

little issue

young minds matter

#20

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Right-handed Rong
and the elephants

JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2025

English, Afrikaans,
isiXhosa, isiZulu,
seSotho

Dennis's
Dog Did
what?

SILLY SOCCER
spot the difference



Colour Your Way
to Sports Day!



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Hello!

Dumela, molweni, sawubona, bonjour! Welcome to this little issue packed with exciting stories and activities, brain-boosting puzzles, and crazy facts. Every page is a new adventure.

Turn the page! There's so much to do and discover and it is waiting for you.

Laura

Editor and writer
of the *little issue*



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young minds matter

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Sincerely,



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



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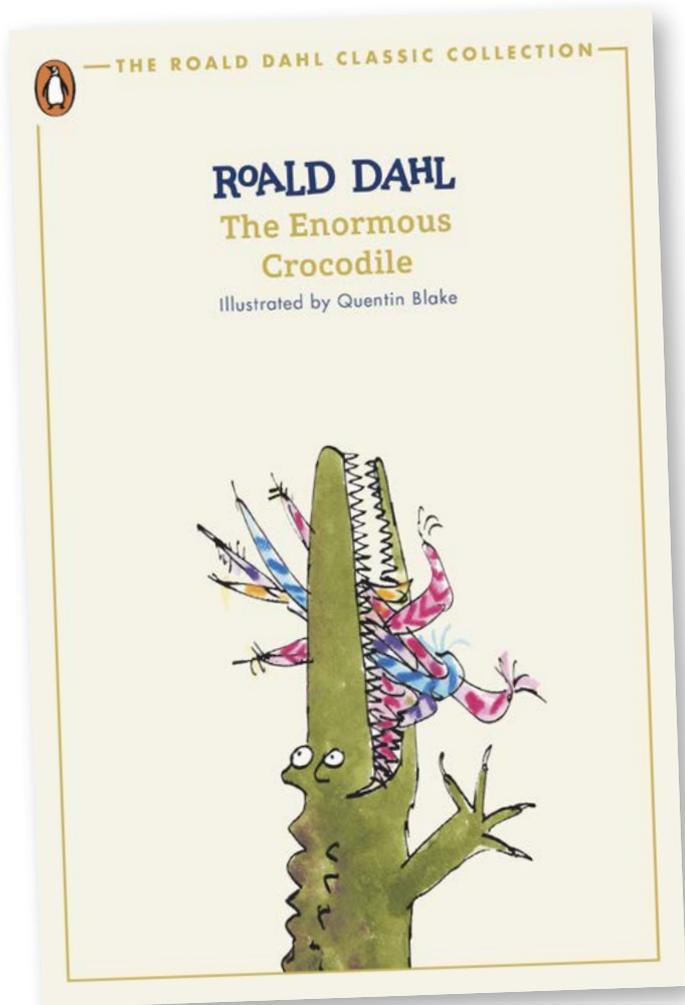
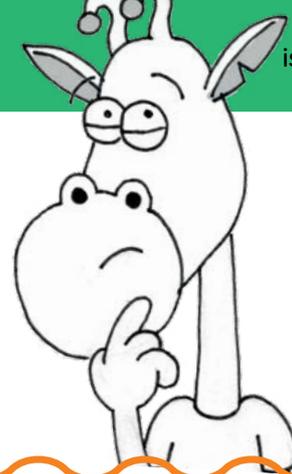
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Read with Rong

What happens next?



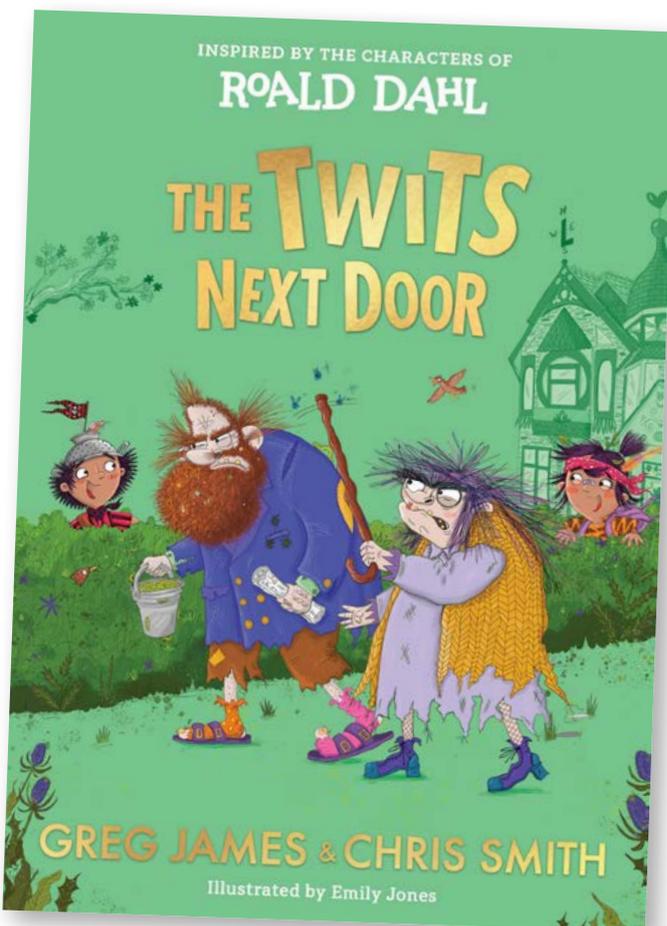
The Twits Next Door, by Roald Dahl

Suddenly, as Mr. Twit tipped the last drop of beer down his throat, he caught sight of Mrs. Twit's awful glass eye staring up at him from the bottom of the mug.

