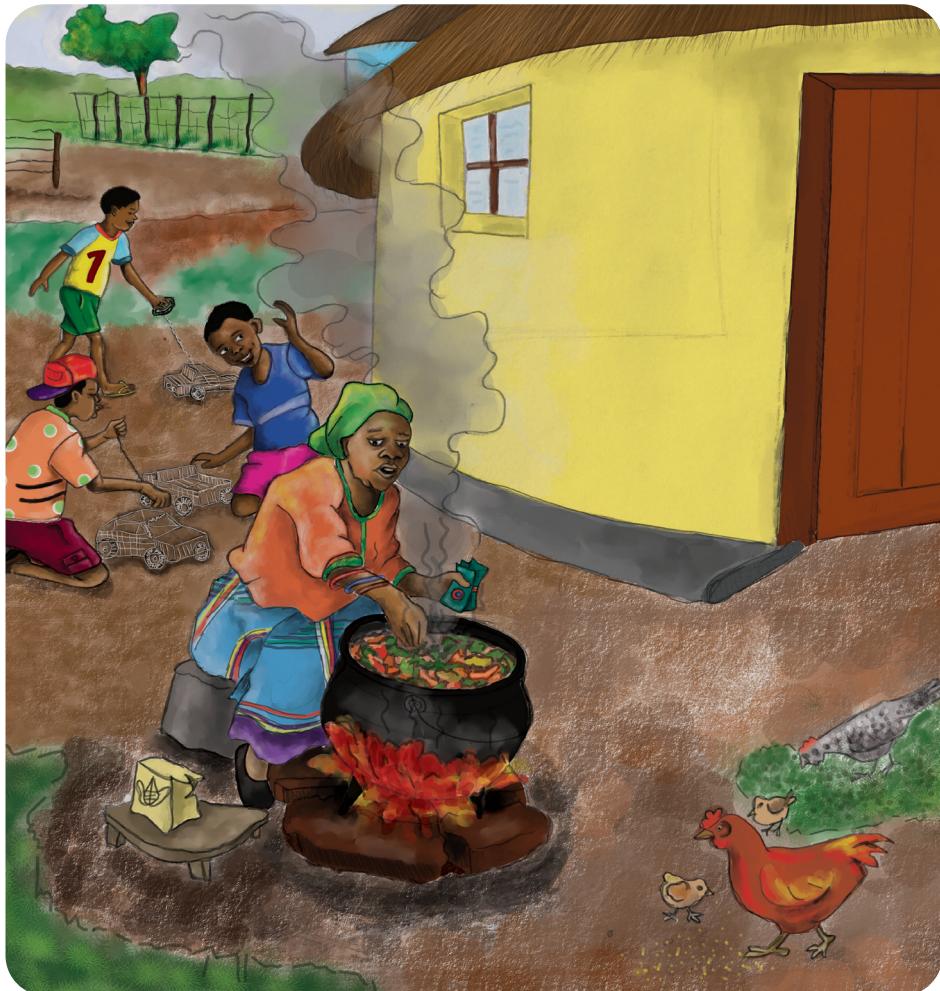




Umlilo!



