

**Ukugcina imfuyo iphilile**  
Impilo yami emaphandleni

**Animal Health Promotion**  
My life on the farm

The adventures of Sipho and Nosipho  
Published by CAP



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**The Adventures of Sipho and Nosipho  
Storybook I**

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## ***Isigaba 1. Impilo yami emaphandleni***

Sanibonani nonke! Igama lami nginguNosipho. Ngineminyaka engu11. Nginomfowethu oyiwele nami, uSipho. Sihlala endaweni yakwaNgongolo eMachunwini eMsinga, KwaZulu-Natal, eNingizimu Afrika. Sihlala noMama, nodadewethu nomfowethu abancane kanye noGogo. UBaba usebenza eGoli kodwa ubuya ekhaya ngoGudi kanye nangoKhisimusi. Ubaba omdala nonkosikazi wakhe kanye nendodana yabo uXolani sihlala nabo.

Umndeni wakithi unemfuyo eningi. Sinezinkomo eziwu 9, izimbuzi eziwu 30, izikhukhukazi eziwu 5 kanye neqhude. Umfowethu unenja, igama layo uSpoti, ehamba naye njalo uma eyokwelusa. Kuyasiza ukuba nemfuyo kodwa isenzela umsebenzi omkhulu! UMama benoGogo bayakuthanda ukulima. Batshale ummbila namabele. UMama angathanda nokutshala imifino kodwa inkinga ukuthi imvula ayinethi ngokwenele lapha.

Sijwayele ukuhamba ibanga elide ukuyothenga ukudla siya oThukela noma kwaNobamba. UMama uhlal' ekhalaza ngokuthi amanani ezinto aphezulu. UMama uholo imali yesondlo sabantwana alekelela ngayo kanti uGogo uholo impesheni. Njalo ngosuku lwempesheni ngisuke sengijahe kuphume isikole ngoba uGogo usiphathela umoba, ijusi, iziqeda kanye nezithelo ukuthi sidle.

Amanzi esiwasebenzisayo siwakha emfuleni. Njengamanje ngibuya emfuleni futhi ngikhathele. Amanzi abalulekile. Uma ngingawakhi akekho ozokwazi ukuphuza, noma ageze noma apheke. Ngesinye isikhathi uSipho uyasiza ngokukha amanzi kodwa namhlanje uyobheka imbuzi. Ilahleke izolo ngesikhathi edlala ibhola. Uzoba senkingeni uma engayitholi. Ngifisa sengathi ngingamsiza kodwa nami ngisenemisebenzi eminingi.

Ngizonibona ngokuhamba kwesikhathi!



## ***Chapter 1. Life on my farm***

Hello everyone! My name is Nosipho. I am 11 years old. I have a twin brother, Sipho. We live on a farm in Ngongolo in Msinga, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. We live with our mother, our little sister and brother, and our granny. Our father works in Johannesburg but he comes home at Easter and Christmas. My father's older brother and his wife also stay here with their son, Xolani.

Our family has lots of animals. We have 9 cows, 30 goats, 5 chickens and a cockerel. My brother has a dog called Spotty that always goes herding with him. It helps to have animals but they make a lot of

work for us! My mother and Gogo like to farm. They grow maize and sorghum. My mother would like to grow vegetables but the problem is, there is not enough rain here.

We usually have to travel far, to Tugela Ferry or Weenen, to buy food. My mother complains that everything costs too much. She gets a grant to help with all the children and Gogo gets a pension. Every pension day I look forward to coming home from school because Gogo brings sugar cane, juice, ice lollies and nice fruit for us to eat.

We have to fetch all the water we need from the river. I have just got back from the river and I'm very tired. Water is very important. If I don't fetch it, no one will be able to drink, or wash or cook. Sipho sometimes helps to fetch water but today he is looking for a goat. He lost it while he was playing football yesterday. He will be in trouble if he doesn't find it. I wish I could help him but I am too busy now.

See you later!



## Isigaba 2. Umsebenzi wami

Lapha isithombe sami, uNosipho, ngipha izinkukhu ummbila. Umama uthi izinkukhu zakhe. Uma ubaba ebuyile ekhaya, uthi, 'O, bheka nazi izinkukhu zami ezinhle, izikhukhukazi ezinempilo!'

Kodwa leya encane ensundu ngeyami. UMama wasithengela sinoSipho ngemali yesondlo sabantwana. Eyakhe ilele ngaphansi kwebonda. Iqhude lixosha izikhukhukazi ukuze lithole ukudla okuningi.

USipho uqeda ukubuyisa izimbuzi. Ubukeya ekhathazekile. 'Kwenzenjani Sipho?'

'Izimbuzi ezintathu azibuyanga, Nosipho. Ungangisiza sizibheke? Enye yazo yilesibhuzazane esimhlophe, lesi uMama angithengele sona ngenyanga edlule. Ngikhathazekile ngokuthi kungenzeka ukuthi sishaywe yinyoka noma siwele

odongeni.'

'O! Sipho, kusafanele ngenze umsebenzi wami wesikole futhi ngisize noGogo ngokupheka kungaze kuhlwe. Yini ungaceli uXolani?'

'UXolani uthanda izinkomo kuphela. Uthi yena uyindoda yangempela futhi amadoda abheka izinkomo hhayi izimbuzi.'

'Yingoba usekhonze ukushela manje nesikhathi sezinkomo akasenaso kahle. Kanti akuzona ezakhe ezikababa.'

## Chapter 2. My work

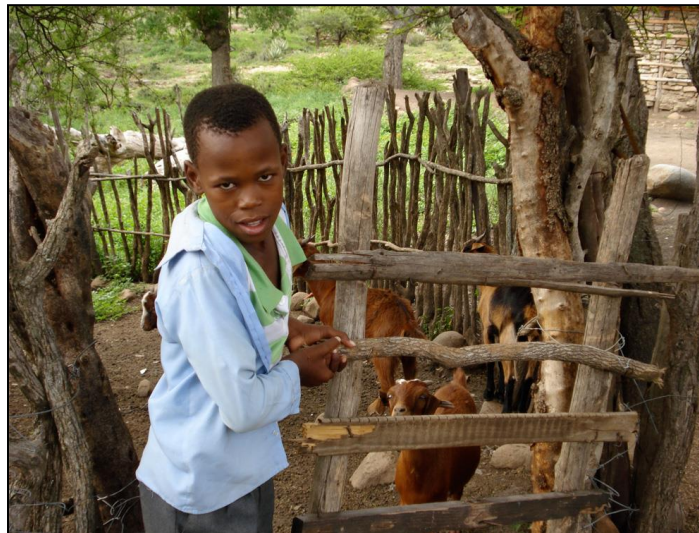


Here's a picture of me, Nosipho, feeding maize to my fowls. My Mom says they are her fowls. When my Dad comes home, he says, 'Oh, look at my nice, healthy hens!'

That little brown one really is mine. My Mom bought it for me with the child support grant. She bought one for Sipho too. His hen is sleeping under the woodpile. The cockerel always chases the hens so he can get the most food.

Sipho has just brought home the goats. He looks a bit worried. 'What's wrong Sipho?'

'Three of the goats didn't come back, Nosipho. Can you help me look for them? One of them is the white kid that Mom bought me last month. I am worried it might have been bitten by a snake or fallen into a donga.'



'Oh, Sipho! I still have to do my homework and help Gogo with the cooking before it gets dark. Why don't you ask Xolani?'

'Xolani is only interested in cows. He says he is a real man and real men keep cows, not goats.'

'He is more interested in girls than cows! Anyway, they are not his cows! They belong to our father.'

'Yebo, kodwa uyazibheka futhi ulindele ukuthi abasekhaya bamsize ngelobolo uma esethola unkosikazi. Ngicela ungisize Nosipho. Ngiyakuthembisa ukuthi uma uMama esekuthengela eyakho imbuzi ekupheleni kwenyanga ngizoyinakekela kakhulu ukwedlula ezinye.'

'Ave ukwazi ukwenza izithembiso, Sipho. Uyakhumbula ngazibheka kanjani izimbuzi ngesikhathi ugula ngenyanga edlule? Wathembisa ukuyokha amanzi isonto lonke. Ngisalindile ngoba zonke izinsuku kulahleka imbuzi!'

'Yekela. Ngizozihambela ngedwa.'

'Cha, ngilinde. Ngiyeza.'

Uyazi uSipho uyashesha ukudinwa. Uma ngingamsizi, angeke angikhulumise koze kube ikusasa. Ngiyethemba sizosheshe sizithole lezimbuzi. Kufanele ngibuye maduze ukuzophemba umlilo. Isifuba sikaGogo asisihle intuthu iyamkhwehlelisa. Laba abasesithombeni nguGogo, noMama kanye nomfowethu omncane. UMama uyajabula uma ngimlekelela ngemisibenzi yasekhaya. Kodwa uma ngenza umsebenzi wesikole ebusuku uyathetha uvele athi ngiqeda uphalafini esibanini.

Udadewethu uNoluthando, uyathanda ukudlala enhlabathini nabangane bakhe. Uneminyaka ewu 5. Ngifisa sengathi ngabe usekhule ngokwenele khona ezokwazi ukungilekelela ngemisebenzi yasekhaya aphinde alekelele noSipho ngezimbuzi!

'Ngilinde, Sipho!'



'Yes, but he looks after them, so he's expecting father to pay ilobolo when he finds a wife. Please help, Nosipho. I promise that when Mom buys you a goat at the end of the month, I'll take extra care of it.'

'You are good at making promises, Sipho. Remember how I looked after the goats when you were sick last month? You promised to help fetch water for a week. I am still waiting because every day you lose a goat!'

'Forget it, then! I'll go on my own.'

'No, wait. I'm coming.'

You know, Sipho can really sulk! If I don't help him, he won't talk to me until tomorrow. I just hope we find these goats quickly. I must get back soon to make the fire. My granny has a bad chest and smoke makes her cough. This is my granny in the photo with my Mom and my baby brother. My Mom is smiling now but she won't smile if I do my homework after dark and have to use the paraffin lamp.

My sister, Noluthando, is busy playing in the sand with her friends. She is 5. I wish she was old enough to help with the goats!

'Wait for me, Sipho!'





### ***Isigaba 3. Kungani sigcina imfuyo iphilile?***

Sanibonani, yimina uSipho! Ngijabulile namhlanje ngoba ngizitholile izimbuzi ebezilahlekile. Nazi! Izimbuzi zihambe zayodla kude yingakho bezilahlekile.

UMama ujabule kakhulu ngoba izimbuzi ziphilile. Zidla ngendlela efanele futhi zondlekile. Singathola imali enhle uma kungadingeka ukuthi sidayise eyodwa yazo. Namuhla, ngizosiza uNosipho ngokukha amanzi. Wangisiza ukuyobheka izimbuzi, nami ngamethembisa ukuthi ngizomsiza. Esh! Kodwa kuyibanga elide ukuya emfuleni kanti nomndeni wethu usebenzisa amanzi amaningi. Engabe ukuphi uNosipho ngoba ngifuna ukubuya ngesikhathi ukuze ngidlale ibhola.

‘Nosipho! Nosipho! Ukuphi?’

‘Ngilapha, ngipha izinkukhu ukudla. Zilambe kakhulu kanti nombila osusele awenele. Ngifuna ukubheka umuhlwa khona ngizozipha, ukuze zithole izakhamzimba ezanele khona zizohlala ziphilile.’

‘Nosipho, ngicabanga ukuthi izinkukhu zifana nawe! Ziyakhathala futhi zicasuke uma zingakutholi ukudla okwenele.’

‘Nazo ziyagula, Sipho. Njengoba nami uma ngigula ngingayi esikoleni noma ngisize ekhaya. Uma izinkukhu zigula aziwazaleli amaqanda, futhi ziyazaca ngeke ukwazi nokuzidla. Inkinga enkulu ukuthi uma kugula eyodwa isifo sidlulela nakwezinye.’



### ***Chapter 3. Why do we keep our animals healthy?***

Hi, it's Sipho here! I am very happy today because I found the goats that went missing. Here they are – the big ones wandered far away.

My Mom is very pleased because the goats are all healthy. They are eating well and getting fat. If we need to sell any, we will get a good price. I am going to help Nosipho fetch water today. She helped me to look for the goats, so I promised to help her. Eish! But it's a long way to the river and our family uses so much water! I wonder where Nosipho is – I want to get back in time to play football.

‘Nosipho! Nosipho! Where are you?’

‘I'm here, feeding the chickens. They are very hungry.

There isn't much maize left. I want to look for some termites to feed them so that they will have enough protein to stay strong.

‘Nosipho, I think the chickens are like you! They get tired and irritable if they don't get enough to eat.’

‘They also get sick, Sipho. If I am sick, I can't go to school or help at home. If the chickens are sick, they don't lay eggs, they get thin and you can't even eat them. The big problem is that if one chicken gets sick, disease usually spreads to the others too.’







‘Kodwa lezinkukhu azibukeki zigula nje. Buka izimpaphe zazo ziyashelela futhi zithambile.’

‘Uqinisile Siph, zibukeka ziphilile okwamanje. Zinenhlanhla ngoba sizinika konke ukudla kwazo. Nathi kufanele silungise konke ukudla esikudlayo! Asikwazi ukuphila ngombila, nathi sidinga ukudla okusivikela ezifweni nokwakha umzimba njengenyama nemifino. SinoMama besisebenza kanzima sihlakulela izimpunzi ukuze sithole isivuno esihle.’

‘Uma ngizipha ukudla ngokwenele izinkukhu, zizozalela amaqanda amaningi njengoba amaqanda equkethe izakhamzimba eziningi.’

‘Uqinisile Nosipho. Uma sinakekela kahle imfuyo yethu nayo izosinakekela. Usukulungele ukuyokha amanzi. Asisheshe khona ngizobuya ngidlale ibhola.’

‘Yebo, asihambe. Kufanele ngibuye ngizosiza ngokubheka uGogo.’



‘These chickens don’t look sick though. Look at their feathers. They are smooth and soft.’

‘You are right, Siph, they look fine at the moment. They are lucky because we provide all their food. We have to prepare everything we eat ourselves! We can’t live on maize; we also need foods that give us protein and vitamins – like meat and vegetables. Mom and I have been working hard weeding the pumpkins so that we get a good crop.’

‘If I feed the chickens well, they will lay plenty of eggs and eggs are a good source of protein.’

‘That’s true, Nosipho. If we look after our animals, they will look after us. Are you ready to go to fetch water now? Let’s hurry so that I can come back and play football.’

‘Yes, let’s go. I have to get back to help look after Gogo.’



#### ***Isigaba 4 - Ukugcina imfuyo yethu iphilile futhi iphephile***



Sanibonani futhi. Siyajabula ukuphinda sihlangane nani! Ngaphandle kwenkinga yokushoda kokudla kwezinkukhu manje sesivelelwe ezinye izinkinga! Esinye sezikhukhukazi sithathwe inyoka. Siyibonile kodwa akukho ebesingakwenza.

USipho uphinde walahlekelwa ezinye izimbuzi kodwa manje useneqhingana elisha. Uvule imbobo othangweni khona kuzothi uma imbuzi ibuya ngemuva kwesikhathi ingene uMama engayiboni. Nakuba imbobo

othangweni ingadala enkulu inkinga.

Uyayibona insimu yommbila kamakhelwane wethu uMama wakwaMchunu? Ummbila unezinhlanga ezinde! Umama wakwaMchunu wawutshala ngesikhathi esifanele sezimvula zasehlobo. Yonke leminyaka ubelindele isivuno esihle kakhulu. Kodwa izolo kuvele ingozi enkulu.

Ntambama umzala wethu uXolani uhambe wayolanda izinkomo emfuleni kodwa ezintathu bezilahlekile.



#### ***Chapter 4. Keeping our animals healthy and safe***



Hello there. We are happy to meet you again! Apart from the shortage of food for the chickens that we told you about, we now have other problems! One of our hens was taken by a snake. We saw it and there was nothing we could do.

Sipho lost some goats – again but now he has a new trick. He opens a small gap in the fence so that if a goat comes back late, it can get in without Mom noticing. A gap in a fence can cause a big problem though.

Do you see our neighbour Mrs. Mchunu's mealie field? The mealies are so tall! Mrs. Mchunu planted at exactly the right time for the summer rains. She has been expecting her best crop for years. Then, yesterday there was a disaster.

Our cousin Xolani went to fetch the cows from the river in the afternoon and there were three missing.



Ngesikhathi efika ekhaya, wonke umuntu endaweni ubesazi ukuthi kwenzekeni kulezozinkomo. Bezisensimini kaMama wakwaMchunu, zifohloze ummbila wakhe!