It made him jump.

"I told you I was watching you," cackled Mrs. Twit.

"I've got eyes everywhere so you'd better be careful."



The Enormous Crocodile, by Roald Dahl

In the biggest brownest muddiest river in Africa, two crocodiles lay with their heads just above the water.

"Do you know what I would like for my lunch today?" The Enormous Crocodile asked.

"No," the Notsobig One said.

"What?"

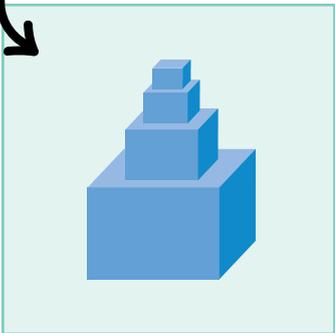
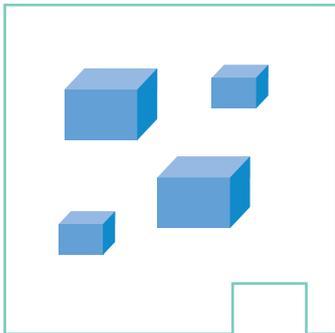
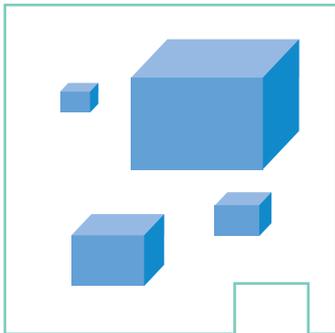
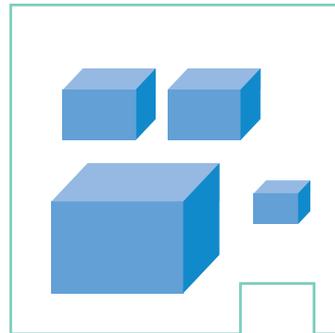
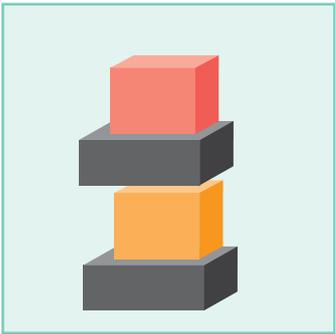
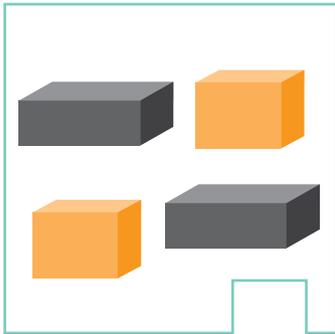
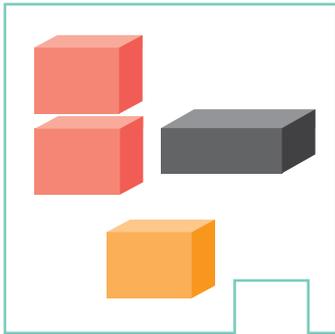
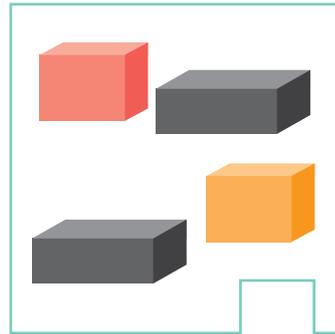
Shape it!

Umumo muni?

Which picture shows the shapes used to build the tower on the left?

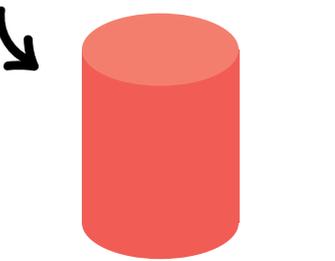
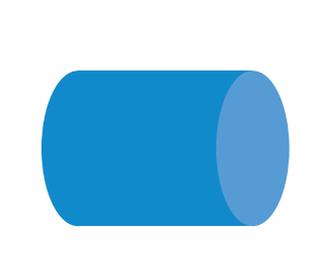
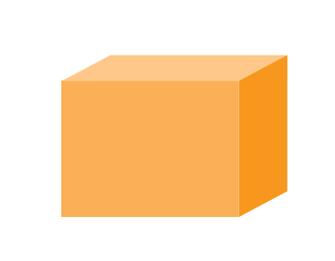
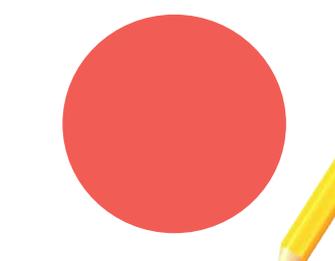
Bhaka kahle, ukhethe isithombe esinobunjwa obufanele obwakha umbhoshongo wesithombe sokhohlo.



