



Tshilidzi Marwala's clever computers

Ndivhuho Mutsila

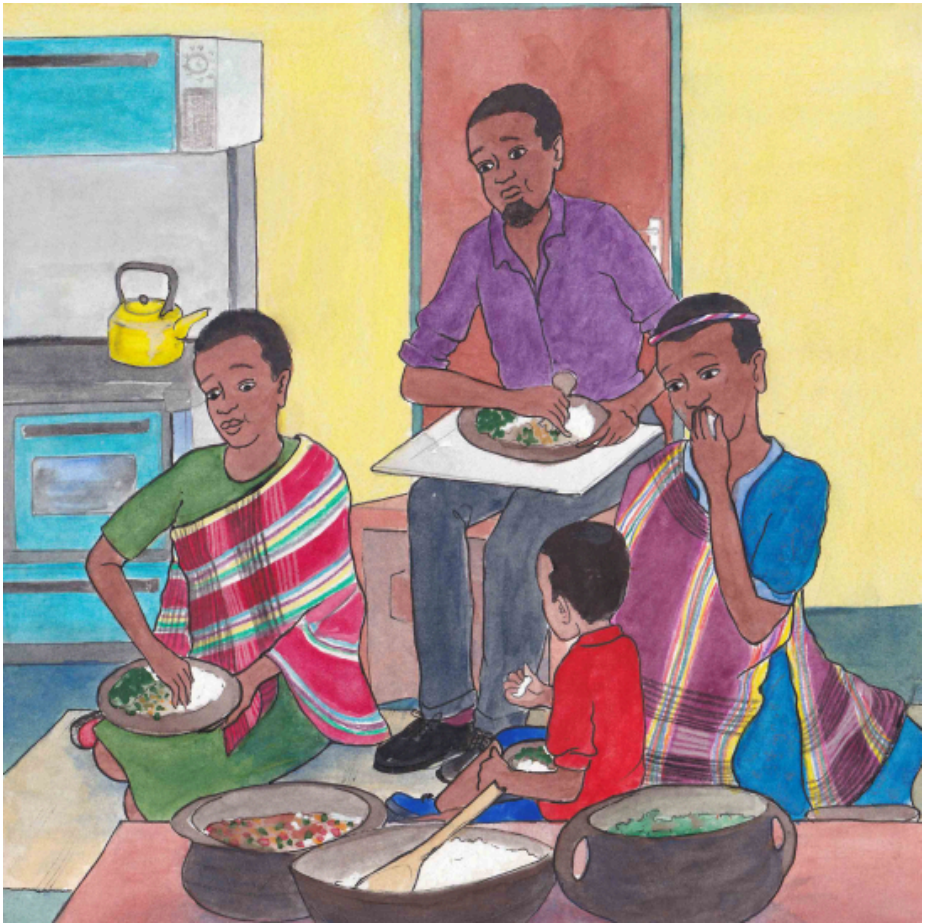
Thulisile Shongwe



This storybook is about Tshilidzi Marwala.

