

IT'S MY BIRTHDAY!

Sinovuyo Mgunukelwa - Josie Versfeld - Nkosingiphile Mazibuko



It's my birthday!

This book belongs to







bookdash.org

Every child should own a hundred books by the age of five. To that end, Book Dash gathers creative volunteers to create new African storybooks that anyone can freely print, translate and distribute. Then we work with partners to give those books to preschool children to own.

To find out more, and to download beautiful, open-licensed, print-ready books, visit bookdash.org.

It's my birthday!

Illustrated by Josie Versfeld

Written by Sinovuyo Mgunukelwa

Designed by Nkosingiphile Mazibuko

Edited by Diane Awerbuck

with the help of the Book Dash participants in Cape Town on 14 October 2023.

ISBN: 978-1-77623-038-9

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence
(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

You are free to share (copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format) and adapt (remix, transform, and build upon the material) this work for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the following license terms:

You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. No additional restrictions: You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

IT'S MY BIRTHDAY!

Sinovuyo Mgunukelwa - Josie Versfeld - Nkosingiphile Mazibuko



“Kurukukuuu!”

Wake up, Zingisile!
Today is your birthday!”



It's my birthday, and
it's also a school day.



“Mama, Mama!

Guess what day it is?” I shout.

I always ask my mama every
morning on my birthday.



“This is your birthday porridge.
Now, quickly, eat up
and get ready.



You can't be late on
your birthday!”



Mmmhhh.
I love mealie porridge when
it's runny...

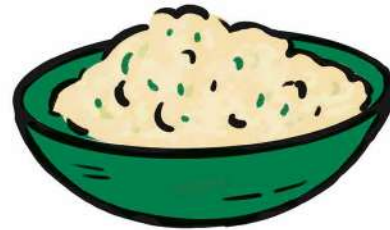


At preschool everyone knows
it's my birthday.

They sing **happy birthday**
and give me handmade
love notes.