Khona, kube nokulwa uMama wakwaMchunu ememeza ethethisa izinkomo kanye noMama. Indodana yakhe ibisongela uXolani yaze yamthuka. UMalume wethu naye ungenelile, thina sibe sesithunyelwa kwaGogo manje asazi ukuthi kwenzekeni.

UMama uphatheke kabi kakhulu. Namuhla ekuseni uhambe wayothenga i-airtime ukuze ashayele uBaba ucingo. Ubengakabuyi. Kuyiqiniso izinkomo zakithi ezidale umonakalo. Kodwa namasimu kaMama wakwaMchunu awabiyiwe lokho okungenza ukuthi noma ngabe izinkomo zakwabani bezingangena.

Kuwumsebenzi onzima ukubheka imfuyo. Ziningi izinto ekufanele uzenze ukuyigcina iphilile futhi iphephile – ingangeni nasenkingeni. Akusikhona ukuyipha ukudla kuphela okubalulekile.



By the time he got home, everyone in the neighbourhood knew what had happened to those cows. They were in Mrs. Mchunu's field, trampling her maize!

Well, there was a big fight. Mrs. Mchunu was screaming at the cows and at our Mom. Mrs. Mchunu's son was threatening Xolani and called him a very bad name. Then our uncle got involved and we got sent to Gogo's so we don't know what happened.

Mom is very upset. This morning she went to buy airtime to phone Dad. She

hasn't come back yet. It's true that our cows did the damage. But Mrs. Mchunu's fields are not fenced properly, so anyone's cattle could have got in.

It is hard work looking after livestock. There are so many things you have to do to keep them healthy and safe – and out of trouble. It is not only giving them food that is important.

### ***Isigaba 5. Yini egcina izilwane zethu ziphephile futhi ziphilile?***

Sanibonani, yithina uNosipho noSipho. Sizonitshela ngokwenzekile ngesonto elidlule ngemuva kokuthi izinkomo zangena zafohloza ummbila ensimini kaMama wakwaMchunu.

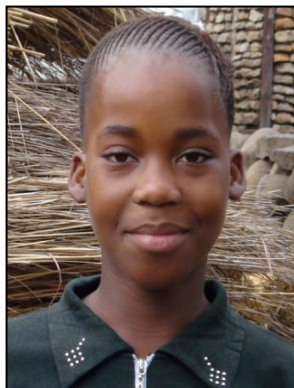
Indodana kaMama wakwaMchunu yathi kufanele sikhokhe izindleko zomonakalo. Esinye sezihlobo sithi kufanele loludaba lulungiswe kwaNduna kodwa akekho ovumelana nalokhu.

UMama ukhulumile noBaba ngalencinga. UBaba uthe uMalume kufanele axoxisane noMama wakwaMchunu. UMalume wabonana noMama wakwaMchunu waxolisa ngokwenzekile. Wathembisa nokuthi uzolungisa nothango. Uthi ukuba umakhelwane omuhle kubalulekile kakhulu.

UNosipho uthole umuhlwa ukuze aphe izinkukhu ukudla. Lokhu kuzozisiza ukuthi zikhuluphale. Kusanenkinga ngezinyoka. Esinye sezikhukhukazi besinamatshwele amane kodwa amabili adliwe yinyoka.

‘Sipho, izinkukhu zigijima yonke indawo angikwazi ukuthi njalo kufanele ngizigijimise ukuze zingene ehhokweni. Ngifuna nokufunda ukuthi zakhiwa

kanjani izidleke zokuzalela izinkukhu ukuze namatshwele ezophepha.’



### ***Chapter 5. What keeps our animals safe and healthy?***



Hello, it's us, Nosipho and Sipho. We've come to tell you what happened last week after our cows wandered into Mrs. Mchunu's field and trampled her maize.

Mrs. Mchunu's son said we must pay compensation. Another relative said the case must be settled by the nduna but no one agreed.

Mom spoke to our father about the problem. He said that our uncle must talk to Mrs.

Mchunu. So that is what happened. Our uncle apologised on behalf of the family. He also offered to fix the fence. He says a good neighbour is very important.

Nosipho has found some termites to feed the chickens. That will help to fatten them up. There is still a problem with snakes. One of the hens had 4 new chicks and 2 of them have been eaten by a snake.

‘Sipho, the chickens run all over the place and I can't keep chasing them back into the cage. I want to learn how to make chicken nests so that the chicks will be safer.’



***UMalume nezinja zakhe***

***Our uncle with his dogs***



‘Lokho kungumqondo omuhle, Nosipho. Nami kufanele ngicabange ukuthi ngingaziphephisa kanjani izimbuzi.’

‘Wonke amachwane akhula kahle. Kodwa ihlobo yisikhathi esiyingozi kuwona. Line kakhulu izulu kulelihlobo. Nalapho abantu bebegawula khona izihlahla ukuthola izinkuni zokubasa, izimvula zigugule inhlabathi kwakheka udonga. Amachwane angangena kalula kulezindonga. Futhi kunengozi yokuthi izimbuzi zingashaywa yizinyoka.’

‘Yebo Sipho. Kuningi okudinga ukwenziwa! Kufanele siphe izilwane zethu ukudla okunomsoco. Kufanele siqinisekise ukuthi zinamanzi. Kufanele sizivikele ezingozini noma ekuthathweni yizinyoka noheshane noma ngabantu. Kufanele futhi siziqaphelise ukuthi azinazimpawu yini zokugula.’

‘Iqiniso lelo. Futhi kufanele sizivimbe zingayi emasimini abanye abantu. Nosipho, ngiyajabula ukuthi yihlobo. Ngoba kusuke kusakhanya uma sesiqeda umsebenzi wethu futhi sinesikhathi sokudlala.’



‘That’s a good idea, Nosipho. I also have to think about how to keep the goats safe.’

‘All the new kids are growing well. But summer is a dangerous time for them. There is heavy rain in the summer. Where people have chopped down green trees for firewood, the rains have washed away the soil and made dongas. Kids can easily fall into them. There is also a danger that goats will be bitten by snakes.’

‘Yes, Sipho. There is so much to do! We have to feed our animals nutritious food. We have to make sure they have water. We have to prevent them from having accidents or being taken by snakes or hawks – or people. We also have to watch them carefully for any signs of sickness.’

‘That’s true. And we have to stop them going into other people’s fields! I am glad it is summer, Nosipho. At least it is still light when we have finished our work and we have time to play.’

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### ***Isigaba 6. Ukugcina izilwane zethu ziphilile futhi ziphephile – ukugoma***

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Sanibonani! Yimina uNosipho. Usakhumbula ukuthi ngesonto elidlule sinoSipho iwele lami besinitshela ngazo zonke izinto ekufanele sizenze ukugcina izilwane zethu ziphilile futhi ziphephile? Nokho,

kukhona engakhohlwa ukukusho. Ungaqagela ukuthi yini leyo?

Ukugoma. Uyazi ukuthi yini ukugoma na?

Ukugoma kuyindlela yokuthi unike umuntu noma isilwane isikalo esilinganisiw e segciwane

elithize ukuvikela ukungena kwalesosifo. Umzimba wakha izivikelamzimba ukulwa namagciwane. Ngaleyondlela, uyagomeka noma uyavikeleka ezifweni.

UMama uhambisa uNoluthando, udadewethu emtholampilo ukuze agonywe. Uneminyaka ewu 5 futhi uzothola umjova engalweni ukumvikela kwisimungumungwane, kanye namathonsi okumvikela ukuthi angangenwa uvendle. Uhamba nomzala wethu.

Abawuthandi umjovo. Niyayibona indlela abadinwe ngayo!



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### ***Chapter 6. Keeping our animals healthy and safe – vaccination***

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Good day! It's Nosipho here again. Do you remember that last week Sipho, my twin brother, and I were telling you about all the things we have to do to keep our animals healthy and safe? Well, I forgot to mention something else. Can you guess what it is?



Vaccination. Do you know what vaccination is? A vaccination is a way of giving a person or an animal a small, weak amount of the germ that causes a disease. This causes the body to make anti-bodies to fight the germ. That way, it develops immunity, or protection, against the disease.

Mom is taking our sister, Noluthando, to the clinic to be vaccinated. She is 5 and she will get an injection in her arm, to protect her from measles, and some drops to stop her from getting polio. She is going with our cousin.

They don't like injections. You can see how cross they look in this picture!



Izolo kade ngisiza uMama egoma izinkukhu, ukuze zingangenwa uvolomisa. Ngaphambi kwayizolo bekufanele ukuthi ngibambe zonke izinkukhu ngizivalele,

UMama wathi ngingaziniki amanzi. Ngaphambi kokuba ngiye esikoleni namuhla ekuseni, sincibilikise iphilisi lomgomo emanzini. Amanzi anomgomo ngiwanike izinkukhu. Besezomiwe kakhulu zawaphuza wonke!

Izinkukhu eziningi zizovikeleka ngalomgomo. Inkinga ukuthi ezinye zazo beseziqalile ukugula. Namuhla ekuseni, izinkukhu ezimbili bezibukeka zikhathele futhi bezingadli. Ngimtshelile uMama kodwa ubephuthuma ukuthola imoto ezomhambisa emtholampilo.

Ngike ngimbone uMama elapha izinkukhu ezigulayo ngenhlaba. Ngizozama ukwenza lokho. Ngizoyiqoba inhlaba bese ngiyicwilisa emanzini. Ngizobese ngikupha izinkukhu lokho. Ucabanga ukuthi lokho kuzosebenza?

Kungabe uyazibuza ukuthi kwenzekeni kuSipho? Kunenkomo egulayo usiza uXolani noMalume ngayo. Kufanele abuye manje noma sizoshiywa isikhathi sokuya esikoleni.



Yesterday I helped Mom to vaccinate the chickens, to stop them from getting Newcastle disease. I had to catch all the chickens the night before and shut them away.

Mom said I must not give them any water. Then, before I went to school this morning, we dissolved a vaccine tablet in water. I gave the water with the vaccine in it to the chickens. They were so thirsty that they drank it all!

The vaccine should protect most of the chickens. The problem is that some of them were already sick. This morning, two hens looked very tired and they were not eating. I told Mom but she was rushing to get transport to the clinic.

I have seen Mom use aloe to treat sick chickens. I am going to try that. I will chop up the aloe stem and soak it in water. Then I will feed that to the chickens. Do you think that will work?

Are you wondering what has happened to Sipho? He is helping Xolani and our uncle with a sick cow. He must come soon, or we will be late for school.



## Isigaba 7. Ukushintsha kwesikhathi sonyaka

Siyethemba ukuthi niwathokozele amaholidi esikole! Thina, siwathokozele. UBaba ubebuyile ekhaya ngempelasonto. Usithengele izingubo ezintsha zaseGoli. Wathengela uMama ijezi elihle.

Usakhumbula ukuthi enye yezinkomo zakithi yayigula ngaphambi kwamaholidi? Yayinomkhuhlane futhi yayingathandi ukudla. Yayizilalela phansi futhi iphefumula ngokushesha.

UXolani noMalume abazanga ukuthi yini inkinga kuyona. Bahamba bayobonana nendodana kaMama wakwaMchunu. Wafika, wayibheka wathi inkomo inombendeni odalwa imikhaza. Wathi inkomo ingafa uma singayijovi. Umuthi wawubiza kakhulu. Umama wadayisa izinkukhu ezintathu ukuze akwazi ukuwukhokhela kwadingeka nokuthi uXolani awulande kwaNobamba. Esebuyile, wabophela inkomo esibondeni wase esiza uMalume ukuthi bayibambe ngesikhathi indodana kaMama wakwaMchunu iyijova ngomjovo omkhulu. Manje isibangcono. UBaba wajabula kakhulu wase ethengela uMama ezinye futhi izinkukhu.

Sekusekwindla, izimvula sezidlulile sekuyabanda manje ebusuku. Bekunezinyoka eziningi nezimpungushe. Njengoba nobusika bufika nje, namadlelo angeke abekhona kahle. Kufanele sakhe isu lokuthi sizosisiza kanjani ukuze ziphile. Sizothatha uhambo lapha epulazini lethu ukuze sibheke ukuthi singasithuthukisa kanjani isimo sendawo ezilwaneni kanye nakithi imbala. Yini ungenzi okufanayo nawe?



## Chapter 7. A change of season



We hope you enjoyed your school holidays! We did. Our Dad came home for a week. He bought us new clothes from Johannesburg. He bought a beautiful jersey for Mom.

Do you remember that one of our cows was sick before the holidays? It had a fever and it didn't want to eat. It just lay on the ground, breathing quickly.

Xolani and Uncle could not work out what was wrong with it. So they went to see Mrs. Mchunu's son. He came to see the cow and said the cow had redwater, which is caused by ticks. He said the cow could die if we didn't inject it. The medicine was very expensive. Mom sold three chickens to pay for it and Xolani had to go all the way to Weenen to fetch it. When he came back, he tied the cow to a pole and helped Uncle to hold it. Then Mrs. Mchunu's son gave it a big injection. Now it is getting better. Dad was very happy and he bought Mom some more chickens.

Photo: Victor Dlamini

It is autumn, the rains are over and it is getting cold at night. There have been a lot of snakes around, as well as jackals.

Winter is coming, so there won't be much grazing for the animals. We need to plan how we will help them to survive. We are going to take a walk around our farm and see what we can do to improve the environment for our livestock – and for us. Why don't you do the same?



## ***Isigaba 8: Singasiza kanjani ukuthi indawo ibe ngephephile nenempilo?***

Mina noNosipho kade sibheka lapha endaweni ukuthi singenzenjani ukuze indawo yethu kube ngephephile nenempilo, kithina nasemfuyweni yethu.

NgoMgqibelo, uMalume benoXolani babelungisa uphahla lwendlu kaXolani. Bazilahla cishe zonke izinsimbi nezingcingo ezasezonakele ezasala kade besebenza kodwa kukhona ozincane ezazisagcwele phansi. Kungumsebenzi kaNosipho ukushanela. Akalubonanga ucezu oluhlabayo lwensimbi olwaluphansi, walunyathela. Wopha kakhulu onyaweni. Namhlanje akekho ngoba uhambe noGogo baye esibhedlela. Uzofike athole umjovo wokuvikela ukuthi imisipha ingagongobali noma iqine ebizwa nge (tetanus) kanye nemithi yokubulala amagciwane.

Lokhu kube yisifundo esibuhlungu sokuthi sigcine indawo ihlanzekile. Ngishanele ibala lonke ukuqinisekisa ukuthi akekho omunye ozolimala. Ngithole namabhodlela afile kanye nebhodlela lanemenayidi elivuliwe elinophalafini. Ngitshele uMama ukuthi enye yezingane ngabe iwuphuzile.

Kufanele uzibheke ngokuqaphela izingane ezincane, njengezimbu, ukuqinisekisa ukuthi azihambi noma yikuphi zilahleke noma zilimale. Isango lakithi belinembobo enkulu ebekungaphuma kuyo izingane, izimbu kanye nezinja. Ngiqeda ukusiza uMalume ukuthi alilungise ngofenisi wezinkukhu. Ngithe ngibona, umfowethu omncane uGcina uzikhelela amanzi ngenkomishi esitsheni samanzi, ngezandla ezingcolile! Ngimtshelele ukuthi kufanele acele umuntu omdala ukuthi amthelele amanzi kodwa akazange aqonde ukuthi ngisho ukuthini.

## ***Chapter 8: How do we promote a safe and healthy environment?***

Nosipho and I have had a good look around to see how we can make our environment safe and healthy, for ourselves and our livestock.



On Saturday, our uncle and Xolani were fixing the roof of Xolani's hut. They threw away most of the rusted metal and wire that was left but there were some small pieces scattered around. It's Nosipho's job to sweep. She didn't notice one sharp piece of metal on the ground and she stood right on it. Her foot was bleeding badly. She is not here today because she went to hospital with Granny. She is going to get a tetanus injection and antibiotics.



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So that was a painful lesson about keeping the environment clean. I swept the whole yard to make sure no one else got hurt. I also found some broken glass and an open cool drink bottle that had some paraffin inside. I told Mom that one of the small children could have drunk that!

You have to watch the little children carefully, like goats, to make sure they don't wander off and get lost or hurt. Our gate had a big gap that the children, the goats and the dogs could climb through. I have just helped Uncle fix it with chicken mesh. When I turned round, I saw our little brother, Gcina, dipping a cup into the water container with his dirty hand! I told him he must ask

someone to pour water for him but he didn't understand.

