njabulo Mokoena

Illustrators: Chantelle and Burgen

One day at school, Teacher Jane told the class about angels. Sharon was so excited about what she had learnt that she told her mom about all the good things that angels do as soon as she got home that day.

“Mom, what does an angel look like?” she asked as she ate her after-school snack.

“I don’t know, my darling. What did Teacher Jane say an angel looks like?” Mom asked.

“She said we would know an angel when we saw one,” Sharon said, sighing. She wished that Teacher Jane had told them exactly what an angel looked like. At least then Sharon would know what to look for!

“Don’t you believe Teacher Jane?” Mom asked.

“I don’t know. I’m just wondering how I will recognise an angel if I don’t know what to look for,” Sharon said. Then she finished her snack and put her plate and cup in the kitchen sink.

“Come help me clean the table, please,” said Mom. “Put the vegetable peels in the compost bin and please put the bread away too.”

“Yes, Mom,” said Sharon and immediately did what her mother had asked her to do.



When her dad came home from work that evening, Sharon ran to greet him at the door. She took his work bag to carry it for him. Her dad gave her a hug and smiled at her.

“Dad, I have a question,” Sharon said without giving her dad a chance to sit down.

“Yes, my dear, what is your question?” her dad asked with a big smile.

“Dad, what does an angel look like?”

“Well, angels are good, kind and lovely,” her father said.

“I know. Teacher Jane said that too. But what I want to know is what they really look like,” Sharon said.

Her father looked at her and thought for a while. Then he said, “I will take you out over the weekend so that we can see one.”

Sharon was very excited. “You know where to look?” she asked in amazement. “Mom!” she shouted. “Dad knows where to find angels!”

“That’s wonderful, Sharon. I’m happy you will finally have an answer to your question,” Mom said. She looked at Sharon’s dad with a big grin on her face.

The next morning in the school taxi Sharon told all her friends that she was going to see an angel on the weekend. Her friends smiled politely because they liked Sharon, but they did not believe what she said.

Then she told her teacher about her plans for the weekend. Teacher Jane asked her to come and tell the class all about her adventure on Monday.

On Saturday morning, Sharon woke up early to do her chores. Then she bathed, dressed neatly and had breakfast. All that was left, was to wait for her dad to get ready. Soon enough Sharon was buckled into the backseat of the car and they were on their way.

“Dad, is it far?” she asked happily.

“We’ll be there soon,” he said with a smile. They

drove a little while longer before stopping at a retirement home.

“Here we are,” Dad said taking off his seatbelt.

“A retirement home?” Sharon was confused. What were angels doing at a retirement home?

“Aah, good morning,” said a young man walking towards them. “You must be Sharon. I’ve drawn up a list of things that you could do to help out at the home today.” He smiled at Sharon and handed a sheet of paper to her dad.

Dad read the list. First, Sharon helped Dad sweep the yard. Then they cleaned the chairs that the old people used when they sat in the sun. Sharon did her work as quickly as she could so that her dad could take her to see an angel.

“Next, we’ll clean the dining hall,” said Dad. They swept and dusted and polished until everything was sparkling and clean.

Finally, it was lunchtime. Sharon and her dad washed their hands and faces and went to the dining hall. There Sharon helped to serve the meal and then enjoyed sitting with everyone as they told her stories from long ago. They also played some board games. Then one granny said to Sharon, “You’re such an angel,” and gave her a big hug.

“What is your name, my angel?” asked another granny.

“I’m Sharon,” she answered with a smile and rushed off to her dad.

“The grannies called me an angel. Then I remembered that you were supposed to show me one today, Dad,” she said.

Her father smiled and pointed to their reflections in a mirror nearby. “Sharon, that is what an angel looks like.”

Sharon stared at herself for a moment and smiled. She couldn’t wait to go to school on Monday to explain to her friends and teacher how much she enjoyed doing the good work of being an angel.

isiXHOSA

## Injani ingelosi?

**N**genye imini esikolweni, uTitshalakazi uJane wabaxelela ngeengelosi. USharon wayenemincili yinto ayifundileyo kangangokuba wabaliselela umama wakhe ngazo zonke izinto ezintle ezenziwa ziingelosi ukufika nje kwakhe ekhaya ngaloo mini.

