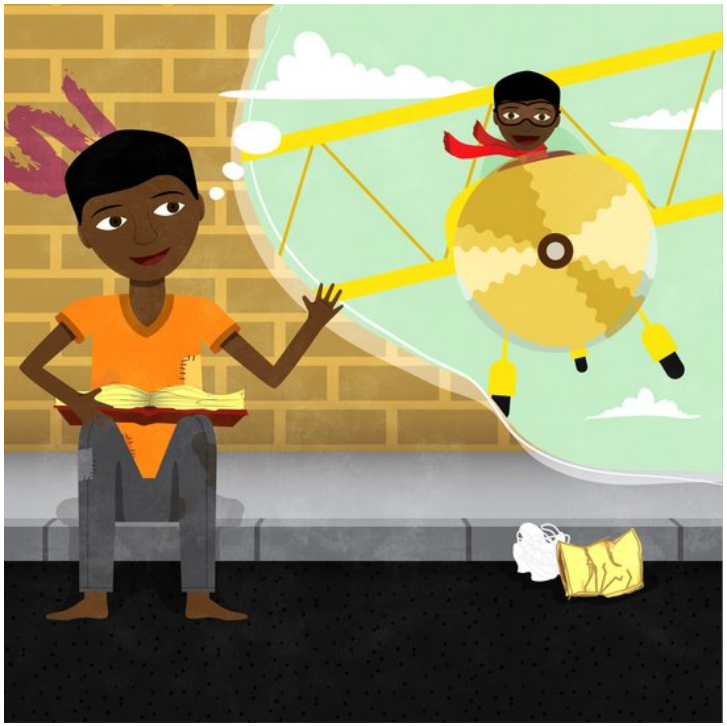

UMagozwe

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Level 4

Kwidolophukazi exakekileyo yaseNairobi, kude le nekhaya elinenkathalo, kwakuhlala iqela lamakhwenkwe angenakhaya. Babejongana nosuku ngalunye ngendlela oluze ngayo. Ngantsasa ithile la makhwenkwe ayesonga iingutyana zawo zokulala emva kokulala kwipavumente ebandayo. Babebasa umlilo ngenkukuma ukugxotha ingqele. Phakathi kwala makhwenkwe kwakukho inkwenkwe egama linguMagozwe. Wayengoyena umncinane kubo bonke.

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Edolobheni elinyamfukayo iNairobi, kude le nempilo yekhaya enokunakekela, kwakuhlala iqembu labafana abangenamakhaya. Kubona usuku lwalufana nolunye. Ekuseni ngelinye ilanga abafana babeqoqa amacansi abo kade belele onqenqemeni olubandayo lomgwaqo. Babasa umlilo ngemfucuza ukuze baxoshe amakhaza. Phakathi kwaleli qembu kwakunomncane kubo bonke uMagozwe.

Abazali bakaMagozwe basweleka eneminyaka emihlanu kuphela. Waya kuhlala nomalume wakhe. Le ndoda yayingayikhathalelanga le nkwenkwana. Wayengamniki nditsho nokutya okwaneleyo. Wayemsebenzisa okwekhoboka.

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Wayeneminyaka emihlanu kuphela, khathi abazali bakhe beshona.Waya kohlala nomalume wakhe. Indoda le ayizange iyinakelele ingane. Wayemncisha ukudla. Wayemenzisa umsebenzi omningi olukhuni.

Umalume kaMagozwe wayembetha xa ekhalaza okanye ebuza imibuzo. Xa uMagozwe ebuza ukuba angaya na esikolweni, umalume wakhe wayembetha athi, “Usisidenge esingenakufunda nto.” Emva kweminyaka emithathu yalempatho uMagozwe wabaleka wamshiya umalume wakhe. Waya kuhlala esitalatweni.

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Uma ngabe uMagozwe ekhononda noma efuna incazelo, umalume wakhe wayemshaya. Uma uMagozwe ebuza ukuthi angaya yini esikoleni, umalume wayemshaya athi, “Uyisiduphunga kakhulu ukuthi kukhona ongakufunda.” Emva kweminyaka emithathu yokuphatheka kabi, uMagozwe wabaleka kwamalume wakhe. Waqala ukuhlala ezitaladini.