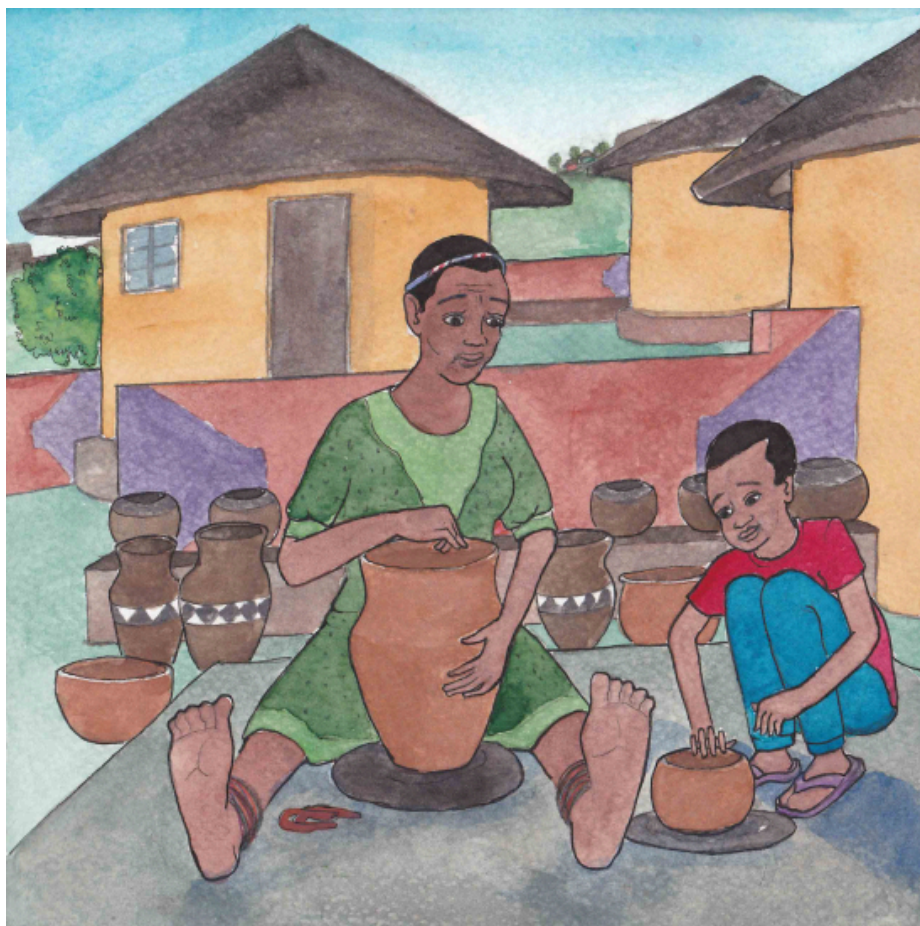
He is a Computer Scientist and
Mechanical Engineer in South Africa.

This is a story about how Tshilidzi from
Duthuni became an international expert
in Science and Technology.



Tshilidzi Marwala was born in the rural village of Duthuni, in Limpopo. He grew up with his parents and his grandmother, Tshiane.

Who Tshiane made very good pots from clay. The design of her traditional pots followed nature's engineering.



Engineering is a science of designing and making things like machines, bridges, and buildings.

Vho Tshianeo knew the engineering of making traditional clay pots. Tshilidzi liked to watch his grandmother making pots, and to help her.



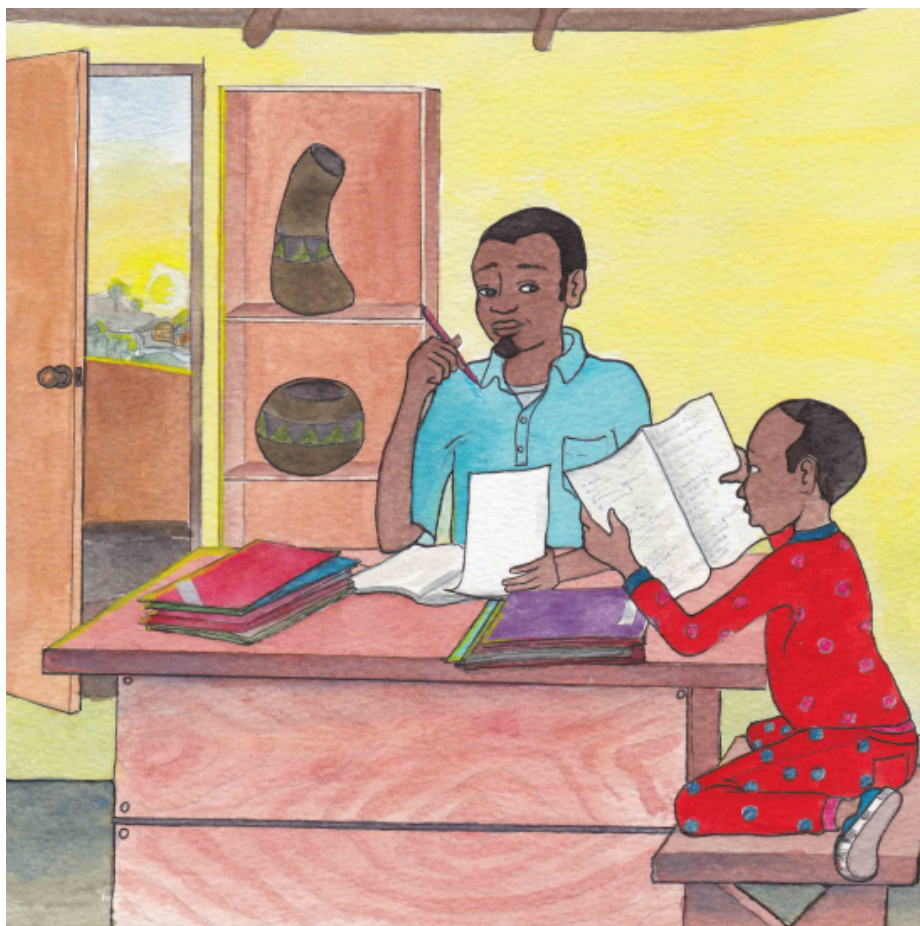
She started by making a flat circle for the base of the pot. Then, she built up the round sides of the pot with more clay.

