



Alina's holiday

Sponono Mahlangu

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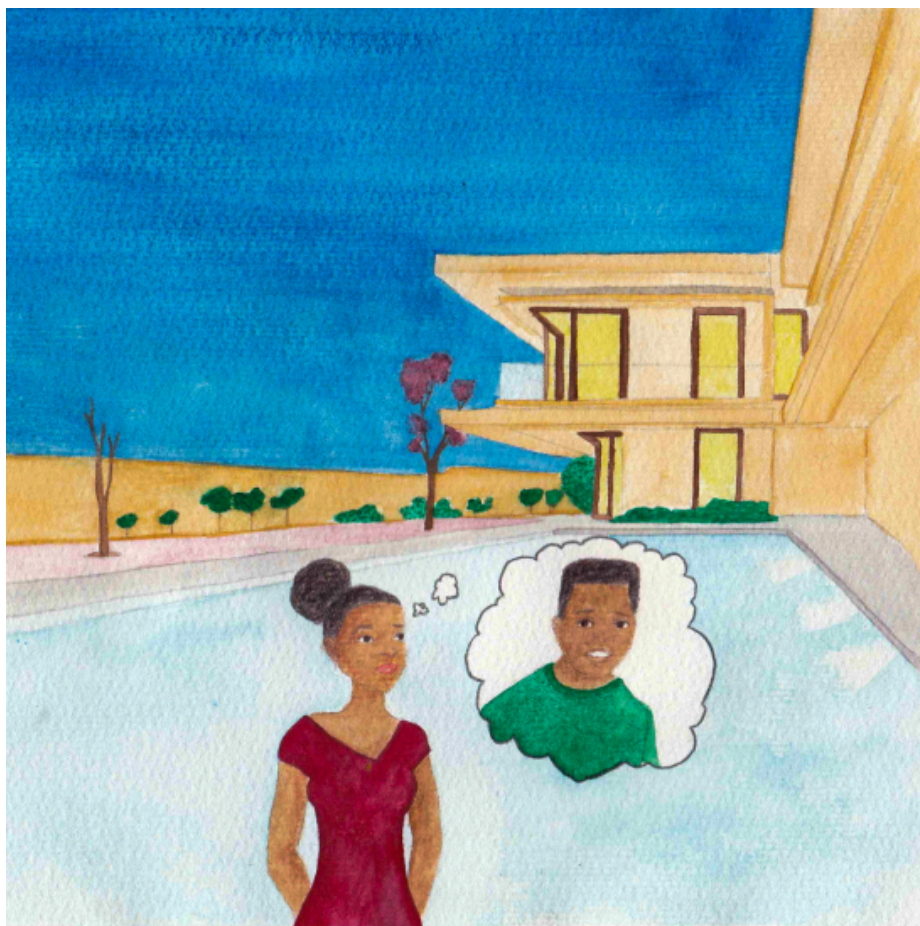




There was a rich woman called Alina.

Alina lived in a big house in a beautiful compound.

She had achieved a lot, but she was not happy.