Ngisize uMama ukuthi afake ithisipuni elilodwa lika - jik kuzozonke izitsha zamanzi ezingamalitha angu 25 amanzi asemfuleni. UMama uthe kufanele sinoNosipho sibheke ukuthi izitsha zamanzi zihlale zivaliwe. Uma singakwenzi amagciwane azokwanda siphathwe yisifo sohudo noma esamathumbu noma ikholera.

Ngesikhathi uBaba ekhona ngoGudi, sahlaba imbuzi. Isihlahleliwe seyilungele ukuphekwa, uMalume waphonsela izinja zakhe inhloko nobuchopho. Izinja zayithakasela kodwa ukudla inyama engaphekiwe, ikakhulukazi ubuchopho kanye nesibindi yindlela elula yokwanda kwezikelemu kubantu nasezilwaneni. UBaba uyavuma ukuthi izikelemu zingenza izifo eziningi nokuthi uma kunesilwane isisodwa esigulayo singathelela umhlambi wonke. Uxoxisane noMalume ngakho.

Ngempelasonto uNosipho ubezama ukwakha isidleke sokuzalela izinkukhu. UMama uthenge ezimbili, uNosipho uqoqe utshani wazama ukubheka kwesezakhiwe ukuthi senziwa kanjani. Esokuqala asenzile sibukeke sengathi ngesenyoni enkulu. Ubungaboni nokuthi inkukhu kufanele ingene ngakuphi! Ngicabanga ukuthi udinga umuntu ozomtshengisa ukuthi senziwa kanjani.

Umsebenzi wami obalulekile njengamanje ukuqinisekisa ukuthi izimbuzi aziguli. Ukudla akwenele kahle futhi isilwane esilambile kulula ukuthi sigule kunesidla kahle. Lokhu kwenziwa ukuthi uma isilwane noma umuntu bencipha emzimbeni izivikela mzimba ziyakhathala noma zingasebenzi kahle ukulwa nawo wonke amagciwane kanye nezifo eziwuhlaselayo.

Izinkomo zidla buqamamana nasekhaya. Zisaluthola utshani namanzi enele kodwa uXolani ukhathazekile ngamasela. Kusanda kuntshontshwa inkomo yomlimi ongumakhelwane manje uXolani useziqaphe kakhulu. Kungabe nawe unalezizinkinga? Ngineqiniso unamasu okuthi zingaxazululeka kanjani!



I helped Mom put one teaspoon of bleach into every 25-litre container of water from the river. Mom said that Nosipho and I must always check that the containers are covered. Otherwise, germs will spread and we can get diarrhoea, or even typhoid or cholera.

When Dad was here at Easter, we slaughtered a goat. After it was all cut up ready for cooking, Uncle threw the head and brains to his dogs. The dogs enjoyed that but eating raw meat, especially brains and liver, is a quick way to spread worms – to people and animals. Dad agreed that worms can cause lots of diseases and one sick animal can make a whole herd sick. He spoke to Uncle about it.

Nosipho was busy trying to make a chicken nest at the weekend. Mom bought two nests and Nosipho collected grass and was trying to copy the way the nests were made. Her first attempt looked like a hammerkop nest. You couldn't even see where the chicken was supposed to go in! I think she needs someone to show her how to do it.

My main job now is to make sure the goats don't get sick. There is not so much food around and a hungry animal is more likely to get sick than one that is well fed. That is because when an animal, or a person, gets too thin, their immune system gets weak and it can't fight off all the germs and diseases waiting to attack it.

The cows are grazing further and further from home. They are still getting enough grass and water but Xolani is worried about thieves. A neighbouring farmer had a cow stolen recently, so Xolani is keeping a close watch. Are you having problems like this too? I am sure you have some ideas about how to solve them!



## ***Isigaba 9. Singakuthukisa kanjani ukudla okunempilo? Ukuqinisekisa ukudla namadlelo afanele***

Sanibonani! Yimina uNosipho. Sengibuyile, ngifake ibhandishi elikhulu onyaweni. Wayekhathazeke kakhulu uMama ngoba ngopha kakhulu ngesikhathi ngisikeka. Wangenzela ukudla engikuthandayo sengibuya esibhedlela. Isitambu kanye nethanga. Ngiyakuthanda ukudla okunempilo. USipho, uthanda okungenampilo njengesinkwa esimhlophe esinopholoni kanye namashibusi!

‘Hawu, Nosipho! Ngiyakudla nokunempilo, njengamaqanda, ubhontshisi kanye nemifino. Kodwa uma usebenza kanzima njengami kufanele udle ukudla okuzokunika amandla. Lokho ukudla okukusuthisayo njengesinkwa nophuthu.’

‘Iqiniso lelo. Ngithanda uphuthu noshatini oshisayo, ikakhulukazi uma kumakhaza.’

‘Ngithanda isitshulu uma kumakhaza. Esenkukhu ngisithanda kakhulu.’

‘Sinenhlanhla thina ngoba siyakwazi nokukhetha izinhlobo zokudla, noma ngabe isebusika. Ngiyajabula angiyona inkomo! Ehlobo zidla utshani kanti futhi nasebusika zidla bona utshani obungenele!’

‘Yebo, nezimbuzi kuyafana. Ehlobo ziyakhuluphala zidla ezihlahleni zameva kanti ebusika kufanele zicokame zifune amaqabunga.’



## ***Chapter 9. How do we promote good nutrition? Ensuring adequate food and grazing***

Hello there! It's Nosipho. I'm back home with a big bandage on my foot. My Mom was very worried when I cut myself because there was so much blood. She made me my favourite food when I got back from the hospital. That is samp, beans and pumpkin. I like healthy food. Sipho likes unhealthy food. His favourite is white bread with polony and chips!

‘Hawu, Nosipho! I also eat healthy food, like eggs, beans and vegetables. But when you work hard like I do, you have to eat plenty of carbohydrates. Those are foods that fill you up, like bread and phuthu.’

‘That's true. I like phuthu and hot chutney, especially when the weather is cold.’

‘I like stew when it's cold. Chicken stew is the best.’

‘We are lucky because we still have a choice of food, even in the winter. I am glad I am not a cow! In the summer they only eat grass and in the winter they just eat less grass!’

‘Yes, and the goats are the same. In the summer they get fat on shoots from the thorn trees and in the winter they have to stand on tiptoe to find any leaves.’

'Izinkukhu zidla noma ngabe yini. Zingadla noma yiziphi izicucu esizishiyayo. UMama noma uGogo bazokuthenga ukudla kwazo uma kunesidingo. Sipho, uzoqinisekisa kanjani ukuthi kulobusika izimbuzi azilambi?'

'Kuzofanele ngizihambise buqamama nasekhaya ukuze zithole ukudla. Lokho kusho ukuthi ngizozibuyisela ekhaya uma sekuhlwile. Lokho kwenza kubenzima ukwenza umsebenzi wami wesikole. Ngo – Agasti kungenzeka ngizigawulele izihlahla ukuze zikwazi ukuthola amaqabunga.'

'Ungakhohlwa ukubheka isibhuzazane lesi engasithengelwa uMama. Uqinisekise ukuthi sithola ukudla okwenele!'

'Ngizibheka zonke, Nosipho. Sithembele ezilwaneni zethu njengabantu basedolobheni abathembele emalini. Uma oyedwa wabo engashona, umndeni wonke uzohlupheka.'

'Bheka, nang' uGogo. Ubukeka ekhathazekile... Gogo, Gogo! Kukhona yini okungalungile?'

'Ngibuya emhlanganweni wabalimi bazukulu. Kuqubuke isifo sikapokisi wezinkukhu (uqhagisa). Kufanele sigome zonke izinkukhu zethu ngokushesha. Inkinga ukuthi okwamanje awutholakali umgomo. UXolani uhambe eyothenga umgomo wokwenza ukuthi amathole angangenwa umkhonywana wase ebuza nomgomo wezinkukhu. Ubukhona esitolo kodwa usuphelelwe isikhathi ungeke usasebenza. Akengiyokhuluma noMama wenu ngalokhu.'

'Oh, Sipho, njalo ngeviki kubakhona inkinga ngezilwane. Ngicabanga ukuthi kufanele ngifundele ukuba ngudokotela wezilwane.'

'Amantombazane awabi odokotela bezilwane! Okokuqala awavumelekile esibayeni.'

'Amantombazane angaba yinoma yini, Sipho! Linda nje wena, ngizoba udokotela wezilwane!'



'The chickens will eat anything. They can eat whatever scraps we leave. Mom or Granny will buy some chicken feed if they have to. How are you going to make sure the goats don't go hungry this winter, Sipho?'

'Well, I will have to take them further away from home to browse. That's means I won't bring them home until after dark. It is hard for me to do my homework then. By August, I might have to cut branches down for them to get enough green leaves.'

'Don't forget to keep your eye on the kid that Mom bought me. Make sure she gets enough to eat!'

'I watch them all, Nosipho. We depend on our animals like people in town depend on money. If any of them dies, the whole family will be poorer.'

'Look, there's Granny. She is looking worried...Gogo, Gogo! What is wrong?'

'I just came from a farmers' meeting, children. There is an outbreak of fowlpox. We need to vaccinate all our chickens as soon as possible. The problem is, there is no vaccine available. Xolani went to buy vaccine to stop calves from getting blackquarter and he asked for the fowlpox vaccine. The store had some but it was old, so it would not be effective. Let me go and discuss this with your mother.'

'Oh, Sipho, every week there seems to be a problem with the animals. I think maybe I should train to be a vet.'

'Girls can't be vets! They are not allowed in the kraal for a start.'

'Girls can be anything, Sipho! You just wait, I *will* be a vet!'



## Isigaba 10. Sikuthuthukisa kanjani ukugoma?

Sanibonani nonke! Ninjani? Mina noSipho siyaphila. Selungcono nonyawo lwami noGogo ukwazile ukuthola umgomo kapokisi wezinkukhu.

‘Nosipho, ziningi izifo ongazivikela ngokuthi kugonywe abantu nezilwane. Zonke izingane emndenini wethu zagonyelwa uvendle, isimungumungwane, isifo sesibindi, isifo sokuvimbaniseka emphinjeni esithathelanayo, isifo sofuba, isifo samathumbu kanye nesifo solwembu esiba sebuchosheni (ukuphathwa ikhanda).’

‘Yebo, uSipho, nami sagonyelwe nokubopheka kwemisipha ikakhulukazi yemihlathi nomhlane (umhlathingqi).’

‘Nakuba sihlala endaweni ekude nedolobha, kodwa uma singathola imoto yokusiyisa emtholampilo, ukugoma kumahhala. Uhulumeni uyawukhokhela. Ngalokho akufanele izingane zibe nezifo ebezingavikeleka.’

‘Inkinga enkulu ngokugoma izilwane ukuthi kuyabiza. Kufanele uwuthenge umgomo. Noma ngabe unezinkomo ezimbalwa uthenga ongagoma izinkomo eziyikhulu ngoba uthengwa ngezitsha ezinkulu.’

‘Enye futhi inkinga ukuthi kufanele unikeze isikalo esibekiwe. Iningi labantu abadala abayifundi futhi abayilandeli imigomo ebekiwe. Abanye abalimi abasebenzisi umgomo owenele ngoba uyabiza futhi bafuna nokuyigcina ukuze bayisebenzise futhi.’

‘Lokho kuyiphutha elikhulu. Uma unganikezi isikalo esifanele, isilwane ngeke sivikeleke. Futhi uma ugcina umgomo isikhathi eside noma ungawugcini ubanda kuzofana nokuthi uzichithela isikhathi.’

## Chapter 10. How do we promote vaccination?

Hello everyone! How are you? Sipho and I are fine. My foot is better and Granny managed to get some fowlpox vaccine for the chickens.

‘There are a lot of diseases that you can prevent by vaccinating people and animals, Nosipho. All the children in our family have been vaccinated against polio, measles, hepatitis, diphtheria, tuberculosis (TB), typhoid and meningitis.’

‘Yes, Sipho, and I’ve been vaccinated against tetanus too.’

‘Even though we live in an area that is far from town, if we can get transport to the clinic, immunisation is free. The government pays for it. So, there is no reason for children to get preventable diseases.’

‘The big problem with vaccinating animals is that it is expensive. You have to buy the vaccines. If you have only a few cows, you might have to buy enough vaccine for 100 because it only comes in big containers.’

‘Another problem is that you have to give the right amount of vaccine. A lot of the older people can’t read the instructions. Some farmers don’t use enough of the vaccine because it costs so much and they want to save some for another time.’

‘That’s a big mistake. If you don’t give the right dose, the animal will not be protected. If you keep the vaccine for too long, or you don’t keep it cold, it will be useless anyway.’



Images: Lambert Vet Supply, USA

'Noma ngabe uyakwazi okwenzayo, kunzima ukujova isilwane esikhulu njengenkomo noma inkunzi. Nisakhumbula ngesikhathi enye yezinkomo zethu inombendeni? Ngasiza uMalume noXolani ukubamba inkomo ngesikhathi ijova. Kwakufanele sisebenzise wonke amandla ukuze ingasikahleleli esibayeni!'

'Iningi labalimi alifuni ukugoma. Balinda size sigule isilwane ngaphambi kokuthi benze okuthize. Nosipho, asibuze uGogo ukuthi angakwazi yini ukusitshengisa ukuthi zigonywa kanjani izinkukhu.'

'Kulungile. Gogo sicela ukukusiza ekugomeni izinkukhu upokisi?'

'Yebo, bazukulu. Ngemuva kwalokho ningangisiza ngibonise uMalume wenu ukuthi agome izinja zakhe!'

'Izinja zakhe? Zigomeleni, Gogo?'

'Ukuze zingangenwa amarabi.'

'Yini amarabi, Gogo?'

'Isifo samarabi sibi kakhulu. Uma Umuntu elunywe yinja enamarabi, angafa ukufa okubuhlungu ngaphandle uma ethola usizo ngokushesha.'

'Angikaze ngizwe ngalokho. Uqinisekile ukuthi singawathola amarabi nalapha?'

'Usuku owazalwa ngalo Nosipho, kukhona ingane eyabulawa amarabi kude buduze nalapha. Akubanga yinto enhle ukuyibona. Wayenesifo sokuwa eshisa nasemzimbeni akukho okwakumenza azizwe engcono. Konke lokhu yingenxa yomakhelwane abangazigomi izinja zabo. Ngizwe kuthiwa naseDundee kwenzeke okufanayo kulonyaka.'

'Oh Gogo, nakanjani uMalume uzozigoma izinja zakhe uma ezwa lokho.'

'Asethembe kanjalo, bazukulu.'



'Even if you know what you are doing, it is difficult to inject a big animal like a cow or bull. Do you remember when one of our cows had redwater? I helped Uncle and Xolani to hold it down for the injection. We had to use all our strength so that it did not kick us across the kraal!'

'A lot of farmers don't want to vaccinate. They wait until an animal is sick before they do anything. Nosipho, let's ask Granny if she will show us how to vaccinate the chickens.'

'Okay. Gogo, can we help you give the chickens the fowlpox vaccine?'

'Yes, my children. And after that, you can help me persuade your uncle to get his dogs vaccinated!'

'His dogs? What for, Gogo?'

'To stop them from getting rabies.'

'What is rabies, Gogo?'

'Rabies is the most terrible disease. If a person is bitten by a dog with rabies, they will die a horrific death unless they are treated immediately.'

'I've never heard of that. Are you sure we get rabies here?'

'The very day you were born, Nosipho, a child died of rabies not far from here. It was a pitiful sight. She had fits and fevers and nothing could comfort her. All because the neighbours would not vaccinate their dogs. I hear there has been a case of rabies near Dundee this year.'

'Oh, Gogo, Uncle is sure to vaccinate the dogs when he hears that.'

'Let us hope so, children.'



## Isigaba 11. Amarabi!

Sanibonani nonke! Mina noNosipho sibe nevisi elimatasa kakhulu. Esikoleni sibe nezivivinyo zeMaths kanye ne Natural Science ebezinzima nokho. Okukodwa okuhle ngokubheka imfuyo ukuthi iyasisiza kwi- Natural Science. Okubi nje ukuthi ukubheka izilwane kusho ukuthi sihlala singenaso isikhathi nomfutho owenele wokuthi sifundele izivivinyo.



UGogo ukhulume noMalume mayelana nokugonyelwa kwezinja amarabi. Uthe angeke abe nayo imali yokukwenza kodwa simtshelile ukuthi kumahlala. Uhulumeni uyakukhokhela ngoba amarabi yisifo esiyingozi kakhulu. Singabulala izinja zethu, izimbuzi kanye nezinkomo. Okubi kunakhokonke singabulala abantu – kanti yizingane ezisengozini enkulu.

