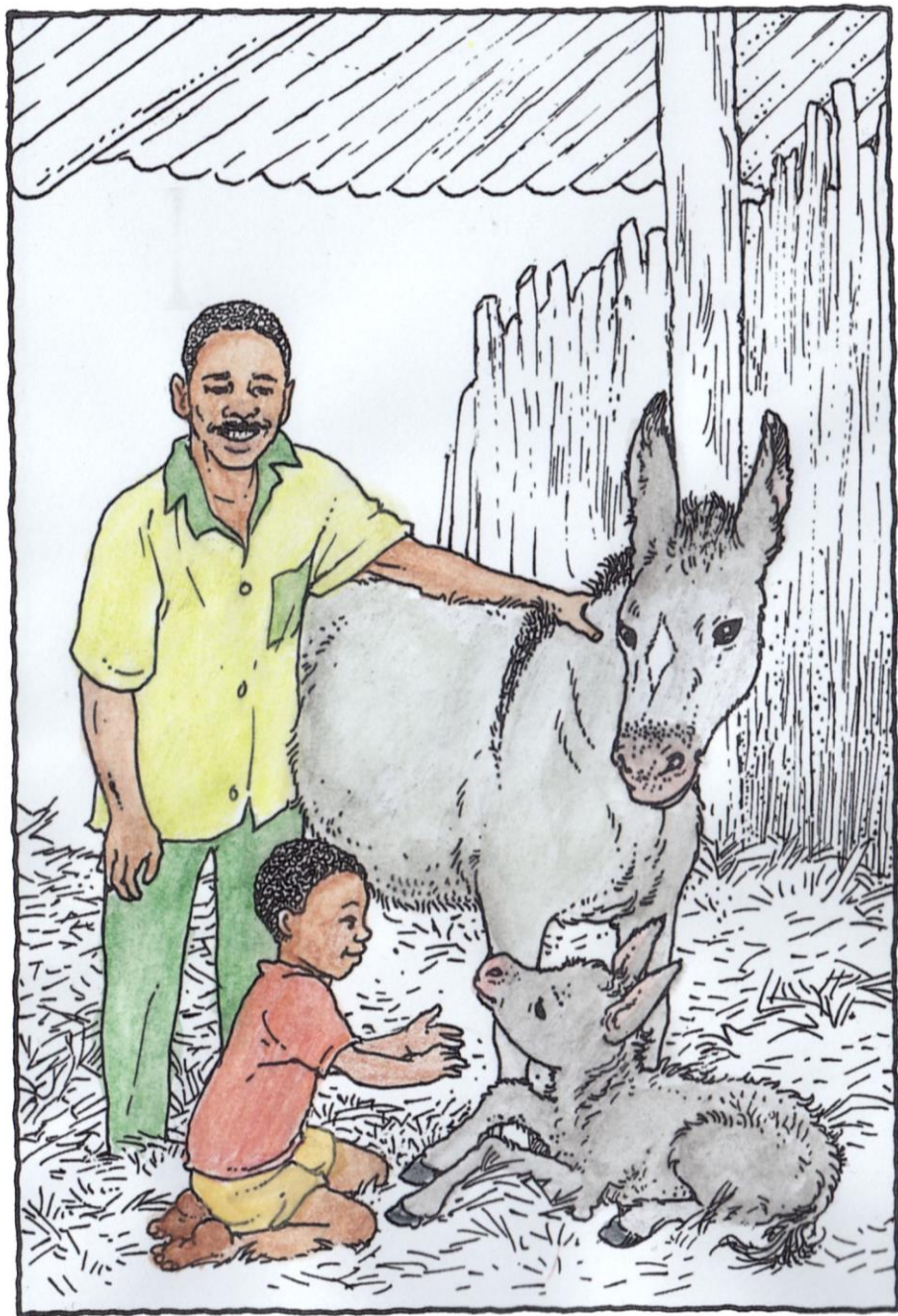


Isipho Esiyigugu



Ngu Peta Jones



Imbongolo Encane

UThabo wayeneminyaka emi-3 ngesikhathi imbongolo kababa wakhe iba nezinyane lembongolo. Ubaba kaThabo wathi angaqamba izinyane igama bese elinakekela ngokwakhe. Watshela uThabo ukuthi kudala amakhosi kanye nabantu basebukhosini babegibela izimbongolo. Wathi, "abantu banenhlanhla ngoba izimbongolo ziyakwazi ukusisebenzela. Kumele zinakekelwe, ukubuyisela ukusebenza kanzima kwazo."