Babunzima ubomi basesitalatweni kwaye la makhwenkwe etsala nzima imihla ngemihla ukufumana ukutya. Maxa wambi babebanjwa, maxa wambi bebethwa. Xa begula kwakungekho mntu wokubanceda. Babexhomekeke kwimalana ababeyifumana ngokungqiba, bethengisa neeplastiki nenkukuma ephinda isetyenziswe kwakhona. Ubomi babubanzima kakhulu ngenxa yemilo namanye amaqela awayefuna ukulawula iingingqi ezithile kulodolophukazi.

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Kwakunzima ukuhlala ezitaladini kanti abafana babezabalaza nsukuzonke ukuthola ngisho ukudla. Kokunye babeboshwa, bashaywe. Kwakungenamuntu wokubanakekela uma begula. Leli qembu lalisimamiswa imadlana elaliyithola uma liyicela kwabedlulayo, noma uma lithengisa ocwazi nokunye okungabuye kusebenziseke. Impilo yayibanzima kakhulu ngenxa yezimpi namanye amaqembu abangayo ayefuna ukuphatha izindawo ezithile edolobheni.

Ngenye imini uMagozwe wathi ekhangela emigqomeni wafumana incwadi endala yamabali. Wayivuthulula wayifaka kwingxowana yakhe. Wayeyikhupha mihla le abukele imifanekiso ekuloo ncwadi. Wayengakwazi ukufunda amagama.

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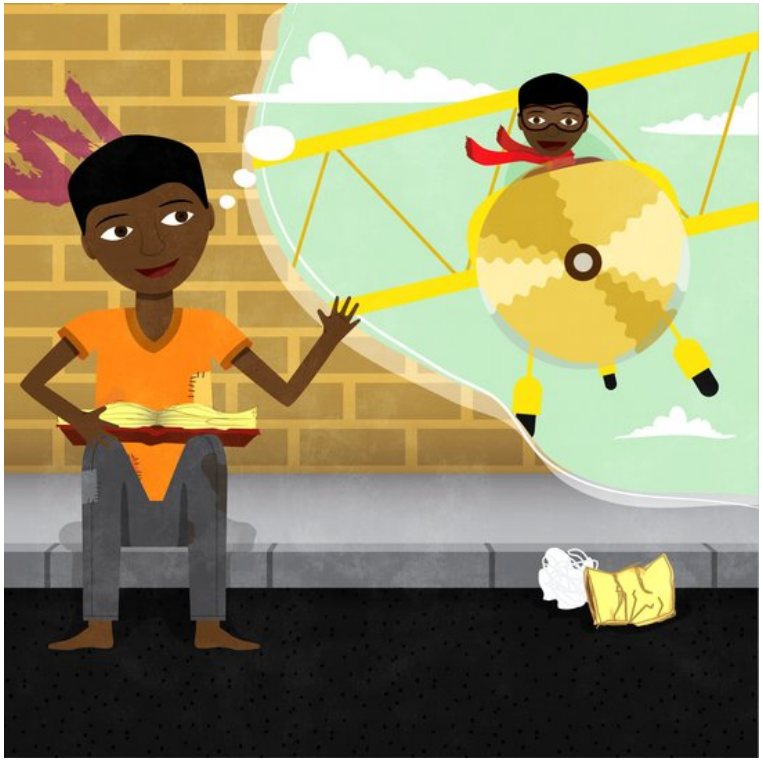
Ngelinye ilanga uMagozwe ecinga emgqonyeni kadoti,wathola incwadi endala negugile. Wayithintitha eyisusa ukungcola waseyifaka esikhwameni sakhe. Nsukuzonke emva kwalokhu wayeyikhipha incwadi abuke izithombe. Wayengakakwazi ukufunda amagama.



Le mifanekiso yayibalisa ngenkwenkwana eyakhula yaba ngumqhubi weenqwelo-moya. UMagozwe wayephupha ngokuba ngumqhubi weenqwelo-moya. Maxa wambi wayezibona eyile nkwenkwana ikweli bali.

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Izithombe zazixoxa indaba yomfana owakhula waba umqhubi wezindiza. UMagozwe wayehlala ephupha ngokuba umqhubi wezindiza. Kokunye, wayezibona eyilo mfana okuxoxwa ngaye endabeni.