UMalume uthe ezakhe izinja azidingi ukugonywa. “Niyazibonela nani ukuthi ziphilile” wasitshela nokuthi “Ngisebenzisa umuthi ophambili ukuzigcina ziphilile futhi zinamandla okuzingela futhi lokho kuzozivikela ekutheni zingangenwa amarabi,” Manje asazi ukuthi singambonisa sithini.

UNosipho benoGogo bahambe bachitha intambama yonke eMnqakantaba bebuka indoda eyakha izidleke zezinkukhu. Izolo kade ezama ukuzakha, wakhe okuthi akufane nesidleke sezinyoni!

‘Hawu Sipho, kulula kuwe ukuthi ugxeke ube ungakazami nawe ngokwakho!’

‘Kulungile, ngizozama bese ngiyakukhombisa ukuthi senziwa kanjani!’

## Chapter 11. Rabies!



Hello everyone! Nosipho and I have had a hectic week! We had some very difficult tests at school, for Maths and Natural Sciences. One good thing about looking after livestock is that it helps us with Natural Sciences. One bad thing is that looking after animals means we don't always have enough time and energy to study for our schoolwork.

Granny spoke to Uncle about vaccinating the dogs against rabies. He said he couldn't afford to do it but we told him it was free. The

government pays for it because rabies is such a dangerous disease. It can kill our dogs, our goats and our cattle. Worst of all, it can kill people – and children are most at risk.

Then Uncle said his dogs did not need to be vaccinated. “You can see with your own eyes how healthy they are,” he told us. “I use special muthi to keep them fit for hunting and that will also stop them from getting rabies.” Now we don't know how we can persuade him.

Nosipho went with Granny and spent a whole afternoon watching a man on the other side of Mnqakantaba making chicken nests. She has been practising and yesterday she made something that looked a bit like a nest – for a pigeon!

‘Oh, Sipho, it's easy for you to criticise when you haven't tried it yourself!’

‘Okay, I will try – and then I'll show you how to do it properly!’



'Yima, Sipho. Thula, yini leyo?  
Lalela... UNoluthando uyakhala!'

'Nosipho, nanguya,  
ngasemgaqweni... Kunenja  
emjahayo. Asiphuthume siye kuye!'

'Gijima, Noluthando! Gijima! Siyeza.  
Sipho phuthuma angikwazi ukugijima  
kahle unyawo lwami alukapholi.  
Ngizobiza uMalume noXolani.

MALUME! MALUME! Phuthumani!'

'Nosipho, kwenzenjani?'

'UNoluthando ujahwa yinja. Malume  
bheka, uSipho usekuye kodwainja  
isibajaha bobabili.'

'Buyela emuva, Nosipho. Shesha,  
Sipho ngena ngesango. Ngizoyixosha  
leyanja.'

'Uqaphele, Malume. Iyahlanya  
leyanja. Bheka iphuma amagwebu ngomlomo futhi iyangqavuza  
njengengwenya!'

'Ngicabanga ukuthi inamarabi Malume.'

'Nosipho, ngicabanga ukuthi kufanele umhambise ngokushesha  
uNoluthando ngaphakathi endlini kuMama wakho.'

'Yebo, Malume.'



'Wait, Sipho. Shh, what's that?  
Listen... It's Noluthando, she's crying!'

'There she is, over there by the road,  
Nosipho... There's a dog chasing her!  
Quick, let's go and get her!'

'Run, Noluthando! Run! We're  
coming. Sipho, please go quickly. I  
can't run fast because my foot is still  
tender. I'll call Uncle and Xolani.

MALUME! MALUME! Come quickly!'

'What's wrong Nosipho?'

'Noluthando is being chased by a dog,  
Malume! Look, Sipho has got her but  
now the dog is chasing them both.'

'Stay back, Nosipho. Quick, come  
inside the gate, Sipho. I will get rid of  
that dog.'

'Be careful, Malume. That dog is  
crazy. Look, it has foam coming from its mouth and it is snapping like  
a crocodile!'

'I think it has rabies, Malume.'

'I think you should take Noluthando inside to your mother right now,  
Nosipho.'

'Yes, Malume.'



## Isigaba 12. Sikwelapha kanjani ukugula nezifo?

Sanibonani futhi! Yimina uNosipho. Ningaqagela ukuthi kwenzekeni ngeviki eledlule ngemuva kokuthi uSipho esize uNoluthando kuleyanja eyayinolaka? Nokho, uMalume wayixosha kodwa kwathi ngemuva kwezinsuku ezimbili ngesikhathi uXolani ebuyisa izinkomo ekhaya wayithola esikhotheni isifile.

Ngemuva kwalokho uMalume uthathe isinqumo sokuthi izinja zakhe kufanele zigonywe. Uthe nakuba izinja zakhe ziphilile, kuhle ukuthi angathathi izinto kancane njengoba abanye abantu benza izinto ngokunganaki. Utshale bonke omakhelwane ukuthi kufanele bagome izinja zabo. Abanye banqabile kodwa wabatshela ukuthi kumakhala futhi lokho kungavikela impilo yesilwane esibalulekile ngisho nengane imbala.

UGogo akazange asho lutho wasicishela ihlo nje kuphela. Amarabi ayesabeka ngoba uma ungawathola awelapheki. Sonke siyazi ukuthi ingculaza ayelapheki kodwa kubangcono uma uthola imithi ekuyiyonayona, ungaphila impilo enhle isikhathi eside. Yebo, ziningi izifo ezingelapheka futhi ziphele. Ngifuna ukuthola ulwazi oluningi mayelana nezifo zezilwane nokuthi zelashwa kanjani. Ngempela ngifuna ukuba udokotela wezilwane.

Ngifuna ukufunda ngemithi yesilungu kodwa futhi ngifuna nokufunda ngemithi yokwelapha ngesintu. Abantu abadala, abafana noGogo noMama kaXolani bazi kabanzi ngalezozinto.



## Chapter 12. How do we treat sickness and disease?

Hello again! It's Nosipho here. Can you guess what happened last week after Sipho saved Noluthando from that vicious dog? Well, Uncle chased it away but two days later, Xolani found it dead in the bush when he was bringing the cattle home.

Then Uncle decided to get his dogs vaccinated against rabies. He said his dogs were fine but other people were very irresponsible, so it was best not to take a chance. He told all the neighbours that they must vaccinate their dogs. Some refused but he told them it was free and it could save the life of a valuable animal, or even a child.

Granny didn't say anything but she winked at us. Rabies is so scary because if you get it, there is no cure. We all know that AIDS has no cure but at least if you get the right treatment, you can live a long, healthy life. Of course, there are lots of diseases that *can* be treated and cured. I want to find out as much as possible about animal diseases and how to treat them. I really do want to become a vet.

I want to learn about modern medicines but I also want to learn about natural and traditional remedies. Old people, like Granny and Xolani's mother, know a lot about those things.

Bathi ezikhathini zakudala abalimi babenemihlambi emikhulu yezinkomo, izimbuzi, kanye nezimvu eyayihlale iphilile bengakaze basebenzise imithi yaseNtshonalanga. Babewochwepheshe zokuzelaphela imfuyo yabo. Kodwa manje kuthiwa bonke ochwepheshe baphuma ngaphandle. Ngizobacela ukuthi bangifundise nokunye.

Ngizocela uMalume angikhombise ukuthi zona izimbuzi zijovwa kanjani. USipho uthi amadoda nabafana kuphela abenza lokho. Angivumelani nalokhu. Ngicabanga ukuthi akukhathalekile ukuthi umuntu owesilisa noma owesifazane uma ekwazi ukwenza umsebenzi ngendlela efanele. Wena ucabangani?

Nokho, okwamanje leyongxoxo kuzomele ilinde. Kufanele ngihambe ngiyozejwayeza ukwenza isidleke senkukhu!



making a chicken nest!

They say that in the old days, farmers kept large, healthy herds of cattle, goats and sheep without using any Western medicine. They were experts at treating their own livestock. Now all the experts come from outside, they say. I am going to ask them to teach me more.

I'm going to ask Malume to show me how to give the goats injections too. Sipho says only men and boys can do that. I don't agree. I think if someone knows how to do a job properly, it doesn't matter if it is a male or a female. What do you think?

Well, that discussion will have to wait. For now, I have to go and practise



### ***Isigaba13. Bukani imfuyo yethu iphilile!***

Sanibonani, yimina uSipho! Sengiwahe kabi amaholide esikole. UNosipho yena uthi uzochitha isikhathi sakhe akha izidleke zezinkukhu. Ekugcineni useze wafunda ukuzakha kahle. Esikhathini esingaphambili bengimhleka kodwa manje sengihlabeka umxhwele. Wakhe isidleke esingena izinkukhu ezintathu, esebenzisa uqalo, uswazi kanye ncingo.

‘Uyazi Sipho, ngiyajabula ukuthi uyavuma ukuthi ngenze umsebenzi oncomekayo. Kungithathe isikhathi eside ukuqoqa uqalo, ngilukale, bese ngilusika ngobude obufanele. UMama ungiphe imali yokuthenga ucingo. Uma izinkukhu zisebenzisa izidleke, nenani elisetshenzisiwe ukuthenga ucingo ngeke lisho lutho kakhulu ngoba sizothola amaqanda kanye namachwane amaningi.’

‘Kulungile, Nosipho. Uyazi sisebenze kanzima kakhulu kulonyaka ukuthi sigcine imfuyo yethu iphephile futhi iphilile. Silekelele ukuthi kugonyelwe uvolomisa nopokisi ezinkukhwini saphinde sagqugquzela uMalume ukuthi agomele izinja zakhe amarabi. Ngabuye ngasiza kulungiswa isango ukuze izimbuzi nezinja, nezingane ezincane zingeke zikwazi ukuphumela ngaphandle kwegceke. Nokho angikaze ngilahlekelwe yimbuzi kulonyaka, noma hhayi ngaphezu kosuku olulodwa!’

‘Uqinisile, Sipho. Sizigcine zonke izilwane zondlekile, sazisusa nemikhaza...’

‘Yebo, kodwa hhayi yonke ngoba uBaba uthi imikhaza embalwa iyayisiza inkomo ekutheni igcine umzimba wayo uvikelekile ekungenweni yizifo ezifana nombendeni.’

### ***Chapter 13. Look at our healthy livestock!***



Hello, it's Sipho here! I am looking forward to the school holidays. Nosipho says she is going to spend her spare time making chicken nests. She has finally learned how to make them properly. I was laughing at her before but now I am impressed. She has made a nesting box for three hens from bamboo, cane and wire.

‘Well, Sipho, I am happy that you agree I did a good job. It took me a long time to collect all the bamboo, measure it and cut it to the right length. Mom gave me money to buy the wire. If the hens use the nest, it will be worth the expense because we will get more eggs and more new chicks. Sipho, can you help me put the nest up in that tree? Then it will protect the hens from snakes, as well as keeping them warm.’



‘Okay, Nosipho. You know, we have worked quite hard to keep our livestock safe and healthy this year. We have helped to vaccinate the chickens against Newcastle disease and fowl pox and persuaded Uncle to vaccinate his dogs against rabies. I helped fix the gate so that the goats and dogs – and little children – cannot get out of the yard. I have not lost one goat this year – well, not for more than a day!’

‘You are right, Sipho. We have kept all the animals well fed. We have picked ticks off them...’

‘Yes, but not all, because dad says a few ticks help cows maintain their immunity against diseases like redwater.’



'Izinkomo namathole zigonyelwe umbendeni kanye nomkhonywana.'

'Iqiniso lelo, kanti nezingane cishe zigonyelwe yonke into!'

'Nami ngemuva kokusikeka onyaweni kwadingeka ukuthi ngithole umgomo wokuvikela ukuqina noma ukubopheka kwemisipha (tetanus).'

'Nokho, kungcono ngoba ngakusiza ukuthi uhlanze igceke, ukuze sivikele ukwanda kwamagciwane nokuthi sisuse izinto ezingase zilimaze abantu noma izilwane.'

'Yebo, Sipho. Ungakhohlwa ukuthi saqinisekisa ukuthi amanzi esiwaphuzayo siwagcina ehlanzekile!'

'Uqinisile. Senze okuningi ukuqinisekisa ukuthi umndeni kanye nezilwane zethu zinendawo ephephile nephilile. Ngesikhathi wenza esinye isidleke sezinkukhu, ngizoyokhuluma noMalume benoXolani ngokuthi ngisize ngokuhambisa izinkomo ediphini. Sengiyakhula manje ukuthi ngingabhekana nezimbuzi!'

'Ha-ha, Sipho. Usaneminyaka ewu 12 futhi usemfishane kunami!'

'Yebo kodwa nawe usayintombazane, uzobheka izinkukhu kuphela!'

'The cows and calves have been vaccinated against redwater and black-quarter.'

'That's right and the children have been vaccinated against almost everything!'

'I even had to have a tetanus vaccination after I cut my foot.'

'Well, at least I helped you clean the yard properly to prevent the spread of bacteria and get rid of things that might injure a person or an animal.'

'Yes, Sipho. And don't forget that you and I also made sure that our drinking water was kept clean!'

'True. We have done a lot to make sure our family and our animals have a safe and healthy environment. While you are busy making another chicken nest, I'm going to talk to Uncle and Xolani about helping to take the cattle to the dip. I'm getting too old just to be looking after goats!'

'Ha-ha, Sipho. You are only 12 and you are still shorter than me!'

'Yes – and you are still a girl, so you can only look after chickens!'





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## ***Isigaba 14. Kungani kufanele siqonde ukuthi izifo zibangelwa yini?***

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Sanibonani, siyanamukela ngemuva kwekhefu. Yithina uSipho noNosipho. Siyethemba nibenekhefu alihle. Ngilidlale kakhulu ibhola kodwa futhi zonke izinsuku bengisiza uNosipho ngokuyokha amanzi. UNosipho uchethe isikhathi esiningi exoxa noGogo kanye nabanye abantu abadala.

‘Nanixoxa ngani Nosipho?’

‘Ngakutshela Sipho, ukuthi abantu abadala kuningi abakwaziyo ngokugcina imfuyo. Manje ngifuna ukuthola okuningi kubona.’

‘Ngoba yini?’

‘Kubaluleke kakhulu ukuthi siqonde okungenza izilwane zigule.’

‘Kodwa uma siqinisekisa ukuthi zithola ukudla namanzi, sizigcine ziphephile futhi sizigome akukho okungazigulisa.’

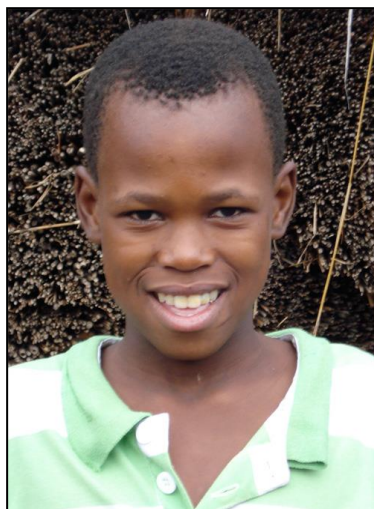
‘Akulula kanjalo Sipho. Uma siqonda okudala izifo lololwazi lungasisiza ekuvimbeni lezozifo kanye nasekuzelapheni ngendlela efanele. Isibonelo, usakhumbula ngesikhathi enye yezinkomo zethu inombendeni? Sasingazi ukuthi kwakuyisifo sini futhi isithole kanjani. Kwadingeka ukuthi sicele indodana kaMama wakwaMchunu ukuthi isitshale ukuthi uhloboluni lwesifo futhi singalashwa ngani. Manje sesiyazi ukuthi umbendeni ubangelwa imikhaza enamagciwane, nokuthi singawuvikela futhi siwelaphe kanjani.’

‘Yebo, kodwa izilwane zethu aziguli njalo. Noma ngabe kuyenzeka kuhlale kukhona umuntu eduze ongasiza.’

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## ***Chapter 14. Why do we need to understand what causes diseases?***

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Hello and welcome back from the school holidays! It's Sipho and Nosipho here again. We hope you had a good break. I played a lot of soccer – but I did help Nosipho to fetch water every day. Nosipho spent a lot of time talking to Granny and the other old people.

‘What were you talking about, Nosipho?’

‘Well, I told you, Sipho, that the older people know a lot about keeping livestock. I want to find out as much as I can from them.’

‘Why?’

‘It's very important to understand what can make animals get sick.’

‘But if we make sure they have food and water, keep them safe and vaccinate them, they won't get sick.’

