Ibhola lelahlekile

Ruth Legae

Ayisakhemeteli. Ndlela nasesi wakhe lomelamako, Nokwati bajabulile. Balangatelele kudlala ibhola ngaphandle. Inja yabo, Bhova, itsandza kudlala nabo. Bafuna ibhola abayitfoli.

Ibhola ilahlekile. Ndlela naNokwati bamangele.

Bhova ubabukile. Abati kutsi kumele bacalephi kufuna.

"Sitawufuna kuphi?" kubuta Nokwati.

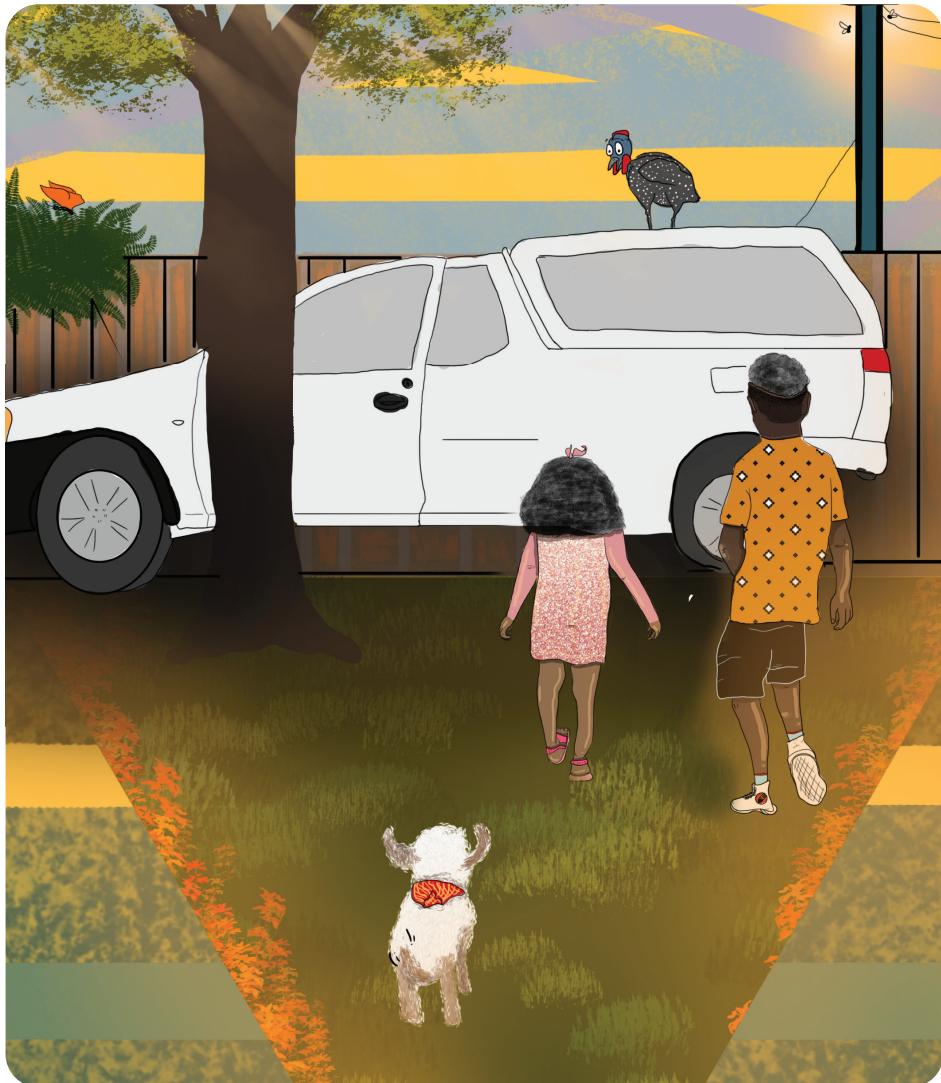Babuka emgcomeni wetibi, ayikho. Bhova ubasele ngemuva bafuna ibhola. Ayikho ibhola!

Bhova wetama kuzuba daladi
wakamakhelwane ayofuna ibhola.

Ndlela nasesi wakhe Nokwati, bayambita,
"Buya, Bhova!"

Bhova uyajika. Nokwati wacabanga lisu. "Ngitawubuka ngaphansi kwemoto."

Nokwati ukhasela ngaphansi kwemoto ubuka
ibhola. Uyakhasa uyaphuma. Timphahla
takhe tineludzaka. Ubukeka angakajabuli.
Ayikho ibhola!