Grandmother dried her pots in the sun and then put them in a fire.



The fire was hot enough to bake the clay. Baking clay at a very hot temperature dries all the water from the clay. That makes clay very hard and strong.

Grandmother's pots were strong and lasted a long time.



Tshilidzi's love for Science and Engineering also came from his father. Mr Marwala was a Maths teacher at a local school.

Before he learned about multiplication at school, Tshilidzi learned how to multiply numbers from reading his father's books.



Tshilidzi was always curious about things. At night, he'd take his father's torch and shine it up to see the edge of the sky!

After finishing primary school, Tshilidzi left his village to go to boarding school in the city of Shayandima.



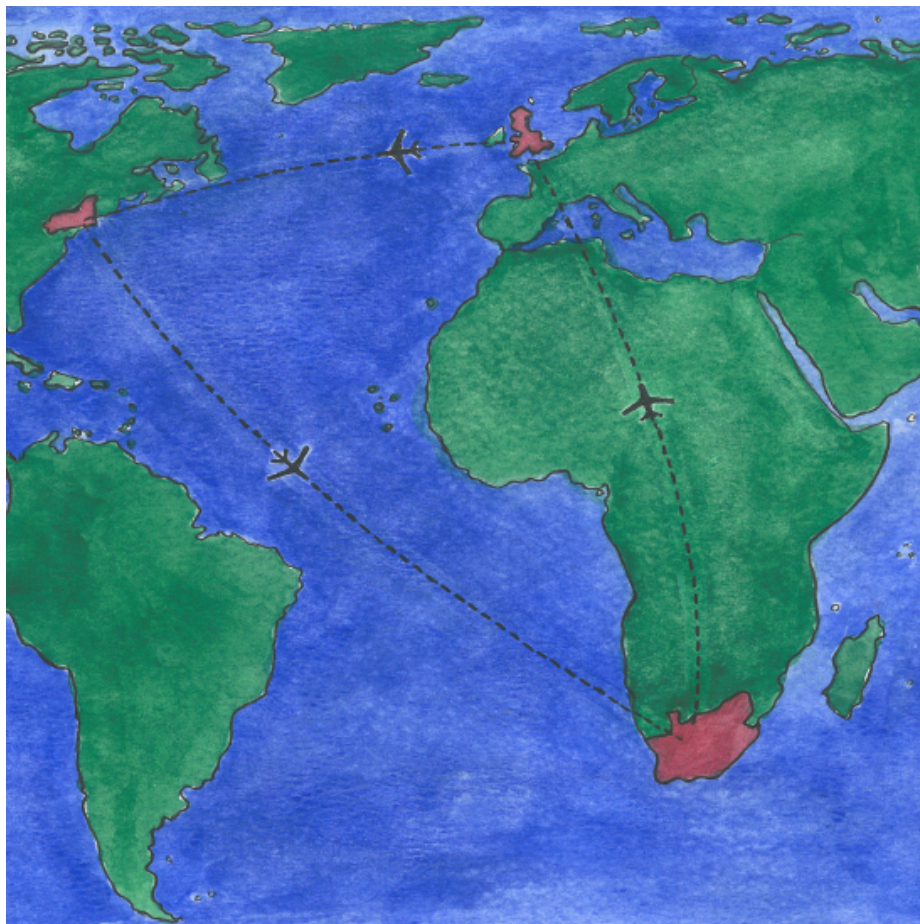
Boarding school was interesting because he met new people. He learned to get along with different people.

