



# Kukh'umlilo kwezo Ntaba

Julie Smith-Belton

Kirsty Paxton

Nadene Reignier

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Le ncwadi yeka

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Kukh'umlilo kwezo Ntaba  
*(There's a Fire on the Mountain)*  
Illustrated by Julie Smith-Belton  
Written by Kirsty Paxton  
Designed by Nadene Reignier  
Edited by Margot Bertelsmann  
Translated by Sebolelo Mokapela

with the help of the Book Dash participants in the Virtual Book Dash on 15 May 2021.

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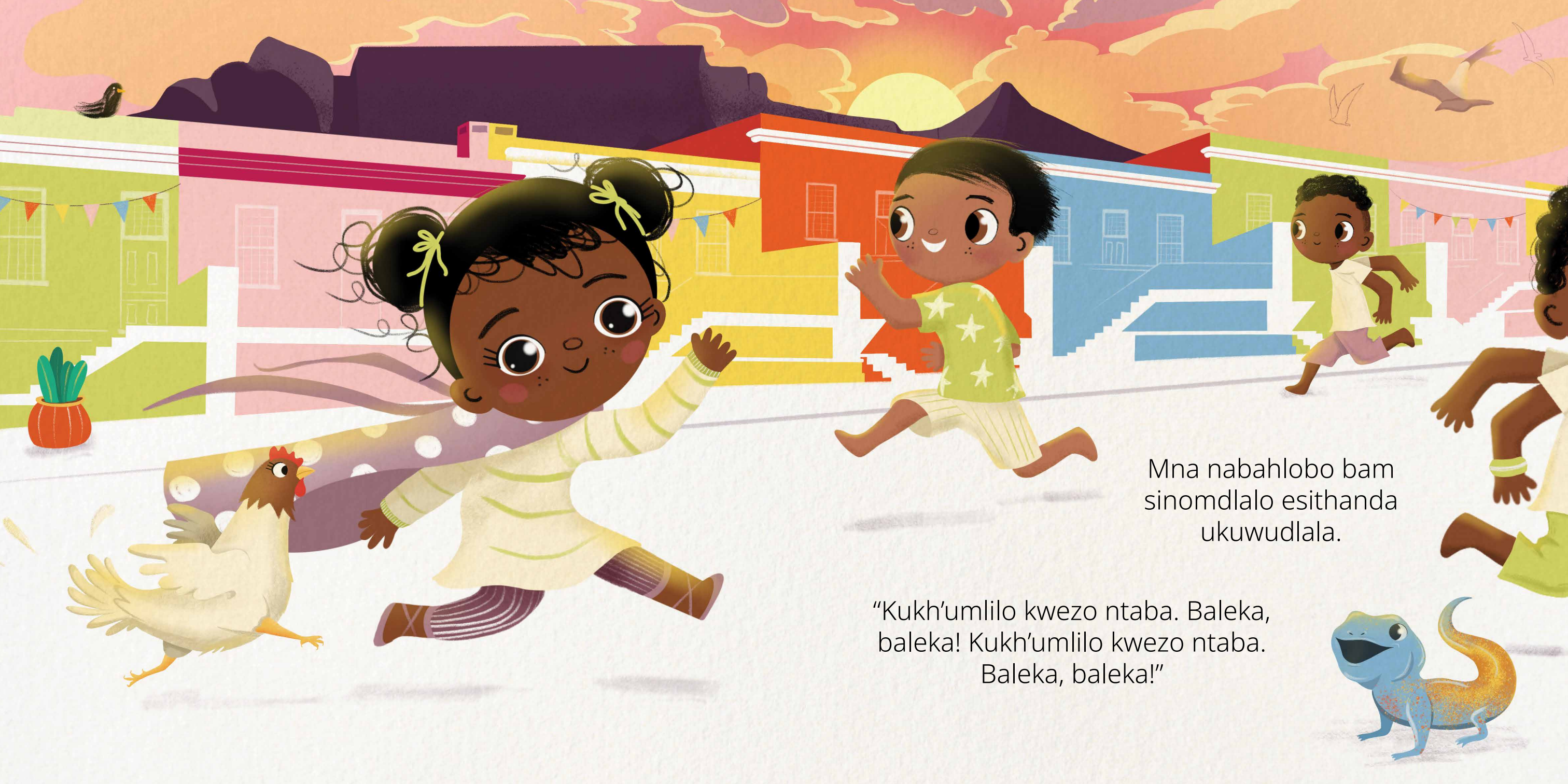


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Julie Smith-Belton   Kirsty Paxton   Nadene Reignier







Mna nabahlobo bam  
sinomdlalo esithanda  
ukuwudlala.

“Kukh’umlilo kwezo ntaba. Baleka,  
baleka! Kukh’umlilo kwezo ntaba.  
Baleka, baleka!”








Kwaza ngenye imini kwatsha nyhani entabeni. Yayingumlilo ombi kakhulu owatshisa wagqugqisa.





Izakhiwo ezikhulu, ezidala  
zatsha, iincwadi zatsha, imithi  
nengca zatsha. Iihelikopta  
zagalela amanzi kuloo mlilo yaye  
amagorha abacimi-mlilo atsho  
ngemibhobho yawo yamanzi.





Nabantu babaleka. Baxhiphula iincwadi  
neebhegi zabo baze babaleka umsi  
namadangatye omlilo.





Emva kweentsuku ezintathu ezinde,  
amadangatye ayecimile.

Abacimi-mlilo ekugqibeleni batsho baphumla.



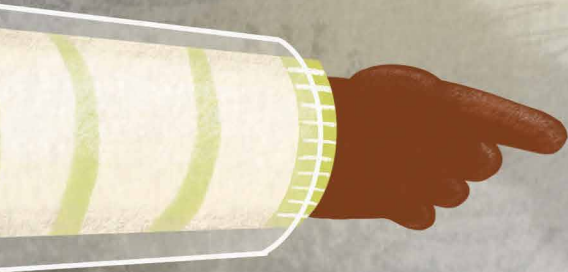


Amathambeka entaba ayemnyama.  
Xa sasihamba entabeni, sasibona nje amatye  
nezihlahla ezitshileyo.

Sonke sasilusizana kakhulu.







Kwade ngenye imini ... kwathi gqi iintwana-  
ntwanana ezibomvana kobo bumnyama.

“Jonga, jonga. Yintoni leya?”







Ezi ntwana-ntwanana  
zibomvana  
zaya zikhula ngokukhula  
de zajika zaba  
ziinyibiba zomlilo  
ezintle, ezinde  
ezinomfaneleko ezitsho  
ngeentyatyambo ezibomvu  
ezimile okwentsimbi.







Emva koko kwavela iintyatyambo ezinkulu,  
ezibomvu zidubula kuhlaza ngokungathi  
ziintabamlilo.

Zazikhangeleka ngokungathi ziityhubhu  
ezibomvu ezingqingqwa ezinamevana amthubi  
kunye namagqabi abomvu, amakhulu.  
Kwantshula amachokoza aluhlaza kuyo  
yonke intaba le, ejika obo bumnyama  
bube yingca neebhosisi eziluhlaza.




Emva koko kwamila iifeni ezibu-asparagasi kwiindawana ezime amanzi emwula.



Kunye newatsoniya ende eorenji napinki.





Kungekudala nje intaba  
yabe sele ithiwe wambu  
ngezityalo esasisele  
sineminyaka singasaziboni.



Intaba ngoku igcwele bubomi obutsha!









