



Family meeting

African Storybook

Thulisile Shongwe

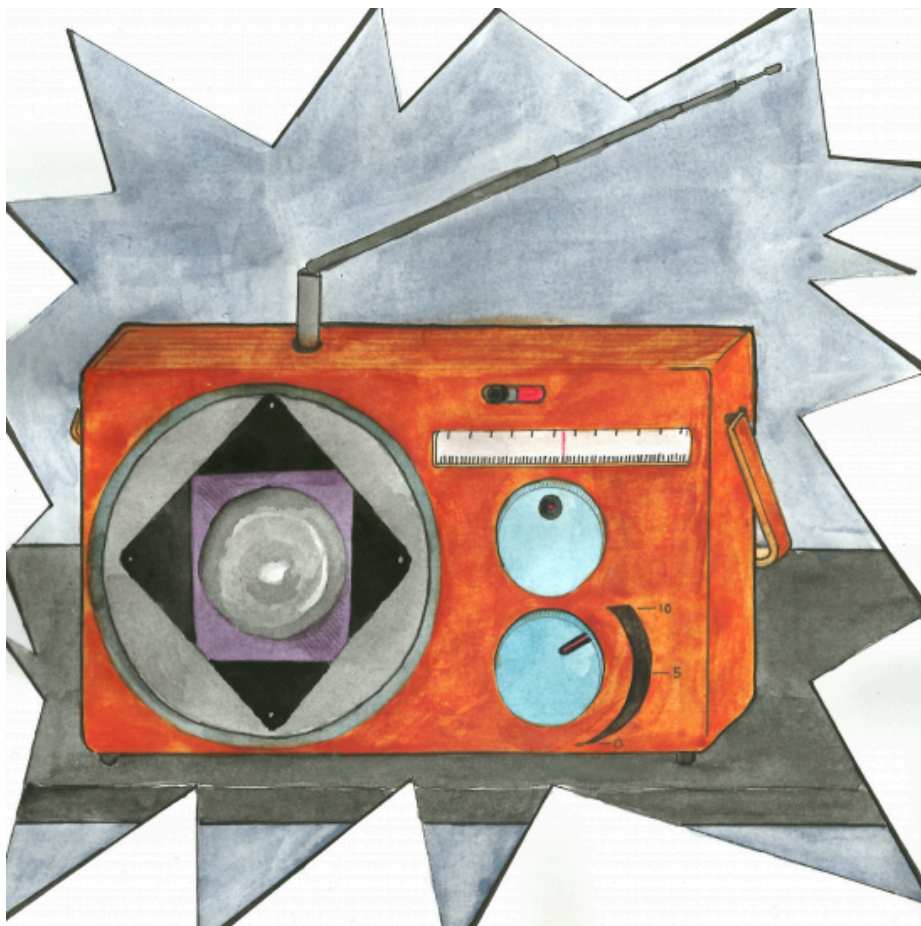




We are having a family meeting.

There is Dad, Auntie Pula, Uncle Chavani, Eddie, Attie, me, and Grandma.

I am the youngest.



The radio is on in my house 24/7. We always listen to the news.

We heard today that schools are going to re-open next week.



Schools were closed for months because of lockdown.

Dad begins, "Family, we need to make a decision about the children going back to school."



Auntie Pula is worried. "When schools open it means that more people will be infected.

Things could get worse," she says.



Attie says, "I am afraid of getting this disease.

Let us wait two weeks to see how things are going at school. There is a lot of confusion."



Dad says, "I am afraid for Grandma.

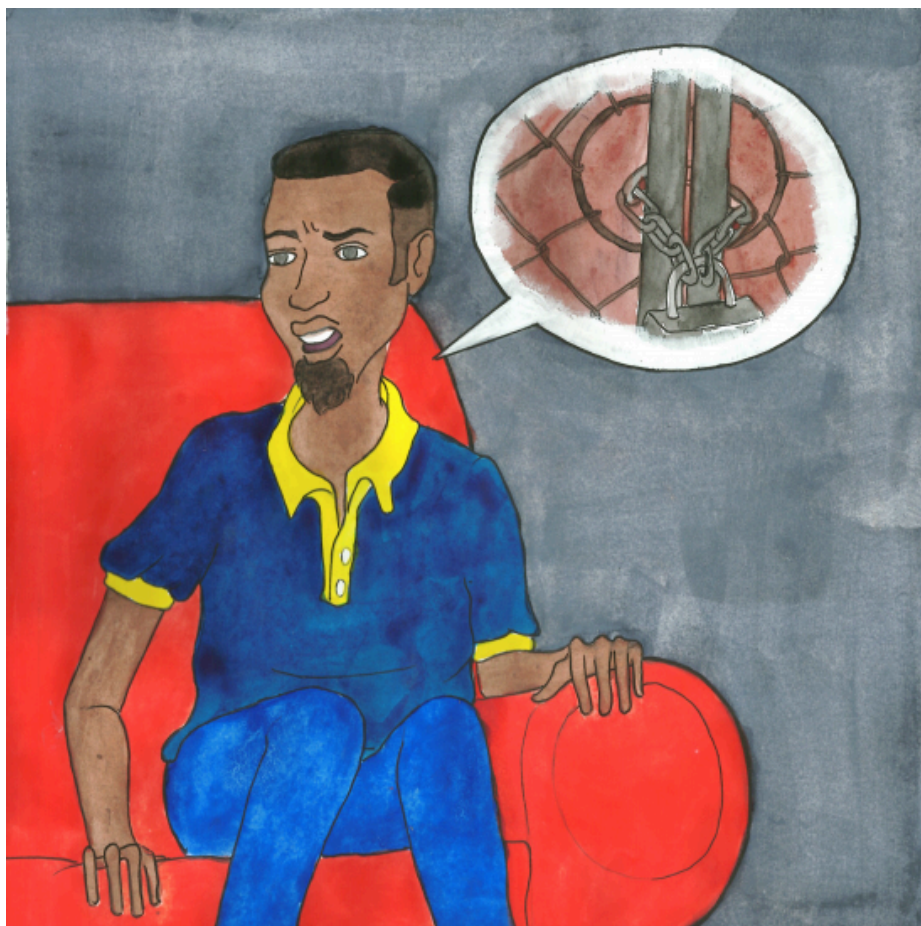
If the children get the disease and bring it home,
it will be really serious for her."

