

JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2025

GRADE R-3

English, Afrikaans,  
isiXhosa, isiZulu, seSotho

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RETAIL PRICE

**R40**

(R20 to vendor when  
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**little  
issue**

**#19**

young minds matter

**CAPS  
based  
for ages  
5-9**

**Draw with  
Rong**

**Crazy  
creatures  
have superpowers!**

**Wowu!**

**Fire warning**

**Spot the difference**

**How would you feel?**



**Thank you to our awesome  
sponsors for helping us have  
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## Hey kids!

Get ready for fun! Little Issue is full of **stories** and fun things to do! Meet brave **heroes**, smart **animals** and go on **big adventures**. Every page has something new to read, play, or try. This magazine is made just for kids like YOU! Are you ready to jump in?

Let's go — there are so many **surprises** waiting!

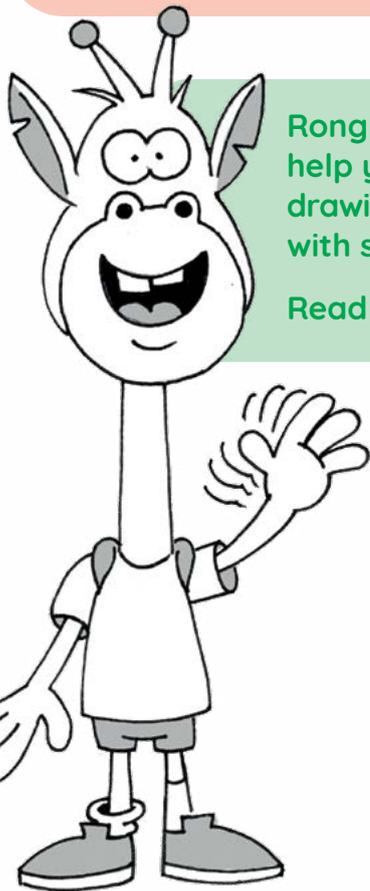
**Laura**

Editor and writer of the *little issue*



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Rong is standing by to help you create your own drawing of a crazy creature with superpowers.  
Read more on page 6!



# young minds matter

## The importance of reading material for Young Minds

The report *Teacher Preferences and Job Satisfaction in South Africa*, reveals 50% of South African teachers are considering leaving the profession within the next 10 years due to excessive admin and workloads.

Another report\* (funded by Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropies and the FEM Education Foundation), surveyed over 1,500 teachers nationally at national and provincial levels.

Author Dr. Heleen Hofmeyr, expressed an urgent need to address teacher burnout: 70% of teachers said excessive admin interferes with teaching and lesson planning. Many viewed this paperwork as unnecessary and disconnected from the job. Interestingly, teachers in better-resourced schools reported higher stress due to increased expectations from parents and management.

Teachers also felt emotionally overwhelmed by learners' issues—poverty, violence, neglect, and access to support. Many were forced to act as counsellors, social workers, and caregivers. The need for in-school psychological support to help learners and educators is now critical.

Another finding was a growing reluctance to work in rural areas. The Western Cape and Gauteng were the preferred provinces, while Limpopo and the Eastern Cape face potential shortages. Around 40% of teachers said nothing would convince them to work in rural areas, citing poor infrastructure, limited resources, and lack of career growth.

The report recommended expanding mental health support, reduced admin, incentivising rural postings, and improving teacher training to address this growing crisis.

Based on our own interviews with teachers who use *little issue* in their classrooms, teachers have told us about the many roles they perform in a demanding, stressful school and community environment. They expressed their sincere appreciation for the *little issue* magazine which they said helps take the pressure off them for lesson planning as the content serves as valuable lesson material.



Derek Carelse, MD, *little issue*  
derekcarelse@mweb.co.za



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*little issue* is owned and published by: **THE BIG ISSUE**

**Managing Director:** Derek Carelse;  
derekcarelse@mweb.co.za;  
082 788 7098

**Board Chairperson:** Gadija  
Gamielien; gadijag@mweb.co.za;  
082 455 5675

**Office Administrator:** Penny Hawker  
**Office Assistant:** Thobeka Ruka  
**Web & digital:** [www.spotkolours.com](http://www.spotkolours.com)

### CAPE TOWN OFFICE

Unit A057, Selwyn Street Studios  
The Palms, 145 Sir Lowry Road  
Woodstock, Cape Town 8001,  
PO Box 5094, Cape Town 8000  
**Tel:** (021) 461 6690  
**Fax:** (021) 461 6662  
**Email:** [info@bigissue.org.za](mailto:info@bigissue.org.za)  
**Visit:** [www.littleissue.org.za](http://www.littleissue.org.za)

**Editor and Writer:** Laura Jones

**Designer:** Rustum Carelse

**Production coordinator:** Jeffrey Lok

**Printer:** CTP Printers  
14 Boompies Street, Parow, Cape  
Town, 7500

### FUNDER

Fondation Ipsen  
[www.fondation-ipsen.org](http://www.fondation-ipsen.org)

### CONTENT PARTNERS

Nal'ibali  
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Select images by: MidJourney/  
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# Read out loud

## 3 free stories

### I Will Help You Ke tla o Thusa

**SESOTHO**

“Itjhu!” Mme Heron o lematsa lepheo la hae le leoto la hae terateng ...

**ENGLISH**

When Mama Heron needs help, Lungile comes to her rescue.