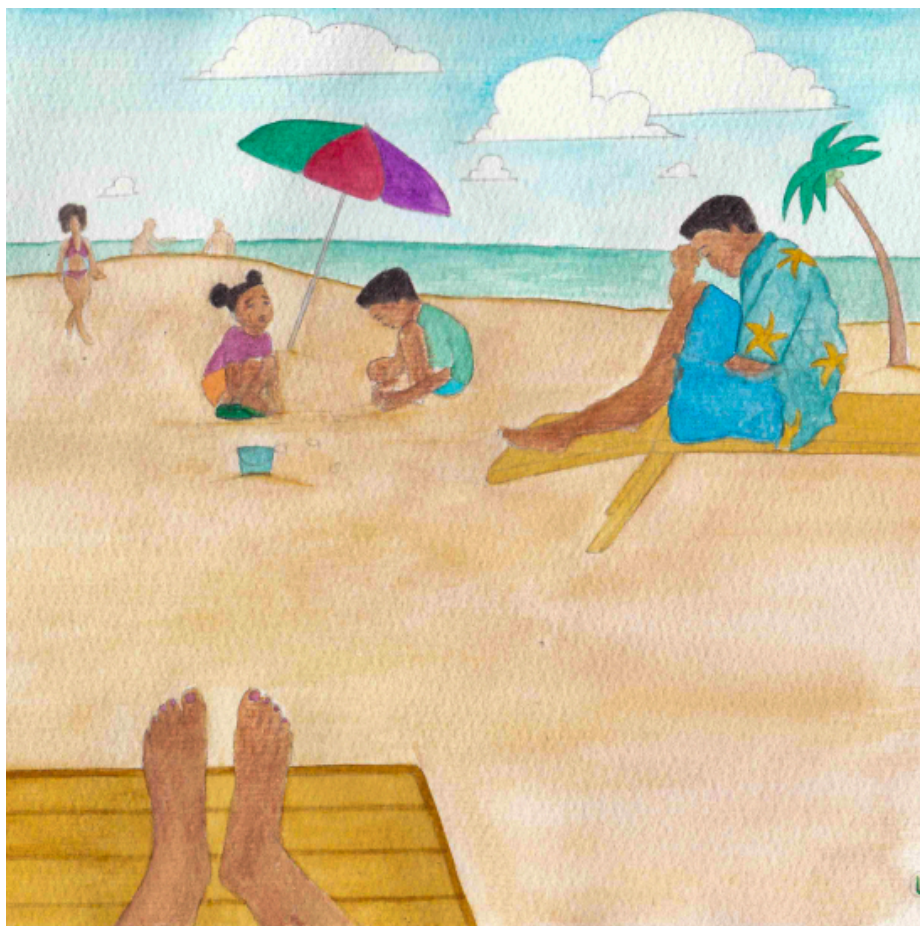
One day, Alina thought to herself, "I would like to meet new people. Maybe I will make new friends if I go on holiday. Perhaps I could even meet someone special."



Alina planned a holiday at the most beautiful beach in the country.

She was excited when the day came for her to travel.

She quickly settled down at her hotel to enjoy her visit to this stunning setting.



Alina lay on the beach and relaxed. She lazily observed the people around her. She soon noticed two children with their father.

The family didn't seem to be enjoying themselves. They looked unhappy. The children played quietly.



Alina thought, "I wonder how they can be so sad in this beautiful place."

Later that day, she was swimming in the hotel pool when the man's children came to swim.

Alina was curious and began chatting to them.



The children were Karemba and Kazungu.

They told Alina that this was their first holiday since their mother died.

When Alina met the children's father, she saw the pain and loss in his eyes.

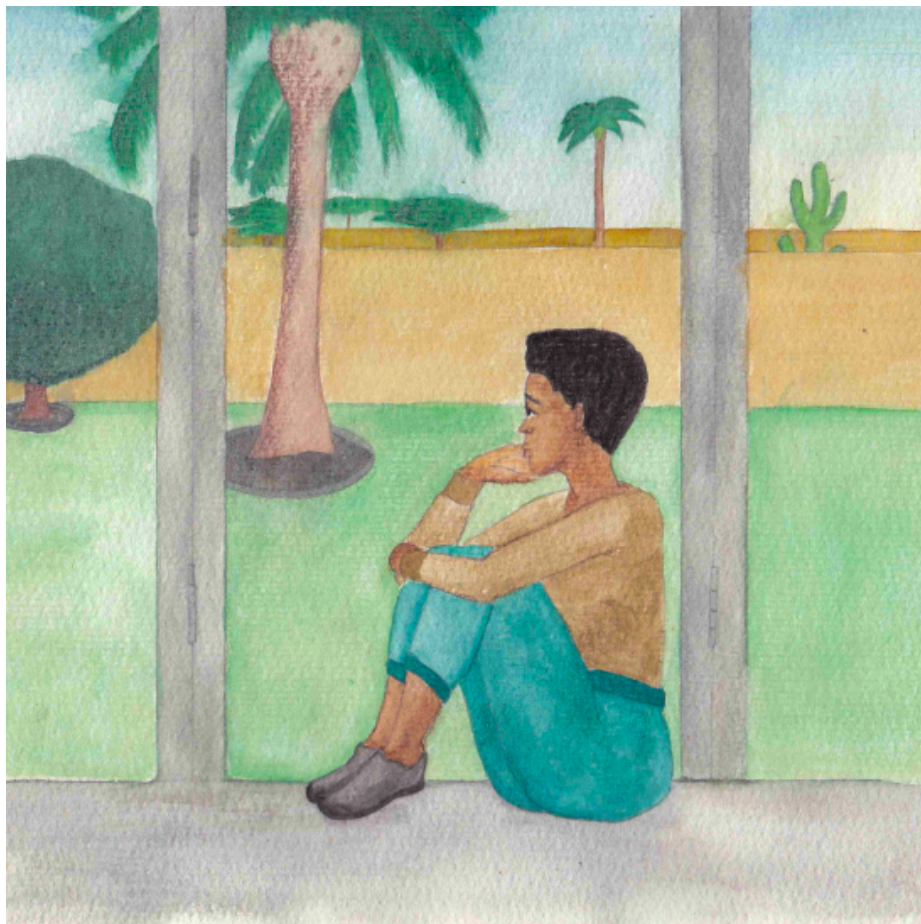
His name was Clemens.



