Isizathu sokungalali kwesikhova

Gerald Bedeker Wandile Mathe Luke Mateman

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Isizathu sokungalali kwesikhova
(Why the owl never sleeps)
Illustrated by Gerald Bedeker
Written by Wandile Mathe
Designed by Luke Mateman
Translated by Wandile Mathe
with the help of the Book Dash participants in Johannesburg on 17 August 2024.

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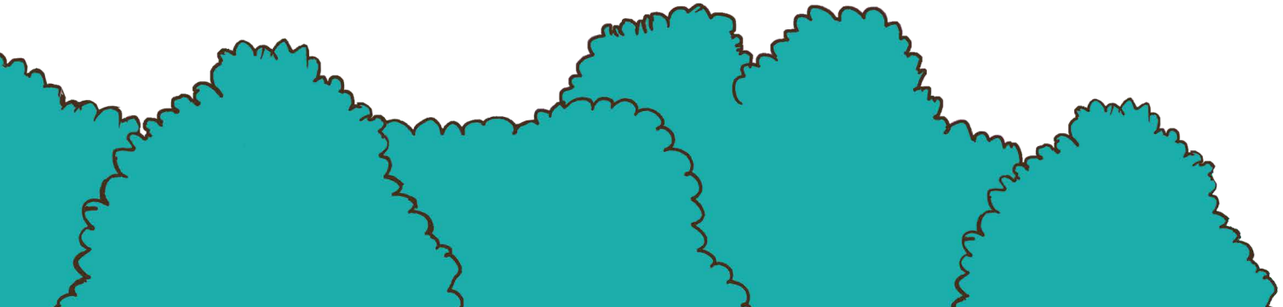
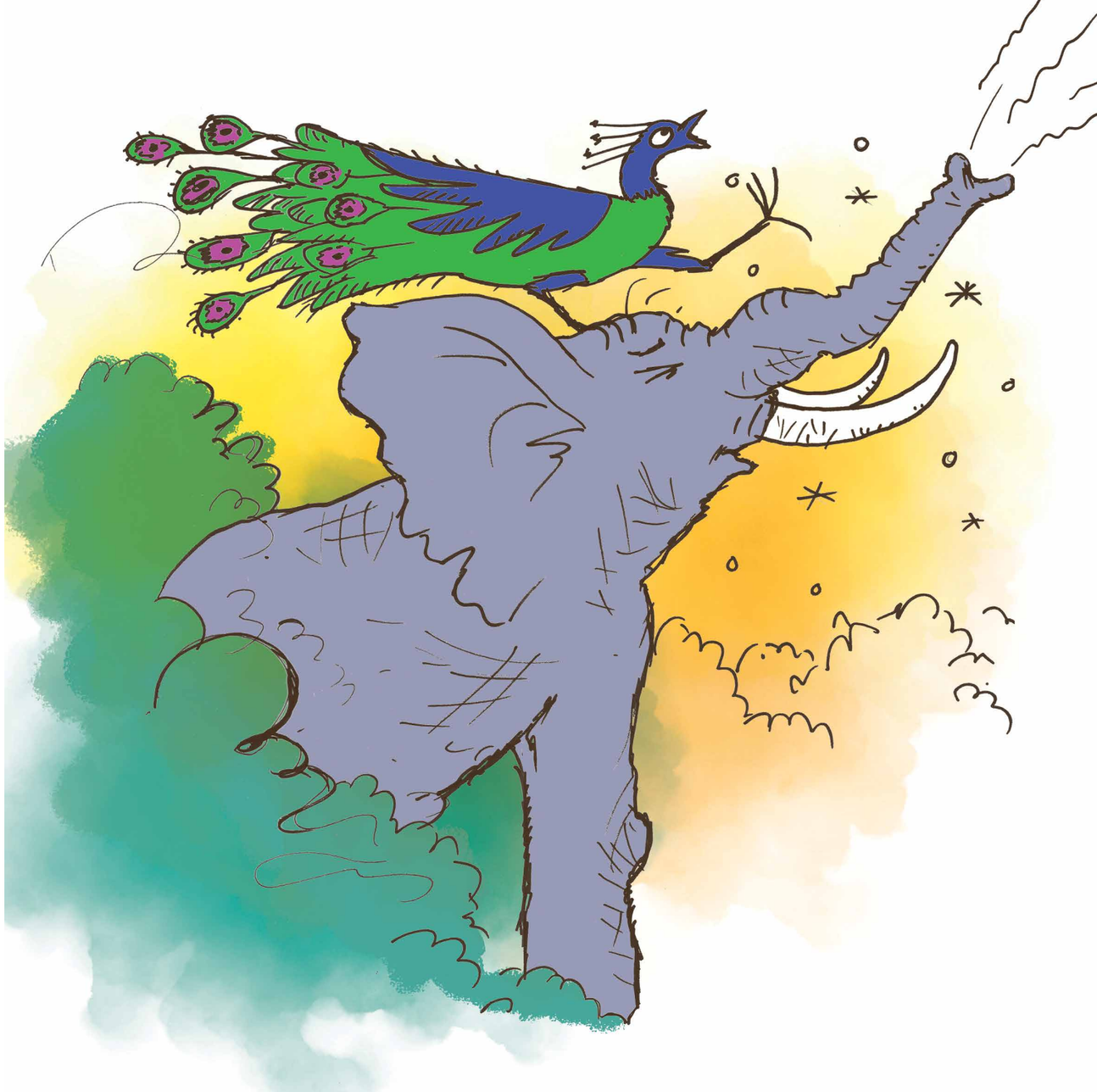
Emandulo amatshe esathambile, nezihlahla zisakhuluma, zonke izilwane zazihlala ndawonye emhlabeni ngaphansi kompheme omkhulu.

