



# Tinkhulu kimi!



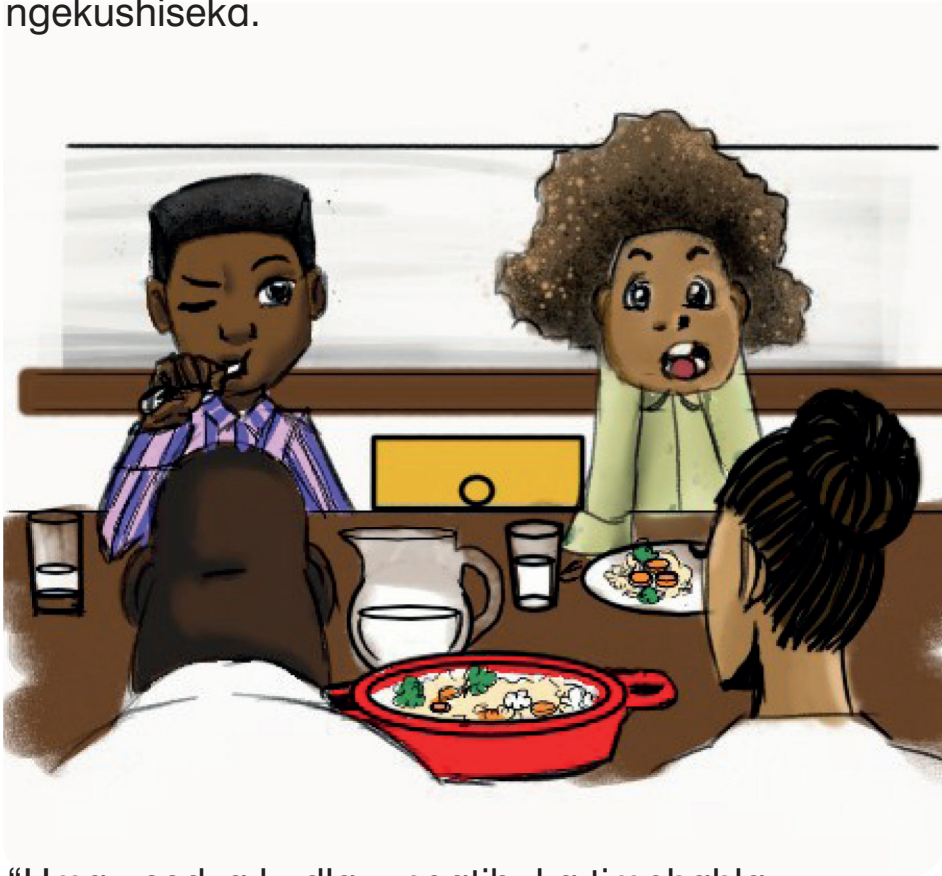
Sipho R. Kekezwa





Kusasa lilanga laLuvo lekucala esikolweni.

“Ungitsengele timphahla tesikolo, make?” wabuta ngekushiseka.



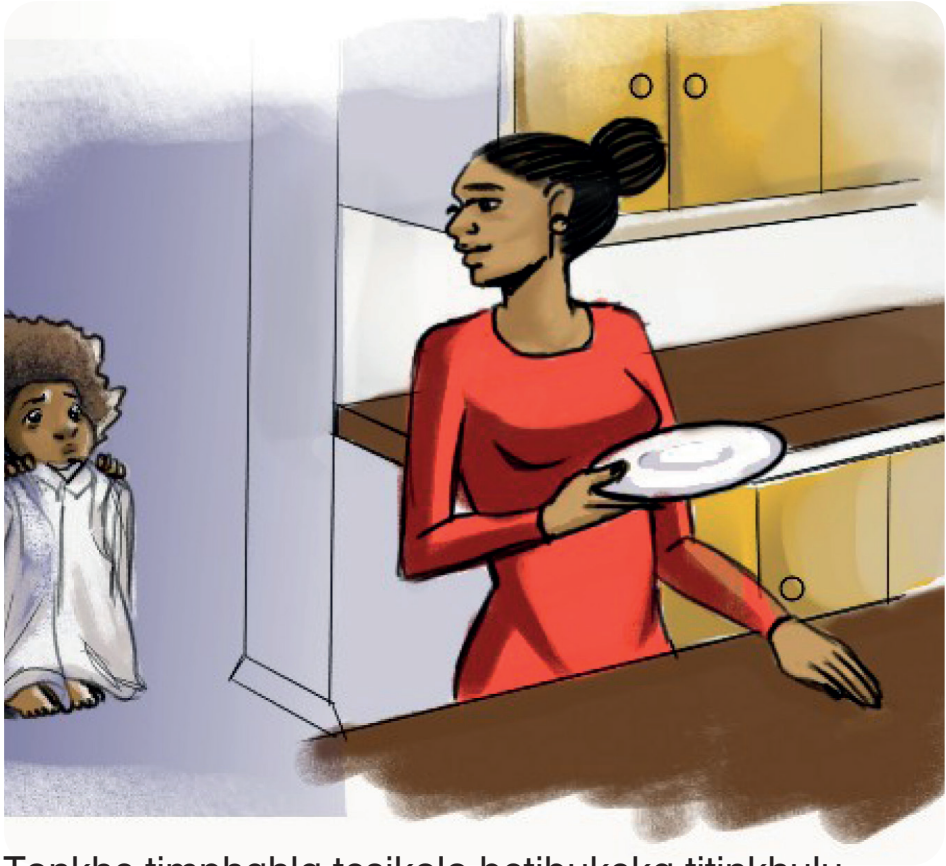
“Uma ucedza kudla, ungatibuka timphahla takho tesikolo,” kusho make akhomba incumbi yetimphahla letibhincwe kahle tabekwa etafuleni lelisedvute.