Will these shapes roll or slide?

Ingabe lezi zimo zizogingqa noma zizoshibilika?

			
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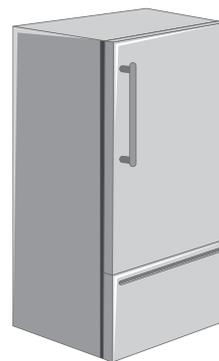


Are these objects boxes, cylinders, or balls?
Lezi zinto izibhokisi, izindilinga, noma amabhola?

cooldrink can
ibhodlela le-cooldrink



fridge
ifriji



book
incwadi



tissue box
ibhokisi lamatshe amancane



soccer ball
ibhola lomgibeli



orange
iphunga



matchbox
ibhokisi lamakamelo



toilet roll
iroli ye-toilet



Colour your way



Rong is cheering you on!



Read the sentences and colour the pictures

- The first child wears a red T-shirt with blue dots.
- The fourth child wears a blue T-shirt with a white stripe.
- The second child has red hair and brown shorts.
- The third child has a purple and orange T-shirt.
- Colour the first child's shorts with red and yellow stripes.
- Colour the third child's hair black with yellow shorts.
- Colour the second child's T-shirt red with green dots.
- Colour the fourth child's shorts with horizontal stripes.

to sports day





The Long Climb

Buzi and Alex went to the big grassy hill to play.

“Let’s climb to the top!” said Buzi.

They started their climb.

They saw blossoms on the way.

“I feel free”, said Alex as they reached the top.

They looked at the green fields. Alex and Buzi smiled.

“We did it!” said Buzi, feeling so proud.

What did Buzi and Alex decide to do on the grassy hill?

.....

How did Alex feel when they reached the top of the hill?

.....

What does the word “free” mean in the story?

.....

Can you think of other words that rhyme with free?

.....

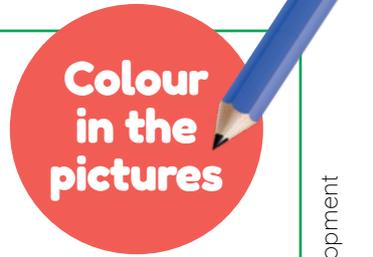
How did Buzi feel at the end of the story, and why?

.....



ENGLISH + AFRIKAANS + SESOTHO

What's for breakfast? Ke eng ka lijo tsa hoseng?



1

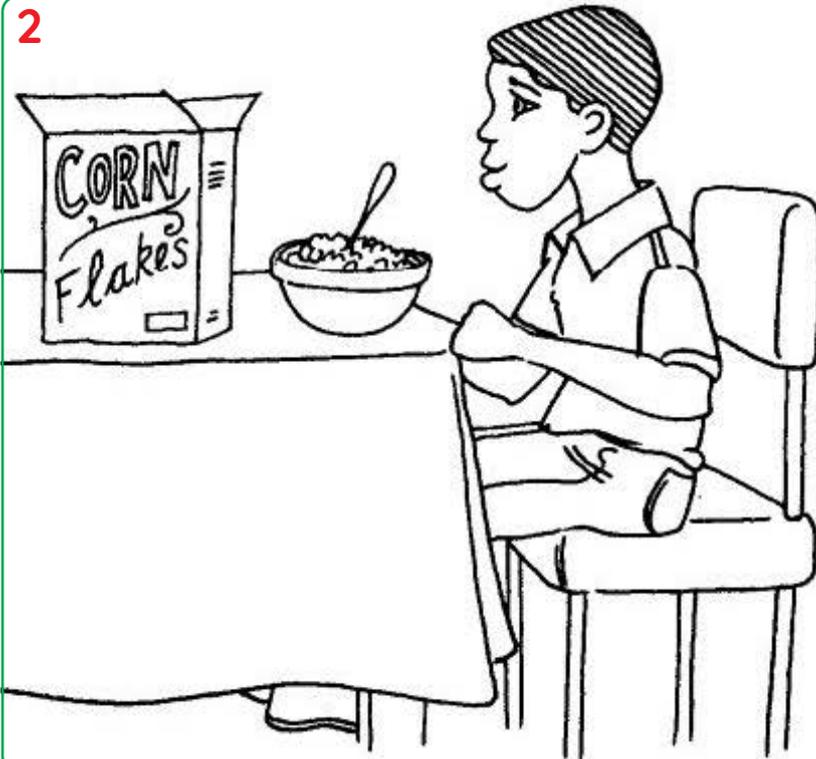


Dad loves porridge.

