Thembi and her family are sad.

They miss Grandpa Nathi.

Daddy and Mommy help them find a special way to remember Grandpa Nathi every day.

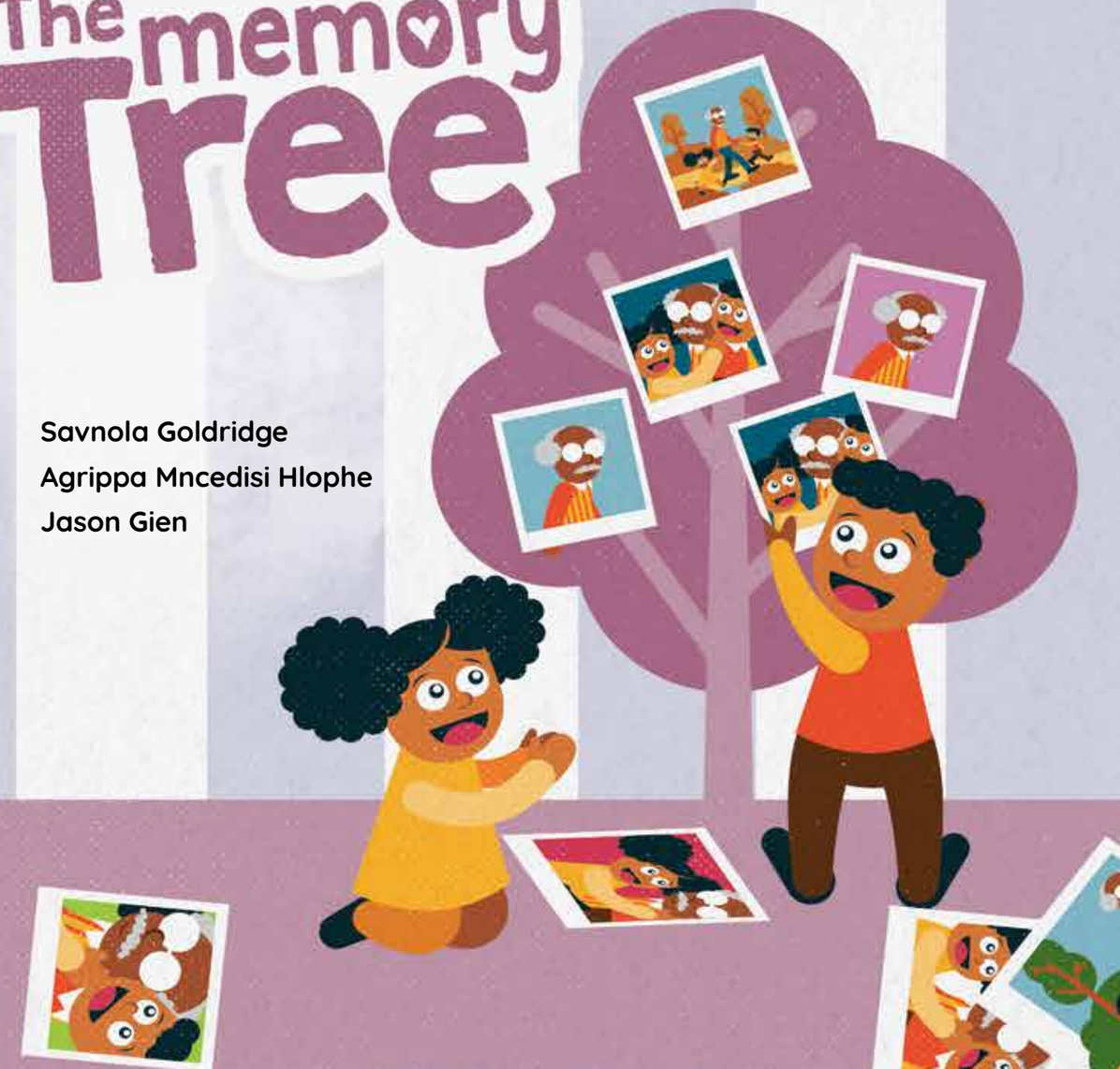
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English

The memory Tree

Savnola Goldridge
Agrippa Mncedisi Hlophe
Jason Gien



The memory Tree

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The memory Tree



Savnola Goldridge • Agrippa Mncedisi Hlophe • Jason Gien

Thembi and her brother Thulani are at the park with Grandpa Nathi.

They love their Grandpa Nathi.





Grandpa Nathi is very sick in the hospital.

The machine next to Grandpa Nathi goes beep, beep, beep.

Grandpa Nathi is still, his eyes are closed.

“Sing with me Grandpa Nathi”.