UThabo wabiza izinyane lembongolo ngoChipu, okuchaza 'isipho'. Ubaba kaThabo wamkhombisa ukuthi amenze kanjani uChipu ukuthi ajwayele ukuthintwa amanqina namehlo. Wamchazela ukuthi lokhu kubalulekile ngoba ngesinye isikhathi izinselwa zembongolo zidinga ukuhlanzwa uma zigcwala udaka, noma ziba nameva kuzona. Amehlo azo adinga adinga ukugezwa uma kunothuli oluningi kanye nezimpukane eziningi okubangela ukuthi izimbongolo zikhale.

UThabo wayesithanda isembatho esisasilika sikaChipu ngesikhathi esemncane, kanye nesikhumba esisa-velvet esizungeze umlomo kaChipu. UThabo wayemisa isandla sakhe siqonde aphe uChipu ukudla okuncane. UChipu wayekuthatha ezandleni zikaThabo ngezindebe zakhe ezithambile, ezimnene.



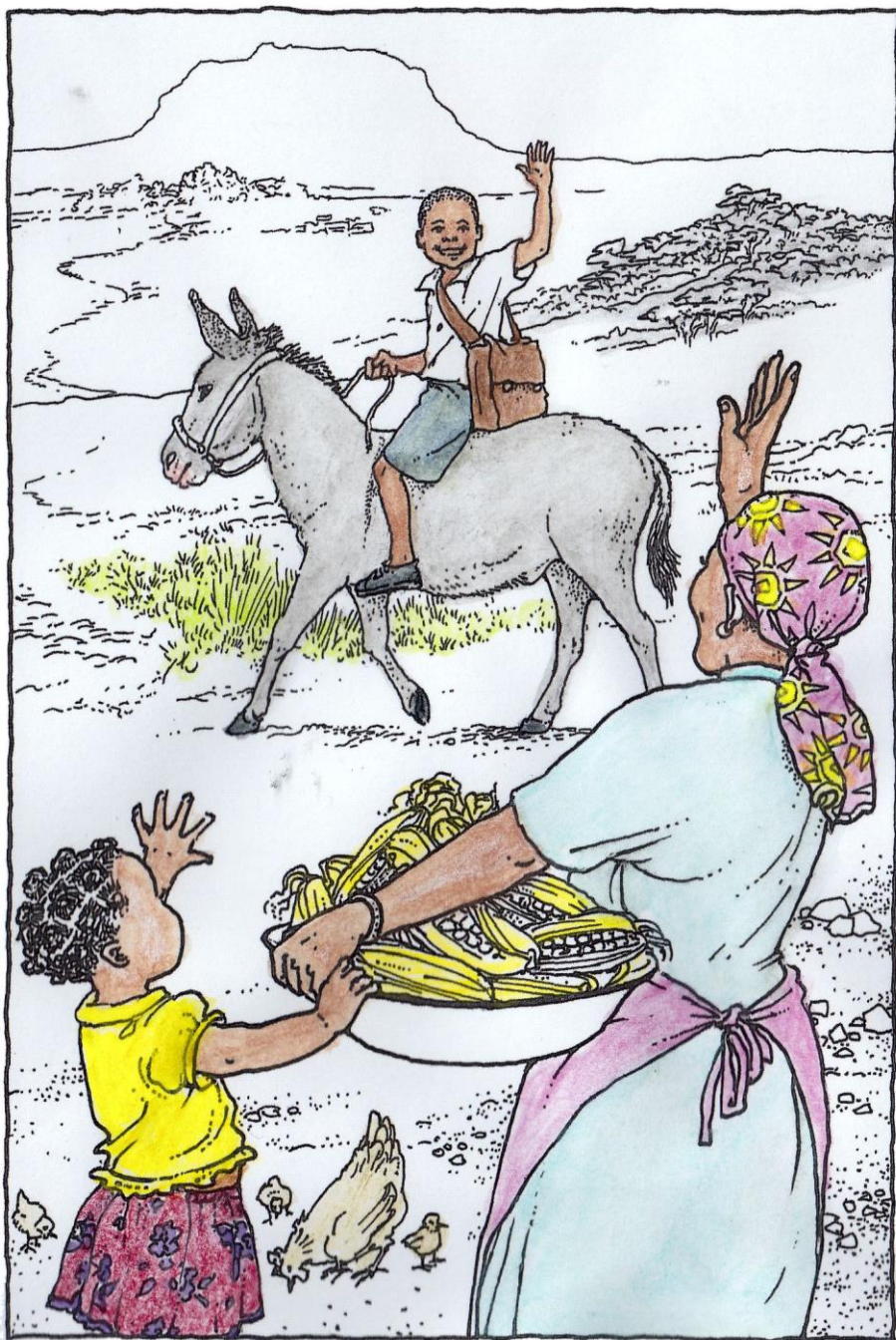
Uma ebona uThabo, uChipo wayembongoloza kakhulu embingelela. UChipo wakhula kakhulu kunoThabo, kodwa ubaba kaThabo wamexwayisa ukuthi amathambo akhe ayengakaqini. Uma wayezoqala ukusebenza esemncane, ethwala imithwalo esindayo, amathambo akhe ayezosonteka, bese lokhu kumzwise ubuhlungu impilo yakhe yonke. Uma uChipo enakekelwa kahle, impilo yakhe ingacishe ibe yinde ilingane nekaThabo, ngoba izimbongolo nazo zingaphila isikhathi eside.