“Mama, injani ingelosi?” wabuza njengoko wayesitya ukutya kwakhe kwasemva kwesikolo.

“Andazi, sana lwam. UTitshalakazi uJane uthe zinjani iingelosi kanti yena?” wabuza uMama.

“Uthe siza kuyazi ingelosi xa siyibona,” watsho uSharon, ebutyhafa. Akwaba uTitshalakazi uJane wayebaxelele ukuba injani kanye kanye ingelosi. USharon wayeza kutsho azi ukuba makajonge ntoni!

“Awumkholelwa na uTitshalakazi uJane?” uMama wabuza.

“Andazi. Ndiyazibuza ukuba ndiza kuyibona njani ingelosi xa ndingazi nokuba kujongwa ntoni,” watsho uSharon. Emva koko wagqibezela ukutya kwakhe waza wabeka ipleyiti nekomityi yakhe esinkini.

“Khawuzondincedisa ukline itafile,” watsho uMama. “Lahla amaxolo emifuno kula mgqomo wesichumisi uze uqoqoshe nesiya sonka torho.”

“Ewe, Mama,” watsho uSharon waza ngoko nangoko wenza izinto umama wakhe amcele ukuba azenze.

Ukufika kukatata wakhe evela emsebenzini ngaloo ngokuhlwa, uSharon wabaleka wayokumhlangabeza emnyango. Wathatha ibhegi yakhe yasemsebenzini waza wamphathela yona. Utata wakhe wamanga waza wamncumela.

“Tata, ndicel’ ukubuza,” uSharon watsho engekamniki nethuba lokuhlala phantsi utata wakhe.



“Ewe, mntanam, uthini umbuzo wakho?” wabuza utata wakhe enoncumo olukhulu.

“Tata, injani ingelosi?”

“Eh, iingelosi zilungile, zinobubele kwaye ziyathandeka,” watsho utata wakhe.

“Ndiyazi. UTitshalakazi uJane utshilo naye. Kodwa ndifuna ukwazi ukuba zinjani xa uzijongile,” watsho uSharon.

Utata wakhe wamjonga waza wacinga kangangexeshana. Emva koko wathi, “Ngempelaveki ndiza kukukhupha siyobona enye yazo.”

USharon wavuya kakhulu. “Uyayazi indawo ekuyo?” wabuza emangalisiwe. “Mama!” wakhwaza. “UTata uyazi ukuba ziphi iingelosi!”

“Intle loo nto, Sharon. Ndiyavuya uza kude ufumane impendulo yombuzo wakho,” watsho uMama. Wajonga utata kaSharon enoncumo olukhulu.

Ngentsasa elandelayo kwiteksi yesikolo uSharon waxelelela zonke iitshomi zakhe ukuba wayeza kuyibona ingelosi ngempelaveki. Iitshomi zakhe zamncumela nje ke kuba zimthanda uSharon, kodwa zazingayikholelwa le nto wayeyithetha.

Emva koko wachazela utitshala wakhe ngento awayeza kuyenza ngempelaveki. UTitshalakazi uJane wamcela ukuba ngoMvulo eze kubalisela iklasi ngalo lonke uhambo lwakhe lwangempelaveki.

NgoMgqibelo kusasa, uSharon wavuka kwakusasa waza wenza imisebenzi yakhe. Emva koko wahlamba, wanxiba kakuhle waza watya ibrakfesi. Inye nje qha into eyayishiyekile, kukulinda utata wakhe ukuba alungise. Kungekudala uSharon wayesesitulweni sangasemva emotweni ebophe ibhanti ibe bahamba.

“Tata, kukude?” wabuza evuya.

“Sesiza kufika,” watsho encumile. Bahamba ngemoto umganyana baza bayokumisa kwikhaya labantu abadla umhlalaphantsi.

“Heke safika,” watsho uTata ekhulula ibhanti lakhe lesitulo.

“Ikhaya labantu abadla umhlalaphantsi?” uSharon wayedidekile. Zifuna ntoni iingelosi kwikhaya labantu abadla umhlalaphantsi?

