



Kunomlilo Entabeni

Le ncwadi ngeka









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Kunomlilo Entabeni

(There's a Fire on the Mountain)

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with the help of the Book Dash participants in the Virtual Book Dash on 15 May 2021.

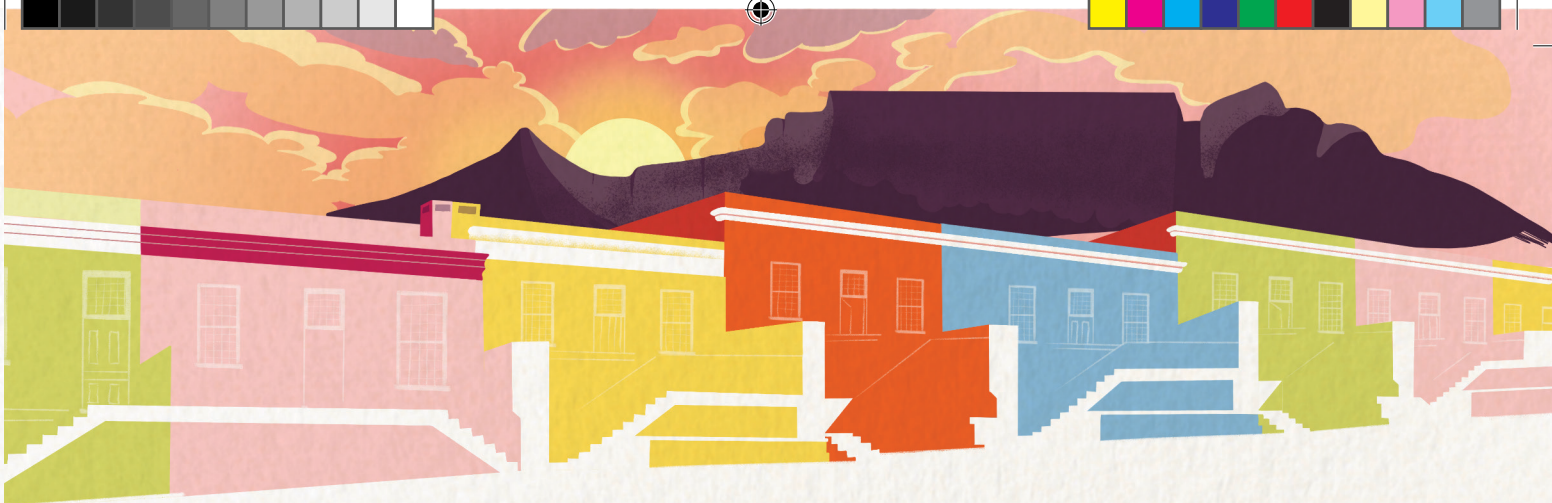
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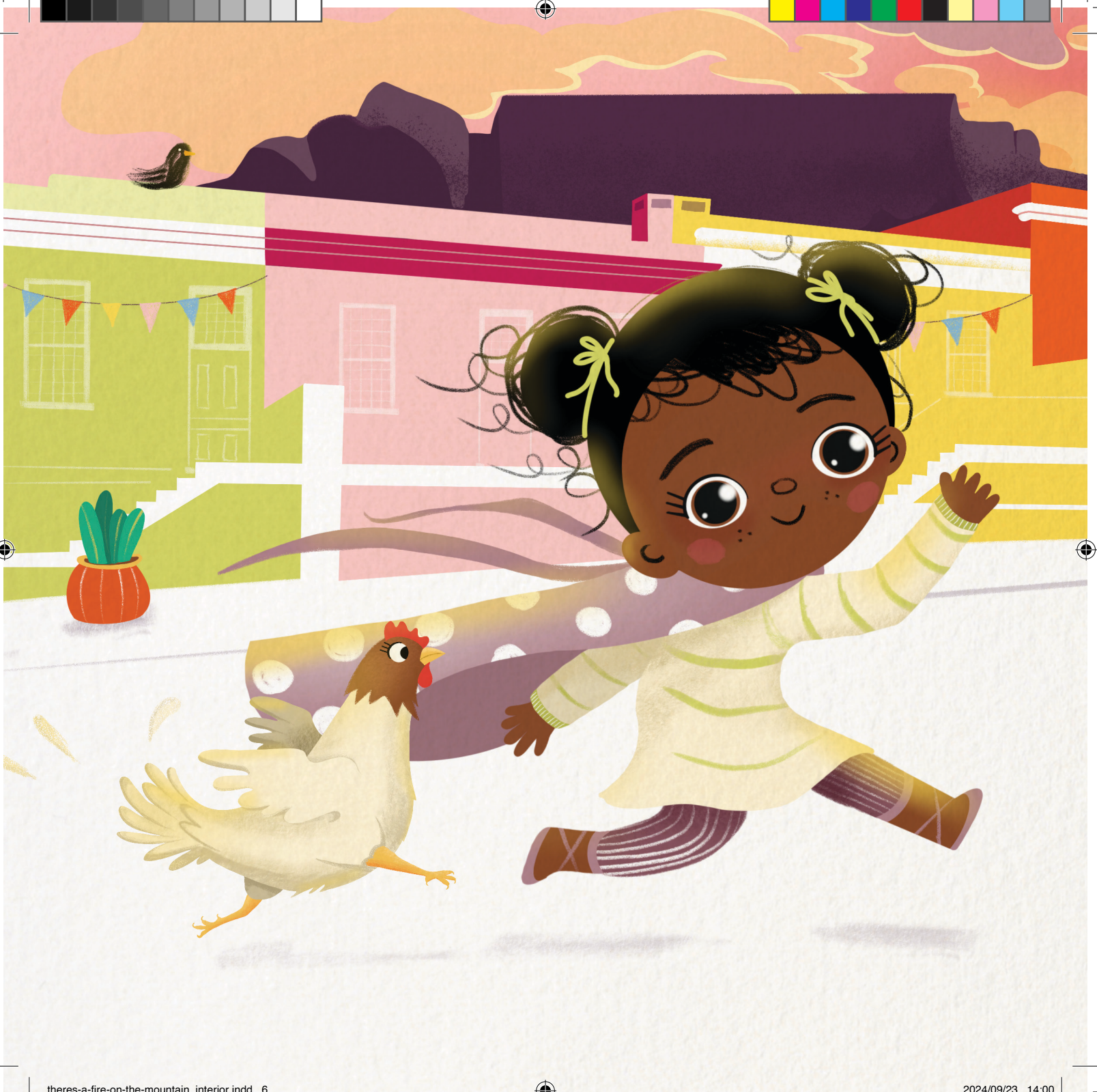
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Kunomlilo Entabeni