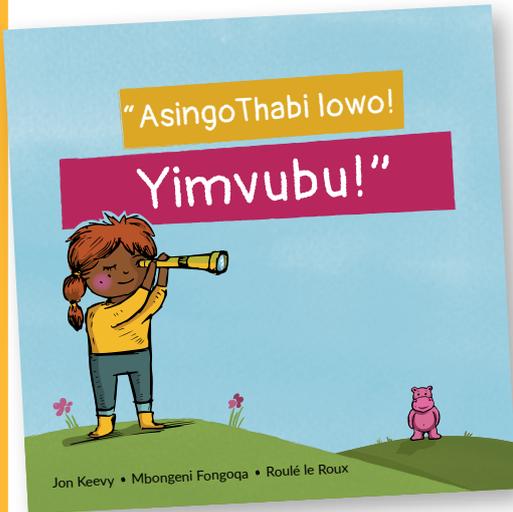
### That's not Thabi! Asingo Thabi logo!

**ISIXHOSA**

ULucy akamfumani udade wabo uThabi. Ngaba invubu iyamazi apho akhoyo uThabi?

**ENGLISH**

Lucy can't find her sister Thabi. Does the hippo know where Thabi is?



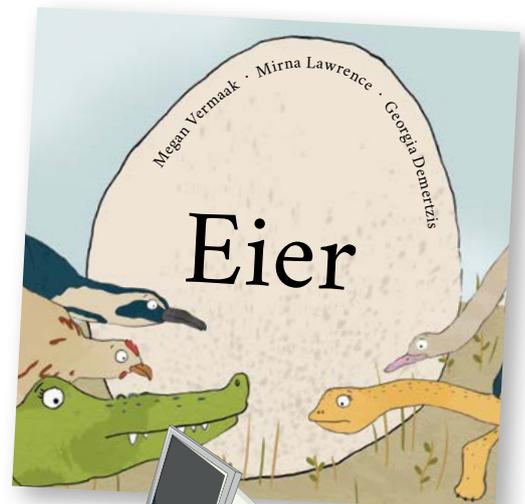
### Eier Egg

**AFRIKAANS**

Krokodil, Skilpad, Pikkewyn en Hoender vind 'n eier. Is dit hul eier? “Ons eier,” sê die trotse ma.

**ENGLISH**

Crocodile, Tortoise, Penguin and Chicken find an egg. Is it their egg? Whose egg is it?



book  
dash



Download at [www.bookdash.org.za](http://www.bookdash.org.za)  
in 7 South African languages

# How would

## What is happening here?

What is the story?

Write how you would feel.



Your friend makes you do their homework.

.....

.....

.....



Your friend pushes you when you are playing together.

.....

.....

.....



Your friend teases you about your new haircut.

.....

.....

.....



Your teacher is upset with you

.....

.....

.....

# you feel?

## How do they feel?

Write how you think each person feels.

How does this person feel?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



How does this person feel?

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How does this person feel?

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How does this person feel?

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# Super Survival

## Creatures that make a plan!

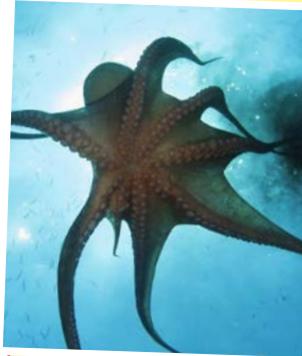
Some creatures have super smart ways to protect themselves in the wild. Check out these clever tricks.



### Red Tears

The **Texas horned lizard** shoots red tears from its eyes to scare away predators. Yikes!

Afrikaans word for lizard - **akkedis**



### Ink Escape

The **octopus** squirts black ink into the water, making it hard for enemies to see. Then whoosh! It swims away

Afrikaans word for octopus - **seekat**



### Playing Dead

**Possums** flop over and pretend they are dead. This confuses their enemies!

Afrikaans word for possum - **possum**



### Stinky Spray

**Raccoons** make a horrible smell to keep attackers far away. Yuk!

Afrikaans word for raccoon - **wasbeer**



### Big and Bouncy

A **pufferfish** looks small but it blows up like a balloon to scare off danger!

Afrikaans word for pufferfish - **blaasoppie**

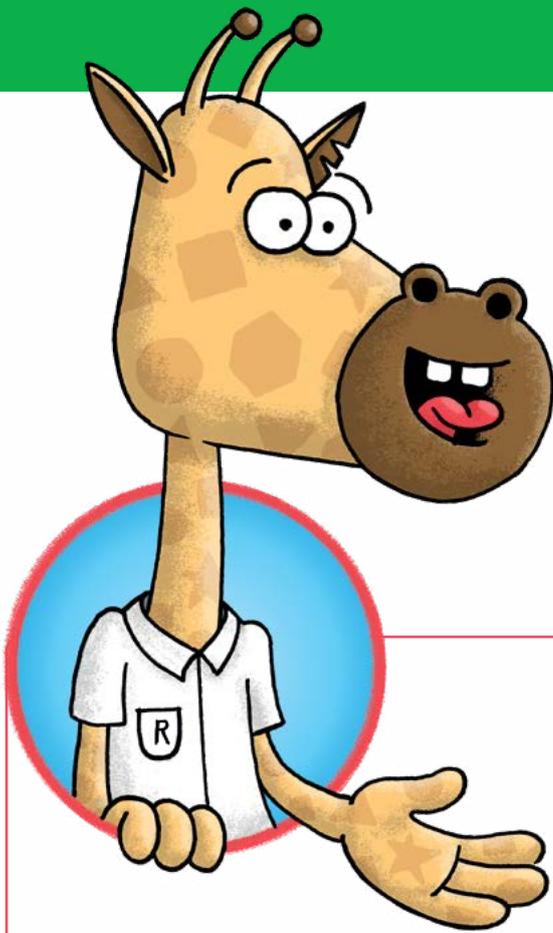
**What do you do when you feel scared?**

.....