Grandma nods.



My Grandma is elderly. She has diabetes and a heart condition.

I am very afraid. I am worried about my family.



Uncle Chavani says, "I think the children should stay home, as a precaution. Let us wait and see if schools are ready for students."

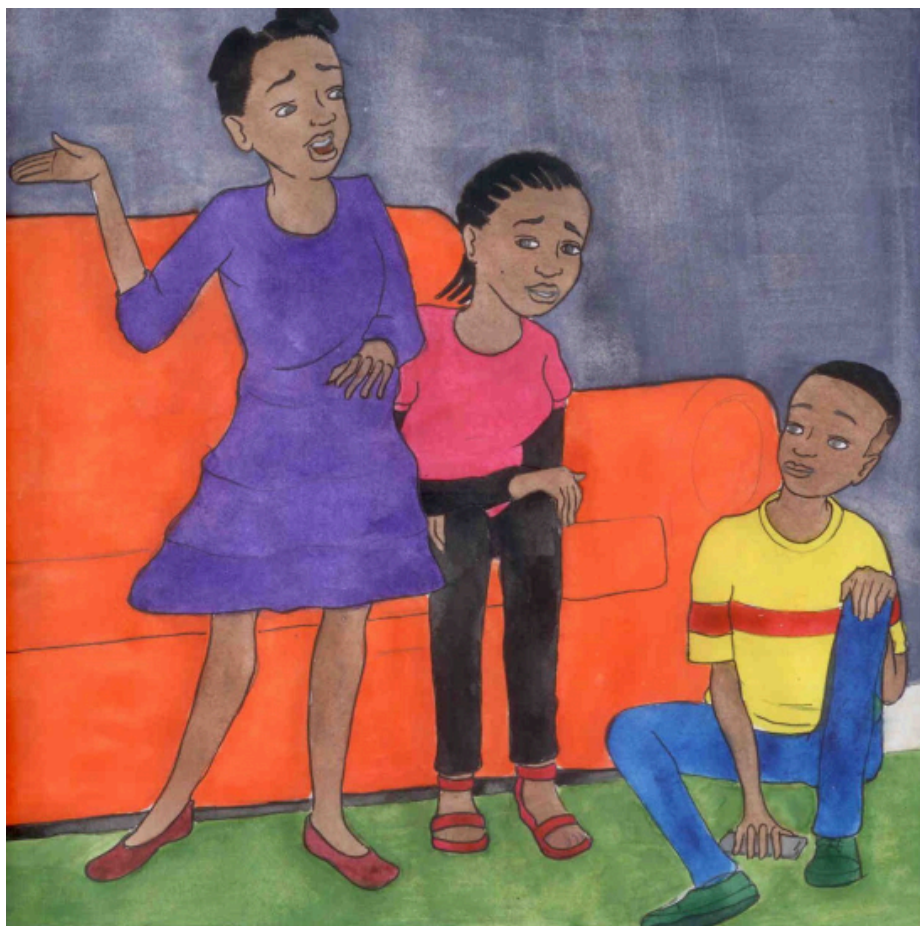
Everyone agrees except Eddie.



"I am supposed to go to High School next year.

I do not know if I can cover the work.

Online learning is not favourable to me," says Eddie.



I am not concerned about falling back on schoolwork.

I am concerned about humanity. How are we going to treat each other now?

We need to face this together.

—Questions

1. Write the meaning of these words: infected, elderly, precaution, humanity.
2. Explain what it means to be 'concerned about humanity'.
3. What decision do you think the family made? Why?
4. Who does your family comprise of?
5. How did you feel when you met your school mates again after the Covid-19 lockdown?
6. Apart from diabetes, which other four health conditions may reduce a person's immunity?
7. What decisions do you make each day?

This storybook is based on reports for RX Radio. RX Radio is a children's internet radio station, by and for children.

RX Radio operates from the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town.

RX Radio helps children to tell stories about issues important to them.

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Ulwazi Lwethu is a Zenex Foundation funded and initiated project to develop a series of graded and leisure African language readers and teacher support materials. This project is targeted at teaching and supporting learners in the Foundation Phase to improve their home language reading and understanding. The readers have been originated in nine African languages in collaboration with Molteno Institute for Language and Literacies, Nelson Mandela Institute for Education and Rural Development, Room to Read South Africa, and Saide. All resources are developed as Open Education Resources (OER).

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*The Ulwazi Lwethu readers and storybooks have
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Author/s: African Storybook

Illustrator/s: Thulisile Shongwe

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