Pa hou van pap.

Tata o rata pap.

2



I love cornflakes.

Ek hou van mielie
vlokkies.

Ke rata cornflakes.

3



Dad loves coffee.

Pa hou van koffie.

Tata o rata kofi.

4



I love milk.

Ek hou van melk.

Ke rata lebese.

5



Dad loves apples.

Pa hou van appels.

Tata o rata apole.

6



I love oranges.

Ek hou van lemoene.

Ke rata liorenji.

7



Dad loves bread. I love
toasted bread.

Pa hou van brood. Ek
hou van roosterbrood.

Tata o rata bohobe.
Ke rata bohobe bo
tsetsoeng.

8



We both love fat
cakes

Ons hou van vetkoek.

Re rata vetkoek.

What's on your plate?

Fill in the spaces using words from the story

Every morning, I drink a **warm** cup of _____ and eat some
delicious _____. I also love to have **crunchy** _____
and a few **slices** of _____ for breakfast!



Smart Tricks!

Some antelope were being held captive in an enclosure at Thula Thula Wildlife Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal.

One night Nana, the boss of a herd of wild elephant, used her trunk to unlock the gate.

The antelope ran free into the night.

Why did the elephants do it? Maybe they were being playful and clever.

What a wild adventure!



RONG SAYS:
Elephants are left or right handed like humans. They use only one tusk on one side.

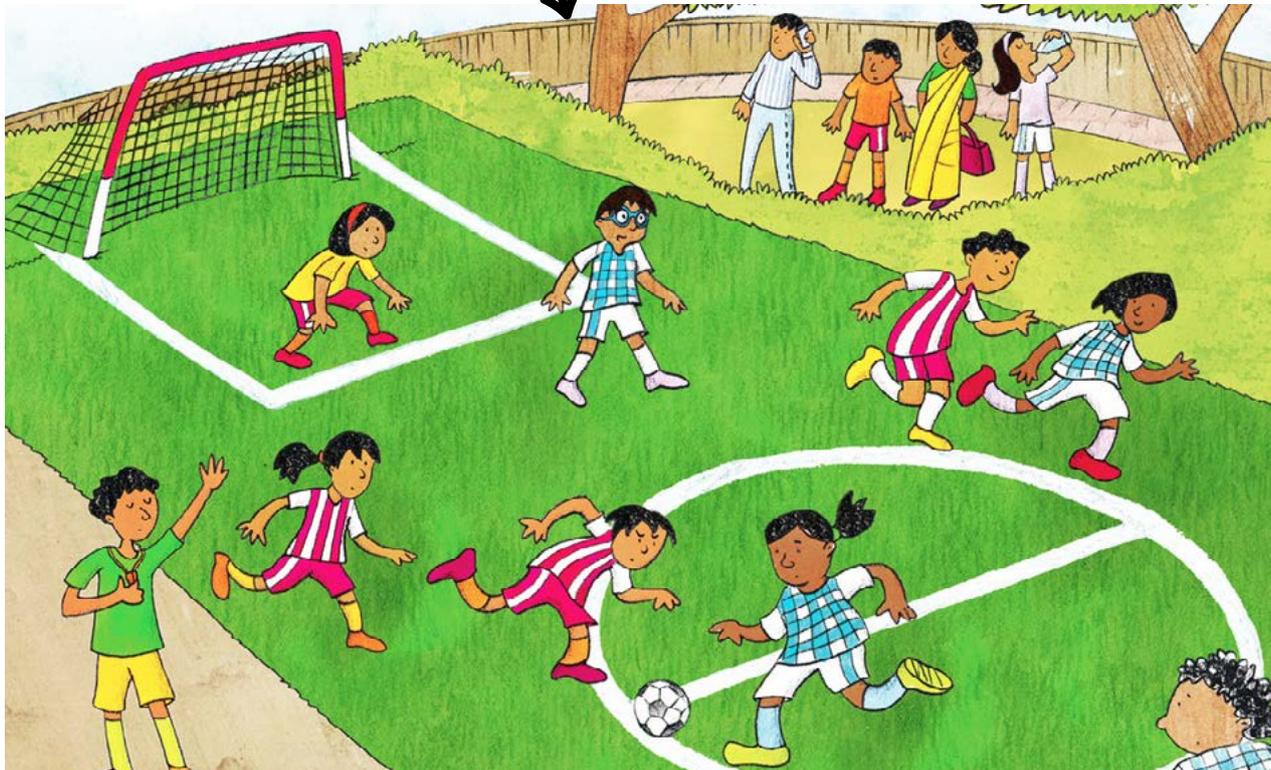
Did you know?

- Elephants can recognise themselves in mirrors
- Elephants feel sadness when one of their own dies
- Elephants comfort and protect each other

Let's play soccer!

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

These children are playing nicely. ↘



These children are not playing nicely. Can you spot 6 reasons why? ↘



Answers:
1-A girl is arguing with the referee. 2-Two children are about to punch each other while tackling the ball. 3-A player from one team is tripping the runner from the other team. 4-All the blue checks on a white shirt become blue stripes on a white shirt. 5-A girl's hairstyle is different. 6-The referee has a blue whistle around his neck.