.....

.....





**Super Survival Drawing Challenge with Rong**

Design a creature with its own superpowers



.....  
**Creature's Name**

What is your creature's superpower? How does it escape danger?

.....  
.....



# Timo's bird

Timo found a small bird in the garden.  
Its wing was hurt. It could not fly.

He carefully picked it up and took it home.  
Timo made a soft bed and fed it seeds.

The bird grew strong.

One morning, it flapped its wings and flew.  
Timo ran outside and watched it soar.

He smiled. He knew he had helped a friend.

## Read the story and answer the questions

Who found the bird?

.....

What was wrong with it?

.....

How did Timo help the bird?

.....

What happened when the bird got stronger?

.....

Why did Timo smile at the end?

.....

Write two lines about an animal or pet that you like

.....

.....





# Who is hungry?

Let's make sausage and potato boats!

## You Need



1 frankfurter  
or vienna  
sausage



½ a large  
baked potato



Milk



Margarine



Salt



1 slice of  
cheese

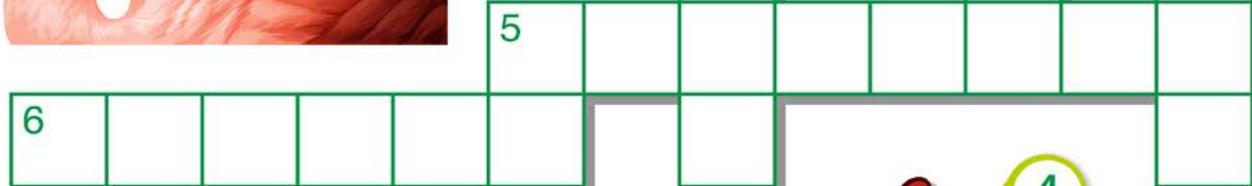
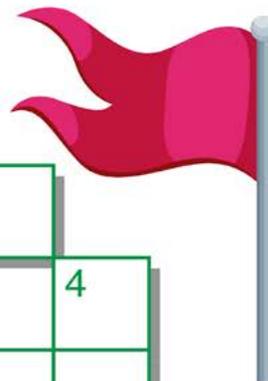
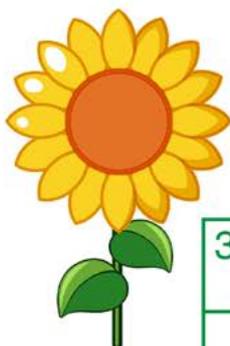
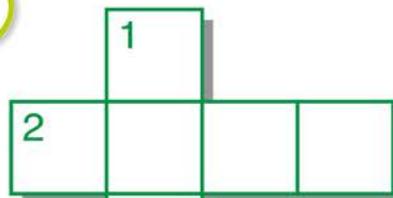
## Steps

1. Preheat the oven to 180°C. Ask an adult for help.
2. Scoop the potato out of the middle. Mash it with a bit of milk, margarine, and salt and taste. You decide how much.
3. Spoon the mash back into the potato skin so it looks like a little boat.
4. Place a cooked sausage on top.
5. Place the cheese slice on top.
6. Bake for 10 minutes until the cheese melts.
7. Let it cool, then enjoy!

**FUN TIP**  
Add tomato  
sauce or  
mayonnaise to  
make this  
extra nice!

# Letter **f** crossword

Use the empty boxes to spell each word across or down



Answers  
 Down: 1 Fireman, 3 Flag, 4 Four, 5 Fruit, 6 Fox  
 Across: 2 Fire, 3 Flame, 5 Flamingo, 6 Flower, 7 Fish

ENGLISH + AFRIKAANS

# Die storie van vuur

# The story of fire

Author: Marizel Vorster

Illustrations: Amir Bachir Antonio Necas



1



Laat ek jou my storie vertel. Ek begin my lewe as 'n klein vonkie.

Let me tell you my story. I began my life as a little spark.

2



As die wind begin waai, hardloop ek wild.

As the wind began to blow I ran wild.

3



Ek en jy is goeie vriende.

You and I are good friends.

4



Ek kook jou kos.

I cook your food.

5



Ek gee jou lig in die nag.  
I give you light in the night.

6



Ek het baie toertjies.  
I do lots of tricks.

7



Ek is deel van jou familie.  
I am part of your family.

8

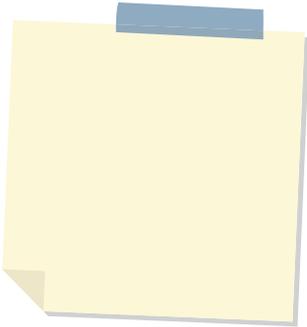


Maar wees versigtig wanneer jy my na  
jou huis toe nooi. Ek hou nie daarvan as  
jy my alleen los nie.  
But be careful when you invite me into  
your home. I do not like to be left alone.