Julie Smith-Belton Kirsty Paxton Nadene Reignier







Mina nabangane bami
sinomdlalo esithanda
ukuwudlala.

“Kunomlilo entabeni. Balekani,
balekani!”





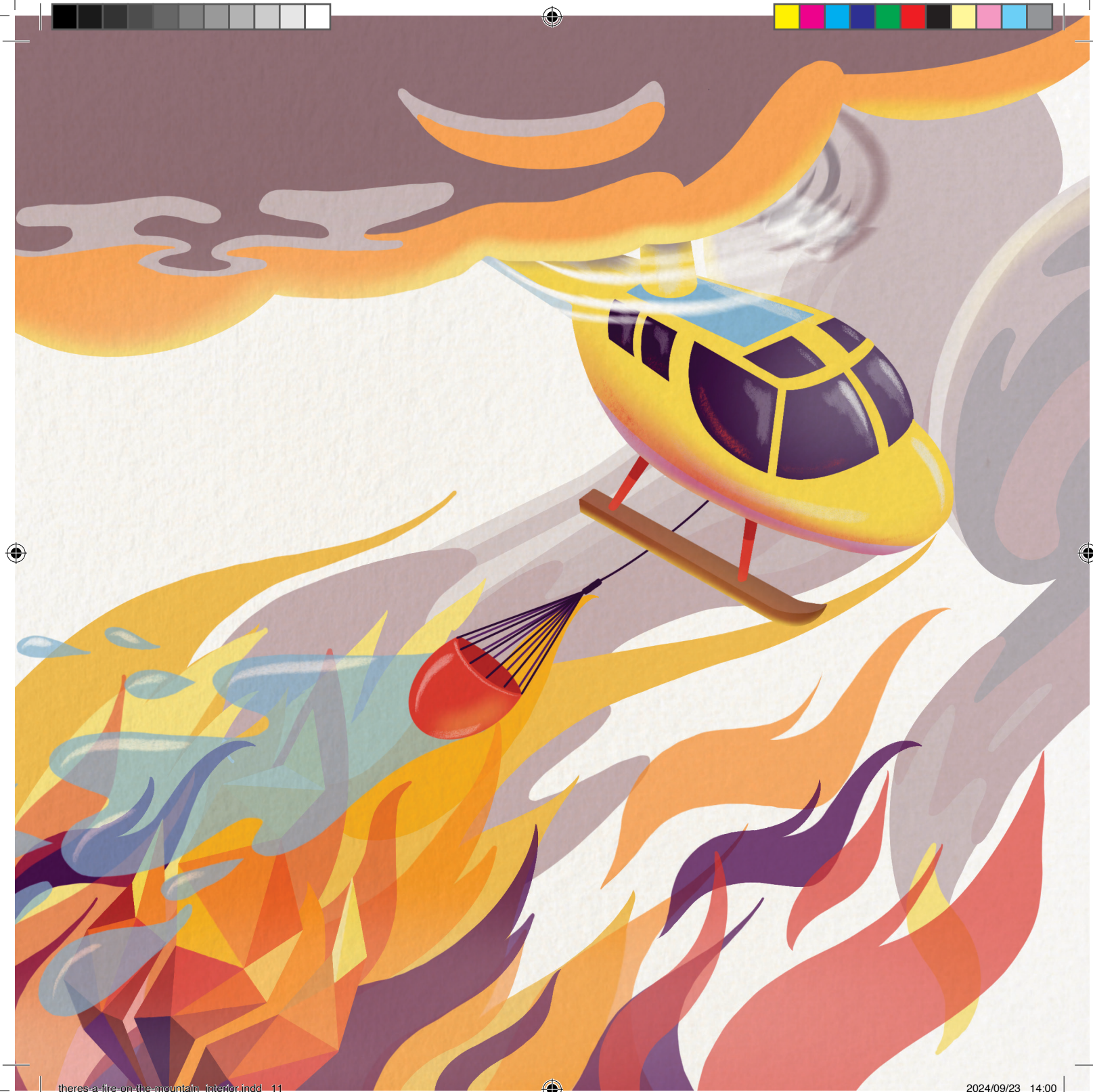


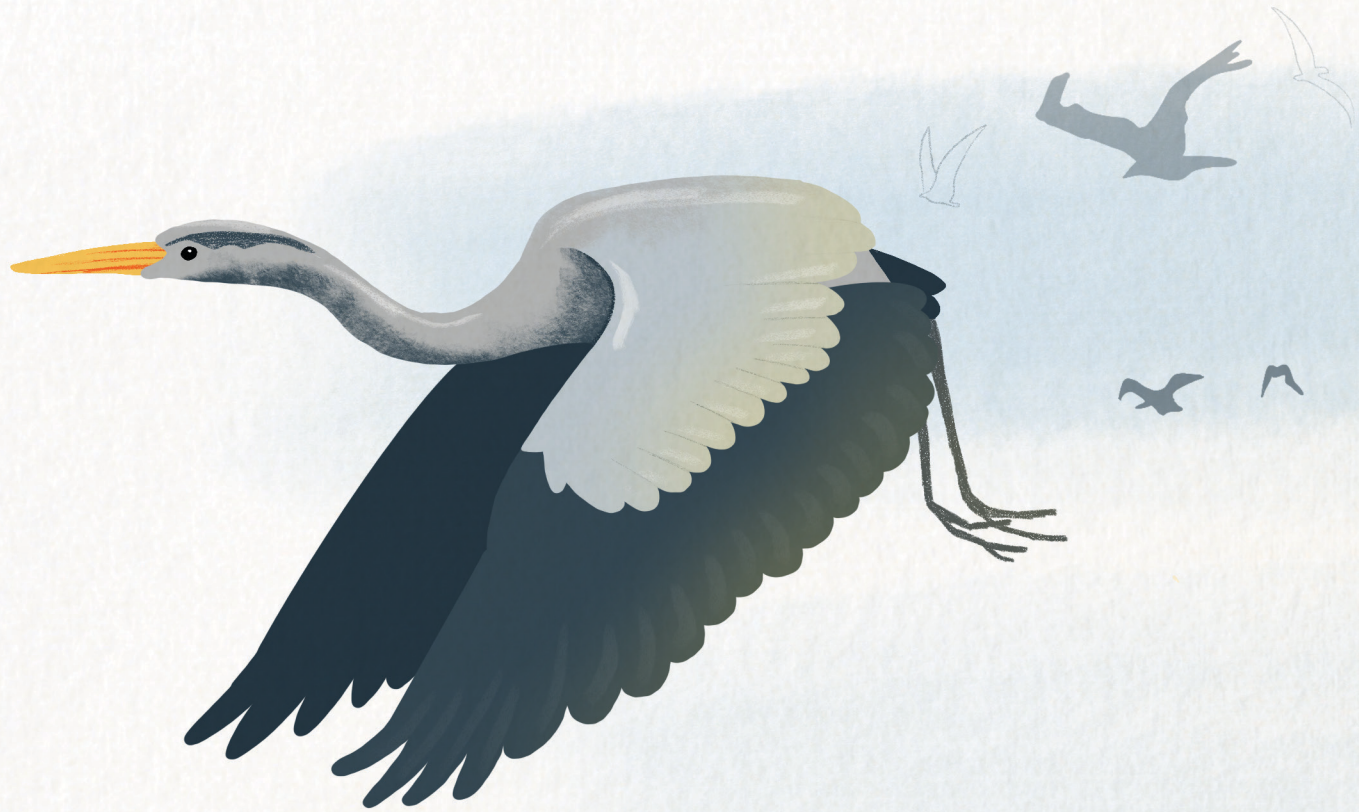
Kwathi ngolunye usuku kwaba nomlilo
wangempela entabeni. Kwakuwumlilo
omubi kakhulu owavutha isikhathi eside.