THE GENETICS!

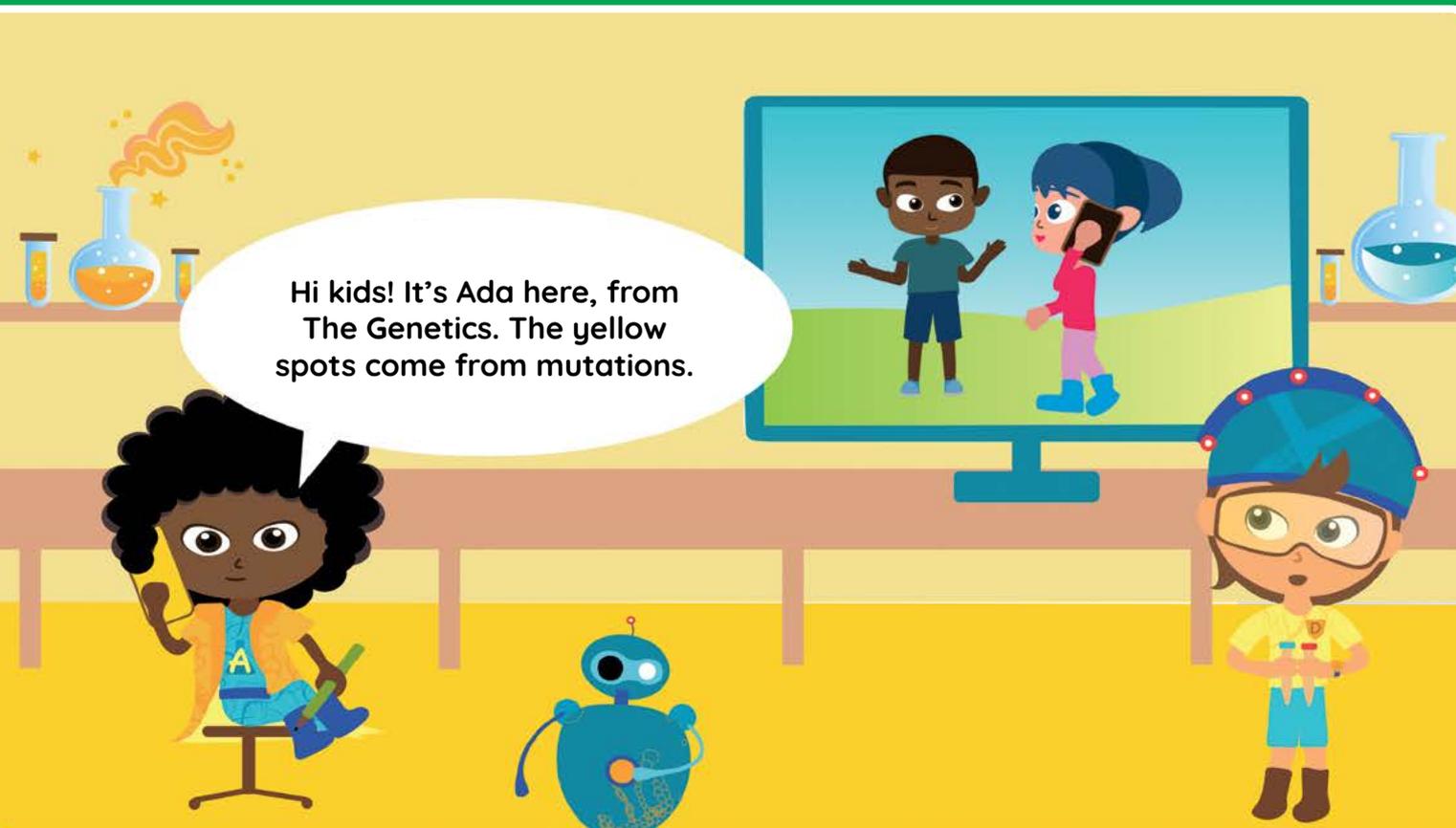
Dany, Nuno and Ada: the 3 super-heroes who save the day!

Each one of them has a special beauty.

Wow! Look at these beautiful flowers. They are all different shapes ...

Look at that one! It has yellow spots on its petals.