‘It's not as simple as that, Sipho. If we understand what causes diseases, that knowledge will help us to prevent sickness and also to treat any sickness correctly. For example, do you remember when one of our cows had redwater? We didn't know what it was or how the cow got it. We had to ask Mrs. Mchunu's son to diagnose the disease and tell us what treatment to use. Now we know redwater is caused by infected ticks. We know how to prevent it and how to treat it.’

‘Yes, but our animals don't usually get sick. Even when they do, there is usually someone around who can help.’

'Sipho, kuyokwenzekani uma kungekho muntu? Uyazi uGogo kade engitshela ngesikhathi sisebancane ukuthi omunye womakhelwane wafelwa yiwo wonke amathole akhe ngenxa yesifo sohudo. UMkhulu wayesaphila ngalesosikhathi. Wayenezinkomo eziningi eyodwa yazo yabanaso kodwa akafelwanga nayithole elilodwa. Uyazi ngobani? Yingoba uMkhulu wayazi ukuthi inkomo enalesisifo inegciwane. Amagciwane atholakala ebulongweni futhi angadlulela kwezinye izinkomo. Ngelokho, umkhulu wayelapha ngokushesha ngomthobo leyonkomo. Wayehlukanisa nezinye izilwane, ukuvikela ukuthi isifo singadluliseleki emhlambini. Ukuba wayengaqondi ukuthi isifo sidalwa yini, ngabe kwafa izinkomo eziningi.'

'Iqiniso Nosipho, kodwa wonke umuntu uyazi ukuthi indle lingasabalalisa amagciwane!'

'Kungenzeka, kodwa akusibo bonke abantu abaziyo ukuthi kufanele benzeni ngakho nokuthi ayingozi kangani amagciwane ahlukene. Uyazi ukuthi zingakhi izifo izinkomo zakulendawo ezingazithola?'

'Mmm, kukhona umbendeni, umkhonywana, amaqhubu esikhunjani kanye namathumba... oh, namarabi. Kukhona nezinye ezingalingiselwa kweziwu10.'

'Noma eziwu 15, uGogo uzazi zonke ngamagama. Uyangifundisa ukuthi zidalwa yini nokuthi zelashwa kanjani ngabazifuyile uma bengakwazi ukuthenga umuthi esitolo. Ungifundisa futhi nangezifo ezitholwa yizinkukhu. Akusiwo uvolomisa nopokisi kuphela okungazibulala.'

'Kulungile, ngizokuhlola uma sengibuya. Ngisayolanda izimbuzi.'

'Kulungile, hambakahle.'

'Sipho, what will happen if there isn't anyone around? You know, Granny was telling me about a time – when we were young – when one of our neighbours lost all his calves because of diarrhoea. Grandpa was still alive then. He kept lots of cows and one of them had bad diarrhoea but he didn't lose any calves. Do you know why? It was because Grandpa knew that a cow with diarrhoea has probably been infected with a germ. Germs come out in the faeces and can spread to other cows. So, Grandpa treated the cow with 'weeping wattle' as soon as he noticed. Then he kept it away from all the other animals, to prevent the spread of disease in the herd. If he didn't understand what caused the disease, many of the cows could have died.'

'True, but everyone knows faeces can spread germs, Nosipho!'

'Maybe, but not everyone knows what to do about it or how dangerous different germs can be. Do you know how many different diseases cattle in this area can get?'

'Mmm. Well, there's redwater and blackquarter...and lumpy skin...and abscesses...oh, and rabies. There must be more – probably 10!'

'At least 15 – and Grandma knows all the names. She's teaching me what causes them all and how farmers treat them if they can't buy medicine from the store. She's also teaching me about diseases that chickens get. It's not only Newcastle and fowlpox that can kill them.'

'Okay, I'll test you when I come back. I'm going to fetch the goats now.'

'Okay, bye.'



***A calf with diarrhoea, caused by a bacterial infection.***

***Photo: Schering Plough Animal Health***



## Isigaba 15. Yini edala ukugula nezifo?

Sanibonani, yimina uNosipho. Kade ngisafunda ukuthi yini ebangela ukugula nezifo. Ngiyethemba ukuthi nonke nikulungele ukuzwa ngezilwane ezincane ezingathandeki!

Nginesiqiniseko niyazi ukuthi ukugula kwabantu nezilwane kusuke kubangelwa into ethize. Niyazi ukuthi yiziphi izimbangela ezimbili ezibalulekile ezidala izifo ezilwaneni?

Amagciwane nezimbungulu. Amagciwane mancane kakhulu asikwazi ukuwabona ngamehlo kodwa kunezigidi zezinhlobo ezahlukeni zawo. Amagciwane akuyoyonke indawo. Asizungezile, emoyeni, emanzini, esihlabathini, nakuzozonke izinto esizithintayo nakithi uqobo!

Ningakhathezeki, akusiwo wonke amagciwane adala izifo, futhi isikhathi esiningi imizimba yethu iyakwazi ukulwa namagciwane amabi. Ngaphandle uma igciwane elinengozi kakhulu lithole ithuba lokwanda noma uma amasosha omzimba engasebenzi kahle singazithola sigula. Okufanayo kuyenzeka ezilwaneni.

Uma isilwane sigula, singadlulisela amagciwane ayingozi kwezinye izilwane noma kubantu. Amagciwane angadluliseka ngokukhwehlela noma ukuthimula, nangezazi, umchamo kanye nendle.

Amanye amagciwane ayingozi kangokuthi uma isilwane siguliswa yiwo, kungafanele ukuthi sibulawe. Njengegciwane elidala iAnthrax. Isilwane esinalesifo kufanele sibulawe isidumbu singadliwa kufanele sishiswe bese siyagqitshwa ukuvikela ukuthi amagciwane angadluliseleki ezilwaneni noma kubantu. Yingakho kubalulekile ukugoma izinkomo ukuze zingalitholi.



**Amagciwane mancane kakhulu asikwazi ukuwabona ngamehlo kodwa akuyoyonke indawo!**

**Germes are too small to see with the naked eye but they are lurking everywhere!**

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## Chapter 15. What causes sicknesses and diseases?

Hello, it's Nosipho here. I have been finding out all about what causes sicknesses and diseases. I hope you are all ready to hear about some very nasty little bugs!

I am sure you know that people and animals can only get sick if something makes them sick. But do you know the two main causes of disease in animals?

They are germs and parasites. Germs are so small that we cannot see them with our eyes but there are MILLIONS of different kinds of them. Germs are everywhere. They are all around us, in the air, in the water, all over the ground, on everything we touch – and all over us!

Don't worry, not all germs cause diseases and most of the time, our bodies can fight off bad germs. It's only if a dangerous germ has a chance to spread or if our immune system is weak that we will get sick. The same thing happens to animals.

Once an animal gets sick, it can pass the dangerous germs to other animals, or people. Germs can spread through coughing and sneezing, and through blood, urine and faeces.

Some germs are so dangerous that if an animal gets infected by them, it may have to be killed. The germ that causes anthrax is like this. An animal with anthrax must be slaughtered. Its carcass cannot be eaten but must be burnt and buried to prevent the germs from spreading to more animals, or even to people. That's why it is so important to vaccinate cows against anthrax.



**Amagciwane amaningi adluliseka ngokukhwehlela noma ukuthimula.**

**Many germs are spread through the air, through sneezing and coughing.**

Izimbungulu izilwane ezincane ezitholakala ezilwaneni nakubantu. Ezinye zazo njengokhuphe, zincane kakhulu ukuthi ungazibona. Njengohlobo oluthile lwezintwala nemikhaza ungakubona uma ubhekisisa. Amanye njengamikhaza yezinkomo nezikelemu kungabonakala kalula. Uma ungayekelela imikhaza enkomeni isikhathi eside, ingakhuluphala ibe ngangesithupha igcwale igazi. Kuyethusa lokhu!



Izimbungulu zitholakala ngaphandle komzimba, njengemikhaza kanye nezintwala. Kukhona nezinye ezitholakala ngaphakathi emzimbeni njengezikelemu.

Izimbungulu zidala ukugula ngezindlela ezimbili. Ezinye ziphila ngegazi lakho bese uzizwa ungaphilile. Izikelemu zenza lokhu. Ezinye zithwala amagciwane angena emzimbeni wakho ngesikhathi izimbungulu zincipha igazi lakho. Imikhaza yenza lokhu. UGogo uthi umkhaza ufana netekisi lamagciwane adala umbendeni, umqhaqhazelo emazinyaneni kanye nesifo senyongo ezinkomeni nasezimbuzini.

UGogo uthi kufanele ngiqale ngibe umphenyinoma umseshi ngaphambi kokuba ngibe udokotela wezilwane. Uthi kufanele ngiphenye ukuthi amagciwane nezilokazane ezikhathazayo ziqhamukaphi nokuthi singazivimba kanjani ekuhlaseleni izilwane zethu.

Ngicabanga ukuthi lokhu ngizokuthokozela kodwa uSipho uthi akusemnandi ukuhlala nami.



Parasites are small creatures that live off animals and people. Some of them, such as mites, are too small to see. Some, like certain lice and ticks, can be seen if you look carefully. Others, like cattle ticks and worms, can be easily seen. If you leave ticks on a cow for very long, they can get as fat as your thumb with all the blood. It's gross!

There are parasites that live on the outside of the body, like ticks and lice. There are also parasites that live inside the body, like worms.

Parasites cause sickness in two ways. Some feed off your blood so that you get weak! Worms do this. Others carry germs that go into your body while the parasite is sucking your blood! Ticks do this. Granny says that a tick is like a taxi for the germs that cause redwater, heartwater and gall sickness in cattle and goats.

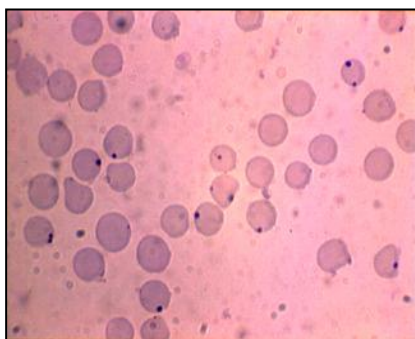
Granny says I have to be a detective before I can be a vet. She says I must investigate where all the germs and pests come from and how we can prevent them from attacking our animals.

I think this will be fun but Sipho says I am becoming very boring!



**You must look closely to see the lice that affect poultry.**

**Kufanele ubhekisise ukuze ubone izintwala ezihlasela izinkukhu.**



**The blue tick (above) causes gallsickness. The gallsickness organisms are the dark spots inside the red blood cells shown on the left.**

**Umkhaza (ngenhla) udala isifo senyongo. Amabala amnyama abonakala ngaphakathi kwamagobolondwana abomvu egazi yiwo ayimbangela lawa avezwe ngakwesesinxele.**



## ***Isigaba 16. Ungabona kanjani uma isilwane sigula?***

Sanibonani! Namuhla ngizizwa ngijabule kakhulu.

‘Wena Sipho uzizwa unjani?’

‘Eyi Nosipho! Ngizizwa ngiphelelwa amandla. Ngiphethwe ikhanda futhi umzimba wami wonke ubuhlungu. Ikhanda lami liyashisa kodwa ngiyaqhaqhazela. Heeethi!’

‘Hhayi, Sipho. Lezo izimpawu zomkhuhlane. Ubukeya ungaphilile. Ngicela ungasondeli eduze kwami ngoba umkhuhlane uthathelana kalula uma uthimulela komunye umuntu.’

‘Ungakhathazeki, angeke ngisondele eduze kwakho. Sengiyolala.’

‘Ithi ngikusize ubuyise izimbuzi. Leyambuzi ensundu ibukeka igula njengawe Sipho! Izacile futhi ibukeka ingenawo amandla.’

‘Sekuyizinsuku ibukeka kanjena. Nezibhuzazane zayo zizacile. Mhlawumbe kumele ngigawule amagatsha khona zizodla.’

‘Mhlawumbe, kodwa wazi ngani ukuthi ukungatholi ukudla okwenele okuyinkinga? Kungenzeka ukuthi isifo esithile. Kungabe azinaso yini isifo sohudo lezozimbuzi?’

‘Angazi ngizobheka kusasa.’

‘Sipho kubaluleke kakhulu ikuthi sibheke zonke izimpawu kanye nokungaba yimbangela yokugula kwezilwane. Uhudo, ukushisa kakhulu, ukungafuni ukudla kanye nokuphaphatheka kothwethesi isibonelo emehlweni konke kungaba yizimpawu zesifo esithile. Uma izimbuzi zinohudo, kungaba izikelemu eziyimbangela yokuthi zizace. Uyazelaphela kodwa izikelemu?’



## ***Chapter 16. How can you tell if an animal is sick?***

Hello, everyone! I am feeling great today.

‘Sipho, how are you?’

‘Eish, Nosipho! I am feeling very weak. I have a headache and my whole body is sore. My forehead is hot but I am shivering. Atishoo!’

‘Hey, Sipho. Those are symptoms of flu. You don’t look well at all. Please don’t come near me because flu spreads easily if you sneeze on someone.’

‘Don’t worry, I will not come near you. I am going to bed.’

‘Let me help you bring in the goats. Sipho, that brown goat looks sick like you! It is very thin and it seems weak.’

‘It has been like that for a few days. Its kids are also looking thin. Maybe I need to cut some branches for them to browse on.’

‘Maybe. But how do you know the problem is lack of food? It could be an illness. Do those goats have diarrhoea?’

‘I don’t know. I’ll check tomorrow.’

‘Sipho, it’s very important to look for all the signs and possible causes if an animal is sick. Diarrhoea, a high temperature, refusal to eat and pale membranes – around the eyes for example – can all be signs of specific diseases. If the goats have diarrhoea, it may be worms that are causing them to lose weight. Have you been treating them for worms?’



‘Cha, uMama uthi akanayo imali.’

‘Hawu! Uma singalahlekelwa yimbuzi, kungasibiza ngaphezu kwephakethe lamaphilisi ezikelemu. Khuluma naye.’

‘Kulungile, Nosipho, kodwa hhayi manje. Ngidinga ukulala.’

‘Ngizocela uGogo akwenzele umuthi. Bese ngiya kobheka komakhelwane ukuthi azikho yini izimbuzi ezigulayo kwezabo. Nginesiqiniseko sokuthi uwuthole komunye esikoleni umkhuhlane. Mhlawumbe nezimbuzi zisithole lapho isifo ngokuhlangana nezinye ngesikhathi zidla.’

‘Mhlawumbe. Ikhanda lami libuhlungu kakhulu angikwazi nokucabanga. Ngizobuye ngikubone.’

‘Kulungile, ngizobuye ngikubone...’

Awu bandla! USipho ubukeka kabi kakhulu kunezimbuli! Ngicabanga ukuthi uma esengcono, kufanele abhale ukuthi yiziphi izimbuzi ezigulayo futhi nini, nokuthi ziguliswa yini? Leyambuzi ensundu enamanqina amhlophe angaphambili isigule kakhulu. Manje zonke izimbuzi sezingenile, kufanele ngihambe ngiyoqedela isidleke sami sezinkukhu. Ngisenzela umsebenzi wezobuciko esikoleni. Uma esethathiwe amamaki ngizosidayisa! Ngasidayisa uR40 esokugcina. Khona akusiyo imali eningi kodwa yingoba abantu abafuni ukukhokha kakhulu.

Nisale kahle okwamanje... Hawu, sengicishe ngakhohlwa kufanele ngiqale ngicele uGogo enzele uSipho okuthile kokulapha umkhuhlane!

**Uthwethwesi emehlweni alembuzi luphinki, lokhu kuwuphawu lwempilo. Imbuli noma esiphi esinye isilwane esigulayo singaba nothwethwesi oluphaphathekile. Lokhu okunye kwezinto ongazibheka uma isilwane sibukeka singaphilile.**

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‘No, Mom says she doesn’t have money.’

‘Hawu! If we lose a goat, it will cost us more than a packet of worming tablets. Talk to her.’

‘Okay, Nosipho, but not now. I need to lie down.’

‘I’ll ask Granny to make you some muthi. Then I’m going to check with the neighbours if any of their goats are sick. I’m sure you got flu from someone at school. Maybe the goats picked up a disease from mixing with other goats while they were out grazing.’

‘Maybe. My head is too sore to think about it. See you later.’

‘Okay, see you later...’

Oh dear! Sipho looks worse than the goats! When he’s better, I think he should start making a record of which goats get sick and when, and what is wrong with them. That brown goat with the two white front legs has been sick a lot. Well, now that the goats are all in, I must go and finish making my chicken nesting box. I’m doing it for an arts and craft project at school. After it has been marked, I am going to sell it! I sold the last one for R40. That’s not a lot for so much work but people won’t pay more.

