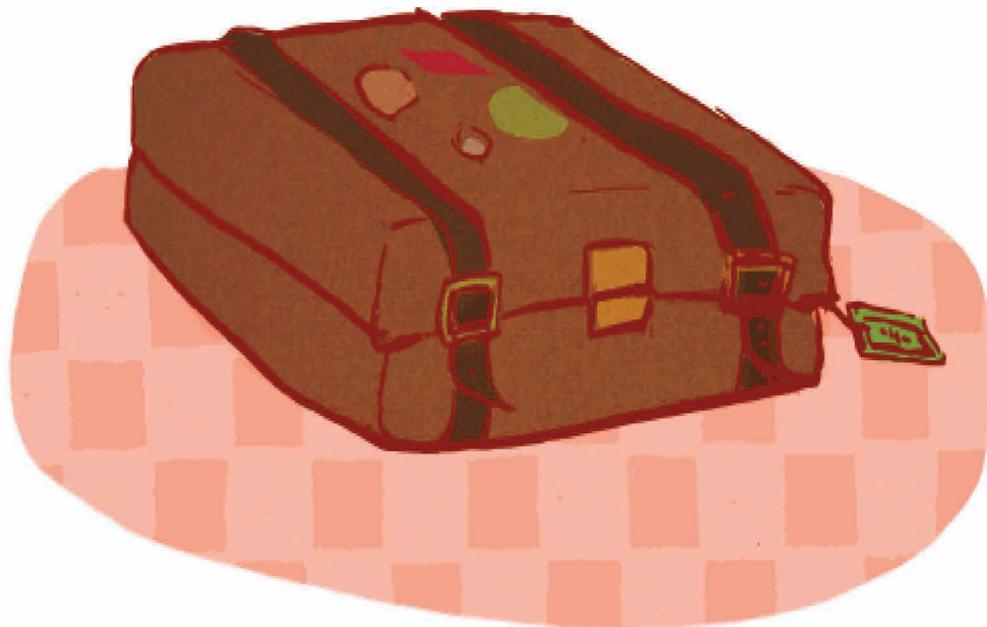




The Suitcase

This book was originally written in isiZulu by Mbongeni Nzimande

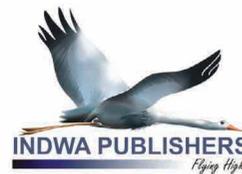
Illustrated by Elizabeth Pulles Designed by Leona Ingram



WORLD BANK GROUP



Room to Read®





The day of the dance contest is drawing near. In the streets, everyone is talking about what they will wear.







Lwazi is stressing out. What should he wear?
Gogo is also worried. She wants her grandson to win.

"I miss my grandfather," Lwazi thinks sadly.
"Mkhulu would know what to do."







Lwazi suggests to Gogo that they sell pumpkins from her garden to raise money for an outfit.

Lwazi goes door to door with the pumpkins, but they are not ripe. No one wants them.





Lwazi sits in his room, trying to decide what to do.
He notices an old suitcase on top of a wardrobe,
one that Gogo has put away.