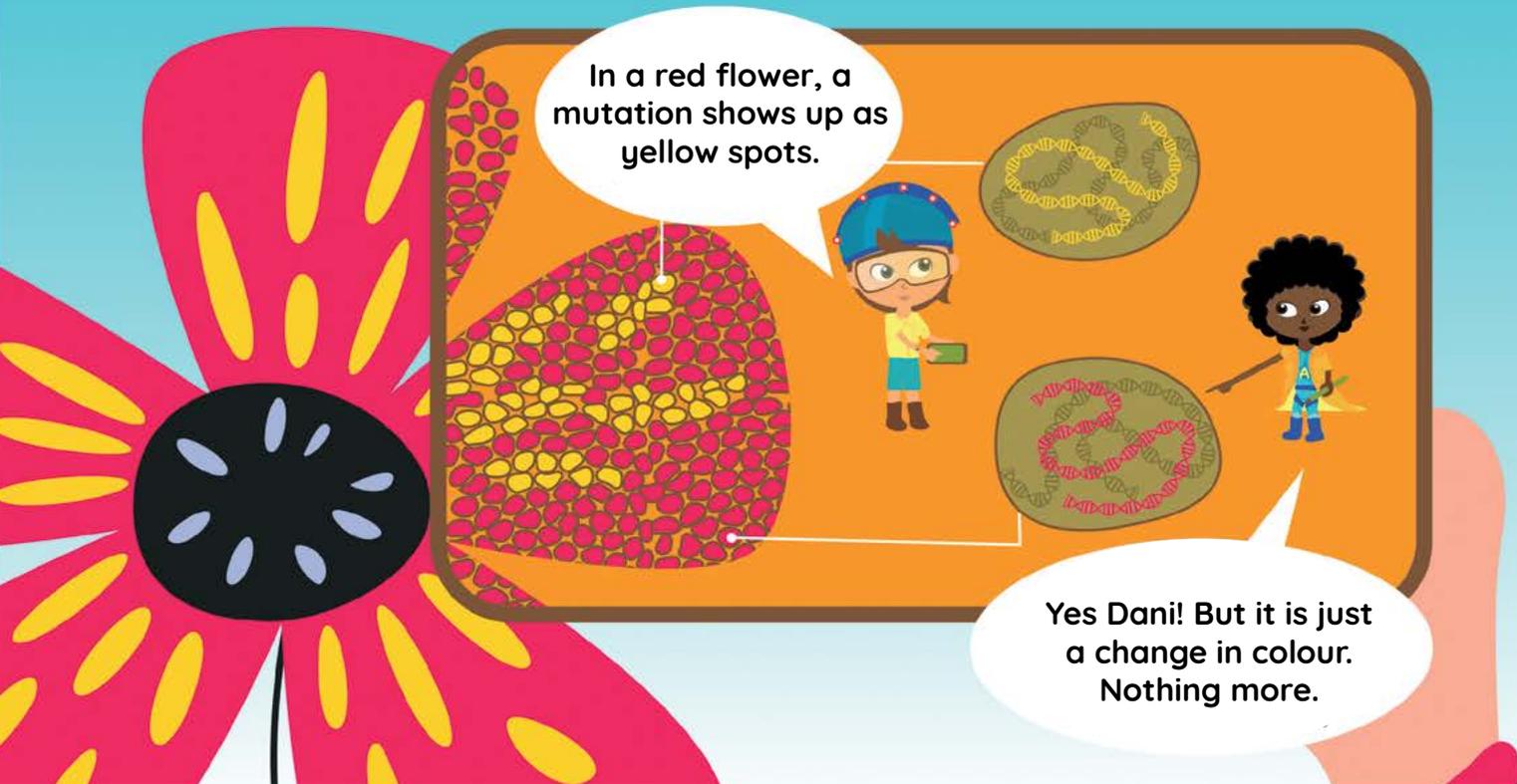
It's the only one with spots. Isn't that strange?



Hi kids! It's Ada here, from The Genetics. The yellow spots come from mutations.

WHAT DOES THE WORD MUTATION MEAN?

A mutation is a change in a cell.
Sometimes this can be seen on the outside.



In a red flower, a mutation shows up as yellow spots.

Yes Dani! But it is just a change in colour. Nothing more.

It reminds me of my aunt, she has freckles on her face too.

It's very pretty, it's probably a mutation!

That's right! Freckles come from mutations. They can appear in all skin types and colours.

MUTATIONS ARE NATURAL AND CREATE DIVERSITY!

Find 7 differences between the two illustrations!



Text and illustrations: Dr Olga Markova, Dr Marine Stefanutti.

ENGLISH + AFRIKAANS

Dennis's Dog Dennis's se Hond

Author and illustrator - Merdi K



1

My friend Dennis from next door called me. "Come and see my new dog," said Dennis.

My vriend Dennis van langsaaan het my besoek. "Kom kyk my nuwe hond" sê Dennis.



2

The dog had black spots and a big head. It frightened me! I felt worried that it would bite me.

Die hond het swart kolle en 'n groot kop gehad. Dit het my laat skrik! Ek het bekommerd gevoel dat dit my sou byt.

3



We took the new dog
for a walk, Dennis and I.

Ons het die nuwe hond vir 'n
stap geneem, ek en Dennis.

4



The dog wagged
its tail.

Die hond waai sy
stert.

5



It barked!

Dit het geblaf!

6



Then it peed on me!
On my boot!
Yuuuk!

Die hond het op my
tekkie gepiepie. Yuuk!

7



Dennis took a tissue
and wiped off the pee.

Dennis het die piepie met
‘n sneesdoekie afgevee.