Clemens, Alina, and the children were soon all spending time together.

Karemba and Kazungu loved playing with Alina on the beach.

Alina taught them how to weave baskets from palm leaves, and how to make sandcastles.



The days passed pleasantly in the sun.

Alina did not want to return to her lonely compound.

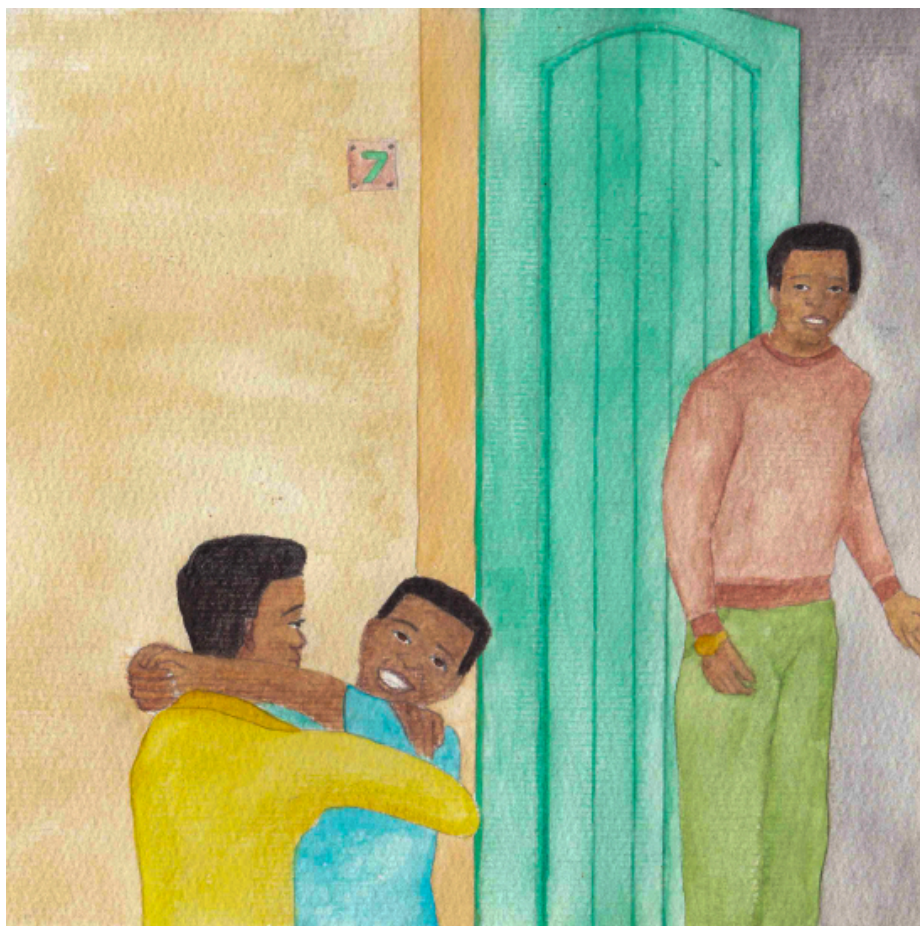
“My holiday is coming to an end. Perhaps if I stay here longer, I will not feel so sad?” she wondered.