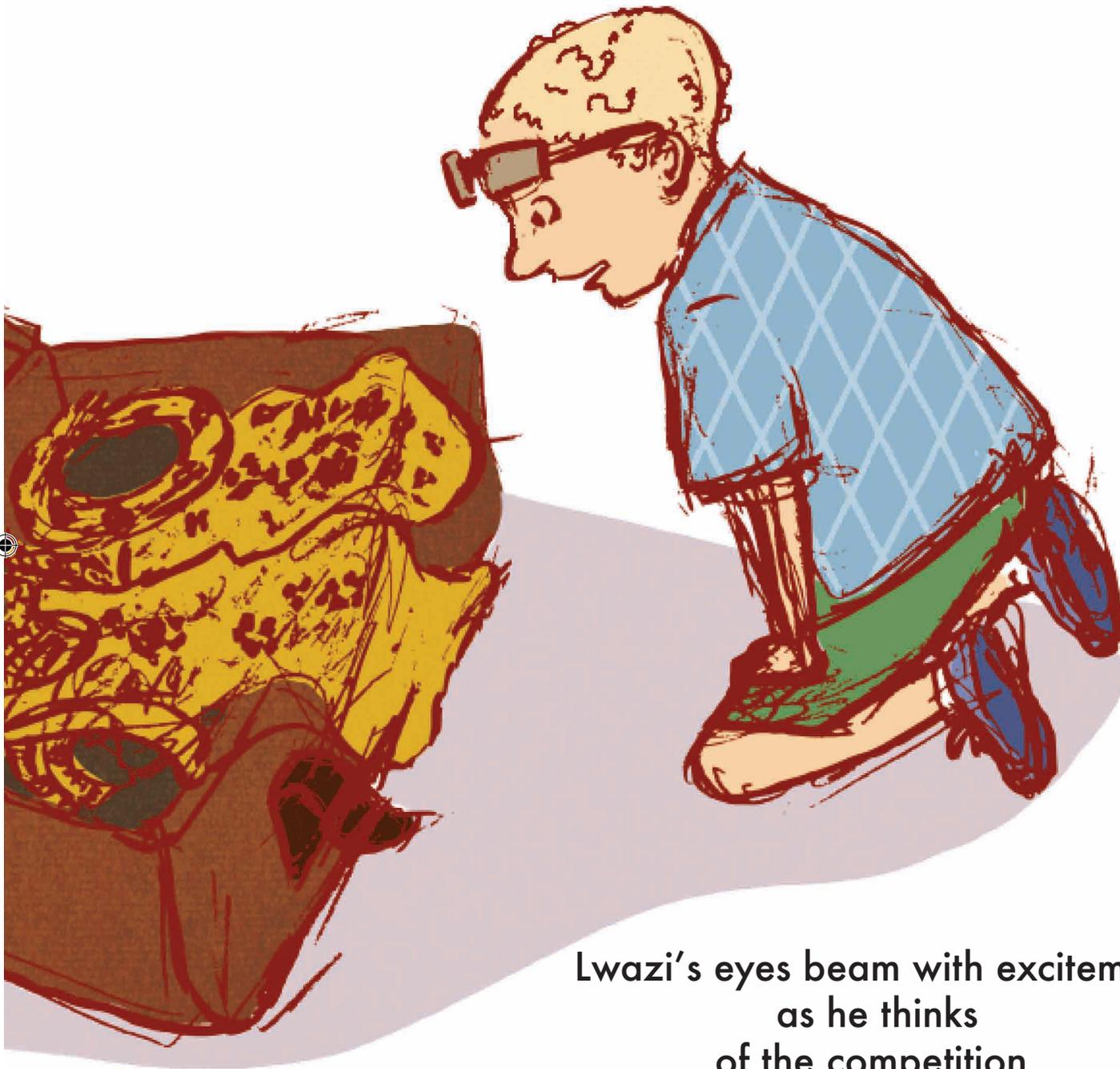
Standing on a chair, he struggles with the
dusty old suitcase. When he gets it open,
Lwazi can't believe his eyes.





In the suitcase are Mkhulu's finest clothes!





Lwazi's eyes beam with excitement
as he thinks
of the competition.





Lwazi puts on the vest.
It's too big for him!
The headband does not fit either.

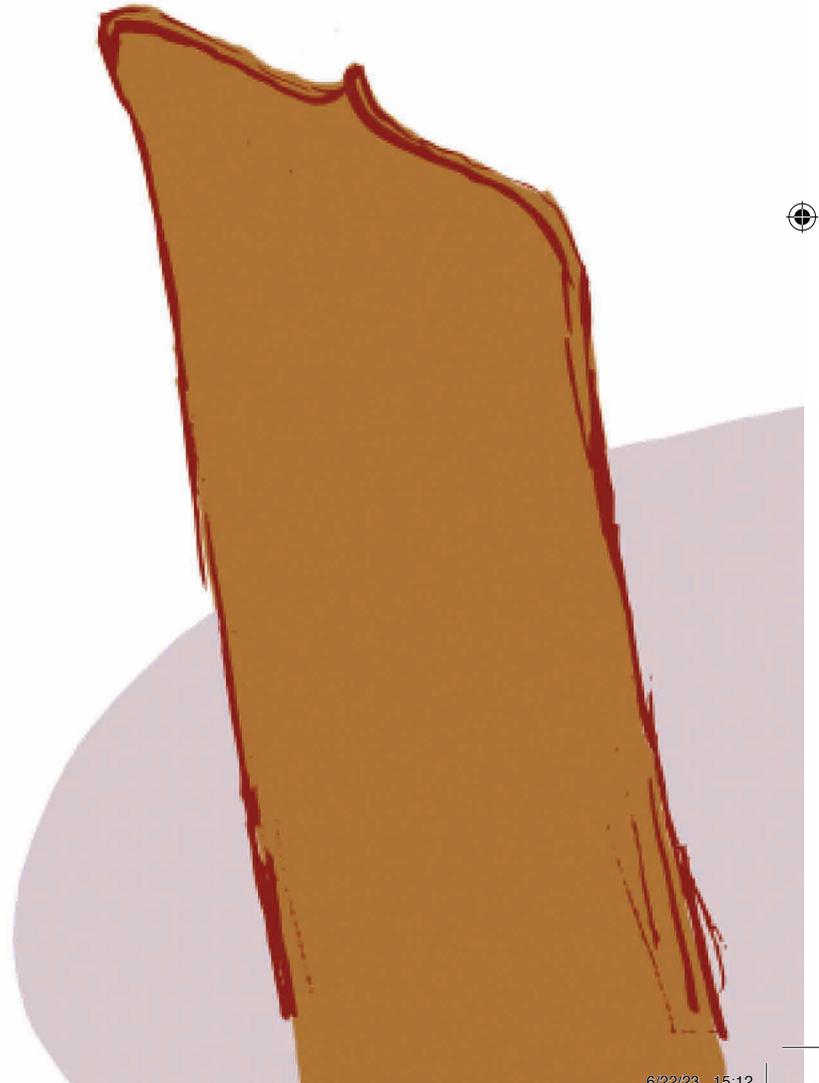
He is sad. Everything is
just too big for him.