8



I felt that Dennis was
a good friend to me.

Ek het gevoel dat
Dennis ‘n goeie vriend
vir my was.



ENGLISH + isiXHOSA

The old woman and her pig

Author: Wendy Hartmann

Illustrator: Jiggs Snaddon-Wood

Translator: Nobuntu Stengile

One day an old woman was sweeping her home when she found some money that she had forgotten about. She was so happy that she danced around singing.

“Look at this,” she said holding the money up in the air. “Now what shall I do with it? I know! I will go to the market and buy a pig.”

So the next day, she went to the market and bought a nice little pig. She put a collar on the pig, tied a string on the collar and began to walk home with it. On the way, they came across a low wooden fence.

The old woman said, “Please, Pig, get over the fence.” But the pig would not get over the fence. No matter how she pleaded, the pig would not move.

Just then a dog came trotting up and the old woman said to him, “Dog, Dog! Come here. Please chase this pig. He won’t get over the fence and I won’t get home tonight.”

But the dog would not chase the pig.

So the old woman fetched a bucket of water that was standing just a little way along the fence. “Water, please splash this dog. The dog won’t chase the pig. The pig won’t get over the fence and I won’t get home tonight.”

But the water would not splash the dog.

The old woman saw an ox in the distance. When it came closer, she called, “Ox, Ox, please drink the water. The water won’t splash the dog. The dog won’t chase the pig. The pig won’t get over the fence and it is getting dark. It is time the pig and I were at home.”

But the ox would not drink the water.

Just then a butcher walked by.

She stopped him and begged, “Butcher, Butcher, please take this ox with you. The ox won’t drink the water. The water won’t splash the dog. The dog won’t chase the pig. The pig won’t get over the fence. I can see the moon rising. The pig and I should have been home an hour and a half ago.”

But the butcher would not take the ox...

By now the old woman was getting angry – no one would help her! So she took a rope out of her pocket and said, “Rope, Rope, please tie up the butcher. The butcher won’t take the ox away. The ox won’t drink the water. The water won’t splash the dog. The dog won’t chase the pig. The pig won’t get over the fence, and I see the moonlight. The pig and I should have been home hours ago!”

But the rope would not tie up the butcher.

Just then a mouse ran across the field, and the old woman called, “Mouse, Mouse, please chew the rope. The rope won’t tie up the butcher. The butcher won’t take the ox. The ox won’t drink the water. The water won’t splash the dog. The dog won’t chase the pig. The pig won’t get over the fence and the moon is already high in the sky. The pig and I should be getting ready for bed by now.”

The mouse stopped. He looked at the old woman. “Yes,” said the mouse, “I will chew the rope, if you will give me some cheese.”

So the old woman put her hand deep into her

pocket, felt around a bit and then pulled out a tiny piece of cheese which she gave to the mouse. And when the mouse had eaten the cheese, it began to nibble at the rope; the rope began to tie up the butcher; the butcher began to lead the ox; the ox began to drink the water; the water began to splash the dog; the dog began to chase the pig and ... the pig jumped over the fence.

The old woman gave a big sigh and walked home. "At last," she said.

What time did she and her pig get home?
Nobody knows. But if this old woman lives near you and you do know, please tell us.

isiXHOSA

Ixhegokazi kunye nehagu yalo

Ngenye imini ixhegokazi lalitshayela ekhayeni lalo laze labhaqa imali elalisele lajilibala kudala. Lavuya kakhulu kangangokuba lajikeleza lidanisa, licula

"Khangela apha," latsho liyibambile liyiphakamisele phezulu le mali. "Ndiza kuthenga ntoni ngayo bethu? Ndiyazi! Ndiza kuya emarikeneni ndizithengele ihagu."

Ngoko ke ngosuku olulandelayo, laya emarikeneni laza lathenga ihagwana encinane entle. Layifaka ikhola le hagu, labophelela intambo kule khola laza layinxula, lagoduka nayo. Endleleni, kwakufuneka betsibe ucingwana olufutshane lwasenkampini.

Ixhegokazi lathi, "Nceda, hagu, tsiba olu cingo." Kodwa ihagu yala ukutsiba ucingo. Lacenga kangangoko, kodwa ihagu yala ukutsiba ecingweni.

Kanye ngelo xesha kwathi gqi injana izinkcunkcela laze lathi ixhegokazi kuyo, "Nja, Nja! Yiza apha. Nceda usukele le hagu. Le hagu ayifuni kutsiba ecingweni kwaye soze ndifike ekhaya, ngoku kuhlwile."

Kodwainja yala ukuyisukela ihagu.

Ngoko ke ixhegokazi lathatha i-emele yamanzi eyayihleli kude kufuphi ncingo. "Manzi, nceda utshize le nja. Le nja ayifuni ukusukela le hagu. Le hagu ayifuni ukutsiba ecingweni kwaye soze ndifike ekhaya, ngoku kuhlwile."

Kodwa amanzi ala ukutshizainja.