That evening, Alina heard a knock on her door. When she opened the door, Karemba and Kazungu were there.

They spoke together, "We want you to be our mother!"

Alina did not know how to answer them.



After they talked, Alina walked with Karemba and Kazungu to their room.

Seeing his children happy with Alina made Clemens smile. She hugged the children and said goodnight.

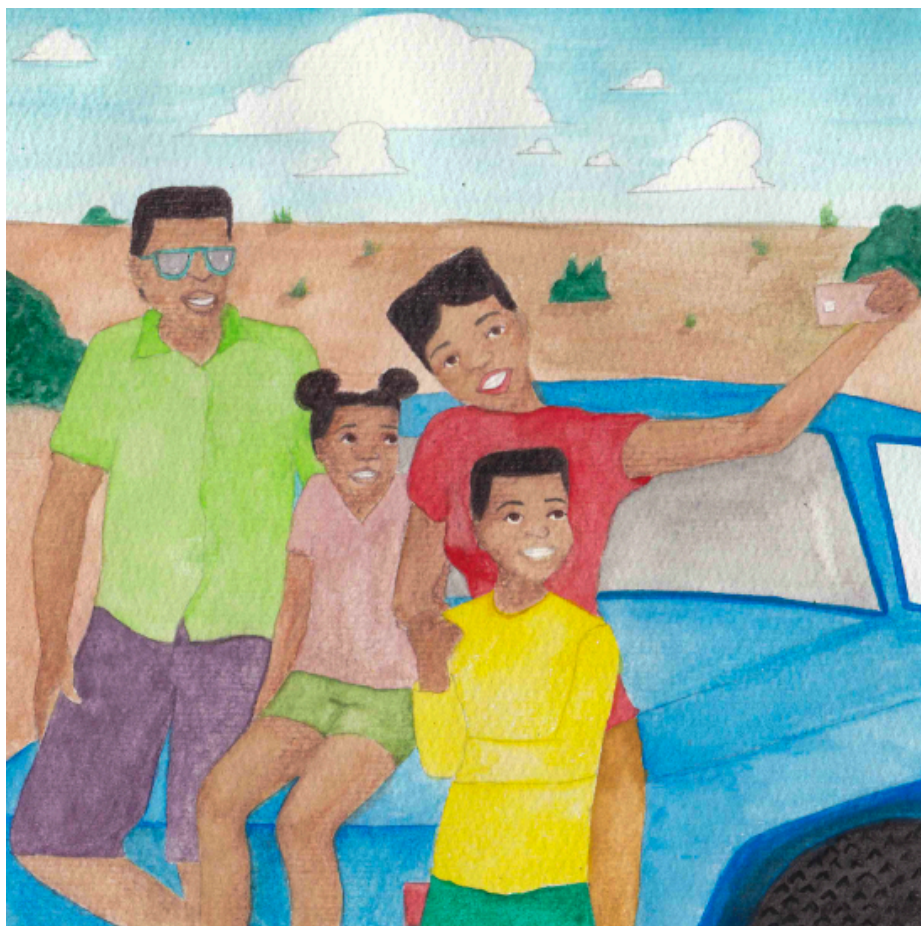
Alina thought to herself, "I have met three special people."



In the morning, Alina joined Clemens and his children for breakfast.

Karemba and Kazungu looked hopefully at Alina as she sat down.

“Is there something going on?” asked Clemens as he looked at his children’s expressions.



A year later, Alina and Clemens were married!

Each year, the family visited the beautiful beach to celebrate their first meeting.

They swim in the sea and make sandcastles, as they did when they first met.



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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