“Tyhini, molweni,” watsho omnye umfana esiza ngakubo. “Inoba unguSharon. Ndiye ndabhala uludwe lwezinto ongazenza ukuze usincedise kweli khaya namhlanje.” Wancumela uSharon waza wanika utata wakhe iphepha.

UTata walufunda olu ludwe. Okokuqala, uSharon wancedisa uTata batshayela iyadi. Emva koko baklina izitulo abahlala kuzo abantu abadla xa begcakamele ilanga. USharon wawukhawulezisa kangangoko umsebenzi wakhe ukuze utata wakhe amse kwingelosi.

“Ngoku, siza kuklina iholo yokutyela,” watsho uTata. Batshayela baza bosula uthuli baza bapolisha de yonke into yamenyezela.

Ekugqibeleni, kwabetha ixesha lesidlo sasemini. USharon notata wakhe bahlamba izandla nobuso babo baza baya kwiholo yokutyela. Apho uSharon wancedisa ekuphakeni ukutya waza wakuvuyela ukubuthela bonke abantu njengoko babembalisele amabali akudala. Badlala nemidlalo yebhodi. Emva koko omnye umakhulu wathi kuSharon, “Uyingelosi yokwenyani wena,” waza wamanga kakhulu.

“Ngubani igama lakho, ngelosi yam?” wabuza omnye umakhulu.

“NdinguSharon,” waphendula encumile waza wakhawuleza waya kutata wakhe.

“Oomakhulu bathe ndiyingelosi. Ndatsho ndakhumbula ukuba ubufanele undibonise yona namhlanje, Tata,” watsho.

Utata wakhe wancuma waza wakhomba umfanekiso wabo kwisipili esikufutshane. “Sharon, inje ke ingelosi xa uyijongile.”

USharon wazijonga kangangexeshana waza wancuma. Wawungathi awusafiki uMvulo azokuya esikolweni axelele iitshomi zakhe notitshala indlela akuthande ngayo ukwenza umsebenzi omhle wokuba yingelosi.

## ENGLISH

# How to be a superhero

Author: Bubele Retshe

Illustrator: Jiggs Snaddon-Wood

**T**imo lived in a small village surrounded by mountains, green fields and beautiful forests, but his favourite place was the park. He loved it there because he felt like a superhero when he ran around, climbed on the jungle gym and spun on the merry-go-round.

Every day when Timo came home from school, he would get changed out of his school uniform and eat the delicious sandwich that his grandmother had made for him. Then he would do his homework and, when it was done, he would rush outside shouting,

“Granny, Granny, it’s playtime!”

And Granny would call after him, “Timo, wait! Don’t you want me to read you a story?”

“No, Granny, I need to play and explore,”



## SESO THO

# Kamoo o ka bang mohale wa mehlolo

**T**imo o ne a dula motsaneng o potapotilweng ke dithaba, masimo a matala le meru e metle, empa sebaka seo a neng a se rata ka ho fetisisa e ne e le phakeng. O ne a rata ho ya moo hobane o ne a ikutlwa eka ke mohale wa mehlolo ha a matha hohle, a palama jankele jiming mme a potoloha ka mmelekorone.

Kamehla ha Timo a fihla hae a etswa sekolong, o ne a hlobola diaparo tsa sekolo mme a je samentjhise e latswehang eo nkgono wa hae a mo etseditseng yona. Ha a qeta o ne a etsa mosebetsi wa hae wa sekolo mme, ere ha a qetile, a mathele ka ntle a hoeleditse, “Nkgono, Nkgono, ke nako ya ho bapala!”

Mme Nkgono o ne a mmitsa a hoeleditse, “Timo, butle! Ha o batle ke o balle pale?”

“Tjhe, Nkgono, ke hloka ho ya bapala le ho sibolla,” Timo o ne a araba jwalo, a se ntse a le tseleng ho ya kopana le metswalle ya hae e mo emetseng hekeng.

“Ho na le dibaka tse ngata tseo o ka di sibolang dibukeng tsa dipale, Timo,” Nkgono o ne a rialo. “Dibuka di ka o ruta dintho tse ngata mme tsa o isa dibakeng tseo o esokang o eya ho tsona.”