Well, bye for now... Oh, I almost forgot, I have to ask granny to make something to treat Sipho’s flu first!



**The membranes around this goat’s eyes are pink, which is a sign of good health. A goat, or other animal that is sick may have very pale membranes. This is just one of the things you need to check if an animal seems unwell.**

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## ***Isigaba 17. Kwenzekani uma izilwane zethu zigula***

Sanibonani, yimina uSipho. Sengizizwa ngingcono kakhulu. Isonto lonke elidlule angiyanga esikoleni! Uthisha omkhulu wathi ozizwa egula angayi esikoleni ngenxa yokwesabela umkhuhlane wezingulube.

UNosipho wazibheka izimbuzi ngesikhathi ngigula. Sengathi wayeqinisile ngezikelemu. Nosipho wakwazi kanjani lokho?

‘Nokho Sipho, ngabhekisisa imbuzi kanye nezibhuzazane zayo. Ngabona ukuthi zinohudo futhi lwaluhlangene negazi. Ngaphakathi kwemilomo yazo nasemehlweni kwasekumhloshana. Lokho kwakukhombisa ukuthi zilahlekelwa yigazi.’

‘Zibukeka zingcono kakhulu manje Nosipho. Wenzenjani?’

‘Ngazelaphela izikelemu!’

‘Wakwenza wena? Wayithathaphi imali?’

‘Umama wathi uzoze abe nemali ekupheleni kwenyanga. Wazama ukudayisa inkukhu kodwa akekho owayeyifuna. Ngase ngidayisa isidleke sami sezinkukhu sasebenzisa leyomali ukuthenga umuthi wezikelemu. Umama wakwaMchunu naye ubefuna ukwelapha izimbuzi zakhe. Ngesikhathi indodana yakhe iyothenga umuthi, uGogo wayicela ukuthi nathi isiphathele.’

‘Uyisebenziseleni imali yakho Nosipho? Ngoba imbuzi yakho iphilile.’

‘Izikelemu ziyathelelana Sipho, nembuzi yami ibingagula noma yinini. Uma enye yezimbuzi ingafa sonke sizohlupheka.’

‘Ngiyajabula kakhulu ukuthi zonke izimbuzi ziyaphila. Manje ngizwe kuthiwa kukhona inkinga ngethole elilodwa. Uthi uXolani inamathumba.’



## ***Chapter 17. What happens when our animals get sick?***



Hi, it's Sipho here. I am feeling much better. I had the whole week off school! The principal said no one must come to school sick because of the risk of swine flu.

Nosipho looked after the goats while I was sick. It seems she was right about the worms. How did you find out, Nosipho?

‘Well, Sipho, I watched the sick goat and its kids carefully. I noticed that they did have diarrhoea and it was mixed with blood. The inside of their mouths and their eyelids were almost white. That also showed they were losing blood.’

‘They look much better now, Nosipho. What did you do?’

‘I treated them for worms!’

‘By yourself? Where did you get the money?’

‘Mom said she would not have money until month-end. She tried to sell a chicken but no one wanted to buy. But I sold my chicken nesting box and we used that money to buy a dewormer. Mrs. Mchunu wanted to treat her goats for worms too. When her son went to buy the medicine, Granny asked him to bring some for us.’

‘Nosipho, why did you use your money? Your goat is healthy.’

‘Sipho, worms spread, so my goat could get sick at any time. If any of the goats die, we will all suffer.’

‘Well, I am very happy the goats are all fine. Now I hear there is a problem with one of the calves. Xolani says it is covered in lumps.’

'Kungabe uyazi ukuthi abangelwe yini?'

'Usibiza ngokuthi isifo samaqhuqhumba. Akayihambisanga emfuleni namhlanje. Ungicele ukuthi ngiyihlalise emthunzini ngiyinike ukudla namanzi amaningi. Uyafuna ukuyibona? NoGogo ulapha.'

'Yebo asihambe siyoyibheka... Sawubona Gogo. Ooh, lelithole linamathumba amaningi kangaka!'

'Sanibonani bazukulu. Yebo, libukeka ligula. Akujwayelekile ukuthi izinkomo zibe nesifo samaqhuqhumba ngoba sekuse busika ngoba aziziningi izimpukane. Mhlawumbe isithole obisini lukanina. Bengicabanga ukuthi uXolani wawugoma wonke umhlambi ngehlobo eledlule.'

'Uwaqeda kanjani Gogo?'

'Ungaselapha Siphso. Amathumba angaphela. Kufanele sithandazele ukuthi ithole lingathole amanye amagciwane.'

'Gogo, singazigcina kanjani izilwane zethu ziphilile uma kunezifo eziningi kangaka?'

'Kufanele ngaso sonke isikhathi nihlale nivule amehlo Nosiphso. Ooh, ngikhathele. Ngisayocambalala manje.'

'Does he know what is wrong?'

'He just calls it lumpy skin. He didn't take it down to the river today. He asked me to keep it in the shade and give it plenty of food and water. Do you want to see it? Granny is there.'

'Yes, let's go and look... Hello Granny. Ooh, this calf has so many lumps!'

'Hello children. Yes, the calf is in a poor condition. It is unusual to see cattle with lumpy skin in winter because there are not so many flies around. Perhaps she got it from the mother's milk. I thought Xolani vaccinated the whole herd last summer.'

'How do you get rid of it, Granny?'

'You can't treat it, Siphso. The lumps will go. We must pray that the calf does not get some other infection.'

'Granny, how can we keep our animals healthy when there are so many diseases around?'

'Nosiphso, you have to keep your eyes open all the time. Oh, I'm tired. I'm going to have a nap now.'

***Isifo samaqhuqhumba sidalwa igciwane elithwalwa izinambuzane ezitinyelayo lungadluliseleka ematholeni ngobisi lwesilwane esinalo. Aselapheki kodwa singavikeleka ngokugoma.***



***Lumpy skin disease is caused by a virus that is carried by biting flies. It can be spread to calves through the milk of an infected cow. It cannot be treated but it can be prevented by vaccination.***



## ***Isigaba 18. Ukubona ngokugula nezifo***

'Sanibonani nonke. Siyethemba niyaphila. Iningi lapha ekhaya beliphethwe umkhuhlane. Mina noSipho besigijimisa okwabahlengikazi, sihambisela uGogo izingubo zokulala, uMalume simnika impuphu yekhanda kanye netiye elinolamula kuMalumekazi. USipho akathandi ukukwenza uthi umsebenzi wentombazane kodwa uMama umenza ukuthi asize.'



'He! He! Nosipho, kulelisonto uMama ngeke asho ukuthi angenzeni ngoba uzobe engekho. Ulungiselela ukuya kohlalisa uMam'ncane e-Waihoek. Ugula kakhulu futhi akekho umuntu ozomnakekela.'

'Mhlawumbe ngizohamba naye, Sipho, bese usala ubheke umndeni wonke kanye nazo zonke izilwane!'

'Umama akasoze wakuvumela lokho. Kufanele uye esikoleni. Futhi nje, ngiyazi ukuthokozela kabi ukuba lapha nami, uzigqaja ngoba wazi okuningi ngezimbuzi!'

'Nokho iqiniso. Futhi ngazi okuningi ngezinkomo nezinkukhu. Manje njengoba uGogo esegula, uthanda ngihlale naye uma sengibuya esikoleni ungifundisa okuningi ngemfuyo. Uyazi ukuthi ubengena esibayeni?'

'Lutho!'

'Iqiniso. We, Sipho elani leliphhepha oliphethe?'

'Oh, usho lokhu? Uyakhumbula emasontweni ambalwa edlule, ngakuthembisa ukuthi ngizokuhlola ukuthi wazi kangakanani ngezifo zezilwane?'

'Yebo.'

'Ngikwenzele imibuzo ngokwaziyo!'

## ***Chapter 18. Recognising sickness and disease***



Hello everyone. We hope you are keeping well. Most of our family has been suffering with the flu. Sipho and I have been running around like nurses, taking blankets to Granny, headache powders to Uncle and tea with lemon to Aunt. Sipho sulks and says that is girls' work but Mom makes him help.

'Ha-ha! Nosipho, Mother won't be around to tell me what to do this week. She is getting ready to go and stay with her sister in Waihoek. That aunt is very sick and there is

no one to look after her.'

'Maybe I will go with her, Sipho, and then you will be left to look after the whole family and all the animals!'

'Mom will never let you do that. You have to go to school. Anyway, I know you like being here with me, showing off because you know so much about the goats!'

'Well, it's true. I know a lot about cows and chickens too. Now that Granny is sick, she likes me to sit with her after school and she is teaching me lots of things about livestock. Do you know that she used to go in the kraal?'

'Never!'

'It's true. Hey, Sipho, what is that paper you are holding?'

'Oh, this? You remember, a few weeks ago, I promised that I would test you on what you know about animal diseases?'

'Yes.'

'Well, I've made you a quiz!'

‘Wow, lokho kuzobamnandi. Ithi ngibone.’

‘Kulungile, nali. Uma uthole zonke izimpendulo ngeqiniso, sizowadla sobabili amashibusi.’

‘Hawu! Nami ngihleli ngikupha awami nje.’

‘Nokho, anginakho okunye engingakwenza umklomelo.’

‘Kulungile, angiwudingi umklomelo ngokuthi ngihlakaniphile!’

‘Kuhle-ke. Zama.’

‘Wow, that’s fun. Let me see.’

‘Okay, here it is. If you get all the answers right, you can share my snacks.’

‘Hawu! I always share my snacks with you anyway.’

‘Well, I don’t have anything else as a prize.’

‘That’s okay, I don’t need a prize for being clever!’

‘Good. Try it then.’



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## **Isigaba 19. Izifo zezinkomo**

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Sanibonani bangane. Sikhathazeke kakhulu kulelisonto. Kushone uMam'ncane ngoLwesibili wangcwatshwa ngoMgqibelo. Asiyanga esikoleni izinsuku ezintathu ngoba bekufanele silekelele ngomsebenzi.

Umkhwenyana kaMam'ncane sekunesikhathi ashona ubehlala yedwa nendodakazi yakhe encane. Igama layo uZanele. Usaneminyaka emibili futhi akasazi kahle ngoba sihlala buqamama nabo. Wayesaba ngosuku lomngcwabo ngoba kwakugcwele abantu angabazi. Manje, uMama uthe uZanele kuzofanele ahlale nathi ngoba akasenabani.

Lokhu kususe enkulu impikiswano. UMalume uthi kufanele ahlale nabomndeni wakubo. Waze wathi uMama uletha ingculazi emndenini wethu ngoba uMama kaZanele ubulawe yiyo naye uyagula. UGogo uthe ingane ngeke ihlale nezipoki. Abazali bakababa kaZanele sebashona kanti obab'omdala bakhe sebehlala eGoli. UMama uthulile kodwa siyazi ukuthi ngeke akuvume abakushoyo.

UMalume wenza eminye imisebenzi akakwazi ukuqhubeka nempikiswano yakhe. Kufanele agome futhi afake izinkomo umuthi wezikelemu. Wazigomela izinkomo isifo samaqhuqumba kodwa uXolani wathi umgomo ubungalungile. Uthi kwathatha isikhathi eside usuka esitolo waze wafudumala. Lokho okungaba yimbangela inkonyane elincane elinsundu lathola isifo samaqhuqumba. Kungcono ngoba libonakala selibangcono.

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## **Chapter 19. Diseases mainly affecting cattle**

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Hello friends. We are feeling very sad this week. Our mother's sister died on Tuesday and the funeral was on Saturday. We did not go to school for three days because we had to help with the preparations.

Our aunt's husband died some time ago and she lived alone with her small daughter. The child's name is Zanele. She is only two and she hardly knows us because our homes are far apart. She was very scared at the funeral because there were so many strangers. Now Mom says Zanele must live with us because she has no one else.

This caused a big argument. Uncle says she must stay with her father's people. He even said Mom was bringing AIDS to our home

because Zanele's mother died of AIDS and she is sick too.

Grandma says a child can't stay with ghosts. Her father's parents are late and her big brothers live in Johannesburg. Mom is keeping very quiet but we know she won't give in.

Uncle is too busy to keep arguing. He needs to vaccinate and deworm the cattle. He did vaccinate the cattle for lumpy skin disease but Xolani said the vaccine was no good. He said it took too long to bring it from the shop and it got warm. That must be why the brown calf got lumpy skin. At least it seems to be getting better.



***Umngcwabo kaMam'ncane wawunosizi. Ubeneminyaka ewu 35 indodakazi yakhe ineminyaka e2 ubudala.***

***Our aunt's burial. She was 35 and her daughter is 2 years old.***

UXolani kade eyile emhlanganweni wabafuyi ukuthola ukuthi kungenziwani ngezifo zezinkomo. Ubuye watshela uMalume ukuthi kufanele kugonywe zonke izinkomo, izithole kanye nezinkunzi zigonyelwa ivib....vibriosis kanye ne-lesto, ngisho i-lepto-spira. Ha-ha! UMalume uthe uhambise uXolani ukuthi akayofunda ngezinkomo, hhayi ukuyofunda ulimi olusha. Angazi ukuthi lezifo zibizwa ngani ngesiZulu. Kodwa zingenza izithole ezimithi ziphunze futhi zingadluliseleka nakwezinye izinkomo.

UXolani uthi abafuyi bayaliwe ngokuthi bagome amankonyane esifazane azalwe ngalonyaka agonyelwe ukuthelelana kokuphunza. Lokho futhi kungadala ukuphunza futhi kungenza nabantu bagule.

U-September futhi yisikhathi lapho abafuyi betshelwa ukuthi abathene amankonyane esilisa angeke bawasebenzisele ukwandisa umhlambi. UMalume unento eyinsimbi ebizwa nge-Burdizzo ayisebenzisela lokhu.

‘Nosipho, uma usuwudokotela wezilwane, kuyofanele ukusebenzisa lokho! Ngicabanga ukuthi uyobe usaba.’

‘Sipho, uma wenza umsebenzi, kufanele uwenze kahle. Futhi-ke angesabi kalula!’



***UMama ulahlekelwe udadewabo okuwukuphela kwakhe, uMalume uдинelwe uMama ukuthi ulethe umshana wakhe ukuzohlala nathi.***

***Mom's only sister has died and Uncle is angry with Mom for bringing her niece to stay with us.***

Xolani went to a farmers' meeting to find out more about how to deal with cattle diseases. He came back and told Uncle he needs to vaccinate all the cows, heifers and bulls for something called vib... vibriosis and lest, I mean lepto-spira. Ha-ha! Uncle said he sent Xolani there to learn about cattle, not to learn another language. I don't know what those diseases are called in Zulu. They can make pregnant cows lose their calves and they can spread from bulls to cows.

Xolani said the farmers were also advised to vaccinate female calves born this year against contagious abortion. That also causes pregnant cows to lose their calves but it can make people sick as well.

September is also the time when farmers are advised to castrate male calves that they are not going to use for breeding. Uncle has a metal thing called a burdizzo to do this.

‘Nosipho, if you become a vet, you'll have to use that! I think you'll be too scared.’

‘Sipho, when you do a job, you have to be professional. Anyway, I am not scared so easily!’



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## Isigaba 20. Izifo zezimbuzi

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Sanibonani futhi. Kuningi okwenzekile ekhaya kulelisono. Kusukela ngomngcwabo kaMam'ncane umzala wethu uZanele uyagula.

NgoMsombuluko, uMama umhambise esibhedlela. Ubuye ekhathele kakhulu, uZanele elele emhlane, kanye nemithi eminingi kodwa ubemamatheka.

UMama uthe ukhalile ngesikhathi udokotela esibhedlela emtshela ukuthi uZanele unegciwane lesandulela ngculaza (HIV). UMama ubecabanga ukuthi usezofa kodwa udokotela wathi akekho umuntu ekufanele abulawe yingculaza uma bethola ukwelashwa okufanele. Zonke izinsuku uMama kufanele anike uZanele ama-ARV. Lamaphilisi alwisana negciwane lengculaza khona lingeke lihlaselwe amasosha omzimba. Futhi anamandla kakhulu uma usaqala ukuwasebenzisa angakugulisa ungaba nesifo sohudo. Esibhedlela banike uMama namaphilisi ezakhamzimba azosiza uZanele ukuthi abe namandla futhi bathe zonke izinsuku kufanele adle ukudla okunempilo.

UMalume uyehla uyenyuka ugqunqise okwezulu lihloma! Uthi uZanele uthakathiwe, noMama uletha ibhadi ekhaya ngokuthi azohlala nathi.