# Can you describe the pictures?

Tips to help you describe these pictures.  
What colour is it? How heavy is it? What does it smell like? What does it feel like when you touch it?

Describing words are called adjectives!



## Paper

It looks .....

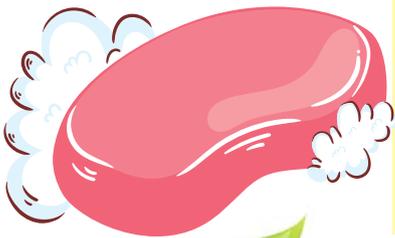
It feels like .....



## Chocolate

It looks .....

It feels like .....



## Soap

It looks .....

It feels like .....



## Apple

It looks .....

It feels like .....



## Cat

It looks .....

It feels like .....

# Manners in the Park

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

These children are all having fun. ↘



These children are not having any fun at all. Can you spot 6 reasons why? ↘



Answers:  
 1-A girl in the green top is angry with the boy who wants to skip with them. 2-A few younger kids are seen sitting with roller skates on. The older girl is not letting them skate with her. 3-One roller skater is elbowing another. 4-One of the shoelaces on the roller skates is untied. 5-The hopscotch area has an extra box. 6-One skipping rope is blue.

# THE GENETICS

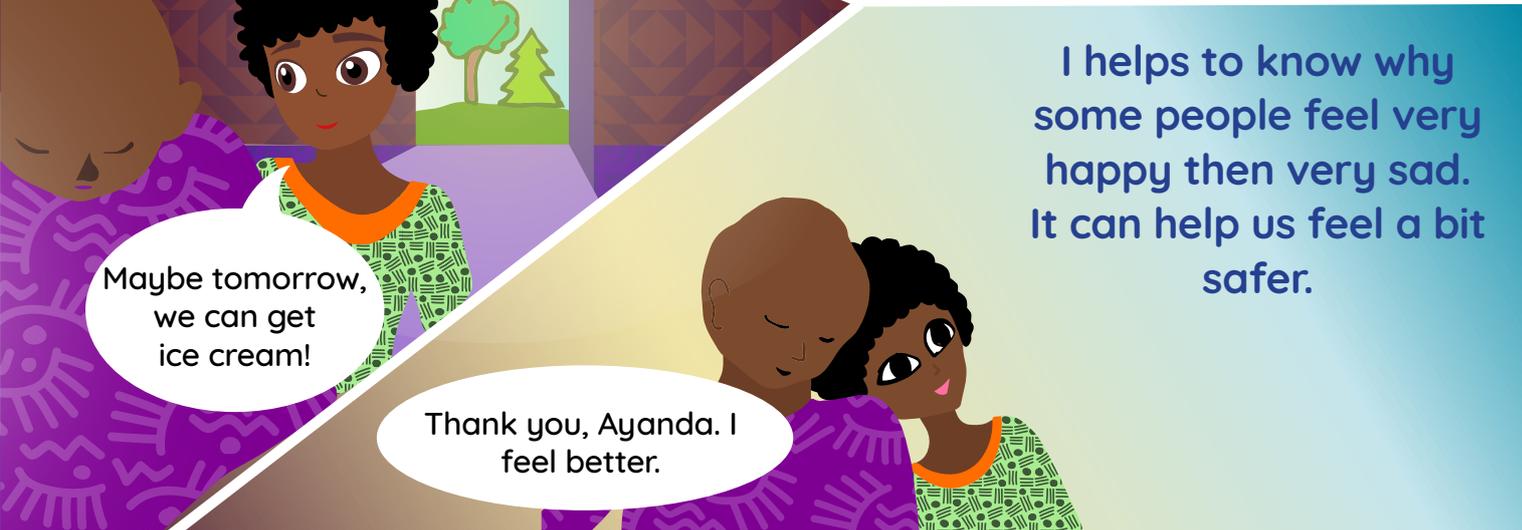
Dany, Nuno and Ada:  
The 3 super-heroes  
who save the day!

## Uncle's Moods

Sometimes  
Ayanda's uncle  
feels super happy.

Sometimes, Ayanda's  
uncle feels super sad.





# PET CARE

## Match it!

Draw a line between the correct word and picture.



dog brush

cat food

kennel

collar

labrador

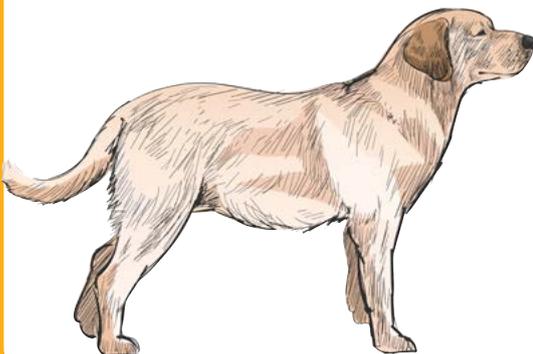
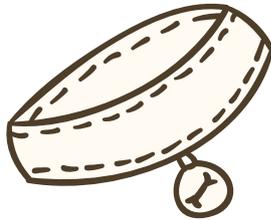
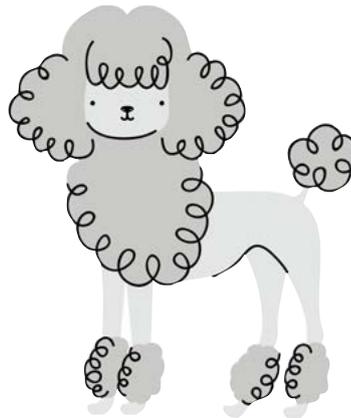
siamese cat

vet

tick and flea powder

poodle

tabby cat



# DAILY CHECKLIST



Tick off each day as you care for your pet.