Later, Tshilidzi moved to Mbilwi High School. Tshilidzi admired his Maths and Science teachers at that school. They inspired him to study and work hard.



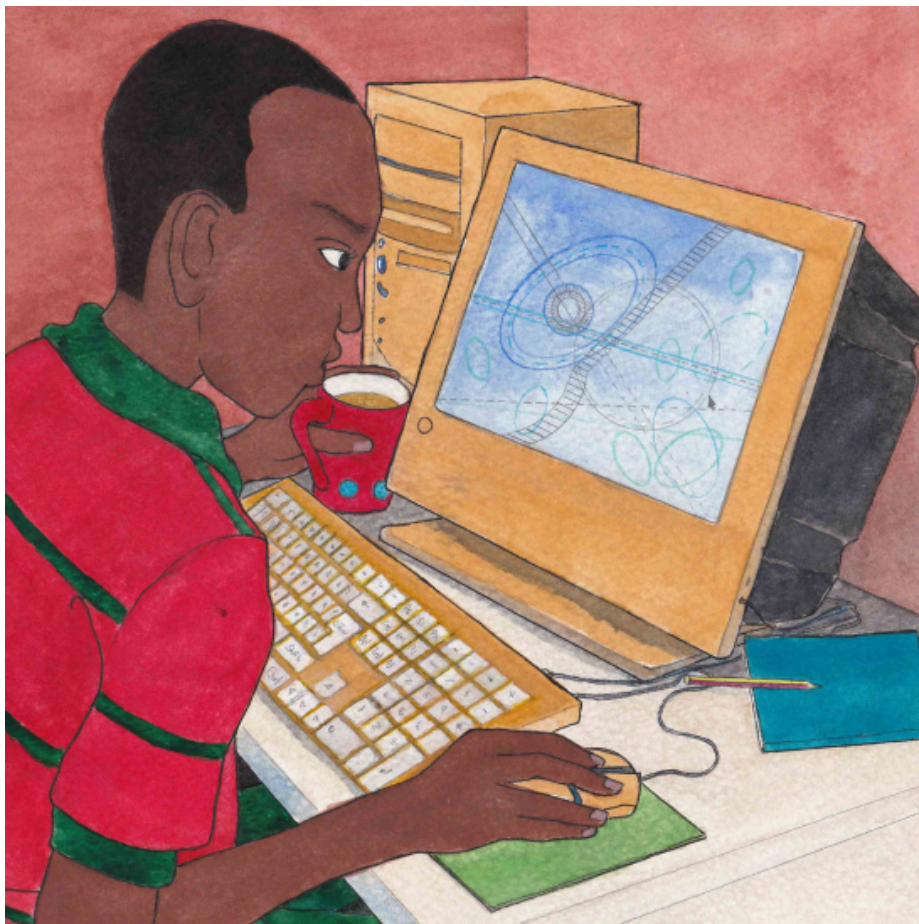
In his last year of school, Tshilidzi won the 'National Youth Science Olympiad'. He won a trip to England, to the 'London International Youth Science Forum'.

Tshilidzi studied Mechanical Engineering at the University of Pretoria. He studied further at Cambridge University.



Tshildzi was interested in how technology can change our lives. He studied Computer Science in England.

Next, he went on to study Technology and Engineering in America. After years of studying, Tshildzi decided to bring his knowledge home. He returned to South Africa.



He started work as a computer software developer, working on artificial intelligence.

