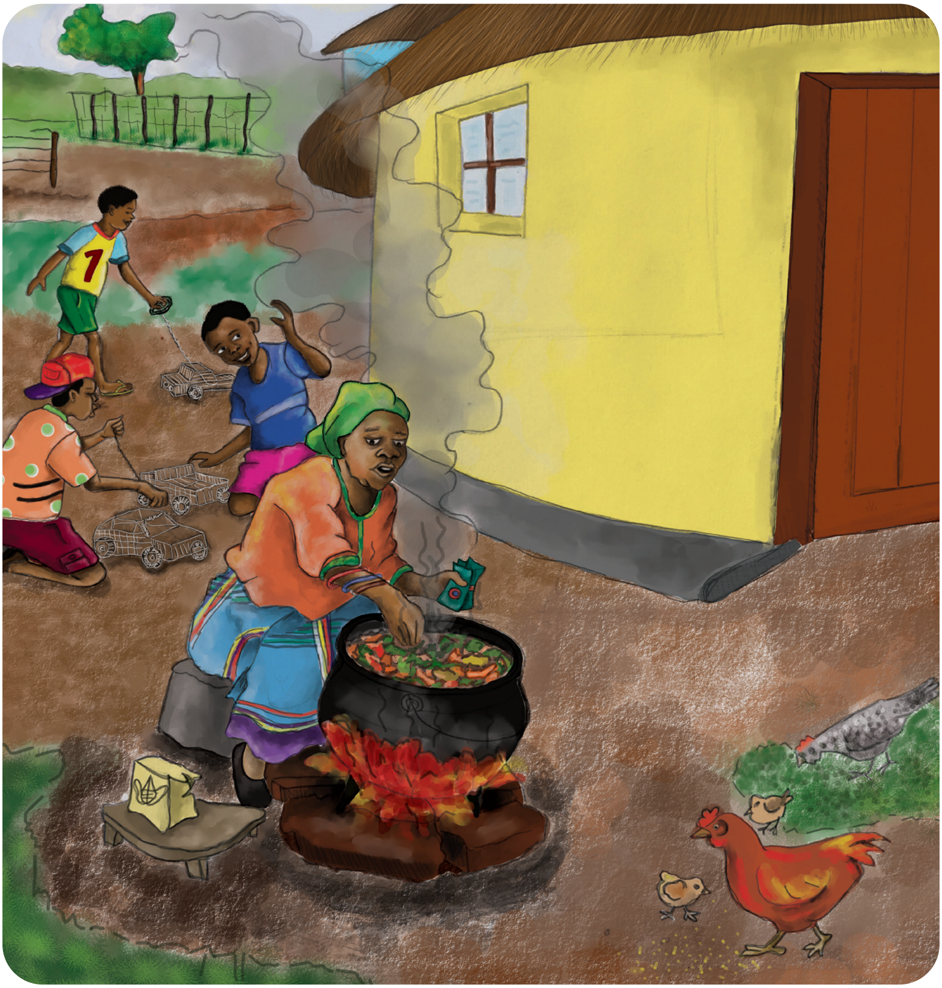
Umlilo!

Rotshidzwa Sigwadi



Ugogo uyapheka emlilweni waphansi.

UBheka nabangane bakhe bayadlala.
Balinde ugogo aqede ukupheka.

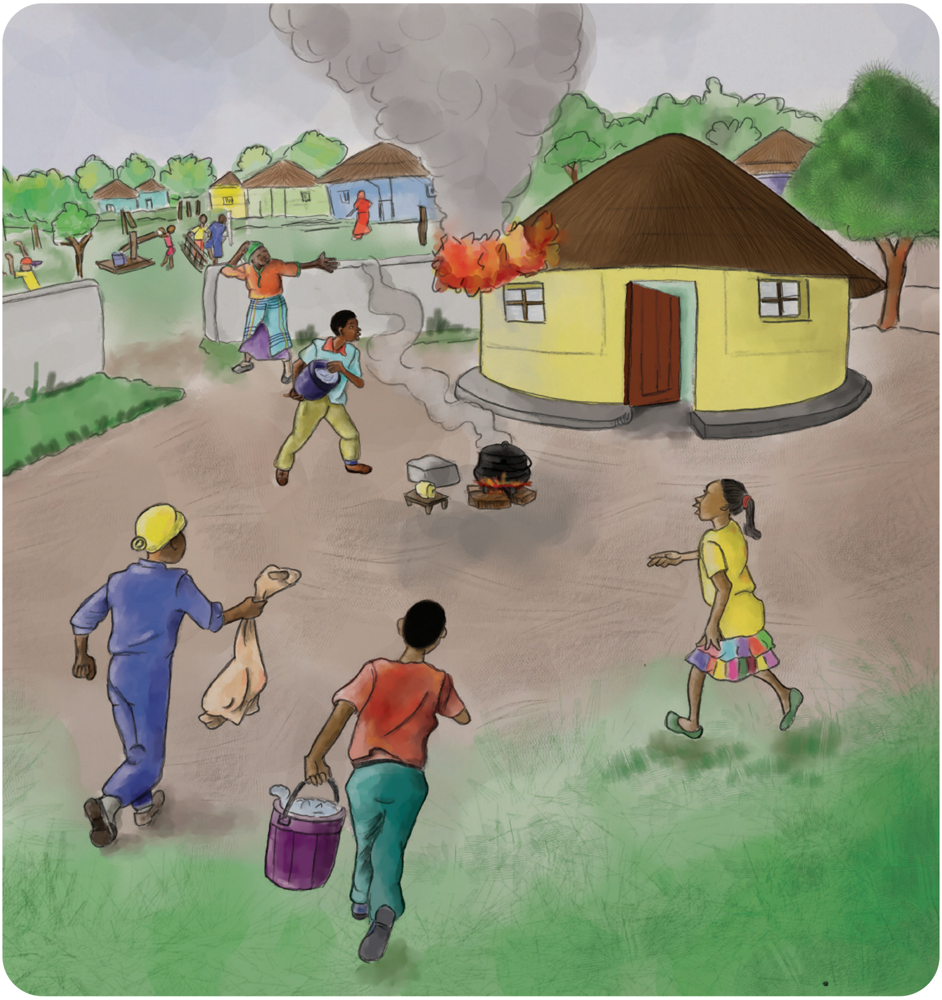
Umoya uqala ukuvunguza.

Umlilo uyabhebhetheka!

Uphahla lokhela amalangabi!

“Maye! Bhadi lini leli! Nalu uphahla lwami luzodilika!” kuzikhalela ugogo.

“Bheka! Gijimani nabangane bakho niyocela usizo. Sidinga amanzi amaningi ukuze sibhule lo mlilo!” kumemeza ugogo.



UBheka nabangane bayagijima bayofuna usizo.

"Umlilo! Umlilo! Sizani! Sizani!" kumemeza oBheka.

Omakhelwane bafika masinyane namabhakede amanzi.

“Kuzolunga, Gogo! Sizowubhula lo mlilo!” besho bememeza.

Izakhamuzi zilwa nomlilo. Zibhunyela amanzi emlilweni.

Umlilo sewuyacima.

“Ngiyalubonga usizo lwenu, bomakhelwane,” kusho ugogo.

Ugogo wabonga noBheka nabangane bakhe.

“Siwubhulile umlilo futhi sesiphephile. Ngiyabonga, bafana. Ngosizo lwenu!”