

# Sindiwe and the Fireflies



Jano Strydom · Cheréne Pienaar · Tess Gadd





*Sindiwe and the Fireflies*

Illustrated by Jano Strydom

Written by Cheréne Pienaar

Designed by Tess Gadd

with the help of the Book Dash participants at Cape Town on 30 August 2014, listed here:

<http://www.bookdash.org/20140830-cape-town>

ISBN: 978 XXXXXXXXXX

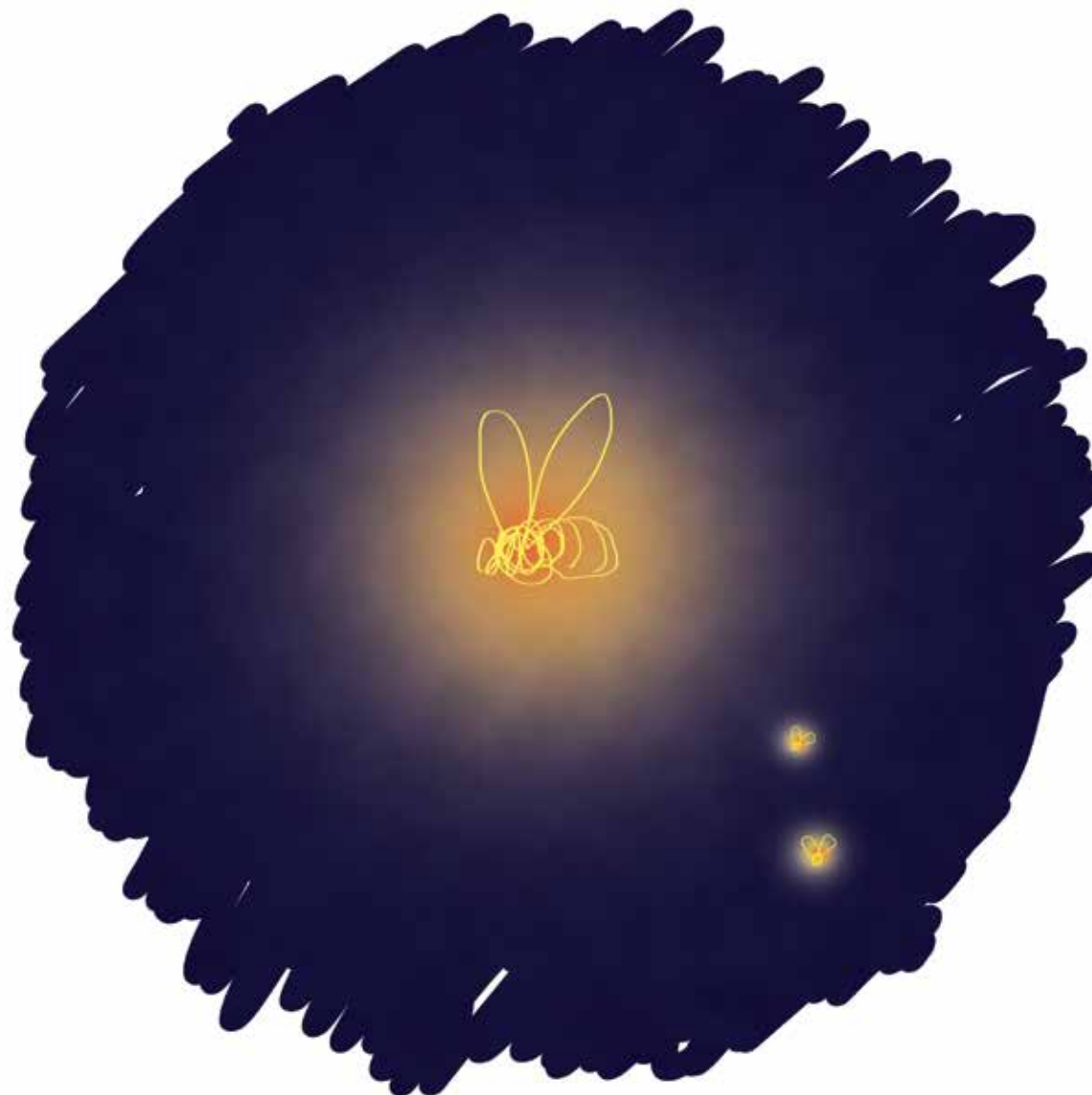
This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). You are free to share (copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format) and adapt (remix, transform, and build upon the material) this work for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the following license terms:

**Attribution:** You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.

**No additional restrictions:** You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

**Notices:** You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation.

No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material.



One day a very clever baby was born  
in Gungululu in the Eastern Cape.

Her name was Sindiwe Magona.

She was the oldest of eight children.



At night, her grandmother told  
magical stories about ogres and giants,  
animals of the forests, great beasts,  
and little creatures of the veld.

It was Sindiwe's favourite time.



Sindiwe loved school and she dreamed about being a teacher.



When Sindiwe became a teenager,  
her family organised a feast to celebrate.

She was given special things to wear and  
a wise old man sang a praise song to her.

(Blessings, long life!  
May your ancestors guard you!)



Sindiwe trained to be a teacher. She was very excited to teach at her first school.

But there weren't enough schools for black children and they had no desks or books to write in.

This made Sindiwe feel scared.  
How could she be a good teacher when the children had nowhere to sit?



She left the school to work as a cleaner.

She worked in four different houses.  
Sometimes the people there treated her  
badly and Sindiwe became very unhappy.



All this time Sindiwe studied.

Her hard work paid off!  
She won a scholarship to study  
at a university in New York.

She and her three small  
children packed their bags  
and flew across the sea to the  
United States of America.



In New York, Sindiwe studied  
to become a social worker.  
She wanted to help families  
make their lives better.



When she finished studying, the  
United Nations gave Sindiwe a job.

Most of the countries in the world  
meet at the United Nations to talk  
about their problems.



Sindiwe told the world about  
South Africa, and how hard it was  
for black people living there.

The people at the United Nations  
loved to listen to Sindiwe's stories.

They wanted to learn more and  
more about South Africans.

Perhaps, together, they could help  
to change things in South Africa.



She worked at the United Nations for twenty years while her children grew into adults.

But Sindiwe missed the country where she was born. She wanted to tell her stories to the people at home.

So she packed her luggage, got on a plane and flew back over the sea to Cape Town.



Sindiwe's love for books and stories have helped her write piles and piles of books. And children and grown-ups love to read her stories.

Many people call her Nomabali because she's always writing, telling and reading stories.