| Things to do ...    |  | M | T | W | T | F | S | S |
|---------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Fresh water</b>  | Your pet's bowl must always have fresh, clean water.              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Fresh food</b>   | Pets need <b>2</b> meals every day.                               |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Love</b>         | Love and play with your pets every day.                           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Exercise</b>     | Dogs need a walk every day. Let them sniff and meet other dogs.  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Clean up poo</b> | Your pet's living space needs to be clean.                      |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Collar</b>       | Make sure it's not too tight and has its identity tag.          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Grooming</b>     | Brush your pet's fur and remove fleas and ticks.                |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Health</b>       | Tell an adult if your pet looks sick.                           |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

## Did you know?

- ★ Dogs need a bath when they are dirty, but cats clean themselves by licking.
- ★ Pets' bowls should be washed with dishwashing liquid to kill germs.
- ★ Pets need to visit the vet once a year for their vaccines and worm pills.



## HEALTH CHECK

|   |              |   |
|---|--------------|---|
| ✓ | <b>Eyes</b>  | Clear with no redness or gunk around them         |
| ✓ | <b>Nose</b>  | Smooth and clean                                  |
| ✓ | <b>Ears</b>  | Clean with no redness or bad smell                |
| ✓ | <b>Mouth</b> | White teeth, pink gums and no bad teeth or breath |
| ✓ | <b>Skin</b>  | Shiny even hair with no flaky skin and no lumps   |
| ✓ | <b>Paws</b>  | No sores  |

ENGLISH + SESOTHO

# Everyone goes to Malawi

By Jacqueline K



We used to stay with my  
Grandma and mom.

Re ne re dula le nkgono le  
mme.



My cousins, Christina, Thandi,  
Junior and Aunty lived with us.

Bomotswala, Katleho, Thandi,  
Junior le mmangwane ba ne  
ba dula le rona.



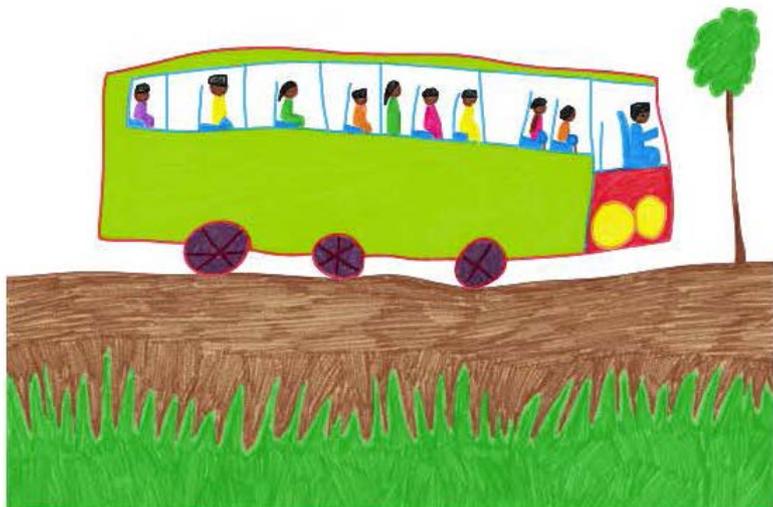
My Grandma would teach us games. It was a good time.

Nkgono o ne a re ruta dipapadi.  
Ho ne ho le monate haholo.



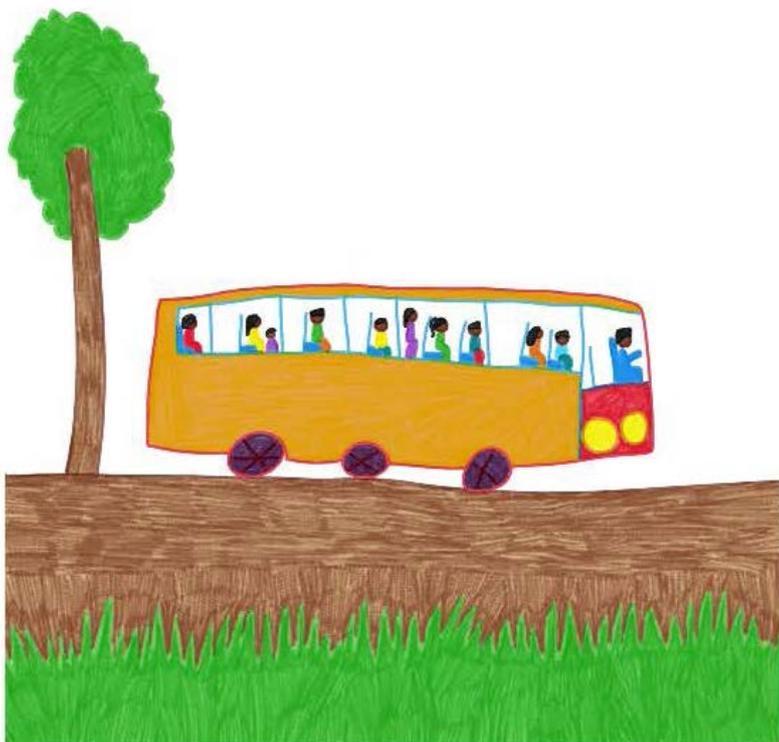
Then, Junior went to Malawi,  
and Grandma went to Malawi.