Izakhiwo ezinkulu, zakudala
zasha, izincwadi zasha, izihlahla
notshani kwasha. Izindiza
ezinophephela emhlane zathela
amanzi emlilweni futhi izicishamlilo
ezinesibindi zawavulela kakhulu
amapayipi azo.







Abantu *babaleka*. Bathatha masinyane
izincwadi zabo nezikhwama babaleka
basuka entuthwini nasemalangabini.









Ngemva kwezinsuku ezintathu ezinde,
amalangabi okugcina acisha.

Izicishamlilo zazingaphumula ekugcineni.

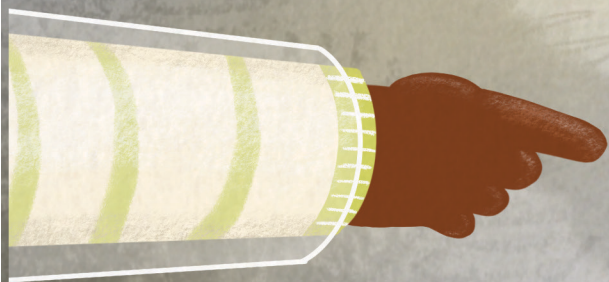






Imithambeka yentaba yayimnyama. Lapho
sihamba entabeni, sasibona nje amadwala
nezihlahla ezishile.

Sadumala kakhulu.





Kwathi ngolunye usuku ... kwavela izintwanyana
ezibomvu phakathi kwendawo emnyama.

“Bhekani, bhekani. Yini leyana?”







Lezi zintwanyana
ezibomvu zakhula
zakhula zaze
zaba yizimbali
ezinhle okuthiwa
ngama-fire lilies,
zinde futhi zinhle phezulu
zinezimbali ezigobile
ezinesikhala phakathi.







Kwase kuvela izimbali ezinkulu, ezibomvu
phakathi kohlaza zaba njengezintabamlilo.
Zazibukeka njengamapayipi awugqinsi,
abomvu anezinto ezicijile eziphuzi phezu
kwezimbali ezinkulu, ezibomvu.

Iziqephu zohlaza zakhula zaqaqela
intaba, zaphendula izindawo ezimnyama
zaba utshani obuluhlaza nezihlahla
ezimfushane.





Kwase kumila izimbali okuthiwa ngama-asparagus fern ezindaweni ezimanzi ngemva kwemvula.





Kwamila nama-
watsonia amade
anombala
owolintshi
nophinki.







Ngokushesha, umthambeka
wentaba wagcwala
izitshalo okwase kuyiminyaka
eminingi singaziboni.







Intaba igcwele okusha okuphilayo!