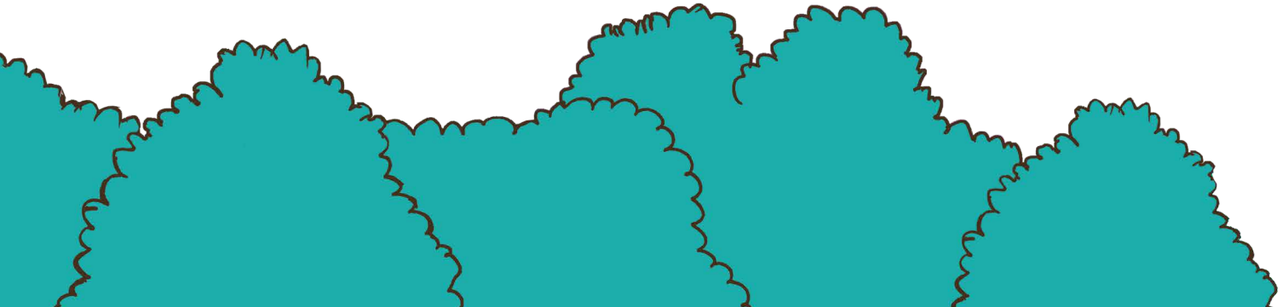


Mihla namalanga zazinakekelana,
zivikelana ebubini obungase
bulethwe ngabantu.

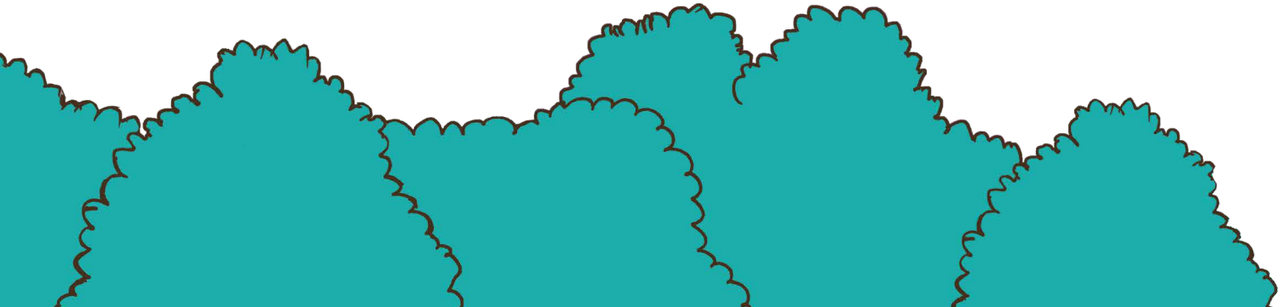
Lapho lishona ilanga izindlovu zazishaya umculo oshelelayo ngemiboko yazo, izinyoni zitshiloze kamnandi, ipigogo lidanse.