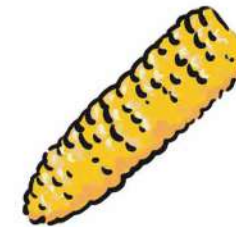


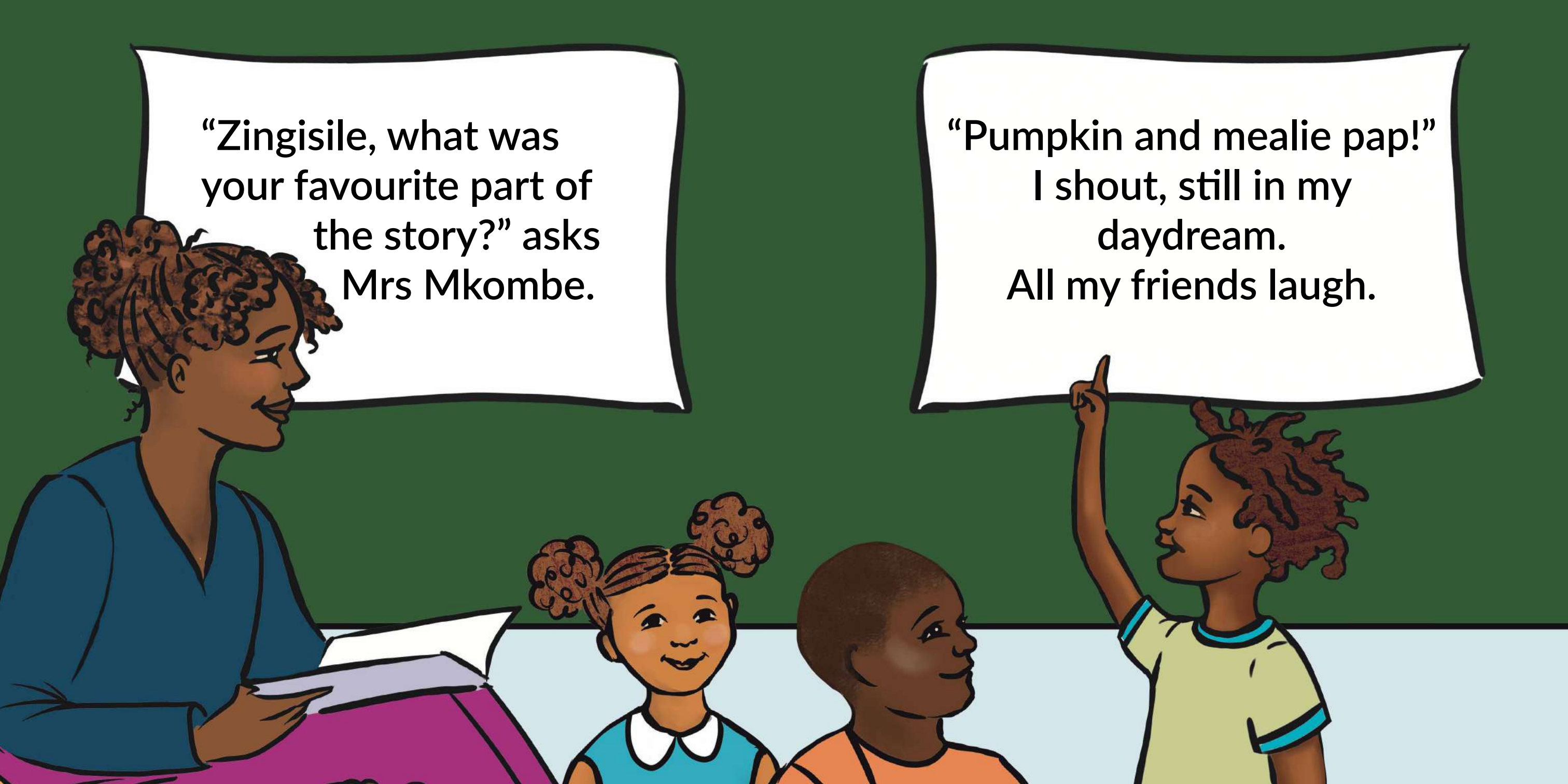
I can't wait for my special meal from Mama.



I can't wait to see my favourite cousin, Sisipho. She is also my best friend. Her birthday is coming in September.

Which chicken will Mama cook for me? I hope it's the fat one.



An illustration of a classroom scene. On the left, a woman with curly brown hair, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, is seated and looking towards the right. In the center, two young girls are seated; the one in front has pigtails and is wearing a blue dress with a white collar, while the one behind her has curly hair. To the right, a boy with curly hair, wearing a yellow t-shirt with blue trim, is standing and pointing his right index finger upwards. The background is a solid dark green color.

“Zingisile, what was your favourite part of the story?” asks Mrs Mkombe.

“Pumpkin and mealie pap!”
I shout, still in my
daydream.
All my friends laugh.

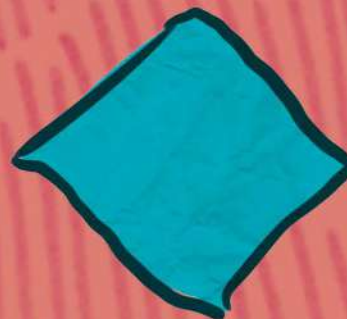
When I get home, Luhambo is excited. He has only had one birthday, on the 28th of April.



Now I've had five birthdays already!



Look at all the food!
Mama has made my
favourites – spinach and
sweetcorn and pumpkin and
mealie pap and gravy and her
special bread. Everything is
from our garden.





“Happy birthday, Zingisile!
Mini emnandi kuwe, Zingisile!
How old are you now?”

“I’m five years old now!”
I sing back.
My papa picks me up
and spins me around.

“My Zing-star!
You’re so old you’re
almost a teacher!”



Mama lets me pick the
biggest piece of chicken.
She dishes for me first.

I dip my delicious bread in
the gravy and I smile.
I can't wait for my
next birthday!