“Why are you crying, Lwazi?” Gogo asks when she sees him. “This outfit is perfect!”





"No, it's not," Lwazi sniffs.
"Everyone will laugh.
Look at me!"

"I know just what to do,"
Gogo replies.



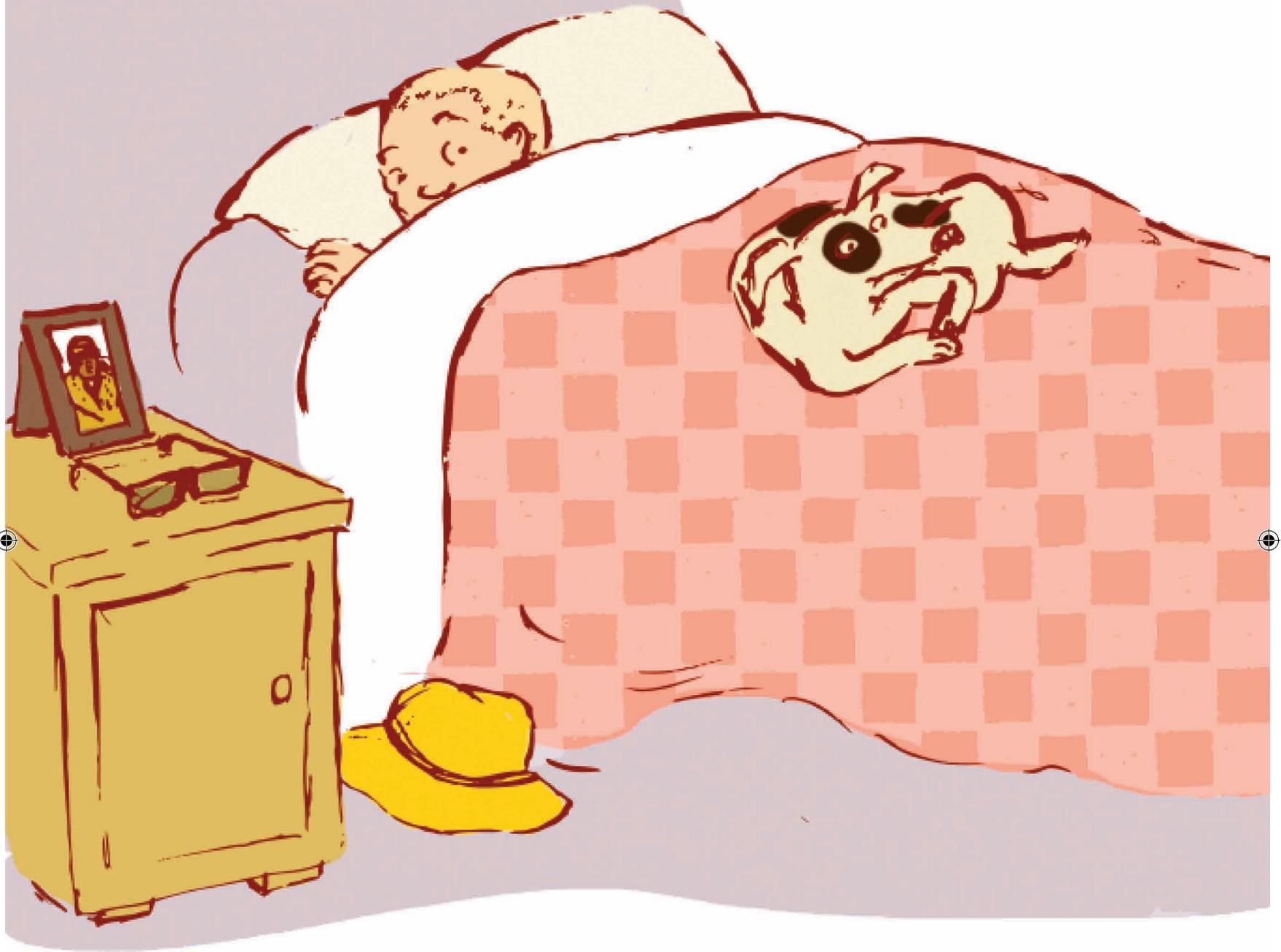


Gogo opens her old sewing machine.
She hasn't used it in a long time,
but with sure fingers she begins to sew,
altering Mkhulu's clothing...

The contest is the next day,
so Gogo sews all night.









On the day of the contest, Lwazi lies grumpily in bed.
"I'm not going," he says. "I have nothing to wear!"

Gogo shows him the outfit. Lwazi can't believe his eyes. It
looks exactly his size!





Lwazi quickly has a bath
and puts on the outfit.





It fits him perfectly!





In his stylish outfit,
Lwazi is the star of the show.

He wins the contest! Gogo is so proud!







Room to Read South Africa

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