Luvo waphanga kudla, angaboni nekutsi kuneticadze langatitsandzi esitjeni sakhe.



Luvo wazuba esitulwini nakacedza kudla, wacala kubuka timphahla.

“Tiphi timphahla tami?” wabuta aphakamisa timphahla ngayinye ngayinye.



Tonkhe timphahla tesikolo betibukeka titinkhulu kakhulu kuye futsi tingasitsha.

“Linganisa,” kuncenga make ngebuso lobumamatsekako.



Uma aphuma ekamelweni bekalinganisela kulo  
timpahla takhe letinsha, umnakabo, Zolile,  
wahleka.

Babe wakhe wamamatseka ngemuva kweliphepha  
bekalifundza.



“Tinkhulu kimi!” washo ngelivi lelincane leligcwele  
tingembeti.

“Ungakhatsateki sitsandwa sami. Ngitawutilungisa.  
Kusasa utawuba muhle.”

Luvo bekangamvisisi kumake wakhe, ngobe  
bekumatima nekuhamba ngato.



Luvo wancuma kutsi angeke aye esikolweni.



Walala inhlitiyo yakhe ibuhlungu, anembono lowehlukile ngelilanga lakhe lekucala esikolweni.

Bekasacabanga ngaloku, ngalesikhatsi atumeka alala.



“Bafana, lona ugcoke timphahla tababe wakhe,”  
kusho lomunye umfana lomdzala esikolweni atjela  
bangani bakhe, akhomba Luvo.

“Lihembe lakhe ngatsi lilogo,” kusho lomunye.



“Mabhulukwana!” kungenela wesitsatfu.

Luvo wakhona kubamba tinyembeti takhe,  
ngalesikhatsi labanye bantfwana esikolweni  
bambukile.



Luvo wabaleka, wetama kubhacela lesicuku sebašana lesi besihlekisa ngaye.

Ngalesikhatsi etama kubaleka, ticatfulo takhe letinkhulu tamgila wawa, sicutfulo sinye saphapha emoyeni ngembikwekutsi siwele phansi.



“Ngiyekeleni! Ngiyekeleni!” wamemeta.  
Nguloko kuphela lakhone kukusho ngesikhatsi akhala.



“Luvo! Luvo vuka!”

Luvo abeva livi lamake wakhe.

Wavula emehlo akhe lagcwele tinyembeti.



“Luvo, vuka! Kusile!”

Nembala bekungumake wakhe.





Luvo wavuka embhedzeni wakhe wacalata.

Wakhululeka kutsi abengekho esikolweni.



Wase ukhumbula libhulukwe laZolile!

Wakhumbula lihembe lelidze!

Ticatfulo...!



“Ngi... Ngiphetfwe yinhloko,” washo atigubetela futsi.

“Luvo mntfwanami, vuka,” kusho make ngelutsandvo, ati kutsi yini lemhluphako.

“Buka timphahla takho tesikolo. Ngitilungisile.”



Angakavuki, wahlola ngaphansi kwetingubo. Esitulwini lesidvutane nembhedze wakhe, bekunetimphahla tesikolo lebetibukeka tingamlingana.



Luvo abetijabulele kakhulu timphahla takhe tesikolo kangangekutsi abengafuni make wakhe amsite ngekumgcokisa, njengobe ahlala enta.

Luvo wabheka phansi, wakhala.

Uma abuka etulu, make wakhe bekaphetse libhokisi.



Kumamatseka lokwaba khona ebusweni, bekungetulu kwetinyembeti lebekalinga kutibamba.

“Ungitsengele ticatfulo, make?”

“Yebo Luvo,” kuphendvula make waLuvo.

Luvo wagonisisa make wakhe.

“Ngiyabonga, make.”



Konkhe bekukuhle ngelilanga laLuvo lekucala  
esikolweni.

Bekajabulile.