Kwakubanda uMagozwe emi ecaleni kwendlela engqiba. Kweza indoda kuye. “Molo, ndinguThomas. Ndisebenza kufutshane apha, kwindawo onokufumana kuyo into etyiwayo,” yatsho indoda. Yakhomba kumzi otyheli onophahla olubhlowu. “Ndiyathemba ukuba uyakuya phaya uyokufumana ukutya?” yabuza. UMagozwe wajonga kule ndoda, wajonga kulo mzi. “Mhlawumbi,” watsho waze wahamba.

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Kwakumakhaza uMagozwe emi emgwaqeni ecela imali.Kwafika indoda eyathi kuye, “Sawubona, nginguThomas. Ngisebenza eduze kwalapha, endaweni ongathola khona ukudla,” Yakhomba indlu ephuzi enophahla oluluhlaza okwesibhakabhaka. “Ngethemba uzoya khona uzothola ukudla?” kubuza indoda. UMagozwe wayibuka indoda, wabuka nendlu wasethi, “Mhlawumbe.” Wasuka wahamba.

Kwiinyanga ezilandelayo la makhwenkwe angenamakhaya aqhelana nokubona uThomas. Wayekuthanda ukuthetha nabantu, ingakumbi abantu abahlala esitalatweni. UThomas wayephulaphula amabali angobomi babantu. Wayeqinisekile kwaye enomonde kwaye engakhe abekrwada okanye angabina ntlonipho. Amanye amakhwenkwe aqalisa ukuya kulendlu ityheli nabhlowu ukuya kufumana isidlo sasemini.

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Ezinyangeni eziningi ezilandelayo, abafana abangenamakhaya baze bajwayela ukubona uThomas endaweni. Wayethanda ukukhuluma nabantu, ikakhulu abahlala ezitaladini. UThomas wayelalela izindaba ngezimpilo zabantu. Wayezimisela enesineke futhi, wayengakaze abeluhlaza futhi engenayo indelelo. Abanye abafana baqala ukuya endlini ephuzi nokuluhlaza beyothola ukudla emini.

UMagozwe wayehleli kwipavumente ebuka incwadi yakhe yemifanekiso kwaze kwafika uThomas wahlala ecaleni kwakhe. “Ingaba lingantoni eli bali?” wabuza uThomas. “Lithetha ngenkwenkwana eyaba ngumqhubi weenqwelo-moya,” waphendula uMagozwe. “Ngubani igama lalenkwenkwana?” wabuza uThomas. “Andilazi, andikwazi ukufunda,” watsho uMagozwe ethethela phantsi.

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UMagozwe wayehlezi onqenqemeni lomgwaqo ebuka izithombe encwadini yakhe lapho uThomas efika ehlala eduze kwakhe. “Imayelana nani le ndaba?” kubuza uThomas “Imayelana nomfana obangumqhubi wezindiza,” kuphendula uMagozwe. “Ubani igama lomfana?” kubuza uThomas. “Angazi, angikwazi ukufunda,” kusho uMagozwe kancane.

Ukudibana kwabo, uMagozwe waxelela uThomas ngebali lakhe. Wamxelela ngomalume wakhe nesizathu sokuba abaleke. UThomas wayengathethi kakhulu, kwaye wayengamxeleli uMagozwe kuba enze ntoni na, kodwa wayephulaphula ngononophelo. Maxa wambi babencokola ngeli lixa besitya kwindlu enophahla olubhlowu.

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Kwathi lapho behlangana futhi uMagozwe waqala ukuxoxela uThomas indaba yakhe. Kwakuyindaba kamalume wakhe nesizathu sokubaleka kwakhe. UThomas kazange akhulume kakhulu futhi kazange atshele uMagozwe ukuthi akenzenjani, wayegcina ngokulalela ngokucophelela. Kokunye babexoxa lapho bedla endlini enophahla oluluhalza okwesibhakabhaka.