Yaba Junior le nkgono ba ya  
Malawi.



And Aunty and Christina  
went to Malawi.

Mmangwante le Christina  
bona ba ya Malawi.



And then Thandi  
went to Malawi.

Yaba Thandi a leba  
Malawi.



It was really sad. No one  
would stay with us.

Ho ne ho le bohloko haholo.  
Ho ne ho se motho ya  
salang le rona.



But it is not so bad,  
because my mother is still  
here with me.

Empa ha ho bohloko  
hakaalo, hobane mme wa  
ka o ntse a ena le nna.

ENGLISH + isiXHOSA

# Lwazi and the go-kart

By Helen Brain

Illustrated by Magriet Brink

Translated by Nobuntu Stengile

One day Lwazi found an old push chair in the empty field near his home. It was broken, but it had four good wheels. He took them off and looked at them. "I wonder what I should make," he thought. "I know, I'll make a go-kart."

So off he went to the carpenter. "Please, Sir, do you have some old wood for me?"

The carpenter went to his wood pile and found Lwazi three old planks. "Here you are," he said. "Be careful now. Don't get a splinter."

Now Lwazi had four wheels and three planks, but he needed some rope.

So off he went to the harbour. There was Mr Smit, the fisherman, offloading snoek from his boat. "Mr Smit, do you have some old rope for me, please?"

"Here you are," said the fisherman. "Two metres. Be careful when you cut it. Don't cut your finger by mistake."

Now Lwazi had four wheels, three planks of wood and two metres of rope, but he needed some bolts.

So off he went to the mechanic at Granville's Garage. "Please, Sir, may I have some nuts and bolts?"

"Here you are," said the mechanic. "Be careful now. Don't hurt yourself when you drill the holes."

Now Lwazi had four wheels, three planks of wood, two metres of rope, and a handful of nuts and bolts. Off he went to his uncle's house. Uncle Rodney had a nice big yard, and Lwazi set to work.

All morning Lwazi sawed and hammered, and hammered and drilled, and drilled and sawed. When afternoon came he was very tired, but his go-kart wasn't finished. He still needed to sand it smooth so he didn't get a splinter.

"What are you making?" asked his cousin, Lulu, coming outside.

"I'm making a go-kart," explained Lwazi.

"Can I have a ride on it when it's finished?" asked Lulu.

"If you help me sand it," Lwazi answered.

So Lulu took the sandpaper and began to make the sides nice and smooth.

Lwazi's two friends Ismail and McKenzie came by on their way to the shop. "What are you making?" they asked.

"We're making a go-kart," said Lwazi and Lulu.

"Can we have a turn when it's finished?"

"If you help us," they answered.

So the boys took more sandpaper and made the inside, the front and the back nice and smooth. At last the go-kart was finished.

"I'm having the first ride," said Lwazi, dragging the go-kart to the top of the hill.

"That's not fair," said Lulu. "You said I could have a turn."

"And us," said Ismail and McKenzie. "You said we could all ride in it."

"We all want our turns!" shouted Lulu and Ismail and McKenzie.

So when they reached the top of the hill they all piled on – Lulu and Ismail and McKenzie all sitting on top of the go-kart and holding on tight. "Here we go!" shouted Lwazi, giving the go-kart a shove and jumping on the back.

Faster and faster they went, rattling and rumbling and screaming and laughing until suddenly Lulu shouted, "Hey, there's the vlei! How do we make it stop?"

"Oooops," said Lwazi, "I forgot to make BRAKES!!!"

Crash, thump, thwack, splash!

The go-kart hit the wire fence, and the children flew over the fence and into the vlei.

"Ow, ow, ow," cried McKenzie, coming up for air, "my nose hurts."

"Eina!" yelled Ismail, pulling pond-weed off his face. "My head hurts."

"Oh, oh, oh, my backside hurts!" screeched Lulu staggering out of the vlei.

"Where's Lwazi?" cried Lulu. "Is he under the water?"

"Has he drowned?" cried Ismail and McKenzie.

"Here I am!" said Lwazi looking over the fence. "Just look at the poor go-kart!" On the side of the road lay four wheels, three planks, two metres of rope and a pile of nuts and bolts.

"Oh dear," said Lwazi. "We'll have to start all over again."

"And this time" said Lulu rubbing her behind, "please remember to add some brakes."

They all laughed.



# ULwazi kunye nomatrayivethi

**N**genye imini uLwazi wachola isitulwana esinamavili kwithafa elalisecaleni kwekhaya lakhe. Sasophukile, kodwa amavili aso amane ayesasebenza. Wawakhupha waza wawaqwalaselisa. “Kazi yintoni endinokuyenza ngala mavili,” wacinga. “Ndiyazi, ndiza kwenza umatrayivethi.”

Ngoko ke wenjenjeya ukuya kumchweli. “Mhlekazi, ingaba unawo amaplanga amadala onokundipha wona?”

Umchweli waya kwinyanda yakhe yamaplanga waza wafumana amaplanga amathathu amadala wawanika uLwazi. “Ina nanga,” watsho. “Ulumke ke kodwa. Ungahlatywa.”