Ngesikhathi uChipo eseneminyaka emi-4 futhi esekhulile, waqala ukusiza umama wakhe ukudonsa ikalishi likababa kaThabo. UChipo waphinde wasiza futhi ekulimeni amasimu kamama kaThabo. Kodwa manje uThabo wabe eseneminyaka eyi-7 futhi edinga uChipo ukuthi amhambise esikoleni. UThabo wayenezincwadi ezisinda kakhulu uma uzithwala, kodwa uChippo wayekwazi ukuzithwala kanye noThabo ngesikhathi esifanayo.

Izinsuku zesikole

Ngesikhathi uThabo efunda esikoleni, uChipo wafunda ukuzitholela ukudla okukahle egqumeni. Utshani obomile kanye nesikhotha kungukudla okuhle embongolweni.





UThabo wafundisa uChipo ukubuyela esikoleni ngesikhathi esifanayo zonke izinsuku uma sekuphuma isikole, nokumthwala yena kanye nezincwadi zakhe abuyele ekhaya. Abanye abantwana esikoleni bahleka uChipo.

USally wathi: "Kuyahlekisa kanjani ukusebenzisa isilwane esihamba kancane sidala. Ubaba wami ungiletha ngemoto esheshayo, enhle. Ngiyakwazi ukulalela umsakazo emotweni!"

Abanye abantwana bathi: "Sifika ngetekisi, futhi silalela amakhasethi omculo!"

UPhineas wathi: "Ibhayisikili lami lisha futhi lihlala lapho ngilibeka khona. Alidingi ukudla utshani."

Kodwa uThabo wayemthanda uChipo noChipo emthanda uThabo futhi emlandela kuyo yonke indawo. UThabo akazange acele ibhayisikili kubaba wakhe. Kwathi ngelinye ilanga, uThabo egibele imbongolo eya esikoleni wadlula uSally ehamba emgwaqweni, ethwele izincwadi zakhe ezisindayo.

"Iphi imoto kababa wakho?" kubuza uThabo.

"Imoto ayinawo uphethroli" kwasho uSally ngokudumala. Wagibela kuChipo bahamba noThabo baya esikoleni.







"UChipo ugibelise mina kanye nezincwadi zami!" Watshela abanye abantwana. Ngemuva kwalokho wahamba noThabo cishe zonke izinsuku. Ngolunye usuku ngesikhathi uThabo noSally besuka esikoleni bathola uPhineas ekhala. "Isondo lami liphantshile! Uma ngizama ukugibela ibhayisikili lami, isondo lami lizophuka!" UPhineas washiya ibhayisikili esikoleni wagoduka ngoChipo, ekhwele noThabo noSally.