Njalo uma uMama enika uZanele ukudla uMalume uyakhalaza ngokuthi udla kangcono kunaye. UMama noMalumekazi abasho lutho bakhathazekile ngoZanele. Uma uMalume ebezwa behleka uthi 'Abafazi! Nkosi yami!' Bese eyahamba.

Sicabanga ukuthi unengcindezi yokuthi muningi umsebenzi ekufanele wenziwe ezilwaneni. Nathi asikwazanga ukusiza ngemfuyo ngoba bekufanele sifundele izivivinyo zesikole. Futhi kufanele zonke izinsuku sikhe amanzi engeziwe njengoba uZanele eselapha.



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## Chapter 20. Diseases affecting goats

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Hello again. There has been a lot of drama at home this week. Our cousin Zanele has been sick since her mother's funeral.

On Monday, Mom took her to the hospital. She came home very tired, with Zanele sleeping on her back and a sackful of medicine in her hand, but she was smiling.

Mom said she cried at the hospital because the doctor told her Zanele was HIV-positive. Mom thought she was going to die but the doctor said no one needs to die of AIDS if they get the right treatment. Mom has to give Zanele ARVs – that's anti-retroviral drugs – every day. These drugs fight the AIDS virus so that it cannot attack your immune system. The drugs are very strong, so they can also have side effects, like diarrhoea, especially when you are starting to take them. The hospital gave Mom vitamins to help Zanele get strong again and the nurse said she must eat nutritious food every day.

Well, Uncle is walking around like a dark storm cloud! He says Zanele is bewitched and our mother is welcoming a curse into the household by bringing her to live with us.

Every time Uncle sees Mom giving Zanele food, he complains that she eats better than he does. Mom says nothing and our Aunt says nothing but they keep fussing over Zanele. When Uncle hears them laughing, he mutters, 'Abafazi! Nkosi yami!' and stomps off.

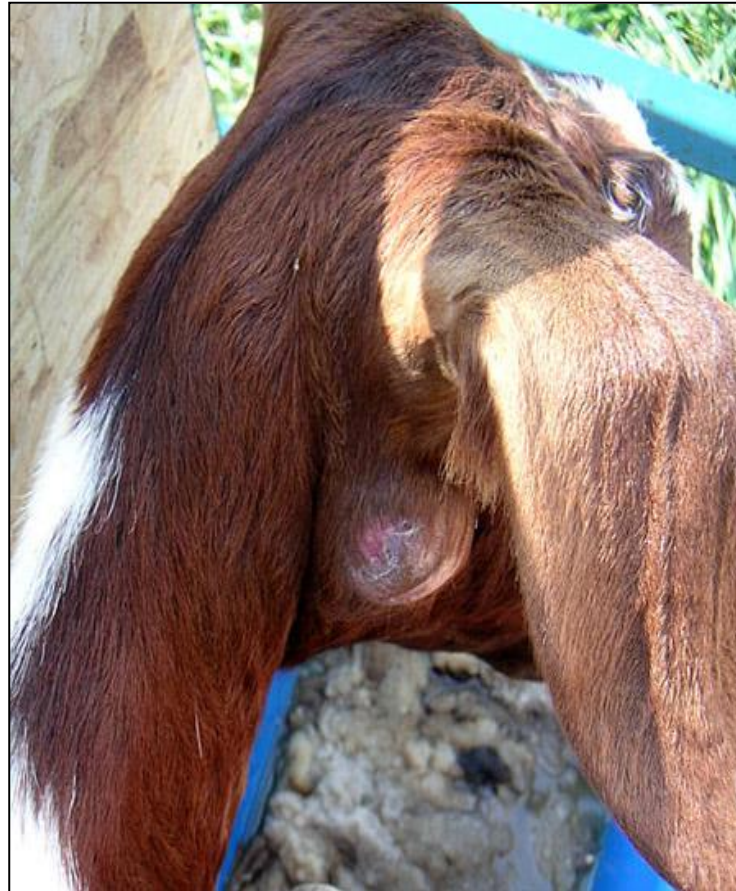
We think he's also frustrated because there is so much work to do with the animals. We haven't been helping much with the livestock because we had to study for tests at school. Also, we need to fetch more water now that Zanele is here.

Kade kunenkinga ngezimbuzi. Saqinisekisa ukuthi ezinkomeni nasezimbuzi sishiya imikhaza embalwa ukuzivikela ezifweni yingakho zingabanga nomqhaqhazelo wamazinyane. Inkinga ukuthi asizange siyibheke imikhaza ngaphansi kwamanqina ezimbuzi manje sezinamathumba. Siqaphele ngoba sezixhuga. Ngesikhathi sizibheka izimbuzi sithole ukuthi enye inethumba emhlathini.

UMalume uwasikile amathumba ngensingo ebilisiwe samsiza ukuwakhama. UXolani uthe emhlanganweni wabalimi kwathiwa kühle ukusebenzisa i-Wound-sept Plus, umuthi oyisifutho osiza ekwelapheni kanye nasekuvikeleni ukuthathelana kwezifo. UMalume uthe lokhu kumba eqolo. Uthe amanzi abalisiwe afakwe usawoti esikhathini esingaphambili bekusebenza kahle. Usikhombisile ukuthi ithelwa kanjani lengxube esilondeni.

Kufanele sihambe manje. UMama uthe ngaphambi kokuthi kubemnyama kufanele siqedele umsebenzi wesikole khona singeke sibenzise isibani sikaphalafini kodwa futhi kufanele siyokha amanye amanzi.

Sizobonana ngokuzayo!



***This goat had a big abscess on its jaw. After it was drained, the children poured boiled, salty water onto the sore. It will heal in a couple of weeks. Nosipho and Sipho learned that the best way to deal with abscesses in goats and cattle is to prevent them by removing ticks – especially on the feet.***

***Lembuzi ibinethumba elikhulu emhlathini. Ngemuva kokukhanywa izingane zithele amanzi abilisiwe anosawoti esilondeni. Emasontweni ambalwa kuzobe sekupholile. UNosipho noSipho bafunde ukuthi indlela ebalulekile yokuvikela amathumba ezinkomeni nasezimbuzini ukuthi zivikelwe ngokususwa imikhaza ikakhulukazi emanqineni.***

There has been a problem with the goats. None of our cattle or goats had heartwater because we made sure we left a few ticks on them to maintain their immunity. The trouble is, we didn't check the goats' feet for ticks and now two of them have abscesses. We only noticed when we saw them limping. When we checked all the goats, we found one also had an abscess on its jaw.

Uncle cut the abscesses with a boiled razor blade and we helped drain them. Xolani said the farmers' meeting recommended using Wound-Sept Plus, a spray that helps wounds to heal and prevents infection. Uncle said this was too expensive. He said boiled water and salt had always worked fine in the past. He showed us how to pour the mixture over the sores.

We have to go now. Mom told us to finish our homework before dark so that we don't have to use the paraffin lamp to see but we also have to fetch water again.

See you next time!



## Isigaba 21. Izifo zezinkukhu

Sanibonani nonke. Kungabe nonke niyaphila? Ayikho imikhuhlane?

Bonke ekhaya bayaphila kodwa izinkukhu ezingaphilanga. Uyazi, ziningi izifo eziphatha izinkukhu.

UNosipho wazigomela uvolomisa izinkukhu. Waphinde wazigomela upokisi wezinkukhu.

‘Kuyiqiniso lokho Sipho. Kwakuwumsebenzi onzima. Kwakufanele ngibambe inkukhu ngayinye ngiyijove inqina noma iphiko ukuze umgomo ungene.’

‘Manje pho yini inkinga?’

‘Sinezinkukhu eziningi ezintsha, manje kubalulekile ukuthi sizogeme zingakawaqedi amasonto angama 12 obudala. Ngaphandle nje kwalokho, kuqubuke isifo sezilonda ngaphansi kwezinyawo noma amabatha, okwenze ukuthi izinkukhu eziningi zixhube. Manje ngiqeda ukubona ezinye zinokhuphe oluhlala emilenzeni ibemaholoholo nazo seziyaxhuga!’

‘Uwazi kanjani ukuthi yini ephethe izinkukhu?’

‘Uyazi ukuthi uGogo kade engifundisa ngezifo zezilwane? Kade eyile emhlanganweni wabafuyi bezinkukhu, bachaze konke ngezifo zazo. Ngesikhathi esebuya ungitshele konke ekufanele ngikubheke, ngase ngizibheka zonke. Kunezinhlobo ezahlukene zokhuphe, imikhaza kanye nezintwala ezihlasela izinkukhu. UGogo uthe kufanele ngihambe naye ngokuzayo siye emhlanganweni ngoba akasakwazi ukukhumbula konke.’



## Chapter 21. Diseases affecting chickens



Hello everyone. Are you all feeling okay? No flu?

All the people at home are fine but our chickens are not doing so well. You know, there are a lot of illnesses that affect chickens.

Nosipho vaccinated the chickens against Newcastle disease. She also vaccinated them against fowlpox.

‘That’s right, Siphiso. It was a difficult job. I had to hold each chicken and poke a needle into its leg or its wing to make the vaccine go in!’

‘So what is the problem now?’

‘Well, we have a lot more chickens and it’s best to vaccinate them before they are 12 weeks old. Apart from that, there is an outbreak of bumble foot, which has made several chickens lame. Now I have just found some chickens with scaly leg mites and they are going lame too!’

‘How do you know what’s affecting them?’

‘You know how Grandma has been teaching me about animal diseases? Well, she went to a

meeting of a chicken farmers’ group and they explained all about diseases that affect chickens. When she came back, she told me what to look for and I checked all of them.

There are different types of mites and ticks and lice that affect chickens. Grandma says I should go with her to the meeting next time because she can’t remember everything.’



***Lenkukhu iguliswa ukhuphe olwenza imilenze ibemaholoholo.***

***This chicken is suffering from scaly leg mite.***



'Bheka, uZanele ulwa nomfowethu omncane uMandla futhi! UZanele ufuna yonke into uMandla ayiphethe.'

'Ubonakala esengcono manje, usewujwayele futhi nomndeni. Uyiphuza kahle nemithi yakhe. Utshela uMandla ukuthi uzothola uswidi uma uMama esembizela ukuzothatha ama-ARV kanye nezakhamzimba zakhe.'

'UMalume yena akajabulile ngokubakhona kukaZanele lapha ekhaya. Izolo usikekile emlonyeni igazi lakhe latheleka onyaweni lukaMalume. Uthe kuzobe kuyiphutha likaMama uma esengenwe yi-HIV wafa. UMalumekazi uthe wonke umuntu uyazi ukuthi ngeke uyithole i-HIV uma uthelwe yigazi ngaphandle uma lingene ngaphakathi emzimbeni wakho.'

'Sipho, ucabanga ukuthi yini eyenza abantu bayisabe kangaka i-HIV? Ngoba ziningi izinto ezingakubulala, njengokumelwa inhliziyi noma yingozi yetekisi, noma ukulunywa yinyoka, noma ukuminza emfuleni noma isifo somdlavuza!'

'Nosipho, nami angazi. Mhlawumbe yingoba abantu basuke bengazi ukuthi bazomelwa yinhliziyi noma bazoba sengozini yetekisi. Kodwa waziswa ngokuthi une-HIV bonke abantu bayazi ukuthi uzofa.'

'Kodwa lokho akusilona iqiniso! Usungathola ama-ARV azokuphilisa, nalapha ezindaweni zasemaphandleni. Futhi nabelaphi bendabuko bazi kabanzi ngokwelapha abantu izimpawu zezifo ezihambisana negciwane le-Sandulela Ngculazi.'

'Ngicabanga ukuthi kunjalo kodwa abantu abaningi abafuni ukuvuma ukuthi bane-AIDS noma bayasaba ukuyohlolwa. Cabanga ngawo wonke amadoda aphuma eGoli uma esegula engasakwazi ukusebenza. Uma esefa akekho noyedwa oshoyo ukuthi abene-AIDS.'

'Lokho kubangelwa ukuthi bayithola ngokuthandana nabantu abaningi besifazane! Kodwa angazi ukuthi umuntu angayisola kanjani ingane ngokusabalalisa i-HIV.'

'Iqiniso lelo Nosipho. Ngiyethemba uMalume uzojwayela.'

'Look, there's Zanele fighting with our little brother Mandla again! Zanele wants everything he touches!'

'She seems to be doing fine now that she has gotten used to the family. She is very good about taking her medicine. She tells Mandla she is going to get her sweets when Mom calls her to take her ARVs and her vitamins.'

'Uncle is still not happy about Zanele being here. Yesterday she cut her lip and the blood went on Uncle's foot. He said it would be Mom's fault if he got HIV and died. Aunt said everyone knows that you can't get HIV from someone else's blood unless it gets inside your body.'

'Sipho, why do you think people get so frightened by HIV? I mean, there are so many things that can kill you – like having a heart attack or a taxi accident, or being bitten by a snake, or drowning in the river, or cancer!'

'I don't know, Nosipho. Perhaps it's because no one knows if they will have a heart attack or a taxi accident. Once you are told you have HIV, everyone knows you will die.'

'But that's not true any more! You can get ARVs to keep you alive, even here in the rural areas. And the traditional healers know a lot about treating the symptoms of illnesses associated with HIV.'

'I suppose so but a lot of people refuse to believe they have AIDS, or they are too scared to get tested. Think about all the men who come back from Joburg when they are too sick to work. When they die, no one ever says it was AIDS.'

'That's because they get it from having so many girlfriends! But I don't see how anyone can blame a small child for spreading HIV.'

'That's true, Nosipho. I'm sure Uncle will get over it.'





## Isigaba 22. Ukubika ngezifo zezilwane

Sanibonani nonke. Ngeke nikholwe ukuthi kwenzekeni ngesonto elidlule. Besiya esikoleni sahlanguana noBaba endleleni! Bekungafanele ukuthi ngabe usebuyile besimlindele ngoKhisimusi! Sajabula kakhulu. UNosipho wagijima emhlangabeza wacishe wamuwisa. Sasifuna ukubuyela ekhaya naye kodwa wathi asiye esikoleni. Sambuza ukuthi ubuyeleni futhi uzohlala isikhathi esingakanani. Usitshale ukuthi sizozwa ebusuku uma sesiqede ukubuyisa izilwane kanye nokwenza umsebenzi wesikole.

‘Sipho, angikwazanga ukufunda kahle esikoleni. Bengilokhu ngizibuza ukuthi kwenzekeni eGoli futhi yini uBaba ebuyile. Ubukeke ejabulile ukusibona kodwa futhi ebukeka enosizi futhi ekhathele ngesikhathi eseya ekhaya.’

‘Nami ngikubonile lokho. Ngizibuzile ukuthi kungani ephethe izikhwama eziningi kodwa engekho amaphasela. Uyazi ngoGudi nangoKhisimusi ufika ethwele amaphasela kanye nezikhwama ezinezipho. Kulokhu ubephethe iketela nengubo yokulala okudala.’

Sesisekhaya, akekho obesitshela ukuthi kwenzekani. USipho wahamba eyotshela uMalume ngembuzi eyayisaxhuga. UBaba wathi njengoba esebuyile, uSipho kufanele abikele yena. UGogo uthe kufanele ngibike kuyena ngezinkukhu.

‘UBaba wenu akazi lutho ngezinkukhu!’ esho ememeza khona uBaba ezomuzwa.



## Chapter 22. Reporting animal illness



Hello everyone. You will never guess what happened last week. We were walking to school and we met Dad coming along the road! He wasn't supposed to be home until Christmas! We were so excited. Nosipho ran to meet him and nearly knocked him over. We wanted to go back home with him but he said we must go to school. We asked him why he was home and how long he would stay. He told us we would find out in the evening, after we had brought the animals in

and done our homework.

‘I could not concentrate at all at school, Sipho. I kept wondering what had happened in Johannesburg and why Dad had come back. He looked happy to see us but he also looked sad and tired when he was walking away.’

‘Yes, I saw that too. I also wondered why he had so many bags but no parcels. You know, at Easter and Christmas, he always comes loaded with parcels and packets full of presents. This time, he was carrying an old kettle and an old blanket.’

When we got home, no one would tell us what was going on. Sipho went to tell Uncle about one of the goats that is still limping. Dad said now that he was home, Sipho must report to him. Grandma said I must still report to her about the chickens.

‘Your father knows nothing about fowls!’ she said so that he could hear.



Ngesikhathi uMama epheka, uBaba wabheka umsebenzi wethu wesikole. Ngesikhathi sesidlile ukudla kwakusihlwa, uvumele oZanele noMandla ukuthi bahlale emadolweni akhe, wachukuluza uNoluthando ngokuthi usemude kakhulu. Kodwa akashongo lutho ngokuthi ubuyeleni ekhaya.