NguRotshidzwa Sigwadi

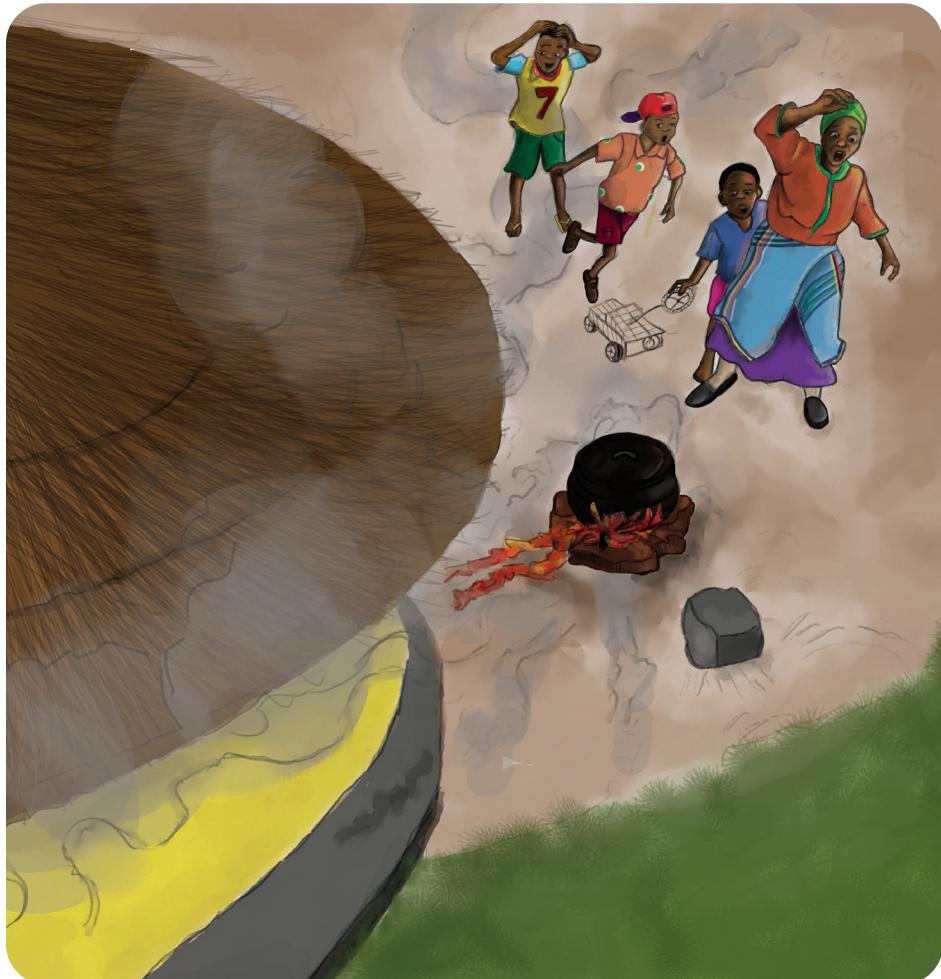


Umakhulu upheka eziko. UQhayiya udlala nabahlobo bakhe.



Kukho impepho ebhudlayo. Ngesaquphe
umoya uyavuthuza. Ufunqula umlilo
uwuphosa phezulu emoyeni.





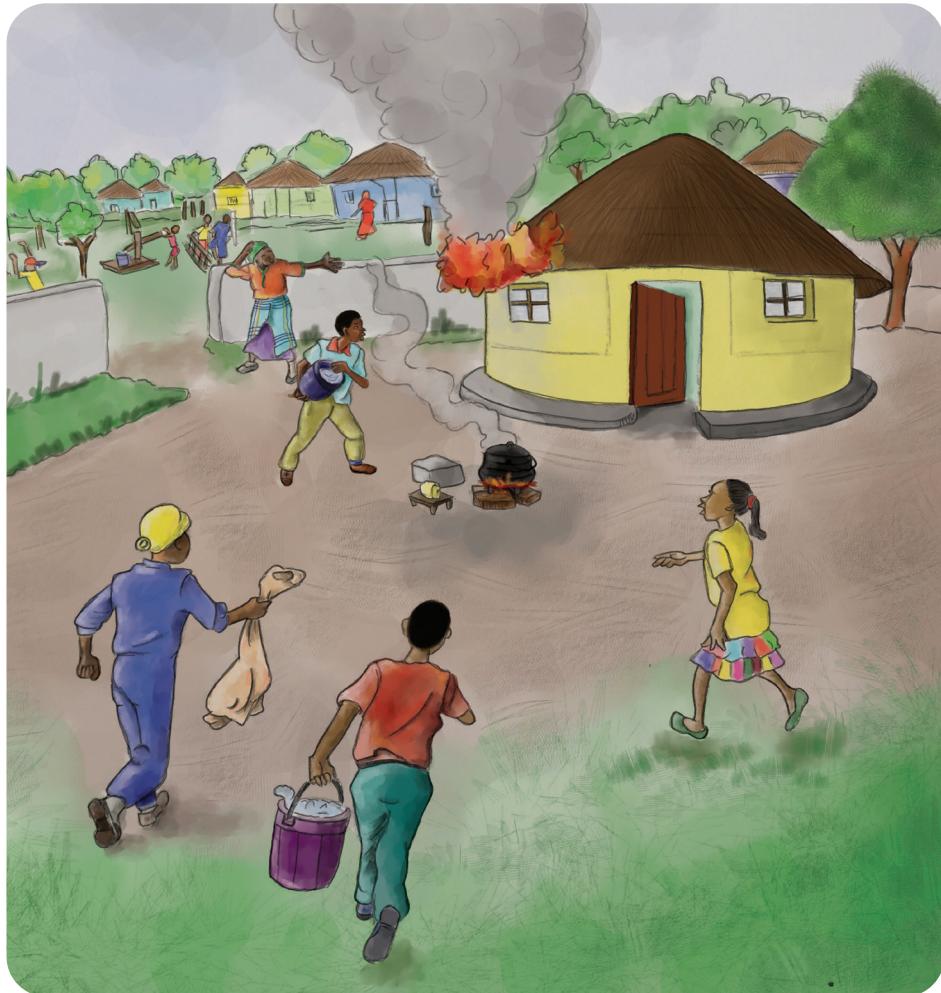
Waphaphateka umlilo waya kutsho phezu
kophahla Iwendlu kwabakho idangatye.

Yhoo! Hayini!



“Balekani Qhayiya! Khawulezani niye kufuna uncedo!” wakhwaza uMakhulu.





UQhayiya nabahlobo babaleka ngamendu
kangangoko banako.

Bayakhwaza “Umlilo! Ncedani! Umlilo!
Ncedani!” Bakhwaza.



Abamelwane bakhawuleza baza nee-emele
ezinamanzi.

“Kuzakulunga, Makhulu. Sizakuwucima
umlilo!” Bakhwaza.

Baphosa ii-emele ezininzi zamanzi emlilweni.





Ngelingeni ude wacima umlilo. Umakhulu
wababulela abamelwane.

Wanga uQhayiya nabahlobo wabulela esithi.

“Ingozi idlule. Enkosi ngokukhawuleza nize
noncedo.”