Ixhegokazi labona inkunzi yenkomo mgama. Yathi yakusondela lajikhwaza, "Nkomo, Nkomo, nceda usele la manzi. La manzi awafuni kutshiza le nja. Inja ayifuni kusukela ihagu. Ihagu ayifuni kutsiba ecingweni kwaye kuya kusiba mnyama ngoku. Lixesha lokuba mna nehagu sibe sesisekhaya."

Kodwa inkomo yala ukuwasela amanzi.

Kanye ngelo xesha kwadlula unosilarha.

Ixhegokazi lammissa laze lamcenga, "Nosilarha, Nosilarha, nceda uthathe le nkomo uhambe nayo. Le nkomo ayifuni kusela amanzi. Amanzi awafuni kutshizainja. Inja ayifuni kusukela ihagu. Ihagu ayifuni kutsiba ecingweni. Ndibona inyanga iphuma ndiselapha. Mna nehagu bekumele ukuba sesisekhaya kwiyure enesiqingatha edlulileyo."

Kodwa unosilarha wala ukuyithatha inkomo...

Ngoko ke ixhegokazi laliselifikelwa ngumsindo omkhulu – kungekho bani ufuna ukulinceda! Ngoko ke lakhupha intambo epokotheni yalo laze lathi, "Ntambo, Ntambo, nceda ubophelele lo nosilarha. Lo nosilarha uyala ukuthatha le nkomo. Le nkomo ayifuni kusela la manzi. La manzi akafuni kutshiza le nja. Le nja ayifuni kusukela le hagu. Le hagu ayifuni kutsiba ecingweni, kwaye sele ndibona ukukhanya kwenyanga ngoku. Mna nehagu bekufanele ukuba sele kuzi iyure sisekhaya."

Kodwa intambo yala ukubophelela unosilarha.





Kanye ngelo xesha kwathi gqi impuku inqumla ethafeni, laze ixhegokazi layikhwaza lathi, “Mpuku, Mpuku, grenya le ntambo. Le ntambo ayifuni kubophelela unosilarha. Lo nosilarha akafuni kuthatha le nkomo. Le nkomo ayifuni kusela la manzi. La manzi akafuni kutshiza le nja. Le nja ayifuni kusukela le hagu. Le hagu ayifuni kutsiba ecingweni kwaye nenyanga sele iphezulu esibhakabhakeni ngoku. Mna nehagu sifanele ukuba silungiselela ukulala ngoku.”

Impuku yema. Yalijonga ixhegokazi. “Kulungile,” yatsho, “ndiza kuyigrenya intambo, ukuba wena uza kundinika iqhekeza lesonka samasi.”

Kwa oko ke, ixhegokazi lafaka isandla salo ezantsi epokothweni yalo, laphuthaphutha

kancinane laza lakhupha iqhekezana elincinane lesonka samasi lalinika impuku. Emva kokuba impuku ilityile iqhekezana lesonka samasi, yaqalisa ukugrenya intambo; intambo yaqalisa ukubophelela unosilarha; unosilarha waqalisa ukutsala inkomo; inkomo yaqalisa ukusela amanzi; amanzi aqalisa ukutshizainja;inja yaqalisa ukusukela ihagu yaze ... ihagu yalutsiba ucingo.

Ixhegokazi lenza isingqala laze lagoduka. “Ekugqibeleni,” latsho.

Ingaba lafika nini nehagu ekhaya? Akukho namnye owaziyo. Kodwa ukuba eli xhegokazi lihlala kufuphi nawe kwaye uyazi ukuba lafika nini na, nceda.

Riddles!

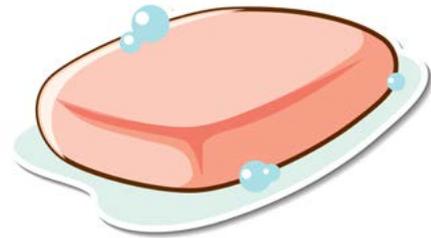
Can you solve them?

You can catch me, but you can't throw me. What am I?



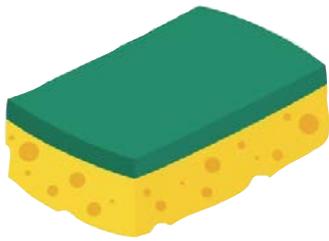
Answer: A Cold

I get smaller every time I take a bath. What am I?



Answer: A Bar of Soap

I am full of holes, but I can still hold a lot of water. What am I?



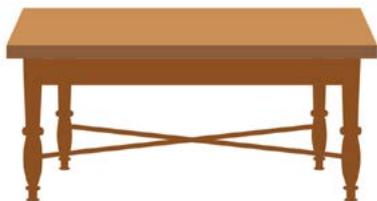
Answer: A Sponge

I have many sharp teeth but I cannot bite. What am I?



Answer: A comb

What has legs but doesn't walk?



Answer: A table

Where can you find cities, towns, houses, and streets but no people?



Answer: A map

Which way to the space rocket?