Timo o ne a keketeha a re, “Nkgono, ha ho moo dibuka di ka nkisang teng. Ke dikoloi feela tse ka etsang seo!” Ebe o matha ho theosa mmila a leba phakeng le metswalle ya hae.

Letsatsi le leng motsheare wa mantsiboya, metswalle e moholo wa Timo, Ben, o ne a mo

Timo would reply, already on his way to meet his friends who were waiting for him at the gate.

“There are many places that you can explore in storybooks, Timo,” Granny would say. “Books can teach you lots of things and take you to places that you have never been.” Timo would giggle and say, “Granny, books can’t take me anywhere. Only cars can do that!” Then he would run off down the road to the park with his friends. One afternoon, Timo’s best friend, Ben, was waiting for him at the gate. “Hey, Timo, are you ready to play?” asked Ben.

“I’m always ready,” said Timo racing down the street with his best friend.

They both wanted to get to the park first. When they got there, Timo’s other friends were waiting for them. Pamela was sitting on the swing crying, while Noma and Siya were standing next to her. They looked worried.

Timo moved closer to find out what was going on.

“What happened to Pamela?” he asked.

“She was on the swing and Siya accidentally pushed it too hard. Pamela fell off the swing and now her knee is bleeding,” explained Noma. “Oh no! What are we going to do?” asked Ben.

“It’s okay, I know what to do,” said Noma reaching for her backpack and taking out a small bag.

“What is that?” Timo asked.

“It’s a first aid kit. I will clean Pamela’s knee and then put on this plaster so that it feels better,” said Noma.

The friends were surprised that Noma knew exactly what to do. Once the plaster was on, Pamela said she felt much better and she wanted to play again. All the friends felt happy and relieved and they thanked Noma.

All the friends raced over to the jungle gym – except Timo. He was wondering how Noma had known what to do. He wanted to know where

emetse hekeng. “Hela, Timo, na o se o loketse ho bapala?” ha botsa Ben.

“Ke dula ke le malala-a-laotswe,” ha rialo Timo a matha ho theosa seterata le motswalle wa hae wa sebele. Bobedi ba bona ba ne ba batla ho fihla phakeng pele. Ha ba fihla moo, metswalle e meng ya Timo e ne e ba emetse. Pamela o ne a dutse moswinking a lla, ha Noma le Siya ba eme pela hae. Ba ne ba shebeha ba kgathatsehile.

Timo a atamela ele hore a tle a utlwe hore ho etsahala eng. “Ho etsahala eng ka Pamela?” a botsa.

“O ne a dutse hodima moswinki mme Siya a mo sutumetsa haholo ka phoso. Pamela a wa moswinkig mme jwale lengwele la hae le tswa madi,” ha hlalosa Noma. “Jowee! Jwale re tlo etsa jwang?” ha botsa Ben. “Ho lokile, ke tseba seo re ka se etsang,” ha rialo Noma a hula mokotlana wa hae o jarwang mme a ntsha mokotlanyana o monyane.

“Ke eng seo?” Timo a botsa.

“Ke mokotlana wa thuso ya pele. Ke tla hlwekisa lengwele la Pamela mme ebe ke bea polastara ena ho fokotsa bohloko,” ha rialo Noma.

Metswalle ya hae e ne e makaletse Noma hore o tsebile hantle seo a ka se etsang. Hang ha polastara e beilwe, Pamela a re o ikutlwa a le betere haholo mme o ne a batla ho bapala hape. Metswalle yohle e ne e thabile mme e kgotsofetse, mme ba leboha Noma.

Metswalle yohle ya matha ka lebelo ho leba jankele jiming – ntle le Timo. O ne a ipotsa hore ebe ho tlele jwang hore Noma a tsebe seo a lokelang ho se etsa. O ne a batla ho tseba hore ke hokae moo motho a ka ithutang dintho tse kang tsena hobane bahale ba mehlolo ba lokela ho tseba mekgwa ya ho thusa batho!