Ngoko ke uLwazi wayenamavili amane namaplanga amathathu, kodwa kwakufuneka efumene nentambo.

Ngoko ke wenjenjeya ukuya ezibukweni. Wahlangana noMnumzana Smit, umlobi owayesothula intlanzi engusnoek kwisikhitshane sakhe. “Mnumzana Smit, ingaba unayo intambo endala onokundipha yona?”

“Ina nantsi,” watsho umlobi. “Inobude obuziimitha ezimbini. Uze ulumke ke xa uyiqhawula. Ungazisiki umnwe ngempazamo.”

Ngoko ke uLwazi wayenamavili amane, amaplanga amathathu kunye nentambo eziimitha ezimbini, kodwa wayengenzazo izikhonkwane.

Ngoko ke wenjenjeya

ukuya kumkhandi weemoto wegaraji iGranville. “Mhlekazi, ingaba unazo izikhonkwane ezinamawatshisi onokundipha zona?”

“Nazi,” watsho umkhandi weemoto. “Ulumke ke kodwa. Ungazenzakalisi xa ubhora imingxuma.”

Ngoko ke uLwazi wayenamavili amane, amaplanga amathathu, intambo eziimitha ezimbini kunye nesandla sonke sezikhonkwane ezinamawatshisi. Wenjenjeya ukuya endlwini kamalume wakhe. UMalume uRodney wayeneyadi enkulu, waza ke uLwazi waqalisa ukusebenza.



Intsasa yonke uLwazi wasarha, wabethelela ngehamile, wabhora, wacanda, wasarha, walola. Kwathi kusiba semva kwemini wabe edinwe eyimfe, kodwa umatrayivethi wakhe wayengekawugqibi. Kwakusafuneka awugudise ngephepha elirhabaxa ukuze angahlatywa ziingceba zamaplanga.

“Wenza ntoni?” wabuza umzala wakhe uLulu xa aphuma phandle.

“Ndenza umatrayivethi,” ucacise njalo uLwazi.

“Ungandikhwelisa kuwo xa uwugqibile?” kubuze uLulu ngelicengayo.

“Ukuba uza kundincedisa xa ndimgudisayo,” kuphendule uLwazi.

Kwa-oko ke uLulu uthathe iphepha elirhabaxa waza waqalisa ukugudisa amacala, aze amahle, aguda.

Abahlobo bakaLwazi ababini, u-Ismail noMcKenzie, beza kudlula kuye xa besiya evenkileni. “Nenza ntoni?” babuze ooLwazi.

“Senza umatrayivethi,” kusho uLwazi kunye noLulu.

“Singawafumana amareyi xa niyigqibile?”

“Ukuba nisincedisile,” baphendula ngelitshoyo.

Kwa-oko ke amakhwenkwe athatha amanye amaphepha arhabaxa aze agudisa umatrayivethi ngaphakathi, ngaphambili nangasemva waze wakhangeleka egudile kwaye emhle. Ekugqibeleni umatrayivethi ude wagqitywa.

“Ndiza kuba ngowokuqala ngqa ukukhwela,” watsho uLwazi, etsala lo matrayivethi, ewusa encotsheni yenduli.

“Hayi ngamaqhinga lawo,” watsho uLulu. “Ubuthenam ndingakhwela.”

“Nathi,” kutsho u-Ismail noMcKenzie. “Uthe sonke singakhwela kuwo.”

“Nathi sifuna awethu amareyi!” kukhwaze uLulu no-Ismail kunye noMcKenzie.

Ngoko ke bathe ukufika kwabo encotsheni yenduli bakhwela bonke – uLulu no-Ismail noMcKenzie bakhwela kumatrayivethi baza babambelela. “Nantso ke!” wakhwaza uLwazi, ewutyhala waza watsibela ngaphezulu, ekhwela ngasemva.

Waqengqeleka ngesantya esiphezulu esihla, egoqoza, engxola, bona bekhala abanye behleka, wada wakhwaza uLulu esithi, “Hayini bo, nanku umgxobhozo! Siza kuwumisa njani lo matrayivethi?”

“Yho,” watsho uLwazi, “Ndilibele ukwenza IZIQHOBOSHI!!!”

Folokohlo, gqum, gingqi, dyumpu!

Umatrayivethi wangena elucingweni, baza abantwana babhabha ngaphaya kocingo baya kuthi dyumpu emgxobhozweni.

“Owu, owu, owu,” walila uMcKenzie, ephuma emanzini ukuze akwazi ukuphefumla, “Impumlo yam ibuhlungu.”

“Shu!” wakhwaza u-Ismail, esusa ukhula lwasemanzini ebusweni bakhe. “Intloko yam ibuhlungu.”

“Iyho, yho, yho, iimpundu zam azibuhlungu!” wakhala uLulu egxadazela ephuma emgxobhozweni.

“Uphi uLwazi?” wakhala uLulu. “Ingaba utshone emanzini?”

“Ingaba urhaxiwe?” wakhala ngelibuzayo u-Ismail noMcKenzie.

“Ndilapha!” watsho uLwazi ejonge ngaphaya kocingo. “Khanijonge usizana lukamatrayivethi!” Ecaleni kwendlela kwakuthe geqe amavili amane, amaplanga amathathu, intambo eziimitha ezimbini kunye nesicuku sezikhonkwane namawatshisi.