Kufutshane nomhla wokuzalwa kaMagozwe egqiba iminyaka elishumi, uThomas wamnika incwadi yamabali entsha. Yayithetha ngenkwenkwana eyakhulela ezilalini eyakhula yaba ngumdlali webhola odumileyo. UThomas wamfundela le ncwadi uMagozwe amaxa amaninzi waza wathi ngenye imini, “Ndicinga ukuba kufuneka uye esikolweni ukwazi ukufunda. Ucinga ntoni wena?” UThomas wathi kukho indawo ayaziyo apho abantwana bavunyelwa ukuba bahlale baye nasesikolweni.

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UMagozwe esezohlanganisa iminyaka eyishumi, uThomas wamupha enye incwadi. Kwakuyindaba yomfana wasedolobheni elincane owakhula waba umdlali webhola odumile. UThomas wafundela uMagozwe le ndaba izikhathi eziningi, kwaze kwathi ngelinye ilanga wathi, “Ngibona ukuthi sekuyisikhathi sokuthi uye esikoleni ufunde ukuzifundela. Ubona kanjani?” UThomas wachaza ukuthi kukhona indawo ayaziyo lapho izingane zingahala khona, futhi zifunde.

UMagozwe wacinga ngalendawo intsha nangokuya esikolweni. Mhlawumbi umalume wakhe wayelungile xa esithi usisidenge esinganakho ukufunda nto? Angathini xa benokumbetha kulendawo intsha. Wayesoyika. “Mhlawumbi kungcono ahlale esitalatweni,” wacinga ngolo hlobo.

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UMagozwe wacabanga ngale ndawo entsha, nangokuya esikoleni. Kunganjani uma ngabe umalume wakhe wayeqinisile lapho ethi uyisiduphunga engeke sifunde lutho? Kwakuyothiwani uma eshaywa lapho? Wayesaba. “Mhlawumbe kungcono ngiqhubeke nokuhlala esitaladini,” ecabanga.

Waxelela uThomas ngoloyiko lwakhe. Ekuhambeni kwexesha le ndoda yamthembisa ukuba ubomi bunokuba ngcono kulendawo intsha.

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Wacobelela uThomas ngovalo analo. Kaningi emmisa isibindi ukuthi impilo yakhe ingabangcono.

Ngoko ke uMagozwe wafumana igumbi lokuhlala kumzi onophahla oluluhlaza namanye amakhwenkwe amabini. Babelishumi bebonke abantwana ababehlala kweli khaya. Kwakukho noMama uCissy nomyeni wakhe, izinja ezintathu, ikati kunye nebhokhwe endala.

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Kanjalo uMagozwe wathuthela ekameleni endlini eyayinophahla oluluhlaza njengotshani. Wayehlala nabanye abafana babili. Sebebonke ababehlala endlini kwakuyizingane eiyishumi. Kanye noAnti Cissy, nomyeni wakhe, izinja ezintathu, ikati nembuzi endala.

UMagozwe waqala isikolo kwaye kwakunzima. Wayesemva ngomsebenzi omninzi kakhulu. Maxa wambi wayefuna ukunikezela. Kodwa wayecinga ngomqhubi weenqwelo-ntaka kunye nomdlali webhola awayefunda ngabo kwiincwadi zakhe zamabali. Wayenganikezeli efana nabo.

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UMagozwe wasiqala isikole kwabalukhuni. Kwakukuningi okwakufanele akwazi ukuze aficane nabanye. Kwakukekuthi akayeke. Kodwa wayecabanga ngomqhubi wendiza nomdlali webhola ezincwadini zakhe.

UMagozwe wayehleli eyadini kwindlu enophahla oluluhlaza efunda incwadi yamabali yasesikolweni. UThomas weza kuhlala ecaleni kwakhe. “Lingantoni eli bali?” wabuza uThomas. “Limalunga nenkwenkwana eyaba nguTitshala,” waphendula uMagozwe. “Ngubani igama lalenkwenkwana?” wabuza uThomas. “Igama layo nguMagozwe,” waphendula enoncumo uMagozwe.

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UMagozwe wayehleli egcekeni lendlu eyayinophahla oluluhlaza, efunda incwadi yezindaba yesikole. UThomas wafika wahlala eduze kwakhe. “Imayelana nani le ndaba?” kubuza uThomas. “Imayelana nomfana owaba uthisha,” kuphendula uMagozwe. “Ubani igama lakhe?” kubuza uThomas “Igama lakhe uMagozwe,” kusho uMagozwe emamatheka.

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