Timo a ya moo Noma a neng a ntse a palama teng mme a mmotsa, “Noma, o tsebile jwang seo o lokelang ho se etsa?” Noma a bososela a re, “Ke e badile bukeng ya dipale.” “O ithutile tseo kaofela ka ho bala buka ya dipale?” ha





you could learn these kinds of things because superheroes are supposed to know how to help people!

Timo walked over to where Noma was climbing and asked, "Noma, how did you know what to do?" Noma smiled and said, "I read it in a storybook."

"You learnt all of that from reading a storybook?" asked Timo. He wasn't sure he could believe what Noma had said. "Yes, Timo. I want to be a doctor when I grow up so that I can help people. When I read storybooks, I learn about how doctors help people," said Noma.

Timo was amazed! "I want to be a superhero and help people too. Do you think storybooks could help me do that?" he asked. "Yes, of course!" said Noma. "Storybooks can teach you lots of things. Just get them from the library and start reading."

The next day, when he got home from school, Timo changed out of his school uniform and ate the delicious sandwich that his grandmother had made for him. Then he did his homework.

He had just finished when Granny called him. "Timo, your friends are here. They are waiting for you to go to the park with them."

"Please tell them I will join them later, Granny," answered Timo.

Granny could not believe her ears! Timo was always in a hurry to go to the park. "Why aren't you going right now?" she asked. "I'd like you to read me a story before I go, please," said Timo.

Granny smiled happily. "That's new! Why do you want me to read you a story today?" she asked.

"Because Noma says stories can teach me how to be a superhero and help my friends," Timo said as he jumped up and down excitedly.

"That's my boy!" said Granny as she picked up a storybook.

So, Granny and Timo sat down together and read that storybook - and another, and another. And every afternoon after that, before Timo went to play in the park, he asked Granny to read to him.

botsa Timo. O ne a se na bonnete ba hore a ka dumela seo Noma a se buang.

"E, Timo. Ke batla ho ba ngaka ha ke hola ele hore ke tle ke thuse batho. Ha ke bala dibuka tsa dipale, ke ithuta kamoo dingaka di thusang batho ka teng," ha rialo Noma.

Timo o ne a maketse! "Ke batla ho ba mohale wa mehlolo mme ke thuse batho le nna. Na o nahana hore dibuka tsa dipale di ka nthusa ho etsa seo?" a botsa. "E, ehlile!" ha rialo Noma. "Dibuka tsa dipale di ka o ruta dintho tse ngata. O ka di lata feela laeaboraring mme wa qalella ho bala."

Tsatsing le hlahlamang, ha a fihla hae ho tswa sekolong, Timo a hlobola diaparo tsa hae tsa sekolo mme a ja samentjhise e latswehang eo nkgono wa hae a mo etseditseng yona. Yaba o etsa mosebetsi wa sekolo.

O ne a sa tswa qeta ha Nkgono wa hae a mmita. "Timo, metswalle ya hao e teng. Ba o emetse hore le tlo ya phakeng."

"Ke kopa o ba bolelle hore ke tla tla ho bona ha morao, Nkgono," ha araba Timo.

Nkgono o ne a sa kgolwe ditsebe tsa hae! Timo o ne a dula a tatetse ho ya phakeng. "Hobaneng o sa ye hona jwale?" a botsa. "Ke kopa hore o mpalle pale pele ke tsamaya, hle," ha rialo Timo.

Nkgono a bososela ke thabo. "Ke taba tse ntjha bo! Hobaneng o batla hore ke o balle pale kajeno?" a botsa.

"Hobane Noma o re dipale di ka nthuta hore ke be mohale wa mehlolo jwang le ho thusa metswalle ya ka," Timo a rialo a ntse a tloatlola ke thabo.

"Ha se moo moshanyana wa nkgono!" Nkgono a rialo a nka buka ya pale.

Yaba he, Nkgono le Timo ba dula fatshe mmoho mme ba bula buka eo ya pale - le e nngwe, le e nngwe. Mme motsheare o mong le o mong wa mantsiboya kamora moo, pele Timo a leba phakeng ho ya bapala, o ne a kopa Nkgono hore a mmalle.

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