Ubaba kaThabo wathukuthela ngoba ecabanga ukuthi umthwalo wawumkhulu kakhulu kuChipo. "Abantwana abathathu kanye nazo zonke izincwadi kwanele embongolweni eyodwa! Uma kugibela abantwana abaningi, noma uma ukhula, isisindo sizoba sikhulu kakhulu. Abanye abantwana kumele bazitholele izimbongolo zabo," kwasho ubaba. UPhineas wachitha amahora amaningi elungisa ibhayisikili lakhe.

Kwakudingeka ukuthi enze lokhu njalo njalo, ngoba imigwaqo yobhuqu isikhathi esiningi yayimphantshisela isondo futhi isikhathi esiningi wayefika sekudlule isikhathi esikoleni. Ngelinye ilanga abantwana abaningi abazange bakwazi ukufika esikoleni ngesikhathi. Kwakungabantwana ababefika ngetekisi. UThishomkhulu wayekhathazeke kakhulu. Washaya ucingo, wabe esetshela othisha ukuthi ngeshwa itekisi lishayisile kodwa ngenhlanhla akekho umuntu olimele!"





Itekisi

Ngemuva kwalokho ubaba kaThabo kwaba nguye umshayeli wetekisi labantwana besikole, futhi ikalishi lembongolo kwaba yilo itekisi.

USally noPhineas babelithanda leli 'tekisi' Elisha. Bonke abantwana basesikoleni sebeyazithanda izimbongolo manje. Ngesinye isikhathi abantwana bayeza ukuzosiza uThabo nobaba wakhe ukuthi basabalalise umanyolo wezimbongolo emasimini. Ngale ndlela ubaba kaThabo wonga imali futhi ukhulisa izitshalo ezinhle. Bayavumelana ukuthi uThabo unesipho esiyigugu kakhulu kuChipo.

Uchipo akavunyelwa ukuthi ahambe emigwaqweni emikhulu, futhi noma ekunoma imuphi umgwaqo, uThabo usuke enaye. Ebusuku uChipo unendawo enethezekile yokulala, lapho aphephile khona. Abanye babantwana sebecele obaba babo ukuthi babe nezimbongolo nabo. Ubaba kaThabo useshintshe ikalishi elimasondo amabili laba elinasondo amane, futhi uyakwazi ukuthwala abantwana abaningi ukuya esikoleni. Uma ikalishi limasondo amabili kuphela, ukulinganisa isisindo kuba yinkinga, ikakhulukazi kwimbongolo. Ngamasondo amane le nkinga ayibe isabakhona.





Umama kaThabo yena usefunde ukwenza amatomu ngokweluka imicu yezikhwanyana zeplastiki zasesitolo esezisebenzile. Lokhu kwenza imicu emide yamatomu futhi akuzilimazi izimbongolo. Ngesikhathi esifanayo, izikhwanyana zeplastiki zinemibala emihle egqamile futhi kulula nokuziwasha ukuze amatomu ahlale egqamile futhi ehlanzekile.

Lokhu kungcono kakhulu kunokushiya izikhwanyana zamapulasitiki phansi lapho zingadliwa khona izilwane. Izilwane zizidla ngoba zinuka njengokudla bese zibanga amafindo amakhulu eziswini zazo futhi zingafa ngenxa yalokhu. Manje zombili izimbongolo ezidonsa amakalishi zifaka amatheyiphu anombala azenza ukuthi zibonakale eziphongweni, ikalishi linetheyiphu enombala elenza ukuthi libonakale ngemuva, ukwenzela ukuthi uma kwenzeka kuhlwa ubaba kaThabo engakafiki ekhaya. Izimoto ezihamba emgwaqweni zikwazi ukubona ikalishi uma likwazi ukukhombisa amalambu azo. Ikalishi futhi linompheme wokuvikela abantwana uma kwenzeka kunetha.

Ubaba kaThabo wathenga nesidlali makhasethi ukuze asidlale ekalishini, kodwa isikhathi esiningi kucula abantwana.

Isiphetho



