

IT'S MY BIRTHDAY!

Sinovuyo Mcunukelwa - Josie Versfeld - Nkosingiphile Mazibuko



It's my birthday!

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It's my birthday!

Illustrated by Josie Versfeld

Written by Sinovuyo Mgunukelwa

Designed by Nkosingiphile Mazibuko

Edited by Diane Awerbuck

with the help of the Book Dash participants in Cape Town on 14 October 2023.

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“Kurukukuuu!

Wake up, Zingisile!
Today is your birthday!”



It's my birthday, and
it's also a school day.



“Mama, Mama!
Guess what day it is?” I shout.

I always ask my mama every
morning on my birthday.



“This is your birthday porridge.
Now, quickly, eat up
and get ready.”



You can't be late on
your birthday!”



Mmmhhh.
I love mealie porridge when
it's runny...

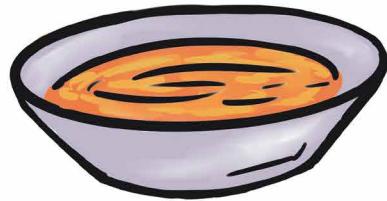
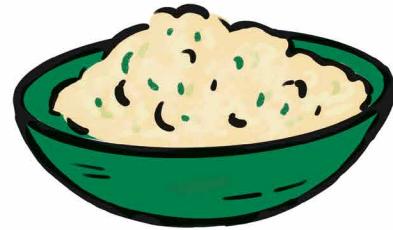


At preschool everyone knows
it's my birthday.

They sing **happy birthday**
and give me handmade
love notes.

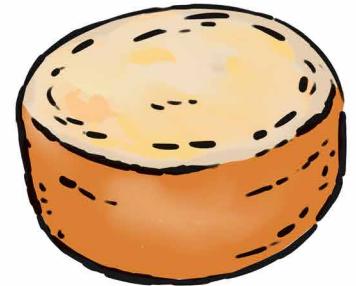
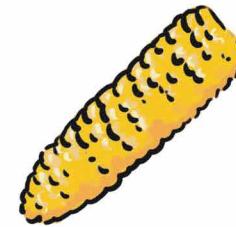


I can't wait for my special meal from Mama.



I can't wait to see my favourite cousin, Sisipho. She is also my best friend. Her birthday is coming in September.

Which chicken will Mama cook for me? I hope it's the fat one.



An illustration of a woman with curly hair, Mrs Mkombe, sitting at a table and reading a book. Three children are sitting in front of her. One child is pointing at a speech bubble. The background is a solid green color.

“Zingisile, what was your favourite part of the story?” asks Mrs Mkombe.

“Pumpkin and mealie pap!”
I shout, still in my
daydream.
All my friends laugh.

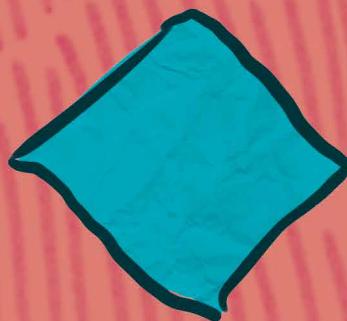
When I get home, Luhambo is excited. He has only had one birthday, on the 28th of April.



Now I've had five birthdays already!



Look at all the food!
Mama has made my
favourites – spinach and
sweetcorn and pumpkin and
mealie pap and gravy and her
special bread. Everything is
from our garden.





“Happy birthday, Zingisile!
Mini emnandi kuwe, Zingisile!
How old are you now?”

“I’m five years old now!”
I sing back.
My papa picks me up
and spins me around.

“My Zing-star!
You’re so old you’re
almost a teacher!”



Mama lets me pick the
biggest piece of chicken.
She dishes for me first.

I dip my delicious bread in
the gravy and I smile.
I can't wait for my
next birthday!