Ngobunye ubusuku yisikhova okwakumele
siqaphe izilwane sezilele.



Ngakho-ke saqapha silokhu
sibheka yonke indawo ukuthi
abantu abasondeli yini.

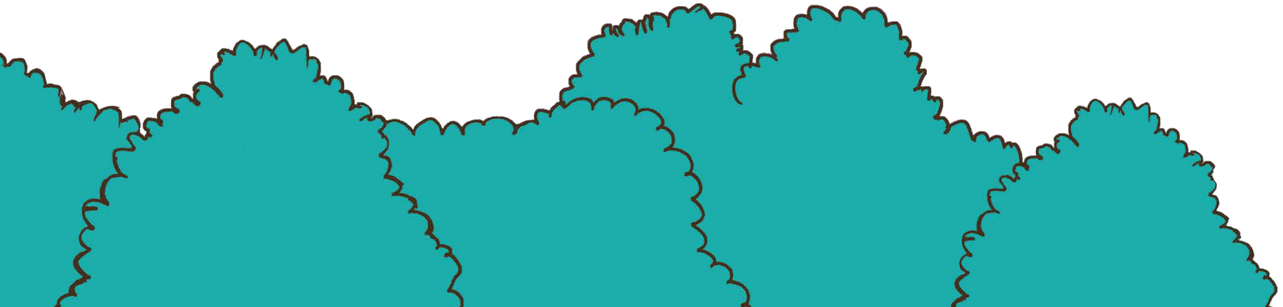


Dukuduku, isihlahla esasingaphambi
kwesikhova safohloka sashukuma.

“Awu!” UMnu. Sikhova wayesebanjwe ngumfanyana.

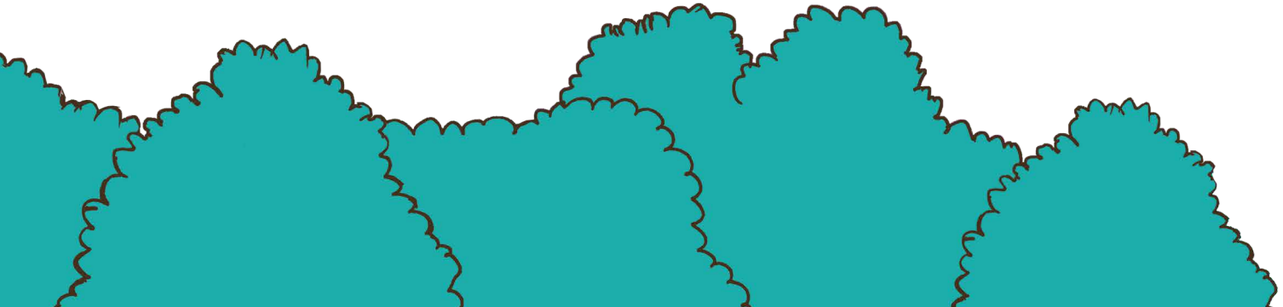
Wamemeza, wahlikiza izimpaphe zakhe. Kwezwakala nomsindo wokupupuza.

“Ngicela ungangosi bandla!”
Thatha ezinye izilwane.
Mina ngihlakaniphe kakhulu
ukuba ngidliwe –
angizukuba mnandi neze.



Wavuma umfanyana washona
khona emphemeni wezilwane.
Wafike wabasa umlilo, zavuka
ngokuphazima kweso izilwane.