“Owu nkosi yam,” watsho uLwazi. “Kuza kufuneka siqale phantsi kwakhona.”

“Kweli tyeli ke” watsho uLulu ephulula impundu zakhe, “uncede ungalibali ukufaka iziqhoboshi.”

Kwathi qhuzu intsini behleka bonke.

# Brain teaser time!

RIDDLES  
AND FUN!



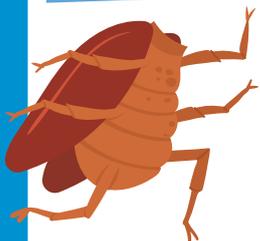
**Delectable** means something is tasty or delicious

## TRY THIS!

Breathe **in** through your nose. Push your tummy **out**.  
Breath **out** through your nose. Pull your tummy **in**.

This will help you feel calm when you feel worried or angry.

## CRAZY BUT TRUE!

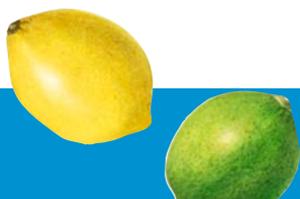


A **cockroach** can live for a week without a head

A **hamster's** teeth never stop growing



**Lemons** float in water. Limes sink in water.



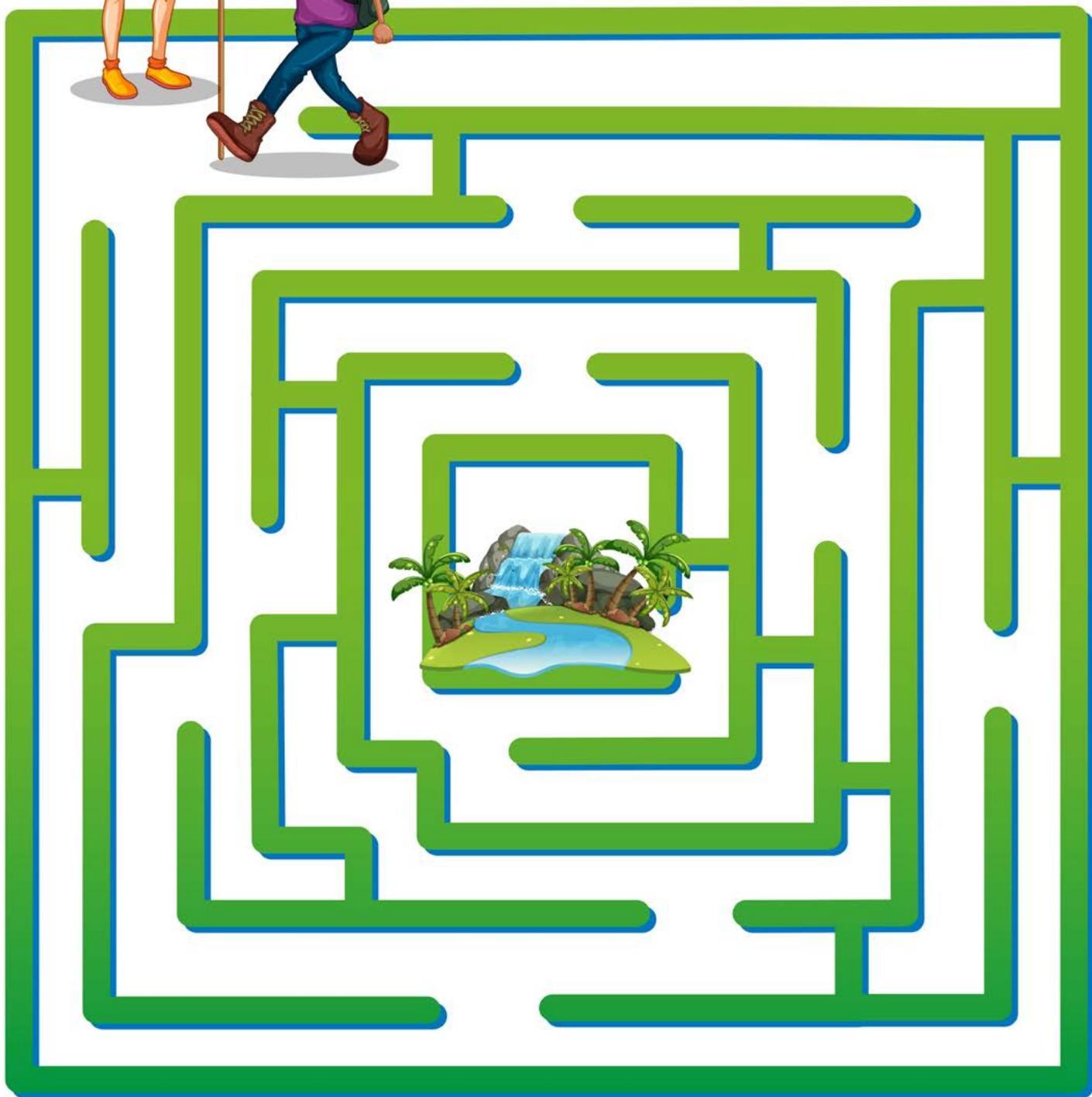
A group of jelly fish is called a **smack**



# Can you find the way?



The hikers need to get to the waterfall. Trace a path for them.



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