Kwakuwubusuku obufudumele sasihleli ngaphandle. Ngesikhathi uMama eyolalisa abancane, uBaba usitshela ukuthi udiliziwe emsebenzini wakhe. Sethuka. UBaba akusiye umuntu wokuqala ngakithi ukuphelelwa umsebenzi. Cishe zonke izinyanga kukhona umuntu obuyela ekhaya ngoba inkampani abesebenza kuyo isivaliwe.

Ngesikhathi uMama esebuya, uthe uBaba asihambe siye kolala singakhathazeki. Sivalelisile kodwa uSipho wama isikhashana ekusithekeni elalele uMama noBaba bekhuluma.

‘UMama ubezwakala ekhathazekile. Uthe akazi ukuthi sesizokwenzenjani ikakhulukazi njengoba noZanele kufanele anakekelwe. UBaba yena ubezwakala exolile noma esamukela isimo. Utshela uMama ukuthi unesu. Wase ethi futhi simjabulisile isenzo sikaMama sokuthatha ingane kadadewabo ngoba kungekho muntu obezoyinakekela.’

‘Engabe Sipho sizokwazinini ngalelosu.’



Dad checked our homework while Mom was cooking. When we ate supper, he let Zanele and Mandla each sit on one knee, and he teased Noluthando about how tall she had grown. But he said nothing about why he had come home.

It was a hot evening and we sat outside. When Mom took the little ones away to sleep, Dad told us he had been retrenched from his job. We were shocked. Dad was not the first man in our area to lose his job. Nearly every month someone came home because the company they worked for had closed.

When Mom came back, Dad told us to go to bed and not to worry. We said goodnight but Sipho stood in the shadows for a while and listened to our parents talking.

‘Mom sounded so worried. She said she didn’t know how we will cope, especially now that there is Zanele to look after. Dad sounded calm though. He told Mom he has a plan. He also told her how proud he was that she had taken in her sister’s child when there was no one else to care for her.’

‘I wonder when we will find out what the plan is, Sipho.’



### ***Isigaba 23. Ukufunda ngokwelapha isilwane esigulayo***

Sanibonani nonke. Linile izulu ngesonto elidlule? Kithina linile. Siyijabulele imvula nakuba laduma ngesikhathi sibuyisela izimbuzi ekhaya. Kwakusabeka. Amatshe enza kubenengozi yokuthi ungashaywa umbani. Sazama ukuthi singahambi eduze kwezihlahla namadwala ngesikhathi siya ekhaya.

UBaba ujabulile ngoba yonke into ibukeka iluhlaza. Uthe manje njengoba elahlekelwe umsebenzi sesizoba umndeni olimayo, endaweni esihlala kuyo.

‘Impesheni’, kusho uGogo!

UBaba uthe senza umsebenzi oncomekayo ngokunakekela izilwane kodwa kukhona izinto eziningi esingazenza ukuze silime ukudla okuningi.

Uzewathi singenza nemali ngokulima.

‘Sipho, cishe akekho umuntu lapha endaweni owenza imali ngezilwane ngaphandle uma benezinkomo eziningi.’

‘UBaba uthi into oyifundayo eGoli izindlela ongazisebenzisa ukwenza imali. Kufanele senze into engenziwa muntu, noma siyenza kangcono kunabobonke. Unecebo lokushuka izikhumba zezilwane. Uthe futhi ungenza imali ngokudayisa izidleke zezinkukhu.’



### ***Chapter 23. Learning how to treat a sick animal***



Hello everyone. Did you have rain here last week? We did. We were happy about the rain but we were caught in a thunderstorm when we were bringing the goats home. It was very frightening. The ironstone rocks around here mean there is a high risk of being struck by lightning. We tried to keep away from the trees and the rocks as we stumbled home.

Everything is looking green and Dad is very cheerful. He says now that he has lost his job, we will be a real farming family, living off the land!

‘And the pension,’ Gogo says!

Dad says we have done a good job looking after the animals but there are lots of things we can do to produce more food.

He even says that we can make some money from farming.

‘Hardly anyone around here makes any money from animals, Sipho, not unless they have dozens of cattle.’

‘Dad says one thing you learn in Joburg is that you have to be creative to make money. We have to do something no one else does, or do it better than anyone else. He has a plan to tan animal hides. He also says you can make some money

selling chicken nesting boxes.’



'Uma kunjalo kusho ukuthi unomsebenzi wokuqoqa uqalo – kuthatha isikhathi eside ukuluthola!'

'We zingane!'

'Yebo, Baba!'

'Wozani lapha. Ngifuna ukunikhombisa ukuthi usikala kanjani isilwane.'

'Yini leyo Baba?'

'Yibhande lokukala leli, Siphso. Uma udinga ukunika isilwane umuthi, kufanele kube yisikali esilungile. Nina zingane niyazazi izibalo, nizokwazi ukukala izilinganiso ezahlukeni zomuthi. Imbuzi idinga umuthi omningi kunesibhuzazane. Uma unikeza okuncane kakhulu, umuthi ngeke usebenze. Uma unikeza omningi kakhulu, ungasigulisa isilwane. Ngelokho kufanele wazi ukuthi isilwane singakanani ngesisindo ukuze wazi isilinganiso somuthi esilungile. Bamba imbuzi Siphso. Wena Nosiphso bheka ukuthi ngilifaka kanjani ibhande lokukala khona nizokwenza.'



'In that case, you can have the job of collecting the bamboo – it takes ages to get enough!'

'Hey children!'

'Yes father!'

'Come over here. I want to show you how to work out the weight of an animal.'

'What is that, Dad?'

'This is a weightband, Siphso. If you need to give an animal medicine, you need to give it the right amount. You children are very good at Maths, so you will be able to measure different doses of medicine. A big goat needs more medicine than a small kid. If you give too little, the medicine won't work. If you give too much, you could make the animal sicker. So, you need to know how much an animal weighs to decide what is the right dose. Here, hold onto this goat, Siphso. Nosiphso, watch how I put the weightband on and then you can do it.'



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## Isigaba 24. Isikalo sezilwane nesemithi

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'Sanibonani nonke! Nisakhumbula ukuthi uBaba wathi uzosifundisa ukuthi ikalwa kanjani imbuzi?'

'Usifundisile, bekungelula njengoba besicabanga. Okukuqala, uBaba wathi uSipho akalande isibhuzazane. Ngasibamba ngesikhathi uBaba ekhombisa uSipho ukuthi lifakwa kanjani ibhande lokukala esifubeni sembuzi. Kwafanele ukuthi uSipho alibophe aliqinise ukuze lenele kahle ibhande esifubeni sesilwane. Isibhuzazane sasikhahlela futhi sinyakaza okwenza kubenzima ukuthi ibhande lihlale endaweni efanele. Nokho, ekugcineni uSipho wakwazi ukubona ukuthi yayishaya u-10kg esikalini.'

'Kwasekuyithuba lami. USipho waletha imbuzi enkulu, enoboya obuningi nezimpondo ezigobile ukuthi ngiyikale. Wacabanga ukuthi lokhu kuyahlekisa kodwa kwakufanele angisize ukuyibamba. Eqinisweni, imbuzi yazimela nje. Ibhande lokukala labambeka ezimpondweni zayo kodwa kwangathatha isikhathi eside ukuthi ngilifake esifubeni. Ngathola ukuthi ishaya u-60kg – ingidlula ngo-8kg.'

'UBaba wasenza ukuthi sikale umuthi wezikelemu owawudingwa yizimbuzi. Kwakuyithisipuni elilodwa lomuthi oyimpuphu ku-7kg. Ungakwazi ukubala ukuthi kwakufanele sinike isikalo esingakanani kwisibhuzazane nembuzi enkulu?'

'Oh, engabe uZanele ukhalelani futhi, Nosipho?'

'UMama umphuzisa ama-ARVs. UZanele akathandi ukuphuza umuthi wakhe zonke izinsuku.'

'Amasi noshukela uMama amnika kona uma ephuza umuthi uyakuthanda.'



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## Chapter 24. When and how to treat a sick animal

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'Hello everyone! Do you remember that our father said he would teach us how to measure the weight of a goat?'

'Well, he did and it wasn't as easy as it looked. First, Dad sent Sipho to fetch a small kid. I held it while Dad showed Sipho how to slip the weighband over the kid's chest. Then Sipho had to tighten the weighband so that it fitted over the animal's chest. The little goat was kicking and twisting, so it was hard to keep the band in the right place. In the end, though,

Sipho worked out that it weighed about 10kg.'

'Then it was my turn. Sipho brought a huge, long-haired goat with curved horns for me to weigh. He thought that was very funny but he had to hold it for me. In fact, the goat kept quite still. I got the weighband caught on his horns but it didn't take long to get it around his chest. I worked out that he weighed 60kg – that's 8kg more than me.'

'Dad made us measure the doses of worming medicine they needed. It was one teaspoon of powder for every 7kgs. Can you work out how much we should have given the kid and the big goat?'

'Oh, no! Why is Zanele crying again, Nosipho?'

'Mom is making her take her ARVs. Zanele doesn't like taking medicine every day.'

'She doesn't mind the maas and sugar that Mom always gives her with the medicine, though!'

'Mama! Wazi kanjani ukuthi kufanele uZanele umnike umuthi ongakanani? Kufanele umkale yini?'

'Cha, Sipho. UDokotela wamkala wase engitshela ukuthi kufanele ngimnike umuthi ongakanani njalo ngelanga.'

'Nosipho!'

'Yebo, Baba?'

'Sisahamba noMalume wakho siya emhlanganweni wabalimi ukuyoxoxa ngempilo yezilwane bese sihlengana nomshuki wezikhumba. Woza sihambe! Musa ukuma lapho. Woza!'

'Hawu Baba, imihlangano akuyona yini eyabantu abadala kanye namadoda kuphela?'

'Yilokho uMama wenu akushoyo kodwa thina noGogo wenu sithi izingane ezibheka izilwane zidinga ukuthi zifunde konke ezingakwazi kubantu abadala ngaphambi kokuthi sife.'

'Mina Baba?'

'Wena Sipho, lesasibhuzazana esinsundu esinamanqina amhlophe sibukeka sigula. Ngifuna wena uhlale usibheke. Ngifuna ungibikele noma ngabe yini oyiqaphelayo uma sengibuyile.'

'Yebo, Baba.'



***Ekuseni uZanele ufanele ukuphuza ama-ARVs.***

***Zanele has to take ARVs in the morning.***

'Mom! How do you know how much medicine to give Zanele? Do you have to weigh her?'

'No, Sipho. The doctor weighed her and then he told me how much of this medicine to give her each day.'

'Nosipho!'

'Yes, Father?'

'Your Uncle and I are going to a farmers' meeting to discuss herd health and meet someone who is

starting to do tanning. Come with us...Well, don't stand there. Come!'

'But Father, aren't the meetings only for old

people and men?'

'That's what your mother says but your granny and I say that children who are looking after animals need to learn as much as they can from the old folk before we die.'

'What about me, Father?'

'Sipho, that brown kid with the white socks is looking sick. I want you to stay and watch it closely. You must report to me anything that you notice as soon as I get home.'

'Yes, Father.'



## Isigaba 25. Ukugcina imininingwane ngempilo yezilwane

Sanibonani! Kungabe seniwajahile amaholide kaKhisimusi? Thina sesiwajahile. Asisakwazi ukulinda ukuthi sibe sekhaya nabazala kanye nabangane bethu.

Ngokujwayelekile ngalesikhathi sonyaka kusuke kunenjabulo ngoba sisuke silindele uBaba ebuya eGoli. Besihamba ngezinyawo siye lapho kugitshelelwa khona amatekisi simlinde aze afike nezikhwama ezinezingubo ezintsha, oswidi kanye nebhokisi elikhulu lamabhisikidi. Kulonyaka, kuzokwehluka ngoba uBaba usesekhaya. Nakuba wasitshela ukuthi singakhathazeki. Sisazowathola amabhisikidi futhi sizohlaba imbuzi nezinkukhu. Kusangenzeka futhi sithole nezingubo ezintsha!

‘Yebo, Sipho uma sonke sisebenza ngokuzikhandla. Nginamakhasimende amane afuna izidleke zenkukhu. Uma ungangisiza siqoqe uqalo, ngingazakha zonke singakashayi isikhathi sikaKhisimusi. Lezi esengizidayisile sezilukhokhela ucingo ebekufanele siluthenge. Lokho kuchaza ukuthi imali engizoyithola manje iyzuzo.’

‘Nosipho, ngizokusiza kodwa nami ngidinga usizo lwakho.’

‘Ngiyethemba akuzona ezinye izimbuzi ezilahlekile!’

‘Cha ngidinga ukuthi ungisize ngencwadi yami yemininingwane. Usakhumbula ukuthi uBaba wathi angibheke izimbuzi? Ngenza ishadi ukuthi ngibhale ukuthi eziphi izimbuzi ezike zagula futhi sazela kani. Ishadi liveza iminyaka nesisindo sazo.’



**UNosipho udinga uqalo ukuze aqedele isidleke sakhe sezinkukhu.**

**Nosipho needs more bamboo to finish her chicken nest.**

## Chapter 25. Keeping records of animal health



Hello there! Are you looking forward to the December holidays? We are. We cannot wait to be at home with our cousins and friends.

Usually at this time of year, there is a lot of excitement because we are waiting for Dad to come home from Johannesburg. We would walk to the taxi rank and wait for him to arrive with parcels of new clothes, sweets and a big box of biscuits. This year, it will be different because Dad is at home. He told us not to

worry. We will still have biscuits and we will slaughter a goat *and* some chickens. We may even get new clothes!

‘Yes, Sipho, if we all work hard. I have four customers wanting chicken nesting boxes. If you help me collect the bamboo, I can make them all in time for Christmas. The ones I have sold so far have paid for the wire we had to buy. That means any money I get now will be profit.’

‘Nosipho, I will help you but I also need your help.’

‘Not more missing goats, I hope!’

‘No, I need you to help me with my journal.

Do you remember that Dad asked me to monitor the goats? Well, I made a chart to record which ones got sick and how we treated them. The chart also shows their age and how much they weigh.’

‘Ukwenzelani lokho?’

‘UBaba uthi kuzosisiza kuthi sibone ukuthi ukugcina izimbuzi kusibiza kangakanani. Kuzosisiza nangonyaka ozayo ukuthi sihlele ukuthi singazigcina kanjani ziphilile. Ngibhalile ukuthi uhlobo luni lwemithi esiyisebenzisile kodwa angikwazi ukusho ukuthi ibiza malini.’

‘Kulungile, ngingakusiza ngalokho.’

‘Nosipho, bayakubiza abangane bakho esangweni. Awuyingani?’

‘ULungile kade ehleba esikoleni ngokuphelelwa kukaBaba umsebenzi. Uthi abantu baphelelwa umsebenzi uma bentshontshile noma bephuze utshwala.’

‘Abantu abaningi basho njalo kodwa thina siyazi ukuthi akusikho okwenze uBaba adilizwe.’

‘Ngamtshela ukuthi yingenxa yokwehla kwezinga lomnotho. Wangihleka wathi “amagama amakhulu angeke azithenge izipho zikaKhisimusi”.’

‘Ungakhathazeki, sizoba noKhisimusi omuhle kakhulu. Akuwona owezipho kuphela. Ungowokuthi sibendawonye njengomndeni futhi sibe nesikhathi sokudlala ibhola!’

‘Uqinisile, Sipho. Ngikhombise incwadi yakho yemininingwane bese siyahamba siyosika uqalo.’



***Njengoba amaholidi eseseduze, abafana nengxenye yamantombazane sebelindele ukuthi babenesikhathi esiningi sokudlala ibhola.***

***As the holidays draw near, the boys – and a few girls – are looking forward to having more time for soccer.***

‘Why are you doing that?’

‘Dad says it will help us to see how much it is costing us to keep the goats. It will also help us to plan how we keep them healthier next year. I wrote down what medicine we used but I can’t work out how much it cost.’

‘Okay, I can help you with that.’

‘Nosipho, your friends are calling you from the gate. Why don’t you go?’

‘Lungile has been gossiping at school about Dad losing his job. She said people lose their jobs if they steal or get drunk.’

‘Lots of people say that but we know that is not why Dad was retrenched.’

‘I told her it was because of the recession. She laughed at me and said, “Big words won’t buy Christmas presents”.’

‘Don’t worry, we will have a great Christmas. It’s not about presents. It is about being together as a family – and having time to play soccer!’

‘You’re right, Sipho. Show me that journal and then you can come with me to cut bamboo.’