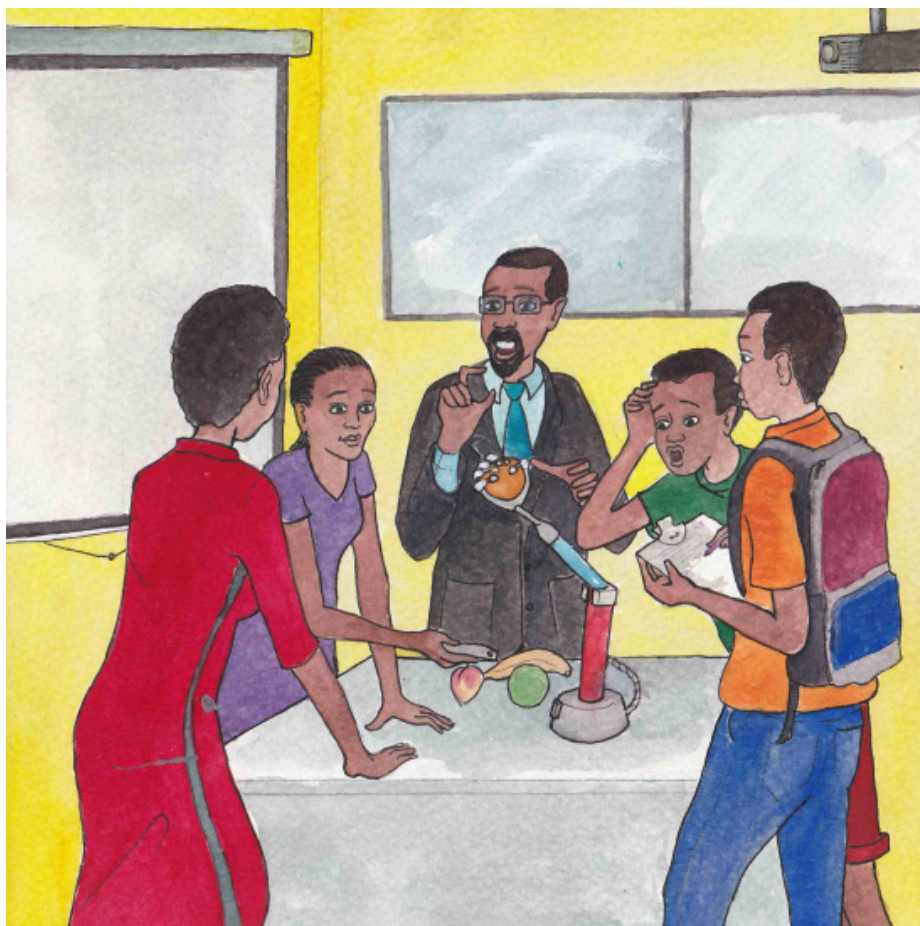
Artificial intelligence is when machines do tasks that usually require human intelligence.

Tshilidzi developed a software program so that computers could taste and smell!



Today, Tshilidzi is an international expert in Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science.

Professor Marwala is now working on ways to make computers do many things for humans. For example, on how artificial intelligence can help people at work.



Professor Marwala's work focuses on how Science and Technology can help to create jobs and improve life for all.

His life shows the importance of education and hard work. And the value of curiosity!

—Questions

1. Who are the people that influenced Tshilidzi to become a scientist? Why do you say so?
2. What did Tshilidzi learn at boarding school?
3. What is 'Computer Science'? Find out about this subject.
4. What do 'Mechanical Engineers' do? Find out about their work.
5. Why is Vho Tshianeo's work of making traditional clay pots referred to as engineering?
6. Explain how Science and Technology help to create jobs and improve life for all?
7. Find out more about what artificial intelligence (AI) is all about.

—Books in this series

- Andile Mji
- Asnath Mahapa
- Bongani Mayosi
- Charlotte Maxeke
- Mmantsane Moche Diale
- Mulalo Doyoyo
- Tebello Nyokong
- Tshilidzi Marwala

This story was created and written in
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Lwethu reading materials project in 2020.



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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