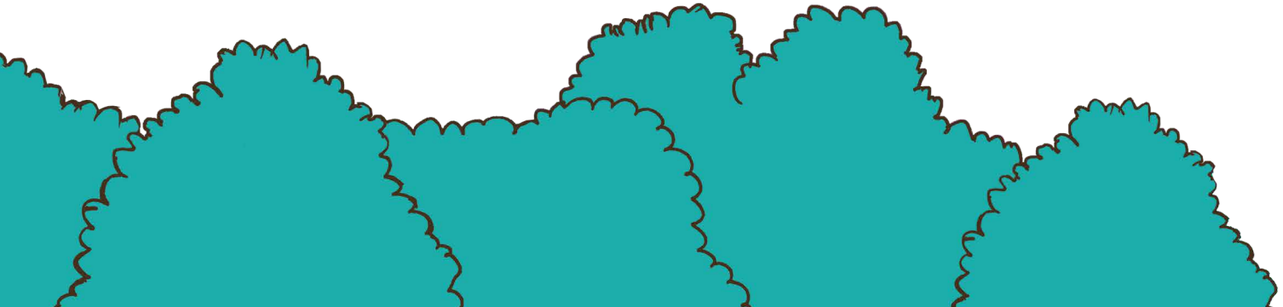
“Umlilo!” zimemeza, zihlakazeka.



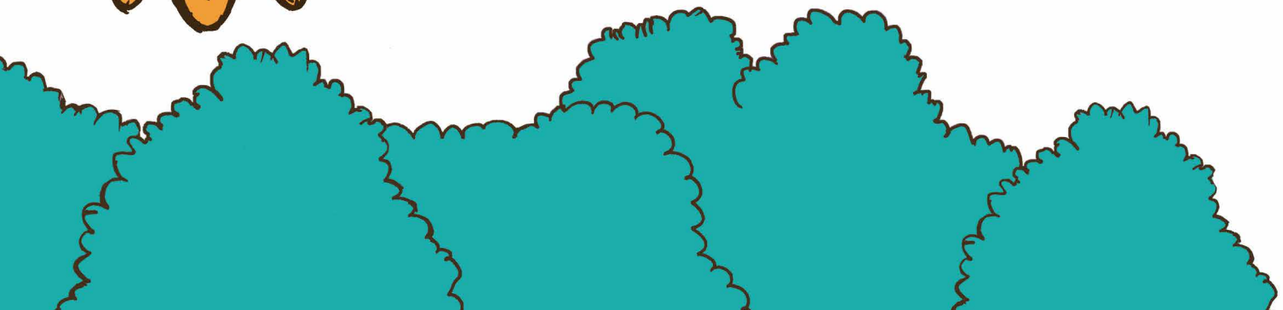
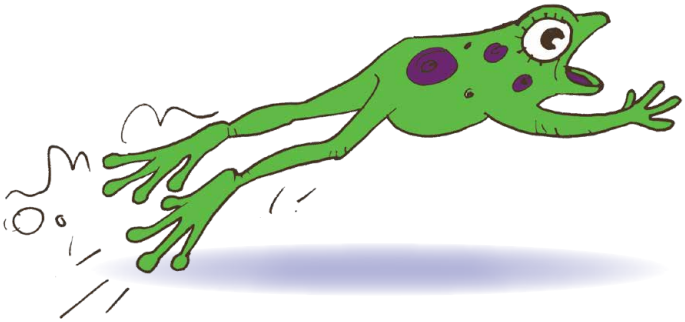
Izinambuzane zacasha ngaphansi komhlabathi.

Ezinye izilwane zabalekela emfuleni unomphela.

Izinyoni zandizela ebumnyameni besibhakabhaka.



Abantu baphindela ekhaya namakati, izinkomo kanye nezinja, bashiya uMnu. Sikhova edliwa ngamahloni. “Akumele baphinde bangibone.”



Kusukela kulobo busuku isikhova safunga ukuthi asisoze siphinde sivele emini ... sesiyovela ebusuku kuphela ukuthi sidle futhi selule namaphiko aso.