Bhova uyanyonyoba, wetama kuzuba daladi wakamakhelwane futsi.

Nokwati naNdlela bayambita, "Buya Bhova, utawulimala."

Bhova uyabuya. Ayikho ibhola!

Ndlela naNokwati bahleli ngaphandle kwendlu naBhova.

Ndlela ubita babe wakhe, "Babe! Babe! ibhola ilahlekile."

Babe wabo ufuna ibhola emgcomeni wetibi.
Bhova umsele ngemuva ngalesikhatsi afuna.

Liciniso, ibhola isalahlekile. Bhova unelisu.
Wazuba kakhulu, ngemandla akhe onkhe.
Wazuba daladi wakamakhelwane. Ndlela
naNokwati abakamboni.

Ngubabe kuphela lowambona andlula
ayozuba daladi.

Ndlela ubuta babe, "Uphi Bhova?"

"Uzube daladi waya kamakhelwane."

"Asimlandzele, Ndlela," kusho Nokwati.

Ndlela naNokwati balandzela Bhova, baya kamakhelwane. Bhova ume eceleni nebhola.
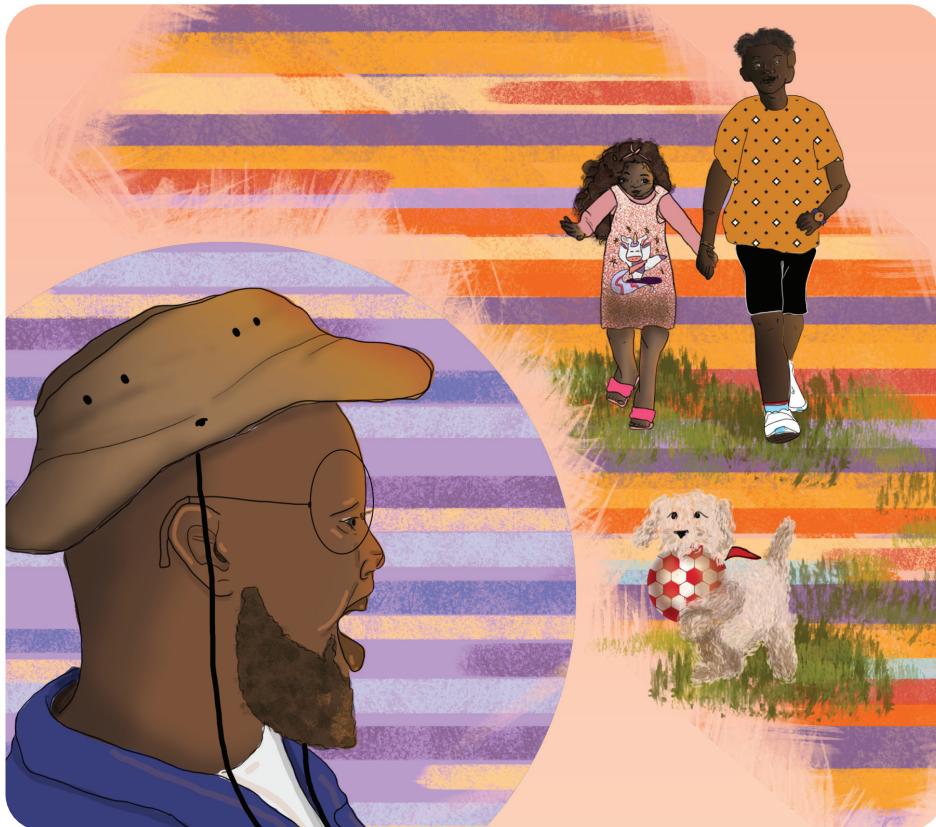
"Whuu! Whuu!"

Ukhonkhotsa ibhola.

Halala, nayiya ibhola! Bhova uyitfolile.
Bhova ubamba ibhola ngemlomo, babuyela
ekhaya. Nokwati washikisha Bhova umhlane.

Ngemuva kwesikhashana, Ndlela wabita babe wabo.

"Bhova uyitfolile ibhola."

"Uyitfolephi?" kubuta babe.

"Uyitfole kamakhelwane," kusho Ndlela.

Babe wajabula nabo.

Kwaba nekujabula lokukhulu.

Bobatsatfu bacala kudlala ibhola. Badlala badzimate bakhatsala.