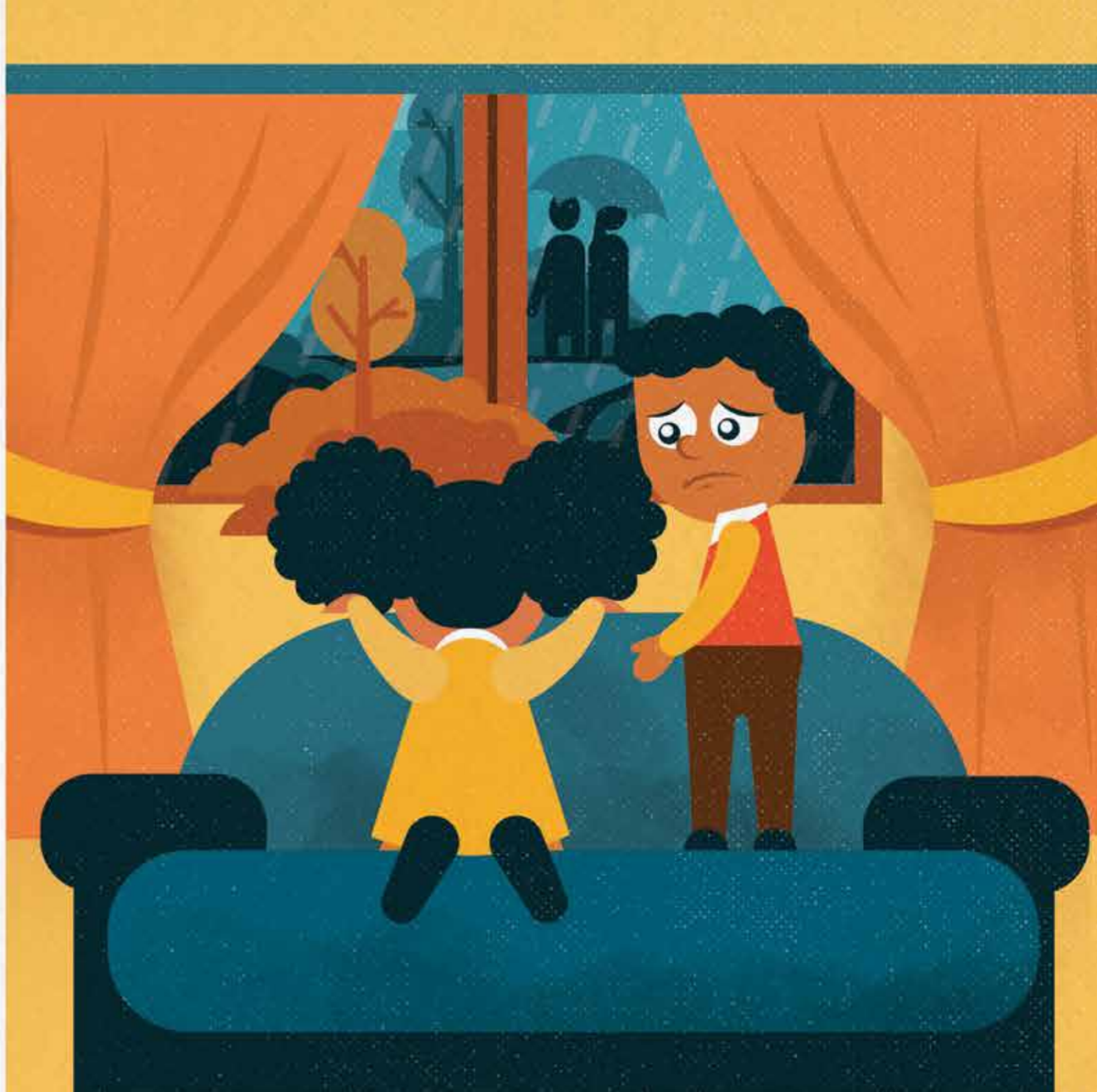
“Mommy, why is Grandpa Nathi not singing with me?” asks Thembi.

Mommy says “Grandpa Nathi can still hear you, his heart is singing inside.”

Thembi and Thulani sit waiting at the window.

Mommy and Daddy are taking so long
at the hospital.

Thembi sees Mommy and Daddy walk up
the driveway. “They are back!” she shouts.





Mommy and Daddy are very quiet.

“Mommy, what’s wrong?” asks Thembi.

It feels like her tummy is getting sore.

Mommy says in a very quiet voice,
“Grandpa Nathi’s body was very old and sick,
the doctors just couldn’t make him better.”

Her eyes fill with tears, “We won’t be
seeing Grandpa Nathi again.”

Thulani is sitting outside under
Grandpa Nathi's favourite tree.

He doesn't feel like reading or
playing with Thembi.

Everyone is sad.





Thembi is angry and throws her doll.
“Why did Grandpa Nathi have to die!”

Mommy pulls Thembi close on her lap.
“It’s okay to be angry,” says Mommy.
“I’m sad and miss Grandpa Nathi, too.”

Thulani whispers from the doorway,
“I’m also sad that I won’t be able to read
books with Grandpa Nathi anymore.”

Today is a special day!

Mommy, Daddy, Thulani and Thembi
are wearing their best clothes to go to
church for Grandpa Nathi’s funeral.

Everyone is coming to remember Grandpa.





Mommy holds Thembi’s hand as they leave the church and sing one of Grandpa Nathi’s favourite songs.

Everybody sings and dances too.

Thembi can’t sleep. She calls out to Mommy.

“Mommy I can’t sleep, I really miss Grandpa,
my heart is so sore!”





Thembi and Thulani are eating
breakfast with Mommy.

Daddy walks in with a big, big, big
cardboard tree.

Thembi and Thulani jump up excitedly
and run to Daddy.

“This is a Memory Tree,” says Daddy as
he sticks the tree on the wall.

Mommy puts a box of photos on the table.
“Take your favourite pictures with Grandpa
Nathi and stick them on the tree.”





Between the leaves, Thulani, Thandi, Mommy and Daddy stick pictures of Grandpa Nathi and the fun times they had with him.

“Here’s my memory with Grandpa Nathi!” says Thulani.

Thembi claps excitedly, “I love our Memory Tree!” she shouts. “This is my new favourite tree!”









Daddy smiles and says, “now anytime we want to remember Grandpa Nathi we can go to our Memory Tree and see the pictures of us with Grandpa singing, reading, walking and having fun!”

We will never forget Grandpa Nathi,
he will always be with us.



